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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8800 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA FRIDAY 17 MARCH, 2023

## APPOINTMENTS



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# Samia visit: Tanzania, South Africa review 15 pacts, add defence, diplomacy memorandum

## Traders in Tanzania, India set to use rupees, shillings, in transactions

By Guardian Reporter

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cleared the way for trade using local currencies in bilateral trade with India. Traders will be able to use the Indian rupee (INR) and the Tanzanian shilling in making purchases, as RBI has authorised banks in India to open special rupee Vostro accounts (SRVA) of correspondent banks operating in Tanzania. The Indian High Commission in Dar es Salaam said in a statement yesterday that to trade under the mechanism, Tanzanian banks will have to open SRVA in India by approaching authorized Indian banks. They will in turn approach RBI for approval with specific requirements specified under this arrangement, it said, noting that the Bank of Baroda which has local branches has received RBI approval. It can thus facilitate opening SRVAs at its foreign branches and subsidiaries in various countries including Tanzania, in an arrangement now applicable to 18 countries, including Kenya and Uganda. Other countries covered by the scheme, which have significant

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South African President Cyril Ramaphosa confers an honorary medal on President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is on a two-day state visit to South Africa. That was shortly before they addressed a joint press conference in Pretoria yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and South Africa have so far signed 15 sectoral agreements, with visiting President Sulu Hassan and President Cyril Ramaphosa witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding on political and diplomatic consultations, and another for cooperation between the diplomatic academies of the two countries.

A statement by the directorate of presidential communications said yesterday that the two leaders underscored that pending MOUs should be finalised and approved by the end of this year.

The two leaders in particular praised the excellent cooperation between the two countries' defence forces, lauding the joint training opportunities while exchanging views on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) pact, along with the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA).

The latter groups the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC), where these instruments when ratified will ease trade across the interacting regional blocs.

The two leaders participated in a business forum directed at forging a new deal between South Africa and Tanzania for high levels of trade and investments.

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## China releases new 2.5bn/- for curbing Kili fire outbreaks

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Marangu

CHINA has pledged 2.5bn/-, to assist Tanzania in the country's efforts to combat disasters especially fire outbreaks atop Mount Kilimanjaro.

Chen Mingjian, the resident Chinese ambassador, presented the \$1m cheque to Mohammed Mchengherwa, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, for the management of

natural disasters, at an event to mark 50 years of the Kilimanjaro National Park.

The envoy said the conservation area around Mount Kilimanjaro faces a number of challenges including negative effects of climate change, environmental destruction, receding forest cover and regular fire outbreaks.

The mountain was enveloped in serious fire outbreaks last October, whereupon the

matter was raised the following month during a visit to China by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

In talks with President Xi Jinping, a grant pledge was made for the environment focused efforts, the envoy noted.

"President Xi believes that landscapes such as mountains, rivers and other water sources are the most valuable resource-

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**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON COMPLETION OF TWO YEARS UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF**



**HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN**

The Guardian Limited will publish a special supplement with "The Guardian" and "Nipashe" Newspapers, with a special report focusing on the achievements of the Government under the leadership of President **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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## Govt sounds out banks for higher education financing

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE government is sounding out financial sector stakeholders for the provision of loans to higher learning students, as budgetary allocations fail to cover all eligible students. Dr Franklin Rwezimula, the Education, Science

and Technology deputy permanent secretary, explained these efforts here yesterday when opening a meeting to discuss ways of enlisting new sources of funds to facilitate access to higher education for more students at local universities.

"As for now we have NMB bank that has set aside 200bn/- from

where people can get loans to cover higher education costs," he said, noting that borrowers are charged nine per cent interest cover for the loans. Other stakeholders are being sounded out on account of the rising numbers of youth

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## Govt sounds out banks for higher education financing

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qualified to join higher learning institutions, as it is no longer feasible to depend entirely on the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB). The board is overburdened as the number of students it needs to cater for rises, he said, explaining the demand as due to the transformation effect of government efforts in the sector. There has been a huge increase in the number of qualified students needing to join higher education institutions, thus the need for new sources of funds to educate the youth, he said. The purpose is to make sure that all qualified students proceed to higher education by enhanced collaboration with financial sector stakeholders as well as other sources for loan provisions, he stated. Those attending the meeting were drawn from financial institutions, universities, a number of ministries and the board, mapping out to find new sources of funds. Prof Mohammed Hafidh Khalifa, the

chairman of the Zanzibar Higher Education Loans Board (ZHESLB), said that Zanzibar faces the same problem. He said the meeting was expected to help stakeholders identify new sources of funds so that every student qualified to join higher education can benefit from a loan. Prof Hamisi Dihenga, the HESLB chairman said the number of youths needing education loans has rapidly increased, outdoing budgetary allocations directed to the board. When the board started operations in 2005, needy students were upwards of 200,000 per year, while this year HESLB loaned out 700,000 students, he said, with managing director Abulrazaq Badru expressing optimism at the meeting. Stakeholders will also discuss earlier assessments of board activities, he said, noting that at present a total of 180m/- yearly is being repaid, starting from 30m/- yearly not so long ago. Since HESLB was established and started issuing loans, a total of 1.5trn/- has been paid back, he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presses a knob at Tegeta A in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch a water distribution project meant to link the city's Makongo Juu suburb with Bagamonyo town. To his right is Water minister Jumaa Aweso, to whose right is Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) board chairman Gen (rtd) Davis Mwamunyange. Photo: Correspondent Miraji

## China releases 2.5bn/- for curbing Kili fire outbreaks

FROM PAGE 1

es any nation can have within its territory," she stated. Nurturing bilateral relations takes into account the global mission to offset effects of global warming and thus climate

change, so the Chinese leader extends the grants to Tanzania. The event, held at the park head offices in Marangu area of Moshi Rural District, brought together representatives from a number of stakeholder organisations and diplomatic

missions. The minister said it was important for the public, especially residents of the area, to help safeguard the park zone as an important source of income for big numbers of people. He appealed to mountain guides, porters and trek-

kers to ensure that their climbing isn't a waste littering exercise. The mountain has to be a 'no Smoking' zone where cigarettes, pipes, lighters and other gadgets which could touch off fire outbreaks in climbing need to be left at base camps before climb-

ing starts. It is the second time for China to extend a grant for addressing environmental disasters on the mountain as in 2020 it donated 150m/- for disaster management on the mountain following a fire outbreak.

## Tanzania, India traders to use shillings, rupees

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numbers of Indian Diaspora, are Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. RBI placed the settlement of trade transactions with foreign trade partners as authorized banks open SRVAs of correspondent banks of the partner trading countries, the statement noted. Indian importers undertaking imports through this mechanism will make payment in the rupee, credited into the SRVAs of the correspondent bank of the partner country. The payments will be matched against invoices for the supply of goods and services from the overseas seller or supplier, where Indian exporters of goods and services can also operate through this

mechanism, it said. They will be paid their export proceeds in rupees from the balances in the designated SRVAs of the correspondent bank of the partner country, it stated. Rupee surplus balances may be used by the partner trading country for capital or current account transactions in India for investment purposes, it elaborated. Tanzanian banks and businesses have the opportunity to make full use of this framework to enable seamless transactions to pay for bilateral trade in domestic currencies. This innovation is expected to help conserve foreign exchange while boosting bilateral trade. The diplomatic mission is organizing a stakeholders' consultation meeting in a week's time, on Friday next week to set out details on the new bilateral trade mechanism, the statement added.



Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdalla (with microphone), speaks yesterday during a tour of the construction site of Munduli School, which is being built with Covid-19 stimulus package funds in Mjini Magharibi A. Photo: SVPO

## Samia visit: Tanzania, South Africa review 15 pacts, add defence, diplomacy memorandum

FROM PAGE 1

It brought together executives from the two countries' private sectors to explore trade and investment opportunities. Expanding trade and investment activities would help to drive bilateral strategic engagement and address barriers to trade, the statement noted, in-

dicating that the visiting Head of State and the host exchanged views on various regional, continental, and international issues. In matters of mutual interest and concern, they reiterated commitment of the two countries to greater liaison at regional, continental and international level, citing especially liai-

sons in SADC, the African Union and the United Nations. They also exchanged views on political and security developments in the region, underscoring the importance of peace and security to overall regional development and integration agenda. The situation in Mo-

zambique and in the DRC were intensely explored, where President Samia and President Ramaphosa lauded progress made by the Southern Africa military mission (SAMIM) in combatting terrorism and acts of violent extremism in the northern parts of Cabo Delgado Province.

The visit cements the solid ties traditionally existing between the two countries and illustrate the mutual desire to expand spheres of engagement, where the visit also saw the holding of the second biennial session where key issues were agreed upon, it said. Aside from defence and

security as well as trade and investment, other areas discussed include agriculture, environment, science and technology along with transport, health, education, agro processing, energy, mining, infrastructure development, plus cooperation in culture, arts and sports, the statement added.



# President Samia appoints DCEA commissioner

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has appointed Aretas James Lyimo as the Commissioner of the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA).

Lyimo replaces Gerald Kusaya who has been appointed as Administrative Secretary in Rukwa Region.

Yesterday's State House statement said the Head of State has also appointed other Regional Administrative Secretaries while relocating three others.

She has appointed Ally Gugu as the Regional Administrative Secretary for Dodoma Region. Before the appointment, Gugu was Deputy Permanent Secretary, Investment, Industry and Trade.

Tixon Nzunda becomes the new Regional Administrative Secretary in Kilimanjaro Region replacing Willy Machumu who has retired.

Regional administrative secretaries who have been relocated include, Dr Fatuma Mganga who has been transferred to Singida from Dodoma Region. She replaces Dorothy Mwaluko who has retired.

Rashid Mchata, has been transferred from Rukwa to Coastal Region, taking over from Zuweni Jiri who has been transferred to Lindi Region.

It said that Zuweni Jiri has been transferred from the Coast Region to Lindi to replace Ngussa Samike who will be assigned other duties.



Minerals deputy minister Dr Stephen Kiruswa (3rd-R) has a word with Barrick employees at the company's pavilion at the ongoing second Mining Local Content Compliance Forum in Arusha city yesterday. The others include Barrick Country Manager, Dr Melkiory Ngido (R), and other Barrick and Minerals ministry officials. Barrick is the event's main sponsor. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Zitto decries 'political discrimination' in issuing TASAF funds

By Guardian Reporter

ZITTO Kabwe, ACT-Wazalendo leader, has called upon the Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Jenista Mhagama to explain the criteria used to make elders and people with disabilities work in order to qualify for Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) funds.

Zitto said in case the minister is unable to give the explanation,

his party will write a letter to the sponsors of the project to suspend sponsorship because those targeted do not benefit from the fund as intended.

He added that there has also emerged the practice that TASAF beneficiaries are largely CCM followers while those from other parties are sidelined.

Zitto made the remarks after his procession was stopped by elders of Lolanguru Ward, Uyui District, Tabora Region as he was proceeding to

Kigoma to address political rallies.

The elders, led by Rashid Iduki (83) and Dotto Sudi Kaduda (a woman with disabilities) told the party leaders that they have been undergoing bureaucracy to get TASAF funds, and even if they get it, they are given farm work to do including digging of trenches in various areas of their ward.

Speaking after listening to these complaints, Zitto said:

"We know that TASAF funds target various groups, there are those

who get the money after they are required to work and those qualified because of their age and physical disabilities, but my elders have told me that even themselves are required to do work, including digging trenches to get the money, this is not right at all," he said.

He said apart from those targeted not directly benefitting contrary to the requirements of the TASAF's conditions, but also there has emerged the practice that the beneficiaries are largely CCM followers

while those from other parties are sidelined.

He said the fund is paid to all Tanzanians irrespective of party affiliation as all Tanzanians are subjected to taxation used to repay TASAF loans.

He added: "Since the TASAF programme began in the country there has been open discrimination in issuing the money in particular party affiliation."

He added that CCM leaders have been going around various areas to

threaten people qualified to receive the funds that they will not get it unless they join the ruling party (CCM).

"All this is because our country does not have the pension system for elders, there is no system to help unemployed people.

"Our party will transform the lives of these elders by making sure that every person reaching retirement age gets a pension irrespective whether he was a farmer, small miner, small trader (machinga) or motorcycle driver," he said.

HE. DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

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On  
**COMPLETING TWO YEARS IN THE OFFICE**

Director of Dar es Salaam City Council, join hands with all Tanzanians to congratulate HE. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania on completing successful two years in the office.

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2	On ground Activation/BTL Support	2
3	Marketing Collateral and Merchandise	3
4	Branding and Signage – Agent branding, Branch signage etc	4
5	Media Sourcing & Buying	5
6	Market Research	6

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a) Submission must meet all Condition Specified below.

Please provide copy of:

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- Professional License/ Certificate, Registered with appropriate Authorities
- Company Registration Certificate of Incorporation, Business registration certificate
- Company Profile
- Vast experience in the relevant field
- Memorandum and Articles of Association/List of Directors

b) Contact Details

Organization Name:	
Contact Person:	
Phone Number:	
Email: Address:	

Interested Bidders shall submit their applications by clearly mentioning the Lot Number(s) they are applying for by sending an email to: [TanzaniaProcurementTeam@stanbic.co.tz](mailto:TanzaniaProcurementTeam@stanbic.co.tz)

Deadline for Submission of the application is **March 28, 2023, at 02:00 P.M.** Only qualified Applicants will be invited to participate in the Tender Process.



# JKCI's social welfare head appeals to NHIF to retain 'Toto Afya Card'

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

THE head of the Social Welfare Department at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) Asha Salum has suggested for the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to retain the 'Toto Afya Card' to enable all parents to afford the cost and allow children continue receiving treatment.

On March 9th, 2023, NHIF announced that it would dump the arrangement, an announcement that has received intense criticism from several actors including parents whose children were enrolled with 'Toto Afya Card'.

According to NHIF, from now on, parents/guardians should register their children as their dependents or through their schools.

On Thursday, the Asma Mwinyi Foundation in collaboration with Bigger Heart Zanzibar, visited children receiving cardiac treatment at JKCI and provided them with various items including toys.

Speaking after receiving the gifts, Asha noted that they receive patients from different parts of the country and that most of them cannot afford medical expenses.

"We suggest NHIF to retain the 'Toto Afya Card' because most of the parents could afford its costs (50,400/-). Scrapping the service will affect a good number of children from low income earning families," she said.

Salum commended the Asma Mwinyi Foundation and Bigger Heart Zanzibar for visiting and comforting the children.

A Paediatrician from JKCI, Dr Zawadi Edward said the biggest challenge they face is that some parents cannot afford to pay for their children's surgery.

"In such circumstances, we request stakeholders to assist pay for children in need of surgery. We receive a big number of children with cardiac complications," she added.

Director of the Asma Mwinyi Foundation, Asma Mwinyi said the foundation has been supporting children and women in collaboration with the Bigger Heart Zanzibar. She said they have been providing assistance in the areas of education and health.

"We have requested for the actual number of children here at JKCI, but our future plans are to also assist women with cardiac complications," she said, calling upon other stakeholders to come up and assist the children.

Chairman of the Bigger Heart Zanzibar, Layla Yahya commended the government for improving provision of cardiac treatment through construction of the institute. She said in 1980s it was difficult to get cardiac treatment locally, thus forcing patients to seek medication abroad.



Asma Mwinyi Foundation founder Asma Mwinyi (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday consoling and presenting various items to Anthony Mgema, a child admitted to the city's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute. With her are Bigger Heart Zanzibar chairperson Layla Yahya (2nd-L) and Mgema's mother, Rosemary Mahenge. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

## Govt lauds WB for supporting country's education sector through HEET project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has applauded the World Bank for supporting the education sector in the country through the Higher Education Economic Transformation (HEET) project, terming it a reliable source of financing higher education in the country.

HEET is a five-year \$425 million project through World Bank support, to promote higher educa-

tion as a catalytic force in the new Tanzanian economy.

Alarmed by the increasing and expanding inputs coming from the expanding basic education, the government is now looking for other sustainable higher education financing.

In a speech read on behalf of the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda yesterday by the deputy Permanent

Secretary in the ministry, Franklin Rwezimula, the government admitted that financing higher education is increasingly becoming a challenge.

"To us, this means a lot in our agenda to transform our higher education so that it plays its crucial part in the economic development of our great nation," he noted.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of the first-ever Higher Education Students' Financing

Conference (HESFCI), the minister noted that mobilization of additional finance to meet rising student numbers and rising cost is required.

According to the minister, the meeting that brought together vice chancellors, principals, directors, private sector and other stakeholders was to explore ideas on how to have alternative sources of funding for higher education.

He said that since

1994/1995 to date, the government has issued higher education loans totaling 5.37 trl/-, equivalent to \$2.3 bn/- to about 654,919 beneficiaries.

He added, "Now, this is a huge investment that any government can be proud of and, of course, we are very proud and committed to develop our own human capital".

However, the minister acknowledged that some stakeholders like financing institutions have come

in response to the call action.

He named NMB Plc as one of the institutions, having set aside over 200 bn/- in loan to both public and private workers to pursue higher education.

In his welcoming remarks, the Chairman of the board of directors of the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB), Prof Hamisi Dilenga noted that in the quest to make a comprehensive review of the HEET project, the government commissioned three experts in areas of economic and resource mobilization to make assessments

He named the areas as the impact of fee-free education policy on future higher education financing, high demand and national priority programs to inform higher education financing and higher education financing landscape including supplementary financing from Pension Funds/ loanable advisory services.

"Through this symposium, it is our belief that it will give us a clear roadmap on the future of higher education financing," said the chairman.

He said the symposium was the first to be organised by Higher Education Students' Loans Board and that it has attracted key players in the higher education financing ecosystem including vice chancellors, rectors, principals, employers, financial institutions and regulators.

HESLB Chief Executive Officer, Abdul-Razaq Badru while commenting on the repayment of loan from the beneficiaries noted that the board currently gets over 180 bn/- per year, up from 30 bn/-

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### VACANCY

**Program Officer, Market Dynamics - SOURCE Project (Tracking Code 12303)**

PATH is a global nonprofit dedicated to achieving health equity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multisector partnerships, and with expertise in science, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales up innovative solutions to the world's most pressing health challenges.

The Product and Market Advancement (PMA) team uses data to co-generate policies that increase the availability of health products and services. PATH is currently implementing a project in Tanzania that involves close collaboration with high level government stakeholders, donors, firms, and partners at the direction of the Tanzania project lead and the global team. The work is extremely fast paced and requires a dedicated self-starter who will hit the ground running. PATH seeks to identify and work with an experienced individual with a robust understanding of health systems (especially respiratory care and maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) medical devices), public policy, and economics, who will be able to engage stakeholders, facilitate collaborations and build networks with aligned actors in the health space.

PATH's PMA program is currently recruiting for a full time Program Officer that is keen to support PATH's efforts to increase access to medical devices. The Program Officer will support the Access to Medical Device Portfolio within the PMA Program in implementing the Strengthening Oxygen Utilization and Respiratory Care Ecosystems (SOURCE) project in Tanzania. The officer will work with PATH Tanzania and global teams to plan, implement interventions, advise on the best approaches, conduct analyses, and apply findings to address market failures that restrict access to life-saving products and interventions. They will lead collaborative efforts in health and respiratory care initiatives in the country and advise on effective decision making, under the direction of the Tanzania SOURCE country lead.

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### VACANCY

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FORM 58  
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PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO  
8 OF 2023  
In the Matter of the Estate of the Late  
ALEX HAMADA NDYAMUKAMA  
and  
In the Matter of Application for Letters of  
Administration by  
EVELYNE KOKU KAHATANO  
GENERAL CITATION  
(Rule 75)  
All persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of  
the above-named deceased are hereby cited to come and  
see the proceedings; if they think fit before the grant of  
probate (or letters of administration) is made to the  
above-named petitioner.  
Objections to the grant should be filed on or before the 13th  
day of April, 2023.  
Dated at DAR ES SALAAM this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.



# TCB Marks International Women's Day With Corporate Giving Activities

By A Special Correspondent

Like its corporate peers and the whole world, Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) also celebrated this year's International Women's Day (IWD 2023) last Friday.

The day whose commemoration has been taking place for over a century is marked globally on March 8 to celebrate women's achievement, raise awareness about discrimination and take action to drive gender parity.

TCB commemorated IWD 2023 by engaging in several corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives across the country the whole of last week.

The corporate giving activities the most experienced local lender undertook to mark the day included offering material support to the needy and sponsoring women lobby groups.

The beneficiaries of the



TCB's Marketing Officer Dorothy Lyimo (6th right) in a group photo with teachers and pupils of Bunju B Primary School in Dar es Salaam after handing over the bank's donation for pupils with special needs at the school.

TCB corporate philanthropy included Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) in Dar es Salaam, Likombe District Hospital in Mtwara and Mbeya's Meta Maternity Hospital.

The bank also donated foodstuffs to Hisani Orphanage Centre, which is in Dar es Salaam's Kigamboni District. Speaking at the event to hand over the grant, the Branch Manager of TCB Kigamboni, Mr

Lameck Buberwa, said similar donations were made to orphanages across the country. "In marking IWD 2023, we also sponsored the

general meetings of the Medical Women Association of Tanzania (MEWATA) and Tanzania Women Judges Association (TAWJA)," the bank's Chief Manager for Corporate Af-

airs, Ms Chichi Banda said.

According to her, the IWD 2023 theme of "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" augurs well with the bank's aspiration to capitalise on its creativity prowess and investment in new technologies to advance women banking and financial inclusion.

Ms Banda said in giving women special service attention, TCB has several products tailored specifically for them, such as the Tabasamu Account. She added that the bank also offers women preferential lending solutions.

ations all in the bid to empower them economically through financial emancipation.

**"TCB recognises the pivotal role of women in national building efforts and appreciates their contribution in the overall development of the country," she observed.**

On her part, TCB's Communications and Public Relations Manager, Ms Gloria Mutta, said the oldest bank

in the country pegs its success story on continuing working closely with the communities where it operates and the social investments it has been making over the years.

Ms Mutta made these remarks at Ocean Road Cancer Institute when she visited women patients at the Dar es Salaam hospital as part of marking IWD 2023. TCB also donated various items to ORCI to support treatment of the women.

"TCB recognises the pivotal role of women in national building efforts and appreciates their contribution in the overall development of the country," she observed.



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The District Commissioner of Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam, Ms Halima Bulembo (right), receives a bucket of cooking oil from TCB Kigamboni Branch Manager Lameck Buberwa as part of the foodstuffs the bank donated to Hisani Orphanage Centre in the district.



MEWATA members in a group photo with some of the women workers of TCB Mtwara Branch at Likombe District Hospital, which the bank supported with various supplies as part of commemorating IWD 2023.



Women workers at the TCB Mtwara Branch marked the International Women's Day (IWD) by donating various items to the Medical Women Association of Tanzania (MEWATA) to support medical services at Likombe District Hospital in Mtwara Region.



TCB's Communications and Public Relations Manager Gloria Mutta (3rd right) and officials of Ocean Road Cancer Institute display items donated by the bank to help treatment of women patients at the hospital, which is in Dar es Salaam.



The Branch Manager of TCB Kigamboni, Mr Lameck Buberwa, speaks at the event to hand over the foodstuffs Tanzania Commercial Bank donated to Hisani Orphanage Centre in Kigamboni District. The bank made similar grants to orphanages across the country to mark IWD 2023.



In Mbeya City, TCB celebrated the International Women's Day, which is marked annually on March 8, by supporting treatment of pre-mature babies at Meta Maternity Hospital.



The Communications and Public Relations Manager of Tanzania Commercial Bank, Ms Gloria Mutta (3rd right) shake hands with Ocean Road Cancer Institute's Community Welfare Officer Devotha Kibanga after handing over TCB's donation to the Dar es Salaam hospital last week.







## PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTOR (PSC) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**REF NO:** PC 23-04 Office Support Specialist; PC 23-05 Deputy Director Programming & Training; PC 23-06 Programming & Training Specialist/Agriculture.

**POSITIONS:** Office Support Specialist (OSS) / Deputy Director of Programming & Training (DDPT) / Programming & Training Specialist (PTS)/Agriculture

**SALARY:** Compensation is negotiable within a pre-determined range, based on salary history and experience. Non-cash benefits include medical, retirement and others where applicable.

**OPENING DATE:** March 17, 2023

**CLOSING DATE:** March 31, 2023 (17:00pm Tanzania Time)

**WORK HOURS:** Full-Time / 40 hours/week

These are Personal Service Contract (PSC) positions, to be based at Peace Corps office in Oyster Bay, Dar es Salaam. They are full-time, 40 hours per week positions. The schedule may vary, based on operational requirements and may include evening, holiday and weekend work. The anticipated contract will be for a base period, with up to four option periods, exercisable at the unilateral option of the Peace Corps based on satisfactory performance, continued need for the position, and availability of funds. Preference will be given to personal services candidates who are citizens of Tanzania at the time of application.

**Office Support Specialist:** The Office Support Specialist (OSS), under the supervision of the program's Country Director, must be adept in project management (including software), information management, and office management. The OSS must be extremely organized and able to create and manage Microsoft Project and Teams to empower collaboration and management of projects, including file sharing, meetings, and more. In addition, proven ability to handle information management, including codification, content management, information processes, and taxonomies. Overall, this position requires a strategic range of project management support, operational, administrative, and coordination functions to facilitate the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Country Director's office.

### Qualifications and Evaluations:

Applicants must address each qualification listed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not qualified.

#### 1. Education Requirements:

- Professional certification: Project Management (including software know-how), Information Management know-how (if no certification).
- BA, BS, in business management and/or relevant field and experience demonstrating the ability to perform the required duties.

#### 2. Language:

- English Level IV (fluent) and Swahili Level IV (fluent) in speaking/reading/writing is required. Excellent verbal and written communication skills in both languages required.

#### 3. Work Experience:

- Related work experience with demonstrated hands-on experience to perform the job duties.

#### 4. Skills and Abilities:

- Advanced know-how in Microsoft Office and project management software.
- Strong written and oral communication skills with the ability to plan, prioritize, and organize.
- Attention to detail with the ability to monitor and track program progress in coordination with key staff.
- Ability to work well in a team environment.
- Ability to work effectively under pressure.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent multitasking skills, being able to manage multiple projects at the same time.

**Note:** See **How to Apply** instructions below.

**Deputy Director of Programming & Training:** The Deputy Director of Programming and Training (DDPT), under the direct supervision of the Director of Programming and Training (DPT), is responsible for the management of strategic staff and several operational components of the Program, Training, and Evaluation (PTE) team at Peace Corps Tanzania, based in Dar es Salaam. S/he will cultivate a culture of evidence-based, high-quality programming and staff accountability to promote impactful programming and training at Peace Corps Tanzania. S/he will provide continuity and management support across program sectors (education, health, and agriculture); oversee the site management process; lead the team in coordinating and engaging cross-sectoral partners; and assume responsibilities of the DPT in his/her absence.

### Qualifications and Evaluations:

Applicants must address each qualification listed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not qualified.

#### 1. Education Requirements:

- University degree in Project Management, International Development, Social Sciences, International Relations, Public Health, Cultural Studies, Social Work, or a related field.

#### 2. Language:

- English Level IV (fluent) and Swahili Level IV (fluent) in speaking/reading/writing is required. Excellent verbal and written communication skills in both languages required.

#### 3. Work Experience:

- A minimum of ten years related work experience including technical areas of health, education, and/or agriculture and management, preferably with an international organization in Tanzania or the region.
- Minimum of five years demonstrated success in managing, coaching, and/or supervising staff, building and leading teams, facilitating collaborative work environments and group projects, or related skills.
- Supervisory and program management experience required.

#### 4. Skills and Abilities:

- Proven ability to plan, manage, and support a dynamic team in accordance with United States Government (USG) standards and regulations.
- Excellent team-building skills, strong organizational skills, and attention to detail.
- Demonstrated conflict mitigation and problem-solving skills and ability to manage multiple projects.
- Excellent facilitation and presentation skills.
- Experience in data collection, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation.
- Proficient in software programs including Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.
- Demonstrated savviness with IT skills needed to support regular use of digital communication tools such as Zoom, Teams, Padlet, Mentimeter, etc.

**Note:** See **How to Apply** instructions below.

**Programming and Training Specialist-Agriculture:** The Program and

Training Specialist (PTS)-Agriculture is responsible for supporting the planning, development, implementation, and administration of Peace Corps Tanzania's programming and training system for the Sustainable Agriculture Sector Program. The PTS is a member of the Programming, Training, and Evaluation (PTE) Team, working under the supervision of the Director of Programming and Training (DPT). In close collaboration with the Program Manager (PM), the PTS is the full time lead technical trainer for the Sustainable Agriculture Sector during Pre-Service Training (PST). The PTS is responsible for incorporating the latest evidence-based Sustainable Agriculture practices into training and programming to promote the most effective approaches for greater impact while working with the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (MRE) staff to consolidate qualitative and quantitative data. Additionally, the PTS identifies, prepares, and visits Volunteer sites to ensure quality placement and meaningful work. The PTS must be willing to travel extensively and spend long periods of time in the field, particularly during PST, in order to fulfill programmatic and training responsibilities.

### Qualifications and Evaluations:

Applicants must address each qualification listed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not qualified.

#### 1. Education Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in general agriculture, horticulture, agronomy, agribusiness, or related field, or in project management or community development with experience working in sustainable agriculture, including environmental science and/or climate change.

#### 2. Language:

- English Level IV (fluent) and Swahili Level IV (fluent) in speaking/reading/writing is required. Excellent verbal and written communication skills in both languages required.

#### 3. Work Experience:

- At least four years' experience designing and facilitating training for adults in sustainable agriculture, including environmental science and/or climate change, utilizing participatory and non-formal adult education techniques.
- At least three years of practical experience in the design, management, and evaluation of sustainable agriculture projects and/or related field.

#### 4. Skills and Abilities:

- Excellent facilitation and presentation skills.
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple projects, teams, deliverables, expectations, and deadlines.
- Related work experience with an international organization in Tanzania or the region preferred.
- Proficient in software programs including Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.
- Demonstrated savviness with IT skills needed to support regular use of digital communication tools such as Zoom, Teams, Padlet, Mentimeter, etc.

**Note:** See **How to Apply** instructions below.

### Applicability:

Contract offer is contingent on availability of funds, reference checks, background check, medical examination, submission of proof of required vaccinations or other medical information.

All applicants must identify in the application whether or not they have ever served Peace Corps as a Trainee or Volunteer (including Response), or as a staff member (USDH, PSC, or FSN), and if so, to identify the position location, position type, title, and starting and ending dates.

### Procedures for Employment Applicants:

Peace Corps Manual Section 611 is applicable to this position. This section prohibits the employment of certain persons previously engaged in intelligence activities or connected with intelligence agencies. If you have ever worked for an intelligence agency, you are NOT eligible for employment at the Peace Corps in any capacity, and you should not apply for employment.

**NOTE:** Peace Corps reserves the right to withhold an offer of a personal services contract to an individual that is a relative or household member of a current Peace Corps staff member.

Peace Corps reserves the right to not evaluate or to withhold an offer of a personal services contract to an individual that has a history of poor past performance or conduct as a Peace Corps Trainee, Volunteer, or staff member (USDH, PSC, or FSN).

The individual selected will be required to follow any workplace health and/or safety rules indicated for their position - including complying with any medical and/or training requirements specified for their position in accordance with public health and/or occupational health or safety policies.

Peace Corps will not discriminate against an applicant because of that person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older, except when the applicant is beyond the mandatory retirement age in the country of assignment), disability, or genetic information.

The individual selected may be asked to complete one or more temporary duty assignments at other Peace Corps posts, transfer to another Peace Corps post, or to complete a detail with another USG Agency, a Peace Corps Headquarters office, or with a post other than the post of assignment. As part of an approved detail, the individual may be requested to perform work that may be specifically in line with or may add to the duties stated in the contract.

### How to Apply:

Individuals meeting the minimum qualifications should submit a cover letter with one-inch margins in Times New Roman font size 12, justifying your qualifications and proven track-record for the position. Also submit a maximum two-page Resume (even if your experience exceeds two pages, summarizing your qualifications).

**Office Support Specialist (OSS) applicants** - send both items to the following email address:

[tz-applicants@peacecorps.gov](mailto:tz-applicants@peacecorps.gov) with the subject line: PC 23-04\_Office Support Specialist Last Name First Name.

**Deputy Director of Programming & Training and Programming and Training Specialist-Agriculture applicants**- send both items to the following email address:

[tz-applicants2@peacecorps.gov](mailto:tz-applicants2@peacecorps.gov) with the subject line: Reference No. (for example PC 23-05 or PC 23-06)\_Position Title\_Last Name\_First Name.

Shortlisted applicants will be convened to sit for a written test.

**NOTE:** Due to the high volume of applications received, we will only contact applicants who are being considered. Thank you for your understanding.

### For Further Information:

The complete position descriptions for all three (3) positions listing all of the duties, responsibilities, required qualifications, etc. may be obtained by sending an email to [TZ-DMO@peacecorps.gov](mailto:TZ-DMO@peacecorps.gov).

# Committee serves TRC management with six directives

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Parliamentary Committee on Infrastructure has issued six directives to the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) management including recruiting more human resources to run train operations when they start. Seleman Kakoso, committee chairman made the directives on Wednesday after inspecting the Morogoro-Dar es Salaam rail section.

He said operation of the electric train needs enough human resources who are the engine of day to day operations; therefore it was high time to consider working in the area.

He said without enough human resources, TRC cannot work profitably since the available workers will be overwhelmed by the day to day opera-

tions. Kakoso commended the government efforts to ensure the construction of the project by pumping more funds insisting that at this juncture the management should also focus more on recruiting more human resources.

"The committee is pleased with the progress of SGR for the Dar es salaam -Morogoro section which has so far reached over 97 percent. We now advise the management to work on our directives including human resources," he said.

Other directives were to work closely with the contractor to ensure the project is completed on time, procurement of wagons arrive on time and the two ministries- Works and Transport and Energy to collaborate together to ensure there is reliable electric energy when operation

kickstarts.

Others are installation of CCTV cameras to identify unfaithful workers sabotaging the day to day operation of the Morogoro Based Locomotive workshop and improve incentives to the young workers and other workers.

According to him, the government spends a lot to procure spare parts to refurbish locomotives which are sold as scrappers by unfaithful technicians.

Atupele Mwakibete, Deputy Minister for Works and Transport said the government will ensure TRC achieve its goals by allocating enough budgets to enable it to run its day to day operations such as procuring equipment, locomotives, wagons and general operations.

"The government is ready to work on the ad-

vice from the Parliamentary Committee to ensure the intended target is realised. It is our hope that the first locomotive will next month be ready for Dar es Salaam -Morogoro operation," he said.

TRC Board Chairman Prof John Kondoro assured the Parliamentary Committee to ensure the remaining sections are completed on time.

Amina Lomuli, TRC Acting Managing Director, promised to work out on the directives issued by the committee to achieve the intended goals.

"On behalf of the management, I would like to thank the committee for the tour to see the progress of the project. We are going to work on the directives," she stated.

She said already, last year the government permitted TRC to recruit 388 workers to improve its general operations.



Tanzania Teachers Union secretary general Japhet Maganga dances alongside members of the trade union in Tanga city yesterday on the sidelines of a special general meeting called to fill several positions in the union's ranks. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Dar gets new taxi operator to address transport woes

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendopole

AN online taxi service dubbed 'Suka' was yesterday launched in Dar es Salaam to respond to drivers' challenges and provide better service to passengers in the commercial city.

Speaking during the event, Director of the company, Godfrey Daniel said 'Suka' connects drivers and passengers through the internet and other modern technologies.

"In the Kiswahili language, the word 'Usukani' is a device for guiding a vehicle such as a car, motorcycle, ship, plane, etc. Now, from that word, another unofficial word 'Suka' was born with reference to the person who holds the steering wheel—the driver," he said.

Daniel noted that Suka has been launched with the main goal of

improving online taxi services and eliminating all the challenges that online taxi drivers face.

"We strongly believe that once the driver is happy and successful, it will be reflected in the quality of his or her services, thus bringing better experience of services to customers," he said.

He added: "We conducted a research and discovered various challenges that online drivers face, including high deductions, access to change, lack of respect at work, uncertainty of online employment due to system owners shutting down or blocking the driver and price changes among others."

Daniel said Suka is a system that works and can be used on Android and Apple smart phones.

"Drivers are ready and have been doing their activities through various existing systems. Suka

differentiates us from other systems because drivers are our first customer," he added.

He said to join the system; a driver must have a valid license, vehicle insurance, a valid LATRA certificate, a smart phone and a registered mobile phone number.

The director said for the passengers to enjoy the services he/she needs to have a smart phone with a registered number, cash or balance to pay for the ride.

"To join, the driver must send a photo that shows the face, a photo of the license that shows all the details, a photo of the vehicle that shows the plate number clearly, his email address and his smart phone number to our website [www.sukaride.com](http://www.sukaride.com)," he said, adding that verification and confirmation takes less than seven days and is sent through email and text messages.



# Airtel launches eSIM technology services in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania has taken the lead in the market by launching eSIM (embedded SIM), a digital SIM that enables customers to access the same functionality like physical SIM available in the market.

The company became the first telecommunications mobile services provider in the country to

launch eSIM.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the launch, Airtel Tanzania Director of Communications Beatrice Singano said that instead of a physical and removable SIM, an eSIM (embedded SIM) is a form of programmable SIM card that is embedded directly onto the Universal Integrated Circuit Card (eUICC) chip permanently attached to

a phone.

Singano said: "We have been investing in innovative products and services that fit the daily digital lives of our customers, the launch of the eSIM is a testimony of our commitment to Tanzania and how we implement the company's vision."

She added: "With the introduction of eSIM, we continue to give our customers convenience, af-

fordability and flexibility while championing technological advancement by creating innovative platforms and opportunities that make life simpler."

Singano said the eSIM service is now available on the Airtel network and that customers who wish to switch their current physical SIM cards to eSIM should visit any Airtel shop to be guided to

swap their SIM to an eSIM.

She said customers can also add a new number onto the eSIM, while continue using the existing physical SIM. She said with eSIM mobile phone users no longer need to have several phones to accommodate the SIM card and can use up to five numbers with a single phone.

Even customers of other operators can take Air-

tel number on their eSIM if they have an eSIM compatible phone, added Singano, saying eSIM reduces unnecessary burden of carrying more than one handset.

"We are confident that our customers will quickly move to our eSIM for what it delivers. Airtel Tanzania continues to en-

sure seamless and affordable services to all," she said.

Tanzanian renowned artist who is also Airtel Tanzania ambassador, Diamond Platinum applauded Airtel for always being ahead with technology and promised to continue championing the company's brand.

"I am proud to be part of the Airtel family, the eSIM launch connotes Airtel's focus to continue with the innovation of its products and service as it ensures customers' daily needs are met," said Diamond adding that eSIM offers several benefits over the traditional SIM cards.



Airtel Tanzania director of Communications Beatrice Singano (L) and Tanzanian Bongo Flava artiste Nassibu Abdul, popularly known by his stage name Diamond Platnumz (C), who is also the mobile phone service provider's 'ambassador', display a placard in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of eSIM (embedded SIM). The digital SIM enables users to access the same functionality as when using the physical SIM for years available in the market. Instead of a physical and removable SIM, an eSIM (embedded SIM) is a form of programmable SIM card embedded directly onto the Universal Integrated Circuit Card (eUICC) chip permanently attached to the handset. With them is Airtel device manager James Ngau. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

[Issued under Article 13 of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club Constitution, 2017]

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club will be held at the Roof Terrace of the Club on Thursday 30th March, 2023 commencing at 6:00PM.


### AGENDA:

1. To read the Notice convening the Meeting and confirmation of the agenda.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Half-Year General Meeting held on Thursday 20th October, 2022.
3. Matters arising from 2 above.
4. To receive the Report of the Management Committee and the audited accounts for the preceding year in accordance with Article 13(b)(i) and (ii).
5. To elect the Vice Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, the Bar Member, the House Member in accordance with Article 9 (e).
6. At the discretion of the Chairman, to consider any other business of which the Annual General Meeting is competent to discuss.

Issued in Dar es Salaam this 9th day of March 2023

By Order of the Management Committee.

Ronald Kato  
HONORARY SECRETARY



# BARRICK

NORTH MARA

## REQUEST FOR TENDER

### FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION ON CRITICAL PROCESS PLANT EQUIPMENT'S

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following services:

**Design, install and commission of Powerhouse Engines Fire suppression system to each Generators, Compressor room and Elution oil heaters.**

**Tender Ref: NM009/2023**

**Pre-qualification criteria**

- (1) Evidence of suitable HSE, OSHA compliance and site safety program
- (2) Copy of registration and incorporation certificate
- (3) Past experience on similar projects by having list of clients with LPO/signed contract and certificate of completion.
- (4) Experiences on fire suppression system and quality control methodology
- (5) Compliance with local content regulation by having local content plan approved by mining commission.
- (6) Evidence of suitable resources availability - equipment, systems, and qualified personnel (Applicators & Inspectors) on corrosion protection

**Expression of interest**


If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com).

Applicants must quote reference "NM Fire Protection System" in the subject line of your email.


**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit EOI **23 March 2023**

**North Mara Gold Mine Limited**



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FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2023

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

## We need to spare the world's forests the wanton pillage we are witnessing

SOME people and agencies are so prolific in advising, recommending, warning, etc., that some of the advice they give, the recommendations they make and the warnings they issue time and again have the 'misfortune' of being brazenly ignored or even outright derided merely because their voices come too often for some people's comfort. As they say, familiarity breeds contempt.

For what wrong would one have done by, say, marking a day the United Nations designated 11 years ago as International Day of Forests - that is, March 21?

For one thing, it has long been confirmed that ensuring that forests are healthy translates into people leading healthy lives.

This observation by the UN aptly illustrates what we are suggesting: "When we drink a glass of water, write in a notebook, take medicine for a fever or build a house, we do not always make the connection with forests. And yet, these and many other aspects of our lives are linked to forests in one way or another."

The world body notes further: "Forest sustainable management and their use of resources are key to combating climate change, and to contributing to the prosperity and well-being of current and future generations. Forests also play a crucial role in poverty alleviation and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

It's, however, in this remark that lies the gist of what we are out to say: "Yet, despite all these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, forests are endangered by fires, pests, droughts, and unprecedented deforestation."

There is no denying that forests give and mean so much to people's health by purifying water, cleaning air, capturing carbon to fight climate change, providing food and life-saving medicines, and improv-

ing people's well-being.

With this, it just cannot be demanding needlessly too much to expect people to do their utmost in safeguarding the precious natural resources known as forests.

It's not for nothing that International Day of Forests commemorations are officially in the joint hands of, among other players, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

This points to seriousness of purpose religiously reflecting the monumental importance of forests and, too bad, the sad plight of forests in many parts of the world.

There is ample graphic evidence of this, one example being an authoritative study from 43,000 households across 27 countries in Africa found that the dietary diversity of children exposed to forests was at least 25 per cent higher than that of children who were not.

Two: The total number of plant species used for medicinal purposes could be as high as 50,000.

Three: Several studies have proved that a visit to a forest environment lowers blood pressure and pulse rate, and reduces cortisol levels.

Four: The world has been losing 10 million hectares of forest cover each year through deforestation, with insects wreaking havoc on roundabout 35 million hectares of forest each year.

This could do as enough testimony to the effect that conserving and sustainably using forests is one of the best ways of protecting planet Earth and humankind.

Surely, they have put it excellently those arguing that healthy forests are pivotal for all aspects of a healthy planet, from livelihoods and nutrition to biodiversity and the environment but that - too bad - these natural resources are under serious threat with awfully little reforestation or afforestation done.

## Reports of food scarcity demand short-, mid- and long-term action

Going by reports from various parts of our country, there are already people who are critically short of food chiefly owing to prolonged drought and who are therefore in urgent need of food aid.

But while drought is generally cited as the most vicious villain in this particular case, there is also the fact that soil in some of the drought-ravaged and therefore food-short areas has long run out of the 'nutrients' it needs to ensure adequate farm productivity.

In the circumstances, it is of fundamental importance for the government and other relevant players - the farming communities included - to seriously consider taking long-term measures to address recurrences of food shortages before full-blown famine sets in.

We cannot say for sure how much food there is in what serves as the national strategic food reserve agency. However, we hope that the government will exercise enough vigilance to ensure that food scarcity will not assume catastrophic proportions - at least meaning that not a single person will starve to death just because he or she cannot access - or afford - food.

In some years gone by we saw famine intermittently stalking - even hitting - Tanzania with varying degrees of severity.

But recurrences of drought-induced famine are disgraceful and

demeaning in any country where agriculture officially stands as the backbone of the economy.

Relief food handouts may stream in, but we all know that these would help only in the immediate or short terms and we will still need interventions that would serve as solutions for much longer periods.

The story is told of how the Chinese who built the Tanzania-Zambia Railway were pleasantly surprised by the immense richness of Tanzania's land, saying that it was enough to enable the country to feed itself and the rest of East Africa if more innovative farming methods were available - and applied.

Our own experts have also repeatedly talked of the importance of investing meaningfully enough in potential agricultural 'goldmines' like the Rufiji River Basin. They say if the basin were put to optimal use, it could produce enough food for almost half the entire African continent's population.

And Rufiji is only one of countless such cases. Most people in the country keep thousands of fertile land which they do not even as much as scratch hard enough. It would be suicidal if we continue ignoring experts' advice and neglecting agriculture.

Meanwhile, we hope any food aid dispatch and distribution process we set in motion in moving to 'bail out' the truly needy will be fast, transparent and fair.

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## These 3 habits are sabotaging your life, destroying your self-discipline

By Darius Foroux

Starting off a new year with a good feeling is something so many of people want. This is why New Year's resolutions are so popular.

New year, new chances, right? But being motivated at the start only to quit midway is also quite common.

It happens to many of people: Trying to lose weight, but you end up eating more and exercising less; trying to write a book, but distractions keep on social media all day.

Wanting to earn more, but you're stuck at your current job; wanting to stop procrastination, but you can't take action. And so on and so forth.

To overcome that, we need self-discipline. With discipline, you can be more consistent, avoid distractions, and keep your emotions from interfering with your career and investment decisions.

But being more disciplined is easier said than done. There are two crucial things to discipline: First is doing less. When you do less, your efforts and energy are more concentrated and better spent. So you don't run out of motivation very quickly.

Second is reducing friction. I once became a member of a well-equipped gym, complete with a sauna and everything. It was a nice place. But it was a twenty-minute drive, and it wasn't even along my way to the office. The result? I probably only went there a dozen times in a year.

After that, I went to a gym that was on the way to my office. I had no excuse. Going to the gym was so easy that I just went almost every day.

Once you have both factors, becoming disciplined becomes much easier. You get the idea. We don't need to spend more time on that topic.

It's much more important to quit the bad habits you might have. These are habits that are destroying your self-discipline.

These are the three habits you can quit to achieve your 2023 goals. The first is being overly critical of yourself.

There's a difference between coddling or pampering yourself and being too critical. After all, many people are raised believing that they have to be tough on themselves to achieve things. Subscribing to "hustle culture" also doesn't help.

**I can't control how many people buy my book. But I can control the quality of the book I write. I also can control the time and effort I spend marketing it. And it's up to me to plan and execute a marketing strategy to maximise sales.**

As early 20th century Wall Street trader Jesse Livermore aptly puts it: "A man must believe in himself and his judgment if he expects to make a living at his game."

We all need a healthy amount of self-confidence if we want to succeed. Negative self-talk is counterproductive.

Often, unhealthy self-criticism comes from being too obsessed with one's results. The thing is that many of our results are out of our control. For example, I can write a book with the goal of topping the New York Times Best Sellers list. But book sales aren't within my direct control.

I can't control how many people buy my book. But I can control the quality of the book I write. I also can control the time and effort I spend marketing it. And it's up to me to plan and execute a marketing strategy to maximise sales.

So criticizing yourself for results you have no control over is a waste of energy. Instead, focus on doing your best in the process of achieving your goals.

For instance, do you want to lose weight? Start walking/running every day. Or find a suitable exercise routine and stick to it daily. Commit to not skipping. And even if you do skip because life gets in the way, continue it again the following day.

Want to write a book? Write one page today. Then another tomorrow. And so on and so forth.

Want to change careers? Research income-generating skills and find time each day to develop those skills. When you're ready, you can apply those skills to your new job and career.

It's all about being consistent with the process - and doing your best every day. The results will follow. And you won't need to criticize yourself for it because you know you did everything you could.

Two: Accepting distractions in your life. Many people who think they're not disciplined enough tend to focus on coping with distractions rather than eliminating them. They try to find ways to focus harder, get more willpower, and resist temptation.

But aside from extreme things, like natural disasters or major illnesses, distractions aren't an unstoppable force you have no control over.

Let's take working at your desk, for example. It's easier to get distracted when something unrelated to work - like your phone or a TV - is right in front of you. Instead of wasting mental energy preventing yourself from checking your social media or watching TV, wouldn't it be more effective when you don't see them at all in the first place?

If you're like me, you like to work in a quiet area with no people so you don't get tempted to lose your focus. You also keep your desk clean to avoid clutter, which helps you focus on your work the following day when you sit there again.

Clutter is always a potential source of distraction. This is a way of life that says no to any form of distraction. To me, it's unacceptable to allow distracting things in my workspace.

You should simply never try to cope with a distraction that you can remove. This principle can be applied to many areas of discipline.

If you want to be more disciplined with your diet, don't rely on willpower to avoid eating junk food every day. Just stop bringing home junk food in the first place!

Browsing your phone often makes you sleep later at night. So if you want to sleep early and get up early, put your phone away from you when you go to bed.

You can also hit two birds with one stone: Commit to only browse through your phone when you're on a treadmill - that is, exercising.

If you've been trying the coping-

with-distractions approach for a while without much success, then it's high time you tried a different approach. Instead of trying to change yourself, try changing your environment.

Three: Ignoring what truly matters to you. It's difficult to do something consistently when you feel like you're forcing yourself to do it. That's why some people can't maintain their diet, workout routine or career - because they don't enjoy it.

Peter Drucker puts it well in his book, *Managing Oneself*: "Success in the knowledge economy comes to those who know themselves - their strengths, their values, and how they best perform... It takes far more energy and work to improve from incompetence to mediocrity than it takes to improve from first-rate performance to excellence."

When I started going to the gym my only goal was to look good. I cared too much about other people's opinions that it became a major source of motivation to work out.

Of course, that motivation crumbled fast. To become consistent, we must be motivated by something deeper and more personal. Now, I train to prevent injuries and to feel better.

When you know and understand your real strengths and interests, you can focus on doing things you truly enjoy. It calls for action, action, action...

You can listen to podcasts and YouTube videos and read all the books about becoming a better swimmer. But your swimming skill won't get better until you get down to it and swim, swim, swim.

I'm a big proponent of learning and planning. But only action and execution will get you to your goals.

So, this year, try to commit a set amount of time to doing and executing an action that gets you closer to your goal. Even 15 minutes of walking every day will make a huge impact on your health goals in the long term. And everyone has 15 minutes.

Don't fall into the trap of "I'll do it when [insert perfect life conditions we mostly use as an excuse]."

Do it now. Do it today. And keep it consistent.

● **A medium.com dispatch.** Darius Foroux is an author and investor the thrust of whose works is on proven ideas to become smarter and wealthier.



# Stages of resolving labour disputes at the workplace

**G**RIEVANCES or disputes are often a symptom of underlying problems at workplace. Failure to handle disputes within parameter of the law may result in economic loss to the government, employee, employer and families of affected parties.

It is very important for both employer and employee to be conversant with labour laws and mechanism of resolving disputes. Legal system in Tanzania is set up to ensure that labour dispute is resolved amicably through consensus-based processes namely (i) disciplinary procedures and (ii) mediation but in case the above two prove unsuccessful, then the law allows parties to engage in (iii) arbitration process as the last resort.

In dealing with labour disputes, the principles of natural justice should be adhered to because ultimately, the whole process will be checked by the court whereby anything in violation of the principles will be set aside. The two principles state that no one should be made a judge in their own case and no one should be condemned unheard.

There are so many laws used to resolve labour disputes in Tanzania. However, main one is the Employment and Labour Relations Act (ELRA) No. 6 of 2004 and The Labour Institution Act (LIA) No. 7 of 2004. This article provides general understanding of labour dispute mechanism in Tanzania

by providing explanation on the above three stages in resolving disputes.

## Disciplinary procedure

It is mandatory for employer to establish disciplinary mechanism within the work premises in which any labour dispute can be dealt with before going to another stage. The relevance of establishment of disciplinary mechanism is to ensure various labour disputes are handled at workplace as quickly as possible so that production can continue for economic generation activities instead of wastage of time in court corridors.

There must be established disciplinary committee which constitutes three parties namely chairperson (and secretary if needed), prosecutor from management and the employee (and a representative if one wishes).

The issue of qualification of chairperson was debated in our jurisdiction whereby the court ruled that that this may be any person appointed from managerial position or any person hired outside the employer's company provided he or she has some good established qualification in such tasks and must be neutral as ruled in *Lucy Mandara vs Tanzania Cigarette Company Ltd*, Revision No. 185 of 2020.

Fair disciplinary hearing should entail the following stages: (1) conducting investigation on the dispute, (2) issuance of charge sheet to the employee, (3) supply of in-



vestigation report to the employee before commencement of hearing and (4) conducting a disciplinary hearing.

Other are (5) presentation of evidence and calling of witnesses, (6) decision of the disciplinary committees, (7) mitigation, (8) presentation of opinion to the management of the employer for action, (9) decision of the employer and (10) if the employee is aggrieved, channels claim to the Commission of Mediation and Arbitration.

## Mediation

Following the decision of the employer, if the claim is for unfair termination, then within 30 days from the date on which the employer made the decision, the dispute should be preferred to the commission but if the dispute is based on salary, then time given is 60 days from the date of employer's decision.

The manner of initiating dispute is by filling form number one which is available either at the commission or through commis-

sion website. This form contains various details which the employee is required to fill and present the same to the commission and serve the same to the employer.

The form is like a complaint (accusation or charge) in normal civil suit used to initiate dispute in a court of law. The relevance of serving the same to the employer is just to give them notice on the existence of the labour dispute.

After that, summons is issued to the parties by the commission whereby on first date of appearance, both parties shall enter appearance before a mediator appointed by the in-charge of the commission.

During the mediation process, parties are free to present their case without abiding by any strict procedures. The mediator is also free to advise the parties on the matter. Rules of mediation of win little and lose little are normally applied.

In case the mediation is successful, then settlement order is issued as an order of the commission

hence ought to be complied with as per the terms of settlement. In case of failure to reach amicable settlement on the matter, then a special form shall be filled by the mediator indicating that the parties have failed to reach settlement hence notification to the in-charge to appoint an arbitrator.

## Arbitration

This is the last stage in which a labour dispute must be resolved. Failure to resolve the matter within these two stages whose procedure is reconciliation based leads to litigation. At this stage, the decision is based on how the arbitrator analyses the facts presented and applicable laws to declare the winner. The rule here is winner takes all as there is no room for the parties to negotiate with the arbitrator.

Appearance by the parties can be either by parties, their representatives or advocates. On the first day of appearance before the arbitrator, usually the arbitrator deals with point of laws such as jurisdiction of the commission to deal with dispute or whether the dispute was presented out of time.

In case there is no point of law, the arbitrator requires both parties to file open statement within a certain period of time. The relevance of this open statement is where the parties state their case in details and documents they intend to rely on to prove their case.

The statement is also relevant documents as it is part of pleadings because failure to state your case herein or present defence means you cannot state new case or defence during the hearing of the matter. This is a rule of common law jurisdiction countries whereby a case should be presented in advance to your opponent by way of pleadings so that they can be prepared for same

instead of being surprised during the hearing.

So, the emphasis here is that relevant materials of the case should be properly presented at pleading stages. Additional list of documents intended to be relied on and notice to produce can also be filed before commencement of the hearing of the case.

Once both parties have presented their open statement and served to each party, the case goes to hearing stage in which each party presents their evidence through witnesses along with documents.

If the cause of action is unfair termination, then it is the employer who is required to prove the case that termination was fair and that all procedures were complied with, then follows the employee whose arguments seek to disprove the same.

After completion of stage of adding evidence or hearing, the arbitrator normally orders both parties to file closing statements and thereafter fixes date for delivery of award. The party aggrieved by the award may make application for revision to the High Court (Labour Division) and last is the apex which Court of Appeal and the appeal can only be entertained on the point of laws and not facts.

Note: The material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. You should not rely upon the same as the basis of making legal decision. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case.

**Send can send us questions by email to [info@legisattorneys.co.tz](mailto:info@legisattorneys.co.tz) or by postal address to Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750 DSM or visit our website [www.legisattorneys.co.tz](http://www.legisattorneys.co.tz)**

# Youth have a big role to play in climate change mitigation

By Sabina Ntobi

**YOUTH** are some of the most vulnerable to the lifelong environmental effects caused by climate change. Studies show that excessive carbon emissions - disproportionately from wealthier countries - threaten the future of all children. If global warming continues unabated, it would have devastating health consequences for children and youth, from sea level rise, heatwaves, diseases, malnutrition and many more.

Compared to their grandparents, it is projected that a child born in 2021 will live through seven times as many heatwaves, nearly three times as many droughts and twice as many wildfires, according to UNDP's *Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action* published last year.

Yet these impacts are not felt equally, with young people living in developing countries most impacted. As the grip of climate change tightens, young people are leading efforts to change the future by demanding climate action now from their governments.

However, there are some young people who have taken matters climate change mitigation into their own hands to complement what the government is doing, in their own small but impactful way.

Riya Lalji, founder of Project Uhuru, is one of the young people in Tanzania who have initiated and sustained a number of climate change mitigation activities in different parts of the country.

Speaking to this writer, Lalji said for the past four years she has been actively participating in such projects and that her passion for climate change started when she was still in school.

"In school we would on any of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative planted a passion in me on issues related to climate and since then, I started volunteering in climate change-related activities until 2021 when I decided to come up with something which would enable me increase my impact in this area," she said.

According to her, after brainstorming her project idea with



**We also do mountain clean-up activities and our plan going forward is to raise funds to create awareness to porters working on Mount Kilimanjaro.**

her team, she approached EduKwaza for support, which readily accepted and assisted her in the first project. She was later supported by Lions Club International.

Some of the projects she has executed include one focusing on promoting youth engagement in climate change activities implemented through face-to-face conversation with different youth groups. She is also involved in a hiking project whereby youth from various parts of the country come together and share messages on impact of climate change in their areas and possible mitigation measures

"We also do mountain clean-up activities and our plan going forward is to raise funds to create awareness to porters working on Mount Kilimanjaro," she said.

Sandra Ruhizi, founder of Kijana Factory, is engaged in different climate change project dubbed Smart Climate Agriculture - an agricultural platform focusing on empowering female farmers in commercial production of vegetables and herbs. The project is operational in Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo in the Coastal region.

Under her stewardship, Kijana Factory has employed several girls and women and plans to

continue providing employment opportunities to many others who are committed to the idea.

Besides Smart Climate Agriculture, Ruhizi also conducts seminars aimed at sharing advocacy messages on the impact climate change and possible mitigation and adaptation measures.

"Smart Climate project started by first understanding weaknesses of members' agricultural methods and improve the same because most of them inherited low-yield traditional ways of practicing agriculture," she said.

Ruhizi's initiative has not only empowered her fellow women but also gave them a chance to

learn skills that they can teach their children and members of their communities.

Asked about the impact of the project, she so far she has managed to reach out to 25 female farmers and helped them understand and practise smart climate agriculture which tremendously increased their yields and earnings.

"In order to add value to their vegetables and herbs, we teach them different ways they can use to practise sustainable agriculture and earn sustainable income," she said.

Rahma Kiriwe, winner of Environment and Climate Action Champion during Ladies Connect 2023 awarded by Dar es Salaam University Students Organization (DURASO), uses her education, platforms and media to raise her voice in advocating for climate change mitigation in different movements and for a.

Kiriwe who is also a youth activist at Trees for Birthdays has been actively involved in different climate change activities which have made a known climate change impact maker, winning local and international awards.

Some of the projects she has been involved in include Run4Water, Debt for climate movement and Trees for Birthdays where she is in the front line during execution of these projects.

She says that she has been working on these projects for more than three years and through such projects she has created a room for her fellow youth and children to learn more on climate change.

"I feel good to see that awareness sessions I have been doing together with the team have changed lives of a number of youth and children in one way or another. Children are the most active group in taking action on the environment around them such as planting trees and cleaning the environment," she said.

Other issues she focuses on include sensitizing communities on what climate change and its impacts means as well as possible ways of mitigating the same.

"Once they understand the concepts and importance of what we do, it becomes easy for them to get involved too," she said.

**The author is a journalist based in Dar es Salaam. She can be reached at [sabinantobi@gmail.com](mailto:sabinantobi@gmail.com).**



# It's high time women led the health sector

By Roopa Dhatt and Ebere Okereke

**W**OMEN health workers are more than two thirds of the health workforce and represent 90 per cent of the world's frontline health workers, yet hold less than a quarter of senior leadership roles - a situation which is unfair and a significant risk for global health security.

Despite five years of ad hoc commitments, our new report *The State of Women and Leadership in Global Health* shows few and isolated gains, while overall progress on women's representation in global health governance has remained largely unchanged.

The report, launched on March 16, assessed global data together with deep dives into country case studies from India, Nigeria and Kenya. It found that women lost significant ground in health leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Women in Global Health study calculated that 85% of 115 national COVID-19 task forces had majority male membership. At global level, during the World Health Organisation's Executive Board meeting in January 2022 just 6 per cent of government delegations were led by women (down from a high point of 32 per cent in 2020).

It appears that during emergencies like the pandemic, outdated gender stereotypes resurface with men seen as 'natural leaders'.

A key and disturbing finding in the report was that women belonging to a socially marginalized race, class, caste, age, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or with migrant status, face far greater barriers to accessing and retaining formal leadership positions in health.

Without women from diverse backgrounds in decision-making positions, health programs lack insight and professional experience from the women health workers who largely deliver the health systems in their countries.

Expanding the representation of diverse leaders in health is not just a matter of fairness, it also contributes to better decision-making by bringing in



**Women in the health and care sector face a larger gender pay gap than in other economic sectors, earning on average of 24 per cent less than peers who are men, according to a joint report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Credit: ILOGENEVA (ILO News)**

a wider range of knowledge, talent and perspectives.

Further, the report shows there is a 'broken pipeline' between women working in national health systems and those working in global health. As long as men are the majority of health leaders at national level and systemic bias against women continues, the global health leadership pipeline will continue to funnel more men into positions with global decision-making power.

The issues women face in national health systems are then reproduced at the global level where women are excluded from political

processes and marginalized from the most senior appointments.

A deep dive of case studies in India, Nigeria and Kenya confirms that women are held back from health leadership by cultural gender norms, discrimination and ineffectual policies which don't redress historic inequalities.

The similarities in the barriers faced by women health workers from very different socio-economic and cultural contexts are marked, indicating widespread systemic bias right across the global health workforce.

The consequences of locking

women out of leadership represents a moral and justice issue, and also a strategic loss to the health sector. Through the pandemic, we saw how safe maternity and sexual and reproductive health services were deprioritized and removed from essential services in some countries, with catastrophic consequences for women and girls.

We saw women health workers unpaid or underpaid, and we saw dangerous conditions escalate as community health workers were sent to enforce lockdown, do contact tracing or provide services in unsafe conditions with no fore-

thought given to providing security.

The findings of our report show that systemic change goes beyond numbers in gender parity leadership. What is needed is a transformative framework for action involving all genders from institutional, to national and global level.

Recommendations to drive transformative approaches include: men must 'lean out' and become visible role models in challenging stereotypes to make way for qualified women, normalization of paternity leave to shift gender norms and reduce the burden of care of women and overnights taking targeted actions to fast track the number of diverse women in health leadership roles through quotas and all-women shortlists, particularly for senior global health leadership roles that have never been held by a woman.

Others are that institutions must be intentional about creating and maintaining a pipeline for women to move into leadership, measurable actions such as mentorship, shadowing or pairing and deputizing opportunities should be created and monitored to ensure women are visible for promotion opportunities, a zero tolerance of discrimination towards pregnancy and supported flexible working options for all parents and carers.

Investing in women is not only the right thing to do, but it also makes good business sense. When we get it right, we can unlock a "triple gender dividend in health" that includes more resilient health systems, improved economic welfare for families and communities, and progress towards gender equality.

The lessons of the pandemic have taught us much about the value of the health workforce and even more about the value of health workers. They are mostly women. It's time for them to take their rightful roles in leadership.

Dr Roopa Dhatt is Executive Director and Co-Founder Women in Global Health, Washington, DC and Dr Ebere Okereke is Snr Health Adviser Tony Blair Institute London & incoming CEO Africa Public Health Foundation, Nairobi

IPS UN Bureau

## LETSHEGO PLANS TO MERGE ITS TANZANIAN ENTITIES TO UNLOCK CUSTOMER IMPACT, FUTURE GROWTH, OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES AND INVESTMENT



Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA - 16 March 2023

**Letshego Holdings Limited ("Letshego Group" or "Letshego Africa")**, established 25 years ago in Gaborone, Botswana, is an inclusive finance entity committed to achieving a marked social impact across its regional footprint. Letshego is a proudly African multinational operating in 11 markets, with two established subsidiaries incorporated in Tanzania: Letshego Bank Tanzania Limited ("Letshego Bank Tanzania") and Letshego Tanzania Limited T/A Faidika ("Letshego Faidika")

As a multinational Group, Letshego leverages its legacy, digital strategy and regional experience to deliver on its purpose to improve lives, supporting individual customers and small business owners to access productive capital to boost income and sustainable growth.

In order to unlock business potential, increase customer impact as well as investment in Tanzania, Letshego has taken the decision to streamline its two national Tanzanian subsidiaries into one focused business and brand.

Streamlining business operations brings numerous medium and long term benefits for any business, including operational efficiencies, effective cost allocation and very importantly, greater potential for employees in terms of development and career potential.



**Letshego's Group Chief Executive, Aupa Monyatsi, commented:**

"Tanzania remains an important part of our East African operations. The decision to bring our business and operations into one united team enables us to create greater operational and structural efficiencies, while delivering more value for our people, our customers and all our Tanzanian stakeholders. We believe in Tanzania's future. We wish to support that future, and bring wider and more sustainable benefits to more Tanzanians."

**Letshego Tanzania Ltd (FAIDIKA) Chairman, Adam Mayingu, states:**

"The resulting united entity will unlock our ability to deliver more products and services to our customers. This merger is a collaborative process, our collective ambition is united, and our vision is centred around providing a positive social impact for the Tanzanian economy and its people."



**Letshego Bank Tanzania Chairman, Simon Jengo, states:**

"Bringing our two entities together supports our ambition to increase shareholder returns, align with regulatory interests and build a future-fit business for the long term gain of our people, our customers, our stakeholders and our communities."

While Letshego progresses with meeting regulatory conditions, the two Tanzanian subsidiaries remain fully operational, maintaining the delivery of impactful and productive financial solutions.

## Gender empowerment falters at the highest echelons of the UN

By Thalif Deen

WHEN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addressed the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) last week, he said the annual meeting takes on even greater significance at a time when women's rights are being "abused, threatened, and violated around the world."

Progress won over decades is vanishing before our eyes, and gender equality is growing more distant, he told the CSW, the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (and which concludes its two-week session on March 17). And he quoted the dire prediction from UN Women that "gender equality is 300 years away".

Hopefully, that prediction does not apply to the United Nations which has failed to elect a woman Secretary-General during the last 77 years while asserting male dominance in one of the foremost international institutions—even as it ceaselessly continues to advocate gender empowerment worldwide.

Guterres said last December that overall, "we have come a long way", and achieved some notable firsts, such as reaching parity within the senior leadership group, for the first time in UN history, two years ago.

"That's also true now among heads and deputy heads of peace operations. Five years ago, the proportion of women in those roles was just 25 percent", he noted.

Parity was reached in 2018, among the 130 Resident Coordinators, and the representation of women at headquarters locations has now reached parity, while the number of UN entities with at least 50 percent women staff, has risen from five to 26.

Still, the male/female ratio for the Secretary-General stands at 9 vs zero. And the Presidency of the General Assembly (PGA), the highest policy-making body at the UN, is not far behind either: 73 men and four women.

The upcoming election for a new PGA - Dennis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago - will bring the total to 74 men and four women. Score another one for men.

PassBlue said last week that Some diplomats are rightly furious that this means that there will be a 74th man elected out of the 78 people to hold that role, but they have been unable to organise a rival to run against him.

"Pressure has at least caused Mr. Francis to publish a vision statement, although that is perhaps a generous term for a short document containing only four paragraphs on policy".

"We wish Mr. Francis the best of luck in this important role but regret that the process wasn't strengthened by meaningful competition and a thorough policy platform," said PassBlue, a widely-read independent, women-led nonprofit multimedia news company that closely covers the US-UN relationship, women's issues, human rights, peacekeeping and other urgent global matters playing out in the world body.

The nine Secretaries-Generals so far include Trygve Lie from Norway, 1946-1952; Dag Hammarskjöld from Sweden, 1953-1961; U Thant from Burma (now Myanmar), 1961-1971; Kurt Waldheim from Austria, 1972-1981; Javier Perez de Cuellar from Peru, 1982-1991; Boutros Boutros-Ghali, from Egypt, 1992-1996; Kofi A. Annan, from Ghana, 1997-2006; Ban Ki-moon, from the Republic of Korea, 2007-2016 and António Guterres, from Portugal, 2017-present.

The only four women elected as presidents were: Vijaya Lak-

shmi Pandit from India (1953), Angie Brooks from Liberia (1969), Sheikh Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa from Bahrain (2006) and Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces from Ecuador (2018).

But the blame for these anomalies has to be shouldered, not by successive secretaries-generals, but by the UN's 193 member states who are quick to adopt scores of resolutions on gender empowerment but fail to practice them in the highest echelons of the UN totem pole.

Ben Donaldson, speaking on behalf of Blue Smoke - described as "a new initiative shining a light on UN appointment processes" - told IPS progress on gender parity at the UN has been mixed.

"Gains have been made within the SG's senior management group but this is not the full story. There is no avoiding the fact that an unbroken chain of nine male SG's will have led the organization for 80 years by the time the next SG is due to be chosen and just two of the last 50 Presidents of the General Assembly have been female".

And like Guterres's reappointment, the male candidate for the next PGA has a blank slate before him - unchallenged by any candidate, female or otherwise, he pointed out.

In both cases, he argued, states have failed to nominate female candidates despite the plethora of highly qualified women out there.

"Sexism still pervades the international system, stacking the deck against women from early career onwards resulting in our current predicament: just 25% of UN ambassadors are female and parity remains well out of reach in field operations, peacekeeping and in global health leadership despite 70% of the health and social care workforce being women," said Donaldson.



# NIT trains over 5,300 drivers in two years of Samia's Presidency

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngara

AS the country joined the global world to commemorate the International Women's Day, a group of women in Ngara District, Kagera Region came together as friends with the aim of uplifting one another economically, have much to smile about.

These women injected between 50,000/- and 300,000/- as capital to enable them purchase fruits and other commodities so as to supply to Tembo Nickel after securing a tender to send the service every week.

Some in the group were previously engaging in selling second hand clothes, peddling trinkets and others had vegetable and fruit stalls at Rulenge market which is expanding day to day.

Benadetha Bishashara, one of the group members says one day, an officer Tembo Nickel, saw the banner which had the women with a heading 'Conventional Unisupply' and approached them.

"She was passing by and noticed our banner, we said we could distribute different products such as food, fruits and vegetables, even though truthfully we had never done this kind of business before," she says.

Benadetha added that despite having no experience in the business, Tembo Nickel had faith in them and provided them with a chance to supply fruits, vegetables and other food stuff.

"After securing the tender, our major challenge was capital, we found someone to provide collateral at the bank where we got a loan, and we started to supply the fruits to Tembo Nickel, from October 2021 to date. As the trust between Tembo Nickel and ourselves continues to grow, we now supply the company every Saturday and each of us has a specific task," she explains. Magdalena Rajabu, one of the group members says as soon as Tembo Nickel gave them the tender, it was easy for them to even get products on credit.

"Even the whole sale traders whom we take the products with have trust for us because they know you are supplying Tembo Nickel and that is a big help to us," she states.

Magdalena says the trust put in them by Tembo Nickel from their early

beginnings till now, has enabled them to grow their businesses, transform lives.

"We were simply advertising ourselves with a banner because we believed we could offer that service, even with very little credit at the time. Then Tembo Nickel officials passed by and saw us and today we are here," said Magdalena.

Magdalena explains that the outcome is impressive with a starting capital of between 50,000/- and 300,000/- from each member they now have a collective base of 15m/-.

"In the beginning I used to buy Kitege fabric, second hand clothes which would hang in my stand, even a whole month with no sales, now the group has formed a company and also our individual capital has expanded. I have a clothes shop and I no longer pedal second hand clothes," she said.

Aneth Justine says in 2016 she started to sell avocados and when her capital reached 50,000/- she added more varieties of fruits.

After securing the Tembo Nickel tender, and with bigger capital, the group had to look outside the district for other products to satisfy their customers.

"Our main customer is Tembo Nickel, for sure this company has changed our lives in a significant way, from having small capital and looking for products here and there, to now having bigger capital, we are now able to take bigger orders and get much more produce," she says.

"There are times when produce such as mangoes, oranges, Irish potatoes and cucumber have to be ordered, and we are comfortable with that because we have a reliable trusted customer" she added.

Ester Mihungu, a mango seller at Rulenge market, says that she still carries on with her personal business of selling different fruits, but on Saturdays, she has a solid customer which is Tembo Nickel which takes large orders.

"This has all come about because of trust between each other and between our clients. We are hoping that Tembo Nickel will continue to trust women in the surrounding area, we are an example for others," she stressed.

She says: "Perishable goods have a lot of challenges, including trans-

portation because some are sourced outside of the district and by the time they arrive some have started to rot."

"We wish we could one day have a cold-room,

so we can ensure the all the produce arrives at its optimum and this will ensure bigger profits for us," she said

These women bore witness on how Tembo Nickel has changed their lives and they are only a small segment of those who are

reached by the company. As they themselves have said, each week they buy produce from between 50 and 70 other women.

They buy eggs from a children's orphanage in Rulenge.

Tembo Nickel has not just touched lives of the

women and their families, but a chain of traders in the market whom the women buy the produce.



National Institute of Transport (NIT)'s Deputy leader for Regional Centre of Excellence in Road Safety Honesta Msaki (Right) briefing an exhibitor about NIT courses at the Road Safety Week held in Mwanza yesterday.



PRESS RELEASE, March 15, 2023

## KCB GROUP POSTS KSHS. 40.8 BILLION IN FY 2022 NET PROFIT, BALANCE SHEET CROSSES KSHS. 1.5 TRILLION MARK.

KCB Group PLC recorded KShs.40.8 billion in profit after tax for the full year ending December 2022 on higher funded and non-funded income streams.

This was a 19.5% rise in profitability from KShs.34.2 billion reported in 2021, KCB said on Wednesday during the release of the financials.

The profit before tax contribution of other subsidiaries excluding KCB Bank Kenya increased to 17.0% (up from 13.9% in 2021), riding on organic growth and increased scale in the businesses.

### Key Figures & Indicators

PARAMETER	2021FY	2022FY	CHANGE
PAT	KShs.34.2 billion	KShs.40.8 billion	19.5%
Revenues	KShs.108.6 billion	KShs.129.9 billion	19.6%
Costs	KShs.47.8 billion	KShs.59.4 billion	24.1%
Total Assets	KShs.1.14 trillion	KShs.1.55 trillion	36.4%
Customer Loans	KShs.675 billion	KShs.863 billion	27.8%
Customer Deposits	KShs.837 billion	KShs.1.135 trillion	35.6%

### Commentary—KCB Group CEO Paul Russo

"The strong performance for the year was as a result of our business strategy that is anchored on customer obsession, sharper execution, and a productive organisation culture. The business benefited from a vibrant core banking business, growth of new business lines and accelerated digital transformation to post this record performance", said Mr. Russo.

"Overall, we have positive momentum, and we shall build on this and ensure that we make significant step change in culture and performance, across all our business units. Despite a challenging operating environment, the belief in our people, enhanced digital capabilities, impetus in our regional businesses and successful integration of Trust Merchant Bank (TMB)—our latest subsidiary in the Democratic Republic of Congo— makes a good case for better performance" he added.

Revenues increased by 19.6% to KShs. 129.9 billion, driven by net interest income which grew by 11.5%, supported by earning assets and partially offset by increase in interest expenses from higher costs of borrowing and interbank market rates. Non-funded income grew 39.8% largely from trade finance income, lending fees and commissions.

Costs were up 24.1% compared to last year on account of increased business activities and impact of BPR and TMB acquisitions. Provisions increased marginally by 1.7% compared to the previous year; a reflection of appropriateness in IFRS9 staging done in prior years.

On asset quality, the ratio of non-performing loans (NPL) stood at 17.3%, largely driven by downgrades from the KCB Kenya business. Gross NPLs stood at KShs.161.2 billion. Whereas both the NPL ratio and stock show an increase compared to prior year, there is a remarkable reduction from the peak numbers in June 2022.

On the balance sheet side, total assets stood at KShs.1.55 trillion, growing 36.4% on higher loans and investment in government securities and funded by growth in customer deposits and additional borrowings. Customer loans increased by 27.8% to KShs.863 billion from additional lending in the Kenya business, increased lending in the international businesses and the acquisition of TMB.

Comparatively, customer deposits hit the trillion shillings mark, increasing by 35.6% to KShs.1.135 trillion, mainly from TMB and organic growth in the existing businesses.

Shareholders' funds grew by 18.9% from KShs.173.5 billion to KShs.206.3 billion on improved and accumulated profits for the year to date.

KCB Group capital base remained well within both internal and regulatory limits. Core capital as a proportion of total risk weighted assets standing at 13.9% against the statutory minimum of 10.5%. Total capital to riskweighted assets ratio was at 17.1% against a regulatory minimum of 14.5%.

The Board has proposed a final dividend payout of KShs. 1.00 per share, subject to shareholder approval. This is in addition to an interim payout of KShs. 1.00 per share which was paid out in January 2023. This brings the total dividend payout for the year to KShs. 6.4 billion.

"We have made significant investments in our regional expansion strategy among them, our latest entry into DRC through the acquisition of 85% of TMB. The investments made are key to accelerating our future growth and commitment to delivering sustainable shareholder value," said KCB Group Chairman Andrew Wambari Kairu.

### Key Corporate Developments

In December, KCB announced the completion of the acquisition of TMB after receiving all the regulatory approvals and subsequently kicked off integration of the business to the Group.

In deepening its citizenship and social impact agenda, the KCB Foundation gave scholarships to over 1,300 needy students who sat for the 2022 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examinations and joined various secondary schools countrywide last month. The Foundation has set aside KShs.700 million to support the 2023 scholarships cohort through secondary and tertiary education.

On the sustainability front, the KCB Bank screened loans worth over KShs. 336 billion for social and environmental risks while increasing its green portfolio in the past two years, bolstering its push for sustainable finance. The Bank has also significantly cut its carbon footprint by 11.25% in its premises across the seven countries it operates in, on a deliberate push to reduce carbon emissions from its operations. KCB resource consumption was down by 17%, on the back of a systematic and deliberate push to reduce the use of fuel, water, electricity, and paper.

Late last year, KCB unveiled a new brand purpose: For People. For Better. Through this purpose, KCB seeks to be the region's undisputed financial services leader which puts people and their diverse needs first, to make life better for millions of the customers we serve. To achieve this, KCB is now guided by the brand values of being closer, connected, and courageous.

### Outlook

"We are bullish about 2023 and are gearing up to maximize on all the investments made and opportunities available in our various markets. We have in place a robust strategy that enables us to prudently deploy our capital and resources across the region to ensure superior returns from our investments," said Mr. Kairu.



# Managing global water sustainably decisive in shaping future of food, agriculture worldwide



A staggering 40 percent of groundwater is used for global irrigation, this alone indicates the importance of this precious resource in navigating the population through impacts of climate change. Credit: SADC Groundwater Management Institute.

By Thokozani Dlamini

**I**N contrast to its strategic role as an essential resource to help achieve community development and poverty alleviation globally, groundwater has remained a poorly understood and managed resource.

This is according to a scoping study pertaining to the status of groundwater resources management in SADC. The study continues to say that over a staggering 40 per cent of groundwater is used for global irrigation, this alone indicates the importance of this precious resource in navigating the population through impacts of climate change.

Groundwater has become indispensable particularly for agriculture production in many countries, and it is said that it accounts for half of South Asia's irrigation and China where it supports two-thirds of grain crops produced.

Sustainable groundwater development for water and food security can never be over emphasized in mitigating against the worsening impacts of climate change. As surface water becomes more variable and uncertain, groundwater provides a crucial buffer for commercial and small holder farmers - who rely on groundwater to keep their crops green.

Therefore, it is imperative that sustainable and innovative strategies are developed to ensure sustainable supply of groundwater resource for improved livelihoods.

Groundwater responds to the water demands in a more flexible and reliable way, which allows farmers to increase their yields and mitigate effects of extreme water shortages. While water in general is a critical input for agricultural production and plays a significant role in

food security, science reveals that Sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to reach the sustainable

development goal on eradicating hunger.

The Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa 2022 says food and nutrition insecurity in the region continues to be unacceptably high and concerted efforts are required to build resilience to address the multiple and increasing shocks the region faces.

The report further asserts that the number of food insecure people is estimated to increase to 55.7million during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 in the 12 Member States that provided data for the 2022 Regional Synthesis Report on Food Security, Nutrition and Vulnerability. "More food needs to be produced to meet future demands due to population growth, lifestyle change and dietary changes and this calls for robust agricultural water solutions to sustainably manage water resources," says Dr Manuel Magombeyi Regional Researcher at the International Water Management Institute.

Dr. Magombeyi further asserts that it is critical that people in general understand that as the food demand increases, so the water usage, and all these increases happen amidst climate change, therefore, thorough reconsideration of how water is managed in the agricultural sector, and how it can be repositioned in the broader context of overall water resources management and water security is critical.

Unfortunately, according to the United Nations Development Programme, at least 821 million people were estimated to be chronically under-nourished as of 2017, often as a direct consequence of environmental degradation, drought, and biodiversity loss.

Under-nourishment and severe food insecurity appear to be increasing in almost all regions of Africa. Several stud-

ies indicate that innovative Agricultural Water Solutions are urgently needed if we want to meet Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger for everyone by 2030 as promulgated by the United Nations.

In the SADC region alone, at least 11 million people are facing critical food shortages due to drought caused by climate change. This situation calls for groundwater practitioners to think deeper and look for innovative solutions to support agricultural sector to improve food security.

According to Agricultural Water Management in Southern Africa Report, investments by both public and private sectors in Ag-water solutions represent an untapped opportunity. It is important that both sectors invest in Ag-water solutions to achieve the overall objective of poverty alleviation and broad-based agricultural growth. Most of these ag-water solutions have been implemented at a smaller scale. It is now important that they get upscaled for the benefits of larger communities, especially if the solution is working well.

The SADC Groundwater Management Institute has in the past years managed to help rural communities in some SADC Member States to ensure that they get access to water resources by tapping into groundwater resources available in respective countries.

Through the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States project supported by the World Bank Group between 2016 and 2021, SADC-GMI managed to reach communities in Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and assisted them to unlock groundwater resources for improved livelihoods.

**Thokozani Dlamini is Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist for SADC Groundwater Management Institute**



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Pact is an international nonprofit that works in nearly 40 countries building solutions for human development that are evidence-based, data-driven and owned by the communities we serve. Our vision is thriving, resilient and engaged communities leading their own development. Founded in 1971, Pact works with partners to build resilience, improve accountability, and strengthen knowledge and skills for sustainable social impact.

We are a recognized global leader in creating social impact. Our staff have a range of expertise in areas including capacity development, public health, governance and civil society, climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy, women's economic empowerment, fragile states, artisanal and small-scale mining communities, monitoring and evaluation, microfinance and more.

**Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant position for the ACHIEVE Tanzania Project with details below:**

<b>Position</b>	: Human Resources Director – Pact Tanzania – Head Office (Dar es Salaam) (1 position)
<b>Project</b>	: ACHIEVE Tanzania Project
<b>Reporting To</b>	: Country Director, Pact Tanzania / Project Director – ACHIEVE Tanzania project
<b>Direct Report</b>	: Human Resources Officer
<b>Contract Duration</b>	: 30th September 2023 (Renewable)

### Position Purpose:

Take full accountability for the professional management and maintenance of the Human Resource Department and to provide leadership and supervisory support to the department. This position will deliver both operational execution and strategic vision for the department in support of the Pact Tanzania Country Office and its existing project.

These functions include providing leadership for the review/redesign of systems, policies, and procedures and with special emphasis on nurturing and managing key relationships across the organization and ensuring that a fully operational team is in place.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

### 1. Strategic Leadership & Partnering

- Provide leadership and vision to the Pact Tanzania Human Resource team.
- Deliver operational execution and serve as a strategic business partner to the Country Director, the Chiefs of Party/Project Directors, other Pact Tanzania Senior staff, and line managers.
- Provide technical input in the Pact Tanzania Country Office strategy development process and ensure that the Human Resource (HR) department's annual performance goals are in alignment with the Pact Tanzania Country Office Strategy and Plan.
- Keep abreast with strategic Human Resource issues in the Pact Global office and provide strategic input into the development of any Global Human Resources Initiatives for the Country Offices.
- Keep abreast and updated with changes in the Tanzania labor laws and legislations and provide technical guidance to all stakeholders on issues and changes in statutory requirements for management decision-making in the Pact Tanzania Country Office.
- Ensure the coordination of an organizational-wide process of assessing and maintaining high levels of employee engagement including coordinating and monitoring the implementation of staff engagement action plans.
- Develop and update Human Resource policies and procedures that meet the needs of the Pact Tanzania Country Office: Policies are expected to comply with the appropriate Tanzania local labor environment, contextualized to local culture, and should also meet the employment standards and guidelines established by Pact.
- Facilitate staff grievance management initiatives through the creation of appropriate policies, procedures, structures, and staff awareness.

### 2. Talent Management & Retention

- Lead recruitment initiatives through developing workforce planning, appropriate recruitment tools, and facilitating interviews and staff orientation.
- Ensure that appropriate staffing levels for all Pact Tanzania projects prior to the commencement of the grant.
- Design staff development strategies and processes to ensure the support of line managers.
- Lead the development and implementation of Pact Tanzania staff succession planning and talent development initiatives.

### 3. Performance And Compensation Reward Management

- Lead and provide oversight for the implementation of performance management. Develop tools to help line managers understand and implement performance management.
- Facilitate training of staff on performance management (INSPIRE, other approaches as identified).
- Lead and provide technical oversight for the development /design of competitive compensation systems through job grading and salary surveys.
- Ensure that the Pact Tanzania Country Office compensation infrastructure is aligned with Pact's Rewards Philosophy.
- Develop a Pact Tanzania Country office compensation and benefits strategy (including health benefits) that attracts, motivates, drives performance, and recognizes top talent.
- Provide oversight for the establishment/periodic review of the local salary scale and the ranges for each grade.
- Provide strategic planning for the movement of staff to appropriate positioning of salary ranges.
- Review the preparation of the monthly payroll by the HR Officer before submission for approval to the Country Director.

### 4. Change Management

- Provide leadership on change management initiatives to ensure cohesiveness in the Country Office during change periods.
- Provide technical leadership in the embedding of the desired organizational cultures.
- Provide leadership on the development of internal communication systems to enhance staff communication. Create awareness, necessary forums, and tools to enhance communication initiatives.

### 5. Networking And Public Relations Building

- Establish strategic networks with key International NGOs in Tanzania and other supporting agencies at the national and international levels to keep updated with changes in the external environment of the labor market in Tanzania.
- Carry out benchmarks with other INGOs to identify best practices.
- Develop a strategic network with Pact Global Human Resource and other Pact Country Offices Human Resources personnel.

6. All other duties as assigned by the Pact Tanzania Country Director.

### Education and Experience:

- Master's degree in organizational development, Human Resource Management, or related field.
- Experience: At least 5-10 years of organizational development experience is required.
- A minimum of 5 years experience in development programs with a demonstrated understanding of the workings of the INGOs world.
- Proven experience in operational facilitation with broad-based experience in the human resource field is highly desirable.
- A proven record of successfully leading a team of professionals is required.
- High proficiency in English & Swahili, verbal and written.

### Preferred Qualifications:

- HR Certification from a recognized HR Certification Institute.

### Instructions on How to Apply:

If you believe you are the ideal person we are looking for, please submit your application letter and a Curriculum Vitae online via email describing why you are the right candidate for this position detailing your experience and three (3) professional referees from your previous and current place of employment. Please send the application online (through Email: [humanresourcestz@pactworld.org](mailto:humanresourcestz@pactworld.org) identifying the position you are applying for in the subject line). Only the applications sent online will be reviewed.

**The closing date for applications is on 31st March 2023.**

**Qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**

*Pact is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, citizenship status, genetic information, matriculation, family responsibilities, personal appearance, credit information, tobacco use (except in the workplace), membership in an employee organization, or other protected classifications or non-merit factors.*

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

**To learn more about Pact Tanzania visit: <http://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania>**



## Africa receives investment boost to develop water infrastructure

CAIRO

METITO Utilities Limited (MUL), a global investor and operator of water, wastewater, and alternative energy management solutions, and British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, announced the launch of their new company Africa Water Infrastructure Development "AWID", a first-of-its-kind platform to develop climate-smart water projects at scale and to increase water security across Africa.

The official launch of AWID took place at the British Embassy in Cairo recently, and was hosted by the British Ambassador, Gareth Bayley; MD and Head of Africa for BII, Chris Chijutomi and Metito MD, Rami Ghandour.

The launch was also attended by key business leaders in Egypt and from across Africa as well as leading government officials. Water insecurity is a critical development challenge in Africa.

Climate change is expected to reduce water availability and increase the extent of water scarcity, exacerbating existing water-related vulnerabilities caused by other socio-economic factors.

Water quality deterioration is also a major threat among communities throughout Africa as most wastewater generated remains untreated.

The significant gap in storage, supply, and access to clean water and sanitation services urgently calls for effective and efficient water management infrastructure.

Climate-induced changes in the water cycle is impacting the provision of water supply to health, economies and food, and increasing inequality of water access.

COP27 recognised the interdependencies of the water-food-energy nexus, and the implications of climate

change, calling for scaled-up investments in water solutions to mitigate, adapt, and increase resilience to the adverse effects of climate change in Africa.

The new platform, AWID, will finance water and wastewater management treatment plants as well as develop and construct world-class facilities that will help to increase access to sustainable, safe and reliable water with a clear focus on countries that are most vulnerable to the climate crisis.

AWID will demonstrate a viable commercial model for water infrastructure and provision in Africa, helping to mobilise long-term investment into the sector.

Its investments will integrate green technologies and alternative energy components, which will help to reduce the environmental footprint of water infrastructure projects.

An operational bulk surface water treatment plant in Kigali-Rwanda forms the first asset under the new platform.

The 40,000 cubic meters per day plant is currently providing over 25 per cent of the city's potable water supply, meeting the needs of 500,000 domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers.

The Kigali water treatment plant is a public-private partnership (PPP), which is the first of its type under this business model in sub-Saharan Africa (outside of South Africa).

Andrew Mitchell, UK Minister for Development and Africa said: "The climate emergency has made water insecurity a major development challenge in Africa. BII's partnership with Metito to launch the AWID platform, signals the UK's continuing commitment to increase development and climate partnerships and financing to help the most vulnerable people and countries impacted by climate change."

## INSURANCE TRUST ACCOUNT WILL ENHANCE THE SECTOR SUPERVISION, SAYS MAFURU



The Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Lawrence Mafuru (R), receives a souvenir from Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) commissioner general Dr Baghayo Saqware during capacity building training on managing the Insurance Trust Account organized by CRDB Bank Plc and TIRA. Left is CRDB Bank Plc group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

The establishment of the Insurance Trust Account is expected to enhance the sector's supervision in accordance with the governing laws and regulations, deputy permanent secretary, ministry of finance and planning Lawrence Mafuru has said.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the training on the account's management, Mafuru congratulated the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) and CRDB Bank Plc for implementing the processes of establishing the account.

The training was attended by insurance companies' managing directors/ CEOs and chief finance officers at CRDB Bank Plc headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

"The establishment of the Insurance Trust Account is an important

step which will help to strengthen the supervision of insurance sector, in accordance with the law and regulatory measures by TIRA," he said.

Mafuru said the procedure which was previously used to supervise insurance trust funds was not proper, which caused TIRA to fail to supervise the premiums which were returned to insurance companies by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) upon their maturities.

He said many insurance companies were using premiums from trust funds on other expenditures, without approval from TIRA, which caused liquidity problems, including some companies failing to pay insurance benefits to their clients, because funds were invested in other projects.

He said the decision to open the Insurance Trust Account is being the long lasting solution for such challenges, because TIRA can now

directly manage trust funds, which will not only enhance supervisions, but also promote the development of financial sector.

"I would like to congratulate CRDB Bank Plc for being the first bank to join hands with TIRA in establishing Insurance Trust Account. But, I was impressed the way you saw the importance of this training to build capacity for insurance companies on how to manage the account," he said.

The DPS has called the TIRA commissioner general to ensure that all companies are complying with the law governing insurance trust account, because it will help to stimulate the development of insurance sub-sector as stipulated in the ten years Financial Sector Development Master Plan.

On his part, commissioner for insurance Dr Baghayo Saqware said the source of insurance trust account is the insurance regulations

of 2009, which require all insurers to allocate at least 50 percent of their minimum capital level into a trust fund.

Saqware said last year TIRA in collaboration with Association of Tanzania Insurers (ATI) agreed to prepare guidelines on the liquidity investments and supervisions, which also directed the establishment of the Trust Account in commercial banks, in order to avoid the problem of liquidity when it comes into paying insurance benefits to clients.

"The system which is going to be used in this trust account, apart from enhancing supervision, will also increase transparency to insurance stakeholders, specifically insurance companies. Companies can now get the trust fund information on time and invest in accordance with agreement with the regulator," he said.

Presenting the performance of insurance sector, Dr Saqware informed the deputy permanent secretary that total income increased by 25 percent to 1.146trn/- last year, compared with 2021.

He said the target for this year is to record 1.5trn/- total income.

Speaking during the event, CRDB Bank Plc managing director and Group Chief Executive Officer Abdulmajid Nsekela thanked TIRA for giving the bank an opportunity to process the establishment of the trust account.

Nsekela said the establishment of the trust account is taking the major role of improving transparency and accountability to insurance sector as well as building confidence to the sector's stakeholders.

Nsekela said the development takes an account 100 percent of all recommendations by stakeholders in insurance sector and is connected to digital system which will help in its management and provision of information to TIRA and insurance companies.

"Our bank is ready to provide investment advisory and help through our treasury and capital markets," he added.

He said CRDB Bank Plc is also championing insurance service provision (Bancassurance) through its branches, agencies networks across the country.

## Tanga Port to receive third largest cargo ship in a month

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA Port is expected to receive another largest ship of 189.9 meters length by the end of this week; carrying bulk Petroleum Coke chemicals cargoes weighted 50,000 tons from Saudi Arabia, properties of Sayona and Neelkanth.

This will be the third largest ship to dock during the period of one month, in a time when the port's expansion projects is ongoing.

The expansion and improvement of Tanga port is ongoing at berths 1 and 2 as well as increasing its water deep from 3 to 13 meters.

Tanga port manager Masoud Mrisha said this before the Tanga Regional Commissioner Waziri Kindamba who paid a visit at the Tanga port on Wednesday.

He said the expansion and improvements project implementation has reached 95.5 percent of its completion.

For period of the past six months, statistics show that the performance of the port has in-



Tanga Port manager Masoud Mrisha (L) briefs to Tanga regional commissioner Waziri Kindamba (R) on how the port's expansion and improvement has enabled large ships to start anchoring at berths number 1 and 2. Photo by Cheji Bakari

creased upward, the port manager said.

He further asked the Regional Commissioner to become the goodwill ambassador in promoting the port to increase activities to stimulate the regional economy.

In February 26 this year, the port received 150-meter length ship

Baltic Pearl, which anchored and offloaded 6909.292 tons of ammonium nitrate chemical products from Russia, belong to Simba Supply Solutions Limited and was cleared for four days only.

Another incident occurred on March 15, this year when the port received the second largest ship

with length of 179 with IMO number 9573828 from China anchored with spare parts and eight vehicles property of Maweni Limestone producer of Huaxin cement weighted 972 tons.

He said when the improvement and expansion works will be completed, port capacity is expected

to increase to 50,000 Twenty Equivalent Unit (TEU's) annually from currently 12,000 TEU's and will serve 3,000,000 metric harbour tons (HBT) cargoes annual from current 750,000 HBT.

Earlier, speaking at port premises Tanga Regional Commissioner Kindamba assured and called

on business people and investors to use the port due to its reliability, security, efficiency in handling and clearing cargoes.

"Tanga port is the first East Africa main gateway seaport services and will to excel better for the side of port services due to its improved maritime quality services," he said.

The Port of Tanga was built in 1914 initially to serve the commercial and agricultural needs of northern Tanzania; it is the longest-serving port in East Africa.

A 354-km highway links it to its sister port Dar es Salaam in the South. Tanga port is situated on the northern coast of Tanzania.

Tanga Port is equipped with Harbours Mobile cranes with lifting capacity of 63 tons each, Tugboats, Cargo barges - each with capacity of 3,500 tons, Cargo Lighter with capacity of 600 tons and Pantoons for cargo transfer.

It is strategically located to serve the northern Regions of Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, the Lake Zone, and neighboring countries of Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Southern part of Uganda.





College of Business Education rector Prof. Edda Luwoga speaks at a breakfast meeting with CEOs from various companies and financial institutions yesterday in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo by Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## CBE: JUST ABOUT 80% OF OUR GRADUATES EXCEL IN THEIR JOBS

A tracer study conducted by the College of Business Education (CBE) in 2022 concerning employment opportunities of graduates has shown that 79.5 percent of them can use the skills acquired in their jobs efficiently.

This was revealed yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Acting Rector of the college, Prof. Edda Luwoga, while talking to heads of various organizations and institutions during breakfast meeting organized by CBE to get their opinions on how to improve the college's courses.

She said the research showed that 59.5 percent of graduates were employed in public and private organizations, while 20 percent were self-employed but only 20.5 percent were still looking for employment.

"This situation shows that CBE is on the right track and will not stop to do improvements, that's why a meeting like this is important for stakeholders to give their opinion and we appreciate your opinion. We ask your employees to come to our College because there are ten Master's degree programs that are now doing well in the job market," she said.

She said for many years, CBE

has focused on research and professional consultancy including the provision of business education and that is why in 2017 the college hosted the "Applied Research Conference on Africa (ARCA)" six years ago successfully.

She said ARCA is a big conference in Africa that brings together top experts in development issues that affect the lives of Africans and for three consecutive years the college has been successfully holding the "Business and Economic Development Conference (BEDC) in Dodoma".

"This brings together various stakeholders and experts to discuss several issues related to economic growth and development. In this way, CBE has brought about reforms in the communities of Tanzania and Africa in general, it is enough to say that the College is more than teaching business subjects, it will continue to do many more things for the benefit of society," she said.

She said for 58 years of CBE's

existence, the college is now close to having an area of good business education and skills for anyone who wants to succeed in small, medium and large businesses in Tanzania.

She said CBE was the first College of Business Education in Tanzania which was officially launched by the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in 1965 and since then the College has continued to focus on providing business education in the country.

"I would like to inform you that CBE has produced many skilled professionals so far and during this period the college has increased admissions and started new courses, including Tourism to support the efforts of the government," she said adding that

"CBE has continued to offer business education courses for many years due to the increase in demand and the College sees more importance due to the response of the people from various students to fill our colleges in Dar es Salaam since 1965," she

said.

She said that they continue to admit more students in Master's programs in their campuses in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

"Your presence here today is a good sign that we will get more Master's degree graduates who will later build highly skilled teams in your institutions, for them individually and for the country as a whole," she said.

She said apart from being the first college that provide business education in the country, the College for many years has continued to offer a rare course which is Metrology and Standardization, a course that has become a pillar as it provides quality and standards control officers and those measurements and scales in the country.

Retired CBE Rector, Prof Emmanuel Mjema, said for the past two years the college has been conducting breakfast meeting with CEOs to get feedback from stakeholders as a move to improve their teaching.

## 'China's property sector will likely exit from slump'

BEIJING

China's embattled property sector made new progress in its climb out of a months-long slump as official data for January-February on Wednesday showed much narrower declines in home sales, developer investment and construction starts.

Home sales by floor area in the first two months of 2023 fell 3.6 percent from a year earlier, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), compared with a 24 percent decline for the whole of 2022.

The narrower sales decline followed a rise in new home prices in January, the first uptick in a year, as buyers, while still cautious, found solace in a slew of supportive policies, expectations of more stimulus steps and China's exit from its crushing zero-COVID regime.

Property investment by developers in January-February was down 5.7 percent on the same period of 2022, improving on December's 12 percent annual slump and a 10 percent decline for the entire 2022.

Analysts expect property sales to be the first indicator to turn positive soon. They see property investment rebounding in the second half of 2023.

"The figures are a good start to the recovery of the property market for 2023, and will further boost confidence," said Yan Yuejin, analyst at the E-house China Research and Development Institution in Shanghai.

"Property sales figures are expected to turn from negative to positive in the first quarter of the year, the biggest sign that the property market is recovering."

An index tracking China's real estate shares rose 1.4 percent on Wednesday, while Hong Kong-listed mainland property developers climbed more than 2.5 percent.

Sentiment for China's property sector, for years a pillar of growth in the world's second-biggest

economy, has been crushed by multiple crises since mid-2021, including developers' debt defaults and stalled construction of pre-sold housing projects.

The lifting of COVID-19 restrictions late in 2022 and release of funds to developers for ensuring delivery of pre-sold projects would boost demand, said analyst Ma Hong at Zhixin Investment Research Institute.

"Investment by developers, a key indicator of market performance, will likely rise in the second half of the year, meaning not only an overall rebound, but also a substantial improvement in the operating conditions of real estate companies," Ma said.

New construction starts measured by floor area in January-February fell 9.4 percent from a year earlier versus a 44 percent plunge seen in December and a 39 percent tumble for the whole of 2022.

Developers' access to funds has also improved. Developers raised 15% less funds in the first two months of 2023 than a year earlier. In all of 2022, their fund raising was down 26% on 2021.

"Real estate companies face a peak period of debt repayment in the first half of the year, and will only have the will and ability to expand their investments once sales and financing have grown," said Zhixin's Ma.

The NBS did not release land sales data. In 2022, developers bought 53% less land than in 2021. The bureau did not respond to a Reuters request seeking comment on why the data was not released.

Developers were still under great pressure to reduce their stock of unsold homes, since the quantity had risen, said Liu Lijie, analyst at Beike research institute. But the companies' confidence in getting financing and in buying land had improved marginally, Liu said.

Around half of the 30-odd Chinese developers listed in Hong Kong have defaulted on or delayed bond payments.

## Saudi giga projects impress at global conference

CANNES

SAUDI giga projects steal the show at ongoing global real estate conference in Cannes.

Some of the Saudi giga projects hogged limelight at this year's 'Le Marché International des Professionnels de l'Immobilier' conference, key global event to source capital for real estate's core and emerging asset classes, being

held in Cannes, France.

The conference also saw the CEO of Saudi Arabia's leading real estate company ROSHN Group, David Grover driving the topic of the importance of micro-communities within giga developments.

Micro mobility and local community infrastructure headlined the debate on the second day of the conference.

"We have a big role to play,

not just as ROSHN, but as an enabler of jobs, GDP, value and growth," said Grover as he spoke at the 'Revolutionary infrastructure to help realise tomorrow's cities' headline event.

"The use of micro-mobility is important for us, we want to create a wider environment where people can live, work and play in the same zone to give them an option to avoid

getting into the traffic of the city every day," Grover said.

ROSHN drives some of the Public Investment Fund's giga projects in Saudi Arabia.

The ROSHN chief executive also discussed strategies to attract infrastructure investment, explored citizens' expectations regarding infrastructure development, and discussed the role of infrastructure development in urban regeneration.



## Infrastructure, energy to drive UK construction boom



LONDON

THE UK is set to be the fastest growing country for construction in Western Europe over the next 15 years, according to a new study by economists at Oxford Economics.

Called Global Construction Futures, today's report says global construction work is forecast to grow by US\$4.2 trillion (£3.5tn) over the next 15 years - from US\$9.7 trillion (£8tn) in 2022 to US\$13.9 trillion (£11.5tn) by 2037.

"Growth in global construction will be underpinned by the superpowers of China, the US, and India which combined will add almost US\$2.4 trillion (£2tn) to global construction work done over the next 15 years," said Graham Robinson, global infrastructure and construction lead at Oxford Economics.

The US, along with China

and India, will account for over half of all construction work by 2037, the report predicted.

"India will be the world's fastest growing global construction superpower, becoming a US\$1 trillion (£830bn) market by 2037."

China, the US, and India will account for 51 percent of all construction work done globally by 2037, the report said.

It warned the US will see \$150bn (£124bn) less residential work carried out this year because of rising interest rates and a global correction in house prices - but said work in the key manufacturing and industrial sectors will stay "robust".

China will see construction work rise after 2025, the report added, after the easing of its zero-covid strategy while India will overtake Germany to become the third largest global construction market before

the end of the decade with civil engineering driving the growth as the country's government invests in infrastructure in the wake of covid-19 lockdowns.

The UK is expected to be the fastest growing larger construction market of the major Western European economies over the next 15 years, driven by large mega infrastructure projects.

The report, put together by Oxford Economics and financial services firm Aon, said "the transition of Britain's power networks to renewables by 2035 and greater energy security are key drivers".

James MacNeal, global head of construction and infrastructure at Aon, said: "The adaptation of existing infrastructure to become more resilient to a warming climate will also be a massive opportunity for the global construction and engi-

neering industry."

Elsewhere, the report said there is expected to be heightened growth in Eastern Europe over the next 15 years, as an estimated US\$1 trillion (£830bn) reconstruction effort will need to start when the Russia-Ukraine conflict ends, and with rebuilding after the recent earthquakes in Turkey.

The report added construction materials costs could be at least 15 percent higher than pre-pandemic levels by 2037.

The UK construction market size was valued at \$448.7 billion in 2021. The construction industry is expected to record an annual average growth rate (AAGR) of more than 1% between 2023 and 2026. This will be supported by investments in transport, energy, housing, health, education, and telecommunication infrastructure projects.



## CONSTRUCTION

## Mortgage rates post big decline amid Silicon Valley Bank meltdown

NEW YORK

MORTGAGE rates fell sharply this week as the stunning collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) triggered fears of a broader banking meltdown.

The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage dropped to 6.57 percent, according to Mortgage News Daily, down from 6.76 percent on Monday and a high of 7.05 percent last Wednesday.

Mortgage rates track the yield on 10-year Treasury bonds, which fell on Monday to the lowest level since early February. Treasury yields are heavily influenced by actions either taken or telegraphed by the Federal Reserve. When Treasury yields fall, so do mortgage rates.

Following the bank failure on Friday, Wall Street is now betting that the Fed will pause its aggressive interest-rate hike campaign when it meets next week.

The probability that the Fed pauses its rate-hike campaign next week rose to 28 percent on Monday, according to data from the CME Group's FedWatch tool, up from 0 percent just one day ago. About 71 percent of traders, meanwhile, are anticipating a typical quarter-point hike.

"This has to do with the market shifting its expectations for Fed rate hikes in the rest of 2023," said Matthew Graham, chief operating officer at Mortgage News Daily. "Specifically, the market now sees the Fed hitting a ceiling rate that's more than 1.5 percent lower than it was at the beginning of last week. If that continues to be the case in the coming days, mortgage rates could move down even more."

Lower mortgage rates could provide some relief for potential homebuyers, with affordability at the lowest point in decades.

The Atlanta Fed's Housing Affordability Monitor, which compares median home prices and other housing costs with median household income, shows that housing affordability is worse today than during the peak of the 2008 housing bubble. As of December, the median American household would have to spend about 42.9 percent of their income to afford the median-priced house, according to the index.

The rapid decline in affordability stems from the highest mortgage rates in years and steep home prices.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, home prices soared at a pace not seen since the 1970s with mortgage rates near a record low. Homebuyers - flush with stimulus cash and eager for more space during the pandemic - flocked to the suburbs.

Demand was so strong, and inventory so low, that at the height of the market some buyers waived home inspections and appraisals or paid hundreds of thousands over asking price.

The frenzy came to a halt when the Federal Reserve embarked on the most aggressive interest rate hike campaign since the 1980s as it tried to slow the economy and crush runaway inflation.

Homebuyer demand dried up as consumers confronted the steepest mortgage rates in years, further weighing on home prices. The median price of a home sold in January was \$383,249, down 11.5 percent from a peak of \$433,133 in May, according to Redfin.

Still, even with higher mortgage rates putting homeownership out of reach for millions of Americans, many home prices are still more expensive than they were one year ago. In December, the total value of US houses was still up 6.5 percent from the same time one year ago.



## CASH CRUNCH SLOWING NIGERIA'S CONSTRUCTION SECTOR ACTIVITIES



Ongoing cash crunch in the economy has impacted the construction sector negatively

LAGOS

THE on-going cash crunch inflicted on Nigerians by the Naira redesign policy of the Federal Government is gradually slowing down activities in the nation's construction sector. DAYO AYEYEMI reports.

This is not the best time for practitioners in the construction industry as the on-going cash crunch inflicted on the majority of Nigerians by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s Naira redesign policy has slowed down activities in the sector.

Apart from this, possible outcomes of the general elections, volatile foreign exchange market, scarcity and queue for petrol, absence of credits, high inflation and interest rates are also hurting the sector.

Due to result of these, many people, especially investors, have either suspended their projects or slowed down construction activities.

As the cash crunch bites harder, many artisans are presently finding it difficult to have access to cash to transport themselves to construc-

tion sites.

Speaking with the Nigerian Tribune, Managing Director, Reo-Habilis Construction Limited, Mr Kunle Awobodu, said the ongoing cash crunch in the economy has impacted the construction sector negatively.

Related News Housing corporations should be supported by state govts -Eniola Firm targets 1,800 dealers for N5bn Port Harcourt Electrical Materials complex Makinde, Oyo voters and the 'Ides of March'

According to him, mobilising workers to sites and back home has become difficult due to the scarcity of Naira and rejection of money transfer by commercial bus drivers, food vendors and hawkers of sachet water.

"Most of our workers need physical cash to transport themselves to sites and back home. They need cash to pay food sellers and other hawkers in the construction sites. That has become a big problem. Even when you transferred money to them, they would have to spend N3,000 to collect N10,000 sent to them.

"Scarcity of Naira has

slowed down activities in the construction sector. If you have an account in the bank that is not connected with an app that means you will have to go to the bank, which is already congested, with your cheque to queue. So there is cash crunch everywhere.

"The fact that you have to go to the bank physically in most cases slowed down construction activities," he said.

Beside this, Awobodu, a former President of the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB), said the current cash crunch also affected the supply of building materials to the construction sites, pointing out that no traders would want to supply materials to sites without payment.

Talking about the effect on the market, he said "If you have supplies, except you have suppliers that can supply goods/building materials without payment, you may not get buildings materials for construction workers on sites.

"This is a difficult time for us in the construction industry, no thanks to petrol scarcity, Naira scarcity and election."

"When you look at your

contract sum, you would notice that the budget has already failed due to inflation of building materials' prices.

"This has affected suppliers of other materials like aluminum window and doors, among others.

"In fact, sub-contractors are complaining.

Prices of all the construction materials are inflated," Awobodu said.

He pointed out that many ongoing projects have been slowed down due to lack of credits as people are waiting for elections to subsidize.

Awobodu added that many homebuilders and contractors have been waiting for credit facilities to complete their projects.

He explained that due to the capital-intensive nature of construction projects, people usually rely on loans.

"They are not getting the required facilities at this time. Clients that rely on facilities are being delayed.

"In fact, this is a difficult time for facilities to be dispensed. We are currently having galloping or unstable economy with high rate of inflation.

"This is self-imposed pun-

ishment," Awobodu said.

He also pointed out that most politicians have not been able to expense money on their projects as they concentrated on elections and elections tribunals.

"Their projects have become secondary," he added.

Another construction professional, Tunji Alade, an architect, corroborated Awobodu, saying the ongoing cash crunch has halted activities in the construction sector as workers are finding it difficult to access Naira to transport themselves to sites.

Real estate sector

Concerning the real estate sector, experts are of the opinion that the real estate remains a better hedge against inflation when compared to other asset classes

They pointed out that poor performance of other investment outlets has been driving transactions in the real estate, despite the ongoing general elections.

According to one of the experts, a former President of the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV), Mr Emeka Eleh, who spoke at a forum on a theme "Impact of Elections on Real Estate Values" the investment outlets, included shares, bonds and fixed deposits that have not been doing well presently.

Besides, the experts said the fact that exportation of money or taking out money had become more difficult is helping transactions in real estate.

Some of the internal issues affecting the economy he highlighted included high level insecurity, high inflation at about 21 per cent, high unemployment of about 33 per cent, high interest rate of about 25 per cent, depreciation of the Naira/Dollar, and high multi-dimensional poverty (133 million people out of a population of about 200 million).

LAS VEGAS

Chinese manufacturers of construction equipment are ready to embrace a greener and more intelligent future, presenting electric versions of multiple vehicles and the application of smart technologies at North America's largest construction trade show opened here on Tuesday.

Liu Quan, chief executive officer with XCMG America, told Xinhua that XCMG would prioritize the introduction of electric products including electric loaders, excavators, road rollers and mining equipment to dealers and key clients as the world attaches more importance to climate change and environmental protection.

A single drum roller equipped with the latest unmanned control technology and automatic rolling construction accuracy of less than 2 centimeters was showcased by XCMG.

At the show, XCMG also exhibited 17 types of excavators, all of which adopt electric hydraulic systems with improved fuel efficiency. Auxiliary construction such as intelligent weighing and one-touch automatic slope repair or leveling is available as options, said XCMG in a release.

"We have cracked the core component problems such as battery, electric control and motor, and have actually achieved mass production of the products," said Dong Yuzhong, vice president with the



A visitor test drives a product of China's Sany Group at the 2023 CONEXPO-CON/AGG in Las Vegas, the United States. (Photo by Xinhua)

## Chinese embrace smart construction equipment

research institute of XCMG's Excavating Machinery Division.

Liugong Machinery Co., Ltd., which brought an electric wheel loader and an electric excavator, announced on Tuesday that it has sold its first battery electric vehicle in the United States.

"The industry is talking about battery electric vehicles at a greater volume than in the years past, particularly going

into CONEXPO," said Andrew Ryan, president of LiuGong North America.

Sany Group showcased an electric wheel loader and a mini electric excavator with an eye on opportunities from electric transition in the United States.

Still, Sany is not selling the electric versions of equipment in the United States and Sany "just let people know that Sany is looking towards the future,

looking to understand where machines and the equipment are gonna go from an electric standpoint," said Gabriel Weiss, director of marketing and digitization with SANY America.

"The whole intent of what we're trying to do is to find what fits within the U.S. market and bring it to the US market at the appropriate time for our customers," Weiss told Xinhua in an interview on Wednesday.

Zoomlion Heavy Industry Science and Technology exhibited multiple green and intelligent aerial work platforms at the show.

The whole industry is developing in a green, smart and digital manner with the application of technologies on 5G, big data and the Internet of Things and Zoomlion attaches importance to the long-term and sustainable development, said Bruce Liu, general manager assistant with Zoomlion International.

Chinese construction equipment makers as a whole have made fast progress in offering green, digital, informationized and large-scale products, said Shi Yonghong, vice president of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products.

New models powered by electricity, hydrogen and hybrid fuels were developed and Chinese players are basically at the same level with the world's top-level manufacturers, Shi told Xinhua.

Shi noted that impressive progress has been made by tapping technologies on the Internet of Things, industry cloud as well as augmented reality.

Held triennially in Las Vegas, the massive show of CONEXPO-CON/AGG runs from Tuesday through Saturday, showcasing the latest equipment advances and newest technology applications in every field of construction.



## WORLD

# No White House visit for Netanyahu as US concern rises

WASHINGTON

ELEVEN weeks into his third stint as Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu has yet to be received at the White House, signaling apparent US unhappiness over the policies of his right-wing government.

Most new Israeli leaders had visited the United States or met the president by this point in their premierships, according to a Reuters review of official visits going back to the late 1970s. Only two out of 13 previous prime ministers heading a new government waited longer. The White House declined to confirm Netanyahu has yet to be invited. A State Department spokesperson referred Reuters to the Israeli government for information about the prime minister's travel plans.

Israel's embassy in Washington declined to comment.

"The message they clearly want to send is: If you pursue objectionable policies, there's no entitlement to the Oval Office sit-down," said David Makovsky, a former senior adviser to the Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations, now at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Since the start of the year, demonstra-

tors have filled Israel's streets to protest the government's plan to curb the power of the Supreme Court, which critics say removes a check on the governing coalition.

Amid escalating West Bank violence, the right-wing government's action authorizing settler outposts and inflammatory comments from a member of Netanyahu's cabinet with responsibilities over Jewish settlements have drawn criticism from US officials, including from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during a visit to Israel last week.

US-Israeli ties remain close. The United States has long been Israel's main benefactor, sending more than \$3 billion each year in military assistance.

President Joe Biden has known Netanyahu for decades, the two have spoken by phone, and senior officials in both countries have made visits since Netanyahu's government was formed in December, despite Israel's spiraling political crisis.

But the lack of a White House visit underscores both the desire of the Biden administration to see different policies in Israel and what critics say is a reluctance to take more forceful steps.



Gary Lineker, former England footballer turned sports TV presenter for the BBC

## 'Frustrating' language

US statements on events in Israel have often comprised "frustrating boiler-plate language," said Sarah Yerkes, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who formerly worked at the State Department on policy towards Israel and the Palestinians.

"It has been frustrating to see this lack of teeth to any of the US responses," Yerkes said. "They don't get to be treated with the same kid gloves that they've always been treated with because ... they're on the path to not being a democracy anymore."

The Biden administration prefers quiet conversations over public criticism, a senior State Department official said, especially when it comes to the crisis over a proposed Israeli judicial overhaul.

"Anything that we would say on the specific proposals has the potential to be deeply counterproductive," the official said, adding the goal was to encourage Israeli leaders to build consensus over the reforms, rather than to be prescriptive on what the outcome should be.

Chris Murphy, a Democratic member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he hopes the administration will persist with a clear message to Israel.

"I would certainly like to see the administration to be sending a strong signal that we have to maintain our support for a future Palestinian state and the decisions that the Netanyahu government are making now greatly compromise that future," Murphy said.

A separate group of 92 progressive lawmakers warned in a letter to Biden that the judicial overhaul could empower those in Israel who favor annexing the West Bank, "undermining the prospects for a two-state solution and threatening Israel's existence as a Jewish and democratic state."

US leaders have rarely criticized Israeli policies since Secretary of State James Baker in 1989 advised the country against moves toward annexing Palestinian territory and expanding settlements. Baker later banned Netanyahu, at the time a deputy minister of foreign affairs, from the State Department after he criticized US policy toward Israel.

Biden, a Democrat who describes himself as a Zionist, says US support for Israel is "ironclad."

"Biden's own personal instincts are such that it's very difficult for him to want to adopt an extremely tough posture towards Israel," said Dennis Ross, a veteran US Middle East peace negotiator now with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

## Agencies

# Russia's UN mission describes US drone incident as 'dangerous provocation'

UNITED NATIONS,

THE recent incident involving a US drone in the Black Sea was a deliberate and dangerous provocation, Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy said in a conversation with American journalist Kim Iversen posted on the Rumble video platform.

According to him, the drone "violated the boundaries of the temporary airspace regime established for the special military operation."

"The drone was violating the boundaries of the temporary



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

airspace regime, and these boundaries were well-known by the United States. I think it's part of deconflicting arrangements

that are usually agreed with great powers in such situations," the diplomat pointed out.

"We think it was a deliberate

provocation and a very dangerous provocation," Polyanskiy said, adding that Russia had every right to prevent such provocations.

Earlier, Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Russian Aerospace Forces' control means had detected a US MQ-9 aerial vehicle near the Crimean Peninsula on Tuesday morning. According to the ministry, the drone, which was flying with its transponders turned off, "violated the boundaries of an area where a temporary mode for using the airspace is in place for the special military operation, which was brought to

the attention of all international airspace users and made public in accordance with international rules."

The Russian Defense Ministry added that the drone's sharp maneuvering led it into uncontrolled flight, making it lose altitude and crash into the sea.

Russian fighter jets did not use airborne weapons or make contact with the aerial vehicle, and they safely returned to their home airfield, the ministry said. According to the United States European Command, a Russian Su-27 aircraft damaged the US drone's propeller, causing it to crash into the Black Sea.

# US conducts first maritime drills with West African forces

SOGAKOPE, Ghana

THE West African troops silently pulled their small boats up to a rust-stained ferry and swarmed up its sides on grappling hooks to disarm the mock kidnappers onboard.

The drill in Ghana's Volta river on Saturday was carried out during the first ever maritime exercises organized by the US military under its long-running Flintlock program to bolster the skills of West African forces.

The sea-based training in the first half of March culminated with soldiers holding their guns aloft as they braved neck-high waves before

storming a beach resort to defuse a staged hostage crisis. Military bigwigs and diplomats watched from nearby.

Admiral Milton Sands, commander of the US Special Operations Command for Africa (SOCAF), said the program had expanded to help coastal nations in the region cope with maritime threats such as piracy and illegal fishing.

Unauthorized fishing "is a significant one that we're really trying to work with our partners to get our arms around slowing down," he told Reuters on Tuesday.

He said illegal fishing not only robbed the region of a key food source, but fuelled other criminal ac-

tivity including drugs and human trafficking.

Around 350 troops took part in the drills including servicemen from Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria on the Gulf of Guinea. The area has become a global piracy hotspot in recent years although cases have fallen there since 2021, according to the UN Security Council.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has spread along West Africa's coasts, sapping an estimated \$9.4 billion per year through illicit financial flows, according to a 2022 report by the Financial Transparency Coalition of non-governmental organizations.

Of the top 10 companies they found involved in IUU fishing in the region, eight were Chinese and a third of all vessels sported Chinese flags, it said.

Commodore Godwin Livinus Bessing, commander of Ghana's Naval Training Command, said tackling IUU fishing had become a top priority, citing a lack of resources to deal with the foreign boats stealing from Ghana's waters.

"They continue to flout our regulations because of our enforcement capabilities," he said. "That is one of the biggest problems. If we had enough ships out there and they knew we were monitoring the place, we would be able to curb the situation."

# Power transmission project ensures stable electricity supply for Ngari

ON the top of snow-covered mountains with an altitude of over 5,000 meters in the suburbs of Gar county, Ngari prefecture, southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, stand a number of gigantic transmission towers, which are there to ensure stable power supply for families at the foot of the mountains and beyond.

With a total length of more than 1600 kilometers, the power transmission line, also known as the Ngari-central Tibet Power Grid Interconnection Project, spans 10 counties and districts in two prefecture-level cities of Tibet and was put into operation at the end of 2020. It is a 500 kV power transmission and

transformation project with the highest altitude and longest distance in the world.

The project marks the end of an era in which Ngari's power supply relied on an isolated grid of its own and has fundamentally solved power shortage in the prefecture, offering safe and reliable electricity for 380,000 farmers and herdsmen in 16 counties along its route.

For more than two years, the project provides stable electricity supply, meets the needs of residents in lighting and heating, as well as needs for industrial development.

79-year-old Chagoin is a resident of a nursing home of Ngari. Her health is getting worse with age, thus

an oxygenerator is needed constantly to ease her condition.

"There are many other seniors like Chagoin in the nursing home. The oxygenerators donated by the government could help improving their health conditions," said Awang, head of the nursing home.

"We know that oxygen care for the elderly is important, but the power supply was unstable in the past, high-power appliances would always blow the fuse, let alone wide application of oxygenerators," Awang told People's Daily.

In the second year after the project was put into use, the nursing home introduced a series of equipment to better care for seniors living there.

According to Awang, oxygenerators as well as all other types of appliances can now be safely used in the nursing home without worrying about tripping.

Since the prefecture's connection to the state power grid, both nursing homes and residential complexes have upgraded their power equipment, said Losang Phuntsog, an employee of the Ngari branch of the State Grid Corporation of China.

Before the connection, power shortage was common in winter in the prefecture. Today, radiant floor heating systems and electric radiators are widely used by the local people, which is safer and cleaner.

Now, diesel and petrol generators

are used less and less in business. Wang Baolong, who works for Tibet Ali Hotel, told People's Daily that generators consume much fuel and thus leads to a high cost that's much more expensive than the electricity from the grid.

"With stable power supply, we don't have to spend that much anymore," he said.

Since the project was put into use, the maximum electrical load in Ngari has expanded by 12.63 percent, with a supply reliability rate of 99.68 percent. The project has transmitted 218 million kWh of electricity in the past two years, or 76.49 percent of the total power supply in Ngari prefecture.

"Besides, the project has lowered

electricity price by over 55 percent. It has also improved investment and business environment, injecting new impetus into Ngari's economic and social development," said the person in charge of the Ngari branch of State Grid Corporation of China.

Though the project is a huge benefit for Ngari, the maintenance of the project in such a sparsely populated prefecture is no doubt a challenge.

The arduous inspection tours along cliffs are extremely difficult. However, workers of the maintenance group of the project have long been used to the undertaking.

People's Daily

# AUKUS nations urged to fulfill non-proliferation obligations

BEIJING

CHINA on Wednesday urged the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia to earnestly fulfill their non-proliferation obligations and refrain from undermining the authority and efficacy of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks while replying to a query related to AUKUS cooperation.

According to reports, the US, the UK and Australia announced the pathway to nuclear submarine cooperation on March 14. The three countries said they are committed to ensuring the highest non-proliferation standards are met, and would negotiate with the IAEA on safeguards arrangements.

In a statement, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said the agency will consult with Australia to make an arrangement under Article 14 of Australia's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to enable the Agency to meet its technical safeguards objectives for Australia.

China is gravely concerned about Grossi's latest statement in relation to the AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation and firmly opposed to the US, the UK and Australia's coercing the IAEA Secretariat into endorsement on the safeguards issues, Wang said during a press briefing in Beijing on Wednesday.

The three countries asserted they will fulfill nuclear non-proliferation commitments, yet this is nothing but a high-sounding rhetoric to deceive the world, he said.

Saying that the AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation marks the first time in history for nuclear weapon states to transfer naval nuclear propulsion reactors and large amounts of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium to a non-nuclear weapon state, Wang pointed out that there is nothing in the current IAEA safeguards system that can ensure effective safeguards, and there is no guarantee that these nuclear materials will not be diverted by Australia to build nuclear weapons.

Such cooperation poses serious nuclear proliferation risks, and is in contravention of the object and purpose of the NPT and deals a blow to the international non-proliferation regime, he added.

The AUKUS countries and the IAEA Secretariat have no right to make a deal between themselves on the safeguards issues in relation to AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation, said the spokesperson.

What the three countries really want is the IAEA's exemption of safeguards for Australia's nuclear submarines, which runs counter to what they said about setting the highest non-proliferation standards, he said.

"They claimed that Article 14 of the Agency's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) allows for non-application of safeguards for the use of nuclear material in a non-proscribed military activity. However, the international community has not reached any consensus on the definition of such military activity and there are huge divergences on the applicability of Article 14."

Noting that all these are widely perceived as outstanding issues in the field of international nuclear arms control, he said the US, the UK, Australia and the IAEA Secretariat have no right whatsoever to make interpretations of their own.

Wang stressed that safeguards issues related to nuclear submarine cooperation should be jointly discussed and decided by the international community.

"An arrangement reached between Australia and the agency invoking Article 14 would set an egregious precedent. This concerns the interest of all IAEA member states," he said.

He said the safeguards issues involved in nuclear submarine cooperation should be discussed and agreed upon by all interested IAEA member states through an intergovernmental process, taking into account the agency's previous practice of strengthening the safeguards system. Pending the consensus reached by all IAEA member states, the IAEA Secretariat should not reach any deal with Australia between themselves.

"We also urge the IAEA Secretariat to perform its duties strictly in accordance with its mandate and not to endorse the act of nuclear proliferation by the three countries," said Wang.

In the meantime, China calls on all IAEA member states to actively promote the intergovernmental process, find a solution to the safeguards issues in relation to the AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation, safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime with the NPT as the cornerstone, and maintain international peace and security, he said.

Facts have repeatedly proven that the drama for democracy orchestrated by the US is never a boon but a bane for the world, said Wang.

Xinhua



## Envoy Antonov expressed Russia's concerns over US' activities at Department of State

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov disclosed that he discussed Russia's concerns regarding various aspects of Washington's activities during the meeting in the US Department of State after the incident involving a US drone in the Black Sea.

"Yesterday, I was invited to the Department of State, where I had a 30-minute conversation with Assistant Secretary of State [for European and Eurasian Affairs] Karen Donfried. Notably, we talked for 15 minutes about this particular story, and 15 more minutes - about Russia's concerns regarding various aspects of activities of the United States of America," he said on Russian TV Wednesday.

According to Antonov, the conversation was calm.

"It felt like my colleague simply read out a document that she had before her eyes," he noted.

The envoy underscored that he categorically rejected all accusations of the American side towards the Russian Armed Forces.

### The drone situation

Previously, the Russian Defense Ministry announced that the Russian Aerospace Forces detected a US MQ-9 drone flying near the Crimean Peninsula. The drone was reportedly flying with its transponder turned off and "in violation of the boundaries of the temporary airspace use area, defined in order to carry out the special military operation, which has been conveyed to all airspace users and published in accordance to the international norms."

The Defense Ministry added that the drone's abrupt maneuvering caused it to lose control, lose altitude and crash into the water. Russian jet fighters did not use its weapons and did not collide with the drone, and successfully returned to their bases, the Ministry said.

The US European Command claims that a Russian Su-27 fighter damaged the drone's propeller, which caused it to crash into the Black Sea.



## President Xi urges political parties to steer course for modernisation, proposes Global Civilisation Initiative

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, called on world political parties to closely integrate their own development with their national modernization drives, so as to continuously steer the course and marshal strength for modernization.

Xi made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech on Wednesday at the opening ceremony of CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting via video link.

### RESPONSIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Xi pointed out in his keynote speech that in today's world, multiple challenges and crises are intertwined, and humanity's modernization process has once again reached a crossroads of history.

Political parties, as an important force steering and driving the modernization process, are duty bound to answer such questions as "what kind of modernization do we need and how can we achieve it," he said.

The Chinese president called on political parties to put the people first and ensure modernization is people-centered.

He also called for upholding the principle of independence and explore diversified paths toward modernization.

"For any country to achieve modernization, it needs to not only follow the general laws governing the process, but more importantly, to consider its own national conditions and unique features," Xi said.



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese president, attends the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting via video link and delivers a keynote address in Beijing on Monday. Xinhua

"Modernization does not fall into our laps automatically, it is the result of hard work with strong historical initiative," Xi said, stressing that political parties should closely integrate their own development with their national modernization drives, so as to continuously steer the course and marshal strength for modernization.

### CHINESE PATH TO MODERNIZATION

The 20th National Congress of the CPC has proposed advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization.

Talking about Chinese path to modernization, Xi said that it is rooted in China's national conditions and also draws on the experience of other countries; it delivers benefit to the Chinese people and also advances common development of the world.

The CPC will continue to safeguard international fairness

and justice and promote world peace and stability, he said.

In pursuing Chinese modernization, the country will neither tread the path of colonization and plunder, nor the crooked path taken by some countries to seek hegemony once they grow strong, Xi said, noting what China pursues is the right course of peaceful development.

### GLOBAL CIVILIZATION INITIATIVE

In his keynote address, Xi proposed the Global Civilization Initiative.

Under the initiative, Xi called for respect for diversity of civilizations, advocating the common values of humanity, highly valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and jointly advocating robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, also president of the African National Congress, and 11 other leaders of political parties and political organizations also addressed the dialogue. They spoke highly of Xi's proposals in the keynote speech, and expressed their willingness to work with the CPC to play a leading and driving role in the modernization process.

"We fully agree with the four proposals put forward by Chinese President Xi in the Global Civilization Initiative," Ramaphosa said, saying the initiative is vital to the world today.

The event, with the theme "Path towards Modernization: the Responsibility of Political Parties," brought together more than 500 leaders of political parties and political organizations from more than 150 countries.

Xinhua

## Security Council renews mandate of UN mission in South Sudan

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Security Council on Wednesday adopted a resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for a year, till March 15, 2024.

Resolution 2677 decides to maintain the overall force levels of UNMISS with a troop ceiling of 17,000 personnel and a police ceiling of 2,101 personnel, including 88 justice and corrections advisors.

It expresses the Security Council's readiness to consider adjustments to UNMISS force levels and capacity-building tasks to match security conditions on the ground.

The resolution decides that UNMISS's mandate remains to advance a three-year strategic vision to prevent a return to civil war in South Sudan, to build durable peace at the local and national levels, and to support inclusive and accountable governance and free, fair, and peaceful elections in accordance with the 2018 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.

The four core elements of the mandate remain largely unchanged: protecting civilians; creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance; supporting the peace process; and monitoring, investigating and reporting on violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights.

It demands that all parties to the conflict and other armed actors immediately end the fighting throughout South Sudan and engage in political dialogue; reminds South Sudanese authorities of their primary responsibility to protect civilians, and further demands South Sudan's leaders implement the permanent cease-fire declared in the Revitalised Agreement and all previous cease-fire and cessation of hostilities agreements.

The resolution expresses the Security Council's deep concern about the delays in implementing the Revitalised Agreement, and calls on the parties to fully implement the agreement and establish its institutions without delay.

Stressing that free and fair elections will be critical for a transition toward a stable, inclusive, democratic, and self-reliant state, it underscores that elections should be viewed as a phased approach and UNMISS should focus in the near-term on key conditions, including the prevention of a further escalation of political violence and creating conditions for an inclusive, constitutional drafting and review process and the inclusive civic space that is a prerequisite to the conduct of free and fair elections.

The resolution calls on the government of South Sudan as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to open political dialogue consistent with the Revitalised Agreement.

It demands the South Sudanese government immediately cease obstructing UNMISS in the performance of its mandate, and calls on the government to take action to deter and to hold those responsible to account for any actions that impede UNMISS or international and national humanitarian actors, and to continue to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security and freedom of movement of UNMISS personnel with unhindered and immediate access.

The resolution was adopted with 13 votes in favor and two abstentions. China and Russia abstained.

Agencies

## Oil prices crater as banking fears rattle markets

NEW YORK

OIL prices suffered steep losses on Wednesday, pressured by mounting fears of a banking crisis.

The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for April delivery dropped 3.72 U.S. dollars, or 5.22 percent, to settle at 67.61 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, reaching its lowest level since December 2021.

Brent crude for May delivery lost 3.76 dollars, or 4.85 percent, to close at 73.69 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange. The pullback came after a major rout on the oil market, which saw the U.S. crude benchmark and Brent both shed more than 4 percent on Tuesday.

Turbulence at Credit Suisse fueled fears of a wider banking crisis. Shares of Credit Suisse on Wednesday plunged to a record low after a top shareholder of the embattled Swiss bank said it would not make further investments in the firm. The turmoil came just days after the failure of several U.S. banks, which continues to send shock waves through the financial system.

Another day another bank failure. The banking crisis is causing a deleveraging by big banks, pulling back their exposure to oil and causing prices to fall harder than other risk assets," Phil Flynn, senior analyst at The PRICE Futures Group, said Wednesday. "The oil moves smack of market liquidation as opposed to anything directly related to current supply demand fundamentals," he said.

## Hamas warns Israel against any change in Al-Aqsa as Ramadan

GAZA

THE Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Wednesday warned Israel against any change in the status quo at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, saying any change "would turn the area into an earthquake."

Marwan Issa, deputy chief of staff

of Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, made the warning in an interview with Al-Aqsa TV, a Gaza-based satellite channel run by the Hamas movement.

The remarks came amid warnings of increased tensions between the two sides, especially in Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, as the holy month of

Ramadan and the Jewish Passover holiday approach.

"There is no political process, and the enemy (Israel) has annulled Oslo treaties (signed between Israel and the Palestinians in 1993), so that the coming days will be full of events and incidents," Issa said. He called for "igniting and supporting resistance action in all Palestine, mainly

in the West Bank and Jerusalem," adding: "We will defend the Palestinian people with all force when direct intervention is required."

In April 2022, Al-Aqsa Mosque compound witnessed violent clashes between Palestinian worshippers and Israeli police forces when Jews visited the holy site. Dozens of Palestinian worshippers were injured.

## China to further expand opening up, boasts strong appeal

IN recent years, China has firmly expanded opening up and deepened international economic and trade cooperation with mutually beneficial outcomes. The country has well promoted high-quality development with high-level opening up.

Advancing high-level opening up is integral to building a new development pattern and pursuing high-quality development. China has actively built a "dual circulation" development paradigm, in which domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other with the domestic market as the mainstay.

Promoting high-level opening up can help domestic circulation improve its efficiency and quality with international circulation, and promote the integration at the stages of production, distribution, circulation, and consumption. It will usher in a higher-level dynamic balance in the Chinese economy as a result.

China is the world's second-largest economy, which features strong resilience, tremendous potential and great vitality. It enjoys significant advantages in promoting high-level opening up.

The country is home to more than 1.4 billion people, including over 400 million middle-income earners. The middle-income group will keep expanding and the consumption structure will keep optimizing, which lays a solid foundation for promoting high-level opening up.

China is also a country that boasts the world's most complete industrial system. Therefore, it is able to gather global factors and resources and thus build industrial and supply chains that are more innovative, secure, reliable and higher value-added. It guarantees the security for promoting high-level opening up.

China's rapid technological de-



Photo taken on Jan. 7, 2023 shows foreign vessels at a port in Rongcheng, east China's Shandong province. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership has significantly facilitated the development of cross-border e-commerce between member countries since the agreement took effect a year ago. (Photo by Li Xinjun/People's Daily Online)

velopment, mature national innovation system and improved innovation capability also inject a strong impetus into promoting high-level opening up.

China's firm steps to advance high-level opening up create huge opportunities for its own development and also drive the recovery of the global economy.

As economic globalization is facing headwinds with rising protectionism over the recent years, China continued expanding high-level opening up and kept optimizing its business environment.

It has practically promoted high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, promoted the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and built the world's largest free trade area.

China has been the world's largest trader in goods for consecutive years, with an average annual growth of 8.6 percent in the past five years. It remains a major destination for global investment and a leading country in outbound investment.

As the global economy continues to face grave challenges and the global recovery still remains unstable and unbalanced, China is steadily expanding institutional opening up based on rules, regulations, management and standards, making important contributions to sharing development opportunities and achievements of economic globalization with other countries.

Zamir Awan, a sinologist for the Chinese Studies Center of Excellence at the National University of Sciences and Technology in Pakistan, noted that China's opening up policies bring win-win cooperation, which benefits the whole world.

China's economic growth over the past years has been achieved with a commitment to opening up. In

the same vein, the high-quality development of China's economy in the future can only be guaranteed with greater openness.

The government work report of the country this year stressed to widen market access, promote further opening up of modern service industries, and grant foreign-funded enterprises national treatment. It also vowed to improve services for foreign-funded companies and facilitate the launch of landmark foreign-funded projects.

This demonstrated to the world China's sincerity and determination to promote development and win-win results through opening up.

As China unswervingly advances opening-up to cover more fields in a broader scope and at a greater depth, it will surely make greater contributions to global recovery.

Brazilian economist Ronnie Lins noted China's commitment to promoting high-level opening up and comprehensively deepening reform will keep the gigantic ship of the Chinese economy in a lane of high-quality development and create huge opportunities for the global economy.

Opening up is a basic state policy of China, and also the hallmark of contemporary China. On the new journey, China will conform to the trend of economic globalization, pursue a more proactive opening up strategy, and build a new development pattern with high-level opening up, so as to build an open world economy and let the gains of development benefit more people across the world in a more substantial and equitable way.

People's Daily



# Final 'derbies': Trepidation, expectation and resignation

# SPORT



Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (L), seeks to get past Vipers SC defenders as the clubs took on each other in a 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group C tie that took place in Dar es Salaam early this month. Simba SC commanded a 1-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent John Kimbute

AS the two city giants await their final games, the mood is poised for virtually any results while solidly expecting that things go well for both sides.

As is usually the case, pundits do not have real freedom in projecting the games, much as it is difficult to project how the games go, and in that context, there is plenty of room for wishful thinking on how things can go.

It is a confused pack where there is an effort to project and a belief as to how it will all turn out soon.

For once, victory projections are vigorous on the part of Simba SC meeting Horoya AC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, alias 'Estadio Lupaso,' while the whole idea of a Yanga win against US Monastir is somewhat dimly expressed, with both sides standing dim chances of progressing into the quarterfinals.

That much is easy to concede but not shouted for everyone to hear, as projection is like psychological advice, where the math is tainted with the wish to soothe the spirits of the fans.

That makes scientific projection overly difficult to secure, as pundits displace the goalposts for results.

These predictions are prone to what is known in tennis as 'un-

forced errors', where a player on the other side of the court makes more mistakes than failing to control the ball by the power of its being hit by an opponent.

But they remain within the realm of possibility, like Simba SC beating Horoya AC on home ground to secure a ticket to the quarterfinals, as a draw would hand a clear advantage to the visiting Guinean side.

Scarcely did pundits discuss the possibility of a draw, as the visitors defeated the home side 1-0 in the first game, why can't the club get a draw?

Pundits' cards as to chances of Yanga beating US Monastir were being held close to the chest as the confidence was lacking, whereas Simba SC also lost against Horoya AC, but by a narrower margin.

The hope appears to be more inclined to Yanga winning the final tie at Lubumbashi early next month, a match that is not on everyone's lips as yet but it is taken for granted on account of what Simba SC did with Vipers SC, winning both away and home ties.

The idea of either losing or drawing is conceptually limited to away matches, not those at Estadio Lupaso.

This means there could be some surprises lined up or hidden in the sleeves of this best-scenario mentality where the archrivals win both critical matches against non-North African rivals.

It is a sort of rule created by

fanatics of the game in Dar es Salaam, that 'no one survives' at 'Estadio Lupaso' unless perhaps it is a North African side.

Earlier on when Simba SC could hold its ground against much-fanciers, Egypt's Al Ahly, in-home and away matches, that rule seemed to work but not after the painful 3-0 loss to Morocco's Raja Casablanca lately.

Yanga settled for a 1-1 draw with Al Hilal SC in Dar es Salaam and then lost 1-0 in Omdurman, thus the rule has a caveat, presently.

On the face of it Yanga looked like they had a more realistic chance of winning their away match than Simba SC 'obtaining results' in their local tie against Horoya AC, meanwhile - like Yanga in their local tie with US Monastir - take that match more or less for granted.

Either side can hope for a draw against North African sides, while Yanga had in happier days obtained a win against Club Africain of Tunisia, leading them to expect a repeat with US Monastir.

The trouble in part is that results are hard to repeat, and can be repeated inversely, not in one's favour.

That is why there is a mixture of feelings, from positive expectations to intense apprehension or trepidation, bordering on fear, as to what happens in crucial ties - those where the local side must win to ensure progress to the next stage.

In both groups of the continen-

tal competitions, the assured passage is that of the North African side while the second place is in the contest, with two local rivals having fairly dissimilar chances to proceed.

But that impression could turn out to be deceptive as Horoya AC and TP Mzembe have a similar view on the two sides, in their respective outings - that is defeat Simba SC again to proceed, while Simba SC thinks of reversing initial results. And TP Mzembe thinks of reversing results too.

The rule about projecting results is that immediately prior results be respected, and then slight home advantage be added into the sum or equation, and that would appear to favour Yanga.

They stand to get a slim win in Lubumbashi if the record stands without surprises, while Simba SC would by that sort of math obtain a drawn match on home ground, rather than a clear win.

US Monastir won by two goals away to TP Mzembe and by a single goal at home to the same side, so Horoya AC has a chance of either standing their narrow win ground or obtaining a draw.

Winning for Simba SC is more improbable than would be for Yanga even in an away match, by the kind of results obtained in current Group Stage matches either way.

If it does not work out that way, the fans already know who to blame, and why.

## Immigration Department officials arrest foreign soccer players in Tanga

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA'S Immigration Department has nabbed four Cameroon nationals that are alleged to have illegally gone for trials at Tanga's Coastal Union and African Sports Club.

According to information released by the department, the footballers conceded after interrogation they were brought to Tanga by a football agent, namely Bernard Matondo Mfaume.

Speaking to reporters in Tanga last weekend, Tanga Regional Immigration Commander, Kagimbo Bakari (pictured), without mentioning the players' names said that the illegal immigrants jetted into the country through Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport and were given Holiday Visa that is valid for 90 days.

He explained after being inspected they were supposed to be offered Business Visa.

He further revealed that his office attempted to summon Coastal



Union SC and African Sports and the latter denied knowing the players.

According to Bakari, after another interrogation, the footballers were found to have submitted forged documents.

Efforts to secure details from Coastal Union and African Sports leaders proved futile, as the officials' phones were busy.

One of Coastal Union leaders, who later picked up his phone, stated he is not in the right position to comment on the matter because his club was busy preparing for an NBC Premier League game against Singida Big Stars.

## Dar athletes' success in major races promotes sports tourism - ARAA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ARUSHA Regional Athletics Association (ARAA) has said exploits by local athletes in international tournaments are advancing the concept of sports tourism in the country.

Rogath John, ARAA Secretary-General, and coach Dennis Malle said of late many foreign athletes are visiting the region for training.

Malle said although Arusha has an attitude that is suitable for training, exploits showcased by local athletes like Alphonse Simbu and Gabriel Geay in major events are another motivating factor.

John and Malle disclosed the details on Tuesday at the end of joint training which was held at Ilboru Secondary School in the region.

The joint training involved athletes from Germany, United Arab Emirates, and Switzerland.

"Many foreign athletes who are preparing for international competitions are coming to Arusha for training, I think it's not only that we have a suitable attitude for training but also our athletes are leaving a mark wherever they go for events, the coming of foreign athletes is complementing the Sports Tour-

ism campaign," Malle said.

Switzerland's Dominic Lobalu is one of the foreign athletes who are in the East African country to prepare for international events.

Lobalu, as is the case with Gabriel Geay, is preparing for the Berlin Marathon slated for April 2.

Geay, who is this year the third-placed Tanzanian runner in the international athletics events, is also expected to battle it out in this year's Boston Marathon slated for Sunday.

Inyasi Sulle, who is preparing for Lille Marathon, is the other athlete who attended the joint camp in Arusha.

Two weeks ago Egyptian runner Manal Rostom was in Arusha to prepare for the Tokyo Marathon.

The Tokyo Marathon saw Manal emerge as the first Egyptian woman to complete the six World Marathon Majors (WMM).

The WMM was launched in 2006 and it is also known as the Abbott World Marathon Majors.

The showdown is a global competition for marathon runners, comprising six major marathon races which are considered to be the most prestigious in the world marathon running.

## Latest victory gives Simba Queens confidence ahead of Dar derby

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA Queens' head coach Charles Lukula believes that Tuesday's 7-0 win over The Tigers Queens in this season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League has given his squad a morale boost ahead of its clash against rivals, Yanga Princess.

Simba Queens, lately topping the women's top-flight, came into the encounter against The Tigers Queens on the back of a 1-1 draw with JKT Queens in the league, cutting their lead at the top of the table to three points.

That is why they needed to respond against Arusha-based The Tigers Queens if the former were going to consolidate their spot on the standings.

Indeed, they achieved that feat with goals netted by Jentrix

Shikangwa, Danai Bhoobho, Joelle Bukuru, Olaiya Barakat, Amina Ramadhan, and Asha Djafari who grabbed a brace.

The victory ensured that Simba Queens got the needed points albeit from a relegation-threatened side.

Speaking after the match, Lukula said he rested some of his key players and added victory will also be a morale booster heading to next week's derby against rivals, Yanga Princess, at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The Ugandan gaffer pointed out: "Today I made changes because we have two very difficult matches ahead of us. Viviane Corazone has not played, Pam-bani Fallone has not played and Aisha Mnunka has not played either but we have a good squad that everyone can play."

"I have confidence in my squad,

every player can play and add something to the team," Lukula stated.

The gaffer revealed: "When you hear seven goals you think it was easy but you saw in the first 25 minutes if they had scored a goal the situation would have changed."

"Every day I say this year's league is difficult, it will go down to the wire to get the champion. If you lose three points, you miss the championship."

"Today we got a good result, this is a morale boost towards the derby. I urge our fans to come to support us. We will give them goals because we score every game."

The gaffer disclosed: "Simba Queens is the only team that has scored goals in every match. Even in the match, we lost to JKT Queens, we scored one goal."



Simba Queens' attacker, Asha Djafari (R), negotiates her way past The Tigers Queens' defender when the clubs faced each other in the 2022/23 Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League (SWPL) match that was played in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA QUEENS SC



## CAF grants King Mohammed VI with Excellence Award

By Oussama Aamari, Rabat

THE African Football Federation (CAF) awarded Morocco's King Mohammed VI with its President's Outstanding Achievement Award on Tuesday, in a ceremony that took place in Kigali, Rwanda.

The award was presented by FIFA President Gianni Infantino and CAF President Patrice Motsepe to Morocco's Minister of Education and Sports Chakib Benmoussa, who accepted it on behalf of the King.

The award was given in recognition of the remarkable developments in Moroccan football over the year 2022, and the contributions it had to the development of African football.

"I should like to say how delighted I am to receive this CAF President's Outstanding Achievement Award for the year 2022. I accept it with great pleasure," the King said in a message addressed to CAF.

"I would like to salute the presence of Gianni Infantino, President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association and commend him on his strong commitment to African football," he added.

"I also wish to thank the President of the Confederation of African Football, Patrice Motsepe, for his leadership and his action for the development of African football and the renewed credibility of its institutions," the message continued.

Moroccan football reached new highs in 2022. At the club level, Moroccan teams dominated African football, with Wydad AC winning the CAF Champions League and RS Berkane taking home the CAF Confederation Cup title.

More notably, the country's national teams left their mark on the international and continental stage. The country's national women's team reached the final of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) and qualified for the 2023 World Cup for the first time in its history.

The men's national team embarked on a historic run at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, which saw them achieve a fourth-place finish. The Atlas Lions' finish marked the team's best achievement in the competition's history for an African or Arab nation.

The King was a vocal supporter of both teams during their run, congratulating the women's team for reaching the final and even joining street celebrations in Rabat after the men's team beat Spain in the World Cup's round of 16.

In December, the monarch received the men's national team players at his palace in Rabat, awarding them, their coach, and the Royal Moroccan Football Federation's (FRMF) President Fouzi Lekjaa with royal Wissams (medals).

At the CAF ceremony, Benmoussa also announced that Morocco would be joining Spain and Portugal in their bid to host the 2030 World Cup.

(Agencies)

## Gareth Southgate revamps England backroom staff

LONDON

GARETH Southgate has remodelled his backroom staff following last year's World Cup finals with the departure of a key figure around the senior England team - performance psychologist Ian Mitchell, as well as coach Chris Powell.

The departure of Mitchell, who arrived to some fanfare in Feb 2018 having worked with the Football Association of Wales and its senior team in their progress to the Euro 2016 semi-finals, is a significant change. Southgate has also parted with coach Chris Powell, a senior figure at Tottenham Hotspur's academy, who has been part of the England team staff since 2019.

On Thursday, Southgate will name his first England squad since the end of the Qatar World Cup in December as a new cycle starts for Euro 2024 with qualifiers against Italy a week on Thursday and Ukraine three days later. The partnership of Southgate and Steve Holland at the heart of the Southgate years remains intact and the pair are now embarking on their fourth tournament cycle.

There are to be changes elsewhere with others in the performance psychology department, in addition to Mitchell, also expected to depart the FA. After his initial FA appointment in 2018, Mitchell eventually succeeded Pippa Grange as the head of performance psychology in 2019, a high-profile position with a brief to develop all England teams.

Southgate has put particular emphasis on developing a strong culture around the senior team, which permits players to relax in tournaments and handle the pressure that had often caused their predecessors to fail. Much thought has gone into the team base at each of the last four tournaments and also stress-free access for players' families.

THE TELEGRAPH

# Lacklustre Liverpool knocked out and left in desperate quest to salvage their season



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema scores their first goal past Liverpool's Alisson. Reuters Photo

BY JASON BURT

CANCEL the hotel for Istanbul. After the heartache and trauma of losing last year's Champions League Final Jurgen Klopp had defiantly urged Liverpool fans to book their accommodation for this season's venue by the Bosphorus but, in the last-16, they are out. Over and out.

That they were knocked out by Real Madrid will hurt even more, given that 1-0 loss in Paris, but the truth is Liverpool never really believed they could over-turn the shocking 5-2 defeat in the first leg at Anfield which always made this fixture such an almost mission impossible.

"We came here with a three-goal difference and we needed a special performance and we didn't show a special performance," was Klopp's honest assessment.

ment. "Real Madrid was for the whole game the team in control. If you want to get through you have to be outstanding."

Now the desperate task for the remainder of the campaign is clear: finish fourth and qualify for the Champions League again. It would be unthinkable for a team that played every possible game they could have played last season and nearly won it all to not only be empty-handed this campaign but no longer be at European football's top table.

It's the competition and we want to be part of it every year and it's now a massive task for us. We know that," Klopp said.

Liverpool have 11 games to overhaul Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur and maybe even Manchester United - and now hold off Brighton - and salvage something from a season that promised so much but is in danger of disappearing in soul-searching and

inevitable recrimination.

Maybe it would have been different had Darwin Nunez scored, when through on goal, in the seventh minute and maybe it would have sparked the greatest comeback in Liverpool's storied history and in this competition.

But there were not many maybes on a night when Liverpool's best player was goalkeeper Alisson, who made three outstanding saves before being beaten, and Klopp's assessment that they had a "one per cent" chance of going through was not false modesty or playing it down but was just wholly accurate. There was simply no chance of turning doubters into believers.

Instead a small piece of unwanted history was made: the 6-2 aggregate loss was the biggest Liverpool have ever suffered in this competition and that will feel painful.

In reality it would have been unthinkable for Madrid, with five Cham-

pions League trophies since 2014, to have surrendered their emphatic advantage but what will upset Liverpool is that after their first-half flurry they really did not show enough.

The problem is evident for Klopp. The rebuild must centre on a neglected midfield - with veteran James Milner at the heart of it here - for, against this calibre of opposition, the gulf was just too great. Liverpool could never breach it and Klopp's frustration showed as he was cautioned for protesting with the minutes ticking away.

At the final whistle there was a thoughtful touch from Madrid as they played "You'll Never Walk Alone" over the PA system - in solidarity with Liverpool after the awful events at the Stade de France last May but it was little comfort as the players trudged off.

"It's a really nice gesture," Klopp said. "We are two heavyweights who

meet quite frequently. It's clear we respect each other a lot." He added: "I was not angry after the game, I was disappointed. Real Madrid were the better side and I am long enough in the business to respect that."

Even so Madrid have now eliminated Liverpool from the Champions League in each of the last three seasons - plus the final in 2018 - with the difference so definitely encapsulated in that midfield. Without Jordan Henderson and Stefan Bajcetic - and would they have made any difference? - Klopp re-jigged his line-up to leave the pairing of Fabinho and Milner, at 37 years and 70 days the oldest Englishman to ever start a Champions League match.

Against that Madrid fielded Luka Modric (admittedly also 37 but just so perennially outstanding), Toni Kroos and the impressive 20-year-old Eduardo Camavinga who anchored the cen-

tre with such an assuredness and played his part in Karim Benzema's goal which was his 89th in this competition and his seventh against Liverpool, the most by any player. Karim ended the dream.

As gamely as Liverpool tried, especially in a first-half with glimmers of possibilities as Madrid seemed prepared to make it as open as their opponents, they can have no complaints. Madrid's 17 shots to Liverpool's nine told its own story while the strangely flat atmosphere betrayed how ultimately comfortable it all was. Rarely will such a potentially epic encounter, between two such titans, have had so little jeopardy.

And yet. Nunez was clear on goal only to shoot weakly with Thibaut Courtois saving with his legs; Diogo Jota miscued a volley and Courtois saved well from Jota and also Nunez. If one, or more, of those first-half opportunities had gone in... who knows?

Against that Alisson made two world-class saves to firstly deny Vinicius Junior from close-range and - as astonishingly - tip Camavinga's 25-yard shot onto the cross-bar. He also stopped from Federico Valverde. So Liverpool knew the score with their fate sealed when the outstanding Camavinga picked out Benzema, who was blocked by Virgil Van Dijk only for Vinicius to square the ball to the striker who side-footed home. Now all Liverpool want to book is their place in next season's Champions League.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Gianni Infantino re-elected FIFA president until 2027

KIGALI

GIANNI Infantino has been re-elected as president of FIFA until 2027 after standing unopposed at the congress of world football's governing body on Thursday.

The 52-year-old Swiss lawyer, who succeeded the disgraced Sepp Blatter in 2016, was waved in for a third term by acclamation, just as he was four years ago, by delegates from the 211 member federations.

"To all those who love me, and I know there are so many, and also those who hate me, I know there are a few: I love you all," Infantino told delegates in the Rwandan capital, where the voting system did not register the number of dissident voices.

While FIFA statutes currently limit a president to a maximum of three four-year terms, Infantino has already prepared the ground to stay until 2031, declaring in December that his first three years at the helm did not count as a full term.

Infantino, who staunchly defended Qatar's hosting of last year's World Cup as the Gulf state's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community came under the spotlight, has over-

seen the expansion of the men's and women's World Cup and huge increases in FIFA revenues.

Norwegian Football Federation president Lise Klaveness had said she would not support Infantino and tabled a proposal to discuss at the congress "FIFA's responsibilities to remedy human rights abuses" in relation to the Qatar World Cup and future tournaments.

However, Infantino's mainly European-based opponents were not able to put forward a candidate to stand against the man who was once Michel Platini's number two at UEFA.

### -Expanded World Cup-

"There is a lot to be looking forward to," Infantino said as he turned thoughts to the next four years and declared the 2026 World Cup, the first edition to be enlarged to 48 teams, will be "the most inclusive World Cup ever".

FIFA announced on Tuesday that the tournament in North America will feature 104 matches, a huge increase from the 64 at the most recent World Cup, as it will start with 12 groups of four teams.

The upcoming women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand later



this year will be the first to feature 32 teams, up from 24 teams at the last edition in 2019.

Infantino is also planning to introduce a new, expanded Club World Cup to be played every four years starting in 2025 and featuring 32 teams.

"We need more, not fewer, competitions

worldwide," he told delegates at the 73rd FIFA Congress.

Infantino has also announced projected income of \$11 billion in the four years up to 2026, compared to \$7.5 billion in the last four-year cycle ending in 2022.

But he said that figure did not include revenues generated by the Club

World Cup, suggesting the final amount of money generated will be even greater.

Those improved financial results allow FIFA to keep on increasing the amount of money it provides in subsidies to federations, in turn helping ensure many of them will continue to back Infantino.

In order to make football "truly global", as Infantino says, at a time when leading European clubs are able to hoard talent and wealth, FIFA distributes money evenly.

And so the likes of Trinidad and Tobago and Papua New Guinea receive the same amount as Brazil, and each has one vote at the congress.

As long as the FIFA president keeps on his side the 35 Central American nations, including numerous Caribbean is-

lands, or the 54 African federations, he need not worry about upsetting the powerful European nations.

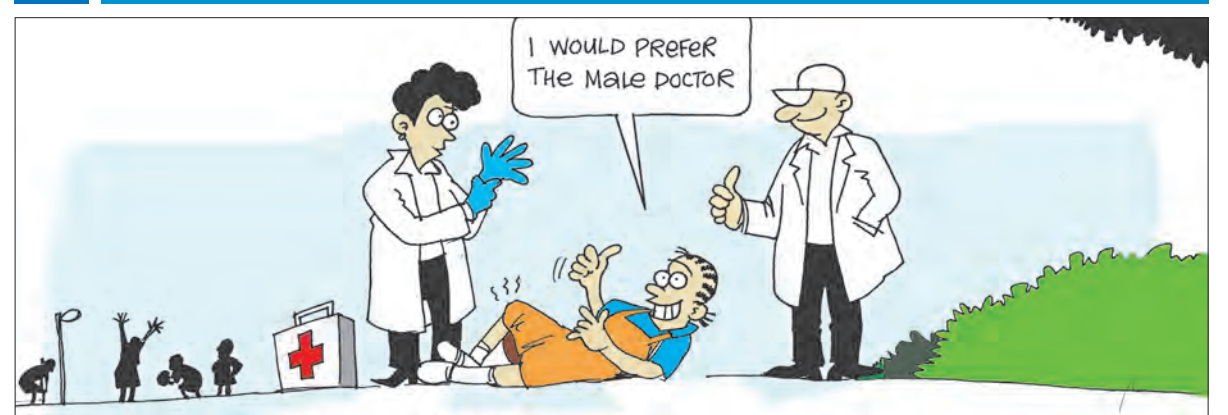
That is why failed plans for a biennial World Cup, or the decision to ban rainbow-themed "One Love" armbands promoting LGBTQ rights at the World Cup in Qatar, did not stop Infantino eyeing a new term.

Yet the fractures in football show no sign of healing as long as Infantino's expansion plans continue.

For example the World Leagues Forum, bringing together 44 leagues worldwide, has complained that FIFA did not consult with them before announcing plans for the new Club World Cup, which will be shoe-horned into an "already overloaded" calendar.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Lacklustre Liverpool knocked out and left in desperate quest to salvage their season

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## 'President Samia's cash boosts Yanga'

By Guardian Reporter

YOUNG Africans SC, alias Yanga, has said that the cash prize from President Samia Suluhu Hassan has increased the club's players' motivation to fight for the outfit.

Hafidh Salehe, the club's coordinator, disclosed in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinal draw held at the Azam Media Limited's offices.

Salehe said that in the past the Jangwani Street outfit was crashing out of the preliminary stages of Africa inter-club showdowns but now the squad's footballers have a great motivation to fight for their team's logo.

"We are currently grateful for this enthusiasm, you can see the players fighting to give the team good results on the field, so we are grateful for everything that contributes to our victory," the coordinator said.

"History has changed and this time we are going to the match against Tunisia's US Monastir with great enthusiasm to see our team win in front of its fans, the game will be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday," he said.

Yanga and Simba SC are lately enjoying cash windfall as President Samia had promised to hand over a cash prize of 5m/- for every goal scored by the two outfits in this season's Group Stage of African inter-club competitions.

The Jangwani Street side has already amassed 30m/- from the President after winning two ties and notching one draw in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup Group D.

Yanga clobbered DR Congo's TP Mazembe 3-1 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on February 19 and later walloped Mali's AS Real Bamako 2-0 at the same venue on March 8.

The Tanzanian side moreover drew 1-1 with AS Real Bamako on the latter's home turf on February 26. The draw for this season's ASFC quarterfinals on Wednesday saw the big three, Azam FC, Simba SC, and Yanga, avoid each other at this stage of the tournament.

With eight NBC Premier League teams left in the draw, it meant that all-top-flight ties were produced for the quarterfinals.

As it was last year, the quarterfinal draw was accompanied by the semi-final draw.

# Tanzania Paralympic Committee lauds President Samia



The national wheelchair tennis team's coach, Riziki Salum, talks to the squad's players at training that took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) recently. The team was shaping up for a trip to Turkey for the BNP Paribas World Team Cup held last year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NATIONAL sports associations for people with disabilities have said many athletes with disabilities have achieved their goals in the two years of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC), the mother body of more than 30 sports associations for persons with disabilities, said in the two years of President Samia's leadership, many positives have been recorded.

Tuma Dandi, TPC president, said in the previous administrations, athletes with disabilities were overly ignored and given little support, noting that in most cases it was a group left behind.

He said the current leadership under President Samia has achieved parity and equality among all athletes.

Dandi issued an example of a six-month residential camp, sponsored by the government, for athletes with disabilities ahead of last year's Commonwealth Games which were played in England.

The TPC official noted: "For the first time, athletes with disabilities attended a six-month residential camp last year to prepare for the Commonwealth Games, the government also handed over allowances to all athletes."

"Unlike in the previous years, the current administration provided our Para powerlifting and amputee football sides with doctors and qualified coaches, in the past, there was no full camp for athletes with disabilities, and no full support from the government," he said.

The TPC president also disclosed that the government has provided them with a 10-acre land in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam for the construction of a stadium and the committee's offices.

The official noted: "Now we have well-organized sports activities for women with disabilities and also for the first time in our country, the government appointed the TPC president as a board member of the National Sports Council (NSC)."

"Having a person from TPC on the NSC board is something we must be happy with as that person will convey our grievances to the government," Dandi pointed out.

He disclosed there are, however, some challenges TPC faces in its efforts to involve all people with disabilities in sports.

He said currently, there are no platforms where young athletes with disabilities can expose their talents as they are not involved in the annual Inter-Primary Schools Games (Umitashumta) and Inter-Secondary Schools Games (Umisseta).

The TPC official revealed: "There is no official platform where our children with disabilities studying in primary and secondary schools can expose their talents."

"There is an abundant talent only that there are no

platforms to showcase them but we are confident that this government, which is at the forefront of advocating for inclusive sports, will include youngsters with disabilities in future schools' sports events," Dandi said.

"There is also a lack of qualified coaches and physical education teams," he noted.

He also said due to a lack of finances, sports associations for people with disabilities do not hold annual championships.

Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT)'s Director, Charles Rays, shared Dandi's views saying President Samia's leadership has shown full commitment to promoting inclusive sports in the country. He said since SOT was formed many years ago, it was only this year that the government committed monetary support to the body.

Rays revealed: "We will compete in the coming Summer Special Olympics Games in Germany, the Games are slated for June 17-26 and Tanzania needs 190m/- to send a delegation of 31 people."

"We had no idea of where we will get the money, we asked the government through NSC and for the first time they have accepted to pay half of the required amount," the SOT leader

noted.

"This is good news to us and we hope in the future they will continue supporting us," he said.

Riziki Suleiman, Wheelchair Tennis Tanzania's official, was also full of praise for the leadership of President Samia.

"Unlike in the past in which the only help we were getting from the government was the visa application process, now we are assured that the national team which has followed all procedures is bound to get government's financial and material support," Suleiman said.

Tanzania Amputee Football Federation (TAFF), which had in cooperation with the government fielded the national amputee football team in the 2022 Amputee Football World Cup held in Turkey, attributed its success to President Samia.

Peter Sarungi, TAFF president, said in President Samia's first year in office, she helped the federation successfully host the Africa Amputee Football Championships, which witnessed the national amputee football team, alias Tembo Warriors, booking a place in Amputee Football World Cup for the first time.

"Our dear President Samia is behind the success story of amputee football in the

country, when we were preparing for the Africa Amputee Football Championship, with her directives, we were provided with all necessary support for the camp," Sarungi disclosed.

The official noted: "With the government support, Tembo Warriors for the first time qualified for the Amputee Football World Cup, Mama Samia supported us, and the team had good preparations."

"We had a local residential camp which lasted for more than four months, we went to Poland for further preparations and friendly games, in Turkey we secured seventh place in Amputee Football World Cup... that, to us, was a great achievement," he said.

Sarungi also disclosed that President Samia facilitated the transfer of 10 domestic amputee football players from local clubs to Turkey for a professional spell.

President Samia's actions conform with article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The article states: "State parties shall take appropriate measures to encourage and promote the participation to the fullest extent possible of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities and at all levels."

## Artists urged to apply for 2024 Sauti za Busara edition

By Guardian Correspondent

AS the dust settles and the rhythms quieten down from the 20th edition of the Sauti za Busara festival, preparations are already underway to bring back the heartbeat of Zanzibar's Stone Town with the 2024 edition.

Celebrating live music from across Africa and beyond, Sauti za Busara proudly showcases the continent's cultural diversity, with its spotlight on women artists, and young and emerging talents.

Sauti za Busara is acclaimed by BBC, CNN, OkayAfrica, Songlines magazine, and others as 'one of Africa's best and most respected music events'.

The annual festival is organized by Busara Promotions, a non-governmental organization registered in Zanzibar in 2003.

With special thanks to the main sponsor,

Fumba Town- a project by CPS- the musical and cultural celebration that has ignited Stone Town for the past 20 years looks set to continue radiating its shine from Zanzibar to across Africa and beyond.

The 21st festival edition will take place from February 9-11 2024 at the Old Fort (Ngome Kongwe), with live performances of unique and diverse African music styles, collaborations, technical workshops, networking for professionals, and more.

According to the organizers, the call for artists to apply for the 2024 edition is now open until July 31, 2023.

Artists are invited for the opportunity to take to the stage and showcase their talent, culture, and passion for music.

Preference is given to music from the East African region, original sounds with cultural identity connected to Africa, young and emerging talents, and

female artists or groups led by women.

The music with messages that are positive and relevant to society, performers with energy and excitement on stage, and music that is performed '100% live!' will as well garner preference.

All artists interested to participate in 2024 Sauti za Busara are required to complete an online ap-

plication form.

Applicants must visit the Sauti za Busara website to submit applications as well as the required material.

Such material includes the artist's biography, latest audio releases, live performance video, promotional photos, and links to the artist's website or social media pages.

The deadline to com-



Tanzania's Bahati Female Band performs at the 2022 Sauti za Busara festival which took place in Zanzibar. PHOTO: MARC NGOTONIE

plete applications is midnight (EAT) on July 31, 2023.

The festival selection committee will thoroughly review all applications during August and artists will be notified if they have been selected or not before September 2023.

All selected artists are offered a modest honorarium, local transport, accommodation in Zanzibar, allowances, and visa costs when required.

Organizers will announce the confirmed line-up for Sauti za Busara 2024 in October 2023.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

