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# Treasury tasks minority share firms' CEOs, board members

*The top executives also need to set up networks and ability to communicate, sharing a common vision with a view to its facilitation in their respective business spheres*

By Correspondent James Kandoya in Kibaha

THE government has tasked the boards of directors and CEOs of companies where it has minority shares to exercise patriotism and take up proactive roles to boost non-tax revenues.

Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, the Treasury permanent secretary, made this appeal on Tuesday at Kibaha, Coast Region, when opening a four-day meeting of board members and CEOs of companies where the government has minority shares.

Standing in for Ambassador Dr Moses Kusiluka, the chief secretary, she said that the meeting is intended to evaluate partnership and cooperation between the government and investors.

Affirming that the government goal is to increase non-tax revenue from the current five percent to 10 per cent of revenue as we approach the closure of Vision 2025, the CEOs and board members need to reaffirm the national interest in the course of their duties.

To uplift the current and future generations, the top public company executives should think beyond the circle of the boardroom since they form the linkage and connectivity of the sectors which contributes to the wellbeing of the population.

He said the linkage role that they perform has to focus on a win-win partnership inside and outside the board, demanding equal satisfaction for investment outcomes for all parties.

"This representation role needs to follow guidance and instructions given by the office of the Treasury Registrar before and after decisions of the board, as well as demonstrating concerns towards the success of investors, and through the conduct of any other forms of engagement."

Companies where the government has minority shares have been instrumental in enhancing development in various sectors, with the government displaying great attention, she remarked.

It is high time executives define economic patriotism in the local context, that is to say we must define what is in for the country in the context of minority shareholding in various companies for the future, she pursued.

Nehemia Mchechu, the registrar, said that his office has a major role to supervise the optimal collection of non-tax revenues, so the meeting will enable the directors and CEOs to take note of the government's priorities.

They will have an opportunity to give

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan swears in immediate former CCM secretary general Daniel Godfrey Chongolo (45) as Songwe regional commissioner at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

## Samia lists urgent tasks for new RCs

*"The government has made efforts in collaboration with tobacco purchasing companies to deploy new technology for drying the crop"*

By Carlos Banda

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed newly appointed regional commissioners to oversee the effective utilisation of resources in agriculture, trade and tourism, and address security challenges facing the public in their respective regions.

President Samia issued these instructions at the State House in Dar es Salaam

yesterday, at the swearing in of newly appointed RCs, district commissioners and other senior government officials reassigned to attend to new functions.

The president notably instructed the new Mtwara RC, Lt. Col. Patrick Sawala, to address security and other challenges on the Tanzania-Mozambique border.

She pointedly acknowledged that the ranking military officer was promoted due to excellent performance as a DC,

thus despite being new to Mtwara the government is confident of his ability to represent it well there.

As Mozambique is a strategic neighbour the RC needs to be sure to collaborate with security and safety committees and the good neighbourliness committee to address existing challenges, she said.

She expressed awareness about complaints in the region concerning the surge in trade and businesses coming from outside the region, noting that the RC has to properly oversee such movements in working to manage security, as Tanzania benefit significantly in trading with Mozambique.

"It is important for trade to grow in the area. Mtwara is an important region economically owing to cashew nuts," she said, underlining the need to boost cashew output and expand farming.

"We have decided to have the cashew nuts exported directly from Mtwara port," she said, citing a trial last season

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## Karume emerges top in medium African airports

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA) has been cited as the best airport under two million passengers in Africa for the past year.

The citation has just been made by the Airports Council International (ACI) which groups registered airports to conduct surveys on service quality and customer experience, made this affirmation in a statement at the start of the week.

It said that Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award administrators by ACI, classifying best airports by size and region, for under two million annual passengers,

Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (Zanzibar) came on top, followed by Ivato International Airport (Antananarivo, the Malagasy capital) and Moi International Airport in Mombasa, across the border to the north of Tanga.

Seif Abdalla Juma, the Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) director general, unveiled this honour at a press conference here yesterday, saying that it was declared on Monday

ZAA expects to receive the prestigious award from ACI at the annual customer experience summit and exhibition set for September 25 in the Georgian state capital of Atlanta, in the United States.

The director praised efforts by President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in fostering collaboration with international organizations and industry leaders in airport operations and services. "His visionary leadership has ushered in transformative advancements in Zanzibar's aviation sector," he stated.

He similarly extended his recognition of public and private sector employees in the industry for their dedication in ensuring seamless operations of domestic and international airlines at the key airport.

"We also acknowledge the invaluable

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## SPORTS

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Matola talks about Simba SC facing familiar opponent in Al Ahly

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Raya is shootout hero as Arsenal reach Champions League quarters

## TPHPA to obtain 3 billion/- locust control aircraft

By Francis Kajubi

THE government is set to purchase spraying aircraft costing a total of 3bn/- to increase efficiency in the control of locusts and red-billed quelea quelea.

Prof Joseph Ndunguru, the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) director general, said at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday the initiative is programmed for Coast, Morogoro, Tabora and Manyara regions in collaboration with the Desert Locust Control Organisation for East Africa (DLCO-EA).

With the initiative, TPHPA has managed to control 40m quelea quelea, implicitly saving 5,675 tons of rice, millet and sunflower, he said, elaborating that control is carried out by using a drone, spraying an effective pesticide named Bimidacy Plus 344SE.

TPHPA has trained 841 smallholder farmers on safe and proper utilization of Sulfur pesticide in cashewnut farms in Mtwara and Lindi regions, plus training 30 farmers in proper pesticide fumigation in Songwe region. They will be deployed in coffee farms to handle fumigation activities, he said.

He emphasised on investing in science and technology for Tanzania to achieve its industrialisation driven by agriculture, as industries rely on local raw materials to enhance sustainability of a productive agriculture sector.

He set out measures necessary to transform agriculture into a sustainable and productive one, in pursuit of the industrialisation ambition, when presenting TPHPA achievements, challenges and expectations for fiscal 2023/24.

"Let's prioritise research investment as within it lie the keys to uncovering better

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## Treasury tasks minority share firms' CEOs, board members

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ideas on how to contribute to the country's economic dynamism, a vital opportunity for them to interact to strengthen relationships, on the basis of their commitment to gov-

ernment endeavours.

The top executives also need to set up networks and ability to communicate, sharing a common vision with a view to its facilitation in their respective business spheres, he said.

## Samia lists urgent tasks for new RCs

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and obtaining positive feedback from international markets that the exports were of good quality.

"When we export the cash crop directly, it goes with the required standards as compared to road transportation from Mtwara to Dar es Salaam, given that disruptive impacts occur to the produce destined for export.

The government has established cashew nut clusters and processing factories, and the new RC needs to ensure they are properly managed to boost employment opportunities for youths in the region.

Peas and sesame seeds now have reliable markets in India, with last year prices being favourable thus helping to bolster farm acreage and output, she said, pointing out that the region also holds potential for tourism yet to be utilised. "You can go with a team of experts to explore the available opportunities, reveal them and necessary actions will be taken. The region possesses many resources which if used properly Mtwara and Lindi can become the richest regions in the country," she said.

President Samia also instructed Paul Chacha, the new RC for Taboara, to address environmental challenges attributed to tobacco farming, as producers cut down trees for drying tobacco.

"The government has made efforts in collaboration with tobacco purchasing companies to deploy new technology for drying the crop," she said, instructing the new RC to ensure the technology is used effectively.

The RC also needs to oversee cotton producers so that they can benefit from the fruits of their labour, she said, work to boost honey production and put up small honey processing industries.

This will create jobs in the region,

she said, equally citing the presence of various agricultural projects implemented in the region, like an irrigation project in Inala area. It was purposely set up to boost the country's food security and cut food shortages in the region and neighbouring areas, she stated.

Songwe RC Daniel Chongolo was instructed to address economic crimes, tax evasion and foreign currency dealings taking place in the region especially at the Tunduma border zone linking Tanzania and Zambia. Addressing the challenges will help the region to become more self-sufficient while boosting revenue collection, she stated.

Shinyanga RC Anamringi Macha was instructed to ensure the production of cotton surges to high levels, employ measures to motivate the people of Shinyanga to put more effort in socio-economic pursuits.

RC Macha was directed to follow-up on the progress of Buzwagi clusters where industrial clusters are to be established for the mining sector, to ensure that the project is successful.

Christina Mndeme, now the Union and Environment deputy permanent secretary in the Vice President's Office, was instructed to ensure Tanzania becomes an example in rolling out clean cooking energy for women.



**The region possesses many resources which if used properly Mtwara and Lindi can become the richest regions in the country**

## TPHPA to obtain 3bn/- locust control aircraft

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methods, seeds and pesticides that can significantly boost agricultural productivity," he declared, referring to the usual expression that every dollar invested in research yields tenfold in profit.

The next crucial step involves practicing agriculture that integrates science, technology and innovation, highlighting that it is imperative to enhance collaboration between the government and the

private sector across the entire agricultural spectrum.

The research administrator emphasised the importance of hard and soft agro-sector outlays to drive its success, like the necessity of for wide ranging irrigation infrastructure along with sound policies to foster investments.

Enhancing agricultural business systems like cold storage facilities is essential for boosting crop value alongside minimising pre and post-harvest crop losses, he added.

## Karume emerges top in medium African airports

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contribution of stakeholders in the aviation and tourism sectors," he remarked, asserting that the award underscores excellence in airport services.

The service quality is evaluated through comprehensive passenger surveys and data analysis conducted at departure and arrival areas worldwide," he explained.

AAKIA's commitment to enhancing customer satisfaction led to its participation in the ACI's ASQ Departure program in October 2022, he said, setting out the background scenario up to clinching this award.

ASQ participation was meant to elevate the quality of services provided to passengers, culminating

in setting up a dedicated customer service team. "Under the guidance of ACI, this team underwent rigorous training to conduct passenger surveys and assess their feedback on airport services," he elaborated.

In the first quarter of 2023, ZAA's efforts yielded commendable results, with AAKIA ranking among the top five airports in Africa for the best overall airport experience category, outperforming 17 other airports in the region.

"As we look ahead, the Zanzibar Airports Authority remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence, with a vision to emerge as a leader in delivering exceptional airport services in Africa by 2027," he added.



Ummy Nderiananga (3rd-L), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), pictured in Singida yesterday viewing clay pots made by Wema Group members as members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and AIDS Issues made an inspection tour of income-generation activities carried out by residents of the municipality living with HIV/AIDS. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

## Over 10000 selected candidates yet to report in govt sec schools

MORE than 10,000 candidates out of 56,827 who were selected to join Form One in government secondary schools in Morogoro Region had neither reported nor enrolled as of February 23, 2024.

Hildegard Saganda, Morogoro regional education officer said this here yesterday when speaking at the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC).

She said that up until February 23rd, only 46,775 pupils, equal to 82 percent had reported and registered for classes, explaining that 22,203 are boys and 24,572 are girls.

Saganda named the councils

with the highest number of enrolled pupils as Kilosa which had 11,156 selected pupils and 8,990 reported, accounting for 81 percent; Morogoro Municipality had 9,885 selected pupils and 7,502 reported, accounting for 76 percent.

Saganda, however, added that the enrolment of kindergarten and primary school pupils has been successful in 2024.

She said that as of February 23 of this year, a total of 74,792 out of 93,551 pupils, equal to 79.95 per-

cent of the total kindergarten pupils, were enrolled, of whom 37,786 are boys and 37,006 are girls.

The education official also said that 86,408 pupils, 43,357 boys and 43,051 girls, were enrolled to begin primary education out of the 84,642 expected, which is equal to 102.1 percent.

Regarding kindergarten education, she said that Kilosa District Council led by enrolling 15,588 pupils out of 18,063 expected pupils, whereas Mvomero District Council

enrolled 10,427 out of 12,569 expected pupils.

Adam Malima, Morogoro Regional Commissioner directed all district commissioners and executive directors to make sure they closely oversee the education situation in their areas.

The RCC meeting approved a sum of 484,054,323,572.61/- for the region's budget for 2024/2025 fiscal year, which includes funds for both recurrent and development projects.



Zanzibar Government's Chief Chemist, Dr Farid Mzee Mpatani (facing camera), pictured yesterday releasing to journalists report on earlier this week's deaths of nine residents of Panza Island linked to the eating of turtle meat. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Rwandan opposition leader barred from election

By Yves Bucyana, Kigali

A COURT in Rwanda has blocked efforts by prominent opposition figure Victoire Ingabire to lift a ban on her running in July's presidential election.

She was freed in 2018 after spending eight years in prison for threatening state security and "belittling" the 1994 genocide.

In Rwanda, people who have been jailed for more than six months are barred from running in elections.

Ingabire said the court's ruling was politicised.

"The refusal of my rehabilitation is not merely a personal attack but is emblematic of the broader issues facing our nation, issues that hu-

man rights organisations and development partners of Rwanda have long criticised," Ingabire said in a statement released on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Outside court in the capital, Kigali, the 55-year-old politician said: "I don't agree with what the judge said, and unfortunately you can't appeal before two years.

"We are still far from a law-abiding country."

Ingabire is an outspoken critic of President Paul Kagame, who has been the dominant force in the country for three decades.

He secured more than 90 percent of the votes in presidential elections in 2003, 2010 and 2017 - and changes to constitution mean he

could potentially stay in power for another 10 years.

The 66-year-old president has faced criticism from rights groups, which have accused him of cracking down on the opposition.

But Kagame has in the past fiercely defended Rwanda's record on human rights, saying his country respects political freedoms.

There is currently only one challenger to the president in July's election in the shape of the Green Party's Frank Habineza, the AFP news agency reports.

He won 0.45 percent of the vote in 2017.

In 2010, Ingabire returned from exile in the Netherlands to take part in that year's presidential election.

But she was arrested, prevented from standing and later sentenced to 15 years in prison. After she was pardoned in 2018, she went on to found the Dalfa-Umurinzi opposition party.

Ingabire, a member of the Hutu ethnic group, got into trouble for questioning why Rwanda's official memorial for the 1994 genocide did not include any Hutus.

Most of the 800,000 people killed in the space of 100 days were ethnic Tutsis but Hutu moderates were also slaughtered by the Hutu extremists.

Then Kagame's Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel group - now a political party - put an end to the genocide.



# Moro-Makutupora SGR trial rides set for later this month

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FIRST trial of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Morogoro town to Makutupora in Dodoma Region is

scheduled to begin later this month, it has been announced.

The 422km Morogoro-Makutupora section is 96.5 percent complete while the 368km Makutupora-Tabo-

ra section is at 14 percent.

Masanja Kadogosa, Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) Chief Executive Officer, said this on Tuesday before members of the Parlia-

mentary committee on Infrastructure Development who toured the Makutupora-Tabora-Isaka-Mwanza SGR projects.

Members of the committee started the tour at Itigi SGR workshop and witnessed the ongoing activities before proceeding to Tabora.

He thanked the committee for the support that, among others, have seen the parliament approve the budget for the project as well as other investments.

Kadogosa said that despite the

ongoing rains that have slowed the construction activities, he expressed confidence that the project will be completed within time.

According to the CEO, the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro route will officially begin before the end of July this year as was suggested by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He said the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) was working on other related issues, including fare arrangements. The SGR railway has the ability to carry heavy loads

at high speed as opposed to the current meter gauge railway. Tanzania's SGR uses electric locomotives and has the capacity to transport passengers and cargo shipments at 160 kilometers per hour.

The SGR will link Tanzania, from the Port of Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean to the port of Mwanza on the shore of Lake Victoria in north-western Tanzania, and from there to neighboring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Home Affairs minister Hamad Yusuf Masauni (2nd-L) and Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Benoit Araman (L) pictured yesterday presenting a cooking gas cylinder to Hudhaina Shabani Sururu, one of the 700 Zanzibar food vendors to have benefited from the goodwill gesture so far. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Govt launches 200bn/- worth of teachers' support initiative

By Getrude Mbagu

THE government has launched a Teachers Support Programme (TSP) worth \$84 million (212bn/-) meant to improve the learning and teaching environment for inclusive education.

Supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the project which will run until 2027 is set to benefit teachers and pupils in various schools in the country.

Speaking during the launch event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Doto Biteko, Deputy Prime Minister said investing in skills development for teachers who work in a conducive environment is important for the provision of quality education.

He said the grant has been provided by GPE through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The DPM said the launch programme symbolises shared commitment to empowering teachers, improving gender equality, fostering inclusion, and enhancing schools' overall teaching and learning environment in the country.

"To transform basic education for improved inclusive pupil-centred teaching for quality learning, improvements should be realized in teachers' workforce planning and management," he said.

He said that through the programme, a number of modern teachers' houses will be constructed in the peripheral regions while also improving the teaching and learning environment.

He said due to various efforts made by the government and stakeholders, the number of pupils joining secondary education has continued to increase.

He, however, said the government alone cannot achieve this due to changes in science and technology as well as global market demand, adding that more well-skilled graduates are needed to serve in various development sectors.

He said in efforts to transform education, the government has continued to increase annual budget allocation from 4.5tri/- of 2022/23 financial year to 5.7tri/- in 2023/24 financial year.

He said the sixth phase government has also provided employment to 37,473 teachers as well as promoting a total of 227,383 teachers.

In his remarks, GPE chairman and former President Jakaya Kikwete commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her vision that has led to a major transformation in education in the country.

He said that GPE is there to ensure that no child is left behind in accessing quality education regardless of their status.

He said the government in collaboration with stakeholders need to continue investing efforts to ensure that children have learning equipment including books, desks and other tools.

Kikwete seemed delighted to witness how the efforts started many years ago, including during his tenure, are paying off.

He however said that despite strides made to improve education, there is still a good number of children who are not in school due to various reasons with others also still learning in an unpleasant environment.

"Let us put our efforts together to ensure that our children receive quality education with essential skills to enable them participate in the country's development once they graduate," he said.

He said that since its establishment, GPE has invested \$6 billion to improve education systems in Africa.

Kikwete said that GPE has supported Tanzania by printing 180566 books, constructing 29,080 classrooms in primary schools as well as 300 model classrooms for early childhood education.

He said that reports show that 240 million children in developing countries are out of school where 100 million are in Africa, a situation which calls for more efforts to help address the challenges.

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Adolf Mkenda said the programme will involve construction of teachers' houses, improve motivation for teachers, establishment of electronic system for teachers' and teacher deployment that consider gender.

The programme will also facilitate construction of teachers resource centres (TRCs) to allow teachers to be active participants in their professional development and to join communities to share teaching and assessment strategies with their peers.

Ambassador of Sweden to Tanzania Charlotta Ozaki Macias expressed commitment to supporting Tanzania in the effective implementation of the programme.

She said education plays a vital role in development across the world.

"For Tanzania to realize its socio-economic development, investing in quality education is inevitable and this should go along with creating a conducive teaching and learning environment," she said.



## PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE TENDER NOTICE NO. 002- FY24 – REQUISITION NO. TZ 1382 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PV SOLUTION

**Background**  
Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Today, it is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. It provides support to impoverished and disadvantaged people in over 100 countries based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion, or ethnicity

In Tanzania, CRS operates through its Catholic Relief Services (Tanzania program), which is registered as a not-for-profit organization since the 8th of February 1968 and it has its main office in Dar es Salaam and sub-offices in Kigoma and Mbeya regions. Today, the program in Tanzania supports agriculture, health system, and institutional strengthening, vulnerable children and youth programming, and integrated water resource management projects that interweave socioeconomic empowerment and gender transformation.

**Objectives and reasons for undertaking this project.**  
CRS is dedicated to minimizing its carbon impact and advancing environmental sustainability. To this end, we aim to achieve a 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across our operations and reduce energy consumption. Our efforts are guided by our shared values of Care for Creation and Stewardship." CRS seek to collaborate with reputable supplier to supply and install the Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, adhering to the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) and the design specifications provided by the consultant.

**Site Location**  
The CRS Head Quarters Office – Tanzania is located along Kahama Street - Msanani Peninsula, off Haile Selassie Road, Masaki - Dar es Salaam. The Geolocation Latitude of the site is -6.75369°S and Longitude 39.28123°E.

**Tender Documents:**  
The comprehensive tender documents are accessible from March 14 to March 22, 2024, during regular office hours. Specifically: Monday to Thursday from 08 am to 5 pm and Friday from 08 am to 2 pm. Interested bidders are invited to collect a hard copy of the tender document at the CRS office or can request a soft copy. Requests for tender documents should be submitted on a company letterhead signed by the Director/Manager of the company in hardcopy or via e-mail to Elizabeth Sendama, at [elizabeth.sendama@crs.org](mailto:elizabeth.sendama@crs.org). Please use Subject line: "Request for Tender Documents: "002- FY24 – Requisition No. TZ 1382 – Supply and Installation of Solar PV at Catholic Relief Service in Dar es Salaam Office" in the subject line. The Request for tender document will not be accepted after March 22, 2024.

**The deadline for submission of the completed and sealed Tender documents is on or before 05 April 2024 at 4 pm.**

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## ASSISTANT - FIELD AND GREENHOUSE

### THE ORGANIZATION

The Alliance of Bioversity International delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

The Alliance works with local, national and multinational partners across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, and with the public and private sectors. The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services.

### About the position

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is looking for a field and greenhouse assistant to provide advanced breeding techniques to promote breeding research activities.

### Key duties & Responsibilities

- Support in making bean crosses for different bean varieties.
- Assist in conducting and collecting necessary data for advanced breeding and seed multiplication at different locations.
- Support in analyzing the data and report to supervisor on time.
- Visiting fields regularly to monitor weeds, disease development, and insect growth.
- Collecting soil, tissue, and samples from fields for analysis.
- Assisting with research work and other project's activities.
- Assist in field layout and mapping.
- Assist seed inventory and greenhouse activities.
- Carry out any other duties that will be assigned to he/her by the supervisor.

### Required Qualifications and Experience.

- Diploma in crop production, plant breeding or any other related areas of study
- At least one-year experience in breeding activities especially in beans and other related crops will be an added advantage.
- Experience in data collection and entry, data management, quality assurance, and timely reporting.
- High attention to detail and excellent analytical skills
- Excellent communication skills in English and Kiswahili
- Computer proficiency including MS Office (Word/ PowerPoint, advanced Excel skills
- Must be able to work independently with minimum supervision, but also participate as a team member in the accomplishment of duties.
- Excellent interpersonal with advanced written and verbal communication skills in English language

- Strong ability to coordinate, prioritize and organize workload; take initiative and work under pressure.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks under pressure and meeting deadlines.
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Ability to maintain the highest level of integrity and standards of ethics, confidentiality, and professionalism.

### Terms of employment

This position is a nationally recruited position based in Arusha, Tanzania. The initial contract will be for one year subject to a probation period of three months and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources.

This position is graded at BG 04 level, with a minimum basic salary of 915,302.00 Tanzania Shillings in a scale of BG01 to BG14 (BG14 being the highest level according to the Alliance job classification framework policy). We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including but not limited to insurance, retirement plan, staff training and development, paid time off and flexible working arrangements.

The Alliance Bioversity-CIAT is committed to fair, safe, and inclusive workplaces. We believe that diversity powers our innovation, contributes to our excellence, and is critical for our mission. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority. We encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability statuses, sexual orientations, marital status, and gender identities. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Applications

Applicants are invited to visit <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/careers> to get full details of the position and to submit their applications. Applications MUST include reference REF: 103447 - Assistant (Field and Greenhouse) as the position applied for. Cover letter and CV should be saved as one document using the candidate's last name, first name for ease of sorting.

The Alliance collects and process personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

### Applications closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Please note that email applications will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at:

<http://alliancebioversityciat.org>



Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. Bioversity International is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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Geita Gold Mining Ltd finance officer Joscar Rumanyika briefs Kalangalala Secondary School students earlier this week on the benefits of the firm's now-expanded mentorship programme. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Miner reintroduces expanded ladies mentorship programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has announced the re-launch of its 'GGM Ladies Mentorship Programme' after a one-year pause with an expanded reach that aims to empower and inspire young people.

The initiative will now extend to more secondary schools in Geita Region, it has been announced.

During a recent visit to Kalangalala Secondary School in the Geita Region which was the initial beneficiary, Hadija Kisatu, one of 'GGM Ladies', a group of female employees at Geita Gold Mine, spoke to pupils about the mentorship programme.

The programme was conceived by the group in 2021 and spearheaded by Kisatu and her colleagues, before being launched the following year.

The initiative began when the group identified a shortage of mining experts available for employment by mines in Geita Region and the Lake Zone in general.

"It is important to visit pupils to help them understand the work that GGML is doing as well as to discover their talents and determine which subjects they should study," she said.

She said that every child should have equal opportunities in life regardless of their gender. The mentorship programme aims to promote academic excellence for all.

In addition to explaining the various jobs and departments that are available in the mine, she advised the pupils to be fully committed and dedicated to whatever career path they choose.

Lina Sitta, senior training officer in human resources department at

GGML, said the programme helps pupils identify their strengths and weaknesses and use their weaknesses to improve their strengths.

Sitta said that the programme is an opportunity to learn from others. The pupils break out into groups based on their interests and two mentors impart their knowledge and experience to the mentees.

Janeth Luponelo, resource evaluation manager at GGML said that the initiative aims to empower young people in selected secondary schools across Geita Region by providing mentorship, guidance and inspiration.

"Mentoring is a useful tool for both professional and personal development. It allows mentees to learn from seasoned professionals who have travelled comparable journeys, bridging the knowledge and experience gap," she said.



## INTERNSHIP STUDENT

### THE ORGANIZATION

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The Alliance works with local, national and multinational partners across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, and with the public and private sectors. The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services.

### About the position

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is looking for a self-motivated intern to provide timely and efficient programs support to on-going Alliance Projects in Tanzania.

### Main responsibility:

The internship student will support and learn different administration and project operations duties from the Programs Administration & Operations, and other projects teams.

### Key duties & Responsibilities

- Assist in providing operational and administrative support for ongoing project activities in the office.
- Assist in scheduling and planning internal and external meetings and conferences by assembling meeting materials.
- Assisting in reviewing project budgets and budget for project's routine events
- Receives, sorts, analyzes, and summarizes material for the preparation of various reports.
- Assisting in maintaining program calendars and sending out reminders of impending appointments
- Assisting in compiling and sending bulk mailings
- Assist in proofreading and making copies of documents as may be required by the program team.
- Supporting in typing letters and reports as may be required from time to time.
- Supporting logistics and procurement by organizing payment documents for vendors and suppliers
- Supporting vehicle mileage review and recording in data base for mileage charge back to the projects.
- Assist in carrying out administrative tasks as required to facilitate an efficient working environment.

- Perform additional tasks related to administration and operations as may be required by superiors.

### Required Qualifications and Experience.

- Completed bachelor's degree in business administration, project planning and management, agribusiness or any other closely related field not more than 1 year ago.
- Basic computing skills with knowledge of MS Office applications
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Good knowledge of English language.

### Personal Attributes

- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision, but also participate as a team member in accomplishment of duties.
- Possess good interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to co-ordinate, prioritize and organize workload
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Commitment to Alliance's mission and core values

### Terms of employment

This is an internship position based in Arusha, Tanzania. The contract will be for period of six (6) months and is renewable to a maximum of one year depending on performance and availability of resources. Alliance offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits; we believe that the diversity of our staff contributes to excellence. Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

### Applications

Applicants are invited to visit <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/careers> to get full details of the position and to submit their applications. Applications MUST include reference REF: 103453 Intern -Program Administration as the position applied for. Cover letter and CV should be saved as one document using the candidate's last name, first name for ease of sorting. The Alliance collects and process personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

### Applications closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Please note that email applications will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at:

<http://alliancebioversityciat.org>



Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. Bioversity International is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

Headquarters  
Via dei Tre Denari, 472/a  
00054 Macerata (Fiumicino), Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 0661181  
Fax: +39 0661979651

[alliancebioversityciat.org](http://alliancebioversityciat.org)  
[www.bioversityinternational.org](http://www.bioversityinternational.org)  
[www.ciat.cgiar.org](http://www.ciat.cgiar.org)  
[www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)



## INTERNSHIP STUDENT - (STATISTICS & BIOINFORMATICS)

### THE ORGANIZATION

The Alliance of Bioversity International delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

The Alliance works with local, national and multinational partners across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, and with the public and private sectors. The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services.

### About the position

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is looking for a Statistics and Bioinformatics Internship Student to support the breeding program in Arusha Tanzania.

### Main Responsibilities

- Support in providing technical assistance in data collection, analysis, interpretation for the breeding lines.
- Support in use of computer skills for data analysis using software such as R and SAS.
- Assist in organizing data, documentation and developing technical reports and publications.
- Support in the development of improved/updated technical, statistical and/or analytical tools, methodologies, systems, and databases.
- Any other duties as may be required by the Plant Breeder/Country Coordinator.

### Key duties & Responsibilities

- Developing standards for breeding data management processes.
- Developing tools to solve data cleaning management challenges.
- Creating unique methodologies for breeding research purposes.
- Working alongside other bioinformaticians, biology researchers and tech specialists.
- Programming new software or customizing existing systems to align well with the breeding teams needs.

- Analyzing molecular datasets like genomic sequence data
- Consulting with biologists and researchers to analyze

problems and determine computational strategies to solve those problems.

### Required Qualifications and Experience.

- A MSc degree - recently graduated in a relevant discipline such as Bioinformatics, Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Computational Biology.
- Proficiency in R/python (prior experience in performing bioinformatics analyses in R/python would be an advantage)
- Experience in performing data analyses using various software tools using R or on high-performance computing platforms.
- Experience in genomics and sequencing technologies such as DNA, and RNA-seq, spatial transcriptomics, etc.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent ability to work independently, analyze data, interpret results, and provide summaries on collaborative projects.

### Terms of employment

This is an internship position based in Arusha, Tanzania. The contract will be for period of six (6) months and is renewable to a maximum of one year depending on performance and availability of resources. Alliance offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits; we believe that the diversity of our staff contributes to excellence. Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

### Applications

Applicants are invited to visit <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/careers> to get full details of the position and to submit their applications. Applications MUST include reference REF: 103450 Intern - Statistics/Bioinformatics as the position applied for. Cover letter and CV should be saved as one document using the candidate's last name, first name for ease of sorting. The Alliance collects and process personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

### Applications closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Please note that email applications will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at:

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By Guardian Reporter

CCBRT Hospital and Kilwa Road Police Hospital have partnered in holding a one-week free eye screening and consultation in Dar es Salaam to draw attention to glaucoma, a serious condition but which can be treated and managed if caught early.

The move is part of commemoration of the 2024 World Glaucoma Week which kicked off on Monday and ends on Saturday.

The camp was staged at the Magufuli Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam, involving upcountry bus drivers, passengers, petty traders, service providers and the nearby residents whereby over 400 people were reached.

The first leading cause of irreversible blindness in the world, glaucoma occurs when fluid in the eye cannot drain properly, increasing inside pressure and puts stress on the optic nerve. As the condition progresses, so can damage to the optic nerve, leading to impaired vision and even blindness.

## World Glaucoma Week: Hospitals stage free Dar eye screening camp

Dr Katuta Ramadhani, Head of CCBRT's Eye Department, described glaucoma as a serious challenge that needs to be taken very seriously.

"We often receive patients at an advanced stage of the disease without them even knowing," he said.

In an advanced stage, the condition can neither be cured nor visual damage restored, but through treatment the eye can be stabilised and further damage prevented.

People aged 40 and above are at higher risk, as are those with glaucoma patients in the immediate family.

Dr Katuta said that in Tanzania, many people rarely go for routine sight check-ups, so detecting the disease in the critical early stages is difficult.

According to him, glaucoma can also develop slowly, at first causing only peripheral vision loss, which can go unnoticed. By the time a

patient notices a change in vision, the disease can be at a late stage.

"We receive between 40 and 45 patients at our dedicated glaucoma clinic thrice a week and many others come throughout the week without appointment in the specific clinic," he said.

The mainstay of treatment is medication to lower pressure inside the eye to within normal parameters, he said.

"The most important thing is to prevent optic nerve damage. If someone comes with severe damage, we are keen to get pressure back to the lowest possible reading within the normal range, and if there is moderate optic nerve damage, we can bring it down to the middle of that range", he said.

"The most important thing one can do to prevent glaucoma and eye damage is go for routine eye screening, especially if you are over 40 years old or a first-degree relative of someone with glaucoma."



Access Microfinance Bank staff pictured at Dar es Salaam's Ocean Road Cancer Institute at the weekend moments before presenting an assortment of items, including foodstuffs and medical supplies, for use by patients admitted to the specialised hospital. It was all in the spirit of marking International Women's Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Tanzania Red Cross Society, Mwai Kibaki Road, Plot no. 53 Block C, Mikocheni B, P.O. Box 1133, Dar es Salaam Tanzania. Phone +255 22 2780948, 0800 750 150/51 Email: info@trcs.or.tz, Website: www.trcs.or.tz

# Invitation to tender

Date: 14<sup>th</sup>/03/2024

The Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) invites interested and eligible **NATIONAL CONTRACTORS** registered by Contractors Registration Board (CRB) as Building Contractors registered from Class I to Class VII to submit their **VALID CERTIFICATES** and best bids/proposals for the crash programme of **CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICES AT 12 REGIONS OF TANZANIA** by Engineering Procurement Construction and Financing (EPC-F Contract)

Tendering will be conducted through the **NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING** procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013-Government Notice No. 446 and are open to national Tenderer only as defined in Regulations unless stated in the **TENDER DATA SHEET**.

### NOTE:

- Interested and eligible contractor can obtain a complete set of documents from Procurement and Logistics Unit (PLU) from 0930hrs to 0300hrs from, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 to 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.
- Fee per tender is Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Thousand Only (TZS. 100,000) and it is non-refundable. Pay by using NBC Bank Account number 011103002443, Name of Account: **TANZANIA RED CROSS SOCIETY**.

### SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST:

All bids must be registered at the reception prior to dropping into the tender box, failure to register your bid shall be disqualified.

Completed Documents, in plain envelopes, sealed and marked with the Tender Category and Description, should be deposited in the Tender Box provided at the Tanzania Red Cross Society at the below address before Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 10:00am followed with opening of tender at 11:00hrs on the same date.

### TENDER COMMITTEE

Attn: Procurement and Logistics Unit, Tanzania Red Cross Society Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikocheni P.O. Box 1133 Dar es Salaam. Tanzania

For any enquiries/questions please email to [ernest.mbuya@trcs.or.tz](mailto:ernest.mbuya@trcs.or.tz) and copy to [saum.mpogole@trcs.or.tz](mailto:saum.mpogole@trcs.or.tz).

**NB:** other instructions will be obtained on the tender documents



www.camfed.org  
tanzania@camfed.org  
+255 22 276 1065 / 1066  
Ursino Estate South, Plot No 44, Uporoto Street,  
(PO Box 33835), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

## JOB ADVERT-MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER (3 POSTS) AND TRANSPORT OFFICER AND OFFICE ASSISTANT (4 POSTS)

### CAMFED Overview

CAMFED (the Campaign for Female Education) is internationally recognised as a leader in education for girls, for its child protection policy and practise, and as a voice for girls' education and women's empowerment at the highest levels. Founded in 1993, CAMFED supports young women throughout their primary and secondary schools years, into economic training and further education, and onto leadership, as role models, activists, and philanthropists. CAMFED Tanzania is looking to recruit Monitoring & Evaluation Officers (3) and Transport Officers (4) to fill vacant position in various region.

**Job Title:** MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER (3 posts)  
**Reporting to:** Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer  
**Location:** Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Morogoro.

### Job purpose:

This position is anchored at capturing and strengthening our evidence to show the impact of the 2024 - 2030 CAMFED strategic vision to reach 5 million secondary school girls across the consortium by expansion of our programs and scaling our best practices in collaboration with the government and the CAMFED countries of operations.

### Specific Accountabilities:

#### A: A comprehensive support system targeted at the most marginalized girls.

- Coordinate development /revision of monitoring and evaluation tools for marginalized girls benefiting from CAMFED education programmes.
- Keep CAMFED database updated with records of students benefiting from CAMFED education programmes.
- Co-develop national or regional school monitoring with the government and other stakeholders and oversee its implementation and integration of findings in programme designing.
- Build knowledge and skills on education data submission, analysis and usage of data by stakeholders at various level to inform decision making.
- Conduct periodic analysis of school and students monitoring data and share findings with key stakeholders, district education officers, teachers, and programme staff.
- Build knowledge on child protection and safeguarding to CAMFED staff and education stakeholders.

#### B: Young women transition to secure livelihoods and join a powerful peer network of leaders.

- Periodically update database of young women's agency, further employment, further education, and leadership.
- Identify and build capacity of resource teams to support the department's plans.
- Provide periodic updates on guides programme progress from monitoring submitted reports to inform program design and implementations.
- Coordinate, design and implementation of surveys and research to measure impacts of programmes to young women and communities we serve.

#### C: Adoption of best practices in national education systems at scale.

- Engage with peer monitoring and evaluation personnel across the consortium and for learning, sharing, championing best practices, co-creation, and implementation.
- Engage with Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Technical Working Group (MEL-TWG), government structures from school to national level for better understanding of how the system works and identify organizational entry points for education system transformation.
- Oversee integration of data from internal/external research findings in the design of programmes and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework.
- Package research and monitoring findings for dissemination to the government, partners, and community to strengthen our advocacy and sharing of best practices to influence change in the education system and other sectors.

#### D: Other responsibilities

- Support the management of CAMFED's M&E system including ensuring quality, timely and accurate consolidation of program data.
- Develop and review programme /project monitoring and evaluation tools.
- Conduct data collection, verifications, and cleaning with relevant program staff and stakeholders.
- Support development team during project proposal development and project reporting.
- Proactively identify potential risks and champion mitigation strategies in collaboration with other team members.
- Any other tasks related to the field of engagement, experience, and expertise as and when required by the organization and assigned by the supervisor.

### Knowledge, Experience & Skills Required

- Bachelor's degree or above in social sciences, education, planning & management, health informatics, public health, biostatistics, epidemiology, demography, information system or a similar relevant course of study.
- Minimum of 3 (three) years demonstrated experience in planning, monitoring, and evaluation with reputed organizations preferably in education, health, or enterprises sector.
- Knowledge on both qualitative and quantitative research methodology
- Competency in application of data collection, analysis, and visualization software (ODK, Kobo, Advanced MS Excel, SPSS, GIS, Power BI) is essential.
- Excellent analysis and writing analytical quality report skills are crucial.
- Effective communication skills, pro-activeness, positive attitude, and professional integrity.
- Experience of working with stakeholders (Local Government Authorities (LGAs), schools, young women, community groups and health facilities)

**Job Title:** TRANSPORT OFFICER AND OFFICE ASSISTANCE (4 Posts)

**Accountable to:** Administration Officer  
**Salary:** Competitive  
**Start Date:** ASAP  
**Location:** Various

### Job purpose:

Under the direction of Administration Officer, Transport officer and office assistant is responsible for driving office vehicle including the maintenance records and ensures that routing maintenance is carried out on schedules. Transport Officer will be responsible for inspecting country vehicle on daily basis to ensure that it is clean, undamaged and in working order.

### Specific Accountabilities:

- Drive vehicle in various districts in Tanzania.
- Maintain defensive driving plus presenting safety briefing to passengers prior to each trip departure.
- Maintains vehicle maintenance records and ensures that the routine maintenance is carried out on schedule.
- Maintains accurate, up to date records on trip sheets, fuel purchases, incident reports, accident reports vehicle condition reports and other records that are requested from management.
- Serves as a positive role model while providing transportation services to staff.
- Reviews staff car requests with the Administration Officer finalize/maintenance schedule on a daily basis. Notifies the Administration Officer of any deviations from the approved schedule in order to ensure staff requests are honoured or different arrangements made.
- Inspects vehicle on a daily basis to ensure that it is clean, undamaged and in working order. Notifies the Administration Officer, verbally and in writing, of any damage to or non-working vehicle.
- Dispatches program office documents/emails/items around Dodoma by car to different vendors, partners and customers as assigned.
- Collects and posts letters, sending parcels, recording all incoming letters in the special logbook, distributing to respective officers under the supervision of line manager.
- Maintaining proper records for fuel and reports for any shortage before the start of journey.
- Office assistant duties: Process admin requisitions, where applicable ensure generator is working- proper check-ups, support preparation of meetings, act as receptionist from time to time.
- Photocopying, sorting, and collating related office documents.
- Ensuring the stationery store and all stationery stock are well arranged and in attractive manner.
- Supports office errands as assigned.
- Other duties as assigned from time to time.

### Person Specifications

#### Essential:

- Holders of at least Form IV Certificate.
- Holder of valid Class A, B, D, E driving license.
- Must have certificate from either VETA or National Institute of Transportation (NIT)
- Having driving experience of at least five (5) years from reputable organisations.
- Must be fluent in both written and spoken English and Swahili languages.
- Computer literate.
- Able to work under pressure, Flexible and as part of a team.
- Must be Tanzanian citizen.

### Application Details

Please submit applications to [hrtanzania@camfed.org](mailto:hrtanzania@camfed.org) by 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024, including your most recent CV (indicating three traceable referees- (should be current/previous line manager/HR Manager) with valid email addresses) and covering letter, indicate Title of the job in the subject line of the email. Due to the volume of responses, only successful candidates will be contacted.

### Board Members

Jeanne Karamaga Ndyetabura – Chair  
Leonard Fabian Msigwa – Vice Chair  
Shamsa Mkurungu, Fatuma Kisalazo, Mwajuma Hamza  
Ludigalda Maurinyo Mavika, Hannah Mwakalinga



# Bank partners with HESLB to ease loan disbursement

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has finalised integrating its core banking system with Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) to ease loan application and disbursement.

The move seeks to enable students in higher learning institutions to have access to seamless banking products with a heightened sense of security, efficiency and innovation.

Speaking during a forum held in Dar es Salaam yesterday that brought together various education stakeholders under the theme 'Investing in the Future', NMB Bank chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi said the system has simplified loans disbursements to students.

"Students will now be able to

enjoy seamless banking services after integration of the NMB core banking system with HESLB. This integration will ensure that loans are disbursed to students more quickly and conveniently," he said.

Mponzi reiterated the bank's commitment to continue working closely with the government and education institutions to support development of the education sector right from grassroots level.

"Education sector is among our key priorities. To underline our commitment to supporting higher learning, last year we set aside 200bn/- loans for students in higher learning institutions following close discussions with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training," he said.

Dr Bill Kiwia, HESLB executive

director, said the aim of the forum was to receive feedback from different stakeholders involved in disbursement functionality of the institution.

He said that the board at the moment reaches more than 200,000 students but has already drawn plans to reach more students, adding that this will however depend on the availability of financial resources.

"We are not satisfied with the current situation because the demand is higher than the available resources. We are still looking for different alternative funding sources to reach more students," he said. He urged beneficiaries of HESLB loans to ensure timely repayments so that more needy students can also benefit.



NMB Bank's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday making remarks during a stakeholders working session organised by the Higher Education Students' Loans Board, with the bank as the main sponsor. It brought together 170 lenders, loans officers and representatives of university and college students from Coast, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Mtwara regions as well as Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## South Africa hails Nyerere's memory at AU headquarters

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTH Africa has described the unveiling statue of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere outside the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa last month as an important gesture for honouring his efforts in fighting for the country's independence and the

African continent.

This was stated by South Africa's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Candith Mashego-Dlamini in her contribution at the meeting of the council of ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which ended on Monday in Luanda, Angola.

She said that Mwalimu

Nyerere's ideas need to be remembered forever.

She said through Nyerere, Tanzania openly stated its commitment to liberating southern African countries including South Africa during the struggles through political, ideological, material support, accommodation for leaders and their

fighters including the African National Congress (ANC) and Pan-African National Congress until the attainment of South Africa's freedom in 1994.

"Tanzania was South Africa's first safe haven after the Sharpeville Massacre which took place on March 21, 1960. This further inspired Mwalimu Nyerere's determination to continue his efforts to protest against racism and colonialism and commit towards the achievement of complete African freedom," she said.

"Such efforts led to the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 and later on African Union (AU) in 2002 as well as the formulation of the Liberation Committee of OAU in Dar es Salaam which provided financial and material support to the liberation struggles of the African countries that were under colonial rule. At that time, Mwalimu Nyerere was amongst the patrons."

Mashego-Dlamini described Nyerere as one of the key founders of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980, where SADC's roots originated from.

She added that South African government and its people will continue to cherish the strong contribution of Nyerere who never backed away from speaking against inhumane acts and racism towards the people of the African continent and the whole world.

### The Centre for Counseling, Nutrition and Health Care (COUNSENUTH)

#### INVITATION FOR BIDDERS TO SUPPLY GOODS & SERVICES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

##### 1. ABOUT COUNSENUTH

The Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Health Care (COUNSENUTH), a Non-Profit, indigenous Non-Governmental Organization established in 1998 with registration number SO. NO 9495 under the Tanzania Ministry of Home Affairs and later issued a new certificate with registration number 00NGO/R1/00199 in July 2023 under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group. COUNSENUTH headquarters is located at Plot No. 8 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B, P.O. Box 8218, Dar es Salaam.

##### 2. INVITATION FOR BIDS

COUNSENUTH invites bids from, qualified, competent, reputable, reliable, and experienced Companies/firms/individuals to submit their tenders to provide various goods and services during our 2024 financial year. The Centre operates across the country, though currently has offices in Dar es Salaam, Chemba DC in Dodoma and Tunduru DC, Ruvuma. The chart below provides elaborate details of the required goods and services. An entity/individual may apply to provide more than one identified item. However, each item should be applied separately.

The categories for the items are listed below:

##### BIDS OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLYING OF GOODS & SERVICES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025.

No.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE NUMBER	TYPE OF GOOD/SERVICE REQUIRED
<b>A. Supply of Goods</b>			
1.	Supply and delivery of general office stationery, e.g., Rim papers, toner cartridges, pens, pencils, rulers, stick notes, flip charts, markers, etc.	COUN/GP/005/2024	Stationery services
2.	Supply of computers, laptops, tablets, computer software e.g. Ant-Virus Software	COUN/GP/006/2024	IT Facilities.
3.	Supply of office furniture in Dar es Salaam	COUN/GP/007/2024	Office Furniture
<b>B. Provision of Services</b>			
4.	Generator re-fuel service	COUN/GP/008/2024	Fuel
5.	Printing services including printed folders, banners, promotional and visibility materials, books, and policy briefs.	COUN/GP/010/2024	Printing
6.	Provision of catering services in Dar es Salaam, Chemba DC, Musoma, Mara, Mwanza, Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbeya, Kigoma, Tunduru. The scope can be broadened.	COUN/GP/011/2024	Catering
7.	Hotel services include; Conference facilities and accommodation services in Dar es Salaam, Mara, Mwanza, Dodoma, Morogoro, Kigoma, Tunduru, Mbeya (ibid)	COUN/GP/012/2024	Conference and Accommodation
8.	Facilitators of nutrition-related training on various interventions.	COUN/GP/013/2024	Consultancy services
9.	Provision of graphic designing of different publications and IEC materials, including social media posters for COUNSENUTH	COUN/GP/014/2024	Graphics Designing.
10.	Documentation Assignments	COUN/GP/015/2024	Consultancy
11.	Provision of IT services, including; Website development and upgrading Domain hosting, etc	COUN/GP/016/2024	IT Services
12.	Media Coordination and/or coverage services; Coordinate events coverage through Mainstream media, community media and social media, and Content generation.	COUN/GP/017/2024	Media and Social Media Management
13.	Repair, servicing, and maintenance of office equipment/facilities e.g Air conditioner, Photocopier machine, repair of office generator KV30	COUN/GP/018/2024	Repair and Maintenance of office facilities/equipment
15.	Motor Vehicle Repair and Maintenance for COUNSENUTH vehicles in Dar es Salaam, Tunduru and Dodoma.	COUN/GP/019/2024	Motor Vehicle Repair and Maintenance
16.	Provision of Security services for office premises in Tunduru and Chemba DC	COUN/GP/020/2024	Security services
17.	Repair, servicing, and maintenance of Air Conditioners, plumbing system and its tools, electrical equipment like bulbs, sockets, etc., computers, laptops,	COUN/GP/021/2024	Maintenance

##### QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The applicants should have the following documents attached

- Copy of VAT Registration Certificate (For VAT Registered Company).
- Copy of TIN and VRN Certificates of the company.
- Business License
- Company profile that, shall include details of the Management team.
- Valid EFD machines, and meet all other Government of Tanzania requirements to engage in business. Those that are exempt from this requirement should provide valid proof.
- Proof of other relevant government/procurement compliances.

All the applications will pass through a tender granting process and only the successful applicants will be contacted.

**The deadline for the submission of applications is 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 5:00 pm.**

##### Call for Application.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their application electronically via email to the address below:

**Executive Director,**  
COUNSENUTH,  
08 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B,  
P.O. Box 8218, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
E-Mail: [info@cousenuth.or.tz](mailto:info@cousenuth.or.tz)  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



#### ADVERTISEMENT

##### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION - RFQ /COUN/04/2024

##### THE CENTRE FOR COUNSELLING, NUTRITION AND HEALTH CARE (COUNSENUTH)

The Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Health Care (COUNSENUTH), a Non-Profit, indigenous Non-Governmental Organization established in 1998 with registration number SO. NO 9495 under the Tanzania Ministry of Home Affairs and later issued a new certificate with registration number 00NGO/R1/00199 in July 2023 under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group. COUNSENUTH headquarters is located at Plot No. 8 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B, P.O. Box 8218, Dar es Salaam.

##### SCOPE OF SERVICE

COUNSENUTH invites Quotations from eligible and registered local suppliers who can supply and install Solar Water Pumps, Solar Modules, Construction of Water Towers and Construction of one Domestic Water Points.

##### CRITERIA

- Quote should be valid for at least 30 days.
- Current and updated company profile must be submitted.
- Copies of registration certificate, valid business license, TIN number and any other relevant documents must be submitted.
- Evidence of similar work/assignment

with at least three references from clients served must be submitted.

- Payment terms must be indicated.
- Late or incomplete documents will not be accepted.
- Selection criteria will be lowest or reasonable price, technically evaluated, meeting specification and other criteria described above.
- Should provide an EFD receipt after the payment for the service has been issued.

##### Call for Application.

Interested experts are requested to immediately communicate with office via email for more information and share the BoO via email to the address below:

Application closing date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 5:00 PM

Contact Person:

**Executive Director**  
COUNSENUTH  
08 Sam Nujoma Road, Mikocheni B,  
P.O. Box 8218, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
E-Mail: [info@cousenuth.or.tz](mailto:info@cousenuth.or.tz)



## Sunflower cultivation gaining popularity in Lindi, Mtwara

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

SUNFLOWER production in Lindi and Mtwara regions is expected to increase in the near future, thanks to new initiatives taken by private sector stakeholders in collaboration with the government.

Speaking during a field monitoring visit in Masasi District, Mtwara Region and Nachingwea District in Lindi Region recently, Delta Shilla, a programme officer in charge of monitoring and evaluation at Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) said the organization has started to sensitize and support seed and sunflower farmers in the areas in collaboration with different partners.

"We work with some partners who have already identified sunflower farmers who have cultivated their farms and planted sunflowers," he said.

Shilla urged sunflower seed producers to collaborate with

other stakeholders in order to expand their farms and increase production.

"You have to attend training that is organized by Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and follow all guidelines and procedures for effective sunflower production," he said.

"We want to see an increase in harvest and many people, particularly women, are engaged in the sunflower value chain and they are eager to change their livelihoods and the economy," he said.

Agnes Mavella, a sunflower seed farmer based at Mubulu village in Masasi District asked the government and other stakeholder to lower seed and insecticide prices to allow more peasants to engage into production.

She said many farmers are ready to engage in sunflower production since there is a ready market for the produce.

"We have established our own

group of sunflower producers known as Mshikamano Women and we have agreed to have at least one acre of land each for sunflower cultivation," she said.

Daila Maulid, a sunflower seed farmer from Chiwindi Village in Masasi District, said he has started to cultivate the crop for the first time.

"Sunflower is a new crop in our area; I have cultivated and planted three acres and I am waiting to see the results before making a final decision whether to expand or not," he said.

However he said he was optimistic to get a good harvest and more markets of the crop.

Stella Amlima, a sunflower farmer from Songambe Village in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region, urged the government and non-government organisations to support farmers through construction of a sunflower oil processing factory.

She said there are many people who are engaged in sunflower production for home use, but there is no oil processing factory in the area.

"I believe more farmers will engage in sunflower production after the factory is built close to them", she said.

Musa Mudamu, project manager at Speak Agro which is AMDT's partner, said they entered into agreement with more than 10 seed producers and over 40 groups of sunflower farmers in Lindi and Mtwara regions this year.

He said next year, the number is expected to increase to 60 for seed producers and over 1,500 sunflower farmers.

Sunflower is normally grown in Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Katavi, Manyara, Iringa Mbeya and Shinyanga regions, making it a new crop in the southern regions that are well known for cashew farming.



Small traders found in a strategic hunt for customers for motor vehicle spares and accessories near Dar es Salaam's Machinga Complex yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



### TPOSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Senior Scientist I - Breeding and Seed System

Job ID: HQ01668

Location: Tanzania

Closing Date: 29-Mar-2024

APPLY: <https://www.irri.org/jobs>

#### About IIRI

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on behalf of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) invites applications for the Senior Scientist I - Breeding and Seed System. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world's premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science, improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers, and protecting the rice-growing environment for future generations. IRRI and IITA are members of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers; and protecting the rice-growing environment for future generations. IRRI is an independent, nonprofit, research and educational institute, founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations with support from the Philippine government. The institute, headquartered in Los Baños, Philippines, has offices in 17 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa, and over 1,000 staff.

Working with in-country partners, IRRI develops advanced rice varieties that yield more grain and better withstand pests and disease as well as flooding, drought, and other harmful effects of climate change.

#### Job Purpose

The main task of the Rice Breeding Innovations (RBI) Department is to deliver on these key priorities guided by its OneRice breeding strategy and framework in the areas of breeding for favorable and unfavorable environments based on prioritized market segments, host plant resistance, quantitative genetics, and seed delivery systems across Asia and Africa. As the donor focus is shifting to Sub-Saharan Africa, specifically to increase the rates of genetic gains and replacement rates of older and obsolete varieties, this role will be crucial in increasing the impact and outreach of RBI and with the national partners specifically in Tanzania as one of the most important partner countries for IRRI.

This position will be responsible for delivering on existing important projects in Tanzania to ensure the continuity of future funding through proactive donor engagement and management of regional expectations from East and South African (ESA) national partners. Specifically, the focus would be on integrating all the aspects of upstream and downstream research of the OneRice breeding strategy and framework and resource mobilization.

This position will be based in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and is open for international applications.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

- Oversee the rice breeding program and product delivery in prioritized market segments in line with target product concepts in East and South Africa with a focus on Tanzania
- Be the focal point for IRRI for RBI activities in the country working closely with TARI and IRRI teams in the country and ESA
- Effectively leverage IRRI's HQ and regional capacity to deliver on IRRI's mission effectivity aligned with OneCGIAR/GI in Tanzania
- Innovate in increasing the rates of genetic gain using population improvement and recurrent selection approach together with the breeding team
- Oversee the NARES breeding and seed system network trials
- Promote an enabling environment, mentor scientists and staff in the team and manage performance for the team to grow
- Collaborate with governments, donors, rice R&D partners, and private enterprises to align with client and donor expectations.
- Align with Department and Unit Leaders and Research Support Services to assure cross-unit synergy within IRRI
- Maintain and proactively develop networks & partnerships with various research teams including public and private entities
- Successfully mobilize funds to ensure continuity of IRRI's mission in Tanzania
- Consistent delivery of improved varieties to replace older and obsolete mega varieties for farmers in prioritized market segments
- Seed system focus to ensure that the varietal replacement is through critical engagements with seed system stakeholders
- Develop and optimize the breeding program using quantitative optimization in close collaboration with the biometrics team
- Actively seek external funds and secure partnerships for research and development needs and strengthening IRRI's presence in ESA
- Publish the important and relevant scientific findings in peer-reviewed journals

#### Qualifications

- PhD degree in Agriculture, Molecular Biology, or Genetics
- At least 10 years of post-PhD experience in Plant Breeding and Crop Improvement

#### Skills Required

##### Mandatory

- Demonstrated history of implementing modern breeding methods in CGIAR-rapid and data-driven breeding & testing program
- Clear understanding of quantitative genetic theories and principles
- Operating in a matrix organization; proactive and effective communication
- Planning and execution of regional activities on breeding and seed systems in Africa
- Experience in resource mobilization preferably in Africa
- Managing a team with diverse skill sets, backgrounds, and interpersonal skills at regional and global levels

##### Preferred

- Strong experience in managing CGIAR modern breeding, delivery, and dissemination, molecular markers platforms, and resource management.

**IRRI offers a highly extensive employee benefits package inclusive of globally-covered medical insurance, retirement plan, life and accident insurance and other allowances.**

**Join our team and be part of our story!**

**Please note only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

**This position will remain open until filled.**



### ADVERTISEMENT

#### TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work package

Tembo Nickel Corporation Limited ("Tembo Nickel") is an operating company formed via the Framework Agreement (19 January 2021) between Kabanga Nickel Limited ("Kabanga Nickel") and the Government of Tanzania ("GoT") for development of the Kabanga nickel deposits in Ngara District, Kagera Region, Tanzania ("Kabanga Nickel Project"). Under the Framework Agreement terms, Tembo (owned 84% by Kabanga Nickel and 16% by GoT) has been formally established for the mining, processing, and refining of battery-grade nickel with cobalt and copper co-products.

Kabanga is among the world's largest high-grade underdeveloped nickel sulphide deposits, with exploration upside on existing licenses. Once in operation, the Kabanga Nickel project will produce battery-grade nickel, cobalt, and copper refined metals in Tanzania. The mine-to-metal operation will use Hydromet Technology that is significantly more cost efficient than smelting. The Hydromet Technology will reduce the carbon footprint, minimise environmental impact, lower capital, and production costs, and contribute significantly to the economic growth of Tanzania.

**Tembo Nickel Corporation is currently focused on timely delivery of the Project's Definitive Feasibility Study, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following Services.**

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	TEMBO-2024-02-26	<b>Underground Contract Mining;</b> a. Supply and install Contractor facilities and services. b. Supply and install workshops, offices, accommodation, stores and supporting services for the contractor conduct their services. c. Carry out mechanized underground mining including, but not limited to: i. Development with Jumbo drills ii. Ground support installation (shotcrete, steel mesh, rock bolts and cable bolts) iii. Production drilling iv. Load and Hauling v. Remote bogging vi. CAF/Pastefill servicing, maintenance and management vii. Maintenance of full fleet viii. Technical Services to support contractor (Engineering etc) ix. Escapeway installation and maintenance x. Dewatering xi. Procure and install UG services (air/water piping, pumps, refuge chambers etc). d. Maintain waste rock dumps. e. Deliver ore to the ROM pad f. Support Tembo Nickel in achieving their Mining Physicals	<b>Commercial</b> i. Company profile and up to date organogram ii. Company code of business conduct iii. Current or previous East African experience, preferably Tanzania. iv. Must be compliant with the Local Content Legislation and have an approved Local Content Plan; or provide proof of submission v. Supplier's audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years vi. Copy of company memorandum and article of association  <b>Technical</b> vii. List and attach all Underground (and surface ancillary) equipment including: development drills, production drills, trucks, development and production bidders, remote bidders, tele-remote equipment, graders, concrete agitator trucks, integrated tool carriers, spray machines and explosive charging machines. viii. Demonstrate experience in completing mechanized mining; Jumbo development, longhole stoping, pastefill, load and haul, ground support installation and remote production bogging in the last 5 years. Provide detail of all contracts completed in the last 5 years including value, duration, mining physicals planned/achieved, mining method, equipment and personnel numbers, references and associated contact details. ix. Provide details of current contracts in execution.

The above Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which the pre-qualified contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for **pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender**, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of Incorporation, Business License, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- The most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration
- Years of service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project (attach CV's)
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work

**EOI's from Companies that can provide ALL services detailed in the Scope of Work above will be considered.**

Interested Companies must submit their Expression of Interest letter and all the required information via email to [tenders@kabanganickel.com](mailto:tenders@kabanganickel.com) by **2359 HOURS (GMT +3) on 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the reference number **TEMBO-2024-02-26** in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **Tembo Nickel Corporation**. Pre-qualified companies shall be contacted within 45 days from the EOI submission deadline. Candidates not contacted should consider their EOI unsuccessful.

**For and on behalf of TEMBO NICKEL CORPORATION: KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT**



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## BRELA ideas for CSR reform call for review

MEMBERS of the Law Reform Commission have a knotty problem on their hands following pleas that some articles in the Companies Act and legislation relating to Business Names be revised or altered in the public interest.

They have been holding talks on the matter with stakeholders, including advocates from both public and private institutions. The idea is to address what are seen as loopholes, especially in the sphere of corporate social responsibility as an ethos.

The meeting was initiated by the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), which submitted to the commission a proposal for a review seeking to remove the idea that 'corporate social responsibility' is charity.

That looks a bit confusing as it seeks to dispute the notion of charity, while refusing to alter the content of the law to remove it, thus looking for ways to institute additional taxation for community benefit. Critics view that as recommending enforceable social responsibility.

There is another dimension that is as yet to be sufficiently clarified in that approach - namely, that the wish to place such a demand in legislation would apply to all registered companies.

There are hundreds of big companies operating in industrial and semi-industrial areas, chiefly within agglomerations of large urban centres, which would be surprised finding themselves appointed 'godfathers' of some villages somewhere.

The idea of CSR arose from an international convention tracking the activities of extractive companies - in that mineral extraction, and especially oil drilling, often has massive consequences such as in the

form of land degradation.

Analytical discipline among global NGOs and United Nations agencies by and large limited the issue to lack of care by the companies first for the land where they carry out drilling activities and then for the communities.

CSR was in many cases a sort of armistice to hold back village attacks, whether in the oilfields of the Niger delta in Nigeria or in restive gold zones.

For years there have been efforts to institutionalise CSR, in some cases leading to the disbursement of hundreds of millions of shillings to various areas - to predictable results.

Such money keeps sections of local decision makers happy, but scarcely really relieves the government of onerous duties like building schools, dispensaries and roads. Radicals want a law for CSR to do it.

What this law reform idea does not solve is whether contributions are to remain voluntary or have compulsory ceilings, as CSR by definition is voluntary, and thus it is responsibility.

Trying to remove the tag that CSR is voluntary would imply that it is removed from legal relevance or policy expectations.

That done, routine taxation would have been let in to take care of the needs that may now be pursued using an inconsistent concept of 'compulsory responsibility'.

In addition, reports about the BRELA initiative and the commission taking up the idea don't indicate an explicit acceptance by the Attorney General's Office on this course of action.

Short of that assurance, the consultations could end up being substantially downgraded. We would appreciate seeing all parties concerned seriously guarding against such an eventuality.

## Climate change initiatives viable if not too dependent on subsidies

IT can hardly be doubted that public sensitisation on climate change effects is well implanted within broad sections of the population and is one area where it is relatively easy to initiate institutional efforts in that direction.

Indeed, when the respective ministry says that sensitisation efforts are paying off, it would be even more exciting to see if this parameter is not draining out public funds for showy environmental start-up activities that may eventually lack credible follow-up.

Nor is there effort to see how environment projects can be hived off into the private sector, as it were, with fixed payments by district councils regularly inspecting the operations.

Indeed, while granting that various public institutions may be doing the most they can to take up the issue of environmental restoration, it is a different matter if one embarks on some mental effort to see if awareness about the effects of climate change and mitigation measures being undertaken are anywhere near what is required.

As the respective minister has pointed out, there are major public initiatives like the Sustainable Landscape Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation (SLR) project and the Sustainable Land Management of Lake Nyasa (SLM-Nyasa), and scores of protected forest areas where villagers earn substantial sums by protecting such lands.

It is hard to see how policy had made it possible for significant private sector initiatives in reforestation, while even in the more complicated carbon trading mechanism private sector presence is diluted.

Nor was it to be expected that members of the Water and Environment Standing committee

of the National Assembly would demand such explanation.

There is an impression that the government has money or it can borrow from outside for nearly everything and MPs just need to do the pushing. Of course, this could be overly optimistic.

The minister has said that education on the environment as continually provided has enabled members of the public to participate in afforestation activities more extensively, thus uplifting the likely levels of rainfall.

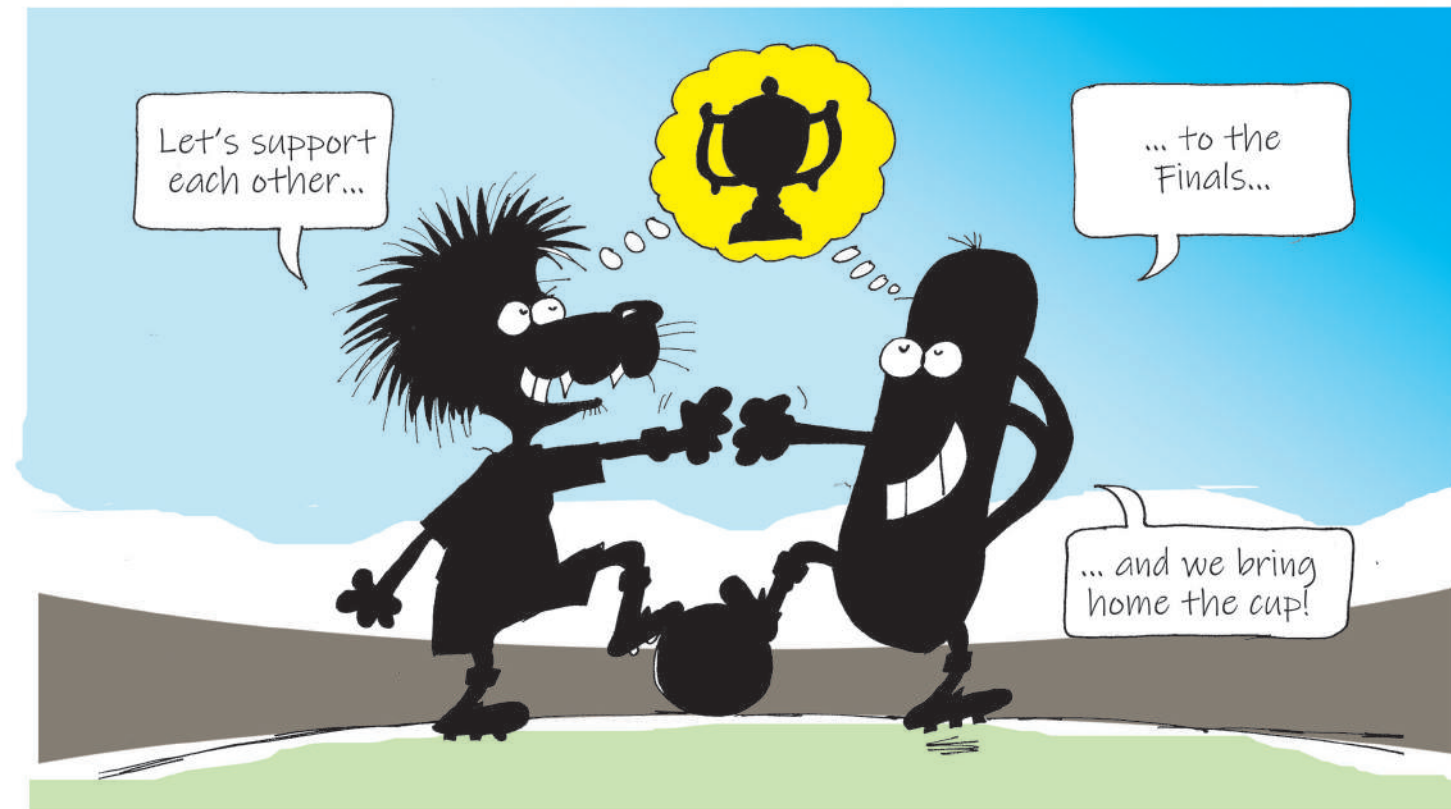
Both observations could be valid - but not necessarily linked. Yes, more people are involved in tree planting or protecting forest patches, and there is a lot more rain, but drought has scarcely disappeared and it is unclear how many planted trees survive.

How much money was used and if it was accounted for actually are a different matter, while there is also the issue of how much the private sector could do with that same cash.

After fairly adequate levels of public education, it is not strategically viable for the government to depend on voluntary initiatives by public institutions doing work outside their main areas of concern, occasionally allotted funding for activities lined up for carrying out.

Something more institutionally viable is more usable - for instance, if the government places 100bn/- per year in various areas threatened with deserts, the cash lodged with the central bank, to absorb negative outcomes in viable lending for investments in tree planting on an extensive scale.

Such funding, alongside global carbon trading funds or other initiatives, can sustainably attract forest restoration projects in areas in genuine need of such projects.



## MAE SOT, Thailand

THE Maung family is rebuilding their lives in a foreign land. A freshly painted signboard with a play on the word Revolution declares their small restaurant is open for business, and breakfast features traditional Myanmar mohinga - rice noodles and fish soup.

Three years ago, the family of four was prospering in the central Myanmar city of Mandalay but suddenly everything changed.

The military seized back power from the newly elected government, and thousands of people took to the streets in protest, including the Maungs. A brutal crackdown ensued across Myanmar, the father was arrested and their two restaurants seized.

Since the 2021 coup, the UN estimates that some 2.4 million more people have been displaced by conflict across Myanmar, while 78,000 civilian properties, including homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship, have been burnt or destroyed by the military.

The Maung family was wise to leave Myanmar when they could, and fortunate to survive the hazardous journey eastwards towards the border with Thailand.

After spending a year in a border camp for IDPs (internally displaced people) run by the military wing of the Karen National Union (KNU) in eastern Kayin State, the family managed to cross into the Thai frontier town of Mae Sot to start afresh, even if they exist in a grey zone of legality alongside tens of thousands of others.

Against this background and wanting to preempt an influx, Thailand's new coalition government announced its intention last month to open up a 'humanitarian corridor' into Myanmar to funnel aid to IDPs and keep them well away from the border.

Thailand's military - the real arbiter of power in these border regions and holding sway over two parties in the coalition - is haunted by the spectre of past and present examples of chaos through conflict.

In the 1980s, Thailand reluctantly hosted several hundred thousand Cambodian refugees, including remnants of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime, on its eastern borders.

Today it looks west and sees Bangladesh struggling to contain in camps some one million Rohingya refugees forced out of Myanmar in what the UN special rapporteur on human rights called a genocidal campaign by the Myanmar military.

But beyond the 'humanitarian' aspect, what has caused anger within the various groups fighting the Myanmar military as well as rights activists, is Thailand's own

## Thailand's 'humanitarian corridor' for Myanmar now faces pushback



Myanmar refugees in Thailand pick out clothes piled in the street that have been donated in the border town of Mae Sot. Credit: William Webb/IPS

admission that its humanitarian corridor proposal is aimed at drawing the regime's State Administration Council (SAC) into a dialogue that would lead to a negotiated settlement with Myanmar's diverse resistance forces.

Neither the KNU nor the parallel National Unity Government set up by ousted Myanmar lawmakers after the coup were consulted by Thailand, which received a green light from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Under Thailand's initiative, aid would be delivered initially to 20,000 IDPs by the Thai Red Cross and the Myanmar Red Cross (whose senior administrators are former military officers) and monitored by ASEAN's Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, where the Myanmar junta also has a presence.

"Aid is used everywhere in the world as a political entry point," the KNU official commented, adding: "This is not a pure humanitarian issue. They want to bring the SAC out of isolation. This is very problematic for us."

A senior NUG official, also based in Thailand, was similarly concerned by the political intentions behind the proposal. "It's a desperate measure by ASEAN seeking a semblance of negotiated peace and dialogue," he told IPS.

The official doubted it would get

off the ground in its present form without the support of the Karen forces that control large areas of Kayin State, nor without the full backing of the US.

The US values its long-held strategic ties with Thailand and its military, and Thai Foreign Minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara returned from Washington last month, declaring that he had secured complete US support for the initiative, although the US public statement appeared more cautious.

Human rights activists and humanitarian workers on the Thai-Myanmar border remain highly sceptical of the initiative, denouncing it as a "weaponisation of aid".

Thailand, they note, has never officially recognized the refugee status of nearly 100,000 people living in nine UNHCR camps along the Thai-Myanmar border since the 1990s.

"This is not about providing humanitarian aid to the people of Myanmar. It is about giving a new lifeline to the junta to re-engage with ASEAN and everybody else," commented Paul Greening, a former UN senior staff officer and now independent consultant in Mae Sot.

He elaborated: "Neighbours and other international actors, including the US and China, do not want the junta to fall. They do not want the junta to win but they do not want

it to fall either. This is why they all want a 'negotiated settlement'."

Igor Blazevic, a senior adviser at the Prague Civil Society Centre who previously worked in Myanmar, said a "carrot" was being held out to the Myanmar regime at a time when it was "seriously weakened and shaken" after losing large areas of territory to resistance forces both in Rakhine State in the west and in Shan State close to China.

"A political aim behind the 'humanitarian initiative' is the intention to treat genocidal power-usurpers in uniform as the inevitable and unavoidable key factor in Myanmar's 'stability' and with combination of soft pressure and humanitarian incentives, try to force everybody else to surrender, in a soft way, to ongoing military dominance in politics and the economy," Blazevic wrote in a commentary.

With the UN warning that nearly two million people in Myanmar are expected to fall into the "highest category of needs severity (catastrophic)" this year, the resistance is aware that they will come under intense international pressure not to reject the Thai initiative.

Recent developments indicate Thailand may rethink its proposal, however. It has opened channels with the KNU and the NUG to discuss their involvement in facilitating aid deliveries through Myanmar civil society organisations independent of the regime.

Word has it that the Myanmar Red Cross is not that keen to be directly involved, knowing it is too close to the regime to be able to safely deliver aid to those who have suffered atrocities at its hands.

For the Maung family and their small eatery in Mae Sot, a dream would be to return to Mandalay and Myanmar in peace. But they have little hope of such an outcome, nor do they really want to remain in Thailand, along with over two million other Myanmar workers, classified as migrants, not refugees.

For the moment, life revolves around navigating Thailand's complex and often corrupt system to secure papers that would give them a degree of legitimacy and enable them to move beyond Mae Sot and surrounding Tak Province. A possible lifeline is an ethnic Chinese branch of their family with members in Taiwan.

"Taiwan could be our future," says the elder of two daughters, who still dreams of going to university. "I can learn Chinese," she says, in excellent English.

\* An IPS United Nations Bureau report.



# Need to help learners connect technology to real-life situations

**T**HERE is no learning without learners. This means learners are an important part in any of the schools. They are the ones who can decide their destiny than teachers because they are the ones learning. It is therefore important to make learners enjoy the teaching and learning process.

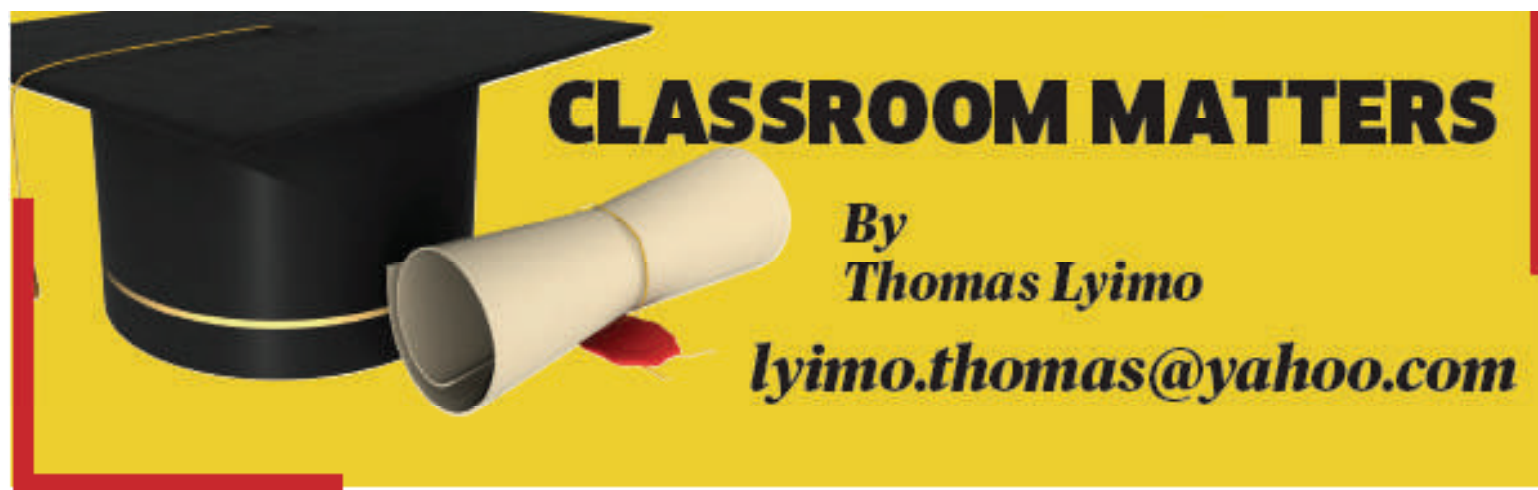
Readiness of learners to learn makes the task of teaching easy and motivating. It makes teachers become facilitators. Learners who are ready to learn search for new knowledge endlessly and always trouble teachers with questions.

This situation makes teachers prepare well before lessons and hence improvement in the teaching and learning process.

It is believed that making learners part of the lesson motivates them to learn more, thus becoming competent. The current philosophy of education emphasizes on learners doing things practically to master skills taught in class.

Life demands practical skills above certificates. It now becomes a must for learners to possess practical skills to face today's competitive job market if they will not have chosen self-employment.

Learners should be given an opportunity to see, touch and operate devices to attain practical skills. They need to be exposed to different operations of devices to increase their level of creativity. Practical lessons stimulate critical thinking which is needed



in problem solving.

The value of a scholar is on how they can solve some problems and create opportunities. Therefore we need a kind of teaching and learning that will enable learners become problem solvers and hence opportunity creators. This will end the job seeking tendency and establish a job creating culture.

The good thing with the current learners is that they come from families which are not behind in the use of modern technology. This means teachers have a good place to start. Learners from such families are already exposed to the technological world. What may be missing is the refinement on how to use the technology in a way that is beneficial. Teachers should help learners to connect technology to real life situations.

Learners should be enabled to see how technology can shape their lives.

There are many opportunities in the technology but the challenge is how to see them and utilize them. It is the task of teachers to enable learners shape their lives using technology. Teachers should help learners avoid bad use of technology.

The slogan on making learners fully participate in lessons should be continued because it carries a lot of relevance and importance which is evident in the following considerations.

One of the benefits of making learners fully participate in lessons is enabling teachers to know what learners know. For effective teaching to take place the teacher should know the degree of understanding of learners in what they want to teach.

If the teacher is not interested in what learners know they may teach something which learners know and hence wasting time. If the teacher discovers

that they have taught something which learners know well it becomes a kind of discouragement.

Another benefit of making learners part of the teaching and learning process is creating friendship with learners. Teaching and learning is not a hostile relation. It is a process that must be inspired by love and friendship. It is not easy to teach well someone you do not love. When learners are frequently involved in the lesson they become less afraid of the teacher.

They break boundaries and communicate with the teacher so as to gain more knowledge. A friendly environment is very essential in the teaching and learning process.

Also involving learners in the lesson helps to make the teaching and learning process interactive. Teaching and learning is interactive in nature. Learners have good ideas which the teacher

cannot get them unless he involves them in the lesson.

Those good ideas help the teacher on how to design and organize their lesson. If it is only the teacher who is talking, the teaching and learning process becomes very hard and boring. The teacher may lose motivation and energy if learners do not show cooperation.

Therefore it is important for the teacher to try by all means to make learners participate in the teaching and learning process. Interaction enables the teacher to know how learners feel about their teaching and hence being able to improve.

Again involving learners in the teaching and learning process enables building of confidence for learners. Self-confidence is of great value in the teaching and learning process.

The education system must enable learners to be confident. Some learners can be knowledgeable on a certain topic but fails to explain themselves over lack of self-confidence. It is a duty of the teacher to make sure the teaching and learning process creates confident individuals.

The teaching and learning process target learners, hence the need for them to be at the epicenter of the teaching and learning process. Interests and desires of learners should be given first priority. They should be enabled to be part of making their future. Teaching is involving learners.

By Telesphor Magobe

**A**LTHOUGH there are global and regional efforts to combat corruption, over 80 per cent of the world's population still lives in countries in which corruption thrives as corruption scores in those countries are below the global average of 43 (out of 100) points, according to Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023.

At least 180 countries, which are part of 190 members to UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), were surveyed. The CPI 2023, which was released in January this year, measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption using a scale of 0-100 points, 0-9 points, indicating highly corrupt countries and 90-100 points, indicating least/very clean countries. That is the lower the score on the scale of 0-100 points, the higher the corruption level and the higher the score the lower the corruption level.

While Western Europe & European Union is the highest scoring region with an average regional score of 65 points, sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest scoring region with an average regional score of 33 points. Data collected from 2012 to 2023 shows that 28 countries (including Tanzania) improved, 34 countries declined and 118 countries stayed the same in global corruption perception scores.

On the Western Europe & European Union region, the CPI 2023 says that despite remaining the top scoring region in the CPI, robust anti-corruption measures continue being undermined by the weakening of checks and balances. "The erosion of political integrity contributes to diminishing public trust in countries' ability to tackle the region's ongoing challenges."

On sub-Saharan Africa region, the CPI 2023 says that despite adopting the African Union (AU) Convention on Prevention and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) two decades ago, impunity of public actors, a weakened civic space and public access to justice and information continue being critical issues that threaten the rule of law in the region. "Anti-corruption efforts are, therefore, necessary at all levels and by stakeholders within the justice network."

Tanzania in particular improved in global corruption perception scores from 2015 to 2023 by gaining 10 more points, meaning for eight years its corruption levels dropped albeit slightly. It is also grouped among the new five maximum scores with their average scores in brackets: Seychelles (71 points), Cabo Verde (64 points), Cote D'Ivoire (40 points), Tanzania (40 points) and Sierra Leone (35).

Tanzania's corruption score is above

## Justice and rule of law declining globally with corruption thriving



the regional (sub-Saharan Africa) average score of 33 points, but is below the global average score of 43 points. In East Africa, Tanzania is preceded by Rwanda in corruption reduction levels (53 points), but is ahead of other East African Community (EAC) member states, namely Kenya (31 points), Uganda (26 points), Burundi (20 points), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (20 points), South Sudan (13 points) and Somalia (11 points).

Globally, the top five performers in corruption reduction are Denmark (90 points), Finland (87 points), New Zealand (85 points), Norway (84 points) and

Singapore (83 points) and the least five performers are Somalia (11 points), Venezuela (13 points), Syria (13 points), South Sudan (13 points) and Yemen (16 points).

"Countries with strong rule of law and well-functioning democratic institutions often sit at the top of the index. Democratic countries tend to greatly outperform authoritarian regimes when controlling corruption - full democracies have a CPI average of 73 points, flawed democracies have one of 48 points and non-democratic regimes just 32 points," says the CPI 2023.

Countries with well-functioning justice systems tend to address corruption effectively, while those without well-functioning justice systems tend to harbour it. "When the justice system is weak, dysfunctional or lacks independence to shield itself against external pressure, it cannot uphold the law and ensure that it is applied equally to all. Under these circumstances, legal frameworks tend to lose their power to dissuade people from engaging in corruption and other criminal activities, and impunity thrives."

The CPI 2023 quotes Transparency International (TI) Chief Executive Officer Daniel Eriksson to have said: "Corruption worsens social injustice and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable. In many countries, obstacles to justice for victims of corruption persist. It is time to break the barriers and ensure people can access justice effectively. Everyone deserves fair and inclusive legal systems where victims' voices are heard at every stage. Anything else is an affront to justice."

According to CPI 2023, recent studies show that there is a mutually reinforcing relationship between corruption and social injustice. "Corruption often results in discrimination, as favours or privileges the government grants to specific groups, individuals or companies tend to result in the deprivation of others with similar merit." When the judiciary reeks of corruption people experience miscarriages of justice with impunity as the innocent are easily made guilty and the guilty are made innocent.

Law Dictionary (Second Edition) 1993 by P.H. Collins defines a miscarriage of justice as a decision wrongly or unjustly reached by a court (that is a decision which goes against the rights of a party in a case, in such a way that it may be reversed on appeal).

TI Chairperson François Valérian suggests that corruption will continue thriving until justice systems can punish wrongdoing and keep governments in check. He says when justice is bought or politically interfered with it is the people who suffer. "Leaders should fully invest in and guarantee the independence of institutions that uphold the law and tackle corruption. It is time to end impunity for corruption," he explains.

The CPI 2023 suggests that some governments make use of justice systems to suppress opposition or other critical voices. "These regimes often use the police force, prosecutors and courts to silence, disadvantage and jail those who raise their voices against them."

Based on research and work with partners in over 100 countries the CPI 2023 recommends six things to governments seeking to combat corruption, promote justice and strengthen the rule of law to: 1) strengthen the independence of justice systems, 2) make justice more transparent, 3) introduce integrity and monitoring mechanisms, 4) promote cooperation within justice systems, 5) improve access to justice and 6) expand avenues for accountability in grand corruption cases.



# Squeezed-out Amazon smallholders seek new frontiers in Brazil's Roraima state

By Sam Cowie, Rodrigo Pedrosa and

## Avener Prado

**O**NÉSIO Nascimento has worked the land his whole life, moving from one Brazilian farming frontier to the next.

During the coronavirus pandemic, he sold 20 hectares (50 acres) of land in northwest Mato Grosso state and used the money to buy 100 hectares (250 acres), more than 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) deeper north into the Amazon, in south Roraima state.

Today, he grows cassava and bananas on his land, an hour's drive down a bumpy dirt road, flanked by small herds of cattle, which turns to mud during the rainy season and that loggers use to extract valuable Amazon hardwoods from nearby pristine forest.

On a late October afternoon, during the severe 2023 Amazon drought, his patch of land sat burning; he'd set it on fire deliberately so he could clear space to plant more crops.

"There was nothing when I arrived, it was all forest," he told Mongabay. "We had to work a lot."

Even in this far-flung part of the Amazon, 59-year-old Nascimento isn't alone as an "outsider." Almost all of his neighbors on dirt road 34, in the banana and timber town of Caroebe, migrated from other Amazon states such as Mato Grosso, Rondônia and Pará, attracted by cheap land.

In recent years, infrastructure megaprojects, large-scale cattle farming operations and soy plantations have driven up land prices in settled regions of the Brazilian Amazon, many of which were colonized during the country's military dictatorship from 1964 to 1985.

The spike in land prices combined with typical difficulties faced by family farmers in the region, such as access to credit, have encouraged many to sell up and search for opportunities of ever-distant frontiers, perpetuating a cycle of displacement and deforestation.

Southern Roraima's vast extensions of "vacant lands," which aren't conservation areas or privately owned, has sparked interest in recent years from a range of groups, including small farmers, squatters, speculators, land grabbers and large cattle ranchers.

"It is one of the last frontiers of the Brazilian Amazon," Paulo Barni, a professor of forestry management at the State University of Roraima, told Mongabay. "And the vacant lands are sitting there, available for people to demarcate and then take possession."

While attention has been focused on the billion-dollar illegal gold and tin mining industry operating in Roraima's Yanomami Indigenous Territory, Amazon deforestation in the state's southern municipalities have exploded in recent years.

According to data from Brazil's space agency, INPE, total deforestation in the four municipalities that make up southern Roraima – Caroebe, Rorainópolis, São João da Baliza and São Luiz – more than doubled in the 2019-2021 period from the previous three-year period – to 27,800 hectares from



**Onésio Nascimento, 59, has worked the land his whole life, moving from one farming frontier to the next. During the coronavirus pandemic, he sold his land and moved deeper north into the Amazon, in Roraima state. Today, he grows cassava and banana, an hour's drive down a bumpy dirt road.**

12,700 hectares (68,700 acres from 31,400 acres).

The destruction continued to increase in 2022 and 2023, with 19,100 hectares (47,200 acres) cleared during that period. Within the first few weeks of 2024, preliminary data suggest at least 800 hectares (2,000 acres) have been cleared, half of this in Caroebe, where Nascimento lives.

In February, the municipality was the eighth-worst hit for forest fires in Brazil as Roraima saw an unprecedented burning season.

Smallholders like Nascimento cause relatively small amounts of deforestation, according to Barni, due to the high costs of cutting down trees and clearing the land – roughly 2,000 reais (\$400) a hectare, or about \$160 an acre. However, they potentially open the way for large-scale land grabbers and speculators, while large clearings of up to 400 hectares (nearly 1,000 acres) at a time are also common in the region.

Surrounded by dirty roads Indigenous lands in the south of the state have also suffered from an increase in invasions by loggers and land grabbers.

"We are surrounded on all sides by dirt roads," said Levi da Silva Kaykúwü, chief of the Indigenous people, whose 406,000-hectare (1-million-acre) territory is often targeted by loggers. "These days they are getting ever closer."

Nascimento heard about the opportunity to buy land in southern Roraima from an informal land broker, a type of traveling salesperson common in the Brazilian Amazon, who profits from transactions between landowners and buyers.

Born in Paraná state in Brazil's south in the late 1970s, Nascimento and his family were among millions of poor farmers who flocked north to the Amazon, squeezed out by

mechanized agriculture and monoculture crops. The first place they settled was Vilhena in the state of Rondônia.

"I'm more from Rondônia than from Paraná," Nascimento said.

The family grew coffee, rice, beans and corn on a small patch of land, but suffered great hardship, he said. Many smallholders who migrated to the Amazon during the colonization period fell ill and died from malaria; others sold up or abandoned their properties, or else were swindled by land grabbers.

By the time he was a young man, in the late 1980s, growing crops and working at a logging firm, and using the money he earned to open up more land, large-scale cattle ranchers were moving into Rondônia, putting the Amazon crisis firmly in the international spotlight. Nascimento eventually moved to Mato Grosso state, just east of Rondônia and still in the Amazon.

Then, a generation later, history repeated itself. In 2020, he decided to sell his small farm in Aripuanã, a logging and cattle-rearing town with one of the highest deforestation rates in the Amazon, where he had spent the past 18 years.

By then, Mato Grosso already was Brazil's agricultural powerhouse, and local land prices had risen after the establishment of a zinc mine. For smallholders like Nascimento, working conditions had become more difficult as wealthy farmers with their mechanized equipment moved in, far outcompeting them on crop yields.

Then there was the violence: a quadruple execution by hooded gunmen at an illegal mining site in 2020 added to the death toll that made Aripuanã among the most murderous municipalities in Brazil that year.

Today, Nascimento lives

next door to his ex-wife and her new husband, who also bought property on dirt road 34 in southern Roraima. His children live in Mato Grosso and Rondônia.

He complained that environmental officials began "persecuting" him and his neighbors after Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who ran for president on a pro-environment platform, took office in January 2023. Roraima was a stronghold for the defeated incumbent, Jair Bolsonaro, accounting for his biggest margin over Lula in the 2022 elections. "They only go after the little guys," said Nascimento, who is illiterate. "With Bolsonaro, at least we could work."

An environmental official based in Roraima, who asked not to be identified for fear of local persecution, told Mongabay that the state's leniency of allowing settlers to stake land claims was "practically state policy," and was especially encouraged during the Bolsonaro years, from 2019-2022.

Nascimento doesn't have a real land title, just an informal sales document. This fragile paperwork doesn't allow him access to bank credit, and it could cost him his land. He said he hopes to join the increasing number of people to obtain a land title from the state at some point. But, as he pointed out, "To legalize, you have to have a lot of money, it's difficult."

"The dream is to buy a piece of land"

An hour's drive deeper down dirt road 34, where Nascimento lives, which is being opened little by little, most likely by loggers according to local sources, recently cleared land abuts the native forest.

Celia Regina da Silva, 53, arrived recently from Rondônia, where she quit her job as a sales supervisor at a telephone company.

Both her husband and her

son were hired by the owner of a patch of land, an area of 300 hectares (741 acres) of native forest, to inventory which trees are valuable and will be removed and sold later to sawmills in the region.

"I've only been here a short time, but now the dream is to buy a piece of land and move in here," da Silva said.

Deeper down dirt road 34, recently constructed wood huts sit on cleared land, empty except for some basic furniture and sawdust, suggesting logging activity; roads used to remove hardwoods already snake through the forest.

The dirt road ends close to the Trombetas/Mapuera Indigenous Territory, a massive expanse of forest that has been invaded by loggers and land grabbers. Federal prosecutors in Roraima recently recommended canceling land titles for squatters and farmers in the territory; a mysterious plane was also found here last year.

Southern Roraima has long been a hotspot for the illegal logging trade. In 2020, an illegal logger was killed during an enforcement operation in the municipality of Rorainópolis.

The region was also where the National Force, a joint military and civil police unit, was deployed last year to protect the Pirititi Indigenous Territory, home to an isolated Indigenous group, after it was invaded by land grabbers in May. In December, the National Force's presence was extended for another 90 days. "There is an extremely well-organized group working there," said Alisson Marugal, a federal prosecutor in Roraima.

At Caroebe's Banana Festival and Agribusiness Fair, a joint event held at the end of October a short drive from the entrance of the dirt road where Onésio Nascimento and Celia Regina da Silva live, the cowboy-style rural culture that has spread throughout the Brazilian Amazon in recent decades was on full display.

There, top artists like Joelma, the "Queen of Calypso," as well as country singers Mano Walter and George Japa, performed on a stage. Stands advertised John Deere agricultural machines, some of which sell for tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars, while a rodeo provided more entertainment for spectators.

Caroebe City Hall wrote in an Instagram post that the event attracted "more than forty thousand people" and "saw a record of transactions for the agribusiness sector of the region."

Such is the land boom in Roraima these days that social media is also used by dedicated brokers to advertise large properties.

Still, Evanilson Ribeiro da Silva, an informal broker who uses Facebook for intermediate property sales, said the migration rush he'd witnessed over the past six years in the region stalled in 2023.

Fears about the Lula administration's crackdown on environmental violations has discouraged new settlers and large cattle ranchers from buying land that year, he said.

"Most people who come to the south of the state are cattle ranchers," he said. "I drive all over here, most of them [land buyers] are from Rondônia."

"But the people are desperate because they have a problem with the Workers' Party [Lula's party] government, because they are very strict with inspections."

Daniel Alves da Silva, 59, said he feels the same. A veteran Amazonian journeyman from São Paulo, he said he's bought and sold 13 properties in 26 years in Rondônia and the south of Roraima, where he's lived for the past 11 years.

He complained about measures by the Lula administration, such as the crackdown on illegal mining in the Yanomami Indigenous Territory, and a presidential veto of a bill undermining Indigenous land rights (which was overturned by Congress, leaving the Supreme Federal Court to weigh in on the issue once again.)

"Anyone who wants to sell land isn't selling because people are afraid of this change of government," da Silva said, adding he was returning to Rondônia to take up sawmill work.

But that's not an option for Johnny Sampaio, 61, also born in Rondônia, who lives in a wooden shack on the same sprawling dirt road 34 as Onésio Nascimento and Celia Regina da Silva.

When there's work, he earns 100 reais (\$20) a day cutting down the brushwood on land that's been deforested and burned to make way for plantations or cattle pastures.

In his one-room house, flies and food in less than hygienic conditions sit next to a dirty mattress that he uses to rest from work days, often in 40° Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) heat.

"I live alone with God," Sampaio said.

With the possible paving of the BR-319 highway, which would connect the Rondônia capital of Porto Velho with the city of Manaus, in Amazonas state, Roraima would be less isolated from the rest of Brazil. Experts say this would raise land prices – and also the rate of deforestation.

"It would be catastrophic for the region," said Barni, the forestry professor. "One of the reasons that keeps the forests maintained is the state's relative isolation."

But for Onésio Nascimento on dirt road 34, the hardships of living so isolated are very real. The drought has affected his rain-dependent banana crops. Still, after a lifetime of moving around, he said he hopes to settle in southern Roraima.

"It's more peaceful here," he said. "God willing, I'll bring my kids."

# 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



# Chinese electric vehicles begin to transform transportation in Ethiopia

By Special Correspondent, Addis

Ababa

ON a typical sunny day in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, Aduana Adamu was offering a taxi service from the Bole Airport area to Piazza, the city's atmospheric old town, with one of the electric minibuses that have recently begun plying the streets of the capital.

The introduction of modern electric vehicles (EVs) for public transportation came after the government announced its plan to ban the importation of gasoline or diesel vehicles as part of its efforts to fast-track the transition to electric mobility in the face of a global fuel price hike.

The driver said these electric vehicles are bigger, quieter, and more cost-effective and user-friendly than the conventional minibuses that

run on gasoline. "EV owners earn more daily income than owners of conventional minibuses. We charge the EV for 40 minutes during lunchtime and, unlike in the past, we are relieved from fuel expenses and long queues at petrol stations," Adamu said in an interview.

The East African country spent 6 billion U.S. dollars on the import of fuel in 2023, over half of which went to fuelling vehicles, according to the Ethiopian Ministry of Transport and Logistics. Additionally, pollution levels in city centers due to these vehicles are reportedly off the charts.

According to incomplete statistics, there are roughly 1.2 million vehicles in Ethiopia, with a big chunk of them being well over 20 years old. Most of the cars on the road are second-hand imports, and black smoke is often seen rising from the rear of these cars.

"I have driven different types of

vehicles, but this one is unique in that it is more comfortable and does not pollute the air," said Adamu as he gave a ride to 15 passengers, most of whom were experiencing their first-ever battery vehicle excursion.

The electric minibuses are assembled by a local company called Belayneh Kindie Metal Engineering Complex, with components imported from China. The Chinese Golden Dragon Company supplies components to the local company, which assembles both EV minibuses and 12-meter-long big buses to meet the country's ever-growing demand for EVs.

Besufekad Shewaye, the general manager of the Ethiopian company, said the business relationship with Golden Dragon Company is structural since the Chinese company has been supplying diesel and luxury buses to the local company for 10 years.

Noting that EV minibuses are new for Ethiopian public transportation services, Shewaye said he is witnessing a very promising market for them in Ethiopia since the country is abundant in hydroelectricity.

"Starting from mid-2023, we imported completely knocked down electric vehicles, assembled 216 electric minibuses, and made them available to the Ethiopian market," said the general manager, indicating that the company has so far sold out 50 percent of the assembled electric minibuses to transportation service providers and government offices, among others.

As part of its 10-Year Perspective Development Plan that runs from 2021 to 2030, the Ethiopian government plans to import 4,800 electric buses and 148,000 electric automobiles.

The government of Ethiopia has allowed the duty-free importation

of EV parts as a way to promote the use of EVs and knowledge transfer. The EV price is more competitive if they are assembled locally, and it can also help boost local employment, Shewaye said.

With a full battery charge, the 15-seat electric minibuses can travel between 270 and 350 kilometers depending on the use of the air conditioner and the load of the vehicle.

"We imported direct current charging machines (fast charge) and provided them to commercial users with the government supporting us by making available the necessary power supply to the charging machines. It takes about 40 minutes to fully charge the minibus with a fast charge," he added.

In addition, the company has also started assembling big electric city buses with components imported from China. The big electric and luxurious buses, which are

equipped with Wi-Fi, will be ready for the market in three months, according to Shewaye. Bezuyayehu Abera, a production manager at the company, recalled the successful transfer of knowledge and skills from Chinese EV engineers to local employees of the company.

The first 50 electric minibuses were assembled with the help of Chinese colleagues. Acknowledging China's advancement in EV technology, Abera said the Ethiopian technicians would not have been able to assemble the electric vehicles independently had it not been for the training offered to them by the Chinese engineers.

"The Chinese EV engineers have come here and shared their skills and knowledge on EV technology both in theory and practice. After we took the training, we are now able to assemble the electric vehicles ourselves," Abera said.



## ASSISTANT – (PATHOLOGY LABORATORY)

### THE ORGANIZATION

The Alliance of Bioversity International delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

The Alliance works with local, national and multinational partners across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, and with the public and private sectors. The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services.

### About the position

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is looking for a Pathology Laboratory Assistant who will provide support in studying the health of plants. He/she will help in identifying common bean diseases, pests, and other health problems a plant may experience. The recruited staff will also oversee Pathology laboratory and greenhouse operations.

### Key duties & Responsibilities

- Support in tissue sampling and other routine tasks associated with experiments.
- Support in mechanical inoculation of virus, bacteria, fungi, oomycete, nematode and other pathogens in field, greenhouse, and growth chambers.
- Support the process of bioassays with insects/vectors.
- Support in routine data collection from various sized research projects and entry into enterprise systems.
- Support in preparation of clear, accurate, and concise reports of results, and communicating them to colleague or stakeholders.
- Perform or direct simple to complex molecular lab work.
- Perform data analysis using parametric and non-parametric statistical models.
- Review literature and stay up to date on the latest technologies.

### Required Qualifications and Experience.

- BSc in Plant pathology/crop protection from a recognized university.
- MSc in the same field studies as above will be an added advantage.
- Experience in below areas will be an added advantage.
- Managing and supporting biotic phenotyping activities in the field, glasshouse, and laboratory.
- Support in tissue sampling and other routine tasks associated with experiments.
- Support in mechanical inoculation of viruses, bacteria, fungi, oomycete, nematode and other pathogens in field, greenhouse, and growth chambers.
- Support the process of bioassays with insects/vectors.
- Support in routine data collection from various sized research projects and entry into enterprise systems.
- Working knowledge of laboratory pathogen culture, purification and microscopic identification and inoculum preparation.
- Working knowledge of DNA and RNA isolation and molecular identification techniques like PCR technology.
- Good report and journal writing skill is required.
- Ability to communicate orally in both English and Swahili on daily routine matters and to prepare brief reports or complete forms without assistance.
- Sufficient competency to use the standard Windows-based software for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and email used at Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT with occasional assistance.
- Good writing records, computing software, and other IT materials.
- Ability to provide supervision and training to field staff to manage breeding research activities.
- Ability to work independently with minimal day to day supervision and proactively solve problems.
- Familiarity with legumes crops and related research operations (pollination, data collection from trials and nurseries).
- Ability to analyze data, situations, or problems, evaluate possible resolution mechanisms.
- Take reasoned decisions, usually based on policy, established process, precedents, or common sense.
- Decisions mostly about work processes – How to do rather than what to do.
- Review literature and stay up to date on the latest technologies.

### Terms of employment

This position is a nationally recruited position based in Arusha, Tanzania. The initial contract will be for one year subject to a probation period of three months and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources.

This position is graded at BG 05 level, with a minimum basic salary of 1,119,045 Tanzania Shillings in a scale of BG01 to BG14 (BG14 being the highest level according to the Alliance job classification framework policy). We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including but not limited to insurance, retirement plan, staff training and development, paid time off and flexible working arrangements.

The Alliance Bioversity-CIAT is committed to fair, safe, and inclusive workplaces. We believe that diversity powers our innovation, contributes to our excellence, and is critical for our mission. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority. We encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability statuses, sexual orientations, marital status, and gender identities. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Applications

Applicants are invited to visit <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/careers> to get full details of the position and to submit their applications. Applications MUST include reference REF: 103449- Assistant - Pathology Laboratory as the position applied for. Cover letter and CV should be saved as one document using the candidate's last name, first name for ease of sorting. The Alliance collects and process personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

Applications closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Please note that email applications will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at:

<http://alliancebioversityciat.org>



Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. Bioversity International is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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[www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)



## RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

### THE ORGANIZATION

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### About the position

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is looking for a qualified Research Associate; Molecular Biology Laboratory Technician to support active projects related to the use of molecular biology technology to assist in bean variety improvement. The use of genomic selection in plant science has been well established. Specifically, segregation and selection of desirable plant traits for advancement. The Alliance is working to establish an active molecular biology laboratory to assist in creation of new bean varieties that are more resilient, productive, and nutritious. The laboratory technician will provide specialized laboratory and greenhouse research assistance to promote the breeding research activities. The incumbent will be required to proficiently handle standard laboratory and greenhouse procedures and maintain a safe work environment.

### Key duties & Responsibilities

- Receive, label, and analyze samples (plants, seeds, and plant tissues etc.)
- Assist in process samples for laboratory tests/procedures according to standard operating procedures, checks for proper samples identification.
- Perform special processing procedure to specimens including DNA extractions.
- Support in recording all data and results in specified forms (paper and electronic) with accuracy and responsibility.
- Organize and store all chemicals substances, fluids, and compressed gases according to safety instructions.
- Assist in preparing solutions, reagents, equipment, apparatus, accessories and other supplies needed at the laboratory.
- Monitor reagents for expiration dates, preparation dates, inventory, and prepare as needed.
- Clean, sterilize, calibrate, and maintain equipment and apparatus used in all tests and analysis.
- Perform quality control and quality assurance tests and maintain quality control procedures in the laboratory.
- Ensure that all safety guidelines are always followed strictly and maintain a clean and orderly environment.
- Support in providing laboratory training to other personnel on proper laboratory methods, procedures, and techniques.
- Participate in Field breeding activities.
- Perform any other related duties as required.

### Required Qualifications and Experience.

- MSc level in laboratory technology, biology, chemistry, biotechnology, or relevant fields.
- Proven experience working as a molecular laboratory technician or relevant position will be an added advantage.
- Experience in applying modern laboratory procedures, methods and computer linked equipment.
- Experience in operating electrical and nonelectrical laboratory equipment and potentially dangerous substances (flammable liquids, infectious bacteria, biohazards etc.)
- In depth knowledge of preventative measures and laboratory best practices
- Working knowledge of MS Office (especially Excel) and database systems
- High attention to detail and excellent analytical skills.
- Good report and journal writing skill is required.
- Must be able to work independently with minimum supervision, but also participate as a team member in accomplishment of duties.
- Excellent interpersonal with advanced written and verbal communication skills in English and Kiswahili language.
- Strong ability to co-ordinate, prioritize and organize workload; take initiative and work under pressure.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks under pressure and meeting deadlines.
- Ability to maintain the highest level of integrity and standards of ethics, confidentiality, and professionalism.
- Professional integrity and a high performing team player who can work autonomously, remains accountable and contributes to a positive and cohesive team environment.
- Commitment to Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT's mission and core values.

### Terms of employment

This position is a nationally recruited position based in Arusha, Tanzania. The initial contract will be for one year subject to a probation period of three months and is renewable depending on performance and availability of resources.

This position is graded at BG06 level, with a minimum basic salary of 2,608,634 Tanzania Shillings in a scale of BG01 to BG14 (BG14 being the highest level according to the Alliance job classification framework policy). We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including but not limited to insurance, retirement plan, staff training and development, paid time off and flexible working arrangements.

The Alliance Bioversity-CIAT is committed to fair, safe, and inclusive workplaces. We believe that diversity powers our innovation, contributes to our excellence, and is critical for our mission. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority. We encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability statuses, sexual orientations, marital status, and gender identities. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Applications

Applicants are invited to visit <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/careers> to get full details of the position and to submit their applications. Applications MUST include reference REF: 103451 -Research Associate the position applied for. Cover letter and CV should be saved as one document using the candidate's last name, first name for ease of sorting. The Alliance collects and process personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

Applications closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Please note that email applications will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

We invite you to learn more about us at:

<http://alliancebioversityciat.org>



Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) are part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. Bioversity International is the operating name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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[www.ciat.cgiar.org](http://www.ciat.cgiar.org)  
[www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)



# Pollution big threat to groundwater resources

By Guardian Correspondent

**G**ROUNDWATER pollution significantly contributes the prevalence of waterborne diseases. This form of pollution occurs when hazardous substances, such as pathogens, chemicals, and heavy metals, seep into underground aquifers, the primary source of drinking water for approximately 70 percent of the 250 million people living in the SADC region.

The consumption of contaminated groundwater can lead to a host of health issues, including gastrointestinal infections, cholera, dysentery, and other serious illnesses. Addressing this issue is crucial for safeguarding public health and maintaining the integrity of ecosystems that depend on clean groundwater.

“The link between contaminated groundwater and waterborne diseases underscores the urgency of protecting these vital water resources. To mitigate these dangers, concerted efforts are required to prevent pollutant infiltration, monitor water quality, and enhance water treatment facilities”, said Gerald Mundondwa, SADC-GMI Senior Groundwater Specialist.

The link between contaminated groundwater and waterborne diseases underscores the urgency of protecting these vital water resources. To mitigate these dangers, concerted efforts are required to prevent pollutant infiltration, monitor water quality, and enhance water treatment facilities”.

Gerald Mundondwa, SADC-GMI Senior Groundwater Specialist

The challenge is amplified by the fact that once groundwater is polluted, remediation is often a complex and costly process.

As National Groundwater Awareness Week brings attention to this critical resource, we must confront the challenges threatening it, particularly groundwater pollution. This complex environmental issue



carries significant health risks for humans and detrimental consequences for ecosystems. Various activities drive pollution, such as the extensive application of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture, which introduces harmful chemicals into the aquifers.

Additionally, the inad-

equate disposal of hazardous substances, leaks from subterranean tanks and pipelines, and landfill leachate can introduce toxins into groundwater reserves.

Addressing these challenges is pivotal for the preservation of groundwater quality and the prevention of the dire ecological

and health repercussions associated with its contamination.

Eng. James Sauramba - SADC-GMI Executive Director believes that groundwater contamination is indeed a persistent problem that can endure for years, making remediation efforts challenging

and costly. The process of purifying contaminated groundwater is fraught with difficulties and substantial expenses, partly due to the inaccessibility and vast spread of aquifers.

In the SADC region, the state of groundwater pollution is a growing concern as it poses a significant threat to the region's ecosystem and the health of millions of people who rely on groundwater as their primary source of drinking water. Globally it is estimated that groundwater sources provide 43% of all water used for irrigation.

To tackle groundwater pollution efficiently, a multifaceted approach is essential—one that brings together the concerted efforts of various stakeholders. This includes governments, industries, communities, and environmental organizations, all working in harmony to develop and implement sustainable practices and robust regulations.

Preventative measures are also crucial, as they are typically more cost-effective and practical than attempting to restore already-polluted ground-

water to a safe state. Collaboration and comprehensive planning are the keys to ensuring the long-term protection and purity of our invaluable groundwater resources.

Indeed, individual actions play a crucial role in reducing groundwater pollution. By being mindful of the way, we handle and dispose of waste, we can each help to protect this critical resource.

Here are some practical steps that individuals can take to minimize their impact on groundwater quality:

Ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste: Chemicals should never be poured down the drain or onto the ground, as they can seep into groundwater. Hazardous waste should be disposed of at designated collection sites.

Inspect and maintain underground tanks: Regular testing for leaks in underground oil tanks is essential. Consider replacing underground tanks with above-ground tanks to prevent leaks into the soil that could reach the groundwater.

Practice safe storage of hazardous materials:

Store fuels and chemicals in secure containers and designated safe areas to avoid accidental spills.

Use chemicals responsibly: When using pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemicals, follow the instructions carefully, and apply them in the recommended amounts to prevent excess from entering the groundwater.

Maintain septic systems: Have septic systems pumped and inspected every five years to prevent malfunctions that could lead to groundwater contamination.

Monitor private wells: For those with private wells, it's important to inspect the immediate surrounding area for potential contamination sources and test well water regularly, especially if there is a heightened risk of pollution.

By adopting these practices, individuals can make substantial contributions to protecting groundwater from pollution, ultimately safeguarding our health and the environment.

Thokozi Dlamini is SADC-GMI Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist.

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 80 -**

By Felix Magezi: 0787 0019794 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

**ACROSS:**

- Capital city of Tanzania
- done or shown openly
- on the leeward side of a ship
- Palace of Buganda kingdom
- show the way to a destination
- the first surviving Chinese dictionary

**DOWN:**

- rounded summit of a hill
- over a certain age limit
- refuse to admit the truth
- the body's recognizable structures
- river in Kiswahili
- an edible-kidney shaped seed
- claim that someone has done something wrong
- a Polynesian garland of flowers
- either of two 13th century Icelandic books
- bliny
- gastrointestinal atony
- agar-agar
- hindmost part of an animal
- attempt to find
- less than average height

**WORD FIT**

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

SERENE	BIBLE	SOME
OROMO	VOTE	CADET
ALA	OPENER	BOOK
AD REM	ROSE	BREED
EVEREST		

**Yesterday's solution**

L	I	L	O	N	G	W	E	W	S	O	I	H	E	E
E	V	I	L	E	R	A	I	O	S	L	O	O	W	N
S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N	T	A	M	O	N	G
S	R	I	G	O	O	D	S	D	A	E	M	O	N	G
O	I	N	T	M	E	N	T	A	M	A	S	S	A	
R	A	G	E	E	I	S	S	A	P	A	T	A	G	O
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S	E	R	E	N	G	E	T	I	D	P	E	G	A	D

**RADIO One**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI**

**JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Thursday 14 March 2024

# Interbank cash market rates jump to roof top

By Guardian Reporter

**T**he Interbank cash market rates for domestic currency have risen consecutively during the last twelve months, with overnight rate jumping by nearly 100 percent.

This trend continues to increase fear among borrowers over the future of stability in banks credit costs.

Provisional data by the central bank (BoT) show that the overnight rate, which banks lend each other in one day, reached 6.75 percent in January this year, from 3.45 percent recorded in January 2023.

The rise of the rates of different maturities resulted into an increase of overall interbank cash market (IBCM) rate by nearly 70 percent to 7.27 percent in January 2024, higher than 4.60 percent recorded during similar month of last year.

Analysts say the increases of the rates resulted of increased

demand for cash by commercial banks as they are currently extending lending due to improved business environment and assets quality due to low Non-Performing Loans (NPLs).

According to the report, the 2-7 days rate, one of the major determinants of the central bank policy rate, which started to be applied in January, after the central bank shifted its monetary policy from money supply to interest rate, reached 7.25 percent from 4.61 percent respectively.

During the first quarter of this year, the central bank set the policy rate at 5.5 percent, with 2 percent up and down (3.5 percent-7.5 percent) and the next announcement for the second quarter is expected to be released in April.

Forecasts by different analysts show that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the central bank may leave the current policy rate, due to stable inflation rate and 7-days interbank cash market

The overall Inter Bank Cash Market interest rates Jan 2023-Jan 2024



rate.

“The 7-days’ interest rates, the operating target remained within the CBR band, though increased to 7.25 percent in January this year, from 6.81 percent registered in the preceding month,” said the central bank through the monthly economic review for February.

“The Bank continues to monitor developments in the 7-days Interbank Cash Market (IBCM) rate, to ensure

it remains within the corridor of +/-2.00 basis points,” the economic review notes.

The BoT report shows the interbank cash market rate for 8-14 days increased to 7.22 percent in January this year, compared to 4.46 percent recorded in January 2023, while the rate for 15-30 days went up to 7.45 percent compared to 5.63 percent.

The rate for one to two months rose to 6.28 percent from 5.90 percent

spectively, while of 61-90 days rate declined to 6.52 percent from 6.93 percent.

According to the provisional data, the cash market rate for 91-180 days increased by nearly 30 percent to 9.97 percent in January this year, compared to 7 percent recorded 12 months before, while the rate for 181 and above days closed at 11 percent compared to 9.50 percent respectively.

The report also shows Lombard rate, which the central bank use when extending short-term loans to commercial banks nearly doubled to 10.13 percent in January this year from 5.17 percent recorded in January 2023.

In a meantime, the repurchase agreement (REPO) rate slowed to 2.43 in January this year, compared to 3 percent recorded in January last year, while the reverse REPO remain unchanged at 6.29 percent.

REPO is a short-term lending instrument that involves a bank selling securities, usually government bonds or other debt instruments, while re-

verse REPO is the sale of securities with the agreement to repurchase them at a higher price at a specific future date. Meanwhile, commercial banks’ lending rates decreased to an average of 15.39 percent, from 15.44 percent and 16.29 percent recorded in the preceding month and corresponding period of 2023.

The negotiated lending rates also decreased to 13.44 percent from 14.19 percent in January 2023.

Conversely, overall deposit rates remained relatively stable at an average of 7.40 percent, albeit a slight increase of negotiated deposit rates to 9.56 percent.

The spread between one-year interest rates continued to narrow, declining to 6.99 percentage points from 9.03 percentage points recorded in December 2023.

# Women receive marginal share of funding in Africa: report

By Guardian Correspondent

THE report released during the International Women’s Day recently has highlighted a glaring lack of parity in financing access for startups, even in the modern world.

Women-led African startups received \$209.3 million in funding between 2019 and 2023, according to a report issued recently by TechCabal Insights.

Entitled “Breaking Barriers: Female Pioneers in African Tech 2024,” the report points out that this figure represents only 1.54 percent of the total amount of funding secured by startups operating across the continent during the period under review.

This demonstrates that the African tech ecosystem remains deeply misogynistic, despite significant successes achieved by women.

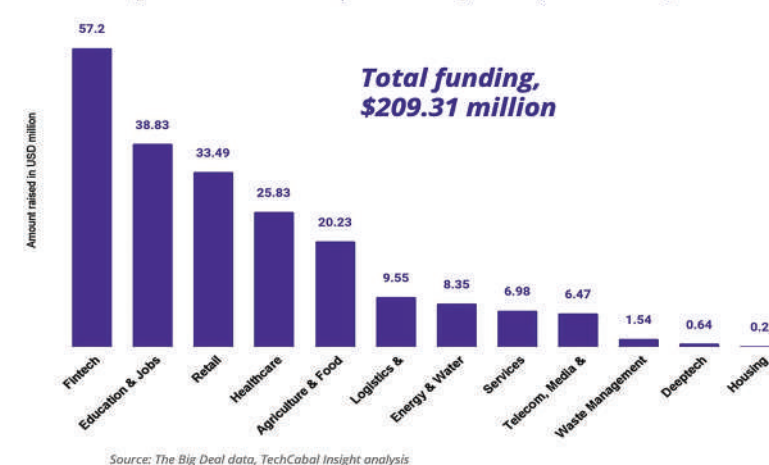
The restricted access of women-led startups to funding primarily results from women’s underrepresentation in the tech sector.

Being a minority in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines and startup leadership positions, women are naturally less present during funding rounds.

Another factor could be the weak presence of women at the top levels of venture capital funds, which hold the keys to funding. Hard-to-eradicate gender bias, whether conscious or unconscious, observed in Africa as elsewhere, also explains the venture capital industry’s lukewarm interest in female entrepreneurship on the continent.

“The most important work that investors and stakeholders can do is to stop focusing on women as a group that needs to be helped, aided, or in some way considered incompetent...It doesn’t matter if you’re black, brown, male, female, purple, green, or anything else; if we just focused on performance metrics and removed all other distractions, it would be a lot more of an egalitarian and equitable investing, entrepreneurial, and hiring

Funding to Female-led startups in Africa by sector (2019 to 2023)



ecosystem,” stressed Maya Horgan Famodu, founder and CEO of Nigerian VC firm Ingressive Capital, quoted in the report.

“The professional environment and ecosystem are sometimes not tailored - some networking events take place in evenings when families are together or at locations where childcare services are not offered...gender diversity can be reached if the ecosystem (not only funders but also customers, suppliers, banks...) ensure that the gender-bias is not entrenched in their processes. The ecosystem should also develop more solutions or forums that cater to female entrepreneurs,” added Hannah Subayi Kamuanga, co-founder of the Congolese business angel network DRC Impact Angels.

Furthermore, the report reveals that the financial technology sector (fintech) has received the most fund-

ing among African tech startups led by women over the last five years, with \$57.2 million or 27 percent of the total funding. Following are the education & employment sectors (\$38.8 million), e-commerce (\$33.4 million), health (\$25.8 million), and agriculture & food (\$20.2 million).

The distribution of funds raised by women-led African startups between 2019 and 2023 by country also highlights that Kenya leads with \$92.6 million, ahead of Nigeria (\$33.3 million), Tanzania (\$28 million), and Egypt (\$11.9 million). These four countries thus represent nearly 80 percent of the total amount raised across the continent.

Per sub-regions, East Africa leads with 68.1 percent of the funding, followed by West Africa (19 percent), North Africa (6.9 percent), Southern Africa (5.3 percent), and Central Africa (0.7 percent).

# Sterling edges lower after UK jobs figures

LONDON

Sterling edged lower on Tuesday after data showed that growth in British wages was slightly weaker than expected but failed to affect bets on the Bank of England policy path.

Wages grew at their slowest pace since October 2022 while the unemployment rate edged up unexpectedly, according to data which may slightly ease the Bank of England’s inflation worries.

Money markets fully price a 25 basis points rate cut from the BoE by August and an around 50% chance by June.

Sterling was last down 0.1 percent at \$1.2798 after jumping 1.6 percent last week versus the greenback as investors bet that the BoE will be slower than the European Central Bank and US Federal Reserve in cutting interest rates.

Last week, the dollar and euro were under selling pressure versus sterling after Fed Chair Jerome Powell sounded more confident about cutting interest rates in coming months, while the ECB’s governing council had begun to discuss a suitable timeline for

monetary policy easing.

Some analysts argued that investors tried to shorten sterling in recent months on the back of deteriorating data and weak external balances. Still, the pound has outperformed this year, supported by its high-yielding currency status on top of a broad risk appetite.

Investors will focus on U.S. inflation data later in the session which could affect market expectations for the Fed future decisions.

“Since this (wage figures) is published as a moving average, a big base effect should add pressure in the next couple of months and push it below 6.0%, according to our economist,” said Francesco Pesole, rate strategist at ING.

Investors will look at UK inflation data next week, with some analysts warning that while figures could be close to the BoE target, underlying pressures are still in place.

“By a quirk of base effects, the April energy price cap reduction might mean UK inflation beats the euro zone in the race to return to target,” said Mark Capleton, strategist at BofA. “The UK’s underlying inflation picture is considerably less benign.”

# Bank seeking to enhance financial services for women

By Guardian Reporter

Ecobank is seeking to break financial access bias to women in Tanzania by enhancing its financial tools necessary for them to succeed.

Charles Asiedu, Managing Director Ecobank Tanzania said: “The growth of women-led and women-focused businesses has been long hampered by a range of impediments, including access to finance”.

Reports show more than 95 percent of businesses in Tanzania are Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and women own about 54 percent of all registered SMEs, however, they have not enjoyed equal access to high-quality, demand-driven financial services.

“We have specially designed “Ellevate” programme to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs through

the provision of comprehensive, customized, and tailor-made solutions, which include favorable lending rates, smart cash management enablement, and a suite of value-added services such as leadership training, mentoring, and networking opportunities,” he said during the workshop to empower women with business management skills held yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

He asserted that as women-led businesses are a largely underserved market, the bank is determined to help them reach their potential, grasp business opportunities, and become both scalable and sustainable.

This will enable them to play a major role in Africa’s social and economic development, in addition to creating millions of jobs needed by this and future generations of Tanzanians.



Charles Asiedu, Managing Director, Ecobank Tanzania

“We believe that, our impact as bank will go for when we work with women at the forefront of change and development in our econ-

omies. At the group we have several partners whom we work with to further our impact offering financial and non-financial business sup-

port, therefore I call upon other partners in Tanzania who would like to partner and work with us via our program as we accelerate the impact through women focused and women led business,” he noted.

In terms of financial benefits, there is the availability of low-interest loans, which are based on the size of the business, a special woman’s account that enables them to earn up to 10 percent interest, and other common products offered by the bank.

He explained that the programme targets women-owned businesses, women-run businesses, businesses that have a board of directors with more than 50 percent female members, businesses in which more than 50 percent of employees are women and businesses that sell women’s products and services.

In terms of non-financial benefits, he said, the programme facilitates the implementation of various activities such as capacity building, financial management training, facilitating beneficiaries’ meetings and giving them the opportunity to discuss various business matters, building a business and market network and educating them on the importance of insurance in a business.

In line with this Ecobank has also established a Trade Hub which is focused on bringing together entrepreneurs across our network and establish wider markets for our clients while promoting international trade.

Since its launch in Tanzania, Ellevate has reached more than 200 entrepreneurs and businesswomen, and the goal is to ensure we reach 500 by the end of this year.



# FACTORS INFLUENCING CUSTOMER LOYALTY IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY: PART 1

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

Most banks believe they are in the finance industry and not in the service industry and that is why they tend to compete financially rather than service quality. Respectfully, I disagree with this view and its approach because it leads to low service quality in our banking industry which leads to low customer satisfaction.

A customer is the heartbeat of a bank and it is evident that today customers have increasingly become so enlightened and aware of their importance and that ignoring them in search of competitive advantage can be suicidal for banks. And that is why I believe that the banking industry is more of a service industry than a finance industry and customers should

be the priority because the lifeblood of any business is its customers.

The main objective of any bank is to maximize profit and to do so they must have a large pool of reliable customers. Due to globalization, plenty of options for the customers, and the internationalization of banks, the competition in the banking industry is tougher than ever before, and keeping the existing customers has become the most important issue as providing better and quality services. To make them stay, the banks need to satisfy their customers which will lead to customer loyalty and that lead to profitability.

It is worth noting that loyalty should not be measured in sales only but the customer's engagements and brand advocates within their social circles and loyal customers are less

likely to switch banks because of a price. For any bank to be successful, it is vital to maintain a high rate of customer loyalty because the costs of customer acquisition are much more than the costs of retention. The key to generating high customer loyalty is to deliver high customer value.

Currently, banks face challenges in retaining their customers due to some challenges such as staff lacking the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain the customer and stiff competition between them. Hence the banks need to come up with unique strategies to attract and retain their customers.

With that being said, now the million-dollar question; how can the banks retain their customers and turn them to be loyal? In the series of two articles, I will answer that question

by discussing the three factors that influence customer loyalty in the banking industry:

**Quality Of Service - Quality of service plays a crucial role in influencing customer loyalty hence the need for the banks to ensure that customers are treated with respect, and humility all the time. A bank can differentiate itself from others by delivering high-quality service. The banks need to understand their customers, educate them about the products and services they provide, and give them the opportunity to be heard.**

Also, the banks need to invest in training their employees in how to render excellent customer service, exhibit positive attitudes, and courteous practices towards the customers so they can be able to promote high-quality service and enhance customer satisfac-

tion. Moreover, banks should develop effective recruiting and hiring policies to ensure they hire qualified staff that are quality service oriented. The bank should also have a 24hrs open communication channel with its customers to make sure customers can access relevant information about the products and services at any given time.

In addition, the bank should create an effective and efficient customer complaints management system to ensure that customer's complaints are handled promptly to enhance their satisfaction. Once the customer is satisfied with the quality of service, the image of the bank will improve hence the customers will come back to the bank.

Next week I will discuss the remaining two factors that influence customer loyalty in



**Kelvin Mkwawa**

the banking industry.

**Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is the seasoned banker based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through -Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com**

## Tanga Uwasa bond offers opportunity to support financial inclusion, diversity

By Salum Awadh

THE Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) and Dar es Salaam stock exchange having been working hard to ensure that the financial market hosts a diversity of products to give investors more investment selection, to manage their portfolio risks, and achieve their desired financial goals.

But the response had not been very forthcoming until recent where we have seen a number of new products coming to the market including NMB's gender bond, CRDB's green bond, and numerous Islamic bonds (sukuk) by KCB Bank, and most recently an infrastructure bond.

Tanga UWASA recently launched its 10-year water infrastructure bond, structured as a green bond worth 53.12bln/- with a return of 13.50 percent for both retail and institutional investors.

The offer is open until 04th April and subscription can be done via licensed DSE brokers or NBC bank branches. The bond is expected to provide a new opportunity for investors who want to

diversify their portfolios from stocks, treasure bonds, corporate vanilla bonds, and the money market.

Bonds have remained to be among the primary investments for retail and institutional investors globally, and for decades. In 2022, the global bond market was valued at \$133 trillion, providing the opportunity for those looking to raise capital and those looking for fairly low-risk investments.

As of August 2020, ICMA estimates that the overall size of the global bond markets in terms of US dollarequivalent notional outstanding, is approximately \$128.3tn. This consists of \$87.5tn SSA bonds (68 percent) and \$40.9tn corporate bonds (32 percent), as shown here below;

Green bonds have also been gaining a lot of traction in the recent years, as companies and institutions are raising additional resources to deal with climate change.

According to Climate Bonds Initiative, total volumes for labeled Green, Social and Sustainability (GSS) bonds, Sustainability-linked bonds (SLB) and



Transition bonds reached nearly half a trillion (USD496.1bn) in the first half of 2021, as shown on the chart below;

The green bond market was expected to reach \$1 trillion in 2022.

The decision by Tanga UWASA, with the support from UNCDF to issue a green infrastructure bond, puts Tanzania on the map and catches up with what investors are currently demanding beyond financial returns.

Green bonds have huge benefits among which are increasing access to water resources, improving sanitation services, climate mitigation, and climate adaptation, among others.

But for investors, investing in bonds has the following benefits including a fixed in-

come security, meaning that investors are certain of their investment returns, scheduled payouts, and defined maturity date on when they will liquidate their investments

The bond investment also provides a great opportunity for portfolio diversification against higher risky assets such as stocks, commodities, and the emerging digital assets

Bonds are an ideal investment opportunity for retirees and those who are approaching their retirement, this is because, as one ages, their risk appetite decreases, and the appetite for low-risk investments such as Tanga UWASA bond increases.

Tanga UWASA bond offers high return on investment at 13.50 percent, if compared to 10-year Treasury security in Tanzania, which

currently offers about 11.44 percent yield.

However, not every Tanzanian will get to invest into this opportunity, especially Muslims who are not allowed to invest in interest-bearing investments such as this bond.

We urge all key stakeholders including CMSA, UNCDF, and all potential issuers such as municipalities to consider the issuances of Islamic bonds, technically known as Sukuk.

Issuers have the option to tranche their bonds, and have one of the tranches be issued as sukuk such as municipal sukuk. For example, let us say if Mwanza City Council wants to issue a 50bln/- bond, they can have two tranches, with 25bln/- as a conventional municipal bond, and the other 25bln/- as municipal sukuk.

Islamic bonds (sukuk) do not, in any way, compromise the potential returns for investors; the global outstanding sukuk market is close to \$1 trillion one, with more than \$36 billion issued as ESG sukuk. In Africa, Nigeria has done more than six sukuk issuances, and in Tanzania, three different companies have issued corporate sukuk in the market, all with successful subscriptions.

The chart below confirms that sukuk has generated superior returns than bonds between 2019 and 2022 globally.

Doing this will provide a great opportunity for financial inclusion as every Tanzanian will have an opportunity to invest, build their wealth, and contribute to the country's development.

**Salum Awadh is a Certified Global Investment Analyst from CGIA Institute in USA, corporate advisor, investment banker, VC enthusiast, angel investor, and certified Islamic capital markets expert. He is the CEO of SSC Capital, a boutique investment bank offering services in corporate advisory, M&A, asset management, capital raising, and financial markets. He can be reached through sawadh@ssc.co.tz**

## Female entrepreneurs benefit from incubation programme

By Guardian Reporter

Female entrepreneur and business owners have received the business incubation programme from Stanbic Bank through its Biashara Incubator in collaboration with CFAO Mobility Tanzania.

The event hosted at Stanbic Biashara Incubator offices in Dar es Salaam recently witnessed a gathering of accomplished women from diverse sectors who generously shared their success stories and provided invaluable mentorship to enthusiastic participants.

The event sought to inspire and uplift the beneficiaries of the Stanbic Biashara Incubator.

Setting the stage for success, Anabahati Mlay, a prominent figure in business leadership, emphasized the importance of women setting clear goals, acquiring leadership skills, and mastering personal development.

Mlay encouraged entrepreneurs to stay informed about business and marketing trends, fostering creativity, innovation, and diligent research.



**Tharaia Ahmed, CFAO Mobility Tanzania's Director of Sales and Marketing, speaks during the women's empowerment session at Stanbic Biashara Incubator. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

The significance of adaptability, growth, and the fulfillment that comes from empowering others was also underscored.

Naishiye Laizer, a Social Worker, Executive Director, and Founder, shared her inspirational journey of overcoming cultural barriers,

emphasizing the importance of time management, planning, and unwavering commitment to business.

Laizer also addressed the need to combat gender-based violence (GBV) and urged women to build confidence while rejecting such

acts in marriages and relationships. Farha Mohamed from Stanbic Bank Tanzania provided insider tips, emphasizing the need for female entrepreneurs to formalize their businesses, separate personal and business finances, and embrace authenticity.

She also advised having a continuation plan in place for sustained business success.

Aneth Gerana, a deaf woman, shared her triumph over challenges and her dedication to empowering Women With Disabilities through her organization known as

FUWAVITA.

Acknowledging the Stanbic Incubator's role in her personal and professional growth, Gerana highlighted the training received as a catalyst for success.

Tharaia Ahmed, Director of Sales and Marketing at CFAO Mobility Tanzania, addressed the challenges faced by women in the automotive industry, encouraging boldness and resilience. She urged women to explore opportunities within the mobility sector, emphasizing the importance of preparation and actively seeking information about vehicles and financing options, such as Stanbic Bank's asset financing.

The event concluded with a renewed sense of empowerment and determination among female entrepreneurs, armed with the knowledge and inspiration shared by accomplished speakers. CFAO Mobility Tanzania and Stanbic Biashara Incubator's collaborative effort exemplified a commitment to fostering a supportive environment for women in business on International Women's Day



# Are we asking the right questions about de-dollarisation

By Taylor Pearce

The dollar's dominance in the global financial system is reflected in its use in currency denomination, international bank loans, debt securities, foreign exchange transactions and its role in official central bank reserves. A paper by Steven Kamin, senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and Mark Sobel, OMFIF's US chair, highlights that international dollar usage across various measures has hovered around 60 percent or higher and is relatively unchanged since the 1990s.

At an OMFIF discussion with geo-economic experts, Kamin and Sobel pointed out that there is no fiat currency that poses a serious threat to the dollar's dominance in the global economy for the foreseeable future. There may be factors that make the dollar less attractive as the key currency of the financial system, but it remains superior to both the euro and renminbi. They observed that the dollar retaining its top spot is by far the most likely scenario.

This view is consistent with the findings of OMFIF's annual Global Public Investor study of central bank reserve managers. The 2023 report, based on a survey of 75 central banks, showed that respondents anticipate the dollar's share of reserves will remain above 50% over the next decade.

The unparalleled size of the US economy, deep and open capital markets, sound economic policy-making, enforcement of the rule of law and full convertibility of the dollar are unmatched by other currencies. Correspondingly, the US's status as issuer of the world's most liquid, risk-free, safe asset (US treasuries) compounds the inertia of dollar dominance in the global balance sheet, as financial institutions look to match assets with existing liabilities. This provides a self-reinforcing 'network effect', said Elliot Hentov, head of macro policy research at State Street Global Advisors.

Is there no alternative?

While agreeing with most of the paper's premises, others have taken a slightly different view. 'Can the renminbi replace the dollar in the current financial system? No,' explained Geoffrey Yu, senior market strategist at BNY Mellon. 'But having said that, I think that is asking the wrong question.' The dollar's dominance in the current financial architecture 'doesn't mean China isn't going to try to create a new form of a financial system' over the next several years or decades. 'There is no guarantee that assets we transact in today will be the same as tomorrow,' noted Yu.

What would that system look like? It's too early to say what kind of role China and the People's Bank of China are looking to take in the global economy. But there are two ways that the US could potentially be left out of an alternative financial institutional arrangement.

In the more benign scenario, China will look to continue its regional and global economic influence, developing an alternative institutional arrangement parallel to the current financial and economic system, with the renminbi at the centre. If the institutional architecture were simply built without the US in mind, this could look like the post-war Bretton Woods system, created without consideration of the Soviet Union or Eastern bloc. In this case, the US would be more marginalised than outright excluded, and the dollar would most likely remain outside of the Chinese regional or geopolitical sphere of influence.

In a more extreme case, an alternative system could be designed with an overt geo-economic tilt that excludes the US. That scenario could seriously erode the dominance of the dollar, but it remains unlikely for now. The panellists agreed that the renminbi does not yet pose a real threat to dollar dominance, but the number of countries transacting and trade invoicing in the Chinese currency is growing.

Gerard DiPippo, senior geo-economic analyst at Bloom-



erg, estimated that around 30% of China's trade with the world is settled in renminbi, up from around 15% prior to western sanctions against Russia following the invasion of Ukraine. However, the few countries transacting primarily in renminbi at present are those that have no alternative, like Russia or Sri Lanka, explained Rachel Ziemba, senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

Geopolitics and digitalisation - a perfect storm

The panellists noted that whether this group of countries transacting or trade invoicing in renminbi will grow largely depends on how the US imposes financial sanctions - unilaterally imposed sanctions pose more of a threat to the dollar than those imposed multilaterally.

This chimes with Sobel and Kamin's assertion that the US poses the biggest threat to dollar dominance if US policy-makers run unsustainably poor macroeconomic policies, abuse financial sanctions and undermine the trust of political allies.

For DiPippo, the question of whether the dollar can be replaced as the world-leading currency is also misguided. Pointing out the potential for a 'low threshold' alternative to the dollar, he asked: 'Is there an alternative that is good enough to have the robustness and rails to get around US sanctions?'

Advancements in fintech could potentially reduce the role of the dollar in global payments systems, and the digital renminbi is the most advanced central bank digital currency project, explained DiPippo. He said he will continue to track developments around the use of renminbi and is looking to see whether Project mBridge could offer a viable alternative to a dollar-based payments system once it goes live.

Project mBridge is the multi-CBDC platform developed by the Bank for International Settlements' Innovation Hub Hong Kong, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Bank of Thailand, People's Bank of China and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates. It is the

largest multi-CBDC project involving cross-border transactions.

Taken together, the two main threats to dollar dominance outside of the current financial framework appear to be the innovation of financial technology and geopolitical fragmentation.

As Kamin reflected, for now the global economy seems to need a dominant currency. But perhaps the real question is not whether the dollar will be usurped as king of the current global economic structure. Perhaps the question should be: what will the future structure of the global economy look like? If it looks quite different to today's system, there is certainly scope for erosion of the dollar's dominance.

**Taylor Pearce (pictured) is Senior Economist, Economic and Monetary Policy Institute at OMFIF, an independent think tank for central banking, economic policy and public investment, providing a neutral platform for public and private sector engagement worldwide.**



The primary objective of the donation is to mitigate the prevalence of home births, a practice that unfortunately correlates with increased risks of maternal and neonatal mortality. The firm aims to make a tangible impact in improving healthcare outcomes and safeguarding the well-being of expectant mothers and their newborns

## Firm provides health-related devices worth 27.7mn/- to Mwananyamala hospital in Dar

By Dotto Charles

IN a move meant to combat the heartbreaking toll of maternal and neonatal fatalities at the Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Garda World Security has stepped forward, generously donating life-saving equipment valued at a staggering 27.7mn/-

The hospital received a donation of equipment including wheelchairs and delivery beds, fetal heart monitors, oxygen saturation monitors, patient monitoring devices, and a CTG machine and the event was overseen by Stella Msophe, representing Kinondoni DC Saadi Mtambule.

During the event held at the hospital yesterday, Stella praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration for decreasing maternal and neonatal deaths by providing free healthcare services for mothers and children.

She highlighted the government's commitment to healthcare infrastructure, including the construction of modern health facilities with maternity wards and the installation of state-of-the-art equipment. These investments have led to the delivery of high-quality healthcare services that have contributed to saving lives.

Furthermore, she expressed gratitude towards the security firm for collaborating with the government in investing in maternal and child healthcare saying the donation will play a significant role in reducing, if not eliminating, maternal and neonatal deaths at the Mwananyamala facility.

Earlier, Zavery Bennela, the Medical Officer In-Charge at the hospital, highlighted the significance of the new equipment in mitigating the impact of the insufficient medical supplies at the facility.

He cited a notable decline in maternal deaths, from 20 in 2017 to just four the previous year. With unwavering determination, he asserted the hospital's commitment to achieving zero fatalities in the future.

Bennela's remarks underscore the transformative potential of the equipment in enhancing healthcare outcomes and saving lives. By addressing the critical shortage of medical supplies, the hospital is poised to make substantial strides in improving maternal health and reducing the burden of preventable deaths within the community.

Furthermore, Bennela elaborated on how the new equipment will play a pivotal role in guaranteeing safe deliveries for pregnant mothers. Prior to the acquisition of sufficient delivery beds, mothers were compelled to give birth on regular beds.

Bennela underscored the critical significance of the donated equipments in facilitating specialized care during the childbirth process, thus ensuring optimal outcomes for both mother and baby.

In addition, Bennela made a solemn commitment to effectively utilize the equipment for their designated purposes and to prioritize their maintenance to guarantee their longevity.

In his statement, Goodluck Lukumay, the CEO of the firm, emphasized that the donation was a gesture of giving back to the community, with a specific focus on bolstering the healthcare sector.

"The primary objective of the donation is to mitigate the prevalence of home births, a practice that unfortunately correlates with increased risks of maternal and neonatal mortality. The firm aims to make a tangible impact in improving healthcare outcomes and safeguarding the well-being of expectant mothers and their newborns." He said.

Lukumay underscored the profound impact of the donation, particularly within a hospital that caters to a population of over 2.2 million individuals.

## Indian Diaspora calls for reforms to support trade

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN Diaspora has urged the Tanzanian government to implement reforms and put in place regulations that will support trade and make them the largest African trading partner.

Mahesh Patel, Export Trading Group (ETG)'s executive chairman made the call last week when speaking to Indian Diaspora who attended a seminar on contribution of Indian Diaspora in Developmental journey of Tanzania and shaping of India-Tanzania relations.

Tanzania is now India's 3rd largest African trading partner with bilateral trade of US\$ 6.48 billion in 2023 and continues to increase with near future; Tanzania will take 2nd position in bilateral trade with India from Africa.

Indian Diaspora in Tanzania also thank the Indian Government and the Outgoing India High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan for his 2.5 years of tenure and his excellent cooperation, support and facilitation of the trade and investment initiatives between two countries.

"Also for making regulations viable for such arrangements to

lasts longer and help develop stronger ties; we foresee huge potential towards our trade with India and also internationally growing demand for food security which Africa has the potential to mitigate with the vast arable lands," he said.

The event which took place at the India High Commission to Tanzania, brought together business leaders, writers, academics, social activists, political leaders, Indian Diaspora and Tanzanian friends of India.

"My forefathers came to Kenya, prior to Independence and cold war. I was born in Kenya and I am the 2nd generation, having done my elementary and secondary studies in Africa and the Bachelor's Degree from India and being from a business community made me pursue the same profession and further add value," Patel said.

Through the knowledge and skills gained in those areas, he is credited with building one of the largest and fastest growing agriculture supply chain companies in Sub-Saharan Africa by successfully linking millions of small-holder farmers African farmers to a diverse pool of global buyers.

Prior to Independence, Kenya,



Uganda, Tanzania, were all one country known as East Africa." From Kenya when multinationals started manufacturing various goods for which we provided logistics and market into surrounding countries like Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Congo and Zambia to name a few, thus opening avenues for trade and investment,' he said.

ETG moved into Tanzania and started focusing into Agriculture thus promoting staple food like maize, beans, millet, cassava, sorghum and other agricultural produce through small holder farmers and developed markets in Tanzania and surrounding East and Cen-

tral Africa countries.

The beautiful landscapes of farmland, naturally available resources in abundant in the country made us facilitate the role of food security regionally and providing livelihood for the small holder farmers, rural women and youth self-employment facilitating them to grow from subsistence to semi-commercial.

"We further developed Holistic Agro business from regional to international markets in India, Turkey, Vietnam, China, Japan, Middle-East and many others," he said.

For Indian and Tanzania market it has been a win-win situation whereby they are providing them with pulses,

soya, sesame, peanuts, cashew nuts, coffee, bees wax and many more.

"In return we get the best manufactured industrial, domestic and commercial goods, equipment's, health technology, agro-farming equipment's and seeds and many more," he said.

"As ETG we aim to achieve a significant role in trade and commerce in Tanzania and have tried to facilitate the improvement in India-Tanzania relations, our initiatives have helped and will continue helping in increasing exports, improving agricultural productivity and fostering economic growth," he noted.



## WORLD



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hand with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak upon his arrival at Bharat Mandapam convention center for the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, India, Sept 9, 2023. AP

## PM Modi, Rishi Sunak discuss 'Roadmap 2030', assess progress on FTA

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation on Tuesday with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rishi Sunak and both leaders expressed satisfaction with the progress made under the Roadmap 2030.

"During the conversation, both leaders expressed satisfaction with the progress made under the Roadmap 2030 in diverse areas, including trade, investment, defence, security, emerging technologies and others," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release.

The two leaders also assessed the progress made towards the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement.

They reaffirmed their commitment to continue to strengthen the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Prime Minister Modi and PM Sunak also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest.

The two leaders further agreed to remain in touch. They also exchanged greetings on the upcoming festive occasion of Holi, the statement added.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi posted on X stating, "Had a good conversation with PM @RishiSunak. We reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and work for the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement."

Notably, India and the UK are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Talks for an FTA between India and the UK started in 2022.

The 13th round of negotiations between India and the UK took place from September 18 to December 15, 2023. Earlier in January, during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the UK, Rishi Sunak expressed hope that the ongoing FTA negotiations could be brought to a successful conclusion soon.

The India-UK Free Trade Agreement was also discussed during External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar's meeting with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on his recent visit to the country in November.

ANI

## White House's budget request on Ukraine destructive for entire world – Russian envoy

WASHINGTON

THE White House's request to the US Congress for provision of funds for aiding Ukraine is destructive, both of the US itself and the rest of the world, Russian Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov said.

"The inebriating idea of a pseudo-victory over the Russian Federation, the attempt to preserve the world order, based on some rules that only Western countries benefit from have become an obsessive goal for the local Russophobes.

The officials are ready to overcome all of their opponents' barriers and to prove to those who oppose hostilities that they will not stop under any circumstances and will continue their policy in Ukraine that is doomed to fail.

These ideas find their confirmation in the White House's new budget request, in the budget that it is not constructive, but destructive both of the entire world and the American economy," Antonov

said, according to the Russian embassy's Telegram channel.

The admission of the US' involvement in the Ukrainian conflict on the official level may cause unpredictable consequences for the entire world, Antonov said, commenting on the yet another package of military aid for Kiev.

"It has come to certain high-ranking officials saying that it is necessary to help the Ukrainians to 'strike deeper inside Crimea.' In other words, the US' de facto participation in the conflict is being admitted on the official level.

However, it is a dangerous course that may cause the most unpredictable consequences. Not only for the security of the US, but for the entire world," he said, according to the Russian embassy's Telegram channel.



## Iraq: Coalition talks unlikely until after US election

BAGHDAD

TALKS between the United States and Iraq on ending the US-led military coalition in the country may not be concluded until after the US presidential election in November, a senior Iraqi government official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Washington and Baghdad in January initiated talks to reassess the US-led coalition in Iraq, formed in 2014 to help fight Islamic State (IS) after the extrem-

ist Sunni Muslim militant group overran large parts of the country.

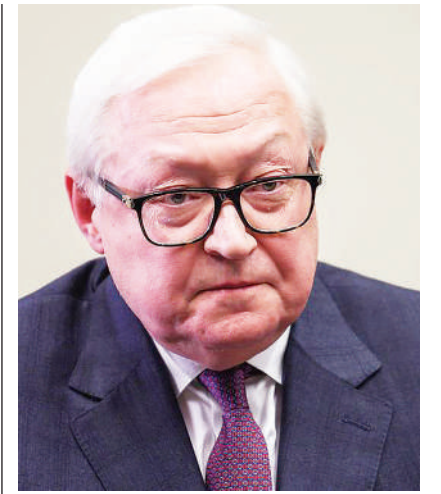
The decision to wind up the military coalition came after US forces and Shi'ite Muslim armed groups engaged in tit-for-tat attacks amid regional conflict linked to Israel's five-month-old war in Gaza.

Those clashes have now ceased for over a month to allow breathing space for the negotiations. Backed by Shi'ite parties and armed groups, the government in Baghdad, a rare ally of

both Iran and the US, is trying to prevent the country again becoming a battlefield for foreign powers.

The technical talks via a joint military commission are seen by politicians as a way to buy time in the face of differing views over how US-Iraqi military relations should evolve.

The Pentagon declined to comment on the future of the talks between the United States and Iraq, but US officials in the past have not put a timeline on how long any talks could take.



## Discussion of BRICS expansion should be postponed until Kazan summit – diplomat

MOSCOW

THE discussion of the BRICS' further expansion should be postponed until the Kazan summit, Russian Deputy foreign Minister, Russia's Sherpa in the BRICS Sergey Ryabkov said in an interview for the first issue of TASS' "BRICS bulletin."

"We must provide a platform for the countries, interested in rapprochement with the BRICS, where they will be able to work practically, without feeling left behind, and joining this cooperation rhythm.

And as to how the further expansion will be decided upon - this should be postponed at least until the leaders convene in Kazan to decide," he said, answering a question if the BRICS expansion would continue during the Russian chairmanship.

Speaking about the most pressing issues faced by the association, the deputy foreign minister underscored that "the BRICS first needs to integrate those who have just joined."

"To make so that, as a 'ten,' we work at least as efficient, or, rather, more efficient than we did within the initial 'five,'" Ryabkov explained. "The second goal, set by our leaders [during the 2023 summit] in Johannesburg - is to develop the category of partner states, to create a list of such states."

According to the diplomat, the two-fold increase of a number of member states, which took place on January 1 this year, is "an unprecedented event for any international structure."

"Last year, it took an entire year to develop the admission, expansion criteria at the level of top officials. Many reasonable things were developed. And many of the things that were formulated back then got reflected in the list of countries that joined.

But it would probably be improper to formalize the requirements. At the end of the day, an admission to the association is a subject of political decision," the high-ranking diplomat said.



**Last year, it took an entire year to develop the admission, expansion criteria at the level of top officials. Many reasonable things were developed. And many of the things that**

## Biden, Trump get nominations, kicking off bruising rematch

PRESIDENT Joe Biden and former president Donald Trump both clinched their parties' nomination on Tuesday, kicking off the first US presidential election rematch in nearly 70 years.

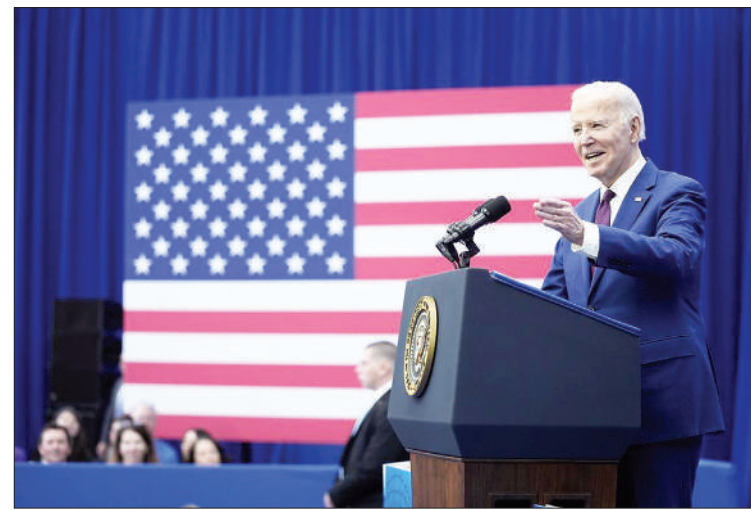
Biden needed 1,968 delegates to win the nomination, and he passed that number on Tuesday night as results began to come in from the primary contest in Georgia, Edison Research said. Results were also coming in from Mississippi, Washington state, the Northern Mariana Islands and Democrats living abroad.

Hours later, Trump clinched the 1,215 delegates required to secure the Republican presidential nomination as four states held contests, including Georgia, the battleground where Trump faces criminal charges for his efforts to overturn the state's 2020 results. There were 161 delegates at stake on Tuesday in Georgia, Hawaii, Mississippi and Washington state.

Biden, 81, issued a statement after he sealed the Democratic nomination, taking aim at what he called Trump's "campaign of resentment, revenge, and retribution that threatens the very idea of America".

"Voters now have a choice to make about the future of this country. Are we going to stand up and defend our democracy or let others tear it down? Will we restore the right to choose and protect our freedoms or let extremists take them away?" he said.

The outcome of Tuesday's voting was essentially predetermined, after Trump's last remaining rival for the Republican nomination, former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, ended her presidential campaign following Trump's dominant performance last week on Super Tuesday, when he won 14 of 15 state contests.



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on lowering prices for American families during an event at the YMCA Allard Center, on March 11, 2024, in Goffstown, New Hampshire. AP

In a video posted on social media, Trump said there was no time to celebrate, and instead put the focus on beating Biden, whom he called the "worst" president in US history.

"We're going to drill, baby, drill. We're going to close our borders. We're going to do things like nobody has ever seen before. And we're going to make our nation's economy be the best ever in the world," said Trump.

Biden, meanwhile, faced only token opposition in the Democratic primary campaign, though activists frustrated by his support for the conflict in Gaza have convinced a sizable minority of Democrats to vote "uncommitted" in protest.

Both men have already turned their attention to the Nov 5 general election, holding dueling rallies in Georgia on Saturday.

In Rome, Georgia, Trump, 77, again repeated his false claim that the 2020 election was fraudulent and accused the Fulton County attorney, Fani Willis, of prosecuting him for political reasons. He also attacked Biden for failing to stem the flow of migrants at the US southern border, an issue he intends to keep front and center throughout the campaign, as he did in 2020.

The Biden campaign launched a more aggressive phase on Friday, announcing Biden would tour several battleground states amid a \$30 million ad buy. The campaign said it raised \$10 million in the 24 hours after Biden's State of the Union speech, adding to Democrats' financial edge over Republicans.

**Voters unenthusiastic**

The last repeat presidential

matchup took place in 1956, when Republican President Dwight Eisenhower defeated former Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson, a Democrat, for the second time.

This year, voters have expressed little enthusiasm for a repeat of the bitter 2020 election, with Reuters/Ipsos public polls showing both Biden and Trump are unpopular with the majority of voters.

Trump's myriad criminal charges - he faces 91 felony counts across four separate indictments - could harm his standing among the suburban, well-educated voters whose support he has historically struggled to garner.

He is scheduled to become the first former American president to go on trial in a criminal case on March 25 in New York, where he faces charges he falsified business records to hide hush money payments to a porn star.

The most serious case against him is generally thought to be the federal indictment in Washington, DC, accusing him of plotting to reverse the 2020 election. But the case is on hold after the US Supreme Court agreed to hear Trump's claim of presidential immunity, and it is unclear whether a trial can take place before Election Day.

Biden has been dogged by the perception among a majority of voters that he is too old to serve a second four-year term, though allies believe his fiery State of the Union address may serve to counter that notion.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping called for focusing on high-quality development as the top priority and developing new quality productive forces according to local conditions during the second session of the 14th National People's Congress, China's national legislature.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks when he participated in a deliberation with fellow lawmakers from east China's Jiangsu province.

Focusing on the cause of the Party and the country, he expounded on major issues such as developing new quality productive forces. He called for planning major moves to further comprehensively deepen reform and

## China to continuously develop new growth drivers, advantages

continued efforts to consolidate and strengthen the momentum of economic recovery, which offered important guidance for steadily advancing Chinese modernization.

With innovation playing the leading role, new quality productive forces are advanced productivity in essence, which features high quality.

Over the past year, the Chinese economy has been on a generally sound track of rebound, with the country's GDP surpassing 126 trillion yuan (\$17.5 trillion). China's modern industrial system has become more robust, witnessing the rapid rise of a number of high-end, intelligent, and environmentally friendly new pillar industries. Significant progress has

been made in key and core technologies, with continuous emergence of innovative achievements in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

New quality productive forces have emerged in practice and exhibited their strong role in driving and supporting high-quality development. They will help realize development with a higher level of quality, efficiency, equity, sustainability and security.

Promoting high-quality development concerns the overall progress of China's socialist modernization. Currently, there are still numerous factors that hinder high-quality development.

New quality productive



forces represent the evolutionary direction of advanced productivity. They are shaped by revolutionary technological breakthroughs, innovative allocation of production factors, and deep industrial transformation and upgrading, featuring high technology, high efficiency, and high quality.

Developing new quality productive forces is an en-

dogenous requirement and a pivot of high-quality development, and an inevitable choice to promote the iteration and upgrading of productivity and realize modernization.

In the face of a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, only by seizing opportunities, intensifying innovation efforts, nurturing and strengthening emerging industries, proactively planning and developing future industries, and improving the modern industrial system, can China accelerate the development of new quality productive forces and continuously shape new driving forces and advantages for development.

Developing new quality productive forces does not mean neglecting or abandon-

ing traditional industries, Xi said. It is necessary to prevent a headlong rush into projects and the formation of industry bubbles, and avoid adopting just a single model of development, he noted.

He stressed developing new quality productive forces according to local conditions, charting the course and providing science-based methods for upgrading traditional industries and promoting high-end, intelligent and green development.

China has a vast territory with diverse regional conditions. When developing new quality productive forces, it is crucial to start from the actual situation. Localities should take into account their own resource endow-

ment, industrial foundation and scientific research conditions in promoting the development of new industries, models and growth drivers in a selective manner.

Reform holds the answers to development issues. Developing new quality productive forces, it is necessary to further comprehensively deepen reform and establish compatible new productive relations.

Xi said it is necessary to build a high-standard socialist market economy system, to improve and implement institutional mechanisms to unwaveringly consolidate and develop the public sector and to encourage, support and guide the development of the non-public sector, and deepen reforms in sci-tech, education and talent management systems.

People's Daily



# US, allies 'eye commercial maritime option for Gaza aid'

WASHINGTON

THE US may urge partners and allies to fund a privately run operation to send aid by sea to Gaza that could begin before a much larger US military effort, said three people familiar with the planning and a US official.

If funding is secured, the plan could bring ashore large amounts of aid in a matter of weeks and could be faster than US military's floating pier system that the Pentagon says could take up to 60 days to become operational.

The US official and one person familiar with the plan said the US would not fund the project, and two other sources and the same US official said Washington was considering asking allies to fund and support it via an international foundation that would accept money from governments and private sources.

While the US government is prioritizing the military's plan, the commercial project could complement that effort by providing support on shore in Gaza, since President Joe Biden's administration has ruled out allowing US troops to set foot in the enclave, even as they build the pier system.

Biden announced during his Thursday State of the Union speech that the US military will build a temporary port on Gaza's Mediterranean coast to receive humanitarian aid by sea.

The United Nations has warned that widespread famine in the Gaza Strip is "almost inevitable" without urgent action. A formal conclusion that famine has arrived in the coastal enclave of 2.3 million people could come this week.



Trucks carrying humanitarian aid make their way along a street in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, on March 10, 2024, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Hamas movement. AFP

A source familiar with the planning said the commercial option could become operational in 28 days once funded, although a second source said it would take at least a month. The plan would bring aid to Gaza aboard tug-boat pushed barges and then employ a crane to then lift containers onto shore.

Two sources said the project would allow delivery of about 200 truck-load equivalent containers of aid to Gaza per day. That would be less than the 500 truck-loads of aid that were delivered daily to the enclave before the start of the conflict.

US officials have said the US military operation would provide hundreds of additional

truck loads of aid every day and those shipments would include more than two million meals, water, temporary shelters and medicine.

The anticipated cost of the commercial maritime project is around \$200 million for six months, three sources said, with one source estimating it at \$30 million a month.

### Former US officials involved in planning

The commercial planning is being spearheaded by Fogbow, an advisory firm which includes former US government officials from the Department of Defense, US AID and CIA, as well former UN officials, the sources said.

A Fogbow spokesperson declined comment when contacted by Reuters.

UN aid coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jamie McGoldrick, said he was briefed earlier this month by Fogbow on the plan it was working on with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

"It's a good idea and I think it'd be helpful," McGoldrick told Reuters, though he added that complications with aid delivery within Gaza and the cost of the Fogbow plan could make it "slower to get off the ground".

"The more avenues we have to supply into Gaza, the better," he said.

The US official cautioned that it would ultimately be up to US partners whether the project would go forward. The official also said it was unclear if the commercial option would indeed be faster than the military's plan.

But the source said: "We would like this to ultimately be a commercial option so we are glad they have a non-military proposal."

Once funded, the group would aim to dredge an area along the shore in northern Gaza to allow barges to come close to land and create a heavy-lift platform for the containers, which would then be stored on land for delivery by the United Nations or other international aid organizations.

The US consideration of this commercial proposal comes as a separate, smaller scale maritime aid push started moving ahead on Tuesday.

The charity ship Open Arms sailed out of Larnaca port in Cyprus, towing a barge containing flour, rice and protein. The mission was funded mostly by the UAE and organized by US-based charity World Central Kitchen.

# Defamation lawsuit against Meghan by half-sister dismissed

A federal judge in Florida on Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit against Meghan Markle, the wife of Britain's Prince Harry, rejecting claims that the actress had made "disparaging, hurtful and false" claims about her half-sister.

Markle's half-sister Samantha, with whom she shares a father, had alleged that Markle's statements in a Netflix documentary series and a 2021 interview with Oprah Winfrey had implied Samantha was a "deceptive fame-seeking imposter with avaricious intentions."

The lawsuit specifically took issue with Markle's remarks that she and Samantha had not been close growing up, and that Samantha had changed her surname back to Markle when the royal couple first started dating.

US District Judge Charlene Edwards Honeywell of Florida's Middle District found in her ruling on Tuesday that the statements in question were either opinions, substantially true, or did not plausibly defame Samantha.

Meghan Markle and Harry, King Charles' younger son, are known as The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. They and their two children have lived in California since the couple stepped down from royal duties in 2020.

Their widely publicized split from the rest of Britain's royal family has been worldwide tabloid fodder for years, and prompted the British government to strip Harry of automatic police protection when he was in Britain.

In the 2021 interview with Oprah Winfrey cited in Samantha Markle's complaint, the couple accused the royal family of racism, neglect, and internal feuds.

Asked by Winfrey about a "supposedly tell-all book" her half-sister had authored about her, Markle replied that it would be "very hard to tell all when you don't know me."

Their appearance with Winfrey was viewed by 49 million people around the world, according to US network CBS. It caused their popularity to plummet within Britain and triggered the 1,000-year-old monarchy's biggest crisis of the century.

Agencies



# Commissioner's office refutes Washington Post's HK editorial

HONG KONG

THE Commissioner's Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on Tuesday sent a letter to the Washington Post to refute an editorial piece titled *With the new security law, Hong Kong doubles down on repression* published earlier.

A spokesperson for the office said in the letter that the piece reflected the newspaper's ignorance and double standard on Hong Kong.

"The Hong Kong 47 case mentioned in your piece is being tried by Hong Kong courts in accordance with law. To your dismay, the evidence exposed during the trials shows that those charged are not as 'innocent' as you thought, and I believe the courts will make fair verdicts," the letter read.

The editorial by the Post insisted that Jimmy Lai was exercising his right as the founder and owner of the Apple Daily when the news-

paper editorialized in favor of US sanctions against Hong Kong officials, and that it "seems like normal editorial decisions or the prerogatives of a media owner".

"I have some experience in dealing with US media, and they seem to be rather proud of the red line that prevents the owner of a media agency from interfering with the specific operation of the agency. Then why the red line turns into green light, even a 'normal prerogative' in the case of Jimmy Lai and Apple Daily?" the letter read.

On the legislation of HKSAR Basic Law Article 23, the editorial claimed that the public consultation period was "shortened".

"As far as I know, the USA Patriot Act was passed just 45 days after the 9/11 attacks without holding a hearing. I wonder if the time for this legislation is also 'shortened' based on your standard?"

The letter showed that many jurisdictions have their own legislation based on national security needs. The United States has



This file photo dated Nov 17, 2016 shows the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Central, Hong Kong.

21 such laws, Britain has 14 while Hong Kong has none locally enacted. After the US Capitol attack, more than 800 people have been sentenced in relation to that and some even got record 22 years in prison.

The end of Article 23 legislation consultation period is a milestone marking Hong Kong's upward trajectory from chaos to stability and prosperity, rather than "downward trajectory" as mentioned in the editorial, ac-

ording to the letter.

With the firm support of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, Hong Kong - the Pearl of the Orient - will only shine even brighter, according to the letter.

# Human Rights Watch urges Pakistan's PM to strengthen democratic institutions

NEW YORK

THE Human Rights Watch on Monday wrote a letter to Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, urging him to make human rights a key focus of his government and strengthen democratic institutions, an official release said.

It said that the new Pakistani government should adopt an agenda that actively promotes and protects human rights, advances the rule of law, and strengthens democratic institutions.

"Pakistani Prime Minister Sha-

rif's new government faces many challenges that need to be addressed by upholding human rights," Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch said in a release.

"The government should begin by reversing abusive laws and policies and demonstrating a gen-

uine commitment to the rule of law and equal justice," she added.

According to the release, as Pakistan faces one of the worst economic crises in its history, the government has an obligation to ensure adequate social security to uphold the rights of Pakistanis to health, food, social security,

and an adequate standard of living.

Human Rights Watch also urged the Pakistani government to take concrete steps to protect fundamental civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights in nine key areas.

These are economic justice;

electoral reforms; digital rights; freedom of expression and protecting civil society; freedom of religion and belief; prison reform; ending violence against women and girls; improving access to education; and protecting rights in counterterrorism operations, the release added.

ANI

# China accelerates development of new quality productive forces

THIS year, various regions and departments in China have been actively developing new quality productive forces, seeking new strategies and taking proactive measures.

Deputies to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) and members of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) stressed the importance of vigorously developing strategic emerging industries such as new energy, new materials, advanced manufacturing, and electronic information.

They believe this will help foster future industries, accelerate the development of new quality productive forces and enhance the momentum for high-quality development.

With innovation playing the leading role, new quality productive forces mean advanced productivity that is freed from traditional economic growth mode and productivity development paths, features high-tech,

high efficiency and high quality, and comes in line with the new development philosophy.

New quality productive forces are in essence advanced productivity that features innovation and focuses on high quality, which are of great significance for accelerating the development of a modern industrial system, said Yu Xubo, a deputy to the 14th NPC.

Yu, also chairman of Genertec, a centrally-administered state-owned enterprise, noted that Genertec has teamed up with Chongqing University of Technology to promote the industrialization of the nanometer time-grating technology, which has been widely applied in advanced computer numerical control machine tools and robotics, thereby contributing to the development of the Chinese high-end equipment industry.

In 2023, China's production of new energy vehicles reached



Photo shows a busy scene in an intelligent workshop of a precision electronics factory in Huaying, southwest China's Sichuan province. (Qiu Haiying / People's Daily Online)

9.443 million units, up 30.3 percent from a year ago. The output of solar cells, or photovoltaic cells, surged 54 percent year-on-year to reach 540 million kilowatts. It also produced over 7.83 million sets of service robots, with a year-on-year increase of

23.3 percent. "Developing new quality productive forces helps foster a batch of large-scale and influential pillar industries, and also accelerates the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, thus enhancing the

resilience of the Chinese economy, and effectively upgrading and appropriately expanding China's economic output," said president of Sun Yat-sen University Gao Song, a deputy to the 14th NPC.

In 2023, the added value of

the high-tech manufacturing industry rose by 2.7 percent year-on-year, and investment in high-tech industries grew by 10.3 percent from a year ago, which indicated a continuous accumulation of new momentum.

Developing new quality productive forces needs technological innovation, which builds an engine for high-quality development through original, disruptive, and cutting-edge technological breakthroughs, Yu said.

Last year, China's annual expenditure on research and development (R&D) surpassed 3.32 trillion yuan (\$462.28 billion), an increase of 8.1 percent compared to the previous year.

"The rapid development of new technologies such as next-generation artificial intelligence (AI) and life sciences will accelerate the reshaping of the global industrial and supply chain pattern, profoundly altering the comparative and competitive

advantages of countries around the world," said Gao. He emphasized the need to focus on the world's scientific and technological forefront and apply the achievements to promote high-quality development.

Zhao Yuliang, a member of the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC and academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, believes that new quality productive forces should be developed by growing the talent chain, enhancing the technology chain, activating the innovation chain and upgrading the industrial chain.

Zhao said that China ranks top globally in terms of the total quantity of talent resources, sci-tech human resources, and R&D personnel. Therefore, it is necessary for the country to further facilitate a virtuous cycle of education, science and technology, and talent, so as to improve the mechanisms for talent cultivation, introduction, utilization, and rational mobility.

People's Daily



# Arusha's new stadium plans align with Benjamin Mkapa Stadium renovation

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

**G**ERSON Msigwa, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, has unequivocally revealed the government's intentions to commence the construction of a new stadium in Arusha to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

This state-of-the-art sporting arena is poised to accommodate a staggering 30,000 spectators and is slated to be one of the venues for the 2027 AFCON finals.

With such grand ambitions, the stadium promises to be a beacon of national pride, not only for Arusha but for Tanzania as a whole.

He stated: "The stadium will boast modern amenities and have a seating capacity for 30,000 individuals, making it one of the chosen venues for hosting the finals of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON)."

In addition to the groundbreaking plans for the new stadium, Msigwa provided an update on the renovation progress at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Scheduled for completion on August 24 this year, the refurbishment aims to breathe new life into the iconic venue.

He pointed out: "We are replacing all 60,000 seats within the stadium with



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Gerson Msigwa.

new ones. Rest assured, once the renovations are finished, the venue will undergo a remarkable transformation."

A notable aspect of the renovation entails the replacement of all 60,000 seats within the stadium.

Msigwa assured the public that these new seats would transform the stadium's ambiance and elevate the spectator experience to unparalleled heights.

With an allocated budget exceeding 31bn/-, no expense is being spared to ensure that the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium emerges as a world-class facility worthy of international acclaim.

The significance of these stadium projects extends beyond mere infrastructure development. They serve as tangible symbols of Tanzania's commitment to advancing sports and cultural activities within the na-

tion.

By investing in these modernized venues, we seek to enhance its global standing and provide its citizens with top-tier facilities to celebrate their athletic prowess and cultural heritage.

As the construction and renovation efforts progress, anticipation continues to build among Tanzanians eager to witness the unveiling of these architectural changes.

In Arusha, residents eagerly await the completion of their new stadium, envisioning it as a hub of community engagement and sporting excellence.

Similarly, anticipation mounts for the grand reopening of the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, a stadium poised to reclaim its status as a premier venue for national and international events.

Beyond their functional roles as venues for sports and cultural events, these stadiums symbolize Tanzania's aspirations for progress and prosperity.

They stand as monuments to the nation's ambition, reflecting the collective efforts of its people to build a brighter future for generations to come.

As the construction projects are near completion and the countdown to the 2027 AFCON finals begins, Tanzania eagerly anticipates the inauguration of its newest stadiums.

With each brick laid and seat installed, the nation moves one step closer to realizing its vision of a prosperous and dynamic future, where sports and culture thrive, and the spirit of unity prevails.

## Dar soccer fans should learn from Yanga supporters and Mayele jibes

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's football fans need to understand coaches and players come and go and that is part of the industry's business, few coaches and players retire at one club but the conclusion is they ultimately leave the club.

In recent weeks, Egypt's Pyramid FC striker Fiston Mayele went into a shouting match between him and Yanga fans.

Yanga fans do not want to let go of their side's former talisman and the same could be said of Mayele, both sides still feel affiliated while the reality is that they are not.

If Mayele fails to score in several games he plays for Pyramid FC, reports state he blames Yanga and, once Yanga fails to get good results, Mayele will clash with his former side via social media platforms.

The bad side of it is that Mayele seems to be entertaining witchcraft beliefs, he reportedly claimed Yanga supporters have bewitched him so that he does not perform well and score goals for Pyramids FC.

If a person asks me, is Mayele a good player? my answer is yes, did he deserve the praise he received from Yanga fans? my answer is no.

In this saga, the only problem is Yanga fans' tendency to overhype some of the club's players to the extent that such players feel they are worthy.

Mayele is a top-class player in the continent, Yanga's supporters embraced him so much to the extent the two sides are now engaged in wrangles.

All top players in the world are indeed fan favourites in their respective outfits, but Yanga fans exaggerate the matter.

Yanga fans praise players to the extent such players feel they are bigger than the club. Mayele was an important player but he was praised in a manner he did not deserve.

In for instance five chances created by teammates when Mayele played for Yanga, he scored. He was therefore glorified by the club's fans.

Some footballers might think they are bigger due to what they do on the pitch but the truth is they are good because of the clubs they are playing for.

Yanga helped Mayele improve and the club was built around him and prioritised him.

The Congolese goal-getter arrived during the rebuilding phase of the club, they forgot that, back in the day, talented footballers like Mohamed Hussein, alias 'Mmachinga', successfully played for the club.

Yanga fans should try to avoid overhype players, this is the reason Mayele and Yanga fans are now engaged in verbal spats.

When comparing Mayele's two seasons at Yanga and the goals he scored with the statistics registered by former Simba SC striker Meddie Kagere, a soccer lover would realize the latter had greater numbers than the former, but Simba SC fanatics did not overhype his value.

Yanga fans have to understand that



Egypt's Pyramids FC striker Fiston Mayele

life has to go on, their club should seek success without Mayele and the DR Congo striker has to do the same.

The Jangwani Street outfit has had many good strikers but they all arrived at the club, played extremely well, and later left it. If Mayele realizes this, he will focus on his current club.

Former Yanga head coach, Nasreddine Nabi was a good coach; he led Yanga to the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final but Yanga fans exaggerated his prowess.

The supporters went as far as giving the coach the professor status. Yanga fans like to heap too much praise on either players or coaches.

After the Belgo-Tunisian tactician's departure, many thought Yanga would not replicate what the outfit did last season.

Despite all the praises he received, Nabi failed to guide the club to the CAF Champions League Group Stage.

Yanga's fanatics should do away with overhype players because entertaining such a habit would not augur well for the club's future, it is not a sin for club's enthusiasts to like either a player or coach but there should be limits.

Mayele's agency and public relations team should know how to control their player and focus on his club, he should focus on scoring goals for his outfit.

Again, if a soccer enthusiast asks me I will tell him/her that Yanga fans have brought these problems.

The Jangwani Street squad currently has Maxi Nzengeli, popularly known as 'Mbappe', giving the Congolese midfielder such a nickname amount to exaggeration, such a habit hardly helps a player.

Yanga's Ivorian midfielder Pacome Zouzoua is popularly known as 'Zidane' by the squad's fans.

Likening some players to former football greats might make the players feel they are much better and such a tendency may bring controversy in the future.

For Yanga to forget Mayele, the squad should win titles and prove him wrong and, for the forward to get over the club, he has to win titles with Pyramids FC.

The bottom line is fans should learn how to praise players and coaches whilst having limits.



Tanzania People's Defense Force music band's artists entertain attendants of the presentation ceremony of a golf tournament, termed 'CRDB Bank Inter-Clubs Competition', which took place at Dar es Salaam's Lugalo Golf Club's course recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Azam FC invests in young Tanzanian talent through partnership program

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC, a prominent Tanzanian football club, has embarked on an ambitious initiative to groom young sporting talents across the nation.

The club has partnered with eight academies strategically located in various regions, establishing them as Azam FC centers.

These centers will act as talent scouts, identifying promising young footballers who have the potential to join the prestigious Azam FC Academy.

The initial phase of the program includes partnerships with academies like JK7Pro Football Center (Tanga), Tutes Hub Sports Center (Songea), Maendeleo Youth Sports Center (Mtwara), Kilwa

Youth Sports Center (Lindi), Muleba Youth Sports Center (Kagera), Mwangi City Sports Center (Kigoma), Rungwe Youth Sports Center (Mbeya), and Korogwe Youth Soccer Center (Korogwe).

These centers will serve as crucial outposts in Azam FC's nationwide search for talented young athletes.

While these Azam FC centers the club will provide a primary pool of recruits.

Azam FC acknowledges the abundance of talent throughout Tanzania.

The club remains committed to scouting exceptional young players across the country, irrespective of their location.

Formal contracts have been established between Azam FC and each of the participating academies.

The outfit's vice chairman Omary Be closely monitored the signing process, ensuring a strong foundation for this collaborative effort.

To further solidify this partnership, Azam FC's youth team representatives will soon visit these Azam FC centers.

These visits aim to connect with the coaches who nurture these young talents and provide them with valuable guidance.

The goal is to equip these coaches with a clear understanding of the specific requirements and playing styles sought by Azam FC in potential recruits.

While the initial phase focuses on eight strategically chosen locations, Azam FC's vision extends far beyond.

The club aspires to establish a comprehensive network of Azam FC centers throughout Tanzania, ultimately encompassing all regions within the country.

Through this program, Azam FC aspires to become a breeding ground for the best young Tanzanian footballers, providing them with the opportunity to refine their skills and potentially progress to the prestigious Azam FC Academy.

This strategic investment in youth development is expected to yield a significant benefit for Azam FC.

By establishing a nationwide network of talent scouts and fostering strong partnerships with regional academies, the club aims to secure a steady stream of promising young players.

This initiative not only strengthens the club's competitive edge but also contributes to the broader development of Tanzanian football by nurturing young talent and shaping the future stars of the sport.

Azam FC has excelled, particularly in nurturing football talent, with numerous players progressing from its academy to feature prominently in Tanzania's top league and even in major African leagues.

At the recently concluded 2023 AFCON, Azam FC notably contributed eight players to Tanzania's senior national team.

They are Himid Mao, Mohamed Hussein, Novatus Dismas, Simon Msuva, Lusajo Mwaikenda, and Aishi Manula, among others, who had honed their skills in the club's academy.



# Raya is shootout hero as Arsenal reach Champions League quarters

LONDON

**D**AVID Raya was the hero as Arsenal beat Porto 4-2 on penalties on Tuesday to reach the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time since 2010.

The teams were locked at 1-1 on aggregate after an absorbing second leg at the Emirates but Raya saved twice in the shootout to break the hearts of the two-time champions.

The goalkeeper dived full stretch to deny Wendell and repeated the feat against Galeno, while the home side converted all four of their penalties as the decibel count soared.

It is the first time a Champions League match has been decided by penalties since the 2016 final between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid.

"You are very nervous, you are hoping for the best but you know that it (the shootout) is a bit of a lottery," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta told TNT Sports.

"So happy. It has been 14 years (without reaching quarter-finals), which is a long time for a club like Arsenal and it shows how difficult it was. We really had to dig in to find the magic moment at the end."

"We've been patient, worked so hard and a lot of people have made good decisions and showed courage in difficult moments and this is where you want to be," he added.



David Raya saves from Wendell during the penalty shootout. Agencies

Raya, on loan from Brentford, said it was a "great moment personally and collectively".

"This means everything. You play football for these kind of things and I'm lucky to be playing for Arsenal, to be in the Champions League and to get through to the quarter-finals."

Trailing 1-0 from the first leg, Arteta's Premier League leaders -- with 33 goals in their past eight league games -- were not at their fluent best against a disciplined Porto side.

Leandro Trossard pulled Arsenal level on aggregate shortly before half-time as their patience paid off.

Sergio Conceicao's men had succeeded in frustrating the

home team for long spells during the opening period, fashioning enough chances of their own make it a nervy night for the expectant fans.

Both sides struggled to settle in a scrappy opening period, with Porto doing their best to slow the game down by taking their time with throw-ins and goal kicks, to the audible frustration of the home crowd.

Arsenal defender Ben White headed over in the fourth minute after the home side's first sustained attack while captain Martin Odegaard hit the side netting 10 minutes later.

But Porto, who were last crowned European champions under Jose Mourinho in 2004, had a number of open-

ings.

Evanilson whipped a shot at goal from distance that bounced wide and minutes later struck a rising strike that Raya palmed away.

Declan Rice headed just wide and Pepe -- the first 41-year-old to play outfield in the Champions League -- got the deftest of touches with his head to prevent Kai Havertz from connecting with a White cross at the back post.

- Breakthrough -

The breakthrough finally came in the 41st minute following good work from Odegaard, who jinked past an opponent and fed Trossard with a perfectly weighted low pass into the box.

Trossard calmly hit a right-

footed shot past goalkeeper Diogo Costa and into the far corner of the net to ease the tension.

The visitors, who had never won a match in England in 22 previous attempts, started the second half brightly as Arsenal struggled to impose themselves.

Arsenal thought they had doubled their lead midway through the second half when Odegaard dinked the ball into an empty net but the goal was ruled out for a foul by Havertz on Pepe. Moments later Porto streamed forward and Raya blocked Francisco Conceicao's shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Arteta threw on Gabriel Jesus in the 83rd minute and the former Manchester City man nearly scored with his first touch.

As Arsenal pushed for a winner, Bukayo Saka produced a trademark curling effort that was punched back into the middle and Odegaard steered the rebound wide when well-placed.

The home side looked the more dangerous in the early stages of extra-time but Porto remained a threat on the break, with substitute Mehdi Taremi curling wide.

Arteta brought on Eddie Nketiah and Oleksandr Zinchenko for the second period of extra time but neither side could find a winner and it went to penalties.

AFP

## Barca edge past Napoli to make Champions League quarters return

BARCELONA

BARCELONA survived a nervy second half to beat Napoli 3-1 on Tuesday and reach the Champions League quarter-finals 4-2 on aggregate.

Xavi Hernandez's side came flying out of the blocks with goals from Fermin Lopez and Joao Cancelo but after Amir Rrahmani pulled one back, the Catalans started to sweat.

Italian champions Napoli, who salvaged a 1-1 draw in the last-16 first leg, were finally beaten when Robert Lewandowski swept home from close range.

It is the first time five-time winners Barcelona have reached the last eight of the competition since 2020, and they did so without injured midfield trio Pedri, Gavi and Frenkie de Jong.

"We're in the quarter-finals of the Champions League after four years, it's the moment to enjoy that," Barca coach Xavi told Movistar.

"We played a great game, the team gave everything, we dominated in many moments ... (I'm) very proud."

Xavi said he was leaving at the end of the season in January and his team have gone on a run of nine games without defeat after that decision.

Teenage stars Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsi have been key to that form, and both excelled against Napoli on a night which offered some relief to Barcelona amid a bleak season.

Centre-back Cubarsi, 17, got the better of Napoli forward Victor Osimhen.

"He's incredible, he was the game's best player," Sergi Roberto told Movistar.

"He doesn't stop surprising us, in the last 16 and playing this way, he's a player who can be here for his whole life."

Barcelona became the first team in the competition's history to start two players 17 or under in a knock-out stage game.

Xavi demanded the fans turn their temporary Olympic Stadium home on the city's Montjuic hill into a pressure cooker, and they duly obliged. Over 50,000 spectators marked the club's largest attendance this season.

Francesco Calzona's Napoli wilted as the Spanish champions came out of the blocks flying.

- Fast start -

Electric 16-year-old winger Yamal made strong inroads down the right before the bright Lopez opened the scoring after 15 minutes.

Cancelo fed Raphinha who cut the ball back into the area for Lopez, who tucked home.

While he may lack the metronomic precision of Pedri, the midfielder provides thrust and an insatiable desire to shoot.

Two minutes later and the Catalans doubled their lead against the shellshocked visitors, with Yamal starting the move by breaking loose in his own half on the counter-attack.

The winger played in Raphinha and although the Brazilian hit the post Cancelo was running in to roll home the rebound.

Napoli battled their way back in when Matteo Politano slipped in down the right, with Ronald Araujo playing him inside.

The Italy winger crossed for Rrahmani who slotted home cleanly to pull Napoli back into the tie.

Napoli were almost level moments later but Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen made a superb save, tipping over Giovanni Di Lorenzo's header.

The Italians started the second half strongly, with Barcelona forced back into their own half, aimlessly clearing the ball.

Xavi took action by bringing on Sergi Roberto and Oriol Romeu for Lopez and Andreas Christensen, aiming to freshen up the midfield and give his team new impetus.

Raphinha and Lewandowski drew saves from Alex Meret before Yamal struck from close range, but he was offside.

Danish winger Jesper Lindstrom headed narrowly wide for Napoli, before Lewandowski settled the tie after Ilkay Gundogan and Sergi Roberto combined to set him up.

"We did well at times and almost equalised," Calzona told Italy's Sky Sport.

"Of course, if you lose, it means something didn't work."

Second-half jitters showed Barcelona are far from their former glory but in the dynamic Yamal, Raphinha and Cancelo they have the quality going forward to trouble any prospective quarter-final opponent.

"It was an incredible night, (it's been) four years without getting where we belong, where the club deserves to be," added Sergi Roberto.

AFP

## The making of Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya - and his giant hands

By Sam Dean

WHEN David Raya first arrived at Blackburn Rovers, as a 15-year-old kid who did not speak a word of English, a coach took one look at him and decided he was never going to make the grade. This Spanish teenager, he said, was simply too short.

"The coach said he was never going to be six foot," remembers Andres Manzano, the general director of Cornella, Raya's first club. "But I told him: 'why are you taking his size from his head? Take his size from his hands!'"

At which point, the story goes, the young David revealed his outstretched palms. Suddenly, the mood changed. "David showed them his hands and they said 'OK, we will give him a trial,'" says Manzano. "I can tell you, he has hands almost double the size of mine. He already had them at 15. They are not normal hands, and it was my way of convincing the coaches to take him seriously."

Blackburn could see Raya's abnormal hands and, within one day of training, they could also see his abnormal talent. Such was the teenager's athleticism and technique, he instantly convinced the academy goalkeeping coach, Steven Drench, of his quality. "He did one session and I said: 'We need to sign this lad now,'" says Drench. "He was that good."

Even at that young age, a long way from his home in Catalonia, Raya showed signs that he was capable of reaching the highest levels of the game. He may not have had the usual height of

goalkeeping prodigies but he had everything else: the explosiveness, the agility, the distribution, the discipline. And, of course, those giant hands. "Like shovels," says Drench.

Now, at the age of 28, Raya is fulfilling his enormous potential. He is a Spanish international and, as of this season, the first-choice goalkeeper for title-chasing Arsenal. The external debate around him and Aaron Ramsdale has fizzled out, with Raya now firmly established as Mikel Arteta's preferred option thanks to his calm performances and superb distribution.

Raya's hands are evidently not the only reason for his success, but they are a big part of it. "They are huge," says Drench, who is now a player-coach at Chorley FC. "When he was 16 I would serve the ball at him like I would do for the 18-year-olds, and he was just catching everything. His hands were that good, and that big."

Raya is understood to wear size II goalkeeper gloves, produced by The ONE Glove. This is the largest size available on the company's website. Gloves of that size are designed for palms that measure more than four inches (10.2cm) across, and are usually recommended for people who have a distance of at least nine inches (22.9cm) between the base of their palm and the tip of their middle finger.

Raya's hands are especially unusual because he is not a particularly big man, in terms of height and width. The Spaniard did defy those early expectations at Blackburn by reaching six feet tall, but only

just. Among top-flight goalkeepers, he is one of the shortest. His hands, therefore, are disproportionately large.

They are only useful, though, when married with his other physical attributes. Especially his explosiveness around the six-yard box. Raya is quick and springy, with a physique honed by years of work on the training ground, in the gym and on the beaches of Catalonia.

"He joined us when he was nine," says Manzano. "A boy that had a real desire to improve, every day. He was always asking for more training. When he finished his sessions he would ask the coach if he could then train with the older groups. In the summer he would call the goalkeeper coach, during holidays, and ask to train at the beach. He had that determination."

Raya moved from Cornella to Blackburn as part of an agreement between the two clubs. Manzano says he was one of six players who were taken from Cornella to trial in England that year, but the only

one who was offered a contract. Raya moved permanently in January 2012, aged 16, and went on to make more than 100 appearances for the first team. From there he joined Brentford, in 2019, before making the move to Arsenal -- in a deal that will eventually cost £30 million -- last summer.

"He was lightning quick," remembers Drench of Raya's time in the Blackburn academy. "He had a Spanish technique in the way he would move across the goal and fly after things. When English goalkeepers make a save they usually use their hands to get back up off the floor. David would make a save and spin around on his bum. Seeing it for the first time, the other lads had a chuckle. But he was that quick, and it worked, so why would we change it?"

"He played futsal as a kid and, as soon as he came in, you could see he was good with the ball. His feet were just as good as any outfield players that I had seen at that stage."

Raya's distribution has

been perhaps the most thrilling aspect of his recent impressive performances for Arsenal. From his hands or on the volley, he has demonstrated an ability to consistently start counter-attacks from his penalty box. A recurring theme of Arsenal's recent matches is that the wingers, and Gabriel Martinelli in particular, immediately sprint downfield when Raya takes the ball in his hands. The likes of Martinelli, Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Jesus all know that their goalkeeper will be able to find them on the run.

It was this ability with the ball that helped to convince Arsenal to move for Raya this summer. In him they have found a goalkeeper who can start attacks, and also contribute enormously to their build-up play. When Arsenal pass the ball around their own half, Raya often stands in a centre-back position, to the left or right of his goal. With him, Arsenal play a truly 11-man game.

Raya had this quality on the ball when he arrived from Spain, but it

was developed further under the guidance of Drench at Blackburn.

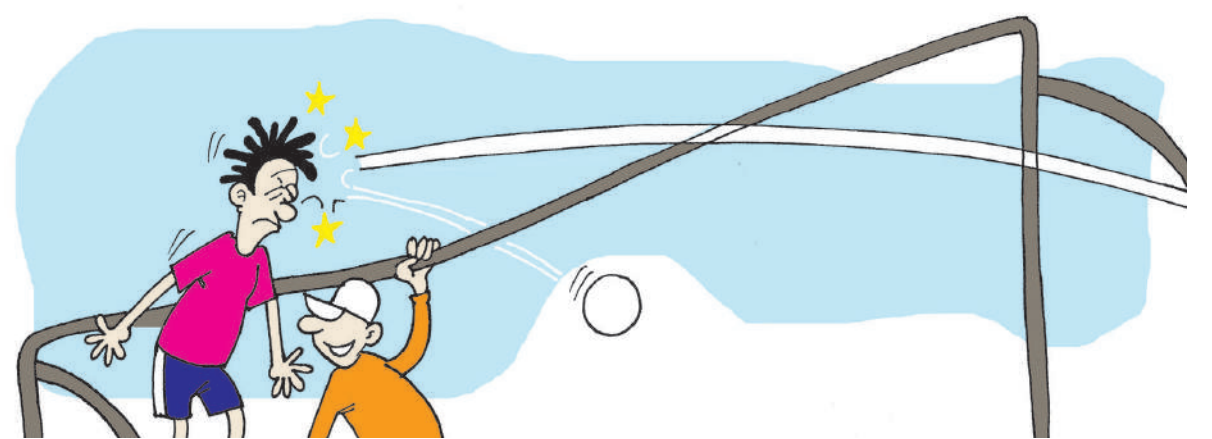
"We would play football golf," says Drench. "We used the sandpit, the lake and the trees around the training ground. We would put mannequins out and say it was a par-four, so you had four shots to hit the mannequin."

"It was to get him used to different techniques: striking it, clipping it, driving it, throwing it, all in a fun environment. The outfield players used to hate it because they wanted to join in. There was head tennis, too. I was known for my distribution and I wanted to help him with his. It is one thing we really focused on."

"We would play football golf," says Drench. "We used the sandpit, the lake and the trees around the training ground. We would put mannequins out and say it was a par-four, so you had four shots to hit the mannequin. It was to get him used to different techniques: striking it, clipping it, driving it, throwing it."

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Raya is shootout hero as Arsenal reach Champions League quarters

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## Yanga seeks to extend lead in 2023/24 NBC PL

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YANGA look to solidify their grip on the NBC Premier League title race when they take on Geita Gold FC at the Azam Complex Stadium, Chamazi in Dar es Salaam today, with kick-off slated for 8:15 pm East Africa Time.

Ahead of this tie against Geita Gold FC, Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi expressed confidence in his team's readiness, emphasizing their thorough preparation and familiarity with their opponents.

The tactician said: "We are well prepared to play with Geita Gold FC, we know every opponent. There is a way to prepare tactically, if you look at their results like this recently they have improved so we have to take enough precautions regardless of our previous results."

Regarding the absence of some players and his strategic approach, Gamondi affirmed the versatility of his squad, capable of adapting to various styles of play, whether offensive or possession-oriented.

The Argentine noted: "I have a lot of good players, we can play any type of game, be it attacking, possession and we can be flexible depending on the demands of the game before and during the game, I never have played with one type of philosophy tends to change depending on the style how the opponent plays and how you can face him."

Speaking on the team's current form and impressive goal-scoring record, Gamondi noted the positive statistics, with Yanga having scored 15 goals while conceding only 3 in their last three matches.

Gamondi pointed out: "In three matches we have scored 15 goals, we have conceded three goals, basically these are better statistics, I can't say that Geita Gold FC will also concede a lot of goals, I'm not doing guesswork, what I can do for now is preparing to win the game."

"We are prepared to play with them in a way whatever they plan," I expect they will devise measures to defend themselves. "it doesn't scare me because I have decisive players," the gaffer noted.

Gamondi's unwavering confidence in his players was evident as he emphasized their preparedness for the match, irrespective of Geita Gold FC's strategies.

He remained undeterred by potential defensive measures from the opposition, relying on the skill and determination of his team to secure a favorable outcome.

In the NBC Premier League standings, Yanga have emerged as a dominant force, securing victory in 16 out of the 18 games played thus far. This remarkable feat positions them as the club with the highest number of wins in the league.

With just one draw and one loss in their 18 matches, Yanga boasts an impressive defensive record, having conceded 9 goals.

The Jangwani Street outfit has forged a formidable attacking lineup, emerging as the top-scoring team in the standings with a total of 47 goals.

Leading the charge is Stephane Aziz Ki, who has netted 12 goals, closely followed by Maxi Nzengeli and Mudathir Yahya with eight goals apiece, while Pacome Zouzoua has contributed seven goals to the team's tally.

As they prepare to face Geita Gold FC, Yanga carry a commendable track record into the match, having emerged victorious in their last five encounters against the opposition. This streak underscores their confidence and ability to secure another positive result.

Geita Gold FC finds themselves in a challenging position, currently ranking 13th out of 20 teams in the league standings.

Out of the 20 matches they have played, they have garnered 21 points, securing victory in five matches, drawing in six, and suffering defeat in nine encounters.

Their recent performance has not been particularly promising, with only one win in their last five matches.

They have drawn twice and lost twice in this span. Today, they face a formidable opponent in Yanga at the Azam Complex Stadium, making the upcoming match a daunting prospect for Geita Gold FC.

Furthermore, the Premier League fixture between Azam FC and Yanga, initially slated for Azam Complex Stadium on Sunday, has been relocated to the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Azam FC announced on Thursday, confirming that the match will kick off at approximately 19:00 hours.

# Yanga's coach hopes to stun Mamelodi Sundowns in CAF CL quarterfinals

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans SC will take on Mamelodi Sundowns in the last eight of the CAF Champions League at the end of this month.

The Tanzanian team, alias Yanga, will come into the tie after finishing second in their CAF Champions League group.

The NBC Premier League champions managed to end their campaign with eight points, finishing ahead of Algeria's CR Belouizdad and Ghana's Medeama SC.

They will have their work cut out against the South African champions, who won four of their six Group Stage matches and are desperate to emulate their 2016 success when they lifted their first-ever continental title.

Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi says his players will need to put in more effort as he hopes to stun the African Football League holders Mam-



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Gamondi.

elodi Sundowns to progress to the semi-finals.

"It is my former team. I was champions with Sundowns in 2006, I have a very nice souvenir. On one hand, I am very happy to play against Sundowns, it is a team that I love because of the things you did well you

always keep this feeling especially because they play the kind of football similar to us," the gaffer noted.

The Argentine pointed out: "It is a big team and, for Yanga, it is a special moment with the biggest team. The other day I told the president that Yanga is

now sitting on the table of big teams."

"We have this ambition of being top five in Africa, you must compete and, for us, we will be at best to know which is our level," the tactician noted.

"Sundowns like Al Ahly must be in the finals

because they are the biggest teams. If you compare the budget of Sundowns to ours, definitely they must be favourites."

"Last time they bought one player from Argentina I think for \$4m and we brought Guede and Okra for free in the last transfer window."

Gamondi stated: "This is the difference and the people must understand but that doesn't matter when the referee blows the whistle it is 11 against 11."

"We need to fight, to put in more effort than Sundowns. As I said earlier when we played Al Ahly, the issue is a little bit handicapped by experience," he stressed.

"All the players in Tanzania, even in the national teams, don't have this experience of playing crucial games at the top level."

"This was the difference between us and Al Ahly in the two games. We made a mistake here and there while Al Ahly committed mistakes and won."

Gamondi said: "Johan Cruyff always says football is a game of mistakes and sometimes this lack of experience makes you commit mistakes. But I am very positive, optimistic and we will face Sundowns and we can create a surprise."

## Matola talks about Simba SC facing familiar CAF CL opponent in Al Ahly

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA SC found out on Tuesday that their 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal opponents will be 11-time African champions Al Ahly.

The first leg is scheduled for March 29-30 in Tanzania, with the return tie set to be held in Cairo on April 5-6. CAF said they will confirm the exact date and kick-off times this week.

The aggregate winner of this clash will go on to face the victor between Dr Congo's TP Mazembe and Petro de Luanda of Angola in the semi-finals set for late April.

Simba SC hammered Jwaneng Galaxy 6-0 to finish second in Group B, two points off leaders ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast.

On the other hand, Al Ahly topped their group ahead of Young Africans having garnered 12 points in six matches.

Coming up against the record holders Al Ahly is a tough draw for Simba SC but the club's assistant coach Selemani Matola is confident that if they play their cards well they can triumph over their familiar opponents this time round.

Matola stated: "We have been playing with the Arabs regularly for three



Simba SC's assistant coach, Selemani Matola.

or four years now. So they are familiar opponents. We know them and they know us."

"The match will be difficult because it involves sides that are familiar to each other," Matola reacted after the

draw.

He added: "For us, it is how we play our cards because we are meeting an opponent that we understand, as was the case in the so-called African Football League competition games."

The former Simba SC midfielder pointed out: "If we had played our cards properly, we would have edged them out. It's time now to play our cards to progress to the next stage."

During the inaugural edition of the African Football League last October, Simba SC and Al Ahly could not be separated after drawing both games in Dar es Salaam and Cairo. However, Ahly advanced to the next round based on the away goals rule.

In the 2020/21 season, Simba SC topped their CAF Champions Group, and their only loss came to Al Ahly when both sides had already qualified.

Simba SC won 1-0 in Dar es Salaam courtesy of midfielder Luis Miquissone's first-half strike.

Al Ahly exacted revenge with a similar scoreline in the last Group Stage game of the campaign.

In 2018/19, Al Ahly handed Simba SC one of the latter's biggest continental defeats with a 5-0 score in Cairo.

Simba SC managed to win 1-0 thanks to Meddie Kagere's goal in the reverse tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium which helped them secure a second-place finish behind the Egyptian giants and ahead of third-placed AS Vita of DR Congo.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

