

National Pg 3
Support private sector to grow

National Pg 4
Blue economy project to benefit 700 villagers

National Pg 6
Bodaboda riders want regular training on road safety

JKCI planning Lusaka unit, zonal branches

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) has unveiled an ambitious plan to start a cardiovascular centre in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, marking a significant step towards becoming a regional hub in that field.

Dr Peter Kisenge, the JKCI executive director, set out this intention at a press conference involving local reporters as well as a four-man team of visiting Chinese journalists from different media organisations.

At the briefing on the institute's premises, he said that JKCI similarly intends to establish such centres in neighbouring countries like Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Collaboration between China and Tanzania has enabled JKCI to build the right infrastructure, procure equipment, and build capacity among general medical practitioners by outreach programmes and clinics, he stated.

The institute has extended cardiovascular care services to local patients and from within East and Central Africa, he said, noting that upwards of 3000 patients had attended, with unopened heart surgeries for 718 people



We made concerted efforts to bridge the gap through knowledge sharing with local doctors and nurses to rescue patients' lives with global standard quality healthcare

conducted last year.

He praised the links with Chinese experts and institutions, wishing that it is broadened to facilitate its service expansion. The cordial relationship is enabling JKCI to set up a branch in Lusaka. "We need to serve the whole of Africa," the medical administrator intoned, asserting that JKCI still needs institutional support to smooth out its ambitions to emerge as a continent hub in cardiovascular treatment.

Local branches at the Chato zonal referral hospital for the western zone and likely Mount Meru regional referral hospital in Arusha city for the northern zone, affirm that JKCI seeks to emerge as an internationally accredited institution in cardiovascular care, training and research.

Dr Zhao Lijian, a visiting paediatric interventional cardiologist, praised the bilateral relationship linking institutions in the two countries in the medical field, pointing out that the link has significantly contributed to improving the provision of specialist medical care.

The collaboration with the visiting medical team enabled the sharing of experience and training of the current generation of local

TURN TO PAGE 2



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presents to Tanzania Private Sector Foundation chairperson Angelina Ngalula a copy of the 1992-2023 report on the contribution of the private sector to Tanzania's economy shortly after launching it in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday evening. It was at a ceremony to mark the foundation's 25th anniversary and the climax of this year's edition of Tanzania Private Sector Week celebrations. Right is Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila. Photo: John Badi

Abductions: Police hiding head in sand, activists say

By Guardian Reporter

AS fear of child abduction and disappearance spreads, human rights activists have asked security agencies to chip in and investigate reports of the missing children and clearly provide reports about the incidents.

Dr Hellen Kijo-Bisimba, a long-serving human rights activist, demanded that the police force skip its standard outlook of denying the reported cases, and instead invest time into investigation and present the facts to dispel the growing accusations.



We urge parents and guardians to fulfill their duty of taking care and protecting their children

In an interview with this paper on Tuesday, she said that some abduction cases are true, while there may be some false alerts.

In this situation of fear, the police need to be honest, and explain what happened and actions taken, rather than claiming reports of such incidents are incorrect while they occur, she stated.

"When incidents occur, the police should provide accurate information along with taking action if anyone makes genuinely inaccurate claims, she emphasised.

TURN TO PAGE 2

'Softer credit terms vital to push SDGs'

By Guardian Correspondent, Addis Ababa

TANZANIA has urged international financial institutions to offer loans at favourable interest rates to alleviate debt pressure, promote economic growth and achieve the 17 global sustainable

development goals (SDGs).

Amina Khamis Shaaban, Treasury deputy permanent secretary, made this appeal at the inaugural session of the preparatory committee for the fourth international conference on financing for development (FfD4) under

the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) here yesterday.

"We have highlighted key issues for consideration at the fourth conference, including reducing borrowing costs," she said, stressing the need for the UN to finalise an international tax cooperation framework to help member countries mobilise financial resources for development.

"The search for domestic financial resources must align with the framework

TURN TO PAGE 2



'Drug use big threat to national security'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduma

CONSUMPTION of narcotics is a major threat to national security as mild drug users often show excessive confidence, thus increasing the potential for causing disruptions.

Aretas Lyimo (pictured), the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) commissioner-general, made this observation at a stakeholders' meeting to discuss measures to combat drug abuse in Songwe Region here yesterday.

He cited research showing that countries that permit drug use have experienced increased crime rates, including murders, robbery and higher rates of street protests, urging increased collaboration among stakeholders on the issue.

The task is to prevent violence associated with drug trafficking and abuse, especially with local government elections and the general election late next year, he said, affirming that

Tanzania leads the pack in Africa in efforts to combat drug abuse.

Stressing the role of drug control in maintaining national security, he stated that security in many drugs-prone countries has



These people get these important documents through various means, including forgery or extended stays in the country

significantly declined, an alert signal to other countries to take precautions in making decisions like allowing the use of certain banned substances.

Ongoing efforts to combat drug trafficking, including arrests and prosecuting traffickers, who earn penalties ranging from 30 years to life imprisonment and asset confiscation were being pursued, he said.

Recently, law enforcement authorities seized over 2.5m grammes of narcotics and detained several individuals including drug lords, overseeing nationwide distribution networks, he pointed out.

Dr Emmanuel Bahemana, the project director for the southern highlands zone in the country mission of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation Medical Research International (HJFMRI), a quasi-governmental US agency, noted that Songwe Region has rising numbers of drug users exposed to HIV infection.

Explaining the primary role of HJFMRI in combating HIV infections, he said that rising cases of drug use made the organisation start collaborating with healthcare institutions to also take up the challenge.

HJFMRI launched its efforts in 2017, help-

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009 >

JKCI planning Lusaka unit, zonal branches

FROM PAGE 1

doctors on how to use new equipment to deliver quality healthcare services.

"We made concerted efforts to bridge the gap through knowledge sharing with local doctors and nurses to rescue patients' lives with global standard quality healthcare," he said.

In recent years, the Chinese government launched a China-Africa medical cooperation programme enabling batches of Tanzanian doctors to attend further training in China, he said.

China was also sending medical teams to African countries to carry out free diagnosis, treatment programmes, and training camps and donating substantial stocks of medical supplies to these countries, he added.

'Drug use big threat to national security'

FROM PAGE 1

ing to set up a clinic in Tunduma town and at the Mbeya zonal referral hospital, he said, citing interventions for over 700 drug users, 500 assisted in Mbeya and 200 in Songwe Region. They were largely at the risk of contracting HIV, he stated.

Daniel Chongolo, the Songwe RC, urged stakeholders involved in the fight against drugs to collaborate in addressing an apparent wave of drug trafficking, affirming that drug traffickers from other countries were using Tanzanian passports hence tarnishing the country's image if apprehended in various destinations.

"These people get these important documents through various means, including forgery or extended stays in the country," he added.

'Softer credit terms vital to push SDGs'

FROM PAGE 1

that the UN is finalising, known as International Tax Cooperation; this will significantly aid us in mobilising our domestic resources," she added.

She argued for sufficient allocating of funds in the upcoming conference billed for next year, about environmental improvements and infrastructure to mitigate the economic impacts of climate change.

"We have stressed the urgency of funding to tackle climate change," she said, asserting that this is critical as climate change affects numerous countries, including providing loans to the youth for self-help ventures as part of enhancing economic empowerment, to shield them from crime networks and other forms of social deviation.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in a message to the opening session, underscored the significance of such platforms in mobilising finance and resources for achieving the SDGs.

Delegates at the session highlighted the need for an ambitious approach to address the financial challenges in achieving the SDGs. The conference slated for the UN regional offices next year will be devoted to reviewing progress on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and assessing the financial needs of developing countries, they added.

Kenya opposition joins crisis-hit government

By Farouk Chothia, Nairobi

KENYA'S President William Ruto has nominated key allies of main opposition leader Raila Odinga to his cabinet, in the latest move to quell growing dissatisfaction with his government.

He gave four posts to the opposition - including the powerful finance and energy ministries.

This is the first time the opposition will serve in government since Odinga took up the post of prime minister in then-President Mwai Kibaki's cabinet in 2008.

Ruto's decision comes as he faces the biggest crisis of his presidency, with young people taking to the streets to demand his resignation under the hashtag #Ruto-MustGo. In an address to the nation, Ruto said he had consulted extensively on forming a "broad-based government" that would spearhead a "transformational agenda" to make Kenya a "better, more just and prosperous" nation.

However, protesters have rejected a "broad-based" government, saying it merely perpetuates deal-making among Kenya's political elite.

The four opposition members given ministries - John Mbadi (finance, referred to as treasury in Kenya), Opiyo Wandayi (energy and petroleum), Hassan Joho (mining and blue economy) and Wycliffe Oparanya (co-operatives and micro, small and medium enterprises development).

Ruto appointed 10 cabinet members in total, bringing his cabinet to 21. Cabinet appointments in Kenya are subject to parliamentary approval, something that likely to happen as the two main parties have struck a deal.

Ruto took office in 2022 after defeating Mr Odinga in a tightly contested election.

He promised young people greater economic opportunities, but he has lost considerable support among them. He was forced to back down from introducing tax increases last month after mass protests.

Kenyans complained that they could not pay more taxes, when they were facing a cost-of-living crisis and there was widespread corruption and wastage in government.



Volunteers from the US pose for a photo with needy children at an orphanage in Moshi recently. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Abductions: Police hiding head in sand, activists say

FROM PAGE 1

sised, while Adeline Mluge, chairperson of Solidarity for Women and Children with Disability (SOWOC) said the police force has contributed to the growing fear by delaying to provide accurate information to the public.

Parents cannot remain calm when they hear about child abductions, she said, insisting that the police force has the duty of reassuring the public that they are vigilant and should be seen to be doing so with energetic measures to enhance security, she said.

Religious leaders similarly need to condemn the violence against children to promote good morals and humane attitudes in society, she further noted, asserting that all these happen because people no longer have fear of God and have lost faith. "We need to reverse this situation," the activist suggested.

Gema Akilimali, the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) chairperson, said that the incidents have caused uncertainty and all sections of society need to take up their responsibilities, starting from within families to the police force.

The public has to strengthen participatory security through community policing to bolster day and night security rather than the habitual focus on night security, she emphasised.

Deodatus Balile, the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) chairman, said in a statement on Tuesday urging the public to avoid spreading false and misleading information online.

Receiving and spreading unverified or actually false information causes panic, inconvenience and shock to parents, guardians, children and the public at large, he said, pointing at the need for social media users to exercise optimal care.

"We urge parents and guardians to fulfill their duty of taking care and protecting their children. We also ask the Police Force to intensify security in various areas across the country to maintain public trust and ensure people feel safe," he said.

DCP David Misime, the police headquarters spokesman, last week dismissed reports on children's disappearances by abductions and kidnappings, asking the public to ignore such allegations.

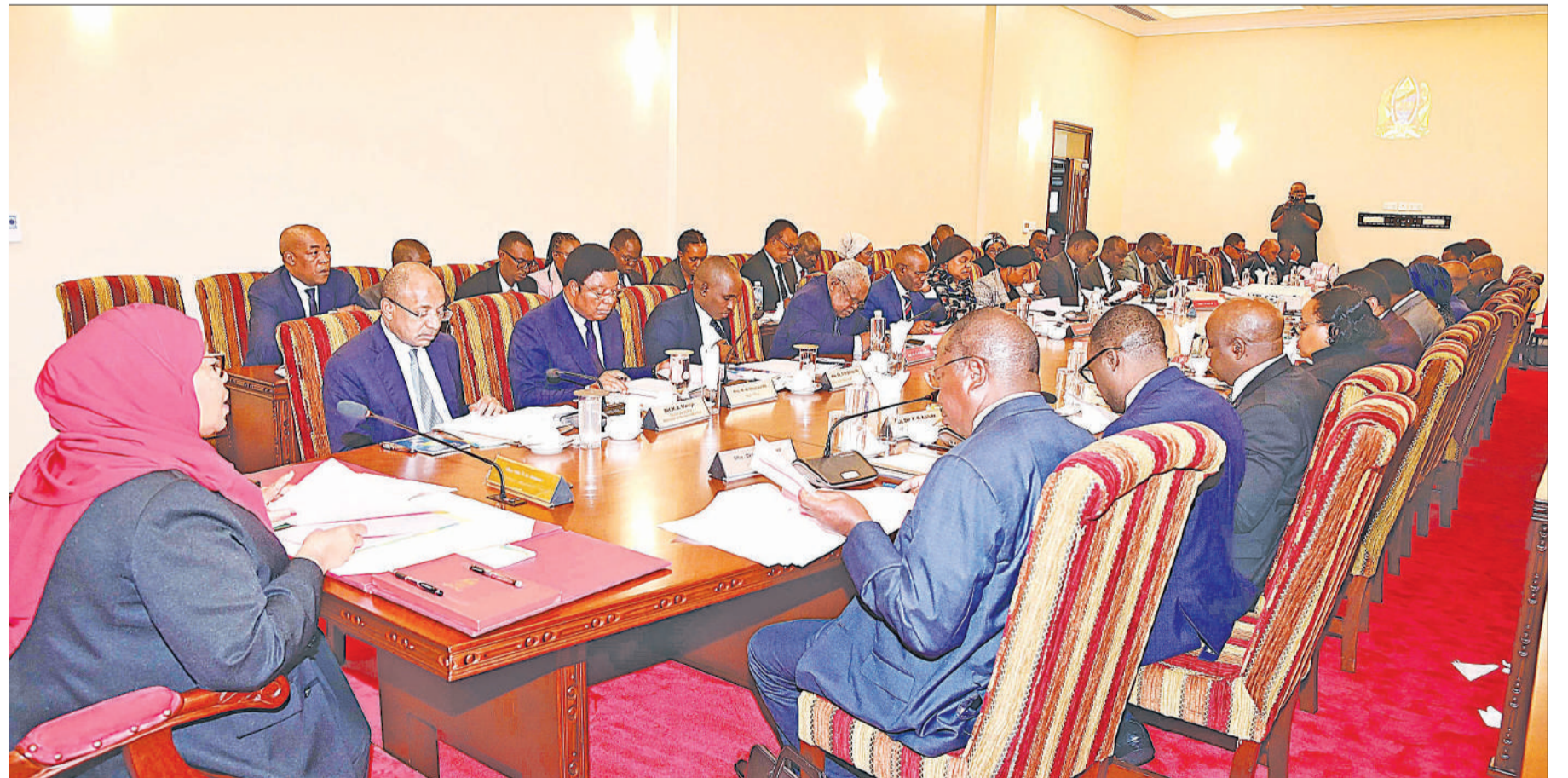
In a public statement, he said that this month some people have fabricated false reports that children from a certain school in a particular area have been killed, then circulated the information on social media.

"These reports have caused panic, inconvenience and shock to parents, guardians and the public. This behaviour, besides being a criminal offense, is highly condemnable," he declared.

He similarly alerted that receiving and spreading unconfirmed information is a criminal offense under the Cybercrime Act of 2015.



These reports have caused panic, inconvenience and shock to parents, guardians and the public. This behaviour, besides being a criminal offense, is highly condemnable



President Samia Suluhu Hassan chairs a cabinet meeting at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Desperate search in Ethiopia for landslide survivors

By Basillioh Rukanga, Addis Ababa

THE search for those engulfed by landslides in southern Ethiopia continues with people using shovels and their bare hands to dig through mud as fears grow that the number of dead could rise beyond the 229 bodies already found.

Drones are being used by emergency teams to search for possible survivors in a remote mountainous area of the Gofa zone, an official said.

The head of the UN's humanitarian office in Ethiopia (Ocha) said that heavy rains caused a landslide on Sunday evening. A second one occurred on Monday morning, burying those who had gath-

ered to help - and there had been a third on Tuesday.

Paul Handley said as the rain had not stopped there were concerns about the stability of the slope and 10,000 people in the area needed to be evacuated "out of harm's way".

Getting heavy earth-moving equipment into the area was difficult, especially because of the condition of the roads, he said.

Gofa is part of the state known as Southern Ethiopia, located around 320km (199 miles) south-west of the capital, Addis Ababa.

The government has deployed a disaster response team to help with search

and recovery efforts.

At least 12 people are receiving treatment in hospital after being rescued.

"The devastation is huge and beyond our capacity. The area is now uninhabitable," said Markos Melese, head of the National Disaster Response agency in Gofa zone.

Aid agencies have been delivering critical supplies, including food, medicine and water to the area.

The search for survivors is ongoing and is being supported by drones, said Firaol Bekele, from the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission.

Southern Ethiopia is among the areas of the country that have been hit by par-

ticularly heavy rain and flooding in recent months, according to Ocha.

But instances of landslides and floods go back further.

In May 2016, at least 50 people were killed in floods and landslides following heavy rain across the south of the country.

Ocha says \$3bn (£2.3bn) is needed for Ethiopia to help those affected by El Niño over the last year - which has brought drought and flooding - as well as conflict, but the drive had been "woefully underfunded".

"With the extremes of coming rain we also expect more of these kinds of emergencies to continue," Handley said.



Leaking pipe brings delight yesterday to young residents of presumably water-short Zeneth village in Muheza District. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

REA to deliver 400,000 free gas cylinders to Tanzanians

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government through the Rural Energy Agency (REA) is set to provide 400,000 free gas cylinders to Tanzanians worth 10bn/- in this financial year.

Judith Kapinga, deputy Energy minister unveiled this yesterday when speaking to the people of Mbinga district about the importance of clean energy.

Kapinga said the government's goal is to increase the use of clean energy for cooking in the country due to various reasons including environmental protection and to prevent the citizens from diseases resulting from the use of impure energy.

"Until now, through REA, we have provided 83,500 gas cylinders worth 3.5bn/- and the work is ongoing," said Kapinga.

She added that the government's intention is to reduce the cost of clean energy equipment for cooking so that citizens can get services at an affordable price.

She emphasised that the government continues to negotiate with stakeholders to increase the number of agents up to the village level, including providing subsidies to these agents through various projects.

Kapinga said that due to the efforts made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in that energy, Tanzania has been seen as a pioneer in the implementation of the clean cooking energy agenda through various policies and the National Strategy for the Use of Clean Cooking Energy from 2024 to 2034.

"It's clear that our president is the one who brought a great impression for the use of clean energy for cooking and this puts Tanzania as the flagship of this Agenda in the world," she said.

Eng Emmanuel Yesaya, REA's acting technical manager said the agency's task is to motivate and finance rural energy projects as well as build capacity for project invest-

tors and encourage environmental care through clean cooking energy projects.

He said that clean cooking energy is measured by efficiency, availability, safety, and ease of use and also does not expose the user to dangerous toxic environments.

On 8 May this year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the National Clean Cooking Energy Strategy in Dar es Salaam.

During the launch she called upon the private sector to invest massively in the sector, including technology, to enable every citizen to easily access clean cooking energy.

She said the newly launched dossier provides a roadmap as the country targets 80 percent of the population to use clean cooking energy by 2034.

President Samia was quoted as saying that apart from lowering costs, the strategy will enhance the country's efforts in fighting against the effects of climate change.

It is estimated that 469,000 hectares of forests are being destroyed each year for the sake of firewood and charcoal.

In November 2023, the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP) global clean cooking energy campaign received a massive boost at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



Until now, through REA, we have provided 83,500 gas cylinders worth 3.5bn/- and the work is ongoing

By Guardian Reporter

Make better ways for private sector to grow, PM tells public institutions

MINISTRIES and public institutions have been urged to ensure that they receive and incorporate views from the private sector into revisions of business policies and laws to remove bureaucracy and improve business procedures.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made the call in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday when opening the Private Sector Week and the 25th anniversary of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), the Prime Minister emphasized the crucial role of ministries that oversee industry, trade and investment in developing strategies to support small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Premier wanted relevant ministries to create a favourable environment for accessing affordable credit, training and market opportunities to facilitate the growth of SMEs, which are essential champi-

ons of the economy.

Majaliwa said despite some challenges, the government has invested heavily in improving the business environment through policy and regulatory reforms aimed at removing barriers hindering entrepreneurs and investors.

"These reforms include streamlining business registration, reducing bureaucracy, enhancing transparency, and promoting investment in key sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, tourism and manufacturing as well as establishing special economic zones," he elaborated.

He further emphasized that in the sixth phase government has prioritized investments in transporta-

tion infrastructure, energy, water and telecommunications, critical for fostering a conducive business environment and attracting both domestic and foreign investments.

Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs) attributed recent successes in the business sector to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's proactive measures in fostering collaboration with the private sector and bureaucracy.

Angelina Ngalula, TPSF chairperson commended the government for recognising the private sector as a key driver of economic growth.

"We are all ready and keen to work closely with the government

to achieve our national development goals," Angelina affirmed.

Ngalula also noted the growth of TPSF's membership, which has expanded from 33 to over 500, encompassing associations of traders and large corporations.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila addressed the issue of arresting people who park their motor vehicles in unauthorized areas.

"This matter is so challenging because you cannot arrest some due to worn parking while you do not have the right parking areas, I have engaged the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to see how we can find a solution," Chalamila remarked.

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

Through the website epaper.ippmedia.com

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

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

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

Through the www.ippmedia.com website

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



Respect one another, Dr Biteko tells local leaders

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr Doto Biteko has urged local government leaders to collaborate and respect each other to foster development rather than hinder it.

Dr Biteko made the remarks while addressing a public rally with residents of Msangila Village, Runzewe West Ward, Bukombe District in Geita Region.

He highlighted that President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision is to see Tanzanians prosper economically and socially, which is why she has been driving rapid development during her three-year tenure.

"As her assistants, we are constantly instructed to listen to the grievances and problems of our citizens. I am here to assure you that President Samia loves you, she values you, and she will bring even more development," Dr Biteko added.

"As the Minister responsible for the Energy Sector, we faced electricity shortages in our country. Power outages were frequent due to high demand and limited supply. Under Samia's leadership, we have addressed these issues. Now, we

no longer have power rationing, and we continue to strengthen our electricity infrastructure," emphasized Dr Biteko.

"You can see we are talking about funds coming in to build roads, construct classrooms, complete health centres, and increase water wells. All of this is driven by our beloved President Samia to bring development," he added.

Dr Biteko noted that President Samia has expanded road networks in Bukombe District from 256 km to 1,400 km. Access to water, previously at only 20 percent, now covers every area.

Martin Shigella, Geita Regional Commissioner, urged citizens to participate in the upcoming voter registration exercise to exercise their right to vote for their desired leaders.

John Nguhi, Ward Councillor of Runzewe West, expressed gratitude for development funds used to improve social services and road infrastructure.

"You can see we are talking about funds coming in to build roads, construct classrooms, complete health centres, and increase water wells. All of this is driven by our beloved President Samia to bring development"



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Immaculate Semesi (3rd-R) has a quick word with her assistants in Dar es Salaam yesterday after receiving the environmental impact assessment certificate for the construction of the council's building in Geita. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

OVER 700 residents from 25 villages in Mkinga district council, Tanga region, are poised to benefit from the blue economy initiative aimed at enhancing economic activities, implemented by the local NGO-MKUBA and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

During yesterday's ceremony to hand over 10.5m/- to five groups from Boma and Kichakamiba village, Ahmad Salim Omar, coordinator of MKUBA, highlighted

Blue economy project to benefit over 700 villagers in Mkinga DC

that the funds will boost income for the 150 members of these groups while reducing human activities at sea.

"Five groups from Boma Kichakamiba village, totalling 150 members, will benefit from these funds, thereby improving their

family incomes," he stated.

Ahmed encouraged coastal residents to preserve ocean resources to enhance fish productivity.

"I urge our fellow citizens to safeguard ocean resources, refrain from cutting mangrove trees, and

advise fishermen against using explosives and toxins harmful to both our health and marine life. Keeping our beaches clean at all times will ensure a cleaner ocean and contribute to increased fish productivity," he added.

Octavian Mshiro, Acting

Director of Mkinga District Council, expressed gratitude to development partners for their efforts in conserving marine resources and uplifting the economic well-being of citizens.

"We commend your contributions to marine resource conservation

and improving the economic status of our citizens. Your support is invaluable, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the government to achieve our shared goals," he emphasised.

Octavian urged recipients of the funds to utilise them for their intended purposes. "Use these funds for their designated purposes," he urged. "Avoid personal enrichment and instead engage in business activities to improve your financial standing, uplift your families economically, and help eradicate poverty," he concluded.



ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers.

TMA recently rebranded from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), reflecting our ambitions to serve partners in driving continental-wide trade gains, and are expanding from East and the Horn of Africa to Southern and West Africa. TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organisations, national Governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations to deliver results that drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit www.trademarkafrica.com

TMA would like to invite interested and **qualified firms** to participate in the following tender opportunity:

Development of National Logistics and Freight Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan, Master Plan and Logistics Strategy for Naivasha Dry Port, and Feasibility Study for The Cool Logistics Facilities. - [RFP Number: PR020240132];

Tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrica.com. The closing date for submission is per indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.



World Vegetable Center

Job Announcement
**Research Assistant- Plant Breeding
Tanzania, East Africa**

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a nonprofit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and regional offices around the globe. WorldVeg conducts research and development programs that contribute to improved incomes and diets in the developing world through increased production and consumption of nutritious and health-promoting vegetables. For more information about World Vegetable Center, please visit our website: worldveg.org

WorldVeg seeks to recruit a Research Assistant - Plant Breeding to strengthen the Center's breeding program to provide evidence-based solutions for making improved vegetable varieties more available, affordable, and accessible to vegetable producers. She/he will involve in implementation of the various breeding activities of the Center and other related activities. The employee will be based in the Center's regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa in Arusha, Tanzania.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assume responsibility for implementation of breeding activities like planting of nurseries, crossing blocks, experiments/trials and seed increases;
- Prepare and implement field plans and layouts of nurseries, crossing blocks and experiments/trials
- Schedule and conduct seed preparation, sowing, transplanting, irrigation, weeding, emasculation and crossing, data collection, harvesting and seed extraction;
- Make sure seeds of breeding lines and varieties are properly labeled and maintained;
- Properly record all breeding germplasm introductions and distributions and periodically summarize and present reports to supervisor;
- Ensure that all field and laboratory data are collected in time and transfer into computer;
- Assist in selection and statistical analysis;
- Ensure available farm tools, field and laboratory facilities and equipment related to breeding activities are in place and well maintained;
- Prepare monthly/weekly requirement of daily laborers based on activities planned for the period;
- Directly supervise daily laborers on duty in the field and in the laboratory;
- Assist in practical training courses organized by the vegetable improvement unit;
- Cooperate with other research assistants under the program and within the regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa on vegetable research and development activities;
- Accomplish any other duty requested by the supervisor - The Vegetable Breeder;
- Perform other tasks as may be assigned by the Country Programme Manager as may be needed

Required Qualifications:

- Minimum Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Horticulture, crop science or agronomy, from an accredited university.
- A minimum of three years of experience in vegetable breeding, horticulture and agronomy research within an international non-governmental organization (NGO), highly preferred.
- Excellent computer skills in MS-office applications (Word, Excel, Power point)
- Excellent communication skills in spoken and written English and Kiswahili.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to interact with partners and colleagues in a multi-cultural setting.

The Reward: This is a Nationally Recruited Staff (NRS) position with competitive pay and benefits.

The candidate we hire will embody WorldVeg's Five Core Values:

- Dedication to Innovation and Knowledge Sharing** Supports the conduct of world-class science, respects ethical standards, and is committed to sharing results in a transparent manner.
- Commitment to Impact** Aspires to achieve positive, tangible, and lasting impact contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.
- Commitment to Partnerships** Believes in the value of partnerships to advance research for development.
- Respect for People** Respect the diversity of gender, culture, ethnic origin, religion, age, beliefs, and views.
- Respect for the Environment** Strives to minimize its environmental impact and to introduce greener technology and practices.

How to Apply: Applicants should submit a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position along with a curriculum vitae, a recent passport-size photograph, names, and addresses (including telephone/e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability to info-esa@worldveg.org or the job bank site before **12 August 2024**. Please mention the position title in the subject line.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Arusha to host 2nd AAAG annual conference in Dec

MORE than 2,000 accountants from 55 African countries are expected to participate in the second African Association of Accountants General (AAAG) Annual Conference scheduled for Arusha from December 3 to 5.

Speaking to journalists here yesterday, Leonard Mkude, the Chief Government Accountant, stated that this summit marks its second occurrence since its inception on July 5, 2023, following

the first summit held in Lesotho in February 2024.

He mentioned that the Association of Government Chief Accountants was formally launched in Mombasa, Kenya, on July 5, 2023,

following a resolution to unify existing associations of accountants across various regions.

However, he emphasized that the summit aims to enhance public trust in public finance management systems for sustainable growth.

The summit's target audience includes accountants, auditors, financial experts, ICT specialists, risk managers, and others, spanning government, private companies, and the self-employed.

"We expect to host over 2,000 guests, which undoubtedly will significantly benefit businesses

such as guesthouses, hotels, transportation, catering, and the local economy," he said.

Participants will have opportunities to attend diverse academic sessions, interact with chief accountants from across Africa, exchange experiences, and explore opportunities within African countries.

He further highlighted that the summit will foster inclusive growth and sustainable development across Africa.

Additional benefits include promoting good governance,

democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, peace and security, strong cultural identity, common heritage, and ethical values. Malehlohonolo Mahase, Chairperson of the Association of Chief Accountants of Africa, explained that Tanzania was chosen to host the summit due to its leadership in budgetary systems.

"Tanzania has excellent and robust financial systems, and many other African countries aspire to learn from its practices," he added.

He also underscored Tanzania's positive attributes such as democratic values, peace, unity, investment opportunities, tourism, and trade.



Education, Science and Technology ministry acting permanent secretary Dr Lyabwete Mtabweta (R) exchanges documents with Srikant Nandigam, CEO of India's Vignan University, in Dodoma city shortly after the July 18 signing of an MoU under which 100 Tanzanian students will be sponsored for pursuing Engineering and Agriculture courses in India. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bodaboda taxi riders hungering for more training on road safety

By Anna Cosmas, DARTU

BODABODA taxi riders at Buguruni suburb in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam have urged the government to take robust measures, which include supervising the provision of regular training for new riders on road safety rules.

Bodaboda riders told this reporter over the weekend in separate interviews. They said that the increase in new riders with no training or experience also contributes to the challenge.

According to the riders, they have witnessed a significant rise in road accidents involving motorcycles in the area, attributing this to several underlying issues, including poor road conditions, reckless driving and lack of proper training for new riders.

Juma Mwakalinga, a veteran motorcycle rider at Buguruni said:

"Many new riders get on the road without any proper training. They don't know the traffic rules and often ride recklessly, leading to accidents."

Another driver, Kelvin Ndalila, pointed out that poor road conditions, especially in areas like Buguruni, exacerbate the situation.

"The roads here are full of potholes, and during the rainy season, it becomes even worse. Riders try to avoid these potholes and sometimes end up in accidents," he explained.

The drivers also mentioned the increasing pressure to make more trips and earn more money, which leads to over-speeding and risky manoeuvres on the roads.

"Everyone is trying to make a living, but in the process, some drivers take unnecessary risks such as speeding," said Patrick Chirwa, a driver in the area.

Residents in the area have also expressed concerns, calling for immediate action from the authorities to address the root causes of the accidents.

"We need better roads and more stringent enforcement of traffic laws. The government should also ensure that all bodaboda riders receive proper training before they are allowed on the roads," said Fatuma Omary, a Buguruni resident.

Reports show that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent caused by the mechanical problems of the vehicles, 6 percent by climate change, and only two percent of the road accidents are caused by poor infrastructure.

According to the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023 by the World Health Organisation (WHO), road traffic injuries are the leading killers of people aged 5-29 years.

Muslim Union in Arusha files case against Bakwata over mosque grounds' 'invasion'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Arusha Muslim Union is filing a case with the intent to drag the Tanzania Muslim Council to court in the ongoing controversy surrounding the plot of land on which the main Bondeni Friday Mosque is located.

Apparently, the Arusha Muslim Union (AMU) which owns the title deed for the main Friday Mosque in the city center has been angered by recent real estate development projects being undertaken by the Tanzania Muslim Council (BAKWATA) in the area without the former's consent.

BAKWATA is said to be erecting a belt of shops around the main Friday Mosque, a project which the Arusha Muslim Union members are against, because there were earlier plans to build a bigger and modern prayer house on the plot.

In a bid to stop that, AMU is consulting the services of one of the law firms in Arusha, the Akoonay Advocates in filing the legal matter before courts of law.

Asked about the issue, Lawyer Mustafa Akunay admitted to having received a letter from the Arusha Muslim Union and that some negotiations are going on between AMU and his law firm regarding the soon-to-be-filed court case.

The Tanzania Muslim Council (BAKWATA)'s National Secretary, Sheikh Nuru Jabir Mruma called off the AMU bluff, saying AMU members could go to court for all he cares, because no law has been broken.

According to the Arusha Muslim Union (AMU) leaders, the Bondeni Friday Mosque, standing on Plot Number 478 mapped within Blocks H' and I'm in Area 'F', between Pangani and Bondeni streets, is an important and holy religious property that should not be tarnished by string of retail shops.

"The Bondeni Friday Mosque is an important religious house in which National Leaders including Presidents, Ministers and Permanent Secretaries usually worship while in Arusha," said Sheikh Aziz Bashir one of the AMU leaders.

Previously, members of the Arusha Muslim Union (AMU) had appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, for the Head of State to intervene in saving the main Bondeni Friday Mosque from being turned into the proposed rowdy bazaar.

The Arusha Regional Sheikh Shaaban Bin Jumaa has admitted that there were indeed plans to erect some structures around the Friday Mosque for investments but the project has however stalled for a while pending more consultations.

"It was all meant to generate more income for the

mosque, not otherwise, but we are still discussing the matter through a series of meetings," he said, adding that at the moment he was in

A visit to the Bondeni Mosque area revealed a perimeter corrugated iron sheets fencing indicating some construction work going on, with a wooden signboard bearing construction permit Number 163/2023 for the commerce' shops project erected on the plot.



TANZANIA BREWERIES EMPLOYEE SHARE OWNERSHIP TRUST (THE TRUST) NOTICE TO UPDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF TANZANIA BREWERIES LIMITED PLC EX-EMPLOYEES

This is a general broadcast message to all ex-employees of Tanzanian Breweries Limited Plc and its subsidiaries, Tanzania Distilleries Limited and Darbrew Limited, who were employees of the Company at any time in the period of 24th November 2011 to December 2017 and subsequently exited the business, to provide and update their banking details as outlined below.

You are hereby requested to provide the updated information through the below email address by latest the 7th of August 2024. You are advised that should you not come forward prior to the above deadline, then TBL and the Trust will conclude that you have waived all your rights under the Trust's 2nd distribution and no further claim can be made against the Trust or Tanzania Breweries Limited Plc in this regard.

To update information please send through:

- 1. Provide full names as appearing in your employment contract including your employment number, date of joining the institution, date of exit and evidence of your salary slip. These are mandatory requirements and no exceptions will be made in this regard.
2. An updated bank letter with your bank details reflecting the name of the beneficiary, bank account, branch name, bank name and contact details (mobile number).
3. Please note that the names submitted in 2 above should match your employment names, or else an affidavit will be required where a name change has occurred.
4. In case of a deceased beneficiary, please include the letters of administration or probate issued by a competent court to this effect.

In case of any questions/queries do not hesitate to contact the People (HR) Managers below:

Table with contact information for Arusha Brewery, Dar es Salaam Brewery, Tanzania Distilleries, Mwanza Brewery, and Mbeya Brewery.

Send all requisite details to the following email address: trust.validation@ab-inbev.com For any further clarification, you may contact the Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Company secretary:

Esther Kuja Esther.Kuja@tz.ab-inbev.com D +255 765 974 974

Advertisement for DSE (Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange PLC) featuring a public notice of the appointment of Mr. Peter Situmbeko Nalitolela as the Chief Executive Officer.



REQUEST FOR RE-SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the Supply of PPE- Personal Protective Equipment to AUMS GEOFIELDS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

Due to the recent Microsoft Windows system failure that impacted on our IT systems globally, AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified, and experienced Tanzanian companies to resubmit their expression of interest in the **Supply of PPE**, Personal Protective Equipment to support its operation at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania. Email size shouldn't exceed 20mbs

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract (FPA) is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsgh.com by not later than **16:00HRS** Local Time on **28/07/2024** quoting "EOI Supply PPE" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholders IDs, Director's list, Organogram, Number of employees with a foreign to national ratio indicated.
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with any other relevant Industry Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years.
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, Sample POs and contracts, completion certificates
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Distribution points in Mwanza or Geita or list of satellite offices if applicable
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018. Together with proof of submission of the various reports needed by the Commission.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on **28/07/2024** shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS Geofields(T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on **AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd** and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsgh.com.

AN AUMS & GEOFIELDS JV
AUMS IS PART OF PERENTI LIMITED



REQUEST FOR RE-SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for the Supply of "Dymark" Spray Paint to AUMS GEOFIELDS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

Due to the recent Microsoft Windows system failure that impacted on our IT systems globally, AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified, and experienced Tanzanian companies to resubmit their expression of interest in the **Supply of Dymark spray paint** to support its operation at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania. Email size shouldn't exceed 20mbs

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract (FPA) is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsgh.com by not later than **16:00HRS** Local Time on **28/07/2024** quoting "EOI Supply Dymark Spray Paint" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholders IDs, Director's list, Organogram, Number of employees with a foreign to national ratio indicated.
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with any other relevant Industry Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years.
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, Sample POs and contracts, completion certificates
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Distribution points in Mwanza or Geita or list of satellite offices if applicable
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on **28/07/2024** shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS Geofields(T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on **AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd** and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsgh.com.

AN AUMS & GEOFIELDS JV
AUMS IS PART OF PERENTI LIMITED



Residents of Korogwe, among them public servants and religious leaders, pictured in the town yesterday attending a meeting on preparations for the launch of Tanzania Development Vision 2025-2050. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

Diaspora builds residential homes for orphans, vulnerable children in Moshi

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

A Tanzanian Diaspora in the United States, Dr Lioba Moshi in collaboration with her friends and well-wishers has constructed residential homes for orphans and abandoned children in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region.

The idea is meant to improve the livelihood of the highly needy children in Kilimanjaro Region.

The facility that is meant to benefit Sustainable Service Learning for orphaned and abandoned children is named Upendo-One Kid at A Time (Upendo-OKAT).

Dr Moshi who is a Lecturer at Georgia University in the US explained that her idea to establish that project came in 2007 when he visited with some students from the USA who arrived in Tanzania for a tour and volunteering issues at the Upendo Children's Home owned by Catholic Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood located in Moshi Municipality.

"I'm a lecturer at Georgia University in the USA, and I always

visit my Country Tanzania with a group of my students every June-July who come with me for tours and volunteering issues, I remember in 2007 we visited the Upendo Children's Home by Catholic Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood located in Moshi Municipality, and we were interested with what they are doing," Dr Moshi explained.

He added: "During our visit at the Upendo Children's Home we learned that a total of the 60 orphaned and abandoned children who are taken care of in that centre were adopted after five years to different parts of the country to enable the center to take in others children in need."

According to him, when he went back to the US, he managed to fundraise some money and construct a new facility with the idea of collaborating with the Upendo Children's Home owned by Catholic Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood to take care of them, enrolling them in different schools from pre-primary, primary and secondary schools.

"Right now, children are living in a home together until they're ready to go to school. Their brothers and sisters are the other children living there. Our project will let them stay with their pals until they're ready for college or to start their vocation," Dr Lioba Moshi further enlightened.

He added that the new home for homeless children, fully completed in 2022, was built to take care of 20 -40 orphaned and abandoned children and had a modern multipurpose room.

Sr. Deodora Mtagona, Upendo-OKAT executive director of the Catholic Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood explained that her organization has a total of 26 children now that most of them are nursery, primary, and secondary pupils.

"Apart from providing them with all full accommodation at our organization, we are also paying for their school fees and other necessities, many salutes to our matron and donor, Dr Lioba Moshi, and other well-wishers for their great support," she explained.



REQUEST FOR RE-SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for the Supply of Toyota Light Vehicle Maintenance Spare Parts to AUMS GEOFIELDS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

Due to the recent Microsoft Windows system failure that impacted on our IT systems globally, AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified, and experienced Tanzanian companies to resubmit their expression of interest in the **Supply of Toyota Light Vehicle Maintenance Spare Parts**, to support its operation at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania. Email size shouldn't exceed 20mbs

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract (FPA) is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsgh.com by not later than **16:00HRS** Local Time on **28/07/2024** quoting "EOI Supply of Toyota LV- Spare Parts" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholders IDs, Director's list, Organogram, Number of employees with a foreign to national ratio indicated.
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with any other relevant Industry Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years.
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, Sample POs and contracts, completion certificates
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Distribution points in Mwanza or Geita or list of satellite offices if applicable
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on **28/07/2024** shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS Geofields(T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on **AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd** and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsgh.com.

AN AUMS & GEOFIELDS JV
AUMS IS PART OF PERENTI LIMITED





Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-07-01	Underground Shotcrete Supply	i. Demonstrate their capability to produce and deliver shotcrete that meets the required quality standards and is delivered in a timely manner to support continuous mining operations. This includes providing details on production capacity, quality control measures, and logistics plans. ii. Submit a detailed method statement demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the scope of work, including the supply, production, and delivery of high-quality shotcrete. iii. Must be able to comply with Barrick's Safety standards and management systems, as well be able to provide mine site approved equipment(s). iv. Show evidence of experience in similar shotcrete supply projects in large-scale mining operations and capability to meet quality and timely delivery standards.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **01st August 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED.



Hope and Life Rehabilitation Organisation executive director Al-Karim Bhanji briefs journalists in Bagamoyo yesterday on progress the agency's one-year project has made in making drug addicts at sober houses know their rights. The project, now in its second phase, is being implemented in five Bagamoyo District wards with funding from the US Ambassador's Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief and PEPFAR. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NEMC builds centre to curtail mercury use impacts in mining

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) is constructing a building in Geita Region that will be used to educate the public about the impact of mercury use in gold mining.

The building is expected to be completed in July next year and is expected to cost \$1.5 million.

Eng. Betrina Igulu, NEMC mercury control project manager unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to reporters about the development of the project.

She said the mercury use supervision project is being implemented by the government with funding from the World Bank (WB) in the seven regions of Mwanza, Mara Geita, Singida, Mbeya, Songwe, and Shinyanga.

She said the project aims to reduce and if possible completely eliminate the use of mercury by small miners because it is a chemical that the World Health Organization (WHO) has said is one of the 10 chemicals that have an impact on human health.

She said that in Tanzania, the mining sector is one of the biggest sectors involving many people, so NEMC has decided to invest more in the community so that it can learn about the safe use of mercury, the use of alternative technologies, and how to protect yourself from getting sick while panning for gold.

"Through this project, we have decided to build a building to provide education to the public in Geita and now we have decided to ensure that the construction of our building complies with the Environmental Law of 2004 to begin with we have done an environmental impact assessment and we are grateful that it has been done and completed on time," she said.

"We are in charge of making sure that all investors do an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), so by doing that we have set an example for others that even we have to obey the law we are in charge of," she said.

In addition, she said (EIA) was managed by NEMC experts in cooperation with experts and added that once built they will ensure the building has an enabling infrastructure that is environmentally friendly and for the lake region it will be a model building.

Lilian Lukambuzi, NEMC director of Environmental Impact Assessment said that they have already handed over an environmental impact assessment certificate to build a project centre to control the use of mercury after fulfilling the conditions made by NEMC.

"In implementing EIA we have complied with the environmental law of 2004 that requires all projects that are built to do EIA," she said.

She said NEMC has decided to carry out an EIA on the environment and society to ensure the sustainability of the project to control the use of mercury in the lake region.

"I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to government institutions to ensure that they comply with the law that requires them to carry out an EIA before starting the implementation of projects to keep the environment in a sustainable state," she said.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED.





Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-07-02	6.6KV Overhead Line to Upper West Infrastructure	i. Contractor specialised in overhead line construction, must have proven experience with different overhead line projects, Electrical CRB Certificate, class 1 - 6. ii. Experience working with similar works in last 3 years. iii. Proficiency in the areas of supply, fabrication, application, transportation, unloading, and receiving, installation, construction, assembly, testing, evaluation, and quality control to fulfill the work's detailed scope, as well as complete awareness of the risks and safety precautions associated with working in the mining industry. iv. Team with multi discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. v. List of equipment's - Resource list - specifying quantities - List of all tools and tackles (with detailed specifications of important equipment).

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management, and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **01st August 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED.





Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-07-03	Concrete Supply for Upper West Civil Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate their capability to produce and deliver concrete that meets the required quality standards and is delivered in a timely manner to support continuous mining operations. This includes providing details on production capacity, quality control measures, and logistics plans. • Submit a detailed method statement demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the scope of work, including the supply, production, and delivery of high-quality concrete. • Must be able to comply with Barrick's Safety standards and management systems, as well be able to provide mine site approved equipment(s). • Show evidence of experience in similar concrete supply projects in large-scale mining operations and capability to meet quality and timely delivery standards.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead referencing the work package reference number should your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **01st August 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED.

THURSDAY 25 JULY, 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Credit lacking as foreign support, local expertise rises in agro-sector innovation

There is further news on who is ready to push the Tanzania's agriculture sector to new heights.

The Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Science (CATAS) have signed an MoU to foster cooperation in various areas tied to agricultural science and technology.

According to the officials concerned, the pact focuses on tropical crops and fruits alongside vegetable cultivation technologies, where things like identifying and preventing plant diseases from insects, pests and weeds have pride of place.

That is rather familiar to practitioners in the area but, as research is conducted worldwide, a new window is great.

For one thing, there is a pattern emerging in how local institutions relate to their Chinese counterparts in the specific areas, where we see the visitors organised at the provincial level as chambers of commerce or research institutions.

They appear to have a leeway in what they do, as in the Chinese version of macro-economy for modernisation, capital is concentrated in local authorities forming large companies, research institutions, real estate and other outlays.

The local entities are empowered to enter into contracts with foreign ones so long as they observe the relevant cadre of national legislation and don't need centralised stamping.

In writing our development programmes and plans, we need to stand reminded that taking up foreign examples is tricky. For instance, to what degree would it help freeing up local space instead of trying to consolidate public firms.

When a provincial research leader in agro-sector technologies and a national institution in that field meet and work together, the idea isn't to earn diplomas but to fix the nuts and bolts of adopting the wide-ranging technologies that the visiting side has to offer.

Evidently, in a range of areas the local side will check how it relates to its own in particular fields, while in a good number of areas finding new applications it hadn't up to then taken up in research.

Thus, institutional collaboration propels capacity in ways that can't be met by sending individuals, and even groups, to foreign study visits periodically.

Assuming that there is an element of agribusiness involved in the CATAS mission and not just a routine bilateral cooperation approach as is usually the case with Western non-governmental institutions, like foundations, funds or activist networks, here there is need for ground-based cooperation credibility.

TARI needs to bring together a range of users of the sort of scientific information (technologies in particular) that CATAS can offer.

That would mean playing the role of go-betweens as for its particulars, auxiliary demands or details, and in certain measure conduct local verification or innovation as it would obtain local rights to that technology.

Such institutional roles aren't hard to design so long as the market is freed at the local level, while protected on the outside, to avoid the flooding of goods compounded by joblessness.

It also demands liberalising the credit sector so that production technologies are imported cheaply and adapted for local use by their being locally manufactured.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

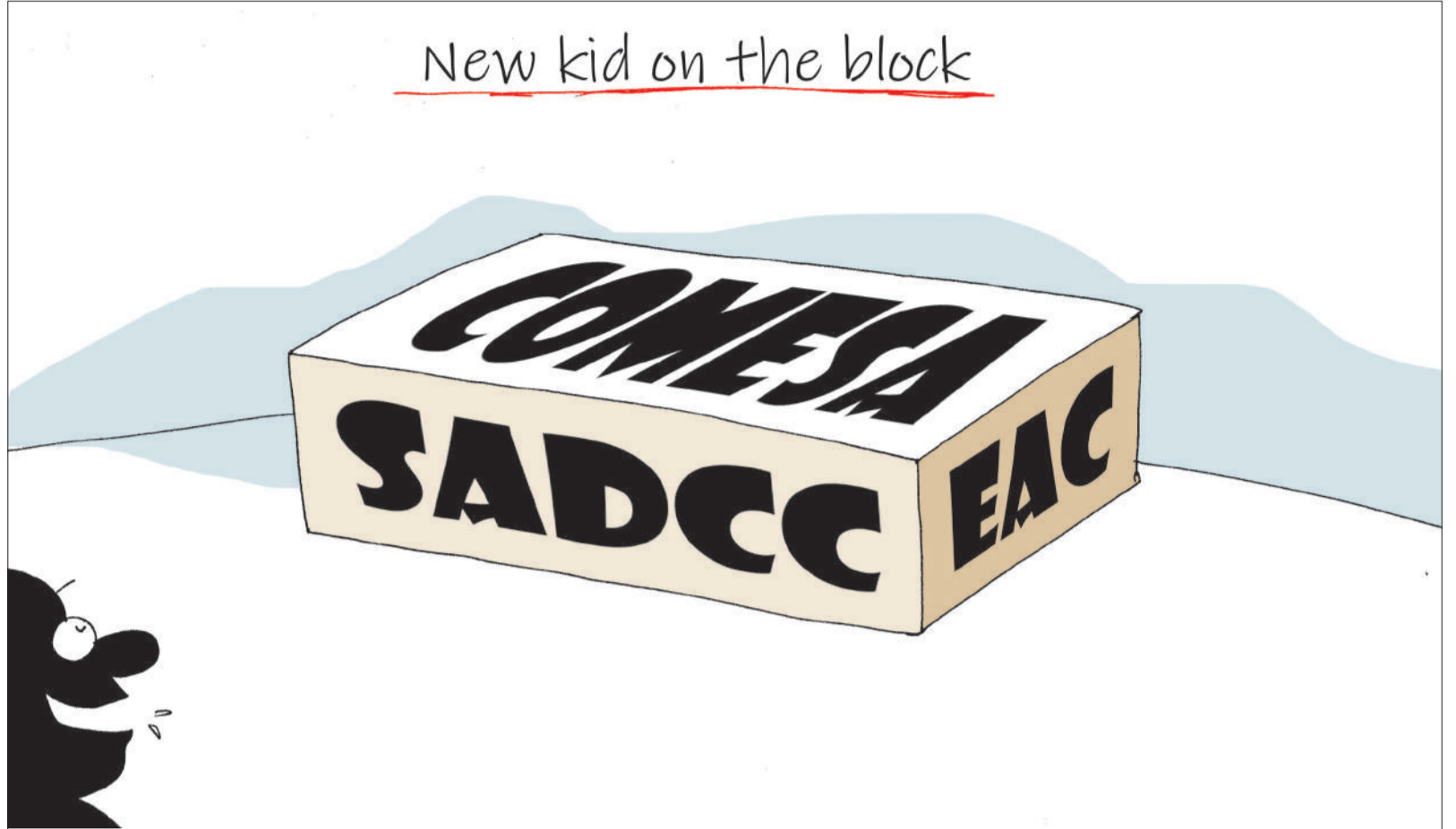
Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

New kid on the block



African diaspora get set to achieve continent's development ambitions

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

As the African diaspora continues its growth, agencies are seeking ways to tap into this vast demographic to help with the continent's development.

Remittances from millions of Africans scattered across the globe have been hailed for sustaining local economies, but a new initiative is aiming to form upscale diaspora investments for longer-term economic development.

In June 2024, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered with the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC) towards the implementation of a USD5.2 million project.

According to officials, the fund aimed at eight African countries will "strengthen investment, human capital and philanthropic engagement from the diaspora in eight African countries."

Most diaspora remittances in Africa go directly to beneficiary families to support anything from buying food to school fees.

The Streamlining Diaspora Engagement to Catalyze Private Investments and Entrepreneurship for Enhanced Resilience (SDE4R) project will help The Gambia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe identify the best methods for effectively mobilizing the human and financial capital of the diaspora.

This follows the signing of a protocol agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2023.

The project will "support socioeconomic development by reviving the domestic private sector or recovery from political or humanitarian crises by leveraging the expertise and networks of Diaspora groups," according to the IOM.

The fund will go towards supporting socioeconomic development by reviving the domestic private sector and recovering from political and humanitarian crises by leveraging the expertise and networks of diaspora groups.

"The African diaspora, with its vast resources, skills, and networks, holds an unparalleled capacity to drive economic growth, innovation, and resilience in our home countries," said Lamin Drammeh, a manager at the African Development Bank financial intermediation and inclusion division.

"This multi-country intervention will contribute towards



People queue outside a bank where they access diaspora remittances in Bulawayo. Credit: Ignatius Banda/IPS

strengthening private sector development, which will foster economic growth as well as socioeconomic resilience in the beneficiary countries," Drammeh said.

The initiative will also enhance "business development by leveraging diaspora-oriented financing opportunities and tools and entrepreneurship initiatives," Drammeh added.

The African diaspora has been hailed by the continent's governments for driving human development through annual multi-billion dollar remittances, but with little formalized investment.

The IOM's partnership with the AU and the AfDB seeks to change that.

"Acknowledging the important role diasporas play in their countries of origin, several governments in Africa have developed policies that seek to harness the potential of their diaspora in national development through financial and social remittances," said Mariama Cisse Mohamed, Director of the IOM Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa.

"However, there are persistent challenges, including governments' constraints on data collection among diaspora to facilitate meaningful engagement, limited

dialogue between African governments and diaspora and the high transfer costs associated with remittance transfers," Mohamed said.

With an ever-increasing number of African migrants making perilous journeys to developed countries seeking better economic opportunities, agencies are calling for the formalization of the continent's development agenda with the Diaspora.

The multi-million-dollar SDE4R project is expected to address the needs of Africa's most vulnerable populations, with the incentives also expected to stem the dangerous and usually illegal journeys African migrants continue making.

"It is further expected to contribute to reinforcing socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable populations, particularly women, youth, rural dwellers and forcibly displaced populations," said Angela Naa Afoley, Head of Division of the African Union Commission's Citizens and Diaspora Organization Directorate.

This will include assistance "through diaspora-related humanitarian, educational, health and other resilience-building support and the temporary return of skilled and qualified diaspora members," Afoley said.

"By streamlining processes, reducing barriers, and providing strategic support, the SDE4R project will unlock new opportunities for investment, spur entrepreneurial ventures, and ultimately enhance the resilience of communities, nations and the continent," Afoley added.

According to the IOM, the USD5 million project is expected to have 10,000 direct beneficiaries and 40,000 indirect beneficiaries in communities affected by conflict, climate change and other humanitarian and environmental disasters.

The IOM is implementing the project over three years with strategic oversight, guidance and advisory from the African Union Commission.

The initiative is part of the IOM's Humanitarian Development and Peace (HDP) program, which focuses on the implementation of strategic frameworks and shared priorities among humanitarian agencies.

According to agencies, an estimated 160 million Africans are in the diaspora, remitting USD96 billion in 2021, more than double the USD35 billion recorded in official development assistance that flowed into Africa in the same year.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Taking pollution surveys helpful in scaling environmental interventions

Environmental researchers say that the Pugu dumpsite on the southern reaches of Ilala District in Dar es Salaam Region has horrendously high air pollution levels.

This is according to systematic data collection as done by the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) from mid-2021 through early 2022.

The results of the initiative have been cited among the achievements of the higher learning institution, as paraded to curious visitors and a range of specialists who visited the DIT pavilion at the recent Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF-2024).

It is widely expected that the data will help to cover gaps of 'talking points' as to the environmental prospects there are for Dar es Salaam and the it faces.

The data collection synopsis availed to the public or to the media highlighted numerous instances of 'particle matter' levels' far higher than authorities should tolerate, going by World Health Organisation pollution control and compliance criteria.

Some emphasis was laid on the situation at the Pugu dumpsite, which was less than alarming. A worsening dumpsite situation isn't really news, but it also indicates that authorities are too slow in allowing environment-based companies to use the site profitably - for instance, in power generation.

The research synopsis went as far as demanding robust measures to address the challenge, citing significant health risks to the population within the vicinity.

It was all right for DIT to show the situation without further ado, as doing more on the policy decisions aspect could drag it into needless controversy and be accused of breaching key codes of scientific research. Here those in science show the facts, the politicians decide the action.

While no one can actually blame those pursuing science so as to skip the hard questions, in the final analysis these aren't issues for higher learning institutions but for political parties.

They are supposed to take up whatever 'science' they can find in the vicinity, findings from research as in this case or merely routine developments, to sketch out answers for those challenges.

Not much can be said of the other areas cited in the study as their situations are related on things like levels of pollution when vehicles use petrol and diesel and when they shift to gas, which brings about the policy issue of institutional prerogatives of expected transition.

The more the change relies on processes initiated and controlled by public firms, the more it can be expected that 2030 will not be adequate for the job of reaching most regions but not all districts as well as small towns and settlements.

If the transition were by contrast anchored in the private sector, just altering one chamber at a petrol/diesel station to use compressed natural gas, then two and then all chambers, the shift would be rapid.

Science isn't to blame for monopolies. DIT or such institutions show 'what there is', for policy makers to show 'how' to recommend a way out.

Effective learning: Need for teachers to use multiple teaching methodologies in lessons

A good teacher should be flexible. Circumstances observed in the class are what determine the manner of delivering the lesson. As success is the target of any teacher, there should be efforts to ensure learners understand what they are taught.

The joy of learners is when they can grasp what the teacher delivers. Lessons are well designed for purposes of increasing the understanding of learners.

A teacher should be a good researcher to be efficient in their work. They should get feedback and adjust quickly to make their presence in the class meaningful. The quality of approach matters in making learners understand what is being taught.

It is normally suggested to sell what is demanded in the market and not sell what we desire to sell. In the class what the teacher does is sell knowledge to learners. Teachers need to evaluate the demand of learners to be effective in their mission.

When the teacher is able to capture the attention of learners there is a great possibility of learners understanding what is being taught. Good teaching methodology which relates to the nature of contents being delivered promotes concentration of learners.

It is sometimes difficult for teachers to make learners understand a certain topic if they have not enabled them to concentrate. Teachers need to apply teaching methodologies that would directly link learners and make them understand easily.

Teaching is like engaging in trial and error activity. The results are what justify continuation of the method or stopping it. This means the teacher should be good at evaluating as well as considering the readiness of learners to learn. When learners are ready to learn, even the teacher enjoys the lesson. They both felt energized. It is important for teachers to ensure that they are teaching individuals who are ready to learn.

Learners need motivation to learn effectively. One of the ways which can trigger motivation is a kind of teaching methodology that the teacher applies. The idea may be good but the poor approach in conveying it may make it seen as a poor one.

How something reaches an individual matters on how they will receive it. Teaching is a profession which demands the teacher to embrace a lot of



ue with the methodology that they have seen to be time consuming. What is needed is success in the lesson regardless of the methodology used. The teacher needs to be quick in changing the methodology of teaching to rescue the situation and making sure that success is achieved.

Using more than one teaching methodology during a lesson helps to involve learners into a lesson. It sometimes happens that the methodologies that teachers apply does not engage learners into the lesson effectively, hence the need to change techniques.

Modern teaching emphasizes on the importance of participatory teaching where learners should show greater participation in the lesson. It is the change of methodology that in some cases enables the teacher to achieve this objective. The role of teachers during a lesson is to make sure that learners are active.

Using different methodologies in lessons helps retain learners' interest. Teaching and learning become successful when both parties are engaged. It demands a lot of effort from the teacher to teach learners who are not interested. It is the teacher's duty to ensure that learners are engaged in class activities. Changing teaching methodology can help maintain learners' interest and make the teaching and learning process successful.

The aim of the teacher is to ensure that learners understand the lesson. To accomplish this objective, it is sometimes necessary to change the approach. One such change is altering the teaching methodology. This becomes inevitable when the current method proves ineffective. All efforts should be directed towards enabling learners to master the lesson content. Teaching requires flexibility.

CLASSROOM MATTERS
By **Thomas Lyimo**
lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

techniques to make the lesson effective. Nothing discourages like teaching individuals and they fail to understand. This is the reason why the teacher should use more than one teaching methodology because it is useful in the following ways. One of the advantages of using more

than one teaching methodology during a lesson is to promote more understanding. The variety of teaching methodologies is useful as different kinds of learners as well as different contents to be delivered demand different methodologies.

Changing teaching methodology during a lesson may lead to efficiency in the teaching and learning process. Teachers should not hesitate in changing teaching methodologies because what is expected is efficiency. It becomes a game of trial and error but with the aim of improving.

Another advantage is that in the middle of the lesson, teachers may find that the methodologies they are using are time consuming and if they continue with it they will not finish objectives of the lesson.

In this case, changing teaching methodology becomes necessary in making sure that the objectives of the lesson are met. It is unwise if the teacher will contin-

ITU: Tanzania gathering momentum in exponential tech

By Telesphor Magobe

THE 21st century is typified by a fusion of exponential (emerging) technologies that have changed the way people think, behave, work and interact with one another.

A country that lags behind in digital technology will in the future bear the brunt of automation and job replacement in this rapidly evolving world.

No country can afford the cost of this for proficiency in digital technology will determine participation in the global digital economy.

Tanzania is not left behind in setting up requisite digital infrastructure, which has facilitated digital development, as shown in a new report called "The ICT Development Index (IDI) 2024" published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

According to this report, the indicator value of Tanzania's population covered by at least 3G mobile networks stands at 85.0 percent, while the nominalised scores for individuals who own a mobile phone stand at 78.4 percent.

The indicator is calculated by dividing mobile broadband Internet traffic (within the country) by active mobile broadband subscriptions. ITU has calculated the population covered by at least a 3G mobile network by dividing the number of inhabitants covered by at least a 3G mobile-cellular signal by the total population and multiplying by 100.

The indicator value for individuals who own a mobile phone stands at 74.5, while the nominalised scores (0-100) for mobile data and voice high consumption basket price (as the percentage of GNI per capita) stands at 71.1.

The nominalised progress scores (0-100) for 3G and 4G/LTE network coverage stand at 68.8 percent, while the nominalised progress value (0-100)



Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) headquarters in Dar es Salaam. File Photo.

for mobile broadband Internet traffic per mobile broadband subscription (GB) stands at 59.8 percent and indicator value for the percentage of the population covered by at least a 4G/LTE mobile network stands at 58.0 percent

The population covered by at least a 4G/LTE mobile network in this report refers to the percentage of inhabitants within a range of LTE/LTE-Advanced, mobile WiMAX/Wireless MAN or other more advanced mobile-cellular networks, irrespective of whether or not they are subscribers.

ITU has calculated it by dividing the number of inhabitants covered by the previously mentioned mobile-cellular technologies by the total population

and multiplying by 100. The number excludes people covered only by HSPA, UMTS, EV-DO and previous 3G technologies, and also excludes fixed WiMAX coverage.

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director for ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau says: "The journey towards a fully and meaningfully connected world is ongoing. With the right data, tools, and commitment, we can ensure everyone benefits from digital connectivity, contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable future."

In this report, of the 170 surveyed economies the average IDI score in the group of low-income economies is 36.2, for lower-middle-income economies it

is 64.8 (a nearly 30-point gap) and it is only a 14-point jump to the next higher-income group, that of the upper-middle-income economies (79.1), and just 13 points to the high-income group. This suggests that the world is in good progress towards universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC).

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations in UNCTAD's "Digital Economy Report 2024: Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future" report says: "Digitalisation continues to move at warp speed, transforming lives and livelihoods. At the same time, unregulated digitalisation risks leaving people behind and exacerbating environmental and climate challenges."

He acknowledges that many developing countries continue facing challenges in accessing digital technologies for their development needs, while bearing the brunt of environmental depletion, waste and climate change. In the same report and expounding on digitalisation, Rebeca Grynspan Secretary-General of UNCTAD stresses a need for harnessing the power of digitalisation to advance inclusive and sustainable development, while mitigating its negative environmental impacts. "This requires a shift towards a circular digital economy, characterised by responsible consumption and production, renewable energy use and comprehensive e-waste management."

The UN report suggests that moving towards sustainable digitalisation would require that those over consuming moderate their consumption of devices, so that the part of the global population that is not sufficiently connected can continue digitalising for development. "In this context, there would be moves towards increasing digitalisation among those countries lagging behind, and efforts to reduce the excessive consumption of digital products in more affluent parts of the world."

A researcher, Freijat (2023), in his study on the digital economy says it has led to a change in ways and means in all aspects of life and expresses a vision of the future. "The digital economy has great potential to increase production, increase incomes and improve living standards in the context of cross-border digital information and communication technologies." Thus, the more Tanzania becomes innovative and competent in the use of exponential technologies the more it participates in the global digital economy and copes with the rapidly evolving world.

Oral contraceptives: The risks and benefits of being on the pill

By Joan Albert Arnaiz Gargallo

THE 20th century saw humanity develop in leaps and bounds, and without a doubt one of the most revolutionary advances was oral contraceptives, more commonly known as “the pill”.

Until the 1980s, the majority of women had extremely limited and ineffective options when it came to contraceptives. Many left a great deal to chance, using methods such as prolonging lactation after pregnancy or fertility awareness, which involves avoiding intercourse at certain times of the month or monitoring cervical mucus and body temperature.

Other methods - such as condoms or interrupted coitus (also known as “pulling out”) - gave women little control, but the pill allowed them to freely choose not to get pregnant.

A question of hormones

Hormonal contraception consists of the external administration of sex hormones - oestrogens and progestogens - which prevent a woman from becoming pregnant. They work in several different ways: By thickening the mucus that lines the cervix, which blocks the passage of sperm cells, slowing the development of uterine mucus (endometrium), which prevents the implantation of a fertilised egg and by blocking the production of pituitary hormones (gonadotrophins), which prevents ovulation.

This form of contraception is reversible, and can take the form of pills, as well as skin patches, vaginal rings, skin implants or injections. While these alternative formats are just as effective, they vary in terms of discomfort or side effects. They also require medical procedures to begin or end their use, while oral contraceptives do not.

In any case, we cannot forget that, unlike barrier methods like condoms, hormonal contraceptives do not protect against sexually transmitted infections.

Over 99 percent effective

Hundreds of millions of women have taken the pill over the past six decades. Arguably, the effects - both good and bad - of few medicines have been studied more, and today we know that the benefits far outweigh the risks.

When used correctly, combined oral contraceptives (which contain both oestrogens and progestogens) have a failure rate (defined as number of unintended pregnancies per 100 women in a one-year period) of less than 1% - similar to that of intrauterine devices (IUDs) and injectable progestogens. This efficacy is surpassed only by surgical sterilisation (hysterectomy or vasectomy), and the most common cause of failure is missing one or more doses during a cycle.

What to bear in mind before you start taking the pill

In general, most women can use hormonal contraceptives. The only exceptions are those with high blood pressure, coronary or cerebrovascular disease, or who suffer from certain types of migraine. The pill should also be avoided by women who have had breast cancer, and those who have certain risk factors - such as obesity - associated with developing blood clots,



also known as “thrombosis”.

While it has been documented for years that oral contraceptives can reduce vitamin or folic acid levels, this effect does not appear to be significant in users with otherwise healthy nutrition. Supplemental folic acid would be necessary for women seeking to become pregnant in order to ensure the embryo's proper neurological development.

If oral contraceptives are taken alongside other medications, it can cause interactions that either increase or decrease the effects of these medicines. In this case, the best course of action is to consult with a doctor before starting to take the pill.

In addition, the effectiveness of oral contraceptives may be compromised in patients undergoing certain treatments: rifampicin (an anti-tuberculosis antibiotic) as well as a number of anti-epileptic drugs are known to decrease contraceptive levels and may prevent them from working properly. Though much has been written about interactions with other antibiotics, this

has not been confirmed.

The most significant risks

With regard to side effects, people may experience certain symptoms in the first months of use, which can vary depending on the oestrogens or progestogens being taken.

Nausea, breast pain, hair growth, irregular bleeding, irritability, decreased libido, abdominal bloating and weight gain are common, but these effects may vary depending on the format being taken, and usually improve over time, or with a change in the dose or type of pill being taken. However, in some cases these side effects may mean that treatment has to be stopped.

Apart from these possible discomforts, the main risks of taking the pill are linked to cardiovascular conditions and the likelihood of developing certain kinds of tumour.

Women who take hormonal contraceptives are 3-4 times more likely to develop venous thromboembolism (blood clots) than women who do not take them. While this sounds alarming,

the risk is actually quite low in absolute numbers - it is around half the risk of venous thrombosis during pregnancy.

Accordingly, hormonal contraceptives would not be recommended after the age of 35 for women who smoke, are obese or have a family history of cardiovascular disease. Combined oral contraceptives with low doses of oestrogen are less likely to cause cardiovascular problems, and could be considered safe up to 45 years of age or older. Pills which include newer progestogens appear to be associated with an increased risk of venous thrombosis.

These drugs have also been linked to some types of cancer. Although the data varies between studies, the chances of developing breast cancer are 20-40% higher during treatment, but seem to normalise after stopping. There is also an increased chance (up to four times higher) of developing liver tumours and, in women who have tested positive for human papillomavirus (HPV), there is an increased chance of developing cervical cancer.

The contraceptive of choice

There are also good sides to taking the pill - among other benefits, hormonal contraceptives have been associated with a decreased risk of ovarian and endometrial cancers. They also regulate the length of menstrual cycles and decrease premenstrual symptoms, relieve period pain and ovulation, reduce the volume of menstrual bleeding and the risk of iron deficiency (anaemia), improve acne and endometriosis, and have been linked to a reduced incidence of benign breast tumours, pelvic inflammatory disease, ovarian cysts and osteoporosis.

For decades, oral contraceptives have been a highly effective, reversible way of preventing pregnancy that affords women a great deal of autonomy without medical intervention. For young non-smokers without obesity or a history of cardiovascular risk or breast cancer - who can keep up the regime of taking a pill daily - they could be considered the best available method of contraception.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



THE PEOPLE'S BANK OF ZANZIBAR LTD.

Head office: P.O.Box 1173 Tel. 024 2231118/20 Fax 024 2231121 Email: info@pbzbank.co.tz, Website: www.pbzbank.co.tz
Mpirani-Zanzibar-Tanzania

PUBLICATION AND DISCLOSURES OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2024 (Amount in million Shillings)		
	CURRENT QUARTER 30th June, 2024	PREVIOUS QUARTER 31st March, 2024
A ASSETS		
1 Cash	39,987	77,481
2 Balances with Bank Of Tanzania	205,316	201,793
3 Investments in Government Securities	100,334	91,583
4 Balances with Other Banks and Financial Institutions	75,585	73,493
5 Cheques & Items for Clearing	752	59
6 Inter branch floating items	140	249
7 Bills negotiated	-	-
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	-	-
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	571,605	547,593
10 Investments in Other Securities	-	-
Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (net of allowance for probable losses)	1,105,576	1,093,745
11 Other Assets	85,727	81,289
12 Equity Investment	3,482	3,451
13 Underwriting accounts	-	-
14 Property, Plant and Equipment	39,458	39,545
16 TOTAL ASSETS	2,227,962	2,210,281
B LIABILITIES		
17 Deposits from other Banks and Financial Institutions	26	215
18 Customer deposits	1,751,616	1,732,202
19 Cash Letters of Credit	15,786	15,316
20 Special deposits	2,295	74,639
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	295	168
22 Bankers' Cheques and Drafts Issued	683	369
23 Accrued Taxes and Expenses Payable	24,540	17,990
24 Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25 Inter branch floating items	-	-
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	-	-
27 Other Liabilities	31,542	30,180
28 Borrowings	178,080	134,510
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,004,863	2,005,589
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	223,099	204,692
C SHAREHOLDER'S FUND		
31 Paid up share capital	31,000	31,000
32 Capital reserves	-	-
33 Retained Earnings	142,296	143,182
34 Profit (Loss) Account	31,153	12,741
35 Other capital accounts	18,650	17,769
36 Minority interest	-	-
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDER'S FUNDS	223,099	204,692
38 Contingent Liabilities	33,733	14,452
39 Non performing loan and advances	26,986	26,719
40 Allowance for Probable Losses	6,870	8,056
41 Other Non Performing Assets	19,747	22,580
D SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS		
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets	10.01%	9.26%
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans	2.44%	2.44%
(iii) Gross loans and Advance to Total Deposits	62.47%	60.02%
(iv) Loans and Advance to Total Assets	49.62%	49.48%
(v) Earning assets to Total assets	83.27%	81.82%
(vi) Deposits growth	-2.89%	5.53%
(vii) Assets growth	0.80%	7.72%

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2024 (Amount in million Shillings)				
	CURRENT QUARTER 30th June, 2024	COMPARATIVE QUARTER (PREVIOUS YEAR) 30th June, 2023	CURRENT YEAR (CUMULATIVE) 30th June, 2024	COMPARATIVE YEAR (PREVIOUS YEAR) (CUMULATIVE) 30th June, 2023
1 Interest income	38,673	29,720	73,133	57,420
2 Interest expenses	(11,271)	(4,981)	(18,987)	(9,916)
3 Net interest income (1 minus 2)	27,402	24,739	54,146	47,504
4 Bad Debts written-off	-	-	-	-
5 Impairment losses on Loans and Advance	(896)	1,954	(1,356)	(184)
6 Non interest income	15,671	9,072	24,120	17,646
6.1 Foreign currency Dealings and Translation Gains(loss) - Net	2,124	1,090	4,199	2,397
6.2 Fee and Commissions	9,422	7,466	18,055	14,833
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	-	-
6.4 Other Operating Income	4,125	516	1,866	666
7 Non-Interest Expense	(15,875)	(15,306)	(32,406)	(27,217)
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(5,347)	(4,680)	(10,835)	(9,585)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(2,103)	(1,330)	(5,313)	(2,522)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(8,425)	(9,296)	(16,258)	(15,110)
8 Operating Income/Loss	26,302	20,459	44,504	37,749
9 Income Tax Provision	(7,891)	(6,138)	(13,351)	(11,325)
10 Net Income(Loss) After Income Tax	18,411	14,321	31,153	26,424
11 Other comprehensive income	382	14	382	14
12 Total comprehensive income	18,793	14,335	31,535	26,438
13 Number of Employees	481	484	481	484
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	115.07	85.51	194.71	163.15
15 Number of Branches	36	31	36	31
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	4.73%	4.8%	4.00%	4.47%
(ii) Return on Average shareholders' funds	34.05%	34.50%	28.81%	31.83%
(iii) Non Interest expenses to gross income	29.21%	39.46%	33.32%	36.26%
(iv) Net Interest Income to average earning assets	5.97%	7.48%	5.90%	7.19%

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2024 (Amount in million Shillings)				
	CURRENT QUARTER 30th June, 2024	PREVIOUS QUARTER 31st March, 2024	CURRENT YEAR (CUMULATIVE) 30th June, 2024	COMPARATIVE YEAR (PREVIOUS YEAR) (CUMULATIVE) 30th June, 2023
I: Cash flow from operating activities:				
Before tax Net income (loss)	26,302	18,201	44,504	37,749
Adjustment for:				
- Impairment/Amortization	1,714	1,700	3,414	3,170
- Net change in loans and advances	(11,830)	(54,824)	(66,654)	(130,745)
- Gain/loss on sale of assets	-	-	-	-
- Net change in deposits	(47,373)	96,219	48,846	288,707
- net change in short term negotiable securities	-	-	-	-
- net change in other liabilities	1,353	5,131	6,484	(45,496)
- net change in other assets	2,448	(28,842)	(26,395)	(29,736)
- Tax paid	(6,558)	(5,850)	(12,408)	(8,598)
- Others (Change in treasury bill and treasury bonds)	(8,499)	(5,483)	(13,982)	(13,583)
Net cash provided/(used)by operating activities	(42,443)	26,252	(16,191)	101,468
II: Cash flow from investing activities:				
Dividend received	-	-	-	-
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,456)	(582)	(2,038)	(859)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
Others (Capital W/P)	(283)	(354)	(637)	(1,098)
Net cash provided/(used)by investing activities	(1,739)	(936)	(2,675)	(1,957)
III: Cash flow from financing activities:				
Repayment of long-term debt	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from issuance share capital	-	-	-	-
Payment of cash dividend	-	-	-	(6,586)
Net change in other borrowings	44,642	44,407	89,049	85,598
Others	(8)	(786)	(794)	(1,744)
Net cash provided/(used)by financing activities	44,634	43,621	88,255	77,259
IV Cash and Cash Equivalents				
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	452	68,937	69,389	176,770
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the quarter	822,717	753,780	753,780	531,658
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the quarter	823,169	822,717	823,169	708,428

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN EQUITY AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2024 (Amount in million Shillings)						
	SHARE CAPITAL	SHARE PREMIUM	RETAINED EARNINGS	REGULATORY RESERVE	OTHERS	TOTAL
CURRENT YEAR: 2024						
Balance as at 01st January 2024	31,000	-	144,111	11,485	5,359	191,955
Profit for the year	-	-	31,153	-	-	31,153
Other comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transaction with Owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	(1,904)	1,904	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	89	-	(98)	(9)
Balance as at 30th June, 2024	31,000	-	173,449	13,389	5,261	223,099
PREVIOUS YEAR: 2023						
Balance as at 01st January 2023	31,000	-	107,236	3,484	5,173	146,893
Profit for the year	-	-	51,285	-	382	51,667
Other comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transaction with Owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	(6,586)	-	-	(6,586)
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(8,001)	8,001	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	177	-	(196)	(19)
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31st December, 2023	31,000	-	144,111	11,485	5,359	191,955

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th June, 2024		
In preparation of the quarterly financial statement, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements.		
Name and Title	Signature	Date
1 Arafat A. Haji Managing Director		July 23, 2024
2 Anwar A. Salah Director Finance		July 23, 2024
3 Suleiman A. Suleiman Chief Internal Auditor		July 23, 2024
We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.		
Name and Title	Signature	Date
1 Joseph M. Meza Chairman		July 23, 2024
2 DR Saleh J. Rashid Board Member		July 23, 2024

PROFIT BEFORE TAX

Jun-24: 26.3 Billion ↑ 45%

Mar-24: 18.2 Billion

SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY

Jun-24: 223 Billion ↑ 9%

Mar-24: 205 Billion

TOTAL ASSETS

Jun-24: 2.23 Trillion ↑ 1%

Mar-24: 2.21 Trillion

ISLAMIC DEPOSITS

Jun-24: 504 Billion ↑ 29%

Mar-24: 391 Billion

ISLAMIC FINANCING

Jun-24: 135 Billion ↑ 4%

Mar-24: 130 Billion

NPL

Jun-24: 2.44%

THE PEOPLE'S BANK OF ZANZIBAR LTD. CHARGES AND FEES FOR BANK PRODUCT AND SERVICES			
NUMBER	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE	
1 Current Accounts			
(a)	Required minimum opening balance	TZS 100,000	
(b)	Monthly minimum service fee (breakdown per customer type)	TZS 5000	
(c)	Cheque withdrawal over the counter	Free	
(d)	Fees per ATM withdrawal	TZS 1,700	
(e)	ATM mini statement	Free	
(f)	Interim statement per page	TZS 500	
(g)	Periodic scheduled statement	Free	
(h)	Cheque book (leaf)	TZS 800	
(i)	Dishonoured cheque	TZS 50,000	
(j)	Tanzania Automated Clearing House (TACH)	TZS 2,000	
(k)	Counter cheque	TZS 25,000	
(l)	Stop payment	TZS 25,000	
(m)	Standing order	TZS 5,000	
(n)	Balance enquiry	300	
(o)	New ATM card issuance	TZS 12,000	
(p)	ATM card renewal or replacement	TZS 12,000	
(q)	Overdrawn account interest charge	N/A	
(r)	Unarranged overdraft	N/A	
(s)	Interbank transfer (minimum)	TZS 2,000	
(t)	Bill payments through ATM	N/A	
(u)	Deposit fee	Free	
(v)	Other (small denomination Foreign currencies)	4.5% of amount	
2 Savings Accounts (Disclose for product specific types)			
(a)	Required minimum opening balance	TZS 20,000	
(b)	Monthly service fee	TZS 1,500	
(c)	Interim statement	Free	
(d)	Account closure	TZS 5,000	
3 Electronic Banking			
(a)	Internet banking monthly fee	Free	
(b)	Internet transfers	TZS 1,000	
(c)	SMS banking	Free	
(i)	Balance enquiry	TZS 200	
(ii)	Mini statement	TZS 400	
(iii)	Bank to wallet transfer	TZS 1,000	
(vi)	Bank to bank transfer (intra-bank)	TZS 1,000	
(v)	Purchase of mobile airtime	Free	
(d)	Other (EzyPesa - Mcommerce) transfer - Bank to bank transfer (intra-bank)	Free	
4 Foreign Exchange Transaction			
(a)	Purchase/sale of TCs transactions over the counter	N/A	
(b)	Purchase of foreign cheque	N/A	
(c)	Sale/purchase of cash passport	Negotiable	
(d)	TISS transfer	TZS 2000- TZS 10,000	
(e)	Telegraphic transfer/SWIFT	USD 20-USD 50	
(f)	Transfer from foreign currency denominated account to local current account (within bank and to other bank)	Free	
5 Personal Loans			
(a)	Processing/Arrangement/Appraisal fee	Free	
(i)	Personal loans	2%	
(ii)	Overdrafts	1%	
(iii)	Mortgage finance	1%	
(iv)	Asset finance	1%	
(b)	Unpaid loan installment	1%	
(c)	Early repayment	3% of Outstanding Principle	
(d)	Valuation fees	Negotiable	
(e)	Term loan/overdraft in USD	6% - 8%	
We, the undersigned have examined the above information and hereby declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information.			
	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Arafat A.Haji	Managing Director	
2	Eddie Edward Mhina	Director Commercial	
3	Suleiman A. Suleiman	Chief Internal Audit	

BRANCHES NETWORK		
FORODHANI P.O.BOX 1173 Forodhani/gizenga street Zanzibar, Tel: 024 2236046 Fax: 024 2231121	MKWEREKWE P.O.BOX 402 Mwanakwerekwe ZSSF building Zanzibar, Tel: 024 2231389 Fax: 024 2236208	CHAKE CHAKE P.O.BOX 135 Chake Chake Pemba Tel: 245 23512369 Fax: 245 2139
MALINDI P.O.BOX 1173 Malindi MTC building Zanzibar, Tel: 024 2231118 Fax: 024 2238482	KARIAKOO P.O.BOX 9160 Kariakoo, Swahili/Mkunguni Dar es Salaam Tel: 022 2184610 Fax: 022 2184609	MLANDEGE CORPORATE P.O.BOX 1173 Malandege Muzamil Zanzibar, Tel: 024 2238349 Fax: 024 2238354
TAZARA P.O.BOX 2636 Tazara, nyerere road Dar es Salaam Tel: +255222862520 Fax: +255222862520	ISLAMIC BANK- TAZARA P.O.BOX 2636 Tazara, nyerere road Dar es Salaam Tel: 0222862526 Fax: 0222862526	ISLAMIC BANK - MWANAKWEREKWE P.O.BOX 402 Mwan

Invasive wasps species threaten South African ecosystems: Public can help to stop the spread

By Ruan Veldtman

THE sight of a swarm of wasps, or even just a single wasp, strikes fear into many people's hearts. Most wasp species aren't dangerous to humans (unless you're allergic), but their stings are painful.

Some wasp species can wreak havoc in other ways, though. Take the family Vespidae, which includes more than 5,000 species. Of those, about 700 are social wasps, meaning they live in groups, with nests containing anywhere between 25 and 7,000 wasps.

Sometimes social wasps are able to reach countries beyond their natural range and establish populations there. This usually happens when hibernating queens accidentally travel as stowaways, having chosen a safe spot (like a golf bag) to hide in through the winter.

It doesn't take much to start a colony in a new place: a male drone mating with a single queen can produce a founding colony that can sire more than 9,000 offspring over a season and hundreds of new queens that can build their own nests the following season.

This can have dire ecological and socio-economic impacts.

In Argentina, for example, wasps that arrived from Europe in the 1970s cause millions of US dollars in damage every year. These wasps complicate agricultural activities, damage fruit in certain situations, and cause declines in honey bees and other beneficial insects and the ecosystem services they provide.

I am an ecological entomologist in South Africa who studies the effects of biological invasions. With my colleagues at the South African National Biodiversity Institute and Stellenbosch University, I'm working to monitor the country's existing invasive social



An Asian hornet invasion would be disastrous for South Africa.

wasp populations and prevent them spreading. This is no simple task because there are not enough invasion biologists and funds to monitor all the threats.

That's why we're now turning to citizen scientists for help. With the

help of the general public we believe we can keep the potential threat of spreading wasp populations under control.

Current invaders There are two invasive social wasp species in South Africa. The German

wasp (*Vespula germanica*) is both a generalist predator of insects (mostly flies) and a scavenger. If yellow wasps with black antennae descend on your picnic, trying to steal meat off your plate, you're dealing with a German wasp. They mostly form nests underground but can nest in vents and holes in buildings.

The European paper wasp (*Polistes dominula*) always nests above ground. There are far fewer workers per nest and you can tell them apart from *Vespula germanica* by their orange antennae and the fact that they fly with their legs hanging. *Vespula germanica* tuck their legs in during flight.

Both species are limited to a small but populated part of the Western Cape Province, mainly the greater Cape Town area. Worryingly, the German wasp was recorded in the Cederberg (about 240km from Cape Town) for the first time in 2024. This means the species is on the move after quite a slow start in South Africa.

The German wasp population was first established in Cape Town's Kirstenbosch botanical gardens in 1972, followed by a second wave of invasion in 2001. The European paper wasp was first detected in Kulsrivier in 2008. It has since established populations in Porterville to the north of Cape Town and Hermanus to the east. Both species are thought to have been accidentally transported by either ship or plane.

It is prohibitively expensive to eradicate these species because they've become so entrenched in

these ecosystems. The good news is that they haven't jumped to another province - yet. But we're not sure how long that will remain the case.

Honey bees at risk Today, people are directly and indirectly making habitats better for social wasp invasions. We do this by providing them, unknowingly, with transport to new destinations. In our connected world there are countless opportunities for invasions to occur.

South African researchers are especially worried about the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*). It arrived in France, most likely in a shipment of goods imported from East Asia, in 2004 and has since spread to large parts of Western Europe, forming a multitude of nests in densely populated areas. The species hunts honey bees and has caused major damage to apiaries.

South Africa is home to anywhere between 1 million (conservative estimates) and 10 million wild honey bee colonies, in addition to a formal and vibrant beekeeping industry. An invasion by the Asian hornet would be disastrous because it is a specialist predator of honey bees. (The German wasp also sometimes targets honey bee hives.)

The Asian hornet is a big wasp. Workers and queens range from 2.5cm to 3.5cm, resulting in higher volumes of venom being injected during a painful sting. They build their nests in trees, making them dangerous and cumbersome to destroy: if nests are not carefully destroyed the wasps go into a frenzy and attack any perceived threat in their vicinity.

So, how can the public help?

Citizen science If you live in the Western Cape (or anywhere in South Africa) and have a smartphone with a GPS and a camera, you're all set. By photographing any wasps you see and uploading them to citizen science platforms like iNaturalist, you can help scientists track species. Evidence has shown how valuable such platforms are for biodiversity research.

A good picture of a social wasp should be from the top, on normal camera setting about half a metre to a metre from the insect (or a bit further if photographing a wasp nest). Move slowly. Wasps collecting food aren't usually a stinging risk because they are too focused on getting a meal back to the nest as quickly as possible. Even pictures of dead wasps on your windowsill or in a light cover can be useful if you post them. Don't forget to add the date and a GPS pin.

Pictures can allow experts to confirm the identity of the species, which can then be used to research the distributions and new geographic records of potentially invasive species.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 134

Crossword grid with numbers 1-24 and a vertical text on the left: 'By Felix Magezi: Phone: 0787 009794 // felixmagezi@gmail.com // february2024'

- 14 a pigsty
16 make slightly angry
17 a mineral
18 hang down loosely
19 subject to debate or dispute
20 the quality or state of being legal
22 send forth or give out; discharge
23 densely populated area
24 a man holding a small landed estate; a freeholder
Down:
1 free from pretence or deceit
2 express good wishes on meeting
3 Lake Malawi
4 testing of ore to determine its ingredients
5 ruin emotionally
8 America
10 wash with water
11 run
12 sexual reproduction by the fusion of similar gametes
15 by now or then
19 Rivers in Kiswahili
20 less than average height
21 an intentionally false statement

Word search grid with letters A and T at the top right.

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

- RAIS
MESS
MAMA
ASIA
IAN
BAY
ASIDE
SINAI
AT : CA
HATS
BUS
USERS
MOSCOW
SASH
AVOWS
TOT : TO

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with words like FRAME, LOME, OMI, etc.

- Across:
1. a witch doctor in South Africa
6. a woody evergreen climbing plant
7. excellent
9. a narrowly avoided collision
13. Politics in Kiswahili

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists time programmes from 05:00 AM to 01:00 AM.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One with social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and the Radio One logo.



Thursday 25 July 2024

Mobile money accounts hit 55m with slight change in market share

By Guardian Reporter

MOBILE money has continued to expand financial inclusion, as number of accounts increased to 55.7 million by the end of June last month from 47.2 million recorded at the end of June last year, with little change of market share.

The trend of mobile money transactions have also increased by 2.3 billion to 5.3 billion at the end of June this year, from 3 billion in 2019, representing a 19 percent of annual growth rate, which shows increased public confidence as secure, fast and reliable financial transactions platform.

Mobile money is currently dependable by most of the population and businesses in both rural and urban areas for savings, utilities bill payment, sending and receiving cash, borrowing and other making other payments.

Beyond improving financial inclusion and access to other digitally enabled services, the adoption, use and growth of mobile money are now reflected in macroeconomic indicators, specifically GDP.

During the last five years, the report shows that average trans-

actions per mobile money subscribers decreased from 117 in 2019 to 100 in 2024.

The latest report by the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) show three Mobile Money Operators (MNOs) including Vodacom, Tigo and Airtel continue to dominate the market with around 89 percent of market share by subscription, which indicate highly competitive market.

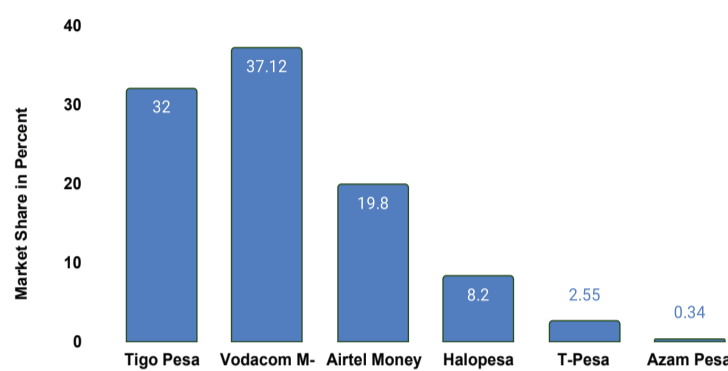
The report shows Vodacom is still leading with the largest market share of 37.12 percent at the end of June this year, with 20.6 million subscribers, an increase from 17.1 million or 36 percent recorded at the end of June last year.

Tigo Pesa is the second largest with 17.8 million subscribers or 32 percent of the market share, an increase from 14.8 million or 31 percent in June 2023.

However, despite of being the third largest, Airtel Money lost its market share to 19.8 percent at the end of June this year, compared to 22 percent in June 2023, amid slight increase of its subscription to 11 million from 10 percent respectively.

Top gainer during the period was Azam Pesa, the new entrant in the market, after its number of subscribers more than tripled in only three months to 187,691

Mobile Money networks market shares June 2024



SOURCE: TCRA

at the end of June this year from 53,560 recorded at the end of April this year.

The sharp growth of Azam Pesa subscribers has enabled the infant company to uptake 0.34 percent of the mobile money market share at the end of June this year.

The report shows HaloPesa is the fourth largest with 8.2 percent of market share, a slight increase from 8 percent at the end of June last year, while number of subscribers went up to 4.5 million from 3.7 million respectively.

The market share of the state-owned T-Pesa slightly declined to 2.55 percent from 3 percent, amid an increased number of subscribers to 1.4 million, compared with 1.2 million.

The Tanzania mobile money market size reached \$ 70.9 Billion in 2023, and looking forward, IMARC Group expects the market to reach US\$ 211.7 Billion by 2032, exhibiting a growth rate (CAGR) of 12.5 percent during 2024-2032.

The Fin Scope Tanzania 2023 report by Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) indicates that the adoption of mobile money increased to 72 percent in 2023, compared to 60 percent in 2017, boosting the formal financial services to Tanzania.

"While mobile money has already become an integral part of many Tanzanians' daily lives for peer-to-peer transfers, there remains a significant untapped potential," said Julia Seifert, Research and Insights

Consultant - FSDT.

"To boost mobile money adoption and usage even further, there's a need to focus on its use cases, with a prime example being the exclusive use of mobile money for purchasing airtime voucher and bundles."

Seifert comments that, airtime, crucial for communication in the digital age, represents a prime opportunity to drive further adoption and usage of mobile money services.

Surprisingly, only 23 percent adult Tanzanians purchase airtime using mobile money, the consultant says, noting that regulatory support is critical for creating an enabling environment for mobile money adoption.

"Policymakers can play a significant role in promoting competition, innovation, and consumer protection within the mobile money ecosystem," the consultant says. "By implementing supportive policies and regulations, regulators can foster trust and confidence among consumers and businesses, driving further adoption."

As the rapid expansion of mobile money accounts eases, the industry is beginning to show signs of maturity that reflect its natural evolution over time.

"Today, more money and more transactions flow through mobile wallets than ever before, bringing a

range of financial products into the hands of hundreds of millions of users and disrupting traditional financial services," says the GSMA's state of the industry report on mobile money 2024.

For over two decades mobile money services have grown exponentially, driving financial inclusion for billions of people, opening up incredible opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses across the world.

According to GSMA, a total of 1.75 billion registered accounts today are processing \$1.4 trillion a year, or about \$2.7 million a minute.

Sub-Saharan Africa, including Tanzania, has been a key driver of mobile money's success, home to almost three-quarters of the world's accounts.

"In the 10 years to 2022, mobile money contributed \$600 billion to the GDP of countries with a mobile money service," the report says.

International remittances are now one of the fastest growing use cases of mobile money, while merchant payments expanded by 14 percent to almost \$74 billion in 2023.

Mobile money also remains a leading driver of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to 15 of the 17 goals, including SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production).

AfDB unveils progress in mobilising financial resources for the continent

By Guardian Reporter

THE president of the African Development Bank Group Dr. Akwumfi Adesina (pictured), has outlined the Bank's successes in mobilizing financial resources for the continent's development needs at the African Union.

Addressing heads of state and government at the 6th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the AU in Accra, Ghana in Tuesday, Adesina highlighted the Bank's recent general capital increase from \$201 billion to \$318 billion, approved by the Board of Governors during its Annual Meetings in Nairobi last May.

The approval will enable Africa's only AAA-rated financial institution to preserve its status and meet the continent's urgent and increasing development needs.

Other highlights included joint efforts by the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in developing a new financial model that enables the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights to be channeled through multilateral development banks.

"I am delighted to inform you that following over two years of work, supported by the advocacy of the African Union, we succeeded," Adesina told the meeting, attended by several heads of state and government and representatives of regional economic communities.

The year began with the African Development Bank successfully launching a globally acclaimed landmark \$750 million hybrid capital, the first ever by a multilateral financial institution.

"By so doing, we created a new asset class for investors globally. The hybrid capital will be leveraged four times to allow the Bank to boost its lending capacity," said Adesina.

He also briefed the leaders about the progress the Bank is making in spearheading global efforts to ensure Africa's natural wealth is taken into consideration as a measure of



Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Africa Financial Stability Mechanism, a Bank initiative to mitigate financial and other exogenous shocks to African economies, has also advanced. The African Union's committee of 15 Ministers of Finance has approved the framework for the establishment of the mechanism.

Also, to enhance food security, the Bank is launching a \$650 million Regional West Africa Rice Development program in collaboration with the Africa Rice Center. The initiative is expected to include one million farmers across 15 countries and produce 53 million tons of rice.

"In five years, West Africa will achieve self-sufficiency in rice. We know we can do it. Our work helped Ethiopia to become self-sufficient in wheat in under four years, turning it into a net wheat-exporting country. What is critical is strong political will," the Bank Group head said, referencing the Bank's flagship Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program.

Adesina briefed the leaders on growing global confidence in the Bank.

"Last week, the African Development Bank was ranked as the most transparent development financial institution in the world by Publish What You Fund for its sovereign operations." This is in addition to other impressive recognitions for the Bank and its concessional window,

the African Development Fund.

He outlined other wins for the institution, including expanding electricity access to over 20 million people over the past five years and partnering with the World Bank to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030.

The Bank's \$20 billion Desert to Power initiative to develop 10,000 megawatts of solar power for 250 million people across 11 countries in the Sahel zone is already delivering results.

"For example, the \$890 million Mauritania-Mali Power Interconnection Project, which is part of the Desert to Power initiative, will increase clean energy uptake and electricity access, benefitting 2.7 million people," he said.

During the opening ceremony, the host, Ghana's President Nana Addo-Dankwa Akufo-Addo, called for expedited action on plans to achieve the financial stability and economic integration necessary for the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The African Union Chairperson and President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, announced AU plans to raise about \$100 billion to support export-oriented businesses.

He also emphasized the critical need for continued effective coordination between the AU and regional African blocs, for achieving continental integration and the goals of Agenda 2063 to create inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development over 50 years.

Banks urged to enhance inclusive insurance more

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has called on the country's financial institutions to continue working closely with various insurance companies to collectively facilitate the accessibility of the vital service, as well as develop better marketing strategies to reach citizens and meet their needs.

Khadija Said, TIRA's Deputy Commissioner made the call here yesterday when speaking at the function whereby the People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) launched a bancassurance service as part of its efforts to enhance its services and increase the inclusion of more communities in the formal financial system through insurance services.

The bank's move aims to support the government's efforts through the ten-year Financial Strategy Plan (2020-2030), which aims to ensure that by 2030, 80 percent of Tanzanians have a sufficient understanding of insurance services, with 50 percent using insurance services.

The function was attended by various stakeholders, including government officials, representatives of various insurance organizations, and customers.

Khadija asked the financial institutions to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that insurance services trickle down to the people so that they enjoy the untapped benefits in the sector.

She said that insurance provides many economic opportunities through the assurance of the security of citizens' assets, particularly those in peripheral areas.

The TIRA official praised the PBZ for the significant step stating that the service will help accelerate the delivery of insurance services in the isles as well as nationwide.

"This initiative is very important to the government as it supports the implementation of the ten-year Financial Strategy Plan (2020-

2030), which aims to ensure that by 2030, 80 percent of Tanzanians have sufficient understanding of insurance services, with 50 percent using insurance services," she emphasized.

Khadija urged the bank to continue providing more education to citizens about the importance of insurance services through the bank.

Arafat Haji, PBZ managing director stated that the introduction of the service, which has all the necessary approvals from TIRA and the Bank of Zanzibar (BOT), is part of the bank's strategy to continuously improve its services, to provide all services in one place (One Stop Shop).

"This product will be provided through all PBZ branches located in various areas in the country, in collaboration with various insurance companies, as authorized by TIRA. Through this step, PBZ is now ready to enable our customers to access insurance services and other financial services, such as obtaining loans for insurance premium financing, at a competitive level," he explained.

He mentioned the insurance services provided through the product, including Life Insurance, Motor Insurance, Engineering Insurance, Fire Insurance, Liability/Third Party Liability Insurance, Burglary Insurance, and Health In-

surance.

"Other services include Fidelity Guarantee Insurance, Money Insurance, Marine Insurance, Bond Insurance and Counter Guarantees, and Asset All Risk Insurance," he specified.

Eddie Mhina, the bank's director of business outlined the insurance companies involved in this program as Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC), National Insurance Corporation (NIC), Alliance Life, Jubilee Insurance, Strategis Insurance, and Metro Life Assurance.

"The launch of this program comes at a time when PBZ is continuously excelling in our digital services, and thus being recognized as one of the financial institutions effectively implementing the vision of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in achieving an inclusive digital economy and transitioning towards a less cash-dependent economy," Mhina added.

According to Mhina, the bank's goal is to eliminate inconvenience for customers by adding several value additions to the insurance service, including easy access to reporting claims, convenience in registering new insurance policies where customers will receive digital notifications for the expiry of their policies, and receiving close support in renewing insurance policies.



Joseph Meza (R), PBZ Board Chairman, and Arafat Haji (L), the bank's Managing Director, present a special gift to Khadija Said (C), Tanzania's Deputy Commissioner of Insurance, during the launch of the PBZ's new bancassurance service in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Proven strategies, actions to mitigate climate change impacts

By Assan Ng'ombe

It is no secret that Africa is currently bearing the brunt of climate change impact despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions that have been the main driver of the global warming phenomena that accelerates climate change.

The effects of global warming have manifested through extreme and more intense weather events such as drought, erratic rainfall, windstorms, cyclones and the consequential losses in land degradation, soil fertility, that are exacerbated by pests and increasing temperature pose a major threat to Africa's health, livelihoods, and food security.

Like many African countries, Ghana is experiencing changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods that occur in high rainfall areas in the center and towards the west and southwest of the country, droughts that have mainly affected the northern and southeastern parts of the country.

Storms have, similarly increased in frequency and intensity in the country over the last couple of decades. These impacts have significant im-

plications for the country's economy, food security, and the livelihoods of its people, particularly that most people depend on agriculture for their living.

Agriculture employs over 50 percent of Ghana's workforce, provides more than 60 percent of rural household income, and ensures food security through smallholder farmers. The sector is central to the reduction of poverty as smallholder farmers are often among the poorest people in the country. Despite its importance, the sector remains underperforming due to several factors including limitations in capacities and limited investment.

Smallholder farmers usually face the brunt of these impacts oftentimes because they lack the resources and skills to face these unexpected crises. Smallholder farmers and adjacent communities stand to benefit from policies and practices that mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as increased investments in the adoption of technologies that will enhance adaptation capacities. It is important to note that climate change affects different communities in different ways. Adaptation efforts must therefore be localized and context specific.

To address these challenges,



appropriate action to adopt an integrated approach to agriculture and environmental management, increase risk preparedness, promote sustainable energy production, modernize transport systems, and build more resilient infrastructure systems is needed. In the regard the government of Ghana set out to implement several reforms to transform the agricultural sector. Notably has been the flagship program "Planting for Food and Jobs" (PFJ) has been used

as an investment vehicle for enhancing food security and livelihoods.

Priorities include improving public expenditure in the implementation capacity of government programmes and projects, enhancing extension systems, improving market access, promotion of relevant agriculture technologies and capacity building of key actors in the sector.

There have also been strategic investments in infrastructure that enhance the efficien-

cy of the sector.

Investing in climate-resilient practices at the various stages in value chains - production, storage, processing, and marketing can be a challenge.

An integrated approach, therefore, that encompasses climate change and agriculture related interventions are needed to ensure pay off, in the long run, of stabilizing crop yields, boosting incomes, improving the nutritional value of produce, building systems that provide early warning information, building systems that integrate natural resources and ecological integrity in agriculture systems at community level that will aggregate turn into national impact.

Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and its National Adaptation Policy Framework emphasize the principle of community-led adaptation and the centrality of locally relevant and appropriate climate adaptation measures.

These policy documents emphasize the need for sector players to prioritize initiatives that focus on enhancing sustainable management of forest resources, promotion of climate-resilient agriculture, expanding agriculture insurance coverage, support-

ing community-led conservation efforts, establishing early warning systems to mitigate impacts of events such as floods, droughts and pest infestations, and strengthening disaster risk management measures.

Ghana, as many, African countries, has work to do in ensuring that national policies, programmes and resources are directed towards an outcome based integrated system.

To succeed in dealing with these knowledge intensive and unpredictable development challenges the need for evidence at policy and project level is an imperative.

Africa's development pathways therefore require a strong foundation in evidence, science, and continuous learning to be able to deal with today's unpredictable externalities.

Basing policies on data-driven experience and research, can will help us identify the most effective intervention pathways for challenges like climate change, demographic pressures and or economic instability.

For example, research can pinpoint agricultural practices that are most resilient to drought, allowing policymakers and private sector to design programs and products

that support farmers in adapting to a changing climate.

Similarly, scientific analysis can help us understand the root causes of economic downturns, enabling the development of targeted policies to stimulate growth and job creation.

The use of science, such as in predictive modelling can allow us to assess the potential impact of policies before they are implemented.

This can be particularly important in complex areas like food systems, where poorly designed or implemented policies can have unintended consequences. An evidence-based, dynamic environment in Africa that leverages science and continuous learning is key to navigating the complexities of our food systems and for building a more resilient Africa.

In the coming week AGRA, ICED and its partners will be converging in Accra, Ghana, to showcase evidence in action and learning in its work across Africa in building resilience extension systems, climate smart agriculture, seed systems development integrated soil health and regenerative systems.

Assan Ng'ombe (captured) is the Resilience Officer, AGRA

Investing in AI-powered communication vital factor in ensuring competitive edge

By Tamara Rajic

THE rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has captured the world's attention, permeating businesses across all sectors at an astonishing pace. Embracing AI technologies is essential for businesses to remain competitive and meet the evolving demands of customers in an increasingly digital age.

AI-driven innovation is poised to catalyze significant transformations in traditional sectors such as banking and retail, ushering in more personalized experiences and innovative consumer approaches.

This transformation will reshape operational dynamics in numerous ways. By deciphering individual preferences, behaviors, and purchasing patterns, the banking and retail sectors can offer tailored product recommendations, targeted promotions, and customized services, thereby enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty.

AI-driven automation will streamline processes and reduce manual workloads in both banking and retail operations, crucial from an operational cost perspective. With AI-powered insights, retailers and banks can increase revenue and market share, identifying high-value customers, predicting purchase intents, and optimizing pricing strategies in competitive environments.

AI-powered chatbots play a pivotal role in customer support, reducing wait times with AI-powered chatbots and offering support through the customer's preferred channel, thereby increasing customer satisfaction.

Assessing how businesses are currently

embracing AI reveals the synergy between advanced data analytics and cloud computing as a driving force behind its recent surge. Advancements in AI technology, particularly in machine learning and natural language processing, coupled with hardware designed specifically for AI purposes, have made these technologies more accessible.

The wide-scale availability of AI technology, such as ChatGPT and DALL-E through platforms like OpenAI, has facilitated its adoption among businesses, employees, and end-users alike.

AI-driven communication solutions are revolutionising customer engagement by delivering personalized, efficient, and proactive interactions, ultimately driving satisfaction, loyalty, and business growth.

By leveraging these technologies and staying abreast of the latest advancements, companies can differentiate themselves from competitors. Providing personalized engagement experiences and leveraging customer data enables businesses to provide targeted messaging, fostering deeper connections with customers.

AI-powered chatbots excel in offering instant and round-the-clock support, resolving queries promptly to ensure a seamless customer experience. Through analyzing customer feedback across various channels, AI offers valuable insights to companies, enabling them to refine their business and marketing strategies.

The potential for AI to elevate personalization to the next level is immense. Imagine a cus-



tom agent that comprehends everything about your interactions, available 24/7. Such technology is now a reality, offering unprecedented levels of service.

AI-powered communication solutions like chatbots and virtual assistants are widely employed across industries, providing instant responses, assisting with product recommendations, and aiding in order tracking and appointment scheduling. The innovative use of these solutions can significantly enhance customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Predictive analytics

AI's transformative potential extends to enhancing customer agent work, utilizing sentiment analysis tools, predictive analytics platforms, and other advanced technologies to anticipate customer behavior and optimize communication strategies across the entire customer journey.

While AI transformation is inevitable for businesses seeking to offer top-notch customer experiences and maintain competitiveness, challenges abound. Data quality is paramount for successful AI implementation, as incomplete or inconsistent data can lead to inaccur-

rate results and decision-making.

Integrating AI into existing tools and systems presents its own set of challenges, including compatibility issues and a scarcity of skilled professionals. Demonstrating ROI in the early stages of AI adoption can be difficult, emphasizing the importance of identifying high-potential use cases to kickstart business growth and enhance customer satisfaction.

Moreover, adherence to AI regulations, such as GDPR, and ethical principles is imperative for businesses utilizing AI models.

While AI holds immense prom-

Airtel now ranked top in quality of services

By Henry Mwangonde

LOCAL mobile operator Airtel Tanzania has been ranked first in its quality of service (Q-O-S) in the recently released report by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

According to the report, the telco operator has secured the top position in the Quality of Service (QoS) category with a 98 percent rating, an improvement from 97 percent at the end of March 2024 and 95.1 percent for the Quarter ending December 2023.

The July 24th report which is released on a quarterly basis scopes the state of ICT sector and its players.

The report further highlights that Airtel Tanzania holds the second position in network availability whereas it has passed the target in nineteen out of twenty measured service areas.

Additionally, the report outlines that the Call Connection Failure Rate measures the percentage of calls that failed to connect after dialling due to technical reasons.

The threshold for compliance is less than 2 percent. Airtel passed the target in all twenty measured service areas.

The statistics report also details that Airtel Money Tanzania holds the second position in mobile transactions across the country with over 82.8m/- transactions for the quarter ending June 2024.

BANKING & FINANCE

ise for revolutionizing industries and enhancing operational efficiency, it is not a cure-all. Proper adoption and implementation are essential to realizing its benefits, as improper utilization can result in significant waste of time and resources.

Infobip, for instance, stands out as a trailblazer in innovation, leveraging emerging technologies like RCS to enhance user experiences and drive adoption in collaboration with operators and partners. Beyond cutting-edge communication technology and conversational AI, Infobip innovates through collaborative approaches and industry expertise, providing guidance on best practices and treating clients as partners to deliver tailored solutions.

Tamara Rajic (pictured) is the Director of Business Strategy in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA), Infobip.

Empowering Africa's youth: Bridging the digital skills gap

By Victoria Kwakwa
Digitalization is one of the most transformative opportunities of our time and a potent tool to eradicate poverty on a livable planet. Right before our eyes, digital technologies are constantly evolving, changing societies and our everyday lives. The rapid speed of new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) is also changing digital capabilities for many countries, although not all. While digitalization presents immense opportunities for job creation, poverty reduction, and improved service delivery, the Eastern and Southern Africa region has the slowest pace of digitalization globally, with only 64% of the population covered by high-speed internet, and just 24% of the population using the internet (as of 2023).

We need to change this course. Without access to the internet and digital literacy, hundreds of millions of Africans, including young Africans, will continue to be left behind. This is significant, especially as the continent will have the youngest and fastest-growing working-age population in the world by 2050.

It is also estimated that there

will be 230 million digital jobs in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. These jobs are come largely from rapidly growing digitally enabled services, which will require intermediate or advanced digital skills, as well as basic financial and digital literacy for all.

Today, the region is facing a significant digital skills gap and persistent gender disparities. There is also low technology adoption among firms, limiting productivity and hampering job creation, especially in areas that require higher level skills. The skill deficit is also impacting the public sector, which is struggling to keep up with rapid technological advances.

On this World Youth Skills Day, there is an urgent need for us to work together to accelerate digital adoption in the region and ensure that everyone, including the youth, benefits.

At the World Bank Group, digital development is a top priority. In Eastern and Southern Africa, we want to help countries ensure that citizens including youth and women, businesses, and government agencies are all digitally enabled by 2030. To achieve this, we are supporting investments in digital infrastructure, skill building, e-services, and regulatory regimes.

East and Southern Africa faces



Young unidentified college students engaged in a computer class. Goodboy/Getty Images

critical challenges for digital development such as lack of adequate digital infrastructure and accessible and affordable connectivity, and limited digital skills but has been making progress towards digital transformation in the last decade.

In Malawi, for example, the Digital Foundations Project, financed by the International Development Association (IDA), has provided connectivity to 530 public institutions, including hospitals and

post offices; supported internet for educational sites benefiting 84,000 students; provided free Wi-Fi in 120 public areas; put in place a national data center; and funded TechHubs that have already trained 19,000 youth, as of 2024.

In Tanzania, the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project, also financed through IDA, is supporting the establishment of a Regional Flagship in ICT Centre (RAFIC) at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology. The

Centre will support the training of a qualified and skilled workforce in ICT to meet labor market needs in East Africa. RAFIC will have labs for cyber security, multi-media, digital fabrication, electronics and instrumentation, communications, blockchain, and software development.

Another exciting, and recently approved, regional program is the Inclusive Digitalization in Eastern and Southern Africa (IDEA) Program, which aims to increase access and inclusive use of the internet and digitally enabled services, is designed to benefit more than 180 million Africans by 2032. This is the first major program of its kind in the region and presents a significant opportunity to accelerate the achievement of universal digital access and unleash opportunities for the advancement of the region's digital economies.

IDEA includes a component on developing inclusive digital skills and capabilities of citizens, businesses, and the public sector. Digital inclusion is key. Everyone—including youth, women, marginalized groups, and people with disabilities—should benefit and have equal, fair, and safe access to information and the necessary digital literacies. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Today, for example,

there are multiple issues hindering women's access to, and use of, digital tools including affordability, literacy, risk of online abuse, and limited content targeted to women. The IDEA Program will address these issues, along with our new Regional Gender Action Plan for Eastern and Southern Africa.

These are a just few examples of many exciting and promising ongoing initiatives in the region that will help open doors to new opportunities for Africa's youth and unleash their potential. With a clear focus on digital development, supported through public and private sector partnerships, we can boost African economies, increase incomes, and create jobs. The continent is brimming with youthful energy and talent. I encourage you to tune into the conversations on X and Facebook that we are hosting this week to hear from inspiring young African digital entrepreneurs from Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Malawi, who are already contributing to digital transformation of the region.

Victoria Kwakwa is the World Bank's Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, overseeing engagement with 26 countries, managing a \$58 billion portfolio of 313 operations.

Uproar as hiked road levy dashes consumers' hope for cheaper fuel



Nairobi

THE government's move to raise the Road Maintenance Levy by Ksh7 has angered fuel consumers, with Public Service Vehicle (PSV) players threatening a protest.

Although the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) lowered fuel prices by an average of Ksh1 in the July 14th review, the hike in the road levy against public wish saw the prices stagnate despite a notable drop in global prices.

The immediate former Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen had assured Kenyans that alternative means that would not directly affect fuel prices would be sought.

In the review, the regulator cut the petrol price by Ksh1, diesel by Ksh.50, and kerosene by Ksh1.30.

Consumers in Nairobi are paying a maximum of Ksh188.84 for a litre of super petrol, Ksh171.60 for a litre

of diesel and Ksh161.75 for a litre of kerosene.

They could have paid Ksh6 less if the Ministry of Transport did not raise the levy from Ksh18 to Ksh25 per litre of petrol and diesel.

Global oil prices have recorded a consistent six per cent decline in the past four weeks, with the Central Bank showing the benchmark Murban Oil prices declined to \$83.28 (Ksh10,930) per barrel.

This is from \$88.64 (Ksh11,634) per barrel on June 2.

The drop is attributed to the current balance in demand and supply of oil, as well as a build-up of oil inventories in countries amid increased geopolitical uncertainties.

Other Global crude oil benchmarks, Brent and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil have been priced at \$84.6 and \$79.9, respectively.

Murban Oil Prices are used as a benchmark by EPRA, therefore, the trend in fuel prices in the country

directly mirrors the worldwide oil pricing trends.

This has sparked widespread public outrage due to concerns over further financial strain on households and businesses.

On Friday, PSV stakeholders issued a seven-day strike notice, calling for an immediate scrapping of the levy.

The Motorists Association of Kenya (MAK) condemned the hike as illegal and called for its immediate repeal, demanding structural reforms to improve transparency and accountability in the sector.

Peter Murima, the chairperson of MAK, vehemently opposed the increase, stating, "We, the undersigned, reject the illegal increase of the road maintenance levy."

"This is illegal. It does not only defy public input, it is also an infringement on taxpayers, resulting in an additional Ksh140 million daily revenue for the government, which they dub as an "illegal levy."

BANKING & FINANCE



BasiGo's Samuel Kamunya (R), briefed KBS MD Edwins Mukabanah on the e-bus specifications.

Kenya bus service electrifies fleet with first e-bus

Nairobi

PUBLIC transport service provider Kenya Bus Service (KBS) has acquired its first electric bus as it modernizes its fleet.

The bus operator acquired a 36-seater electric bus built at Kenya's first electric vehicle assembly line operated by BasiGo, located at the Kenya Vehicle Assembly plant in Thika.

Its Managing Director, Edwins Mukabanah, said that the company is keen on ensuring a 100 percent transition to e-vehicles in an effort to complement the government's fight against climate change.

"We are excited to partner with BasiGo, Africa's leading electric bus company to help us upgrade our fleet. We also want to be the leader in electric charging infrastructure, ensuring all electric vehicles coming into Nairobi are charged at the KBS depot," he said.

He added that KBS has ordered an additional 25 e-buses that will be

delivered in the coming months.

On his part, BasiGo Head of Business Development, Samuel Kamunya, reiterated the company's commitment to working with public transport operators to ensure a seamless rollout of EVs in the country.

"We welcome KBS to the e-mobility fraternity as we address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Each electric bus we deploy on our roads mitigates 50 tonnes of carbon emissions per year, cutting down on air pollution and contributing towards a greener Nairobi," said Kamunya.

It added that it has already received over 500 orders from bus operators in Nairobi and plans to supply over 1,000 locally manufactured mass transit electric buses to PSV operators in Kenya over the next three years, creating over 300 green manufacturing jobs.

Kenya has witnessed a scaled-up affinity for EVs even as the government bolsters its efforts for a framework to support e-mobility in the country.

Google u-turn over long-running plan to cut cookies

California

IN a surprise move Google has abandoned a plan it first announced four years ago to block third-party cookies from its Chrome internet browser.

The UK's data privacy watchdog said it was "disappointed" by the decision.

Cookies are small files stored on your computer

which allow advertisers to track internet activity and target advertising.

Google says it will instead pursue a new approach which will give users an "informed choice that applies across their web browsing" and is discussing next steps with regulators.

This suggests the firm is not abandoning its alternative approach to advertising, but will allow a

third-party cookie-based system to operate in parallel.

It ultimately means people will still see a pop-up asking them to turn cookies on or off in the future.

"It has been our view that blocking third-party cookies would be a positive step for consumers," said Stephen Bonner of the Information Commissioner's Office.

"The new plan set out by Google is a significant change and we will reflect on this new course of action when more detail is available."

Cookie Crumbles

Third-party cookies, small files stored on your computer by businesses other than the website you are visiting, have historically been an essential part of the way digital ad-

vertising works.

They allow advertisers to track user behaviour across websites - allowing them to profile consumers according to their interests.

Google is a major player in online advertising so its plan to replace cookies - dubbed "Privacy Sandbox" - proved controversial, with rivals and online advertising businesses arguing against the pro-

posals.

The UK competition watchdog the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) intervened in 2021, fearing the search giant's plans could cause even more advertisers to use Google's own systems.

It obtained commitments from Google in 2022 designed to allay those fears. Now it is seeking reaction to the tech gi-

ant's change of plan.

"We will need to carefully consider Google's new approach to Privacy Sandbox, working closely with the ICO in this regard, and welcome views on Google's revised approach - including possible implications for consumers and market outcomes," it said.

Jeff Green, head of advertising platform The Trade Desk, welcomed

the move.

"I have been saying for years now to our industry, to Google, and even to Wall Street that I think it is a strategic mistake for Google to get rid of third-party cookies," he said.

"Google seems to finally acknowledge that the best option for them is to give consumers the choice."

Agencies

WORLD

Harris edges out Trump in new poll following Biden's withdrawal

WASHINGTON

US Vice-President Kamala Harris, who has garnered wide support to become the Democratic presidential nominee, holds a two-percentage-point lead over Republican nominee Donald Trump, according to the latest poll.

In a Reuters/Ipsos survey conducted on Monday and Tuesday, one of the first following incumbent President Joe Biden's exit from the race on Sunday, Harris leads Trump by 44 percent to 42 percent, a margin within the poll's error range.

Harris, 59, is viewed as "mentally sharp

and capable of handling challenges" by 56 percent of registered voters, compared to 49 percent for Trump, 78.

On Monday, Harris announced that she had secured enough support from her party, just a day after Biden withdrew from the race under growing pressure from Democrats concerned about his age and mental fitness to serve another term.

A PBS/NPR/Marist survey conducted on Monday shows Trump leading Harris 46-45 percent, with 9 percent of respondents undecided.

The poll further indicates that 41 percent



US Vice-President Kamala Harris (center) attends an event on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, the United States, on July 22, 2024. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

of Americans, including 65 percent of Democrats, believe Biden's departure improves the Democrats' chances of winning in November.

In her first presidential campaign rally in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Tuesday, Harris framed the choice between herself and Trump as one between "freedom, compassion, and the rule of law" versus "chaos, fear, and hate." "Donald Trump wants to take our country backward," she told a cheering crowd.

Meanwhile, Trump expressed confidence in his ability to beat Harris during a conference call on Tuesday, offering to engage in "more than one debate" with her. He spent much of the call criticizing Harris' record on immigration and border issues, according to US media reports.

2024 budget is exceptionally important, says EAM S Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

CALLING the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as "exceptionally important", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday said that it was the first budget of the third term of the NDA government.



Jaishankar (pictured) said that the budget is presented at a time when the global situation is very volatile, uncertain and very difficult in many ways.

Speaking to ANI, the EAM highlighted how the budget is seen from a global perspective. He said, "The budget seeks to maintain growth, manage and reduce inflation, to ensure that our national capabilities and that India's growth, prosperity, progress and development is not affected by a negative international environment."

Jaishankar added that FM Sitharaman had laid out nine priority areas in the budget.

"The priority areas are skilling and education, infrastructure and services, boosting agriculture, infrastructure development, managing the urban growth. There is a total package out there. These steps will make India a much more serious player in the global economy."

Jaishankar said that the world expects India to fuel growth at this time. "Therefore, some of the key steps are also how to flow in foreign investment more effectively, how to attract technology, and how to boost manufacturing. This is a macro analysis I would give of the budget from the viewpoint of foreign policy."

Jaishankar added that the 22 per cent growth in the Ministry of External Affairs' budget will allow it to focus on the country's neighbourhood.

"It [the budget hike] will allow us to support and work with the global South. It will help us to facilitate and support Indians going abroad. Our passport services will improve in many ways. I think as a result of all of this, the country will be more secure because our neighbourhood will be much more friendly as a result of all that we do."

Jaishankar said that he was pleased with the budget and said that the country should appreciate it.

"I am very pleased with the budget. But I want to say very objectively, that our country should appreciate that at this very difficult time in the global situation, this is a very good budget which will sustain India's growth in a complicated environment. It will allow Indian diplomacy to serve the country and I think that's why it should be applauded," he said.

ANI

Trump to meet Netanyahu this week

WASHINGTON

FORMER President Donald Trump will be meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday morning.

Benjamin Netanyahu spoke on Monday about his departure to the United States and asserted that Israel remains committed to its alliance with America regardless of the outcome of the presidential election.

Former President Trump recalled the signing of the historic Abraham Accords and said that he will again bring peace and stability to the region.

Trump on Tuesday confirmed his meeting and took to X, "Looking forward to welcoming Bibi Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida. During my first term, we had Peace and Stability in the Region, even signing the historic Abraham Accords - And we will have it again. Just as I have said in discussions with President Zelensky and other World Leaders in recent weeks, my peace through agenda will demonstrate to the World that these horrible, deadly wars, and violent conflicts must end. Millions are dying, and Kamala Harris is in no way capable of stopping it."

Earlier on Monday, Netanyahu posted on X, thanking President Joe Biden for what he did for Israel during the war. "As I departed for the United States, I thanked President Biden for the many things he did for the State of Israel during the war and his years as President, Vice President, and Senator. I look forward to my important meeting with the President," he stated.

Netanyahu further said, "I am leaving for the US at a time when Israel is fighting on seven fronts and when there is great political uncertainty in Washington. I will address for the fourth time both houses of Congress as a PM of Israel. I will seek to anchor the bipartisan support that is important for Israel."

Netanyahu added, "I will tell my friends on both sides of the aisle that regardless of who the American people choose as their next President, Israel remains America's indispensable and strong ally in the Middle East. ANI

Wang Yi calls for political settlement of Ukraine crisis

GUANGZHOU

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba in Guangzhou on Wednesday, calling for a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that the Ukraine crisis has entered its third year, and the conflict is still ongoing with risks of escalation and spillover.

Noting that China remains firmly committed to a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Wang said the four principles laid out by President Xi Jinping form China's fundamental approach to finding a solution to the crisis.

On this basis, Wang said that China and Brazil have jointly outlined six common understandings for a political resolution of the Ukraine crisis, including three principles for managing the conflict, three elements for a peace plan, three humanitarian concerns, as well as important measures to prevent nuclear risks and ensure the stability of industrial and supply chains.

This consensus has garnered widespread support and response from the international community, Wang added.

China believes that all conflicts have to end at the negotiating table, and all disputes must be resolved through political

means, Wang said, adding that recently both Ukraine and Russia have shown willingness for negotiations.

"Although the conditions and timing are not yet ripe, we support all efforts conducive to peace and stand ready to continue to play a constructive role for a ceasefire and resumption of peace talks," he said, adding that China is closely following the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the country.

During the meeting, the Chinese foreign minister also urged the healthy and steady development of bilateral ties between China and Ukraine, saying that both sides should strengthen practical cooperation in various fields.

Wang said the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee has started a new round of deepening reform comprehensively. China's comprehensive promotion of Chinese modernization will bring new opportunities to people of all countries, Wang added.

Noting that Ukraine was one of the first countries to support and participate in the Belt and Road Initiative, Wang said China has been Ukraine's largest trading partner and the biggest export destination for Ukrainian agricultural products in recent years. In the first half of 2024, bilateral trade volume recorded



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) shakes hands with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba during a meeting between the two ministers, in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, China, yesterday. XINHUA

a momentum of rapid growth, showing the space and potential of bilateral cooperation.

The two sides should capitalize on the role of bilateral cooperation mechanisms and strengthen practical cooperation in various fields, he said, adding that China will continue to expand grain imports from Ukraine and jointly maintain smooth logistics channels and

international food security.

Wang thanked the Ukrainian side for its assistance in the evacuation of Chinese citizens, especially international students, in the early stage of the conflict in Ukraine, and expressed the hope that Ukraine will continue to take effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions in Ukraine.

China's role 'appreciated'

The Ukrainian foreign minister said Ukraine highly appreciates China's positive and constructive role in promoting peace and maintaining international order.

According to a press release on China-Ukraine foreign ministers' talks, Kuleba said the Ukrainian side attaches importance to China's opinions and has carefully studied six common understandings jointly outlined by China and Brazil for a political resolution of the Ukraine crisis.

The Ukrainian side is willing and ready to conduct dialogue and negotiation with Russia, Kuleba said, adding that negotiations should be rational and substantive and aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace.

Noting that China is a great country, and Ukraine and China are not only strategic partners but also important economic and trade partners, Kuleba said the Ukrainian side supports China's position on the Taiwan question and will continue to adhere to the one-China policy.

The Ukrainian side hopes to jointly implement the important consensus between the heads of state of China and Ukraine, consolidate political mutual trust, activate cooperation in various fields including economy, trade and agriculture, and strengthen exchanges between the two countries' sister cities.

Xinhua

Re-electing von der Leyen tragic for Western Europe, Russian diplomat says

MOSCOW

RE-ELECTING Ursula von der Leyen to the post of European Commission (EC) president has become a tragic episode in the history of Western Europe, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

The diplomat noted that the Russian mission at the EU has already commented on "this tragic page in the Western European history."

"To summarize, I can say that, unfortunately, indeed it is simply not possible to expect anything good for the stability and well-being of the residents of EU member states, moreover, for democ-



racy and freedom, including the issue of security in that part of the world, as a result of Ursula von der Leyen's confrontational attitude," Zakharova stressed.

According to the diplomat, von der Leyen is a "committed supporter of maximizing US control over the European continent." "She is also the main mouthpiece of Russophobic policy currently conducted by the European Union.

This includes calls to invest increasingly more in the spheres of defense and security in the EU, in the creation of the so-called defense union which presumes its even deeper subjugation to NATO in the future and support for the

Nazi regime on Bankovaya (Ukraine's presidential administration - TASS). The resolution of all these problems, apparently, takes a toll on the EU with quite murky prospects at that," she added.

On April 18, the European Parliament elected von der Leyen as European Commission president for the second term.

She garnered 401 out of 720 votes. During the session, both the right-and left-wing opposition criticized her for not fulfilling her obligations during the first term, destroying the European economy and not taking measures against poverty.

Agencies

World leaders, experts welcome Beijing Declaration by Palestinian factions, laud China's role

BEIJING

WORLD leaders and experts welcomed the signing of a declaration by 14 Palestinian factions in Beijing and lauded China's role in promoting it.

The signing of the Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity is "an additional positive step" toward achieving Palestinian national unity and represents "the ideal and most appropriate national solution" for the Palestinian situation after the conflict, Hamas said on Tuesday.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "very much welcomes the

signing of the Beijing Declaration by the Palestinian factions," said Stephanie Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN chief, in response to questions at a regular daily briefing on Tuesday.

Terming the deal as "an important step towards furthering Palestinian unity," Dujarric said the secretary-general "encourages all factions to overcome their differences through dialogue and urges them to follow up on the commitments that were made in Beijing and the declaration they signed on to."

In a statement on Tuesday, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that the uniting of various Palestinian factions under the Beijing

Declaration is a crucial step toward realizing the rights of the Palestinian people. "It is my sincere hope that this declaration of unity will translate into tangible results on the ground and withstand future challenges," he said.

The talks in Beijing involved 14 Palestinian factions with all their positions balanced, thus constituting a basis for ending the division, said Abdel Mohdy Motawe, a Cairo-based researcher and executive director of the Middle East Forum for Strategic Studies and National Security.

It is an important step toward ending the division and strengthening national unity within the framework of the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nization, with the inclusion of all Palestinian forces and factions in its institutions, said Abu Bakr Al-Deeb, an advisor to the Cairo-based Arab Center for Research and Studies.

World leaders and experts also lauded China's sincere effort to support the rights of the Palestinians, end division and bring about a unified position among the Palestinian factions.

In a statement, Hossam Badran, a member of Hamas's political bureau, expressed his "high appreciation for the great efforts made by China to reach this declaration," noting that this announcement came at an important time as Palestinians are facing an ongoing conflict, especially in

the Gaza Strip. Guterres expressed his appreciation for the diplomatic efforts being made by China as well as the efforts of other countries involved in facilitating the process, said Dujarric, the UN spokesman.

The signing of the declaration represents an "overwhelming success of Chinese diplomacy," its effectiveness, and China's desire for rapprochement with the Middle East region and support of Arab issues, with the Palestinian issue as a priority, said Al-Deeb.

It underscores China's growing diplomatic prowess and its increasingly respected and influential role in the Middle East, demonstrating its capability to generate effective solu-

tions, said Baris Doster, an academic with the Istanbul-based Marmara University.

As one of the few countries that pursue the principle of dialogue, talks and positive steps to heal the rift in the Middle East, China is expected to have a greater and broader role in the Palestinian issue and other Arab issues, said Motawe.



Xinhua

The talks in Beijing involved 14 Palestinian factions with all their positions balanced, thus constituting a basis for ending the division

Whether Democrats or Republicans, both support relationship with India: Ex-Foreign Secy Shringla

NEW DELHI

THE failed assassination attempt on former US President and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and US President Joe Biden announcing not to seek re-election in the “best interest” of the Democratic Party while endorsing US Vice President Kamala Harris as the presidential nominee for the Democratic Party has increased the political tussle in the United States.

In the backdrop of such seachange happenings in the US, former foreign secretary, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, said that whether it's Democrats or Republicans, they both support the relationship with India.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Shringla (pictured) shed light on the presidential race and how it can impact India-US ties. “We in India can take pride in the fact that India-US relations are supported by both sides of the political aisle in the United States. Whether it's Democrats or Republicans, they both support the relationship with India. Even within India, there is largely a consensus that a good relationship with the United States is in our interest so I don't see the relationship being affected by either candidate, whether it is President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Trump,” he told ANI.

Shringla added that India wouldn't be affected by Republican or Democratic candidates, whether it is President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Trump.

The 2024 United States presidential elections are scheduled to be held in November. The presidential race in the US is likely to be between Vice President Kamala Harris after President Joe Biden withdrew from the race, and former President Donald Trump.

The former foreign secretary added that the India-US relationship will be stronger now and will continue to assume importance.

“Our relationship will become stronger, certainly, that part is content; the relationship will continue to assume importance, and continue to be regarded as important in US policy and strategy. These policies have been very well-focused towards India. Biden was the first to invite PM to the QUAD summit level and invited the Prime Minister to major conferences regarding climate change, sustainable development, democracy and so on,” he said.

Shringla said, “So I think he has been very considerate of the relationship, and I'm sure that policy will be continued by Vice President Kamala Harris at the same time. Also, under President Trump, there were very notable successes and achievements.”

Referring to the upcoming US presidential polls, the former foreign secretary said that it will be a stronger contest now, stressing that Trump has some advantages from being the candidate from the beginning, while Kamala Harris, who served as the Attorney General of California and the vice president, was endorsed recently as the presidential



nominee for the Democratic Party.

“It will be a stronger contest now, he remarked, adding, Trump has some advantages from being the candidate for much longer and being around on the scene,” he told ANI.

Talking about Biden withdrawing his name from the race, Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that there were some concerns among democrats that President Biden was not up to the task of running another election and becoming a successful democratic candidate.

“I think a lot of this came to the public attention when he didn't perform very well in the last presidential debate that he had with former president Trump, so as a result of those pressures, President Biden has now dropped out, but he has endorsed his vice president Kamala Harris to be the Democratic candidate,” he added.

Shringla highlighted that the democratic convention is scheduled to be held on August 19, adding that there will be around 2000 delegates who will select the successor.

“There is a due process to be followed. The democratic convention is scheduled to be held on August 19. There are some 2000 delegates who, at the Democratic convention, will select the successor, and while the vice president has the upper hand because the outgoing president has endorsed her, and expressed her preference that she should be the candidate,” he said.

“She has obviously been exposed nationally, whereas other contenders may not be very well known and with the very short time remaining, it is likely the Democrats will coalesce support around her but that process has to be gone through, and we cannot be sure until she is appointed as the democratic candidate at the convention on August 19,” Shringla continued.

He further said that, according to him, Vice President Harris will become the nominee as she has a known face and she represents the continuity of President Biden's policies.

“My own sense is that Vice President Harris will become the nominee. She is a known face because she has been vice president, so she's known nationally. She represents the continuity of President Biden's policies so Democrats can be reassured in that count as well. She has an age advantage. She is 59 years old compared to Trump's 78 and in many senses, she can appeal to constituencies like the African-American community, or women on issues like abortion law,” he said.

ANI

Lavrov to discuss Putin's Eurasian security plan in Laos – diplomat

MOSCOW

WHILE attending events within the framework of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Laos, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will discuss President Putin's initiative on creating Eurasian security architecture, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko has told TASS in an interview.

“In the current conditions, Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative of shaping the Eurasian security architecture is gaining particular significance. We view the Association, whose foundation rests on the principles of equality, respect of all countries and interconnection, as a natural partner in this process,” he said, when asked about topics that will be brought up in Laos.

In his words, Russia feels the need to discuss militarization of the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as attempts to deploy more strategic weapons and bring in NATO's conflict potential. Lavrov also plans to raise the issue of closed military blocs that are being promoted in the region to the detriment of inclusive ASEAN-centric cooperation mechanisms.

“Those issues will be on the agenda of the ministerial meetings in the format of the East Asia Summit and the



ASEAN Regional Forum on security, along with efforts to combat counter-terrorism and transnational crime, as well as with matters of developing maritime cooperation,” Rudenko added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin told senior staff of the Russian Foreign Ministry on June 14 that Russia should work on “an indivisible system of Eurasian security that takes into account the interests of all the states on the continent without exception.”

According to an earlier announcement by the Russian Foreign Ministry's official spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will take part in the regular meetings of ASEAN foreign ministers on July 26-27 in Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

Several Labour lawmakers rebel against UK government over child welfare payments

LONDON

BRITAIN'S new Prime Minister Keir Starmer suffered his first rebellion in parliament on Tuesday when several of his Labour lawmakers voted against the government over its refusal to abolish a two-child limit on welfare payments for parents.

The rebellion is a warning to Starmer that not all will be smooth sailing despite his Labour Party's landslide election victory earlier this month.

With Labour holding a commanding majority in parliament there was no chance it would lose the vote, but the opposition to the policy showed Starmer's hope of leading a united and disciplined party in government has its limits.

Seven Labour lawmakers voted in favor of a motion calling for the government to immediately scrap the two-child benefit cap, which prevents most parents from claiming welfare payments for more than two children.

Local media reported the seven, who included Labour's former finance spokesperson John McDonnell, had been temporarily suspended from the parliamentary party.

No vote was recorded for a further 42 Labour lawmakers, meaning others may have abstained.



A migrant child, picked up at sea while crossing the English Channel from France, holds the hand of an adult, after disembarking from a UK Border Force boat at the Marina in the Dover port, on May 3, 2022. AFP

Opponents of the cap, introduced by the then Conservative government in 2017, say the policy is pushing children into poverty.

The government has argued it cannot make unfunded promises, repeatedly saying the fiscal position it inherited from

the former Conservative government has forced ministers to take difficult decisions.

“The government is committed to taking action to tackle child poverty,” Starmer's spokesperson said earlier on Tuesday.

Behind Biden's bowing out: Party pressure, unhappy donors, and slipping swing states

BEIJING

IN a sudden turn of events, US President Joe Biden announced on Sunday that he was withdrawing from the presidential race.

This decision marked the end of Biden's 24-day insistence on running after a disappointing debate performance against Republican candidate Donald Trump, which led to intensified inner-party concerns about his viability as a candidate.

Despite vowing on social media the night before that “I will win it,” Biden's abrupt exit underscores the significant pressure he was facing from party leaders and major donors who doubted his chances of securing victory against Trump.

GROWING CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL

In a short letter to the nation on Sunday, Biden acknowledged that he had expected to be the nominee but changed his mind.

“While it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term,” he said.

Before his bowing-out, Biden had repeatedly reaffirmed his commitment to continuing his campaign. However, over 40 prominent Democrats publicly called on Biden to step aside following his lackluster debate performance against Trump on June 27, according to a rolling list from The New York Times.

Citing sources familiar with the matter, U.S. media reported that prominent Democratic figures, including former President Barack Obama and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, had privately expressed concerns about Biden's electoral prospects and urged him to quit.

“I think it is a legitimate question to say is this an episode or is this a condition?” Pelosi said in an MSNBC interview on July 2 regarding Biden's decision to stay in the race. Among the doubters is California's Congressman Adam Schiff.



“A second Trump presidency would undermine the very foundations of our democracy, and I have serious concerns about the president's ability to defeat Donald Trump in November,” he told the Los Angeles Times on July 17, saying it was time for Biden to “pass the torch.”

REVOLTING DONORS

Donor pressure continued to mount in the month leading to Biden's dropout. Major Democratic donors were skeptical of Biden's viability, dissatisfied with the lack of transparency over his health condition.

Donors told House and Senate Democratic campaign committees they would freeze contributions unless Biden quit the election, as many were concerned that with Biden at the top of the ticket, Democrats would not only lose the presidency but also both houses, said a CNN report.

According to a CNBC report on Thursday, in early July 75 wealthy Democratic political donors gathered on a Zoom call, in which they overwhelmingly agreed to leverage pressure on legislators to pressure Biden to quit his campaign.

Among those donors are Hollywood executive Ari Emanuel, his

brother Zeke Emanuel and Alan Jones, a senior managing director at Intermediate Capital Group, according to the report.

Abigail Disney, an heiress to the Disney family fortune, also said she planned to withhold money unless Biden dropped out.

“Sadly, President Biden has a choice – vanity or virtue,” Michael Mortiz, a major Democratic donor and billionaire Silicon Valley venture capitalist, was quoted as saying Friday by The New York Times. Mortiz was among an expanded list of Democrats' mega-donors to publicly demand that Biden pass the torch, including Netflix's co-founder and executive chairman Reed Hastings, former CEO of PayPal Bill Harris, investor Whitney Tilson, and real estate developer and billionaire Rick Caruso, The Hills reported on Friday.

Actor George Clooney, a longtime Democrat and prominent fundraiser for the party, also joined the chorus of calls for Biden to withdraw from the race.

Just weeks earlier, Clooney co-hosted a fundraising event for Biden's campaign, raising 28 million U.S. dollars, the most ever collected for the Democratic Party from a single event.

SWING STATES LOST

Donors' pessimism over Biden's campaign is supported by polls showing Trump's growing edge nationwide, particularly in key battleground states.

An Emerson College poll, commissioned by Democrats for the Next Generation, showed Thursday that nationally 46 percent of registered voters supported Trump, compared to Biden's 42 percent, which slipped 2 percent from earlier in the month.

According to the survey, Trump was ahead of Biden by 5 percentage points in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Nevada, and by six points in Georgia.

He also led by seven points in both North Carolina and Arizona. Another survey by CBS News/YouGov revealed on Thursday shows Trump leading Biden 52-47 percent among likely voters, a growth of advantage from two points in the first week of July.

According to polling data compiled by the U.S. election information website Real Clear Politics, as of Thursday, Trump led Biden by an average of 3 percentage points in national polls and was ahead in key swing states such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

In a bid to avoid a potentially chaotic open nomination process at his party's nominating convention in four weeks, Biden on Sunday endorsed his vice president, Kamala Harris, as the party's nominee. Harris said late Monday that she had secured enough support from Democratic delegates to become the party's nominee for the presidential election in November. Harris' presidential campaign, which she took over Sunday after Biden dropped out of the race, also announced Monday that it brought in 81 million dollars in the first 24 hours. Meanwhile, to balance the ticket, Democrats are urging Harris to pick a governor from a swing state as her running mate. According to The Hill, possible candidates include Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, and Roy Cooper of North Carolina.

Xinhua

Germany bans Muslim association for pursuing radical Islam

FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S interior ministry said yesterday it has banned the Islamic Centre Hamburg (IZH) association and its subsidiary organizations, saying it pursues radical Islamist goals.

The ministry said in a statement that 53 of the organization's premises had been searched by authorities in eight German

states early on Wednesday, acting on a court order.

In addition to the Hamburg-based IZH, which includes one of the oldest mosques in Germany known for its turquoise exterior; its subgroups in Frankfurt, Munich and Berlin were also banned.

As a result, four Shi'ite mosques will be closed, said the ministry.

The IZH was not avail-

able for comment by phone on Wednesday morning, and its website was not accessible to the public.

Evidence from an earlier search of 55 properties conducted in November provided the basis for Wednesday's ban of the IZH, known in German as Islamisches Zentrum Hamburg, said the ministry.

“Today, we banned

the Islamisches Zentrum Hamburg, which promotes an Islamist-extremist, totalitarian ideology in Germany,” said Interior Minister Nancy Faeser.

“This Islamist ideology is opposed to human dignity, women's rights, an independent judiciary and our democratic government.”

She said she wanted to make clear that “this ban

absolutely does not apply to the peaceful practice of the Shi'ite religion.”

The ministry said the IZH acted as a direct representative of Iran's Supreme Leader and sought to bring about an Islamic revolution in Germany that would create theocratic rule.

In addition, IZH promotes anti-Semitism and the militant group Hezbollah, which is also



TCA CARAVANS T20 CUP 2024



Aurobindo AKSC's cricketer Ajith Augustin (R) is pictured receiving the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize from Mohandas K, one of the founding members of Caravans Cricket Club, after this season's Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tie between the former's club and Alliance Caravans in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Aurobindo AKSC edges out Alliance Caravans in Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup Super 4 tie

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

AUROBINDO AKSC stretched its winning run in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament, beating Alliance Caravans by eight runs in the showdown's Super 4 stage match in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

In what happened to be a compelling prequel to the tournament's final which will bring together the two clubs, Alliance Caravans clashed with Aurobindo AKSC in the Super 4 stage's last tie at the Leaders Club ground in Kinondoni.

Both teams had already secured their spots in the championship decider, setting the stage for a thrilling encounter to gauge each other's strengths and strategies.

Alliance Caravans won the toss and elected to field first, aiming to gain early momentum with ferocious bowling.

Aurobindo AKSC's opener Abhik Patwa set a brisk pace with a quick-fire 30 runs off 16 balls, consolidating his lead atop the Colourflex Orange Cap standings with 360 runs in the tournament.

However, Ajith Augustin was the batting squad's cricketer who stole the spotlight, frustrating Alliance Caravans' bowlers with a composed 61 runs off 42 deliveries.

Despite a late flurry of wickets, Aurobindo AKSC's batting unit managed a competitive total of 166 runs before being bundled out on the last ball of the innings.

Alliance Caravans' Ganesh Giri starred with the ball, claiming an impressive five-wicket haul in three overs while conceding just 19 runs.

Jerry Mathew's showing with the ball, which witnessed the cricketer grabbing a wicket in four overs, further solidified his position as the Automark Purple Cap's standing leader with 15 wickets in the tournament.

In response, Alliance Caravans - chasing 167 runs to come out victorious - faced a sluggish start, struggling to match the required run rate early on.

Skipper Akhil Anil (53 runs not out off 31 balls) and Jerry Mathew (26 runs off 15 balls) provided a glimmer of hope with a crucial 61-run partnership.

However, Mathew's dismissal proved pivotal as Alliance Caravans could eventually manage 158/8 in their allotted 20 overs.

Captain Jitin Singh (24 runs), Amal Rajeevan (15 runs), and opener

Prakash Nair (13 runs) also made their presence count with two-digit figures, much as they ended on the clash's losing team.

Aurobindo AKSC's cricketers, at the end of it all, celebrated a hard-fought eight-run victory, showcasing their resilience and determination ahead of the showdown's final.

With these results setting the stage, all eyes are now on the two teams' upcoming clash in the tournament's final slated for Sunday.

Aurobindo AKSC's cricketers will aim to secure their third victory over Alliance Caravans in this tournament when the two teams meet in the final. Alliance Caravans will seek a decisive performance when it matters the most.

Augustin of Aurobindo AKSC deservedly earned the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award for his game-changing batting performance.

The cricketer's teammate Kartik Syal's impactful bowling display was recognized as the Medinova Moment of the Match.

The anticipation mounts as these two formidable sides prepare to take on each other for ultimate glory in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup final.

Fans, the tournament's organizers stated, can expect a riveting contest as the battle for supremacy unfolds on Sunday.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket showdown organized by Caravans Cricket Club, seeking to raise the game's standard domestically.

Alliance Caravans, Aurobindo AKSC, Delaware Upanga SC, Balakrishna Foundation Aces, Flashnet Strikers, Park Mobile Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, Econo Lodge Lions, Azania Bank Pak Stars, and Generics Gymkhana are taking part in the showdown.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of the Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Seaciff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.

Coach Davids: Simba's dominant victory in Egypt marks promising start to pre-season

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club head coach Fadlu Davids has expressed his satisfaction with his team's performance following a re-rounding 3-0 victory over Canal SC in their first pre-season friendly match in Egypt.

The match, which showcased the skills and strategic preparation of the Simba squad, has set a positive tone for the upcoming season.

Davids commended his players for their efforts, noting that the hard work during the two-week pre-season training camp in Egypt is starting to pay off.

"I am happy that we were able to win the match with 3-0 goals. The players have played well; after two weeks of training, this is a good step for us," he stated.

Simba's triumph was led by Jean Charles Ahoua, who netted two goals, and Augustine Okejepha, who added another, sealing a comfortable win.

Davids highlighted the team's strong start, particularly their performance in the first half.

"This is a special strategic match; we started well and scored two goals in the first half. If we didn't make a change



Simba SC attacking midfielder Jean Charles Ahoua scores their second goal against Canal SC during their pre-season friendly match held recently in Egypt. Simba won 3-0. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

of players, we had a chance to score even five goals," he said.

The coach emphasized the importance of the match in assessing the players' progress and fitness levels.

"It was a match in which we aimed to give every player an opportunity to see how we have succeeded in our preparation. Every player got at least 30 minutes of play, except for two players, Awesu and Onana, who were late to join us here in Egypt and played for 20 minutes. We gave some players more time, around 50 minutes, con-

sidering their fitness and readiness after this short training period," Davids explained.

Despite the positive outcome, Davids acknowledged that there is still work to be done.

"We still have work to do. On average, we needed at least six weeks of preparation. We have a new team, with most of the players being foreigners. We need to build them methodically and get more friendlies," he added.

Looking ahead, Davids is optimistic about the team's progress and their readiness for

the new season. "Until Simba Day, we will have found at least four weeks of action. We will be in the best shape and in no time, we will reach our goals and our expectation to have the best team," he affirmed.

Simba are also gearing up for the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam derby against their long-time rivals, Young Africans, which will kick off the 2024-2025 Premier League season. The semi-final clash is scheduled for August 8 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and will serve as the Community Shield

match, marking the commencement of the upcoming season.

Additionally, another pivotal semi-final between Coastal Union and Azam FC will be played at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

The Msimbazi Street-based side, who are the Community Shield's reigning champions, secured their title in a nail-biting finish last season by defeating Young Africans 3-1 on penalties after a goalless draw in regulation time.

This intense encounter took place on August 13 at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, with Simba's victory solidifying their dominance in Tanzanian football, thanks to the heroics of goalkeeper Ally Salim, who saved crucial shots from Khalid Aucho, Zouzoua Pacome, and Kouassi Yao.

The derby between Simba and Young Africans is expected to be a thrilling encounter, as both teams carry the weight of their previous season's performances.

With the pre-season off to a strong start and the upcoming derby promising to be a spectacle, Simba are poised to continue their success and maintain their status as one of Tanzania's football powerhouses.



Rwandan champions APR FC. Agencies

APR prepare for Azam battle after Kagame Cup success

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

APR FC assistant coach Thierry Hitimana has confirmed that the team will utilize the next two weeks to fine-tune their preparations for the CAF Champions League preliminary round match against Azam FC.

Following a successful campaign in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup, Hitimana emphasized the importance of continued hard work to ensure the team is fully prepared for the crucial encounter.

The Lions missed a chance to lift what would have been their fourth Kagame Cup trophy, following a shock 10-9 penalty

shootout loss to Red Arrows of Zambia in the crunch final held at KMC Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, July 21.

They finished the campaign as runners-up with a cash prize of \$20,000, but the competition also served as a preparatory outing for the army side ahead of the 2024/25 Primus National League as well as the CAF Champions League, which both kick off in August.

The team's head coach, Serbian Darko Novic, is gradually instilling self-belief among his players, something that the team has been missing previously, especially when they were playing away from home.

APR FC are currently in Tanzania undergoing rigorous pre-season preparations. Hitimana believes the recent tournament has been instrumental in boosting the team's readiness for their upcoming match against Azam FC.

The assistant coach expressed satisfaction with the team's performance in the tournament, stating: "The Kagame Cup provided us with the intense competition and physical conditioning we sought for our players. The tournament was a success, and we even managed to garner new fans."

With two weeks left before the Azam FC clash, Hitimana out-

lined the team's training plan.

"Azam are currently engaged in high-level friendlies abroad, so we will intensify our fitness and tactical drills to match their level of preparation. We have evaluated ourselves on why we failed to advance to the next stage last year and we now know how to execute our plan in the CAF Champions League," he said.

The Rwandan club is aiming to make a strong impression in Tanzania and secure a positive result against their Tanzanian rivals.

"We hope to have a decent fan base when we face Azam, even though we expect them to have the majority of supporters. Our overall preseason plan is on track, and we're optimistic about our chances in the CAF Champions League preliminary round," said Hitimana.

Following a dismal campaign last season, marked by a 6-1 defeat to Pyramids FC in the CAF Champions League, the army side has seen a massive recruitment drive aimed at breaking a psychological barrier that has hindered Rwandan clubs on the African stage.

For APR, this season represents a critical opportunity to assert themselves and move beyond their historical limitations.

APR have struggled to progress in the CAF Champions League, with the furthest they have gone being in the third round two decades ago under the late (Rtd Cap) Jean Marie Ntagwabira.

In their previous 18 appearances, the club has exited the preliminary or first or second rounds a staggering 17 times. Such statistics weigh heavily on the players and fans alike, contributing to a mentality that often underestimates their capacity to succeed at higher levels.

APR will play away against Azam FC at Azam Complex on August 16 before playing a reverse fixture at Amahoro National Stadium on August 23.

Man United move forward with staff redundancy plan

LONDON

MANCHESTER United are in the process of telling staff whether they are at risk of redundancy or not, with the club's new ownership looking to cut current staffing levels from over 1,100 by around 250.

Although more than that number are deemed at risk, not all of those affected will lose their jobs.

Erik ten Hag's squad leave for a three-match tour of the United States on Wednesday.

Those staff expecting to be part of the club's tour whose job is under threat were told last week they would not be travelling.

However more staff were told about proposed cuts at meetings on Tuesday.

United have refused to comment.

Sir Jim Ratcliffe's Ineos group is determined to drive down costs at Old Trafford, although there is thought to be disquiet among employees who believe the savings are minimal compared to the £1bn former chief executive Richard Arnold said in 2022 the club had "burned" on underperforming players.

Already this summer, United have spent almost £90m on signing defender Leny Yoro and striker Joshua Zirkzee. They have raised a guaranteed £31.6m through the sales of Mason Greenwood, Willy Kambwala and Donny van de Beek.

United are also trying to bring in another central defender although two bids for Everton's Jarrad Branthwaite have been rejected and talks around Bayern Munich's Dutch international Matthijs de Ligt have failed to reach a positive conclusion.

The club are also looking to sign a right-back, with Noussair Mazraoui of Bayern Munich among their targets, although that may be linked to the future of Aaron Wan-Bissaka, who is about to enter the final year of his contract.

Yoro and Zirkzee are both expected to be in Ten Hag's squad for the tour of the US, which includes high-profile encounters with Arsenal in Los Angeles on 27 July and Liverpool in Columbia, South Carolina on 3 August.

BBC

Calafiori 'is not a typical Italian defender'

LONDON

"VERSATILE" Riccardo Calafiori is a player who could "slot in very well" to Arsenal's side, says Italian football journalist Daniele Verri.

The Gunners are believed to be closing in on a deal with Serie A's Bologna for the 22-year-old defender.

Calafiori progressed into senior football from the Roma academy and went on to join Swiss side Basel in 2022.

He spent just one campaign in Switzerland's top flight before moving to Bologna for 4m euros (£3.3m) and was a key player in helping them to an unlikely Champions League spot last season.

Verri told BBC Sport: "He can play on the left wing or the left side of the defence. He can also play as centre-back, where he has improved a lot over the last season at Bologna."

"He is physically strong, but he is not a typical Italian defender like a [Giorgio] Chiellini, so a very man-marking defender. He is technically very gifted and is a player who can build up the play from the back."

"In a situation of ball possession, Calafiori tends to work up the pitch and become a sort of midfielder. That is going to be very helpful for Arsenal who like to have more stations when they build up their play with short passes. He will slot in very well to that."

His versatility means he could be competing with Gabriel in central defence or with Oleksandr Zinchenko at left-back, both of whom he topped in key stats such as dribbles and interceptions per 90 minutes last season.

Moving into a midfield position is a real possibility, having previously said himself that Manchester City's John Stones "is my reference" and "his style of play is closest to mine".

"Calafiori brings his technical quality, his understanding of the game, his capacity to build up the game and look for the right move and situation when building the game from back," Verri added.

"He will be helpful in playing the long ball or the short ball to the midfielder, and creating an extra man in midfield when they are in possession."

BBC

European Leagues to sue FIFA over 'abuse of dominance'

By Nick Mashite

THE top European leagues, including the Premier League, and global players' union Fifpro will launch legal action against world governing body Fifa over its "abuse of dominance" in the game.

The European Leagues, which represents 39 leagues and 1,130 clubs in 33 countries, says it is filing a complaint to the European Commission to protect the welfare of players.

It comes following growing pressure from leagues and player unions, including the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), over the number of games added to the calendar and the impact on players.

A Fifpro statement said the international calendar is "now beyond saturation", "unsustainable for national leagues" and a "risk for the health of players".

It added: "Fifa's decisions over the last years have repeatedly favoured its own competitions and commercial interests, neglected its responsibilities as a governing body, and

harmed the economic interests of national leagues and the welfare of players.

"Legal action is now the only responsible step for European leagues and player unions to protect football, its ecosystem and its workforce."

The statement said Fifa has "consistently refused to include national leagues and player unions in its decision-making process", having been urged to develop a clear and transparent process regarding the international match calendar.

The European Leagues includes the English Football League, Scottish Professional Football League, Serie A and the Bundesliga. La Liga



The planned expansion of the Club World Cup has upset player unions [Getty Images]

is not a member but is joining the action.

In May Fifa rejected a claim that Fifpro and the World Leagues Association were not consulted over plans to host a 32-team Club World Cup.

Manchester City and Chelsea are among the 12 European representatives at the expanded Club World Cup, to be held in the USA between 15 June and 13 July 2025.

"Leagues are acting with hypocrisy" Fifa has responded strongly to the action, accusing some leagues of "hypocrisy" by sending their players on global pre-season tours.

A Fifa spokesperson said: "The current calendar was unanimously approved by the Fifa Council, which is composed of representatives from all continents, including Europe, following a comprehensive and inclusive consultation, which included Fifpro and league bodies."

Fifa's calendar is the only instrument ensuring that international football can continue to survive, co-exist, and prosper alongside domestic and continental club football.

"Some leagues in Europe - themselves competition organisers and regulators - are acting with commercial self-interest, hypocrisy, and without consideration to everyone else in the world."

"Those leagues apparently prefer a calendar filled with friendlies and

summer tours, often involving extensive global travel.

"By contrast, Fifa must protect the overall interests of world football, including the protection of players, everywhere and at all levels of the game."

A recent study by the CIES Football Observatory - a research group at the International Centre for Sports Studies - on schedules and player workload suggested that clubs are not playing more matches per season.

Its report found that between 2012 and 2024, the average number of fixtures per club and season sat at just over 40, with about 5% of clubs playing 60 or more games per season.

No significant change was observed in the proportion of clubs playing 60 or more matches.

The European Leagues' legal action is the second in two months against Fifa.

The PFA is a co-claimant with the French and Italian players' unions in a claim filed at the Brussels court of commerce, with the support of the European office of Fifpro.

That case focuses on employment law issues, the way Fifa manages the calendar, the intro-

duction of new competitions and how they clash with employment rights for players.

"Fifa holds a dual role as both the global regulator of football and a competition organiser," Fifpro said. "This creates a conflict of interest."

"What does the PFA say?"

Maheta Molango, chief executive of the PFA and Fifpro board member, said in May that players were at breaking point and could strike if they continue to be over-worked.

Because of the expanded Club World Cup, next year's African Cup of Nations has been moved from the summer to December 2025 and January 2026, which is also likely to impact that season's Champions League knockout stages.

"Legal action is the unfortunate but inevitable consequence of major stakeholders within the game - the leagues and the players - being ignored," said Molango.

"It's just not tenable to continue to argue that this approach to the fixture calendar is working. "As always, it's the players who are expected to bend. As we have seen, eventually they will break. It has to stop."

BBC

Men's Olympic soccer remains stuck in the game's second tier

By Jonathan Wilson

THE Poststadion still stands, about 10 minutes' walk north-west of Berlin's Hauptbahnhof. It's set up for American football these days and this summer it was the centre of Berlin Pride. But in 1936, it was there that Adolf Hitler, for the only time in his life, attended a football match.

Hitler, like a lot of dictators, was suspicious of football. It was too unpredictable, the crowds that followed it too large and anarchic. But Germany had been impressive in beating Luxembourg 9-0, and nobody thought much of Norway, so Hitler, along with several other senior Nazis including Hermann Göring, Joseph Goebbels and Rudolf Hess went to the quarter-final.

Germany's assistant coach was Sepp Herberger, who would later lead West Germany to victory at the 1954 World Cup. He had been sent to watch Italy v Japan, the winners of which would play the winners of Germany's quarter-final, so he was not at the Poststadion.

He returned to the team base and was tucking into a dinner of knuckle of pork and sauerkraut when he saw one of the other coaches, Georg Knöpfle, return. He knew from his face it had all gone badly wrong, pushed his plate away and never ate knuckle of pork again. Germany had lost 2-0.

Italy beat Norway in the semi-final and went on to overcome Austria in the final, adding Olympic gold to the World Cup they had won two years earlier. They would add another World Cup in 1938.

But their coach, Vittorio Pozzo, always said

that 1936 was arguably his greatest achievement given he was in effect leading a team of students (albeit five of them subsequently turned pro). In Germany, by contrast, there was no professional football and so the host's squad was a full-strength one.

That's always been the problem with men's Olympic football. Unlike the women's game, which has no limitations on who is eligible to play, the men's tournament has dealt with restrictions and questions of amateurism. And different countries have interpreted amateurism in different ways, with a huge bearing on results.

The Uruguay team that took gold in 1924 and 1928, for instance, was undeniably brilliant but very few of their players would have met more stringent European definitions of amateurism; Jules Rimet, the president of Fifa, essentially waved them through to enhance non-European participation and to give the competition a more global feel.

That's why from 1952 to 1988, every Olympic football gold (bar 1984 when the eastern bloc countries boycotted the games) was won by a team from a communist nation.

Their players were technically state employees working in the army or the interior ministry or for various factories or unions and so were deemed amateur as they were not officially paid for playing sport.

That's not to say none of them were great teams - the Hungary of 1952 went on to reach the final of the 1954 World Cup; the fine Soviet Union team of 1956 would be devas-

ing in the Euros, his club Real Madrid refused to grant him a waiver to play this summer.

France's overage players are Loïc Badé, Alexandre Lacazette and Jean-Philippe Mateta. Argentina are sending Gerónimo Rulli, Julián Álvarez and Nicolás Otamendi. Spain haven't named a player over 24 and only two of their squad have ever won a full cap, suggesting how they regard the competition.

The US, meanwhile, have named only one uncapped player, with their roster featuring 114 combined senior caps. Mali will lead the African challenge, while there will be obvious symbolism to Ukraine's participation.

But the truth is that in men's football, the Olympics doesn't really matter and hasn't done so since the advent of the World Cup, providing a tournament for all players, amateur and professional, in 1930.

At best, it offers a snapshot of a political mood or provides evidence of promising young players who may develop over the decade to follow.

No Olympic gold is entirely worthless, but few mean less than that in men's football.

* This is an extract from Soccer with Jonathan Wilson, a weekly look from the Guardian US at the game in Europe and beyond.



Pozzo, Guardiola and Neymar. Composite: Guardian Picture Desk

tated before the next World Cup by the conviction of their centre-forward Eduard Streltsov for rape; the Poland side of 1972 eliminated England in qualifying for the 1974 World Cup at which they finished third - but neither were they competing against the cream of the rest of the world.

After the collapse of communism, the men's tournament has been for under-23 players, with three overage players permitted from 1996. Spain in 1992 were widely regarded as one of the great home successes of the Barcelona Olympics, and their squad did include Pep Guardiola and Luis Enrique.

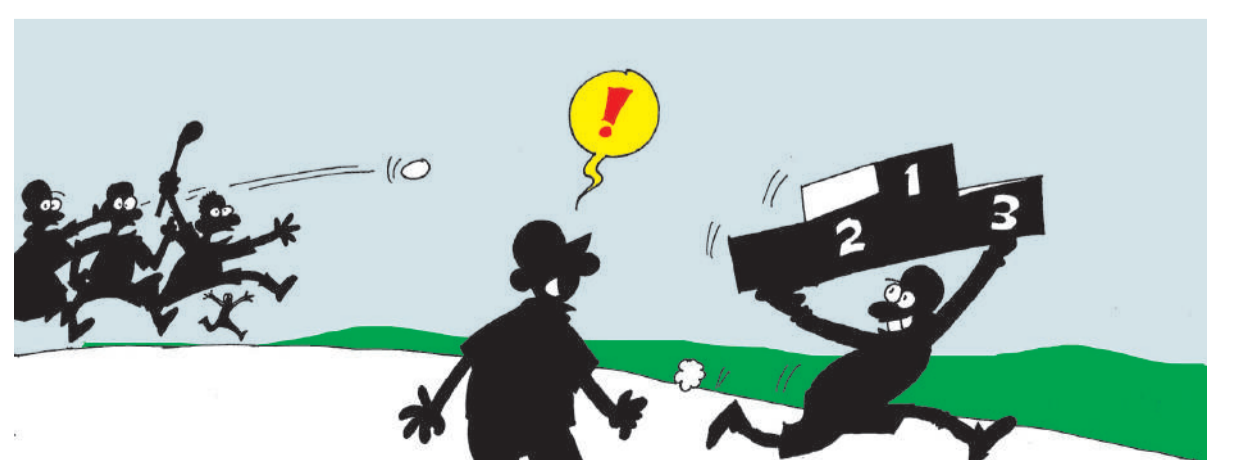
At its most generous interpretation, there was evidence there of

the beginnings of the superiority of Spanish youth development, but it would be a long time before that manifested as a major international trophy.

There were thrilling victories for Nigeria in 1996 and Cameroon in 2000, which seemed part of a more general process of improvement in African football. Since then, though, at least in terms of getting closer to challenging seriously for a World Cup, African football has largely stagnated.

The last five champions have all been Latin American, largely because of the willingness of Argentina and Brazil to send major stars such as Lionel Messi and Neymar. Kylian Mbappé seemingly wanted to play this time but after compet-

Gwiji by David Chikoko



European Leagues to sue FIFA over 'abuse of dominance'

PAGE 19

TFF announces awards nominees for 2023/2024 season

2023/2024 season.

This year's awards are segmented into five categories: the CRDB Bank Federation Cup Awards, Women's Premier League Awards, NBC Premier League Awards, Administrative Awards, and Other League Awards.

Notably, there are three new awards this season, including Tanzania's Best Foreign Player (Male), Tanzania's Best Foreign Player (Female), and Best Beach Soccer Player. These additions mark a significant expansion from the previous year's categories.

For the Confederation Cup Top Scorer Award, the contenders are Clement Mzize of Young Africans and Edward Songo from JKT Tanzania.

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has unveiled the nominees for the highly anticipated TFF Awards, which will be held on August 1, at The Super Dome Masaki in Dar es Salaam.

The awards aim to celebrate excellence across various football categories for the

Khomein Abubakar (now with Young Africans but last season was playing for Ihefu FC), and Mohamed Mustafa of Azam FC.

In the race for the Federation Cup Player of the Year, nominees include Feisal Salum and Kipre Junior from Azam FC, and Stephane Aziz Ki, Clement Mzize and Ibrahim Bacca of Young Africans.

The Best Coach award in the Premier League highlights Miguel Gamondi of Young Africans, Bruno Ferry of Azam FC, and David Ouma of Coastal Union.

The Best Player Award for the Premier League sees competition from Stephane Aziz Ki, Djigui Diarra, Attoula Yao and Ibrahim Bacca of Young Africans, Feisal Salum and Kipre Junior from Azam FC, Ley Matampi of Coastal Union and Mohamed Hussein of Simba.

Additionally, the Best De-

fender category includes Attohoulou Yao and Ibrahim Bacca of Young Africans and Mohamed Hussein of Simba SC.

For the Best Goalkeeper in the Premier League, the contenders are Djigui Diarra, Ley Matampi, and Ayoub Lakred of Simba SC.

The Best Midfielder nominees include Feisal Salum, Aziz Ki, and Kipre Junior.

The Premier League Young Player of the Year includes Semfuko Charles of Coastal Union, Shomary Raheem of KMC, and Constantine Malimi of Geita Gold FC.

The Premier League Referee Set Award features several notable matches and referees, including those from games involving Simba SC, Young Africans, Azam FC, and JKT.

The Best Assistant Referee and Best Referee Awards list Frank Komba, Mohammed Mkono, Kassim Mpanga, and

others.

For the Best Stadium Manager, the nominees are Amir Juma of Azam Complex, Nasser Makau of Mkwakwani, and Shaaban of Lake Tanganyika.

Meanwhile, the Best Commissioner award highlights Martin Kibua of Tanga, Zena Chande of Dar es Salaam, and Hamis Kitila of Singida.

In the Other League Awards, the NBC Championship Best Player category includes Boban Bogere of Biashara United, Casto Mhagama and Edgar William of Kengold FC.

The Best Player in the First League features Mohamed Bakari and Ayoub Masudi of African Sports and Ahmad Ndondi.

The Best Player in the U-20 League nominees are Bruno Nataly of Kagera Sugar, Omari Shaaban Mwinymvua of Dodoma City, and Ally Mohamed Golo of Azam.



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

Tanzanian Dismas Miroshi joins Turkish Super Lig side Göztepe SK

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIAN international Novatus Dismas Miroshi has signed with Göztepe SK, a newly promoted Turkish Super Lig team.

The 23-year-old midfielder's transfer marks an exciting new chapter as he steps into one of Europe's competitive leagues.

On Tuesday, Miroshi (pictured) was officially unveiled as Göztepe SK's latest acquisition, having signed a four-year contract with the club. The announcement was met with enthusiasm by the club's management and supporters alike.

"We are delighted to announce the signing of Novatus Miroshi on a four-year contract. We extend a warm welcome to Novatus Miroshi and wish him the best of luck in his journey with our glorious club," Göztepe SK stated in their official release.

Miroshi joins the Turkish side from Shakhtar Donetsk, the Ukrainian powerhouse, where he had been playing on loan from Belgian club Zulte Waregem.

His tenure with Shakhtar Donetsk included appearances in the UEFA Champions League, where he faced top-tier teams such as Barcelona, FC Porto, and Antwerp during last season's group stage.

The midfielder's international experience is notable. He has made 22 appearances for the Tanzanian national team, Taifa Stars. His skills and on-field vision were on display during the TotalEnergies



CAF Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) held earlier this year in Ivory Coast, where he was a key player for his national squad.

Before his stint in Ukraine, Miroshi made a name for himself in the Tanzanian Premier League, where he played a crucial role for Azam FC and Biashara United. His performances caught the atten-

tion of scouts from European clubs, leading to his initial move to Maccabi Tel Aviv FC.

Miroshi's signing with Göztepe SK reflects the club's ambition to bolster its squad with talented international players as they aim to establish themselves in the Turkish Super Lig.

The league is known for its competitive nature and pas-

sionate fan base, which will provide Miroshi with a new set of challenges and opportunities to develop his career further.

The midfielder's versatility on the field, characterized by his ability to both defend and attack, is expected to be a significant asset for Göztepe SK. His experience in high-stakes matches, such as the UEFA

Champions League, adds a level of maturity and tactical awareness to the team. The move to Göztepe SK is also a milestone for Tanzanian football, highlighting the growing presence of Tanzanian players in European leagues. This trend was recently exemplified by another Taifa Stars player, Kelvin Pius John, who joined Danish side Aalborg BK after his contract with KRC Genk expired.

Miroshi's journey from the Tanzanian league to the heights of European football serves as an inspiration to many young Tanzanian footballers. It underscores the potential for players from the region to succeed on larger stages with the right opportunities and development.

As Miroshi embarks on this new chapter with Göztepe SK, his fans and supporters from Tanzania and beyond will undoubtedly be watching closely. His progress in the Turkish Super Lig will be followed with great interest, and there is a collective hope that he will continue to shine and represent Tanzanian football with pride.

The signing of Miroshi by Göztepe SK is not just a transfer; it is a testament to his hard work, talent, and the increasing recognition of Tanzanian players in the global football arena. His journey is a beacon of hope for aspiring footballers in Tanzania, showing that dedication and talent can pave the way to success in international football.

AWOL Dennis Kibu face serious punishment at Simba, says Ally

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TWENTY-TWO-TIME league champions Simba SC are prepared to discipline their striker Dennis Kibu for going AWOL (Away Without Official Leave).

Kibu (pictured), who signed a new two-year contract before traveling to the United States for a holiday, failed to report back to the club for pre-season training ahead of the 2024/25 season.

Simba SC's information and communication manager, Ahmed Ally, stated that the club does not tolerate indiscipline and will take action against Kibu for his absence.

During a fan engagement tour in Morogoro, Ally informed supporters that Kibu has been providing endless excuses for not returning for pre-season training.

He further explained that Simba have fulfilled all financial obligations to Kibu after his contract renewal, which extends his stay at the club until 2026.

Simba's first team is currently in Egypt for a three-week pre-season training camp under head coach Fadlu Davids.

Kibu's continued absence has raised concerns among Simba supporters, prompting the club to issue a statement on Tuesday evening.

"Simba Sports Club informs the public that its player Kibu Denis Prosper has not reported for the pre-season training camp ahead of the 2024-2025 season. We would like to inform the public that Simba extended Kibu's contract for two more years, ending in June 2026, and paid him all his contractual rights.

"However, this player has been providing several reasons for his inability to report for camp. Due to this misconduct, the club will take appropriate disciplinary measures against him and will inform the public accordingly," the statement concluded.

The 25-year-old forward made 21 league appearances last season, scoring one goal and providing three assists.

He joined Simba three years ago following an impressive debut campaign with Mbeya City.

Kibu is linked with a potential move to a yet-to-be-identified Norwegian club.

On Tuesday afternoon, multiple reports indicated that Kibu was spotted at the airport en route to Norway.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

