



# Reshuffle soothes critics, experts

SCALING MOUNT 'KILI' FOR SPECIAL CAUSE:



Members of a delegation from the US-based National Ovarian Cancer Coalition pose for a souvenir photo at the weekend at Uhuru Peak - at 5,895 metres above sea level the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro. Their special expedition was meant to create awareness on ovarian cancer and raise funds to support the fight against the disease. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## SAUT, aviation unit sign five-year link-up

*"The aviation sector is all about business, therefore our collaboration will help to generate a better trained workforce readily competent in the labour market"*

By Correspondent James Kandoya

SAINT Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) has embarked on a five-year collaboration arrangement with the Regional Aviation College (RAC) to run courses to increase aviation sector competence.

Prof Costa Mahalu, the SAUT Vice Chancellor, made this observation at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, noting that this arrangement follows demands by President Samia Suluhu Hassan for wider technical courses tailored to labour market needs, like taking

TURN TO PAGE 2

## TRC: Chiefs can bolster security of SGR outlays

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) has appealed to traditional elders, especially in areas traversed by the standard gauge railway (SGR) to assist in building public adherence to protecting the transportation infrastructure.

Masanja Kadogosa, the TRC director general, made this appeal during a familiarisation tour by chiefs from across the country to the SGR station in the capital yesterday, where TRC officials accompanied them on a 50-kilometre ride.

The traditional leaders are visiting different development projects undertaken by

**“ SGR trains will run at 160 km per hour on average, sharply decreasing travel time between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro**

the government, an initiative that follows a meeting they held with President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the weekend.

The local chiefs visited the government city and the heroes' monument within that enclave at Mumba before touring the University of Dodoma, officials said.

In his remarks, the CEO said that preparations for the start of the Dar es Salaam to Dodoma speed train services are at an advanced stage with contractors putting on the finishing touches to its launching.

Traditional leaders can play an important role in protecting the railway infrastructures by educating the public on the

TURN TO PAGE 2

## 24 countries' conservationists study seeds, culture resilience

By Guardian Correspondent

REPRESENTATIVES of 14 African countries yesterday started a four-day workshop in Arusha to discuss strategies for conserving bio-cultural diversity.

Dr Monica Kagya, the board chairperson for Envirocare, a local conservation activist group, said at the workshop that the participants will examine escalating climate challenges affecting the environment and livelihoods across the

continent.

Conducted under the Africa Biodiversity Network (ABN), the workshop is focused on the restoration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems while promoting community conservation regulations related to traditional knowledge.

The initiative is aimed at empowering communities to adopt conservation habits and methods to mitigate biodiversity loss, even with changing environmental conditions affecting ecosystems and livelihoods.

The workshop examines the theme of building strong partnerships for the conservation of bio-cultural diversity in Africa, where participants will be in a learning session as well as sharing experiences from across the sub-Saharan spectrum and North Africa, she said.

The event brings together conservation experts and activists from Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Rwan

TURN TO PAGE 2

*As a member of the cabinet and making statements like that was highly dangerous for democracy, he said, stressing that the government must uphold the country's image based on secure and fair elections*

By Guardian Reporters

THE minor cabinet reshuffle conducted by President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the weekend is largely being seen as a move to enhance accountability.

Most experts interviewed said yesterday that the president aimed to strengthen accountability while responding to a public uproar arising from unguarded comments from an outgoing minister, raising doubt over electoral intentions of the ruling party.

Dr George Kahangwa, a senior lecturer at the School of Education, University of Dar es Salaam, said that the reshuffle improves cabinet cohesion for greater focus on socio-economic development.

Noting that the changes were somewhat anticipated, he said that the ministers' removal was not surprising as Nape Nnauye "should have resigned by himself following his election box and results statement as the country cannot have leaders of that kind."

Regarding January Makamba, he hinted at being aware of suggestions that he did not priori-

TURN TO PAGE 2

## SPORTS



TANZANIA'S U-19 WOMEN'S CRICKET TEAM CONFRONTS UGANDA IN BILATERAL T20 SERIES

Page 20



TEN FOOTBALLERS TO WATCH OUT FOR AT PARIS OLYMPICS

Page 19





# Reshuffle soothes critics, experts

FROM PAGE 1

tise responsibilities but focused on other ambitions.

Reshuffles are customary for the president in any epoch to replace assistants who do not align with the desired pace in policy action, to replace them with other competent individuals, he said.

On Sunday evening, President Samia terminated appointments of January Makamba as Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation minister and Nape Nnauye as Information, Communication and Information Technology minister, appointing Zanzibar veteran cabinet insider Mahmoud Thabit Kombo to the Foreign Affairs docket and Jerry Silaa to oversee the Information fraternity.

Up to the moment Kombo served as ambassador to Italy, while Silaa not long ago took office at Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development.

Godbless Lema, the Chadema northern zone chairman, was satisfied with the replacement of ex-minister Nnauye, asserting that his remarks were "perilous for a country upholding democratic princi-

ples and free elections."

He stressed that democracy is the sole means for citizens to replace a government they deem ineffective, and such statements undermine public confidence in this belief.

As a member of the cabinet and making statements like that was highly dangerous for democracy, he said, stressing that the government must uphold the country's image based on secure and fair elections.

Dr Anna Henga, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) executive director, interpreted President Samia's steps as indicative of accountability and responsibility.

In the reshuffle, Cosato Chumi (Mafinga Urban) was appointed deputy minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, replacing Ambassador Mbarouk Nasor Mbarouk, who will be assigned other duties, the State House indicated in a statement.

Deogratus Ndejemi takes over at Lands while Ridhiwani Kikwete, erstwhile deputy minister for Public Service and Good Governance at the President's Office, takes over as minister for Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disability in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

# TRC: Chiefs can bolster security of SGR outlays

FROM PAGE 1

importance of the project to the nation, he said, noting that the government has injected large sums of money into the project.

He was affirmative that traditional leaders should ensure people protect the railway, appealing to the chiefs to make use of their being with the people to inculcate positive attitudes towards protecting the flagship infrastructure.

Dodona traditional leader Chief Mazengo II expressed appreciation for the government's resolve to make such a great investment, pointing at the continued disbursement of funds for strategic projects around the country.

Members of the public living in areas where strategic projects are located need to utilize opportunities availed by the transport system, with initial SGR train services between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro having commenced on June 14.

Preparation for the Dar es Salaam-Dodoma is set for Thursday, July 25 the second stage of the speed train operational schedule. SGR trains will run at 160 km per hour on average, sharply decreasing travel time between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro.

It will now take two hours, half of the four-hour bus journey and five-hour train rides on the meter-gauge railway now being revamped.

# Kenya seeks to attract Chinese investment in green industrial park

NAIROBI

KENYA is keen to attract Chinese investors to set up operations in its green industrial park located in Naivasha, about 90 km northwest of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, a government official said on Monday.

Abubakar Hassan Abubakar, principal secretary in the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, said in Nairobi that the industrial park sits on the country's geothermal fields, a sustainable and stable source of power.

"We have a pipeline of Chinese investors who have expressed interest in establishing factories that will be powered by renewable sources of energy," Abubakar said on the sidelines of the launch of Stanbic Bank's sustainability report 2023.

He called for Chinese investment in Kenya's green economy sectors, including solar and recycling in-

dustries.

The green park will help Kenya export green products and boost its foreign exchange earnings, Abubakar said.

He said Kenya has launched a 40-million-U.S.-dollar fund to help small and medium enterprises in the green economy, adding that the country has set a target of expanding the size of the fund to 200 million dollars through partnership with international development institutions.

China-Kenya relations refer to the bilateral relations between the People's Republic of China and Kenya. The two countries established relations in 1963, suspended ties temporarily in 1967, but ultimately re-established diplomatic relations in 1978. Since then, they have significantly expanded their economic and investment agreements, such that China is currently Kenya's largest trading partner.

# Landslide kills at least 20 in southern Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

AT least 20 people were killed by a landslide in southern Ethiopia, local media reported yesterday.

The deadly landslide occurred on Monday morning at around 10:00 a.m. local time in the Geze Gofa district in southern Ethiopia, state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported.

Misirik Mitiku, chief administrator of the Geze Gofa district, said

rescuers have so far recovered more than 20 bodies that were buried under the mud.

He said the death toll is likely to rise as rescue operations are currently underway at the landslide area.

Ethiopia is in the midst of a rainy season which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September. Constant rains occasionally cause landslides in some parts of the East African country.



January Makamba (2nd-L), until his replacement on Sunday as Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, pictured at the Dar es Salaam port at the weekend holding 'Zhakir' - the first Tanzanian baby born aboard Chinese naval hospital ship 'Peace Ark' Baby during the three missions the vessel has made to Tanzania since 2010. China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian (R), meanwhile gifts the baby's mother, Naza Fadhili, various items. The vessel has since completed its mission in Tanzania, having extended free medical attention to hundreds of people. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

# SAUT, aviation unit sign five year link up

FROM PAGE 1

up aviation sector opportunities.

Under the agreement two SAUT faculties will offer complementary courses in the relevant fields to enhance graduate competence, he said, elaborating that the university offers courses like tourism and air ticketing. Students will be taking up practical at the aviation college while RAC students will take additional courses at SAUT institutes.

Air ticketing certificate or diploma in tourism qualifications form the core of aviation college training,

whose students can add up auxiliary courses for a bachelor's degrees at SAUT, while a student pursuing a certificate in tourism enterprises at SAUT can take up courses in a selective way in those fields from either institution, he stated.

Philemon Kisamo, the RAC managing director, said that aviation is a sector that if well utilized can rapidly increase its contribution to the country's economy, with the collaboration initiative enhancing the quest for a skilled workforce in aviation.

Courses offered at RAC relate

to airline ticketing, flight dispatch operations and ground operations management, he said, asserting that the future of the aviation industry in Tanzania is promising as the number of operational flights are rising.

"The aviation sector is all about business, therefore our collaboration will help to generate a better trained workforce readily competent in the labour market," stated.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in a recent state visit in South Korea, positively projected the growth of Tanzania's aviation sector in its contribution to GDP and boosting

tourism.

She said the aviation sector holds immense potential, thus the vision of developing a robust aviation industry positioning the country as a preferred destination for investment, trade, and tourism.

One of the key challenges facing the country's industry is how to attract and retain the next generation of aviation professionals, along with a rising concern across the industry regarding the difficulty in attracting the right talent and retaining a workforce that can deliver the future vision of aviation, she added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa delivers a virtual address from Dar es Salaam yesterday to political party leaders, members of regional defence and security committees and district commissioners from across mainland Tanzania Mainland. Photo: PMO

FROM PAGE 1

da, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon, Morocco and Egypt, in a series of discussions likely to clarify on priorities in current conservation efforts.

"The core message is to strengthen local community resilience in preserving indigenous seeds for sustainable food sources," the local organiser noted, applauding the collaborative efforts of the regional network, its trustees and partners across Africa for commitment to achieve shared conservation goals.

Ayele Kabede, a senior programme manager for the Swedish

# 24 countries' conservationists study seeds, culture resilience

International Development Agency (SIDA), stressed biodiversity conservation for its crucial role in preserving African cultural heritage and environmental sustainability.

SIDA has donated \$2.5m to ABN for conservation programmes especially for Tanzania, focusing on cultural identity and environmental conservation, she said, highlighting the key issue as revitalizing

community knowledge for effective natural conservation and climate resilience.

Institutions and individuals involved in biodiversity and preserving cultural identity need to work together in pursuing robust conservation measures, she emphasised.

Dr Suleiman Abudulahi, the ABN board chairman, underscored the

initiative's objective of bolstering community resilience and capacity in biodiversity conservation, alongside seed preservation, cultural revival and youth engagement in safeguarding cultural diversity.

"Our projects, from reforestation to endangered species protection, foster a healthier environment and strengthen community bonds with nature," he added.





Children's rights activists pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday holding candles in mourning children understood to have been abducted and killed recently in various parts of the country. The sombre event was organised by the Legal and Human Rights Centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# VIP lounges at key airports all due for facelifts following influx of tourists

By Henry Mwangonde

VIP lounges at Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Arusha airports are set to undergo renovations following the influx of international tourists and businesspeople who prefer using such facilities.

Mussa Mburu Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) director general revealed this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when officiating the launch of two brand new saloon cars, worth 350m/- each, belonging to Swissport company for providing ground handling services at the VIP Lounge at JNIA.

He said that the exercise will be conducted this financial year, adding that it will cost about 600m/- each.

"We want the facilities to be similar to those of Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), and the government has allocated a budget for improvement. We thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for endorsing funds for improving these facilities," Mburu stated.

"We will spend about 600m/- each, and its return will be in less than a year because this is a business," he affirmed.

In March last year, the government conducted a major renovation of the VIP lounge at JNIA to improve its infrastructure, also pegged at 600m/-.

Following this, TAA moved to encourage service providers, including Swissport, who offer ground handling services, to improve their services to match the improved infrastructure.

"We wrote to Swissport to make service improvements, and we are

glad that today they have unveiled two brand new Mercedes-Benz vehicles for ground handling services, to carry VIP passengers from the lounge to the aircraft," he said.

He said the government's efforts to attract more investors and businesspeople to the country have resulted in the increased arrival of tourists and businesspeople who use the VIP Lounge.

In his remarks, Swissport Tanzania Chief Executive Officer Mrisho Yassin said the investment in new vehicles is very important as they look forward to continuing to improve the services they offer at the VIP Lounge.

He said they made the investment following the government's investment to improve the VIP Lounge infrastructure.

"We believe the initiative we have taken will definitely bring a different experience in the way we offer ground handling services," he said.



**We want the facilities to be similar to those of Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), and the government has allocated a budget for improvement. We thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for endorsing funds for improving these facilities**

# Makamba says China-Tanzania links exceptional

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

IMMEDIATE former Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, minister January Makamba has expressed appreciation for the diplomatic cooperation between Tanzania and China, describing it as exceptional.

The former minister made these remarks following his visit to the Chinese Naval ship named 'Peace Ark', which has been docked in Dar es Salaam since July 16, 2024, offer-

ing a free medical camp.

During his visit, Makamba also met Naza Fadhili, the first Tanzanian woman to give birth aboard the 'Peace Ark'.

Accompanied by the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, Makamba visited over the weekend and commended the medical team on board the ship for their efforts during their third visit to Tanzania. "Indeed, you are doing a wonderful job," he remarked.

Naza Fadhili shared with the for-

mer minister that she named her son Zakhir, expressing gratitude to the doctors who ensured her safe delivery.

"The Chinese Naval Hospital Ship 'Peace Ark' has provided free humanitarian treatment to 5,000 patients so far, up until last Sunday," reported Rear Admiral Ying Hongbo, the Peace Ark Mission Commander.

Strategic support began shortly after the ship arrived at Dar es Salaam port, coinciding with the

60th anniversary of Tanzania-China bilateral cooperation, which also involved the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (CPLA).

Since its inception, Ark Peace has conducted nine Mission Harmony initiatives, providing medical services in 46 countries and regions across three oceans and six continents since 2010, benefiting over 290,000 people. It is renowned as the 'Ship of Life'.

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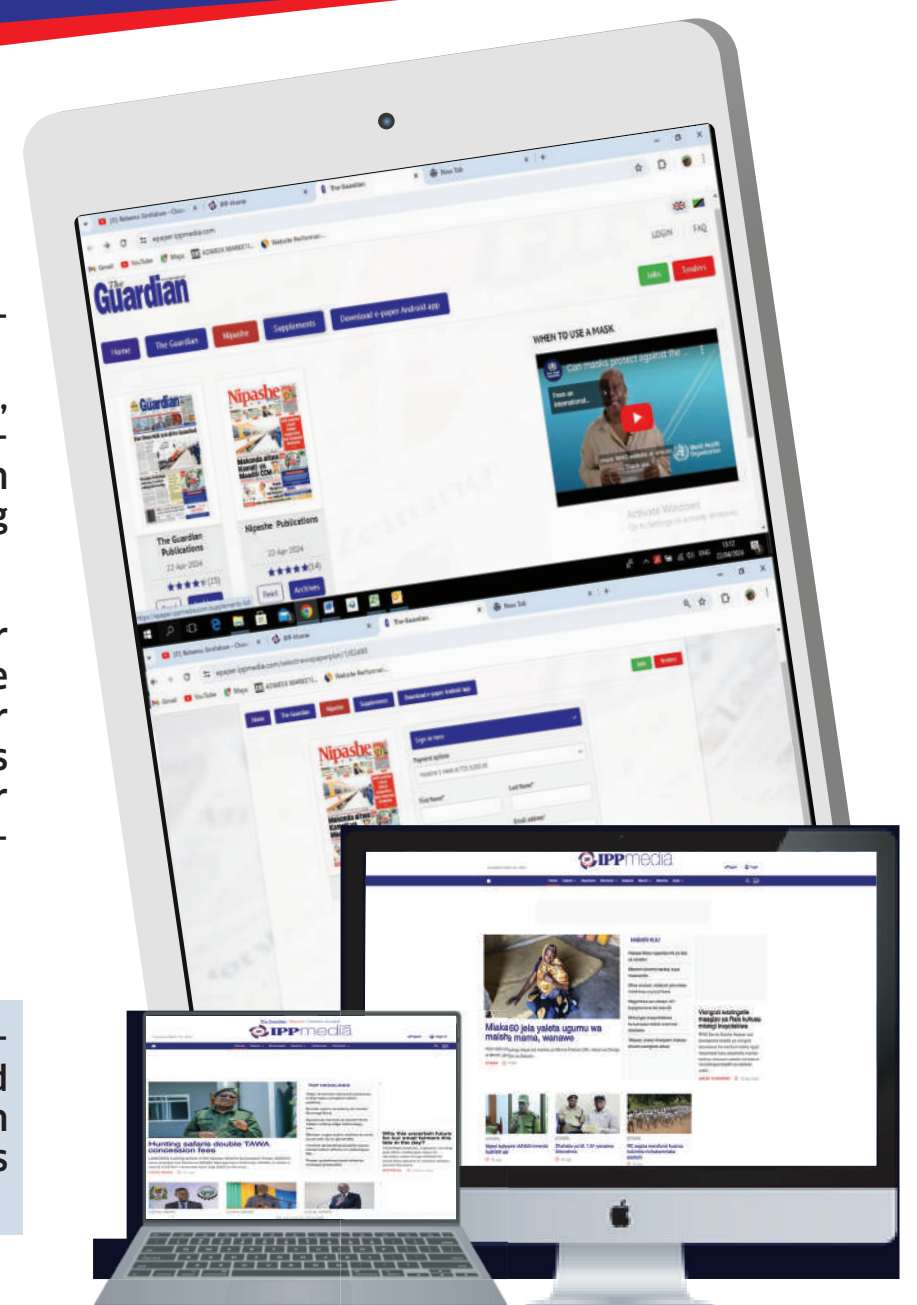
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# Ministry out to enable tourism sector to grow

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE government has expressed its unwavering dedication to supporting and facilitating the tourism sector, ensuring an environment conducive to tourism activities.

Nkoba Mabula, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, made the remarks here yesterday when welcoming back a team of climbers from eight countries who conquered the Kilimanjaro Mountain to honour the indelible legacy of Nelson Mandela and to raise funds and awareness in the fight against period poverty.

Among the climbers include the Illovo Sugar Africa Kilimanjaro Climber team, who was presented with certificates for their triumphant ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, culminating in reaching Uhuru Peak at an elevation of 5,895 meters or 19,841ft above sea level.

The expedition was also meant to raise funds to combat Period Poverty in Tanzanian and other communities where these companies operate, embodying a vision of community well-being and advancement.

"As a government, we're very committed to ensuring that our environment is protected at any cost and ensure that tourist destinations are available for tourism purposes," he said.

Derick Stanley, the corporate affairs director of Kilombero Sugar, underscored the vital role of the host country in ensuring the successful and noble endeavour of scaling Mount Kilimanjaro.

He emphasized the significance of showcasing diversity and inclusion through the participation of the diverse group of climbers, accentuating Tanzania's splendour as the host country and Mount Kilimanjaro as a purpose-driven tourist attraction in harmony with a conscience.

The company extended its heartfelt wishes to all climbers for a secure, pleasurable, and unforgettable experience in Tanzania.

Conversely, the Tanzania Tourist Board, a pivotal partner in the Kilimanjaro Expedition, represented by Mafuru,

Ephraim Mafuru, the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) director general views the opportunity as a catalyst for enriching tourism attractions in the country and is committed to supporting initiatives that fortify the sustainability of the tourism sector.

Ernest Peresu, the climber lead team, expressed genuine appreciation for Tanzanian hospitality and the picturesque natural resources abundant in Tanzania, encouraging individuals worldwide to come and partake in the unparalleled Tanzanian Experience.

The sugar company remained resolute in promoting community well-being through initiatives such as the Kilimanjaro Expedition, aimed at combating period poverty. In line with this commitment, the company has graciously donated 2,400 sanitary pads to Mieresini Secondary School located in Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

The expedition was also meant to raise funds and awareness in the fight against period poverty, championing the cause of supporting 20,000 girls in countries where the sugar company operates by providing essential sanitary products for a year.

*The expedition was also meant to raise funds to combat Period Poverty in Tanzanian and other communities where these companies operate, embodying a vision of community well-being and advancement*



Water minister Jumaa Aweso (C, high table) witnesses the signing of contracts on the implementation of 54bn/- worth of Tanga Region water infrastructure projects through green bond funds. The parties to the agreements are Tanga Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, STC Construction Limited and China Railway Group 7 Limited. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

By Enoch Charles

CHILDREN's rights defenders have urged the government to investigate and determine the causes of recent incidents involving abductions and disappearances of children, in order to halt these practices.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during an event to commemorate and pray for children who were recently abducted and killed, stakeholders expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of investigations and actions taken against perpetrators, despite ongoing efforts.

"Such incidents tend to increase during the approach of general elections. We propose that security and protection of children be enhanced from the family level to the national level," said Rebeca Gyumi from the local organisation

# Rights defenders urge govt to find an end to abductions

Mschana Initiative.

On June 3rd this year in the Kagera region, two-year-old Asimwe Novart was abducted while in his mother's arms and later found dead with some organs removed. On July 15th in the Dodoma region, Sumaiya Issa was reportedly kidnapped and remains missing. On July 7th in Mbagala, Dar es Salaam, another child, Nusra Omari, was found dead with some body parts missing. On July 17th in Dodoma, Theresphoa Mwakalinga was found dead with organs missing.

Stakeholders called for President Samia Suluhu Hassan's intervention

to address the alarming situation causing fear among stakeholders.

"All institutions responsible for public security should fulfill their duties and expedite investigations into these incidents," she said.

A child rights activist from the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC), Getrude Dyabene, acknowledged the government's efforts to protect children but lamented the continued violence against them. "These actions not only violate human rights but also contravene the Constitution of Tanzania and its laws," she added.

"The Police Force has been

reporting such incidents, but we are dissatisfied with the measures in place to prevent them," she continued.

Rogasian Massue from the Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF) advised the Police to promptly respond to and prioritize reports of missing children without waiting 24 hours.

"Parents, guardians, educators, and the community at large, let's enhance child protection measures. Encourage children to move in groups, establish community watch groups, and educate them against accompanying strangers," he urged.



EAST AFRICAN  
CRUDE OIL  
PIPELINE



China Petroleum Pipeline  
Engineering Co., Ltd.

## Local Training Initiative by China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co., Ltd (CPP) Aims to Boost Employment Opportunities

### Opening Ceremony Highlights SMAW Training Program for Local Workforce Development

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, stretching 1,443 km from Uganda to Tanzania, promises economic growth. China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co., Ltd. (CPP) has launched a training program to equip locals with Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) skills as part of this project.

#### SMAW Training Program Progress

The SMAW training program, a key component of CPP's training initiative, is designed to provide local trainees with advanced welding techniques necessary for pipeline construction. This training ensures the creation of strong and durable joints that meet industry standards. The program has a total of 50 trainees split into two batches. The program's first batch of 25 trainees has already commenced, with the second batch scheduled to begin at the end of August.

#### Skills and Training Focus

Trainees will learn advanced welding techniques, safety protocols, quality control, and hands-on equipment use. Utilizing SMAW, specific resources such as welding machines, grinding machines, and steel plates are allocated to each trainee practicing in various positions, ensuring high-quality, safe construction of the EACOP pipeline. The training adheres to strict technical standards and includes rigorous certification.

CPP's focus is not only on immediate skill enhancement but also on long-term career development. Upon successful completion of the training, participants will be well-positioned to secure employment opportunities within the EACOP project. This initiative underscores CPP's dedication to creating sustainable job opportunities and fostering economic growth in the region.

#### Career Development

The program's opening ceremony highlighted CPP's commitment to local workforce development. Trainees shared their experiences and future aspirations. CPP aims to enhance long-term career prospects, offering sustainable job opportunities within the EACOP project and beyond. CPP plans to expand training programs to cover more skills, building a versatile workforce for future projects.



Trainees together with EWURA, ATC, TPDC, EACOP, CPP representatives, and their trainer on the day of the opening ceremony

## TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



TENDER No: TP/07/2024/NCB/S/024

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## Tanzania's tour operator scoops tourism and conservation award

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

BABATI-based tour operator—Chem Chem Safaris has scooped the award for tourism and conservation initiatives by involving the community.

The award has been given recently by the International African Travel and Tourism Association (ATTA) in London, UK, which involved various countries in the world.

Announcing the winner, Nigel Vere Nicoll, ATTA President said: "We received an overwhelming number of excellent applications for our inaugural awards, and we are grateful to all those who wholeheartedly supported this initiative. We are impressed by the commitment of so many within the tourism industry to impact conservation and communities, and we sincerely hope that the work of the winners and finalists will be inspirational to many."

Nicoll said the awards had eight elements that are recognized by the World Tourism Federation.

"After the judges went through the merits of each institution and also received comments from tourists who visited those areas, Chem Chem was the first overall winner due to being able to involve the community in the Burunge WMA area in conservation and Tourism and benefiting the community," he said.

Other institutions announced as winners, in the presentation of the awards held in London, England, are from the countries of England, Namibia, Kenya, and Botswana.

Clever Zulu, Chem Chem Safaris executive manager said the victory of the award for Conservation and Tourism that involves the community, which they have received, is due to the great efforts of the Government and other stakeholders to promote the tourism and conservation sector in the country.

"We thank Chem Chem for getting this award which means a lot in our tourism and conservation activities, which involves the community to a large extent," he said.

Zulu said the victory is also the result of the good work of President Samia Suluhu to open up the country in Tourism and attract thousands of tourists from around the world to Tanzania.

"We will continue to cooperate with the government and the tourism and conservation

institutions of TANAPA, TAWA, TAWIRI but also Burunge WMA to develop tourism and conservation in this area for the benefit of the present and future generations," he said.

Elizabeth Omboi, Chem Chem hotel manager said that the victory means a lot to them and will attract more tourists.

"We have been doing local tourism activities by involving the community, we give aid to support the education, health, and environment sectors and even support groups of mothers in entrepreneurship," said Omboi.

Peter Corneli, head of restaurant at the Chem Chem hotel said that among the other reasons that have been attracting tourists to visit their hotels is to get Tanzanian natural food that is well prepared and to have the opportunity to walk in wildlife areas.

Benson Mwaise, secretary of Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) said the victory of Chemchem is the victory of Burunge WMA because Chemchem is one of the institutions that have invested in the area.

"We have been comforted by this victory, the world has recognized our efforts in conservation but also the community's participation in tourism and conservation activities, this is a very big thing," he said.

Other Tanzanian institutions that have received awards include Chumbe Island Coral Park, Asilia Africa, Lemala Camps, and Lodges Tanzania.

Chem Chem Safaris owns and operates three exclusive safari camps in the 50,000-acre Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Northern Tanzania. The land belongs to the communities around Chem Chem who have set it aside for conservation and wildlife protection.



**We thank Chem Chem for getting this award which means a lot in our tourism and conservation activities, which involves the community to a large extent**

## ACT: Give people liberty to elect leaders they want

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Opposition ACT-Wazalendo Chairman in Zanzibar Othman Masoud Othman said people should be given the freedom to elect leaders they want to lead including the President through the general election.

Othman said this while addressing the party's public meeting held at Menge grounds in Makunduchi constituency, Unguja South Region with top party leaders in Zanzibar.

He said the country belongs to the people and they should decide who to lead them through the democratic process without any kind of disputes to ensure that the elections are free and fair.

"This country belongs to the people of Zanzibar and they are the ones who decide who they want to lead them, whether you like it or not, it doesn't concern you, this is their country," said Othman.

The ACT's top leader said Zanzibar still needs full authority after losing many things due to the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964, including the issue of customs duties, postal and communication services, currency, finance, and port services.

ACT-Wazalendo Vice Chairman, Ismail Jussa Ladhu said that 257 kilometres of roads being built in Zanzibar will be useless after seven years due to the use of cold mix asphalt technology, which is not suitable in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

He said the project costs \$80.3million and is being

implemented by two companies from Turkey, but the tarmac that is being used has caused major problems before the project, including the Kengeja/Chambani road where they're wearing out due to using cold mix asphalt technology.

Jussa further said that the construction of those roads was to cost \$80.3 million according to government reports, but after discovered that the tarmac used was unfit for the Isles' environment the Ministry of Communications and Transport requested \$79 million to use hot mix asphalt (HMA), "Something for me is a misuse of public funds, which is a double cost in the use of public funds."

He also said that the people of Zanzibar should thank Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her move to get a loan worth Euro 487 million from the British Development Fund to improve road infrastructure in the Isles.

According to him, the roads have benefited the people of Zanzibar. The roads that have benefited from the loan include Mkoani/Chakechake, Pemba Airport, Kisauni/Fumba, and Tunguu/Makunduchi.

He also noted that despite the success of the project, it still continued to falter when its construction was expected to start in November last year. Still, it stalled after one leader asked for a commission but the companies assigned to implement the project refused.



Mkalama district executive director Asia Messos addresses residents of Mwangeza village, chiefly underlining the need for them to take full part in the updating of the Permanent Voters' Register in readiness for late this year's countrywide local government election. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## New innovative learning platform launched to address the skills gap

By Guardian Correspondent

AN innovator in digital education—SmartLab has launched a new learning programme aimed at addressing the critical skills gap in the country.

The launch which was held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend with a theme: "The Future of Work: Upskilling and Reskilling for Digital Success," brought together Startup founders, innovators, entrepreneurs and stakeholders to discuss the future of work and the essential role of upskilling in navigating today's digital landscape.

Smart Lab's operations manager, Jeanmarie Bwemo said the initiative addresses the growing need for specialised education

and training catering to learners, corporates, startups, and small-scale entrepreneurs (SMEs).

He emphasised that the platform aims to solve the issue of inadequate skills development, stating, "Our platform exists to bridge the skills gap and empower individuals and organisations to excel in an evolving job market."

Bwemo said the firm offers a comprehensive suite of online courses and programs across various digital disciplines. It caters to aspiring professionals, graduates, executives, entry-level managers, and lifelong learners seeking to advance their careers or explore new paths.

Led by a team of over 10 experienced trainers, the platform

has already empowered over 650 individuals with in-demand digital skills.

According to him, the initiative launched with the approach targeting corporates, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and university learners. Each programme is tailored to meet its audience's specific needs and challenges.

"Recognising individuals' unique challenges, we developed accessible and affordable training solutions focused on practical skills and immediate business impact," he said.

He added: "To bridge the gap between academia and industry, SmartLab Learning partnered with different knowledge partners

namely Bahwan Cybertek, University of Dar es Salaam and International School of Advertising to offer specialised courses and workshops, equipping the learners with the practical skills and industry exposure necessary."

Bwemo explained that the newly launched SmartLab schools include a creative goal that focuses on fostering innovation and creativity through courses in design thinking and digital content creation.

The platform also provides cutting-edge training in software development, cybersecurity, data science, and other technical disciplines as well as comprehensive marketing education, including digital marketing strategies and brand management.



L-R: Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) director general Ephraim Mafuru, Kilombero Sugar Director of Corporate Affairs Derick Stanley (C) and Natural Resources and Tourism ministry permanent secretary Nkoba Mabula move to welcome a team of Illovo Sugar Africa climbers from eight countries who have just completed a Mount Kilimanjaro expedition, held to honour the Nelson Mandela legacy. The event also sought to raise funds and awareness in support of the fight against poverty as well as provide essential sanitary items for a year to 20,000 girls in all the countries where the company operates. The event took place at the foot of the mountain at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Chinese legal firm opens office in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

China's Yingke Global One Hour Legal Service Ecosystem, a one-stop comprehensive service platform, on Saturday officially opened its office in Tanzania to provide clients with cross-regional, cross-language, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary support.

The opening ceremony, held in the port city of Dar es Salaam, coincided with the Tanzania-China Economic and Investment

Cooperation Reception, which aimed to deepen economic ties, promote sustainable development, and create mutually beneficial opportunities for both countries.

The ceremony, attended by delegations from the governments and private sectors of China and Tanzania, including over 20 companies from Tanzania and 13 companies from China, saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding by Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) Executive

Director Gilead Teri and head of the Global Board of Directors of Yingke Law Firm, Mei Xiangrong.

Mei said Yingke Global One Hour Legal Service Ecosystem provides clients worldwide with professional services ranging from legal, accounting, taxation, consulting, investment and financing, mergers and acquisitions to agriculture, mining, cultural tourism, and science and technology.

"I am excited to work in Tanzania because Africa is the future, and

China and Africa can work together to achieve robust economic growth," said Mei.

Teri said the Tanzania-China Economic and Investment Cooperation Reception provided a platform for government officials, business leaders, and industry experts to engage in a dialogue about policy reforms and regulatory frameworks that can improve the business environment and attract more foreign investment, especially from China.



## NEMC has authorised 9,000 projects in three years - minister Dr Jafo

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has issued Environmental Assessment Certificates (EIAs) to 9,000 projects with a value of 40trn/- within three years.

Dr Selemani Jafo, Industry and Trade Minister unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to the council staff where he went to say goodbye after being appointed to a new position.

He said that one of the biggest achievements he is proud of is the council's move from providing services in an analog system to going digital, which has made it easier to provide services quickly and efficiently.

He said that in the past he used to sign EIA certificates using the analog system, but after major reforms, they are now being issued digitally, which has removed the inconvenience for investors who come to the council.

"In the past, the EIA certificate was circulating from one office to another, but today, as soon as the minister signs it, it is ready for printing and the investor gets it within a short time. I congratulate you very much and continue to improve systems because the world is going digital," he said.

"We have successfully invested nearly 9,000 projects with a value of 40trn/-, which is not a small thing, you are doing a great job you have helped a lot and NEMC has changed a lot, it is not the one that people used to complain about all the time," he said.

Jafo also stated that NEMC has helped a lot to motivate the people to understand the importance of trees where currently many youth have employed themselves in the business of selling tree seeds in various areas of the country.

"We have worked together as a team and by respecting each other that is why we have reached where we are and I pray that this success is protected to ensure that the environment is taken care of so that we inherit a better environment for future generations," he said.

He asked the management of NEMC to ensure that they create a good environment for employees so that they are motivated to work, saying that a stressed person cannot work effectively.

"You should respect drivers, and office attendants because we can't all be directors, the office must have employees from different cadres, and we have to respect each other," said Jafo. "When you are in a leadership position, don't hurt your colleagues because you can't know

who the person you despise will be tomorrow, live with discipline and respect everyone as your savings will help you in the future," said Minister Jafo.

He said they should fully manage laws, procedures, and regulations to put the country in a good environment and help investors do their business without waiting for a long time to get the services they want.

Dr Immaculate Semesi, the council's director general said NEMC has succeeded in managing environmental compliance where they conducted 3,000 environmental inspections at various locations in the country.

"We have continued to manage the ban on the use of banned plastic bags where more than 90 tons were seized and confiscated and to prevent the illegal disposal of hazardous waste and more than 1,000 permits for the transportation of such waste were issued by the council," she said.

She said that NEMC received complaints from 5,000 communities and resolved them adding that in a period of three years, they succeeded in banning noise pollution at worship houses.

"Another issue that you helped us manage very closely is research and environmental management where various studies have been conducted to monitor soil erosion in the coastal environment and convert solid waste into energy," said Dr Semesi.



**We have worked together as a team and by respecting each other that is why we have reached where we are and I pray that this success is protected to ensure that the environment is taken care of so that we inherit a better environment for future generations**



United Aviation Services (T) Ltd managing director Phillemon Kisamo (C) pictured in Arusha city at the weekend presenting to Mike Kenya, a director with Arusha's Trust St Patrick School, a copy of an agreement under which the firm will conduct aviation training for the school's students. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NIDA probes the abolition of details in newly approved IDs

By Henry Mwangonde

THE National Identification Authority (NIDA) is investigating an incident that resulted in deleting some important details on 21,224 newly issued national identity cards distributed nationwide.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the Head of the ID department at NIDA, Edson Guyaye, stated that the agency was probing whether the issue stemmed from a malfunction of the production machines, ink, or raw cards, to

resolve it without additional costs.

"We advise the public to act upon encountering such identity cards. Anyone whose ID exhibits such defects should return it to the collection point or any nearby NIDA office," he said. Guyaye mentioned that the agency is aware of 21,224 cards with defects, including deletions of names, photos, and dates of birth, amounting to 0.09 percent of the 21,322,098 national identity cards issued.

He noted that the government had allocated 42.5bn/- for procuring

raw cards last October to improve mass production, distribution, and issuance of national identity cards, addressing public demand.

The exercise aimed to provide identity cards to every citizen with National Identification Numbers (NIN), distributing them through local government authorities and NIDA offices nationwide.

However, Guyaye acknowledged that approximately two million identity cards, particularly in urban areas, have not yet been collected.

"Let me clarify that there has

been misinformation regarding the quality of these cards. They meet all required international standards. This issue is a minor occurrence typical in manufacturing industries," he clarified.

Earlier this year, NIDA introduced a new system to streamline ID collection, allowing individuals to easily locate collection points.

The new system facilitates collection for those who have not yet collected their IDs and those who have been issued National Identification Numbers.



Mvomero district commissioner Judith Nguli (C) speaks yesterday on recent reports about a herd of cattle having been impounded for straying into - and ravaging - local residents' farms. She is accompanied on the on-site tour by various district council officials. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

## AU and BADEA launch partnership to promote development in Africa

ACCRA

THE African Union (AU) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) on Sunday launched the Arab-Africa Financial Consortium (AAFC) to boost financing in developing the continent on the sidelines of the ongoing 6th AU Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said during the launching ceremony that a strong partnership between Africa and the Arab world is a step in the right direction to propel development through synergies.

"We face complex and multifaceted challenges today, from economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions to the impacts of climate change. We need such strong partnerships to leverage our collective strengths to surmount these challenges," Akufo-Addo said.

He lauded BADEA for its support for Africa's development over the past 50 years and for its strong agility and responsiveness to meet development challenges on the continent.

"Let us build on the successes of the past and work together to address the challenges of the future. Let us strive to create a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all our peoples," the Ghanaian president urged.

Fahad Aldossari, chairman of BADEA's Board of Directors, pledged that AAFC would work hard within its mandate to promote Africa's rapid development over the next 50 years.

"BADEA will spare no effort in ensuring this consortium succeeds in realizing the vision of Arab-African financial institution collaboration and coordination for leveraging resources for the continent," added Aldossari.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has pledged to give the Vocational Education Training Authority, Northern Zone campus and the Arusha Technical College training equipment to enable the two to produce world-class technical professionals.

The pledge was made here by EACOP's Local Content Manager Neema Kweka after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to that effect was signed between the two parties. "We have closely monitored the performance of the two institutions in training students to become expert engineers and technicians who can and will be employed by strategic projects in our country.

She said EACOP is satisfied with the performance of the two technical institutions in training students and in a manner agreed upon by the two parties. The training is conducted within the requirements of the Shielded Metal

## EACOP vows to offer technical training to VETA, ATC students

Arc Welding (SMAW) programme.

The manager said EACOP is meeting a statutory investment requirement relating to local content. "As we execute this project we have to observe the law enacted in 2017. The law wants us to give employment priority to Tanzanians in implementing this strategic project. So about employment and in cooperation with our seven contractors, we expect to employ 7,030 Tanzanians in various sections of the project. But we are going a step further. We are making interventions relating to training our young people to become world-class workers. We are going to continue with this arrangement," she pledged.

Based on an agreed-on arrangement, she explained, the China Petroleum Pipeline

Engineering (CPP), one of the seven contractors, has to build capacity of Tanzanians by training students and tutors of Arusha-based technical institutions. Training has to be conducted by external experts. The aim is to build capacity of local engineers so that they can be employed by other strategic projects and have a meaningful impact on the growth of the national economy, she explained.

The Director of Veta Northern Zone Campus, Monica Mbelle, confirmed that Veta has already been mandated to train 147 local professionals in identified disciplines.

John Nathani, a tutor at Arusha Technical College, confirmed that the skills being imparted into the students by the foreign experts have raised sharply the professional

level of the students to world-class ranking.

"This has been a big achievement for us. This training has solved the long-standing problem we have had. We shall now produce world-class professionals for our strategic and foreign projects. They will also employ themselves if they so choose," he said. He also said tutors have identified things they will use to change the curriculum to produce world-class professionals in the future.

The pipeline, which starts in Hoima District in Uganda, is 1,443-kilometre long. Of these, 1,147 kilometres are in Tanzania and 296 km are in Uganda.

In Tanzania, the pipeline will pass through Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga Regions.



# The world's hottest month sparks off fresh appeals for investments in renewable energy in African nations

By Guardian Reporter

INTERNATIONAL environmental movement-350Africa has said that for Africa to realise a just transition to renewable energy, significant investment from financial institutions and developed nations is essential and urgent.

Rukiya Khamis, 350Africa Senior Africa organiser made the observation recently when speaking at the launch of REPower Afrika, a movement aimed at uniting regional community renewable energy projects to urge financiers and governments to prioritise and increase investments in affordable and clean energy.

Khamis noted Africa is disproportionately bearing the brunt of climate change, with 17 out of the 20 countries most threatened by climate impacts located on the continent. Recent severe weather events, including severe droughts in Southern Africa and heavy rains in Tanzania, Kenya, and Burundi have caused food shortages, fatalities, and displacement. Despite these alarming trends, plans to expand fossil fuel infrastructure, like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), continue to threaten both people and the planet.

"The REPower Afrika campaign showcases the power and potential of community-led efforts igniting a renewable energy movement across the continent. Communities are standing up against harmful fossil fuels and demonstrating that renewable energy is a viable, equitable alternative. These efforts are fuelling hope for an energy-secure future and freedom from worsening climate impacts," she said.

For Africa to realize a just transition to renewable energy, significant investment from financial institutions and developed nations is essential and urgent. African governments must create an enabling framework, enacting policies and regulations that facilitate the deployment of renewable energy and attract substantial investments.

Khamis said renewable energy is not only a sustainable choice but also a driver of economic development.

Through the REPower Afrika campaign, communities in the EACOP region (Uganda and Tanzania) are showcasing the potential of renewable energy. Solar installations in communities along the pipeline are improving people's lives, providing light for children to study but also developing green jobs and enhanced energy access whilst protecting the environment."

Landry Ninteretse, Africa Regional Director at 350.org said REPower Afrika is advocating for a future where renewable energy powers our communities, protects

our environment, and promotes social and economic well-being. Ten gatherings will be taking place across Uganda and Tanzania, with solidarity actions taking place in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Togo, Ghana, and

"This marks the beginning of a transformative journey where communities at the frontline of the climate crisis take the lead in demanding accessible, affordable, and safe energy for all while creating millions of green jobs. Africa's wealth of renewable energy potential presents a great opportunity for the continent to not only address its own energy needs but also potentially lead the global energy transition. By working together with governments, civil society, and community leaders, we can create a supportive environment for community-centred renewable energy solutions, avert climate disasters, and ensure a sustainable future for all. This is the time for Africa and the Global South to replace the obsolete energy model and fuel a development powered by renewables," Ninteretse explained.

"We are witnessing first-hand the devastating impacts of climate change across Tanzania and Africa. From deadly floods and erratic rainfall to prolonged droughts devastating crops and livelihoods, the toll on our communities is profound. Despite global agreements like the Paris Agreement, there's a glaring gap between promises made and the real-life struggles of those most affected. Climate funding often misses the mark, neglecting projects that could directly benefit vulnerable communities. It's time for actionable policies that prioritize clean energy solutions, including tax incentives and local manufacturing of renewable technologies, to secure a sustainable future for Tanzania," said Rehema Peters, Founder of Partnership for Green Future.

**“This marks the beginning of a transformative journey where communities at the frontline of the climate crisis take the lead in demanding accessible, affordable, and safe energy for all while creating millions of green jobs”**

# AU addresses integration issues at Ghana gathering

ACCRA

THE African Union convened in Ghana to address issues related to African integration and to establish a unified stance before engaging with the G20 and UN.

Mauritania's President and current African Union Chair, Mohamed Cheikh Ghazouani, urged for the acceleration of the African integration process.

He stressed the importance of expediting economic integration to support the continent and fulfill the aspirations of African citizens.

Discussions during the meeting centered on financing mechanisms for African Union projects, particularly the funding of the organization itself, which heavily relies on contributions from non-African partners.

African Union Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, highlighted the necessity

for member countries to present a united front in upcoming engagements with international partners.

He emphasized the importance of speaking with one voice at major global forums, including the G20, where the African Union now holds membership.

With ongoing regional instability in West Africa, ECOWAS nations Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso risk losing their memberships due to military coups that ousted democratically elected leaders in these countries.

These nations have been under threat from terrorist organizations affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State for years.

The AU is a continental union of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa. The bloc was founded on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and launched on 9 July 2002 in Durban, South Africa.



Elimika Programme manager Khadija Ally pictured in Bagamoyo Town yesterday conducting an awareness session on reproductive health for Bagamoyo Secondary School students under an initiative jointly supported and coordinated by Community Hands Foundation, Girls First Initiative and Axio Consulting Group. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

# Technology lures 600 farmers to venture into cotton farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Ulanga

MORE than 600 farmers in Morogoro region have been motivated to grow cotton after getting an education on the agronomic practices to grow the crop.

So far, a total of 637 farmers have been educated to plant in spaces of 60 cm by 30 cm, which is equal to 44,444 plants per acre instead of 29,000.

Dr Paul Saidia, director of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) - Ukiriguru unveiled this here yesterday at the Farmers Field Days through the Cotton

Victoria Project.

Dr Saidia, who is also the Coordinator of the Cotton project explained that for the Eastern region, the planting of 90 by 30 is one plant and 90 by 60 is two plants where the plants that will be planted will be 14,800 to 29,000 where the planting of 60 by 30 is the one that brings agricultural productivity.

He states that the planting of 60 to 30 accompanied by the good use of methods to fertilize the soil and nurture the cotton plant in the new planting will help to strengthen the agriculture in the country.

"As experts, we recommend farmers to prune their plants

and the response has been good and more farmers seem ready to venture into cotton farming," he said, noting that 11 cotton-growing regions are ready to grow the crop.

James Shimbe, Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB), acting director general said the Cotton Victoria project coordinated by the Tanzanian government and Brazil has had a great contribution in promoting cotton production in the country.

Shimbe said the farmers have been witnessing for themselves from their fellow farmers how the new planting technology gives a high yield of up to 2000 kilos of cotton per acre.

A Kilosa-based cotton farmer, Adelina Mhonga said that in the agricultural season of 2022/23, she cultivated the crop and managed to get a lot of crops and enough money that helped her start breeding with 2 cows and goats that continue to breed.

She encouraged her fellow farmers to follow modern cotton farming that has the chance to get the farmer out of trouble and lead him to another life. Cotton-growing regions that are part of the Cotton Victoria project include Morogoro, Mwanza, Simiyu, Geita, Mara, Shinyanga, Tabora, Katavi, Kigoma, Singida, and Dodoma regions.



Bishop John Lupaa of the Rift Valley Diocese of the Anglican Church of Tanzania presents relief aid to one of the victims of floods that wreaked havoc at Sasajila village in Manyoni District this January, leaving 100 households with neither shelter nor food. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

NAIROBI

KENYA'S Ministry of Education said on Monday that it is committed to harnessing science, technology and innovation to empower the youth and spur development in the country.

Beatrice Inyangala, principal secretary in the Ministry of Education, said the government has prioritized research and innovations to address myriad societal challenges.

"We have started engagements with local and international partners to advance research excellence across institutions of learning in the country," Inyangala said during a research festival stakeholder engagement forum in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

# Kenya to equip youth with science, technology to spur development

She said Kenya is borrowing practices on harnessing science and innovation to spur growth from countries like China, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore.

She noted that the National Research Fund (NRF) of Kenya is cooperating with Young Scientists Kenya, an initiative that gives young people from across Kenya an opportunity to demonstrate innovation, to showcase the ground-breaking discoveries and innovations in the country.

This partnership, according to Inyangala, is expected to provide a

unique platform for Kenyan youth to demonstrate their capacity for innovation and research, showcase their scientific talents and play a crucial role in promoting knowledge-sharing among the research community.

Dickson Andala, chief executive officer of the NRF, said Kenya's rapid strides towards industrialization and modernization are fuelled by the dedication to harnessing the potential of scientific research and innovation.

Andala said engagement with the youth is also aimed at inspiring the

broader community, showcasing the importance of research in addressing societal challenges and driving economic growth.

He added that the partnership is helping to leverage opportunities to amplify the impact of research on society, the economy, and the environment.

Andala stressed that partnership with the youth is an ideal means of inspiring the next generation of innovators, solving pressing challenges, and unlocking new opportunities for growth and development.



## Growth in mobile money accounts in flat curve hilt

IT is normal in business to experience periods of boom, stagnation or worse. For less developed or less dynamic economies it is often less more stagnation that is noticed.

The problem is that market or property mechanisms for igniting growth are almost always shut out or grossly inefficient, blocking room for take-off by means of individual innovation or risk taking.

That situation is right now by and large being broached in what policy makers say is the building of a digital economy.

It is well known in economic history that definite tools of economic activity are tied with specific uplift of production and productivity. For instance, the steam engine facilitated the industrial revolution, while the diesel engine enabled rapid modernisation.

But it was automation that touched off globalisation, where markets are no longer defined by national boundaries and demand levels across borders, etc.

This has largely reached its limits especially with robots, such that globalisation is being rolled back to defend jobs.

What is however at issue is that consumption patterns are not checked by the threats rising in the globalisation outlook, and seeking to maintain such patterns soaks different countries into chaos.

Meanwhile, there are false hopes or unmet opportunities tied up with robotic communications, where everything is done with a handset.

The corollary to that situation is that ancient systems of monopolies keep out large numbers of people off jobs. They don't need them, largely thanks to automation, and keep out competition that could offer jobs.

It may take a bit of time to notice the plaudits now heard in relation to rapid progress in the creation

of mobile money accounts, which regulatory sentiment has it that digital payment systems are becoming a pillar of economic activity.

A recent status report compiled by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) for April-June 2024 says that mobile money accounts almost doubled in five years, with a five per cent increase in the past three months.

The growth curve since 2019, where the statistical record provided starts, is just about as decidedly noticeable as it is visibly slackening.

Moving from 25.8 million mobile money accounts in June 2019 to 52.8 million in June 2023 and 55.5 million in June 2024 does not show promise for much further growth in future.

The take-off stage to mobile money accounts has been done, while the next stage is how far these facilities can efficiently be used for economic transactions, including helping to foster mobile shopping by listing goods, paying a store (midway between a regular shop and a supermarket).

When it comes to the methods enabling a digital economy, there is no doubt that we have made all the preparations we need.

Trouble is that innovation and market impact associated with digital tools will be limited, as take-up capacity for capital and innovation remains limited owing to lack of competition in a wide array of sectors.

Only if there are some major companies that aren't protected as well as competing subsidiary institutions as in the financial sector can things work.

Construction is also dynamic, just as is industry, while the credit aspect cripples agriculture - with the scale limited and markets cramped by the need to observe property rights.

## Why it is best to retain 'status quo' as to role of our traditional leaders

THERE has been quite some time gap from the moment President Samia Suluhu Hassan was invited into the club of traditional leaders and taking up the matter to offer or acknowledge explicit institutional roles.

It is unclear how far this will be altered in the context of a move by the Culture, Arts and Sports ministry in finalising guidelines on the activities or roles of traditional chiefs in the community.

This effort simply acknowledges that traditional chiefs have not been removed from the scene altogether and for good, even as this has been no longer in our law books since 1963.

What the respective minister had to say in that regard came close to squaring the circle - in seeking to identify the chiefs and the part they play within their communities so that they can be accorded the respect tied to those functions.

It is evident that this is in pursuit of a support circle especially for the civic and later parliamentary elections, implying that the ruling party's network as well as its liaisons with the local government system might be somewhat inadequate.

This initiative on the part of some advisers and role creators either in the party leadership or in the relevant ministry reminds one of the classic fable about the camel and the Arab where the camel asks to place inside the tent merely its nose as it is biting cold outside.

When that wish is granted, however, it brings up a rather

supplementary suggestion of just inserting the neck to stem the biting cold, and soon the hump is also inside the tent. It goes without saying what tent environment it now was, turned into an umbrella and biting cold.

The government has always cultivated the best of relations with religious leaders, just as it should be, so that the various denominational leaders form a credible attachment to the population in their very roots.

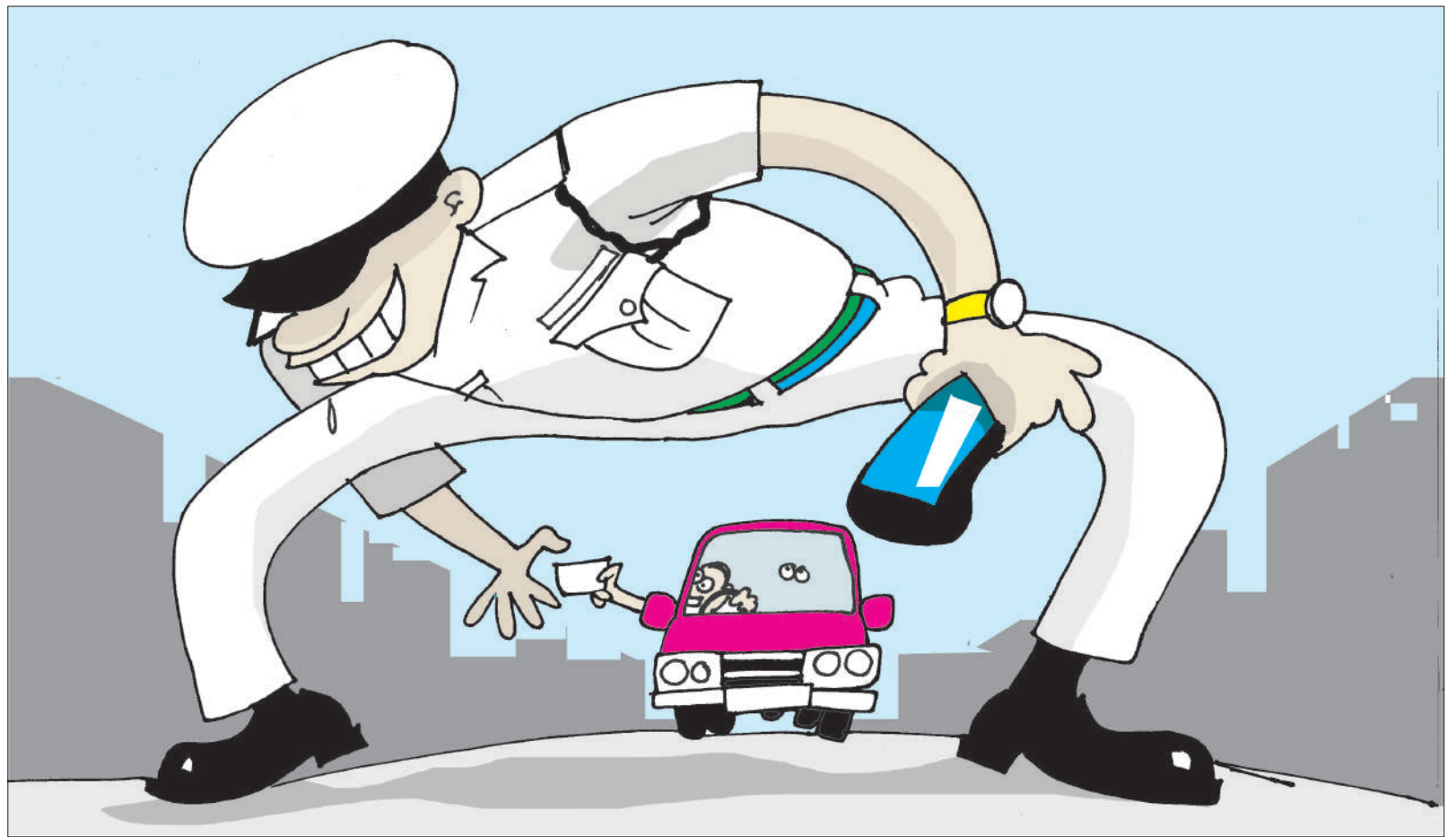
The traditional chiefs are not cast in the same mould as religious leaders, have greater baggage on their shoulders than the government might wish to recognize or acknowledge, as it would put at issue a number of prerogatives cultivated since the dawn of a republican constitution.

Traditional chiefs can indeed be friends of the ruling party or whoever is in authority, but their role could best remain as informal as has always obtained, not widening the functions.

For instance, it is uncertain what role potential the chiefs could have in relation to ongoing conflicts between farmers and herders, when the top leadership asks the cadre to help find solutions within their communities.

An example is the government's effort to finish up population relocation for a vital wildlife corridor in the vicinity of Tarangire and Ngorongoro national parks, where tradition has been less on the side of policy innovation than on stagnant tradition.

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By Ed Stoddard

**S**MALL-SCALE Zambian farmer Wanjole Phiri and his wife, Bupe, abandoned their home in April in the face of an inconceivable threat.

"We ran away from this house out of fear," said Phiri (60), pointing to the squat brick structure.

The house - built with the Phiris' own hands in 2010 - is set amid fields they cultivate.

Those fields have become a conflict zone, displacing the Phiris and wreaking havoc in the lives of thousands of Zambians and Malawians.

This is the consequence of plans laid out thousands of kilometres away and enabled by donor and government funding from the West.

In July 2022, a total of 263 elephants were moved from Liwonde National Park in southern Malawi to Kasungu National Park. The latter covers more than 2,100 square kilometres, and the relocation saw the pachyderm population swelling from the more than 100 that were already there.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw) helped to fund the project. African Parks, a South African NGO, was also involved in the project, which was undertaken with the cooperation of the Malawi government.

The Malawi-Zambia border and the park's boundary lie 300 metres from the Phiris' empty homestead, and their fields touch that invisible frontier which is marked by a tree line - the topography defining the Zambian side.

### Deaths and damage

Pointedly, this boundary has no fence. What could go wrong? Well, plenty, it seems.

Warm Heart, a volunteer organisation established in response to the ensuing crisis, has documented the deaths of nine people - three on the Zambian side - killed by elephants.

One man has been killed by a hippo that Warm Heart says was displaced by elephants. It estimates that US\$3 million in damage - an amount rising almost daily - has been inflicted on small-scale farmers by elephants devouring and trampling their crops.

Homes have also been damaged. The number of victims is estimated to be at least 10,400, including more than 50 children who have lost parents.

A total of 263 elephants were relocated to the park with no proper precautions in place.

"Conservation imperialism" is how Mike Labuschagne, Warm Heart's founder, describes Ifaw's approach. He estimates that as many as 80 elephants have been killed in retaliatory attacks.

A former South African Special Forces officer, Labuschagne (66) is

## Botched elephant translocation in Malawi unleashes a landscape of fear and loathing

a barrel of a man who subsequently carved out a career leading anti-poaching operations in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi.

A former Ifaw consultant, he warned the NGO that the elephant relocation was a bad idea without a fence along the Zambian border and with an unfinished one in Malawi on the eastern side.

The law was not broken in relocating the elephants but Ifaw, the Malawi government and African Parks could face civil legal action. In fact, a UK law firm has reportedly been in the area gathering evidence for a class action.

South African human rights lawyer Richard Spoor says there appeared to be grounds for such an action, noting: "It looks like a slam dunk," he said, meaning a forceful, dramatic intervention.

### Landscape of fear and loathing

I visited the Phiris after their fields had been raided by elephants two days before. Their sweet potato crop was destroyed - causing damage of about 20,000 kwachas (Rand15,000) - with the ground covered with fresh elephant tracks and dung.

My observations on the ground in Zambia dovetail with Labuschagne's allegations and other media reports. I interviewed scores of victims from the three districts in Zambia bordering the park and several Malawian victims who crossed the border.

I saw first-hand the evidence of elephant carnage in several fields - maize, cassava, sweet potatoes and other crops damaged or destroyed by invasions that clearly happened only days earlier.

These people, some of the poorest on earth, have also had to endure a scorching drought triggered by the El Niño weather pattern.

"We are getting skinny but the elephants are getting fat from our crops," said Fartness Phiri, a Zambian farmer.

Adam Hart, a conservation scientist at the University of Gloucestershire in the UK and an expert on human-wildlife conflict, said none of this was surprising - with elephants on one side of an unfenced boundary and crops on the other.

"It feels inevitable. Elephants are not stupid and crops are a great, easy source of food," he said. The landscape has been transformed into one of fear and loathing.

None of the people in this region had seen an elephant before the relocation. "We never saw elephants physically before 2022. We just used to see them in magazines, in books, sometimes on television," said

Sheila Phiri (37).

"Since the elephants have started coming to destroy our crops, we have come to hate elephants," she noted.

Phiri stood in the gaping hole in her mother's humble brick-house where there was once a door and a wall. Elephants smashed the structure to get to the maize in the storeroom.

People are afraid to walk in the dark as they once did and have been reduced to the indignity of urinating in buckets at night inside their houses, which lack indoor plumbing.

Grace Phiri spoke to me as she sorted groundnuts from vines in her yard. This was typically a field chore, and she has incurred the extra costs of transporting the plants, with the unshelled nuts attached, by ox-cart. "I brought my groundnuts here to sort because I am afraid of the elephants," she said.

### Crushed to death

The social fabric of these communities has been torn asunder. Andrew Phiri, a Zambian farmer, was crushed to death by an elephant in February last year.

His widow, Grace, is in hospital suffering from depression. Her sister, Christine, told me that the family is now homeless because of a dispute over land ownership and use after Andrew's death.

Lazarus Phiri (52) can no longer work his fields because his right arm was shattered last year when he tried to flee from elephants and fell. One of the pachyderms stepped on it.

He showed me the spot in the bush where the incident took place, just 50 metres from his uncle's house.

These people have been cast below what I have termed elsewhere the "faunal poverty line" - a terrifying realm where poverty renders you vulnerable to the prehistoric threat of attacks by big animals.

"They are taking advantage of the poorest of the poor because they are voiceless. This is happening because Zambia and Malawi are poor. They would not do this in Europe," said Ignatius Nyasulu (46), a Zambian farmer.

That is a fair point. No community in Europe or North America would tolerate the presence of such menacing megafauna. But poor rural Africans, often viewed from afar as extras on the set of a Tarzan movie, are seen as natural cohabitants with such wildlife.

The degrading racism implicit in such a view throws an unflattering light on animal welfare activists.

"There's no human-animal

conflict, but animal-human conflict ... The elephants are trespassing, moving out of the park," said Nyasulu.

Another way to view the issue is through the prism of agency. Conflict implies protagonists on both sides acting with agency. But through no agency of their own, elephants and people have been thrust into this conflict.

We camped one night on the edge of Nyasulu's farm and the park. He is on the frontline, with his house a mere 100 metres from the unfenced boundary.

Adding to the air of menace, two gunshots rang out in the distance, either from poachers or locals firing shots to kill or scare elephants. Tales of horror also emerged from the Malawian side.

Elphina Joseph (21) was pregnant when her husband was killed by an elephant in July 2022. When I spoke to her, her 17-month-old son, Success, was strapped to her back - a child who will never meet his father.

"My husband heard that there were elephants so he went to see them. The elephants charged and trampled him," she said.

Despite the plight of Success, Ifaw, which had revenues last year of more than US\$121-million and has offered no compensation, maintains that the project has been a success.

"Contrary to the articles published, the Malawi government reports that the incidence of human-wildlife conflicts close to Kasungu National Park has significantly dropped owing to interventions supported by Ifaw," the NGO said on June 4 in response to critical media coverage.

Brighton Kumchedwa, the director of Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife, said this was the case - in areas where there is a fence.

"On the Malawi side, the fence has been fantastic in reducing these conflicts. Note that it was already higher on the Malawi side compared to the Zambian side," Kumchedwa said on WhatsApp.

But where there is no fence, the perceptions on both sides of the border are certainly that human-wildlife - or wildlife-human - conflicts have exploded. On the Zambian side, it hardly existed before 2022 and is now a frightening feature of daily life.

"Ifaw, after extensive consultation with local communities, has completed the construction of 91 kilometres of fencing along Kasungu's eastern boundary in Malawi, with an additional 40 kilometres to be completed this year (2024)," the NGO said in an

TURN TO PAGE 9



## Botched elephant translocation in Malawi unleashes a landscape of fear and loathing

From page 8

mailed response to my queries.

When I told Malawian victims this, they treated it like a steaming pile of elephant dung - as, apparently, none had been consulted and there was no "extensive consultation" in Zambia.

"I can only remember one meeting we had with the district commissioners; they were informing us. I did not know what they meant. I thought the animals would be confined to Kasungu," said Mwase Lundazi, a senior Zambian chief.

Ifaw also told me by email: "There was no agreement with the local community that a fence would be completed before the elephants were moved in."

Which raises an obvious question: why not? "In the meantime, we won't be able to comment further beyond our statement published on June 4," Ifaw said.

In another emailed response to my follow-up queries, Ifaw was emphatic that it had nothing to add, while saying that "... the government of Malawi has overall jurisdiction and responsibility for all national parks in Malawi".

Ifaw is not known for being media-shy. One cannot help but wonder if his lawyers have told it to clam up while shifting responsibility for the debacle to the Malawian government. Meanwhile, African Parks had not responded to queries by the time of publication.

### Pursuing the predators

One night we camped near a village in Lundazi District, which lies 300 metres from the park. We were sitting with village headwoman Tisaine Nyirenda and other locals around a campfire.

At about 7.30 pm, commotion erupted. Nearby, two hyenas had snatched a goat and run towards the park with their prey.

Four young men gave chase, clutching big sticks plucked from the fire and waving them like torches. One wielded an axe.

Astonishingly, the young men returned victorious, bearing the disembowelled carcass of the goat. They had pursued the hyenas and confronted them, forcing the predators to relinquish their prize.

Witnessing human-wildlife conflict, red in tooth and claw, was an unsettling experience.

That people could trail spotted hyenas at night for the mangled remains of a goat while armed only with sticks and an axe spoke of their sheer desperation. With their crops decimated by elephants, livestock was the only asset left.

A proper fence would also resolve the hyena issue. Local residents said the carnivores only became a problem after the elephants arrived.

With the pachyderms causing mayhem among crops, the hyenas - clever and opportunistic - may have seized the moment for easy prey amid the chaos.

And the drama that night did not end there. Shortly later, the hyenas returned, provoking another frenzied dash by men shouting and waving sticks.

Near the park boundary, the men lit a fire to ward off the animals.

The cloudless night sky was ablaze with stars and beneath that shimmering canopy the flames cast a sinister aura, evoking an ancient struggle still raging in the 21st century.

It is only a matter of time before one of the many children in the village has the skull crushed by a hyena.



DM

**Which raises an obvious question: why not? In the meantime, we won't be able to comment further beyond our statement published on June 4**

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

**D**ESPITE a number of innovations in the agricultural sector; most of the small scale producers still practice old ways of crop farming. It is estimated that only 20 percent of the country's agricultural sector is mechanized.

Innovations done on behalf of the sector are rapidly emerging with establishment of greenhouse farming technology thus making it easier for farmers to adopt the required solutions for various phases of planting including soil preparation, seed sowing, harvesting and finally marketing.

Greenhouse farming is the unique farm practice of growing crops within sheltered structures covered by a partially or transparent material. The main purpose of greenhouses is to provide favorable growing conditions and to protect crops from unfavorable weather and various pests.

This farming technology is being practiced largely in draught resistant zones which receives unreliable rainfalls and requires expensive mechanized state-of-the-art equipment to make it sustainable for better crop production.

Greenhouse farming refers to many different practices and methods, but at its heart it is about using natural methods to improve soil fertility, protect plants and animals, and conserve resources. Some of the most common green farming techniques include composting, and crop rotation.

There are many benefits of applying the techniques. Greenhouse farming can help improve soil fertility, which in turn helps crops grow healthily and produces more nutritious crops. It can also help protect plants and animals from pests and diseases and conserve resources by using less water, land, and fuel.

It is for this reason that the Dar es Salaam based Malembo Farm Company Limited works closely with innovators to make sure that by applying greenhouse technologies, farm products are developed in high standards to satisfy customers' demand.

The impacts of climate change on agriculture are being felt in all Sub-Saharan Africa whereby farmers still depend on rainfall as a major source of water for farming, hence the need for this kind of technology.

With that in mind, the need to change how things are done is inevitable as long as the world wants to save some population from dying of hunger. The Malembo Farm Company Limited in Dar es Salaam is one of the best examples that have adopted all technological principles for greenhouse farming.

Located along Ally Sykes Road near ocean water-front in Mbezi suburb, Kinondoni District in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam commercial city, the location of the facility which faces the Indian Oceanic water, is intact improving the delivery of innovations to solve challenges of the needy people.

A number of youths aged between 16 and 30 years old are occasionally taught skills development on farming practices. They are given training incentives on poultry farming and many others to enable them acquire technical expertise for handling chicken, aquatic fish and agricultural crops.

The Farm's Managing Director, Lucas Malembo told The Guardian that his farm focuses on transforming agriculture and managing natural resources sustainably and champion a holistic approach that boosts yields, protects the environment and connects smallholder farmers to thriving markets.

The founder of the project further noted that: "He is committed to strengthen entrepreneurship capacities of young people in the Agribusiness sector. Both projects operate to strengthen people's capacities and enable them with access to self-employment opportunities in fisheries and poultry value chains."

As it has proven its power in other areas, greenhouse farming technology can have a huge impact on the agricultural sector as well. Though it is still a small scale in Tanzania, the practice has to a larger extent been transforming the way farmers can grow crops.

This is a system of growing crops in a closed and transparent structure where climatic conditions and sunlight are regulated while protecting the plants from extreme conditions.

## Biden's withdrawal will place attention on the Democratic convention in August

By Rodrigo Praino

**J**OE Biden has announced he will no longer contest the 2024 US presidential election. He has thrown his support instead behind his vice president, Kamala Harris.

In most countries, including Australia, such a decision would trigger a meeting of party number-crunchers behind closed doors, where the party would select a new candidate and announce the decision to the rest of the country.

Not in America.

How nominees are selected

American political parties arguably have the most transparent system to select candidates running for office in the world. This very transparency, which many cherish as an additional democratic feature of the American political system, makes the next steps a bit more complicated today than some may be acknowledging.

In brief, any party member who wants to run for president of the United States must run for "primary" elections. Each party holds their own primaries - or caucuses - and whoever wins those becomes the party's candidate at the general election

The process, however, is indirect: when voters vote for a candidate during a primary election, their vote actually triggers the selection of a party delegate who is pledged to vote for that candidate during the party convention. The party's nominee is then formally selected at the convention.

The Democratic party has around 4,700 delegates. Of these, around 3,800 delegates were pledged to nominate Biden for president and are now essentially free agents. Biden's endorsement of Harris might convince some of them to support her bid, but they are under no obligation to do so.

This situation is unprecedented in modern US elections. The current presidential nominating system based on widespread primary elections took shape in the 1970s. Since then, it has worked virtually flawlessly, with candidates from both parties collecting pledged delegates during the primary season and receiving the nomination during each party's convention.

## Greenhouse farming technology helps transform the way farmers grow crops



Lucas Malembo attends to his customers at his organic farm garden in Mbezi suburb, Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam. Photo: Emmanuel Onyango.

ulated while protecting the plants from extreme conditions. The enclosed and transparent structure is what is known as a 'Greenhouse'.

He said the technology is new in Tanzania and is largely incorporated with a drip irrigation system where water in form of one drop at a time is directed to the root zone of a plant and in this way it is not lost through surface run-off or evaporation. This in turn discourages the growth of weeds which is bad for the plant's growth.

In cities where land space is limited, this type of farming is crucial, said an agricultural entrepreneur Malembo. According to him, one must invest millions of shillings to construct the greenhouse farming project with expectations to produce varieties of vegetable crops.

Malembo's told The Guardian that greenhouse occupies an area of 30m by 20m producing an average of 1 ton of green vegetables per month whereby he earns money in the market. According to him customers flock within his compound house during harvesting seasons in need of farm products with some buy in a wholesale agreement.

In this type of farming, constant supply of water is an important as wings to a bird, he said, adding that he has also constructed a fish pond on which he keeps fish. Not only that, he engages in snail farming, rabbit farming as well as poultry farming which have made him become an investment adviser and a commercial investor, leave alone being a trainer for small scale farmers.

It is a normal phenomenon to see scores of youths who graduates from higher learning institutions have a notion that, once have completed their degree courses, they don't want to engage in farming activities. Instead they opt to be employed by big organizations to cherish their desired ambitions.

But this concept is contrary to Malembo, a Tanzania graduate from Egerton University in Kenya, who after having completed his degree studies a decade ago, he became resentful by the growing unemployment rate and instead was inspired to engage himself in self-help agricultural farming activities.

He ventured into the sector to practice what he had stud-

ied and thereby established a greenhouse to accomplish his passion as an agriculturalist in order to earn a daily living. As years dragged on he managed to build a conical garden and a fish pond.

Cone gardens look like an ice cream cone made from arranging soil in a conical shape using polythene sheets and recycled paper from construction sites, or recycled drums. Another advantage is that the gardens use drip irrigation and are very efficient in their use of water.

Although the entire Tanzania territory is endowed with large space of arable land for cultivation, the country's agricultural policies are not so conducive at this time when the world applies high technological innovations to enable youths engage in large scale farming activities.

Lack of good agricultural policies in the country has been a drawing back to the development of the sector and its initiatives in the country".

With the current existing policies, nobody is allowed including farmers to borrow money from financial institutions such as banks or Savings and credit societies as capital to engage in agricultural sector for lack of collaterals, a factor that has discouraged scores of unemployed youths without work to do.

In view of the prevailing situation, however a number of youths who forms the largest number of population and manpower to spearhead the country's agricultural development have established in their mindset that, "agriculture is a norm and that has no benefits at all for their future life".

Statistics by the United Nations-Food Agricultural Organization (FAO) shows that, "60 percent of the world's land surface is arable for cultivation and about half of it can be found in three African countries-Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia.

Statistics by National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania has approved that, the entire country land surface for agriculture covers 44 million hectares, and out of this only 24.4 million is used for irrigation and 10.9 for normal farming whereas the rest stays fallow.



The last time that any of the two major American parties held an "open convention" - that is, a convention where there is no individual with enough pledged delegates to be considered the presumptive party nominee and instead the delegates choose the candidate with a free vote - was the Democratic National Convention of 1968. Nothing like this has happened since.

So what happens now? Harris is definitely running to secure the party's nomination. Several prominent Democrats have also endorsed her candidacy. But she is not the official Democratic candidate yet, and has some way to go in order to secure the nomination.

According to the party rules, at this stage any member of the Democratic party can

gather signatures from at least 300 delegates from a minimum of six states to run for the top spot on the Democratic ticket. This means, theoretically, that there could be up to 15 people seeking the Democratic nomination, including Harris, although it is highly unlikely that such a large number of contenders will enter the field now.

So far, no other potential candidate has expressed a clear intention to run. Should there be more than one candidate, the party rules state that each candidate has the right to give a 20-minute speech in front of the convention, before the delegates vote on the nominee. If a small number of contenders emerged, such a process could be managed effectively. If a large number of contenders were to emerge, however, then the process could quickly become

messy, resulting in multiple ballots before a candidate is selected.

From August 19-22, Democrats will gather in Chicago for their national convention. Interestingly, Chicago was also the city where the Democrats gathered during the last properly contentious convention in 1968.

That year, President Lyndon Johnson announced on March 31 that he was not going to run for re-election. A few days later, on April 4, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis. Then on June 6, right after winning the California primary election during his presidential bid, Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated.

When the Democratic delegates gathered in Chicago, they nominated the vice president, Hubert Humphrey, who had not run in any of the primary elections and caucuses that took place that season. Anti-Vietnam war protests also triggered a number of riots and protests around Chicago, so the process was extremely volatile.

We don't know yet if 2024 is going to be an open convention or not. But we know that many have been arguing that, if Biden stepped down, there should not be a "coronation" of Harris, but rather a democratic process that selects the next candidate.

Harris has also stated that she wants to "earn and win" the nomination. Donations also appear to have been flowing in record numbers towards the Democratic cause since Biden's announcement.

There is now a very delicate balancing act unfolding between keeping the democratic nature of the nominating process intact and ensuring that the Democratic party is quickly united if it has any chance of beating Donald Trump in November.



By Adonis Byemelwa

# Government's bold move: 11,015 new teaching positions to tackle nationwide education crisis



THE Public Service Recruitment Secretariat has unveiled a groundbreaking plan to fill 11,015 teaching positions across Tanzania's councils. Signed by the Acting Secretary of the President's Office, Public Service Recruitment Secretariat, on behalf of the Regional Secretariats and Local Government Authorities, this announcement marks a significant move to tackle the country's severe teacher shortage.

Released on July 20, 2024, the announcement outlines a strategic initiative to not only address the pressing need for educators but also to enhance the quality of education nationwide. The Secretariat's Public Relations Officer, Baraka Samson, confirmed the application process is now open, following the recent completion of applications for 9,483 healthcare sector positions.

Public Service Recruitment Secretariat's Public Relations Officer, Baraka Samson, confirmed the opening of applications following the deadline for healthcare sector job applications. On July 7, 2024, the Secretariat invited Tanzanians with the requisite qualifications to apply for 9,483 positions in the healthcare sector, with the application window closing on July 20, 2024.

The latest announcement, referenced as JA/9.259/01/B/14, details that 2,851 of the newly advertised positions will be for Grade IIIA teachers.

These positions are distributed as follows: Njombe (62), Mtwara (153), Dodoma (85), Shinyanga (115), Songwe (101), Iringa (56), Manyara (78), Tabora (116), Singida (110), Tanga (113), Kagera (133), Katavi (99), Rukwa (76), Simiyu (120), Mara (173), Geita (90), Ruvuma (140), Kigoma (129), Dar es Salaam (19), Pwani (68), Arusha (116), Mwanza (134), Morogoro (129), Kilimanjaro (124), Mbeya (217), and Lindi (95).

The majority of these positions are intended for early childhood, primary, and secondary school teachers, with a significant number allocated to mathematics and science subjects. Furthermore, positions for vocational education teachers have been made available in certain councils, coinciding with the implementation of the 2023 Education and Vocational Training Policy.

Applicants for these positions must be Tanzanian citizens under 45 years of age, except for those already employed in government positions. Retired public servants are not eligible unless they have explicit permission from the Chief Secretary.

Requests must be submitted electronically by August 2, 2024. This recruitment drive comes as Tanzania faces a dire teacher shortage, with a deficit of 271,025 teachers from early education to secondary schools, according to the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG).

Deputy Minister of PO-RALG, Zainab Katimba, reported that between 2020/21 and 2022/23, the government hired 29,879 teachers, including 16,598 for primary schools and 13,281 for secondary schools.

Despite these efforts, the National Treasury's statistics (2022) reveal the government spends approximately Sh700 billion monthly on wages, up from Sh 600 billion in 2017. This increase in the wage bill, without corresponding salary increments, raises questions about the criteria for employment and the influence of political and bureaucratic networks.

Recent employment announcements by PO-RALG have sparked concerns among graduates. For instance, teachers who completed their training in 2016 have struggled to secure jobs, while those who graduated in 2021 are celebrating new positions. This disparity raises questions about the fairness and transparency of the hiring process, with allegations of corruption and favoritism.

As of March 2022, the demand for primary school teachers was 274,549, based on a ratio of one teacher per 60 students. However, only 173,591 teachers were available, leaving a shortfall of 100,958, which is 36.77 percent of the requirement.

For special needs education in primary schools, 3,631 teachers were needed, but only 1,517 were available, resulting in a 59.02 percent deficit. In secondary schools, the demand was 159,443 teachers, with a shortfall of 74,743, or 46.87 percent.

Given the ongoing teacher shortage, the government faces a critical choice: maintain high academic stand-

ards to ensure a cadre of well-trained, competent educators, or relax these standards to fill vacancies with partially trained personnel. The latter could jeopardize the quality of education.

Renowned African scholars such as Dr. Thomas Mkandawire and Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi emphasize the importance of rigorous employment criteria and robust economic policies to ensure sustainable development.

Mkandawire's studies on employment patterns in Africa highlight the need for transparent and merit-based hiring practices, while Olukoshi's work on economic governance underlines the impact of equitable employment on national stability and growth.

Election season is fast approaching, and employment opportunities are turning into political scorecards. Politicians are eager to showcase their commitment to pressing issues. The recent announcement of 11,015 teaching positions by the Public Service Recruitment Secretariat isn't just about addressing the urgent need for teachers. It's a strategic move to boost political standing by demonstrating tangible progress in education and employment.

Balancing the sheer number of hires with the quality of education remains a critical challenge. The stakes are high, as the future of Tanzania's education system depends on placing capable and well-trained teachers in classrooms.

Renowned African scholars, such as Dr. Thomas Mkandawire and Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi, have long emphasized the importance of merit-based hiring and robust economic policies in achieving sustainable development. Mkandawire's extensive research into employment patterns in Africa highlights the necessity for transparent hiring practices, while Olukoshi's work on economic governance underscores the critical role of equitable employment in ensuring national stability and growth. This theoretical framework becomes particularly relevant in light of the current recruitment drive within the education sector, which is poised not only to address the immediate teacher shortage but also to en-

hance the overall quality of education and solidify political commitments as elections approach.

In developed countries, handling teacher shortages often involves a multi-faceted approach, incorporating both short-term and long-term strategies. For instance, the United Kingdom has implemented several initiatives to manage teacher shortages, such as the introduction of financial incentives for teachers willing to work in under-served areas and the creation of accelerated training programs for new educators. The UK government has also invested significantly in professional development programs, ensuring that teachers remain up-to-date with the latest pedagogical methods and technologies. Similarly, the United States has seen success with its Teach for America program, which recruits high-achieving graduates to teach in low-income communities, often with significant financial and career development support.

Another effective strategy employed by developed countries is the use of online teaching and technology to address gaps in education delivery. The rise of online education platforms, such as Coursera and Khan Academy, has transformed how education is delivered, making high-quality resources accessible to students regardless of geographical location. Countries like Estonia have leveraged technology to enhance educational outcomes, integrating digital tools into the classroom to create interactive learning environments. Online teaching not only alleviates the burden on physical classroom spaces but also allows for personalized learning experiences tailored to individual student needs.

However, the implementation of online teaching brings with it both opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, it can address teacher shortages by providing additional resources and support, enabling teachers to reach more students than they could in a traditional classroom setting. On the other hand, it requires significant investment in technology infrastructure and training, and it may exacerbate existing disparities if not all students have equal access to the necessary devices and high-speed internet.

The government's proposal to incorporate online teaching into the education system is an important step towards modernizing education and addressing teacher shortages. Yet, it is crucial to ensure that this transition is managed effectively to maximize its benefits and mitigate any potential drawbacks.

The issue of job opportunities for graduates is another critical concern. The Higher Education Students' Loan Board has emphasized the need for graduates to secure formal sector employment, both to harness their potential and to ensure they can repay their educational debts. The failure to provide sufficient job opportunities not only impedes the economic stability of these graduates but also undermines their contributions to the economy. Without viable employment options, many graduates may struggle to meet their financial obligations, leading to increased financial strain and potentially stifling their career development.

The consequences of neglecting this issue are manifold. Economically, it means a loss of skilled labor and a potential decrease in the overall productivity of the workforce. Socially, it can lead to increased dissatisfaction and instability among the graduate population, which can have broader implications for societal cohesion. Furthermore, the lack of job opportunities can undermine the effectiveness of higher education as a tool for social mobility and economic advancement.

In essence, the current recruitment drive presents a pivotal moment for the education system, offering an opportunity to address immediate needs while also setting the stage for long-term improvements. By drawing on successful practices from developed countries, investing in online teaching, and ensuring job opportunities for graduates, the government can steer the education system towards excellence and reinforce its political commitments. This approach will not only address the teacher shortage but also contribute to a more robust and equitable education system, ultimately fostering sustainable development and national growth.

## 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



# Giraffes bring peace to Kenyan communities

By Special Correspondent

ON a vast farm in Kenya's Rift Valley, a veterinarian carefully takes aim before shooting a tranquiliser dart and sending another giraffe sinking slowly to the ground before it is roped and blindfolded.

It is the first stage of a delicate operation by the Kenya Wildlife Service to move a group of the endangered animals to a conservancy around 140 kilometres (90 miles) to the east.

The subdued giraffe is kept at the farm in Sergoit along with seven others for an acclimatisation period of about 10 days, before being transported to their new home.

The Rothschild's giraffes, a distinct subspecies, are being resettled in the Ruko Conservancy in Baringo County as part of a long-running initiative to ease communal tensions there.

While the East African nation is renowned for its spectacular wildlife, its northern counties such as Baringo are more often in the news for banditry and ethnic clashes.

The rival Pokot and Ilchamus communities in Baringo had been at odds for decades, their feuds sometimes escalating into armed clashes.

In the mid-2000s, Pokot and Ilchamus elders took matters into their own hands, launching an initiative to resettle the Rothschild's, or Nubian, giraffes into the Ruko conservancy around 280 kilometres north of the capital Nairobi.

The goal was twofold: reintroduce an endangered species to a region it had previously deserted, and restore peace to the two communities.

The elders hoped the world's tallest mammals would attract tourists and income, quelling tensions in the neglected region by providing employment in an area where many young people – like elsewhere in Kenya – struggle to find jobs.

And, said 34-year-old reserve manager Rebby Sebei, it seems to have worked.

"Back 20 years before, Pokot and Ilchamus had a conflict that erupted because of livestock theft and resulted in loss of life, loss of livestock and pushing people to move away from their homeland," she said.

"This place became deserted, where we are now today was a battleground for the bandits."

But now, she said, the gentle creatures are helping to "ensure that there is peace between the two communities". Giraffes have seen a dramatic decline in numbers in Kenya in recent decades, as a result of poaching and human encroachment on their habitats.

As the Sergoit giraffes – securely trussed in the back of trucks – made their way slowly towards the reserve, people from the Pokot and Ilchamus communities held welcome celebrations.

Sixteen hours after their departure from Sergoit, having navigated hazardous bridges and low-hanging electrical wires, the giraffes finally arrived at their new home.

The group was to be acclimatised in a small pen before being released into the Ruko reserve, now home to nearly 20 giraffes, both Rothschild's and Masai.

As people sang and danced in cele-



bration while awaiting the new arrivals, Douglas Longomo, a 27-year-old farmer, said he believed the community had changed.

"It took time to understand that the conservancy is important to bring people together," Longomo said.

Many could not see the point of ending the clashes that have scarred the Rift Valley area for decades, he added. "Now we are seeing we are living as one community, we can move freely without any fear."

Longomo's views were echoed by

28-year-old James Parkitore from the Ilchamus community.

"I think (the conflict) is over now because we are interacting," he said.

"I hope those giraffes will (create) great jobs for the communities," said Parkitore, a view shared by Longomo.

Sebei added a note of caution, however, saying that while an increase in tourism had helped, there were still some lingering disputes between the two ethnic groups. But, she said, "there is peace, and we need to bring more giraffes."

# Africa offers chances for investors, enterprises for helpful climate action

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched the UNDP Africa Investment Insights Report, Third Edition - Climate Opportunities at the Africa Impact Summit 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The UNDP Africa Investment Insights Report provides an overview of private sector opportunities with economic, social and environmental potential for sustainable development progress across Africa. The report offers SDG investment data and trends across the continent and describes financing opportunities, making the case for public support for impactful investments. It is published by the UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (ASFH) and is based on data from the SDG Investor Maps, UNDP's market intelligence tool on investments for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This third edition of the Report emphasizes climate-related investment opportunities utilizing market intelligence from 16 African SDG Investor Maps. Released in partnership with UNDP's Climate Promise, it provides avenues for the private sector to support African countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, drawing on UNDP's climate expertise and its global Climate Promise 2025.

The report shows that climate action is a critical opportunity for the private sector: more than half of the SDG investment opportunities identified in the African SDG Investor Maps contribute to climate action and support NDCs. Most climate opportunities for the private sector are adaptation interventions, followed by mitigation and dual benefits.

"Through the UNDP Africa Investment Insights Report, we turn Africa's climate challenges into investment opportunities for the private sector, as per the continent's own ambition captured in national NDCs," said Maxwell Gomera, Director of the UNDP Africa Sus-



tainable Finance Hub. "The report is based on a multitude of proven business models, which can have significant financial performance - while creating strong impact across many SDGs. As UNDP, we call on investors to play their role in realising opportunities for positive climate action."

During a panel discussion at the report launch, investor and ecosystem representatives shared success stories of impact-led investments in sustainability and the climate. Speakers from UNDP, Impact Investing Kenya, AlphaMundi and FSD Africa Investment discussed best

practices around SDG and NDC investment activities, especially how investors can crowd-in additional private financing through risk-bearing capital and innovative financing instruments. The discussion also highlighted the importance of investors and enterprises measuring and managing their impact to have credibility on the private sector's SDG contributions.

"The UNDP report is a clear signal to Africa's investing community to do more to support the continent's sustainable development progress, utilizing the private sector's capacities and resources," said Rosemary

Amondi, East Africa Regional Director at ANDE and Chair of the Host Steering Committee. "As an ecosystem, we require such market intelligence to establish a baseline on our respective responsibilities and the potential impact-led economies have. We thank UNDP for this resource and their collaboration in the Africa Impact Summit."

Organized by the Africa Impact Investing Group, which is comprised of Impact Investing National Advisory Boards and country task forces in collaboration with the Global Steering Group on Impact Investing-GSG Impact, the Africa Impact Summit is the leading forum for impact investing thought leadership, networking and deal making in Africa. UNDP is proud to serve as a Knowledge Partner at the Africa Impact Summit 2024. It convened over 400 delegates from Africa and beyond under the theme "Accelerating Action for the Africa We Want through Impact Investing."

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

The Sustainable Finance Hub (SFH) brings together UNDP's financial expertise to harness public and private capital for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - supporting governments, investors and businesses in reaching climate, social impact and sustainability targets. Its work drives systemic change towards a sustainable financial architecture that benefits people and the planet. Find out more about its integrated services that ensure all finance is sustainable at SDG finance.

The UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (ASFH) harnesses the potential of sustainable finance solutions for countries, governments and the private sector to realize Africa's development objectives.

# 'Africa must improve farm yields to become net food exporter'

By Feyishola Jaiyesimi

FOR African countries to transit from net importers of food to exporters, must boost its farm yields across the continent, Anil Nair, country head of Olam Agri's Nigeria operations has said.

Nair made this was known during the Market Access Africa Conference organised by the African Agri Council in Lagos recently.

He emphasised that Africa's food trade deficit could be offset by improving crop yields across the continent.

Nair pointed out that, despite Africa's substantial share of global arable land, the continent's current crop yield falls below the global average. He noted that Africa possesses vast uncultivated lands that could be better utilised.

"Africa has 18 percent of the world's arable land and 18 percent of the world's population," Nair explained.

"With a total land mass of 3 billion hectares, 253 million hectares are arable, of which 203 million are used for crop production, leaving 50 million hectares available for cultivation as temporary fallow lands and temporary meadows and pastures."

He detailed Africa's agricultural output: "On these 203 million hectares of cropped land, Africa produces approximately 250 million tonnes of cereals and coarse grains, including maize (92 million tonnes), sorghum (29 million tonnes), millet (15 million tonnes), rice (39 million tonnes), wheat (27 million tonnes), barley (6 million tonnes), and teff (6 million tonnes).

In addition to cereals, Africa grows significant quantities of tubers such as Cassava (208 million tonnes), Yam (86 million tonnes), Potato (27 million tonnes), and Sweet Potato (29 million tonnes)."

Nair maintained that Africa should not be a net food importer, citing strong crop varieties but pointed out that low crop yields are among several factors hindering higher agricultural productivity on the continent.

"Africa's crop yields are significantly lower than the world averages," Nair stated.

"The average cereal yield in Africa is just 1.6 tonnes per hectare compared to the global average of 4 tonnes per hectare, which is 60 percent

less. Specifically, Africa's rice yield is 2.35 tonnes per hectare, half of the world average. Africa consumes about 38 million tonnes of rice annually, with 15 million tonnes being imported. The continent cultivates approximately 16.5 million hectares for paddy, producing nearly 39 million tonnes of paddy, producing nearly 39 million tonnes of paddy or 22-23 million tonnes of finished rice."

He highlighted Olam Agri's Rice Farm in Nigeria as an example of successful yield improvement, achieving 4.6 tonnes per hectare compared to the continent's average of 2.35 tonnes per hectare.

He identified factors contributing to low crop yields in Africa, including the low use of fertiliser, limited adoption of mechanised farming, smallholder farmers' lack of access to modern agronomic training, insufficient financing opportunities, and inadequate road infrastructure. Additionally, post-harvest losses, which could be reduced by investing in storage facilities, also impact productivity.

Reiterating the need for innovative and sustainable solutions, Nair stated, "Achieving significant

growth in Africa's food production value chain requires investment in crop yield improvement. Olam Agri, founded in Nigeria over 34 years ago, continues to leverage its global expertise and investment focus to drive growth in the food value chain."

He added by expressing Olam Agri's belief in Africa's potential and called for strong partnerships and focused policy regimes to enhance productivity in the food production value chain.



**The average cereal yield in Africa is just 1.6 tonnes per hectare compared to the global average of 4 tonnes per hectare, which is 60 percent less.**



By Anthony van Nieuwkerk

# DRC conflict risks spreading: African leaders must push for solutions beyond military intervention



People displaced by war seek refuge at a school in Minova, South Kivu in eastern DRC.

**I**N response to the deepening crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the United Nations Security Council established a panel of independent experts in 2023 to examine the situation and provide it with options to address the conflict. In June 2024, the UN released the panel's final report.

The report provides a devastating account of the unimaginable scale of violence against civilians. It also shows the failure of state actors to work in unison to bring peace to the region. The implicated parties - particularly the governments of Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC - have protested their innocence.

I have researched violent extremism in Africa, especially its effects in southern and central Africa. The unwillingness of ruling elites throughout central Africa to accept responsibility for the war raises the question of what needs to be done to promote peace and development.

A military option is clearly not adequate to address the deep-seated historical, ethnic and resource-based fault lines throughout central Africa, as they play out in the DRC. Relations between the presidents in the region, in particular the DRC and Rwanda, have been strained because of this history.

To augment stabilisation measures, African leaders must pursue diplomatic options. This includes an urgent ceasefire. It must be accompanied by disengagement of forces and neutralising the rebel Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which operates from the DRC. There must also be confidence-building measures between the parties to the conflict.

Before we examine the options, let us unpack some of the UN report's key findings.

The report identifies the following triggers of war and obstacles to peace, extreme violence - against men, women and children, a humanitarian crisis, illegal resource extraction, new forms of warfare, interference of neighbours and international actors.

Deteriorating security and humanitarian situation

The protracted armed violence has worsened a dire humanitarian crisis. The province of North Kivu accounted for nearly 1.7 million internally displaced persons. Another half a million have spilled over into neighbouring South Kivu since October 2023.

Goma, the capital of North Kivu, faced escalating criminality and civil unrest due primarily to the proliferation of so-called Wazalendo armed militia and criminal gangs, and undisciplined elements of the Armed Forces of the DRC.

The UN panel found that all armed actors recruited and used children in hostilities on an unprecedented scale. The Mouvement du 23 Mars (M23) and the Rwanda Defence Force punished civilians perceived as collaborating with enemy armed groups.

Wazalendo groups thrived on a violent war economy - looting, extorting, kidnapping and murdering civilians. In Ituri province, armed groups engaged in violent confrontations and rivalry, some of them over lucrative gold mining sites.

### North Kivu dynamics

In North Kivu, the Islamic State-linked Allied Democratic Forces have intensified attacks against urban centres since mid-October 2023. They're also active in Uganda. The panel found they committed the highest number of killings, mainly of civilians. The group established strong networks in prisons, particularly in Kinshasa, where its detainees recruited and mobilised combatants and collaborators.

The DRC government continued to use Wazalendo groups to fight M23. Most armed actors in North Kivu benefited from illegal logging and taxation of the transport of wooden planks in the areas they control.

### New forms of warfare

The deployment of advanced military technology and equipment bolstered joint M23-Rwandan military operations. They've altered the conflict dynamics, partly by grounding all DRC military air assets - including attack and transport helicopters and transport planes.

The UN report describes in great detail the deployment and use of mobile short-range air defence systems, drone-borne mortar shells and guided mortar

shells of Israeli manufacture. It says 120mm mortars were used against Southern African Development Community (SADC) troops.

### Rapidly escalating M23 crisis

The rapidly escalating M23 crisis carried the risk of triggering a wider regional conflict. Heavy fighting continued between M23, alongside the Rwandan military, against the Congolese military and the Wazalendo coalition, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and Burundi National Defence Force troops. Private military companies and SADC troops, which were deployed in December 2023, provided operational and military support to the DRC military.

Rwandan military interventions and operations in territories north of Goma extended beyond support for M23 operations. This allowed the Rwandans and M23 to achieve military dominance in North Kivu and rapid territorial expansion to the shores of Lake Edward.

The engagement of the Burundian military in operations against M23 and the Rwandans exacerbated the tensions between Rwanda and Burundi.

Rwanda, it implies a supervised ceasefire between the Congolese military and the M23, accompanied by a process of disengagement of forces.

### Regional leaders have a major role to play

The peace commitment by leaders of the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya, appears to be the only "game in town". But as the UN report makes clear, in the absence of mediation, there is a real risk of the conflict escalating into a wider regional conflict involving Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the DRC.

It is not clear that the lead protagonists - Congolese presidents Felix Tshisekedi and his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame - are prepared to reconcile. Personal mediation is required. The role of outsiders, including the US, European Union, China and Russia, in concert with the UN and African Union, might become key to unlocking progress.

The SADC military mission needs to either enlarge its footprint, and neutralise the M23, in order for the diplomats to pursue mediation, or withdraw. Given its challenges and those that faced the withdrawn East African force in tackling violent extremism and criminal gangs, much strategic thinking is needed before a decision to upscale peace enforcement can be made. This is vital given the new forms of warfare.

If a ceasefire can be negotiated, a robust African Union-led peace support operation, replacing the UN and SADC missions - with dedicated financial and logistics support from international partners - will be needed.

Regional leaders from Angola, South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania need to exert maximum influence on the Congolese and Rwandan leaders to pursue the path to peace.

### What can be done to de-escalate conflict and upscale peace?

Neighbours are unable to make much of a difference. The military option, meant to "freeze" violent conflict and allow humanitarian assistance and diplomatic interventions, has failed.

In 2022 a regional initiative by the East African Community to deploy a regional force to arrest the violent conflict failed and was withdrawn in haste. The SADC has deployed its standby force to the eastern DRC, with a similar purpose, and seemingly similar slim chances of success.

To what extent can diplomatic interventions by the DRC's neighbours, the African Union, or a combination of these and the UN, make a difference?

AU mediator and Angolan president Joao Lourenco seems to make progress. His efforts are aimed at relaunching the peace process and initiating direct dialogue between the governments of the DRC and Rwanda.

At a ministerial meeting in Luanda on 21 March 2024, senior government officials representing the DRC, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda agreed to recognise the Luanda and Nairobi peace processes, both signed between June and July 2022, as key for achieving peace and security in eastern DRC.

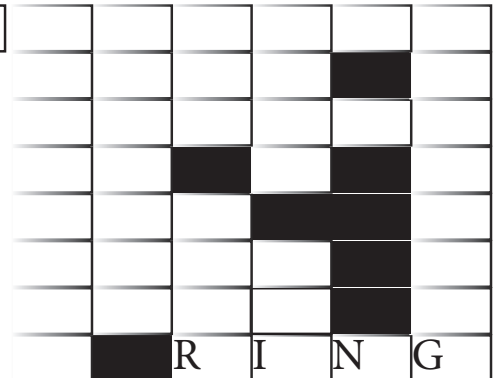
They called for a supervised ceasefire. It would include a process of disengaging forces, neutralising the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, and undertaking confidence-building measures between the parties to the conflict.

However, two issues remain outstanding, according to the UN report. For the Congolese, the disengagement of forces implies the withdrawal of Rwanda from its territory. For

## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 132

1. "lay down your heart"  
 7. picot  
 8. having no name  
 11. God as father  
 12. a member of Somali people

- living in Djibouti
  - 13 Monetary Unit of Nigeria
  - 15 an amino acid which is a constituent of most proteins.
  - 18 a method
  - 20 a person who is in charge of a newspaper
  - 22. name again
  - 23 Monetary unit of Japan
  - 24 energy, style, and enthusiasm
- Down:
- 1 Ndizi in English
  - 2 Banjul is her mother city
  - 3 not closed
  - 4 opposite of No
  - 5 a fertile spot in a desert
  - 6 the colourless fluid part of blood
  - 9 an edible mollusc of warm seas
  - 10 a Person earning money
  - 14 an assistant to a political leader
  - 16 One less than ten
  - 17 and others
  - 18 Women's Royal Naval Service
  - 19 Monetary unit of China
  - 21 Suffix denoting tumours



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.

- DREAMING
- RING
- TA
- ICES
- TSI
- MINDED
- D DAY
- NEE
- ISLAMIC
- MUSTELID
- USED
- SLEAZE
- EMU
- USER
- LIST

Yesterday's solution

Z	E	B	R	A	F	G	O	D	A	R	C
A	A	I	M	E	R	O	C	E	A	N	L
N	A	N	D	I	E	T	A	I	L	A	
Z	A	E	R	I	E	C	L	A	I	M	
I	N	S	V			C	L	E	A	N	O
B	A	O	Y	O	H	H	A	I	R		
A	R	S	O	N	R	L	L	L	T	O	
R		E	C			C	O	A	S	T	U
S	H	A	R	I	A	K	A	N	O	A	S

# RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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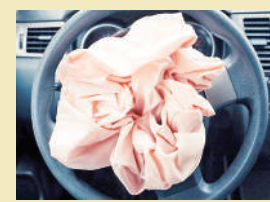
Financial services can find innovation in tokenisation

Page 14



DSE weekly turnover declines by 13pc

Page 14



COMESA issues alert over faulty vehicle airbags

Page 15

## Student develops product to combat CVDs, reduce post-harvest fruit losses

By Beatrice Philemon

A fourth-year student at the College of Agriculture and Food Technology (CoAF) at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has developed a product aimed at reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and minimizing post-harvest fruit losses on farms.

Masunga Maganga, an undergraduate student in food science and technology, told this journalist that his research led him to discover an alternative energy source that can enhance energy levels while avoiding the drawbacks associated with caffeine consumption.

The alternative product is said to utilize indigenous iron-rich fruits, such as beetroot, which may reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and mitigate the health impacts associated with consuming caffeinated energy drinks.

Has said the product provides an extended opportunity for energy drink consumption among individuals with caffeine sensitivity, such as pregnant women and children.

"We have decided to utilize indigenous iron-rich fruits to boost energy while avoiding the drawbacks associated with caffeine consumption," he revealed.

Adding that: "These fruits are rich in vitamins, including vitamin B9, as well as potassium, magnes-

um, iron, and essential amino acids that are crucial for good health."

Maganga explained that his research was prompted by the fact that caffeine is a primary ingredient in most energy drinks, yet scientific studies have revealed various negative health impacts associated with caffeine consumption.

He identified these negative health impacts as high blood pressure, ventricular arrhythmias, myocardial infarction, and addiction.

"We have utilized indigenous iron-rich fruits that are essential for supporting people's health and well-being. He identified these essential nutrients as vitamin B9, potassium, magnesium, and amino acids," he said.

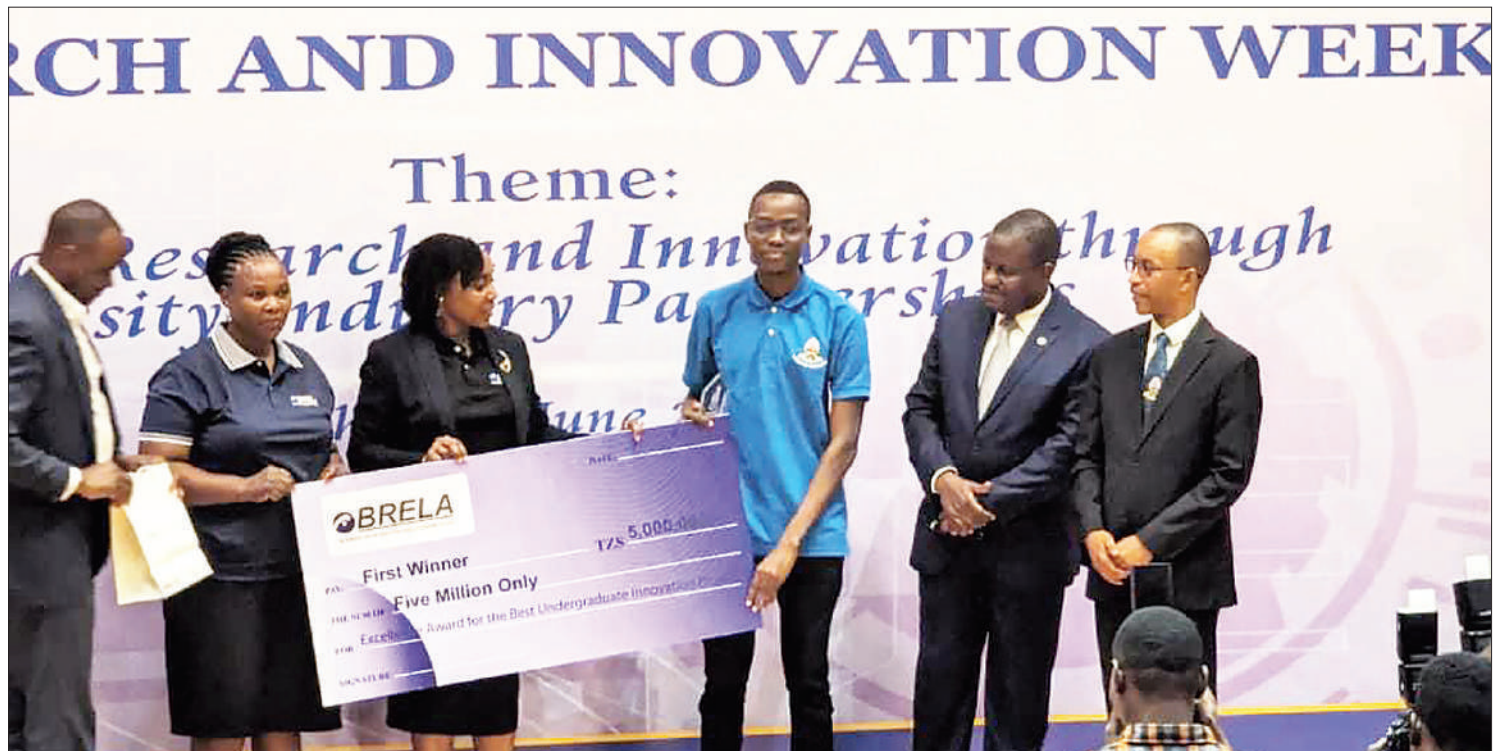
According to Maganga, the product is suitable for everyone due to its potential health benefits.

"As more people continue to die from cardiovascular diseases, it's important to note that many of these conditions can be prevented by addressing behavioral and environmental risk factors, such as unhealthy diets, tobacco use, obesity, physical inactivity, harmful alcohol consumption, and air pollution," he said.

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally.

An estimated 17.9 million people died from cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) in 2019, accounting for 32 percent of all global deaths. Of these deaths, 85 percent were attributed to heart attacks and strokes.

Over three-quarters of CVD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.



Masunga Maganga (3rd - R), a fourth-year student at the UDSM, receives a dummy cheque for 5m/- from BRELA officials after being named the first winner of the recent Research and Innovation Week exhibition held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Of the 17 million premature deaths (under the age of 70) attributed to non-communicable diseases in 2019, 38 percent were caused by CVDs.

Why are cardiovascular diseases a significant issue in low- and middle-income countries? At least three-quarters of the world's CVD deaths occur in these regions.

Individuals living in low- and middle-income countries often lack access to primary healthcare programs that facilitate the early detection and treatment of risk factors for CVDs.

Moreover, people in these countries who suffer

from CVDs and other non-communicable diseases have reduced access to effective and equitable healthcare services that meet their needs.

As a result, many individuals in these countries experience late detection of diseases, leading to premature deaths from cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and other non-communicable diseases, often during their most productive years.

The poorest populations in low- and middle-income countries are the most severely impacted.

At the household level, emerging evidence suggests that CVDs and other non-communicable diseases contribute to poverty through catastrophic health expenditures and high out-of-pocket costs for care.

At the macroeconomic level, CVDs impose a significant burden on the economies of low- and middle-income countries, straining healthcare systems and limiting economic growth.

## IEA: A Heat waves driving strong growth in electricity demand

By Marleny Arnoldi

ENERGY demand growth is forecast to be among the highest levels this year and next, compared with the last two decades, the International Energy Agency (IEA) notes in its 'Electricity Mid-Year Update' report.

Solar PV technology alone is expected to account for half of the demand growth increases globally.

Demand for electricity is being driven by robust economic growth, intense heat waves and increasing uptake of technologies that run on electricity, including electric vehicles and heat pumps, the IEA states, adding that renewable energy was also continuing a rapid ascent with solar PV adoption poised to reach new records.

The IEA forecasts that global electricity demand will grow by about 4 percent this year, up from 2.5 percent in 2023.

This would represent the highest yearly growth rate since 2007, excluding the exceptional rebounds seen in the wake of the global financial crisis in 2008/9 and the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

The strong increase in global electricity consumption is set to continue into 2025, with another growth rate of 4 percent expected.

The IEA explains that renewable sources of electricity are also set to expand rapidly this year and next, with their share of global electricity supply forecast to rise from 30 percent in 2023 to 35 percent in 2025.

The amount of electricity generated by renewables worldwide in 2025 is forecast to eclipse the amount generated by coal for the first time.

Solar PV alone is expected to meet about half of the growth in global electricity demand over 2024 and 2025 - with solar and wind combined meeting as much as three-quarters of the growth.

Despite the sharp increases in renewables, global power generation from coal is unlikely to decline this year owing to the strong growth in demand, especially in China and India, the IEA notes in its report.

As a result, CO2 emissions from the global power sector are plateauing, with a slight increase this year, followed by a decline in 2025.

However, considerable uncertainties remain, the IEA says, citing Chinese hydro-



power production recovering this year as an example.

If this upward trend continues in the second half of the year, it could curb coal-fired power generation and result in a slight decline in global power sector emissions this year.

Some of the world's major economies are registering particularly strong increases in electricity consumption.

The IEA says demand in India is expected to surge by a massive 8 percent this year, driven by strong economic activity and powerful heatwaves.

China is also set to see significant demand growth of more than 6 percent, as a result of robust activity in the services industries and various industrial sectors, including the manufacturing of clean energy technologies.

After declining in 2023 amid mild weather, electricity demand in the US is forecast to rebound this year by 3 percent amid steady economic growth, rising demand for cooling and an expanding data centre sector.

By contrast, the EU will see a more modest recovery in electricity demand, with growth forecast at 1.7 percent, following two consecutive years of contraction amid the impacts of the energy crisis.

In many parts of the world, increasing use of air-conditioning will remain a significant driver of electricity demand.

Multiple regions faced intense heatwaves in the first half of this year, which elevated demand and put electricity systems under strain, the report states.

"Growth in global electricity demand this year and next is set to be among the fastest in the past two decades, highlighting the growing role of electricity in our economies as well as the impacts of severe heatwaves,"

elaborates IEA energy markets and security director Keisuke Sadamori.

The IEA is encouraged to see clean energy's share of the electricity mix continuing to rise, but this needs to happen at a much faster rate to meet international energy and climate goals.

Simultaneously, the IEA deems it crucial to expand and reinforce grids to provide citizens with secure and reliable electricity supply, as well as to implement higher energy efficiency standards to reduce the impacts of increased cooling demand on power systems."

Technology drivers

With the rise of AI, the electricity demand of data centres is drawing increased attention, underscoring the need for more reliable data and better stocktaking measures.

The IEA report highlights the wide range of uncertainties concerning the electricity demand of data centres, including the pace of deployment, the diverse and expanding uses of AI, and the potential for energy efficiency improvements.

Better collection of electricity consumption data in the data centre sector will be essential to identify past developments correctly and to better understand future trends.

The IEA has been a frontrunner in studying the links between the energy sector and digitalisation.

To explore the opportunities and challenges ahead, the IEA has launched a new initiative called Energy for AI & AI for Energy.

As part of this initiative, the IEA will consult with governments, industry, researchers and civil society experts. The IEA will host a conference on energy and AI in Paris, France, on December 5.

## Cotton project to impact 600,000 farmers

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Shinyanga

COTTON Victoria Project (CVP), the country's major initiative which focuses to assist farmers to heighten production and productivity, is now working to reach out 600,000 farmers in all crop's growing regions.

The regions include Mwanza, Simiyu, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Katavi, Kigoma, Singida, Tunduma, Morogoro, and Mara.

The development has been unveiled by the project's coordinator, Dr. Paul Saidia during the National Technical Committee Meeting, held over the weekend in Shinyanga region.

He briefed, the robust project has so far impacted a total of 517,343 farmers in eleven regions with cotton production, saying the vision is to reach out to 600,000 farmers who are growing cotton in the country.

Through the project, he said concerned farmers are trained to adopt the recommended new planting space of 60 centimeters from row to row, and 30 centimeters from hole to hole, bringing the number of the cotton plants to 44,444 per acre from the formal 22,222 plants.

With the new planting space, Dr Saidia observed, the farmers are now managing to yield bumper, up to between 1,500 to 3,000 tons per acre, contrary to the former low yields of between 200 to 300 tons.

Moreover, he said through effective practical training, the farmers have successfully managed to develop and adopt use of bio-pesticides, as well as natural farming practices, to assist them containing various cotton diseases, in-



Dr Paul Saidia, the Director of TARI Ukiriguru speaks during the National Technical Committee Meeting, held over the weekend in Shinyanga region. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

cluding cotton jassids, American boll worms, and thrips, among others.

Through the initiative, he said TARI is bridging efforts with the Bio-Sustain Tanzania Limited to train and mentor the involved farmers how best to develop and apply the various bio-pesticides in order to grow cotton organically, but also to withstand effects of climate change towards the fibre crop.

So far, he said a total of 217,060 farmers in the country have successfully adopted the new planting space.

"The new planting space has been green lighted by the Ministry of Agriculture and thus, we're remaining optimistic that it will play major role to help elevate productivity of the cotton sub-sector even after phasing out of the project," Dr Saidia observed.

According to him, the farmers are also trained over seed dressing, the vital process of applying a thin layer of active product on the surface of the seed, this can be any organic or inorganic compounds, and it can also include pesticides, fertilizers, and some growth promoters.

The US\$ 5,802,019.08 worth project which is implemented jointly with others stakeholders including Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB), Bio-Sustain Tanzania Limited, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA), and the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA).



# Financial services can find innovation in tokenisation

By Dom Ghazan

THE rights to various assets can be converted into digital tokens by virtue of distributed ledger technology. This process enhances accessibility and liquidity and can apply to all title-based things, both tangible and intangible in nature. The most prominent use cases include real estate, legacy financial instruments, commodities, intellectual property, art and digital assets.

Tokenisation enables fractional ownership - making investments more accessible - while increasing transparency and reducing transaction costs. This innovative approach has the potential to restructure asset ownership and trading, offering a more efficient and inclusive investment landscape.

There are questions concerning where the cash leg of tokenised asset transactions can come from. This can range from wholesale central bank digital currencies, tokenised commercial money or private sector stablecoins.

Wholesale CBDCs, issued by central banks, offer high security and efficiency for large transactions. Tokenised commercial money, managed by commercial banks, provides familiarity and integration with legacy banking services, ideal for retail and business use. Private sector stablecoins, pegged to stable assets, enable fast, low-cost transactions and are suited for global and decentralised finance applications.

The choice depends on regulatory factors, transaction scale and the need for security and efficiency. Interoperability is key to countervail potential market fragmentation, thereby enabling the next iteration of global liquidity provision.

Bearer assets

Tokens can be either bearer assets or represent claims upon an asset. Bearer assets, which directly equate to ownership, indicate that possession of the token is sufficient to claim ownership



- akin to physical cash or bearer bonds. This simplifies transactions by eliminating intermediaries.

On the other hand, tokens that represent claims provide a legal entitlement to the underlying asset, often managed by a custodian or intermediary, ensuring regulatory compliance and legal protection. The design and legal framework of the token determine its nature, with bearer assets offering immediacy and tokens as claims ensuring regulatory adherence.

Investors can hold tokens in digital wallets, either custodial (managed by third-party services) or non-custodial (self-managed). Deposit services are provided by traditional financial institutions, specialised crypto custodians like PolySign or Uphold and various DLT platforms. Measures such as robust private key management, cold storage solutions, regulatory compliance and insurance collectively ensure the safe and secure holding and management of tokenised assets. The inherent security features of DLT, such as immutability and decentralised consensus, further protect token transactions and ownership records.

Changes to market infrastructure  
By streamlining asset issuance, trading and settlement through DLT, tokenisation stands to completely revamp legacy market

infrastructure. As settlement becomes near-instantaneous, and custody shifts to digital wallets and specialised crypto custodians, there is less reliance on trusted intermediaries, which increases efficiency.

While the role of central securities depositories may also diminish, they can remain relevant by incorporating DLT, offering tokenisation services and ensuring regulatory compliance. This adaptation allows CSDs to bridge traditional and tokenised markets, supporting a smooth transition while maintaining trust and adherence to regulatory standards.

This approach to innovation does not just serve financial markets. Tokenisation also benefits retail users by enabling fractional ownership, increasing liquidity and lowering transaction costs. It offers access to new investment opportunities like real estate, art and private equity, previously limited to institutional investors.

The process of tokenisation also democratises investing, making it more accessible and cost-effective for small investors to better diversify portfolios and participate in a wider range of markets. This will enable a more inclusive, fair and equitable financial system.

**Dom Ghazan is Managing Director at Global Trade Finance.**

## DSE weekly turnover declines by 13pc



By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) recorded a weekly turnover of 2,148bn/- from 2,448,596 shares traded last week, a decrease of 12.89 percent compared to 2,466bn/- from 4,272,809 shares traded during the previous week.

At the close of Week, AFRIPRISE had the strongest weekly stock price gains for the third consecutive week, increasing by 8.89 percent compared to the previous week's close.

CRDB also showed strong weekly growth, rising by 7.27 percent.

On the downside, NMG was the biggest loser for the second consecutive week, with a decline of -8.11 percent.

The Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which tracks the performance of domestically listed companies, also maintained stability, reflecting a balanced sentiment in the domestic market.

The banking sector continued to show strong performance, particularly with banks such as NMB Bank and CRDB Bank maintaining their robust positions due to their solid financial fundamentals and attractive dividend yields.

The commercial services sector remained flat, with no significant changes reported in stock prices.

There was a noticeable increase in both local and foreign investor participation. Local investors, in particular, have been more active, contributing significantly to

the turnover.

This trend aligns with the broader market movement seen throughout the first half of 2024, where local institutional investors like pension funds and mutual funds have shown increased interest in the equities market.

Analysts say the DSE is expected to maintain its positive momentum in the coming weeks, driven by favorable economic conditions and ongoing efforts to attract more institutional investors.

However, market watchers will keep an eye on global economic factors that could influence foreign investor behavior and overall market sentiment.

Foreign investor participation

Since the start of the current quarter, foreign investors have sold shares worth 402m/- or 7 percent of total value of shares sold and purchase shares valued 47m/- or 0.8 percent of total value of shares bought, which translates into 340m/- net outflows.

In the first half of 2024, foreign investors have shown a dynamic yet cautious engagement with the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Their participation has seen fluctuations in both the buying and selling activities, reflecting broader global economic trends.

Foreign investor purchases increased significantly during certain periods, driven by attractive valuations in specific sectors such as banking and industrials.

For instance, the acquisition of shares in companies like CRDB Bank and Tanzania Portland Cement was notably higher, indicating confidence in these sectors' long-term growth prospects.

Conversely, the selling side also saw substantial activity, attributed to a mix of profit-taking strategies and global economic shifts, including rising interest rates in developed markets which prompted some investors to rebalance their portfolios away from emerging markets like Tanzania.

This trend was particularly evident in February and March

when foreign investor selling peaked, aligning with global market adjustments.

Despite the volatility, the net effect of foreign participation in the DSE has been largely positive, contributing to increased liquidity and market depth.

Foreign turnover, which includes both buying and selling activities, has contributed significantly to the overall market turnover, albeit with occasional dips reflective of external economic pressures.

In summary, while foreign investors have played a critical role in the DSE's activities in the first half of 2024, their participation has been marked by a strategic and responsive approach to both local opportunities and global economic signals.

Outlook

Looking ahead, the DSE is expected to continue its recovery trajectory, supported by strong local company performances and improving economic conditions.

However, challenges such as reduced foreign investor participation and global economic uncertainties may temper growth. Analysts remain cautiously optimistic, highlighting the importance of continued efforts to attract local and institutional investors to sustain market momentum.

In summary, while the DSE has faced several challenges, the outlook for the rest of 2024 remains positive driven by local market strength and strategic efforts to enhance investor participation.

# Higher capital limits put 25 banks on edge

NAIROBI

AT least 25 licensed Kenyan commercial banks, more than half of the 39 licensed commercial banks, will have up to three years to raise their core capital to the new KShs. 10bn once CBK raises the threshold.

In June, Treasury presented a plan to increase the minimum capital requirement for banks tenfold from the current KSh 1 billion to KSh 10 billion.

The move is aimed at bolstering banks' resilience and to anchor the country's financial sector, in a bid to build stronger banks with more muscle to finance bigger projects.

Kenya last raised its core capital requirements in 2012, and an attempt to raise it (to KShs. 5bn) was shot down in Parliament in 2015.

"We have not adjusted the core capital requirements in many years, and during that time, we have had all kinds of new risks emerging such as cyber-security and climate issues. There is also competition from foreign banks coming here and becoming very aggressive. As we plan to become a financial hub, we need strong banks that can withstand new risks," The CBK Governor Dr. Kamau Thugge said in a recent interview.

Capital broadly acts as a buffer for a bank and provides a financial safety net to protect depositors and the economy from possible bank failures. It allows a banking institution to continue operating even in periods of unforeseeable losses prolonging insolvency, ensuring the liquidity crisis is forfeit by the owners rather than the public safety net provided by the apex bank.

This proposal presents grounds for mergers and acquisitions in the banking sector while some banks might be forced to seek downgrades to their licenses. In March, after Uganda raised its core capital requirements to KShs. 5bn (-\$40mn), three banks had their licenses downgraded from Tier I commercial banks to Tier II credit institutions.

A similar situation might play out in Kenya for banks that do not want to seek strategic investments or mergers. Some banks that are subsidiaries of larger lenders, such as Kingdom Bank (Co-Op's subsidiary), SBM Bank (Kenya) Ltd (SBM Group subsidiary), and CIB Kenya (CIB Group subsidiary) will need substantial capital injections to survive.

"Mergers and acquisitions will be encouraged but we will allow it to play out within the banks. Unless we are asked to intermediate, I really don't see the need for forcing mergers outside of setting the target for core capital," Thugge added.

In July, Stanbic Bank Kenya CEO Joshua Oigara predicted that raising the threshold would likely halve the number of commercial banks in the sector. It'll also favour big players, as the eight listed banks currently control 80 percent of the banking sector. The evolution of the sector will result in a few big players with substantial financial muscle, and likely trigger growth in the Microfinance banking sector as smaller banks fold.

In 2023, the banking sector witnessed six consolidations where four commercial banks and two microfinance banks were either partially or wholly acquired, as the regulator kicks off plans to raise capital requirements for the sector.

The sector's total capital adequacy ratio stood at 18.6 percent in December 2023 above the minimum ratio of 14.5 percent. Similarly, the sector's liquidity ratio remained above the statutory minimum level of 20 percent, averaging 51.0 percent.

## Air travel delays continue, most airlines have recovered from global tech outage

BOSTON

DELAYS at some airports are ongoing after a faulty software update caused havoc worldwide and led to the grounding by almost all airlines of a number of flights, but the impact is receding.

Total cancellations within, into or out of the U.S. early Monday totaled 758, according to the latest data from FlightAware, which is greater than a typical with no holiday. The vast majority of cancellations were Delta Air Lines flights.

Delta reported 626 cancellations, or nearly 83% of all cancelled flights.

Delta Chief Executive Ed Bastian said in a message to customers Sunday that the airline continues to recover and restore operations

after the outage. He said a pause in Delta's operations resulted in more than 3,500 Delta and Delta Connection scrubbed flights. Delta has been offering waivers to affected customers.

"The technology issue occurred on the busiest travel weekend of the summer, with our booked loads exceeding 90%, limiting our re-accommodation capabilities," Bastian wrote.

One of the tools used by Delta to track its crews was impacted and unable to process the unprecedented number of changes triggered by the system outage.

Inclement weather also led to delays in the Southeast, according to FlightAware, including Atlanta, where Delta Air Lines is based.



Day four of flight delays and cancellations at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport following a worldwide IT outage. Photo: Courtesy of Atlanta News First



# When cyberattacks are inevitable, focus on cyber resilience - Part I



When cyberattacks are inevitable, experts encourage a focus on cyber resilience. File Photo

By Keri Pearson

THERE'S a common but serious mistake cybersecurity expert make; they focus all their resources on keeping malicious actors out of our system. It's an understandable misstep. Protecting ourselves from potential cyber breaches is a critical part of the job.

Even so, it's impossible to be completely protected from every vulnerability. That's because the good guys must protect against every possible vulnerability, while the bad guys only need one small crack in a company's armor to get in.

We cannot be 100 percent protected from every cyber eventuality. New attack vectors appear often, creating never-ending requirements for upgrades in protection. But even more troublesome is when a past attack approach is again effective because of a lack of simple fixes that were never done, such as an unchanged but compromised password or an available but yet-to-be installed patch for a system.

While technologies like AI and quantum computing promise to provide newer and potentially stronger defenses, malicious actors have access to the same tools, and are already working on ways to weaponize them for innovative attack vectors. Now that AI is on the scene, new vulnerabilities are being uncovered at an alarming rate, challenging even the most well-funded cybersecurity protection plan.

So, what should cybersecurity experts and the companies that employ them do? Let go of their prevention mindset and adopt one focused on resilience.

## What is cyber resiliency and why is it different than cyber protection?

A prevention mindset means doing all you can to keep the bad guys out. A resilience mindset adds a layer: while you

do all you can to prevent an attack, you also work with the expectation that they still might break through your defenses and invest heavily preparing to respond and recover when the worst happens. Resilient organizations specifically devote significant resources to drawing up plans for what they will do if an attack happens, designing processes to execute them when the time comes, and practicing how to put these plans into action. Prevention is critical – but it's not enough.

In a survey of 30 cyber executives I ran during a meeting at a Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan (CAMS), where I'm the executive director, these leaders defined cyber resilience as "preparing for, so you can recover from, a cyber event," "having resources and processes in place for when something goes wrong," and "the ability of an organization to minimize harm from a cyber incident and maximize recovery." One respondent simply explained that resilience was "when no one knows you've been hacked."

Yet in my work as a researcher in conversation with chief information security officers and other cyber experts, I have noticed that many leaders focus most, if not all, of their security resources on prevention and leave recovery to business continuity plans that aren't usually designed with cyber incidents in mind. Instead, leaders need to embrace a mindset of cyber-resilience.

## My vision of cyber-resilience is this

A company experiences a breach, but the breach does minimal if any damage: No hit to reputation, no impact on operations, no loss of financial revenue, no loss of data or other assets, no supply chain access, no loss of IP, etc.

Admittedly, this vision is not likely today given the complexity of both our digital environments and the volume of potential threat vectors targeting them. But at the same time, without an aspirational goal, managers will continue to make sub-par decisions. Aspiring

to a strong vision of resiliency shapes the security team's focus away from just protecting and on to more concrete decisions of how to best prepare to recover.

Many companies I've studied at CAMS clearly exhibited a protection-mindset. In both formal focus groups and informal conversations, the most common approach I see is for companies to use a cybersecurity framework such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Cybersecurity Framework (NIST CSF), housed within the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, to organize cybersecurity resources and activities. The NIST CSF suggests that a good cyber strategy has 6 components: identify, protect, detect, respond, recover, and – added recently – govern.

While this framework emphasizes both protection and resilience, we have found a striking difference in the attention given to the different components. Executives responsible for cybersecurity told us "we don't spend anywhere as much time on resilience as on protection" and "we have a business continuity plan, but we don't test it out to see if it is really cyber resilient." One respondent said their organization didn't focus on resilience until after they had a cyber incident, and they learned that they needed to be better prepared for recovering.

It's easy to see how this happens. Prevention is structured and easy to justify, but resilience is less straightforward and has a softer return on investment. The prevailing approach for protection is the idea of "defense in depth," a sequential set of barriers an attack vector would need to penetrate to be successful.

Think of the old fortress model where crown jewels were stored behind many defenses and robbers had to penetrate every one of them to get to them. Cybersecurity defense in depth follows the same principle. For example, one layer might be identity and access management processes designed to make sure only authorized users have access to our valuable data and systems.

# Refinery negotiations still rolling, job seekers advised to be patient

KAMPALA

UGANDANS seeking employment in the oil refinery in the Albertine Graben need to be patient as the negotiations go on.

State Minister for Energy, Okasaai Opolot says Ugandans will get jobs during and after the construction of the refinery.

The government of Uganda plans to develop 60,000 barrels of oil per day refinery at Kabaale, Buseruka Sub-County in Hoima District.

The refinery project is part of the efforts by the government to build a petrochemical industry from Uganda's oil and gas resources. The refinery will produce refined petroleum products for in country.

The Ministry of Energy in January began negotiations with Alpha MBM Investments; an investment firm from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to build the oil refinery project.

The new partner came in after Albertine Graben Energy Consortium (AGEC) dropped out of the deal in which it was to Build and operate the Greenfield Oil Refinery estimated to cost US\$ 4 billion (15.2 Trillion)

The Private sector group, which comprised YAATRA Africa, Italian Nuovo Pignone International Srl, LionWorks Group Limited from Mauritius, and Saipem p.A.

While other key projects for the commercialization of oil from the fields in Kikuube, Bulisa, and Nwoya are going on, it is now evident proceeding the refinery will not be up and running when oil production begins most likely during the fourth quarter of 2025.

While the Minister confirmed that the negotiations with the new developer were ongoing, he was hesitant to put timelines on when the investor is expected to announce the Final Investment Decision (FID) for the project. Dr. Okasaai did not also reveal what agreement is pending for an FID to be taken.

"We would like to have a refinery that is forward-looking to deliver the expectations of not only Ugandans. But the delivery of standards that fit the global trend. That is the type of refinery we would wish to have," said Okasaai Opolot.

"We have signed the various agreements, and the configuration of the refinery is being improved as we go forward"

The final refinery configuration study was completed and approved by the government in 2019. The study was to determine the final refinery as a Residue Fluid Catalytic Cracker (RFCC) type of refinery.

Details of the new configuration remain secret between the government and the new investor. Okasaai Opolot revealed that the government had intended that the refinery should be operating by 2027.

"And we have not changed that target. Give or take one year, is what we are looking forward to. The latest we expect it is 2028. The earlier the better."

The Minister of Energy and Minerals Development, Ruth Nankbirwa in January told journalists at the Ministry's headquarters that the negotiations of the key commercial agreements with Alpha MBM Investments were to be concluded within three months.

However, according to Okasaai, the negotiations are ongoing. "We are discussing. And the discussions will take time. We are doing a lot of configuration. A better question would be will the information be availed to us," Okasaai Opolot insisted when asked about the configurations and when an FID is expected.

Going by the process leading to an FID for the Lake Albert Development comprising of the Kingfisher, Tilenga, and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), it appears like the negotiation of the key agreements for the refinery will equally take some time.

According to information obtained from Uganda National Oil Company, several agreements

have to be signed before the investor gets his boots on the ground.

The agreements include the Crude Suppliers Agreement intended to put the needed feedstock of 60,000 barrels of crude oil per day needed for the refinery. This agreement has to be between the crude oil owners and the refinery company.

In this case, the crude oil owners are the Government of Uganda and Uganda National Oil Company, TotalEnergies E&P Uganda, and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) Uganda Limited. In addition, a shareholders' Agreement will be signed by shareholders of the refinery company.

Those include Uganda Refinery Holding Company; a subsidiary of the UNOC will hold a participating interest of up to 40 percent in the Refinery Company on behalf of UNOC and the Government of Uganda.

The shareholders' agreement lays out the financial obligations of each part such as cash calls, and defaults, and stipulates the voting rights. The off takers Agreement or Product Sales Agreement is intended to demonstrate that there are buyers of the finished products.

The decision to have the Off takers Agreement will be determined by potential lenders and financiers. The refinery project is planned to have a debt-to-equity ratio of 60: 40 respectively, implying that 60 percent of funding to the oil refinery will be a debt whereas 40 percent will be equity. These will also include the Host Government Agreement and the Off takers Agreement.

As the government negotiates the agreements, expectations are high in Kyakaboga where the refinery is to be located. Young people whose homes were displaced to pave the way to the refinery are eager to witness and participate in its construction. One such person is Christopher Opio, who resides in Kyakaboga resettlement.

"I was displaced by the oil refinery project. If there are people who are opposed to the crude oil pipeline, why are you not investing money in the refinery that displaced me? When is that refinery going to be built so that we export our refined oil than the crude one and miss on the petrochemical industry?" Opio asks.

Dr. Opolot Okasaai said he is happy that the people in Kyakaboga are showing interest and eager to see the refinery constructed. He affirmed that the local communities expected to benefit as per the local content requirements.

"I would expect the people who were displaced from that area to be looking at the jobs that are coming in that area. And what can you do? I would wish to see them and their children working in the refinery," he said.

Dr. Joseph Kobusheshe, the Director for Environment, Health, and Safety at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) said the plans for the 60,000 barrel-per-day refinery are in place and that the government has already acquired the land.

"The front-end engineering design was completed; the environment and social impact assessment was completed. So, the plans are on, maybe a little bit behind the other projects flagship projects," said Kobusheshe. The planned refinery will have several benefits for the country, including for its security of fuel supply and balance of payments.



**And we have not changed that target. Give or take one year, is what we are looking forward to. The latest we expect it is 2028. The earlier the better**

# COMESA issues alert over faulty vehicle airbags

NAIROBI

THE COMESA Competition Commission has issued an alert to consumers within its region over vehicle recalls in the United States and Japan due to faulty airbag inflators, citing the 'high importation of used cars in the region.'

The affected vehicles are mostly from model years 2002 to 2015, and as of January 2024, over 100 million airbag inflators worldwide had been recalled by more than 20 car manufacturers.

The faulty Takata Airbags have been linked to 22 deaths and more than 180 known injuries.

The Comesa Competition Authority said it established that in May this year, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a 'Do not Drive' warning to owners of certain vehicles manufactured in the early 2000s.

"According to the Safety Recall Notice by the NHTSA, the Takata PSDI-5 inflator propellant may over time, create excessive internal pressure resulting in the rupture of the body of the inflator upon deployment, thereby causing metal fragments to pass through the air bag cushion material and cause injury or death to vehicle occupants," said Meti Demissie Disasa, Registrar Comesa Competition Commission, "The ruptures may occur in some of the inflators after several years of exposure to persistent conditions of high absolute humidity, high tempera-



A faulty vehicle airbag. File Photo

tures, and high temperature cycling, among other factors."

The Comesa Competition Authority said it established that in May this year, the NHTSA issued a 'Do not Drive' warning to owners of certain 2004-2005 Toyota Rav4s, certain 2003-2004 Corollas, including Matrix, Certain 2002-2006 Nissan Sentras, Certain 2002-2004 Nissan Pathfinders.

Other cars are 2001-2002 Honda Accord, 2001-2002 Honda Civic, 2002 Honda CR-V, 2002 Honda Odyssey, 2003 Honda Pilot, certain 2006 Mazda B-series, certain 2006 Ford Rangers, certain 2003-

2004 Pontiac vibes, certain 2000-2006 BMW 3 series (E46) including M3, certain 2000-2003 BMW 5 series (E39) including M5, certain 2000-2004 BMW X5s (E53).

Disasa says the Commission also established that in 2017, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan issued a statement conditioning the repair of vehicles with Takata airbags before they were presented for inspection and notified the public that about 18 people worldwide had been killed due to abnormal explosions. Car manufacturer Toyota has a database where car owners can check whether their cars are subject

VIEW FROM THE TOP





## 'Harris for President': What happens now that Biden has withdrawn from presidential race?

MOSCOW

STANDING US President Joe Biden has announced that he will not seek re-election as head of state, and has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's candidate in the upcoming presidential election.

Republican candidate Donald Trump did not waste any time chiming in on the news, dismissing Harris as a serious challenger in the November election, and calling on Biden to resign from the presidency as well.

TASS has compiled some basic information about the situation after Biden's withdrawal.

### Biden withdraws from presidential race

On Sunday, Joe Biden officially dropped out of the presidential race. He also backed Vice President Kamala Harris to replace him on the Democratic ticket. At the same time, Biden emphasized that he does not intend to resign as president.

According to the Politico newspaper, Biden was persuaded by two of his closest advisers, Mike Donilon and Steven Ricchetti, to drop out of the race. They brought to the attention of the incumbent president the concerns of his fellow party members about his ability to win re-election, reported on the decline in campaign donations, and presented the results of public opinion polls, which showed that "he has no chance of winning in November."

Meanwhile, CNN said, citing a US official, that Biden's withdrawal was not related to any health problems.

### 'Harris for President'

Biden's campaign headquarters quickly recalibrated following his announcement, as the slogan "Harris for President" will now be its moniker.

Politico said that by Sunday evening, at least 26 Democratic US senators and 72 members of the US House of Representatives had endorsed Harris' nomination as the party's presidential candidate. In addition, a number of US governors, including from New Jersey, New York, California, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, have voiced their support for Harris.

Harris' campaign headquarters has already collected more than \$55 million in donations, Politico reported, citing data from ActBlue, a Democratic fundraising platform.

In the first five hours after Biden's withdrawal from the race, Harris' campaign managed to raise \$27.5 million. Politico previously reported that all \$95 million in donations that Biden had

## West preparing for direct military conflict with Russia – Vucic

BELGRADE

WESTERN countries are currently engaged in active preparations for entering into a direct conflict with Russia, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic believes.

"The West would like to conduct warfare from a distance, through someone else, through investing money and so on, but at the moment they are not ready [for a direct conflict with Russia]. Will they be ready? They are not ready now, but I think they will be ready.

They are already preparing for a conflict with the Russian Federation and they are preparing much



faster than some people would like to see, in every sense. We know that from the military preparations, we know how they're go-

ing. And I want to tell you, they are preparing for a military conflict," Vucic told the Pink TV channel.

Earlier, the Serbian president emphasized that "the West, as long as people from the West do not die, or only volunteers die, does not care how many Ukrainians will die." This, according to the Serbian leader, is because "Russia has a lot of oil, gas, phosphates, gold and silver, and everything they need." He also cited ideas coming from the Scandinavian countries that "Russia does not deserve to have such territory, because it is the province of all mankind."

Agencies

## Backed by Biden, Harris moves to lock up White House bid

WASHINGTON

VICE-President Kamala Harris wasted no time launching her 2024 presidential campaign, seeking the support of fellow Democrats with the backing of President Joe Biden after he pulled out of the race amid concerns about his age and health.

Her campaign officials and allies made hundreds of calls on behalf of Harris on Sunday, urging delegates to the Democratic Party convention next month to join in nominating her for president in the Nov 5 election against Republican Donald Trump.

Multiple sources said the calls, aimed at blocking would-be Democratic challengers, began almost immediately after the 81-year-old Biden abandoned the race.

At the same time, Democratic state party chairs backed Harris in a phone call, several participants said.

Harris spoke with Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, a potential vice-presidential running mate, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, and Congressional Black Caucus chair Representative Steven Horsford, said a source familiar with the matter.

Harris, a 59-year-old woman who is Black and Asian-American, would fashion an entirely new dynamic with Trump, 78, offering a vivid generational and cultural split-screen.

The United States has yet to elect a woman president in its 248-year history.

"Harris will be easier to beat than Joe Biden would have been," Trump asserted on CNN shortly after Biden's announcement.

Biden, the oldest person ever to have occupied the Oval Office, said he would remain in the presidency until his term ends on Jan 20, 2025, while endorsing Harris to run for president in his place.

The White House said Harris would deliver remarks on the South Lawn at 11:30 am ET (1530 GMT) on Monday at an event cel-



US Vice-President Kamala Harris waves during a campaign event at Westover High School in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on Sunday. AFP

brating the NCAA 2023-24 college championship teams.

Facing mounting questions about his mental acuity, Biden is the first sitting president to give up his party's nomination for reelection since President Lyndon B. Johnson during the Vietnam War in March 1968.

Biden's withdrawal leaves his replacement with less than four months to wage a campaign. Prominent Democrats, including potential Harris challengers such as California Governor Gavin Newsom, immediately backed the vice-president.

"My intention is to earn and win this nomination," Harris said in a statement. "I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party – and unite our nation – to defeat Donald Trump."

Despite the early show of support for Harris, talk of an open convention when Democrats gather in Chicago Aug 19-22 was not totally silenced.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former President Barack Obama did not announce endorsements, although both praised Biden.

Two other potential challengers - Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear - made no mention of the vice-president in their statements.

With Democrats wading into uncharted territory, Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison said the party would soon announce the next steps in its nomination process.

What is certain is that Biden's withdrawal has again reshaped a White House contest shaken repeatedly during the last month.

On June 27, Biden's poor performance in a debate with Trump led many Democrats to urge him to drop out. Then on July 13, a gunman attempted to assassinate former President Trump.

And last week Trump named

hardline Republican US Senator JD Vance, 39, to serve as his vice-presidential running mate.

### Abortion rights leader

A former attorney general of California and former US senator, Harris ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2020.

Biden won the nomination, picked Harris to be his vice-president, and went on to beat Trump.

Harris has been outspoken on abortion rights, an issue that resonates with younger voters and progressives.

Proponents argue she would energize those voters, consolidate Black support and bring sharp debating skills to prosecute the political case against the former president.

But some Democrats were concerned about a Harris candidacy, in part because of the weight of a long history of racial and gender discrimination in the United States.

Polling shows that Harris performs no better statistically than Biden had done against Trump.

In a head-to-head match-up, Harris and Trump were tied with 44 percent support each in a July 15-16 Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted immediately after the July 13 assassination attempt on Trump.

Trump led Biden 43 percent to 41 percent in that same poll, though the 2 percentage point difference was not meaningful considering the poll's 3-point margin of error.

Biden's campaign had \$95 million on hand at the end of June, according to a filing with the Federal Election Commission. Campaign finance law experts disagree on how easily that money could be shifted to a Harris-led campaign.

Agencies

## Putin reassures Assad of Russia's support for Syria's sovereignty

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President has congratulated his Syrian counterpart, Bashar Assad, on the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and reassured him of Russia's support for Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

"I would like to reiterate that Russia will continue supporting the Syrian government in its efforts to defend the country's state sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, ensure national security and political stability. We are convinced that the further development of the entire spectrum of Russian-Syrian ties is in the interests of our peoples and will help consolidate peace and stability in the region and the entire world," Putin said in a telegram that was posted on the Kremlin website.

Putin noted that over the past decades Moscow and Damascus have accumulated a vast experience of bilateral cooperation in various spheres and have reached considerable success in the fight against international terrorism in Syria.

"I wish you good health and every success, and wellbeing and prosperity to the Syrian people," the Russian president emphasized.

Diplomatic relations between the former Soviet Union and Syria were established on July 21, 1944. The two countries signed the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in 1980. In 1991, Syria recognized Russia as a successor to the Soviet Union.

Relations between Russia and Syria downgraded considerably after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, but in the late 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s relations between the two countries invigorated.

In 1999, Syrian leader Hafez Assad paid an official visit to Russia and his son Bashar Assad, who became Syria's president in 2000, paid a state visit to Moscow in January 2005.

His talks with Putin yielded a joint declaration on the further development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Syria.

The first-ever visit to Syria by a Russian head of state (including the Soviet era) was paid by Dmitry Medvedev, the then Russian president, in May 2010. Putin visited Syria in the capacity of the Russian head of state in 2017 and 2020. Agencies



## World leaders react to Biden's decision to end re-election bid

WASHINGTON

GLOBAL leaders have reacted to the news of United States President Joe Biden's decision to conclude his faltering re-election campaign, amid mounting concerns about his age and fitness.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau praised Biden as a "great man" whose every action was "guided by his love for his country." Trudeau emphasised Biden's role as a partner to Canadians and a steadfast friend.

"I've known President Biden

for years. He's a great man, and everything he does is guided by his love for his country. As President, he is a partner to Canadians – and a true friend. To President Biden and the First Lady: thank you," reads Trudeau's post on X.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog expressed gratitude to Biden for his decades-long support of the Israeli people. He hailed Biden as a symbol of the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel, noting his historic visit during wartime and receipt of Israel's Presidential Medal of

Honour.

"As the first US President to visit Israel in wartime, as a recipient of the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor, and as a true ally of the Jewish people, he is a symbol of the unbreakable bond between our two peoples," Herzog said in a post on X.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged Biden's "tough but strong decision" and thanked him for unwavering support during Ukraine's defence against Russia's invasion. Zelenskyy highlighted Biden's

leadership during a critical moment in history and hoped for continued strong American leadership against Russian aggression.

"We will always be thankful for President Biden's leadership. He supported our country during the most dramatic moment in history, assisted us in preventing Putin from occupying our country, and has continued to support us throughout this terrible war," Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that

Moscow's priority remains the success of its military operations in Ukraine rather than the outcome of US elections.

"For us, reaching the goals of the special military operation [against Ukraine] is a priority, rather than the outcome of the US elections," Peskov told state media.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer respected Biden's decision and looked forward to continuing to work with him throughout the remainder of his presidency. Starmer emphasised Biden's

commitment to what he believed was best for the American people.

"I know that, as he has done throughout his remarkable career, he will have made his decision based on what he believes is best for the American people," Starmer said on X.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese thanked Biden for his leadership and ongoing service, emphasising the strength of the Australia-US Alliance in upholding democratic values, international security, economic

prosperity, and climate action.

"The Australia-US Alliance has never been stronger with our shared commitment to democratic values, international security, economic prosperity and climate action for this and future generations," Albanese said on X.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described Biden as a close "friend" who had strengthened transatlantic cooperation and NATO while being a reliable partner. Scholz praised Biden's decision not to seek re-election as deserving recognition. ANI



## Private art gallery in Uganda advances Indigenous cultural preservation

KAMPALA

IN the leafy suburb of Mbuya in Kampala, Uganda's capital, a new contemporary art gallery has recently been opened to the public.

Abataka Art Gallery is among the many private art galleries in the east African country connecting artists with an increasing number of local art fans.

Abataka, which means "Indigenous people" in the local Luganda language, suggests the gallery's concept of showcasing and preserving Indigenous culture and history through artworks.

Paintings of the daily life of ordinary Ugandans and East Africans, often impressionistic, are on display. One of such paintings portrays the way of life at the Kiyindi fish landing site in central Uganda by Lake Victoria. Wooden fishing boats are lined up after fishermen have returned, fishmongers are also busy.

Another painting offers a glimpse into life in Kenya's coastal town of Mombasa, embedded with traditional Arab dressing and architectural designs.

Ismael Kateregga, a contemporary painter and founder of the Abataka Art Gallery, told Xinhua in a recent interview that art and art-



Ismael Kateregga, a contemporary painter and founder of the Abataka Art Gallery, introduces his paintings at the Abataka Art Gallery in Mbuya, Kampala, Uganda, July 8, 2024. (Photo by Hajarah Nalwadda/Xinhua)

ists can play powerful roles in preserving cultural heritage for both the current and future generations.

Kateregga, who has been practicing art for the last two decades, said it is important for artists to capture and archive cultural and

social heritage and make professional showcases more accessible to ordinary people.

"The past, present, and future need to be documented in the form of art. When a society does not have a culture, it is a lost society.

The importance of an artist is to make a record of these events in our lives," Kateregga said. "It is a culture that defines a particular community, what defines me as Ismael Kateregga, is my culture.

My name alone, Kateregga, is so specific that it identifies me as an African, Ugandan, Muganda (tribe), royal in terms of clan. That is how specific any culture is."

When visual artists portray the way of life of a group of people, their beliefs and values through art creation, the current and future generations can relate to what they see through the work.

This gives them a sense of identity, especially in Africa where the tradition of passing on cultures through oral stories is diminishing, according to Kateregga.

Kateregga argued that besides being a conduit of cultural preservation, art is also a promoter of cultural diversity. He said that through art, one can gain a deeper understanding of the values and beliefs of people from different backgrounds.

## Indian Economy will grow at a rate of 7 pc on a sustained basis - Economic Survey

NEW DELHI

THE economic survey presented in the Parliament by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman says in the medium term Indian economy can grow at a rate of 7 per cent

The economic survey stated, "In the medium term, the Indian economy can grow at a rate of 7 per cent plus on a sustained basis if we build on the structural reforms undertaken over the last decade. This requires a tripartite compact between the Union Government, State Governments and the private sector."

Achieving a sustained growth rate of over 7 per cent will require a tripartite compact between the Union Government, State Governments, and the private sector.

India's financial sector is undergoing critical transformations. During FY24, primary capital markets facilitated capital formation of Rs 10.9 lakh crore, accounting for approximately 29 per cent of the gross fixed capital formation of private and public corporates in FY23.

The policy further adds India faces a unique blend of opportunities and challenges amid global trends such as geo-economic fragmentation, a push for self-reliance, looming climate change, the rise of technology, and limited policy space.

It suggests that the government's focus must shift to bottom-up reforms and strengthening governance to ensure that the structural reforms of the past decade result in strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth.

The growth strategy for the medium term, termed "Amrit Kaal," hinges on six critical areas. First, there must be a deliberate focus on boosting private investment.

Second, the growth and expansion of India's MSMEs (Mittelstand) should be a strategic priority.

Third, the potential of agriculture as an engine of future growth must be recognized, with policy impediments removed.

Fourth, securing the financing of India's green transition is essential. Fifth, bridging the education-employment gap is necessary.

Finally, focused building of state capacity and capability is required to sustain and accelerate India's progress.

The financial inclusion strategy has emphasized the usage of accounts through direct benefit transfers, promoting digital payments via RuPay cards, UPI, and more.

As the sector evolves, it must brace for potential vulnerabilities, requiring agile and flexible policy and regulatory interventions.

India's external sector has shown resilience, with the country's rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index improving from 44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023.

The moderation in merchandise imports and rising services exports has narrowed India's current account deficit to 0.7 per cent in FY24.

Services exports grew by 4.9 per cent to USD 341.1 billion, driven largely by IT/software services and other business services.

Additionally, India remains the top remittance recipient globally, with remittances reaching USD 120 billion in 2023.

Despite these positives, challenges such as slowing global GDP growth and rising trade protectionism pose significant risks, necessitating efforts to boost India's export competitiveness.

The social sector is witnessing significant transformation, particularly in education and healthcare.

The New Education Policy 2020 is driving foundational literacy and numeracy for all children passing the third standard.

In healthcare, Ayushman Bharat has generated over 34.7 crore cards and covered 7.37 crore hospital admissions, saving over Rs 1.25 lakh crore in out-of-pocket expenses for poor families.

ANI

## Policy support fuels recovery of China's cruise economy

BEIJING

CHINA'S cruise economy is witnessing a steady recovery, bolstered by the visa-free policy for international tourists and the resurgence of the global cruise market.

In the first half of 2024, cruise ports in Shanghai handled over 90 international cruise voyages, recording more than 180 entries and exits, with over 840,000 passengers traveling through these ports.

China's first domestically built large cruise ship, Adora Magic City, has welcomed over 150,000 tourists as of early June since its maiden commercial voyage at the beginning of the year, according to its operators.

The cruise economy, with its long industrial chain, is often referred to as the "golden industry that floats." Market analysts said the cruise economy plays a crucial role in expanding domestic demand, unlocking consumption potential and cultivating new economic drivers.

With a coastline stretching 18,000 km, China has seen steady improvements in its port infrastructure. The country boasts abundant tourism resources and is experiencing rapid growth in the service industry, making it a major desti-

nation for international cruise liners.

Data from the online travel service provider Ctrip showed that bookings for cruise trips in July have recovered to 70 percent of the level seen in the same period in 2019.

Liu Zinan, chairman of Royal Caribbean Cruises, Asia, believes that the total market size of China's cruise economy will recover to 70 percent of its 2019 level in 2024, and fully recover by 2025.

The recovery of China's cruise sector is in line with the global market resurgence. According to a report released by the Cruise Lines International Association in April, the passenger volume of cruise ships worldwide reached 31.7 million in 2023, surpassing the 2019 level by 7 percent.

To boost the industry, China has implemented a series of targeted policies. In May, a policy was rolled out allowing visa-free entry for foreign tourist groups arriving on cruise ships at any of the country's cruise ports along the coastline.

In June, new regulations were unveiled to facilitate the replenishment of supplies for international cruises at Chinese ports.

Huo Fupeng, an official of the National Development and Re-



This photo taken on May 26, 2024 shows the cruise ship Adora Magic City in east China's Shanghai. Xinhua

form Commission (NDRC), noted that the cruise sector plays an important role in driving its upstream and downstream industries, spanning equipment manufacturing, transportation, leisure tourism, insurance, and service trade.

Huo said that the NDRC will work with other government departments to promote the high-quality development of

the cruise industry, with a focus on boosting cruise operations, equipment manufacturing, infrastructure construction, and tourism consumption.

The positive momentum in China's cruise travel industry reflects a broader recovery trend in the country's service sector, which can significantly boost domestic demand and overall economic growth.

China's economy grew 5 percent year on year in the first half of 2024 despite rising challenges at home and abroad.

The International Monetary Fund recently revised the country's 2024 economic growth forecast to 5 percent, up from 4.6 percent in April, citing a rebound in private consumption and strong exports in the first quarter. Xinhua

## African Union calls for continental integration in mid-year coordination meeting

ACCRA

THE African Union (AU) on Sunday opened its sixth mid-year coordination meeting in Accra, the capital of Ghana, calling for the peace and solidarity of the continent.

The meeting on the theme of "Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century" brought together the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and the AU

members, among some others.

In his remarks, AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat stressed the role the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) played in promoting integration in the continent.

"The AfCFTA is obliged to become a lever that catalyzes structural reforms which, in turn, will facilitate the creation of wealth, through the improvement of economic governance,



the mobilization of financing and human capital," Faki said.

The chairperson further

called on African countries to maximize the potential of the AfCFTA to make it an engine of growth and diversification of the economies to increase trade within the continent.

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (pictured), who opened the meeting, said some regions in Africa are still being plagued by conflict, instability, and violence that hinder development and pose a

threat to broader continental security. The president therefore called on his African counterparts to work hard to find solutions to a myriad of conflicts on the continent.

The AU introduced its mid-year coordination meeting in 2017 as the principal forum to align the work of the AU and RECs and coordinate the implementation of the continental integration agenda.

## Mass global IT outage a wake-up call for resilient cyber security

BEIJING

AIRLINES, media, retailers, hospitals, banks, and essentially, any organization that relied on CrowdStrike's service to protect their Microsoft system from viruses and malware, are still recovering from the unprecedented global IT outage on Friday, with 8.5 million Windows devices affected. Experts and analysts regard the incident as a wake-up call for a more resilient and less monopolized global digital infrastructure, warning that the world will be more vulnerable facing such disruptions, which could become a "new normal."

### UNPRECEDENTED OUTAGE

On Friday, customers across the world of CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm based in Austin, Texas, started to see the "blue screen of death" on

their Windows system after installing a faulty Falcon sensor update on Thursday night.

Essentially, Falcon monitors what is happening on the computers on which it is installed and looks for signs of nefarious activity (such as malware). This means that Falcon is deeply integrated into Microsoft's system to the extent that when it falters, the system does too.

"We currently estimate that CrowdStrike's update affected 8.5 million Windows devices, or less than one percent of all Windows machines," said Microsoft in its blog post on Saturday.

Following what Microsoft calls "significant incidents," the company said it has "maintained ongoing communication with customers, and is working with CrowdStrike and external developers to collect information and expedite solutions."

Just hours following the outage, scams, phishing emails, and other criminal activities started to target CrowdStrike customers concerning the incident, under the guise of customer service and technical support.

"The scale of this outage is unprecedented, and will no doubt go down in history," said Dr. Junade Ali, a cybersecurity expert and fellow at the London-based Institution of Engineering and Technology.

"Unlike some previous outages that targeted Internet infrastructure, this situation directly impacts end-user computers and could require manual intervention to resolve, posing a significant challenge for IT teams globally," Ali added.

Experts estimate a full recovery from a disruption at such a scale will take weeks. "It seems that millions of computers are

going to have to be fixed by hand," said Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at WithSecure, a cybersecurity company. Recovery is particularly challenging for small and medium-sized enterprises, which have fewer resources and IT staff to do the manual fixing, said Joe Tidy, a BBC cyber correspondent on Friday.

### MORE DISRUPTIONS TO COME

Almost 30,000 flights were delayed on Friday and nearly 7,000 were canceled worldwide, according to Euronews. The incident resulted in a significant drop in CrowdStrike's value, wiping billions off the company's market value when trading opened on Friday.

The same day, Wall Street's major indexes declined, exacerbating a sell-off fueled by tech stocks and mixed earnings reports. "The outage is likely to

intensify regulations for critical services and risk management," said Dr. Madeleine Stevens, an IT expert at Liverpool John Moores University.

"Despite the incident not being a cyberattack, consumer skepticism will inadvertently be impacted, and this unintended demonstration of our cyber vulnerability will raise significant challenges for IT service providers," Stevens said.

The fact that the largest global IT outage so far was caused not by cyberattacks or ill-intentioned actors but, ironically, by a routine update from a cybersecurity software, has once again exposed the systemic risk stemming from an increasingly omniscient and intertwined digital infrastructure and a world which relies on it.

More "digital pandemics" like this are expected to

emerge from enhanced global economic integration, said John Bryson, chair of Enterprise and Economic Geography at Birmingham Business School, the University of Birmingham.

The global cyber-energy-production plexus, or the "multiple connections between telecommunications, energy, and production networks," leave us all exposed to unknown disruptions at an unprecedented scale, Bryson added.

Axel Legay, a professor of computer science at the Catholic University of Leuven, said that the more interconnected a computer is, the more vulnerable it becomes.

"The more interconnected the software is, the more vulnerable we will be, because more and more software will interact and it will increase," Legay said in an interview with

Euronews Next.

### BACK-UPS AND ANTI-TRUST

The largest cyber incident so far has offered lessons to stakeholders from tech companies, regulators, and businesses to prepare for more frequent and widespread disruptions in digital infrastructure in the future.

"A core issue is the ability of a digitally-enabled service function to switch immediately to manual," Bryson said. "In other words, there needs to be an ability to provide services using paper rather than digital solutions."

The real danger is that we all forget how to live and work in a pre-digital environment," he said. The IT expert also highlighted the importance of companies having "air-gapped" back-ups, which are isolated from the cyber-energy-production plexus.

Xinhua



# SPORT



Aurobindo AKSC's Kartik Syal (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize from Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s Chief Selector, Ayzaz Jassani, after the club confronted Park Mobile Lions in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Super 4 tie in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

## Aurobindo AKSC qualifies for Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup final

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

AUROBINDO AKSC cricketers have successfully secured their spot in the final of the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup after grabbing a hard-fought two-run victory over Park Mobile Lions in the Super 4 stage duel held in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The stakes were high for both teams in the thrilling encounter played at Leaders Club ground in Kinondoni, with Park Mobile Lions needing a win to stay in contention while Aurobindo AKSC aimed to secure victory and directly advance to the final.

Having won the toss, Aurobindo AKSC opted to bat first, and the opening batting duo of senior cricketer, Abhik Patwa, and Raunak Sharma provided a strong foundation for the batting squad.

Patwa, now leading the Colourflex Orange Cap standings, scored 66 runs off 43 balls while Sharma contributed 44 runs off 27 balls.

Taking advantage of favourable batting conditions, Aurobindo AKSC posted a formidable total of 185/4 at the end of their innings.

Experienced cricketer Vishal Patel (20 runs from 11 balls, one sixer) and captain Harshdeep Chohan (15 runs from nine balls, one sixer) chipped in with encouraging figures.

In response, Park Mobile Lions knew they needed a rapid start. Akhtar Shaikh led the team's charge with a blistering 95 runs off just 56 deliveries, supported by Kashif Ahmad's 36 runs off 24 balls.

However, Aurobindo AKSC's Kartik Syal's crucial spell, which saw the performer claim three wickets including Shaikh's dismissal, proved pivotal to his team's efforts to frustrate Park Mobile Lions' chase.

Despite Awais Abbas's late efforts, which

had the cricketer notch 16 runs not out that consisted of a boundary and a six, Park Mobile Lions fell agonizingly short of the 186-run target, finishing at 183/7 after 20 overs.

The match was a spectacle, captivating spectators throughout. Aurobindo AKSC's victory secured the club's place in the tournament final while Park Mobile Lions bid farewell to their hopes of inching closer to winning the top honour.

Syal's impactful bowling performance earned him the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award, with his economical bowling in the crucial penultimate over proving decisive.

Park Mobile Lions' Shaikh's explosive innings were recognized as the Medinova Moment of the Match, highlighting the excitement of the encounter.

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 have taken 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 Sealiff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.

## Winners of Dodoma Marathon to represent Tanzania internationally

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has emphasized its intention to use the NBC Dodoma Marathon as a platform for identifying talented athletes to represent the nation in international competitions, including the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games.

The announcement was made by Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, the Minister of Culture, Arts, and Sports, during a press conference held in Dar es Salaam.

Accompanied by the bank's managing director, Theobald Sabi, Dr. Ndumbaro emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to leveraging the Dodoma Marathon as a breeding ground for talents poised to represent Tanzania on the world's most prestigious athletic stages, including the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games.

"We currently face a shortage of athletes with the necessary qualifications to participate in international competitions," Dr. Ndumbaro candidly acknowledged.

He said the marathon presents a unique opportunity to identify and nurture the next generation of Tanzanian sporting heroes, who will carry the nation's flag with pride and distinction.

The minister's words carry a sense of urgency, reflecting the government's recognition of the need to bolster Tanzania's presence on the global athletic landscape. With the nation's participation in the Olympics and other major events often hampered by a lack of well-prepared athletes, the marathon has been earmarked as a strategic platform to

address this critical gap.

"After the event, we will be able to identify and provide the talented individuals with further training, equipping them with the skills and experience necessary to compete on the world stage," Dr. Ndumbaro explained.

"Our goal is to have more Tanzanian athletes representing us in future Commonwealth and Olympic Games, as well as other international competitions."

The marathon, which is expected to take place on July 28 at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma led by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, has been designed with a dual purpose - not only to identify future champions, but also to raise funds for crucial social causes.

The event will support the fight against cervical cancer and provide educational scholarships for midwives, with the aim of improving maternal health across the country.

Underlining the government's partnership with the private sector, Dr. Ndumbaro commended the organiser for its unwavering commitment to uplifting the sports sector in Tanzania.

The marathon organiser's extensive involvement includes sponsoring the Premier League, Championship, and Youth League, collectively representing an investment of 32.6 billion TZS.

The organiser's support, however, extends beyond the realm of football. It also includes the National Arts Development Fund, which empowers the artistic community, and the National Team's Motivation Committee, which has already collected 2 billion TZS to support the nation's sporting endeavors.

## SPORTS

## Dramatic twists and turns expected at epic Paris Olympics



Tanzania Women's Premier League champions Simba Queens' players celebrate with their trophy after their final match against Geita Gold Queens held at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam in June this year. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Lloyd Elipokea

WITH the Paris Olympics now nigh, excitement is mounting in every nook and cranny of the globe over the perennially compelling, grand multi-sports event.

Indeed, come this Friday, the eyes of the sporting realm will be firmly fixed on the gorgeous city of Paris, also famously known as the 'City of Light', where the globe's sporting greats will expectedly be going all out to secure coveted medals in multiple sporting events.

Here on the African continent, numberless sports aficionados will be keeping their fingers crossed that many countries will prove equal to the herculean task of claiming a gigantic number of medals.

Chiefly, African sports devotees will be pinning their hopes on the likes of South Africa, who have wonderfully demonstrated in the past that where swimming is concerned they are eminently capable of giving any heavyweights a serious run for their money.

Moreover, countless African sports enthusiasts will be expecting big things from Kenya, who have ruled the roost in the middle to long distance running events in the past.

In addition, it is hoped that Ghana, who have long-excelled in the combative sport of boxing, will deliver the goods yet again in this bruising, contact sport.

From a Tanzanian viewpoint, hope springs eternal that our sportsmen and sportswomen, who will be our flag-bearers at the Paris Olympic Games, will be able to produce some sublime medal-winning displays that will linger long in the memory.

Indeed, despite the fact that our preparations for the Summer Games this year were far from ideal, it is still admittedly expected that our athletes will give their all in a bid to claim a sizable number of medals.

Let us now seamlessly switch our focus to local women's football where a bright gem, Aisha Masaka, has now moved to the English Women's Super League (WSL) side Brighton and Hove Albion from her ex-Swedish club BK Hacken.

Unarguably, the high-profile move is doubtlessly a stellar coup for the lethal and prolific 20-year-old Tanzanian attacker, who will be starring next season in one of the world's most respected women's football leagues.

Lest we forget, it should be noted that extremely few female Tanzanian exponents of football are plying their trade abroad.

Thus, it is hoped that Masaka's consequential move to the WSL will inspire endless numbers of Tanzanian girls to pursue

a career in the beautiful game, that is, if they are so inclined.

Still on local women's football, Simba Queens and Warrior Queens will represent Tanzania in the CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers for the CAF Women's Champions League, which are due to kick off next month in Ethiopia.

Indeed, right from the get-go of the qualifiers, it is expected that Simba Queens will be seeking to send out a real statement of intent that they are determined to come out on top.

Interestingly, it is likely that Simba Queens will feel that they have some unfinished business in the CAF Women's Champions League following their fabulous run to the semifinals of the elite championship two years ago where they unfortunately suffered a slim 1-0 defeat to South African behemoths Mamelodi Sundowns.

In light of that, one feels that Simba Queens are absolutely raring to go once the CECAFA Zonal Qualifiers for the CAF Women's Champions League get underway next month.

## Tough competition blamed for national tennis team's Davis Cup performance

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE head coach of the national tennis team, Salum Mvita, has attributed the team's poor showing at the recently concluded Davis Cup Group V Africa qualifiers in Botswana to the high level of competition from the participating nations.

Mvita made these remarks yesterday as the team returned from Botswana, where they competed among 15 teams and finished in sixth position. The top five teams were Gabon, Mauritius, Botswana, Mozambique, and Ethiopia.

"The competition was extremely tough, but we gave our best effort and finishing sixth out of 15 nations is still an achievement. Although we did not

qualify for the Davis Cup, we did our utmost; the competition was simply very challenging," he said.

The country was represented by four players: Hamis Omary, Rahim Salehe, Yusuph Laurent, and Japhet Panclas.

The delegation was led by Rajabu Borry, the vice president of the Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA).

The competing nations included Ethiopia, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Seychelles, Tanzania, Mauritania, Lesotho, Djibouti, Uganda, Sudan, Libya, and the host nation Botswana. Tanzania was placed in Pool A alongside Mozambique, Djibouti, and Ethiopia. In their first game, the team lost to Ethiopia 2-0, followed by a 2-1 loss to Mozambique, and a 3-0 victory

over Djibouti. Before the tournament, Mvita expressed confidence in the team's preparation and readiness for the competition. "Yes, it will be very difficult as all the countries are vying for the two Davis Cup places from Group V, but my players are ready for the tournament and hopefully we can qualify for the two places," he said.

The Davis Cup is one of the premier tennis tournaments for men. Last year, the national team failed to qualify for the tournament held in the DRC.

However, the women's team, which competes in the Billie Jean King Cup Africa, has been performing well.

Last year, the team, comprising Barbara Mollé, Naitoti Singo, Shana Mao, Ester Nankulange, and Edna John, finished second in the tournament held in Rwanda, losing 3-0 to Madagascar in the final.



The Jakaya Kikwete Sports Centre youth soccer players pictured yesterday during a training session at the centre's grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



## The wake-up call for the US men's basketball team arrives with the Paris Olympics a few days away

BY TIM REYNOLDS

SOUTH Sudan is the 33rd-ranked team in the FIBA world rankings, by far the lowest of any of the 12 nations that will be vying for men's basketball gold in the Paris Olympics that start this week.

The U.S. is ranked No. 1.

South Sudan nearly beat the Americans anyway.

The every-four-years wake-up call for the U.S. Olympic team seems to have arrived. A 101-100 win over South Sudan on Saturday in London came on a day when plenty went wrong for the Americans – traffic getting to the arena was brutal and Anthony Davis said arriving late threw off players' routines. South Sudan shot lights-out from 3-point range and outscored the U.S. 42-21 from deep and the U.S. struggled in plenty of aspects.

And it all serves as a reminder that at the Olympics, there are no guarantees anymore. Not even for the four-time defending gold medalists, a program that lost two exhibitions on the way to Tokyo in 2021 and then lost to France to open those Games before rallying to win gold at the end.

"There's great teams all over the place and nothing is guaranteed at this point for USA Basketball," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said earlier this summer. "We know that well, I know it personally. We won the gold medal in Tokyo, but we lost three games along the way. Our gold-medal game against France went right down to the wire. So, this is an entirely different competition than it was in 1992."

There was no doubt who was winning gold in 1992: The first U.S. Dream Team overpowered every team in its path. Chuck Daly coached a roster that included 11 future members of the Basketball Hall of Fame; Kerr loves relaying the story that Daly never had to call a timeout that whole summer, because no game was ever in any sort of jeopardy.

Kerr had to call one on Saturday with 20 seconds left to get LeBron James the ball and set up what became the winning, embarrassment-saving basket for the one-point win against South Sudan, a nation that gained its independence only 13 years ago, is set to make its Olympic debut and doesn't have a suitable indoor facility for national team-level basketball training.

"A lot of these teams we're playing have been practicing either one month or months in advance," James said. "We're like maybe two weeks into it, together. So, every game, every film session, every opportunity we have to try to make the most of it."

The last tuneup, the last pre-Olympic test, the last measuring stick of sorts for the U.S., comes Monday in London, where the Americans take on Germany. The U.S. is favored by 15.5 points, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, over the reigning World Cup champions and team that beat the

## Liverpool's Under-18s twice walk off pitch after alleged racism in friendly

By Jamie Braidwood

LIVERPOOL'S Under-18s walked off the pitch twice in successive days when a player alleged he was racially abused in Germany.

The team walked off during their opening match of the Bundesliga Cup youth tournament against Hoffenheim on Friday, before again leaving the pitch during a game against Frankfurt on Saturday. Both matches were abandoned.

The club have called for an "urgent and thorough" investigation and said the same player was twice targeted, leading to the team walking off in protest. Liverpool said it was "proud" of the player's decision.

"Liverpool FC can confirm that a member of our under-18s team reported he was racially abused by an opponent while playing in the Bundesliga Cup youth tournament at Schwabisch Hall in Germany on Friday," a statement read.

"The player immediately alerted the match official, his team-mates and our coaching staff. Consequently, LFC's management team decided to stop the game and leave the pitch together.

"In a further incident, the same player was the target of abuse during a fixture in the tournament today. Again, the player alerted his team-mates and coaching staff and our management team opted to leave the pitch once more.

"We are proud of our player for his prompt actions in reporting the incident and the maturity of his response. He and any of his team-mates affected are being supported by the academy safeguarding team.

"The club calls upon our opponents and the tournament organisers to conduct an urgent and thorough investigation into the incident."

Americans in that tournament's semifinals a year ago in Manila. That was of no relevance Saturday, when the U.S. was 43.5-point favorites against South Sudan.

But if all the warmup games around the world this summer have been any indication, then this whole Olympic tournament could be wide open.

South Sudan lost to Argentina and barely beat Britain, two teams that didn't even qualify for the Olympics – then nearly knocked off the U.S. The Americans beat Australia, which beat Serbia, which beat France, which went 1-1 against Germany; the French win came with the Germans playing without brothers Franz and Moritz Wagner and the French loss came without Victor Wembanyama in the lineup.

"We've got a great 12 guys," U.S. guard Stephen Curry said. "Basketball is such an interesting sport that if you don't play the right way, if you don't come with the right energy and the right focus to go play defense, rebound, not turn the ball over, you can be beat. It doesn't matter who you're playing. So, it's a good reminder of that."

Saturday was also a good reminder of this: Nobody seems intimidated by the U.S. Not even 17-year-olds.

A couple of weeks after Cooper Flagg put on a show against the Olympic team at training camp in Las Vegas, a fellow Duke freshman – South Sudan's Khaman Maluach – found himself going up against his big-man idols on Saturday in Bam Adebayo, Joel Embiid and Davis.

Just like Flagg did in Vegas, Maluach more than held his own, scoring seven points in 13 minutes on 3-for-4 shooting.

"Matching up with them was something I couldn't imagine," Maluach told Eurohoops after the game. "It was just in my head, 'Oh, I'm playing against these guys?'"

An 18-0 run in the second half, a burst that started during a third quarter in which the U.S. outscored South Sudan 37-18, was the difference for the Americans. James made a layup to save his team at the end, and what was supposed to be a meaningless game sure seemed to have a whole lot of meaning.

"We can be beat if we don't play our brand of basketball and our brand of basketball is playing defense," Curry said. "They made some tough shots in the first half and they're a skilled team with a lot of shooting, so if they get hot, they're tough. But we didn't make them uncomfortable at all in the first half and they took advantage of it."

"But we also learned we have that gear. If we can find it, no matter who's out there on the court, we can overwhelm teams for 40 minutes. And it's a great reminder of both. If we don't play our game, we can be beat. We're not invincible."

AP

# Ten footballers to watch out for at Paris Olympics

LONDON

EURO 2024 and the Copa America may be over, but there is still some exciting international football to come at the Olympic Games.

The Paris 2024 action starts on Wednesday, with matches taking place in seven cities across France. Both the men's and women's finals will be played in Paris at Parc des Princes.

Men's Olympic squads are made up of under-23s players, with up to three overage players allowed, while women's squads have no age restrictions.

From Lionel Messi to Alex Morgan, Ronaldinho to Ellen White, some of the world's biggest names have played football at the Olympics over the years.

But who are the big names to look out for at Paris 2024? BBC Sport takes a look.

### \*Julian Alvarez (Argentina)

Fresh from their Copa America triumph, Argentina are the favourites to win the men's gold medal in Paris.

Along with Nicolas Otamendi and Geronimo Rulli, Manchester City forward Julian Alvarez is one of Argentina's three overage players in the squad as Javier Mascherano looks to coach the country to their third gold medal.

The 24-year-old scored 11 goals in 36 appearances for Pep Guardiola's side last season as they won a fourth successive Premier League title.

Alvarez will miss City's pre-season tour of the United States and the Community Shield match against Manchester United, which takes place the day after the gold medal match.

### \*Marta (Brazil)

Brazil's all-time leading goalscorer Marta will bid farewell to international football after captaining her country in Paris.

The 38-year-old is planning to retire from national team duty, but after winning a silver medal at Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008, she wants one last shot at the gold.

In Tokyo, Marta made history by becoming the first footballer to score in five straight Olympic Games.

She scored five goals in 13 NWSL games for Orlando Pride last season and Brazil manager Arthur Elias said "she's playing well, she deserved to



Julian Alvarez (L) scored two goals for Argentina at the recent Copa America. Marta (R) has scored 118 goals in 183 games for Brazil. (Agencies)

be on this list" for Paris 2024.

### \*Alexandre Lacazette (France)

Thierry Henry has selected Alexandre Lacazette to captain France at their home Games.

"We all have the same ambition, to go all the way and win a medal," the 33-year-old said. "The fact that it's a home Games is really going to motivate us."

The Lyon forward hasn't played for his country since 2017 but scored 22 goals in 35 games for the Ligue 1 club last season, showing he is still in good form.

Sevilla's Loic Bade is another overage inclusion, along with Crystal Palace forward Jean-Philippe Mateta, who is the only Premier League player in the squad.

Kylian Mbappe, who had hoped to be part of the squad as an overage player, is not involved – as his new club Real Madrid did not want any of their players taking part at the Games.

### \*Aitana Bonmati (Spain)

Spain have never had a women's team at the Olympics before but they head to Paris as one of the favourites.

The reigning world champions have lost only twice in 14 matches since beating England in last August's World Cup final.

Montse Tome's squad is packed with superstars, but all eyes will be on Aitana Bonmati, a player known for stepping up in the biggest moments. After winning the Nations League with Spain and the quadruple with Barcelona this season, can the 26-year-old add another gold medal to her collection?

### \*Achraf Hakimi (Morocco)

Achraf Hakimi is another big name

player to have been cleared to represent his country at the Olympics.

The 25-year-old will miss Paris St-Germain's pre-season preparations as Morocco prepare to play at a summer Games for the eighth time.

While Hakimi missed two penalties in a pre-tournament friendly against French side Villefranche, he will be keen to lead the Atlas Lions to the final at Parc des Princes.

Tarik Sektioui's side qualified for Paris 2024 by winning the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

### \*Wendie Renard (France)

Boss Herve Renard said legendary defender Wendie Renard – no relation – was "unanimously" selected as France's captain for the home Olympics.

The 34-year-old Lyon defender will represent France at a third Games after doing so at London 2012 and Rio 2016.

Renard has 160 caps for France but is yet to win a major honour for her country.

The hosts will hope to land a spot on the podium with stars such as Marie-Antoinette Katoto, Grace Geyoro and Eugenie Le Sommer in their ranks.

### \*Fermin Lopez (Spain)

Along with Alex Baena, Fermin Lopez is one of two players from Spain's Euro 2024-winning squad heading to the Olympics.

The 21-year-old winger only featured once for Luis de la Fuente's side in Germany but joins Barcelona team-mates Pau Cubarsi and Eric Garcia in the Olympic squad.

Lopez had a breakout first season in La Liga, scoring 11 goals in all competitions for Xavi's side.

Lopez and Baena are looking to make history by becoming the first outfield players to win both the Euros and Olympic gold in the same summer.

### \*Linda Caicedo (Colombia)

At the age of 19, Linda Caicedo is already recognised as one of the best prospects in women's football.

The Real Madrid forward was one of the breakout stars of the 2023 World Cup – at 18 years and 153 days, she became the second-youngest South American player to score a goal in the history of the tournament, behind only the legendary Marta.

Her wonder goal against Germany in the group stage was voted as the best of the tournament and nominated for the Puskas award.

Caicedo, who has been the poster girl for the rise of women's football in Colombia, could play at the Under-20 Women's World Cup on home soil later in August.

### \*Naby Keita (Guinea)

Former Liverpool midfielder Naby Keita will captain Guinea as they make only their second appearance at an Olympics.

The Champions League winner had a poor first season in the Bundesliga with Werder Bremen, playing just five times because of injury and suspension.

The 29-year-old is one of the biggest names at the Games and will hope to add to his tally of 11 goals for his country.

### \*Barbra Banda (Zambia)

Barbra Banda became the second-most expensive women's footballer in history when she joined Orlando Pride from Chinese club Shanghai Shengli in March.

Banda, 24, has justified her price tag since joining the NWSL outfit, and became the first player in the history of the division to score 11 goals in their first 11 games.

The NWSL's top scorer is heading to France with Zambia for her second Olympic Games.

In Tokyo, the Copper Queens' captain became the first player in Olympic history to score back-to-back hat-tricks – doing so in the group stage against the Netherlands and China.

BBC

## No to overseas PL games - Bournemouth owner Foley

LONDON

BOURNEMOUTH owner Bill Foley would not support any plan to play Premier League games outside England.

In an exclusive chat with BBC Sport in Santa Barbara during his club's pre-season tour of the United States, Foley said he was too respectful of the game and its fans to think it was a good idea.

In May, world governing body Fifa said it was setting up a working group to assess the potential impact of competitive domestic matches being played overseas.

The Premier League has previously said it had no plans to get involved, although Spain's La Liga is hopeful of staging games in the United States in the 2025-26 season.

Bournemouth are one of 10 Premier League teams playing pre-season games in the United States this summer.

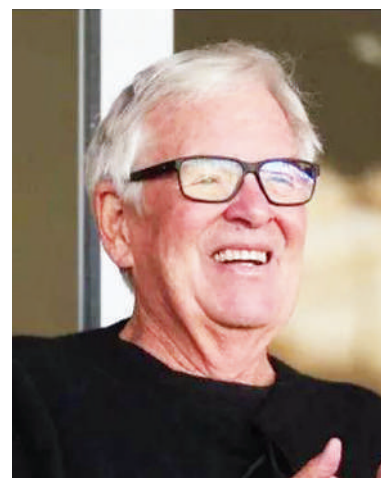
"I believe what we are doing today – and there are other pre-season games – is what we should be doing," said Foley.

"In terms of playing actual Premier League matches in America? We should play in the UK. That is where they belong. I am very respectful of our fans and the whole system. I wouldn't want to be involved in changing any of that. I believe if you talk to our fans at Bournemouth, they think Foley actually respects our system and respects our heritage. And I do.

"Premier League games in America? No."

Foley reportedly paid £120m for Bournemouth in December 2022.

He took the controversial decision to sack manager Gary O'Neil in June 2023 despite the club finishing 15th. He was rewarded with a 12th-placed finish last season under Andoni Iraola.



Bournemouth owner Bill Foley also owns the Vegas Golden Knights NHL franchise that won the Stanley Cup in 2023. (Agencies)

la.

Bournemouth are part of a multi-club ownership model that also includes Foley's Black Knights Sports and Entertainment group holding significant stakes in French club Lorient, A League outfit Auckland FC and Scottish Premiership side Hibernian.

Foley also spoke to BBC Sport about Bournemouth's European ambitions and striker Dominic Solanke's future after his 19-goal Premier League campaign last term.

"Solanke and a £65m release clause – I believe Dom is going to be with us this coming year. He has a release clause, which is very expensive.

"We shouldn't reveal anything about the contract but that area [reported £65m] sounds roughly correct. I guess if someone comes for him, we are going to have to replace him.

"We have two or three candidates that we have lined up. But I believe Dom will be here next year and I believe he is going to score 21 or 22 goals."

### \*European ambitions

"We have big aspirations, but we are patient. Our goal this year is modest. Can we move to the top eight or nine, maybe even sneak into Europe?"

"Our real goal is to play in Europe, to give our players a chance to experience Europe and do it with little Bournemouth."

"Why multi-club strategy makes ambition realistic

"[European football ambition] is realistic because we are putting a great team together, with a lot of younger players. We are trying to be careful with how we do this.

"We are not a sovereign wealth fund or private equity. We are just simple little guys from America who

came over and bought a team. We have a multi-club strategy so we promote players from Club A to Club B to Club C to Club D.

"We now have four clubs and we are about to acquire a controlling interest in another [understood to be in Portugal]. Our goal is to have similar coaching, similar playing styles and similar players that can progress through our system.

"It is not just going to be Bournemouth and a bunch of other teams. It is all designed to give the players a path to the Premier League. If we can do that, we should be able to be competitive and not have to kill ourselves financially. That will be our competitive edge."

### \*Adams' back injury

"He has been very unlucky in terms of injuries.

"We know the doctor he went to. He is one of the best back surgeons in America. I believe Tyler is fixed. It will be three months before he is playing with us, but once he starts, he will be phenomenal.

"He is a leader on the field, a nonsense guy. He is going to be a key number six for us, our defensive midfielder. When he can play, he is going to be a game changer."

BBC

## Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Ten footballers to watch out for at Paris Olympics

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## TFF delays decision on Al Hilal's Premier League participation

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzanian Football Federation (TFF) has not yet approved Sudanese club Al Hilal's request to play in the upcoming Mainland Premier League season.

Al Hilal submitted the request due to the suspension of football activities in Sudan caused by political unrest. Initially, in March, the TFF considered allowing Al Hilal to play exhibition matches, which would not affect the league standings.

With the league starting next month, the Tanzania Premier League Board's (TPLB) information officer, Karim Boimanda, has clarified that Al Hilal's participation is still pending.

The delay is due to outstanding revisions to the league's regulations, which require approval by the TFF committee before any decision can be made.

"Our Sudanese counterparts requested their clubs' participation in the Mainland Premier League. Due to ongoing political unrest in Sudan, their teams are competing in the CAF Champions League to maintain match fitness for their national team. Al Hilal's request to join the league reached the TFF. The secretariat presented it to the executive committee for discussion, and it was approved. The executive committee then directed the secretariat to forward the request to the Tanzania Premier League Board for their review."

Boimanda further explained that the league regulations are being finalized after club chairmen reviewed the drafts, which need to be approved by the TFF.

"It's too early to discuss how Al Hilal's participation would affect the league. Whether they'd be awarded points or compete for the trophy is still under consideration. League officials are evaluating both the potential benefits and drawbacks of their inclusion."

The league's regulations are being finalized, and Al Hilal's participation in the Mainland Premier League hinges on these revisions. Once the new rules are approved, we'll have a definitive answer about Al Hilal's eligibility.

"The secretariat drafted the revisions, which have been reviewed by the league's management and club chairmen. Now, the Tanzania Premier League Board's leadership committee needs to sign off before it goes to the TFF's executive committee. Their approval is the final step before the regulations become official; currently, they are just recommendations," said Boimanda.

The TFF believes Al Hilal's inclusion in the Mainland Premier League could offer a competitive boost. Additionally, the soccer governing body sees an opportunity to utilize Sudanese referees residing in Tanzania due to the political unrest in Sudan.

These referees, who haven't been officiating due to the situation, could potentially enhance the overall quality of Tanzanian league matches.

However, the final decision on Al Hilal's participation and the involvement of Sudanese referees rests with the TFF. If approved, this move could mark a historical development for Tanzanian football.

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The secretariat drafted the revisions, which have been reviewed by the league's management and club chairmen. Now, the Tanzania Premier League Board's leadership committee needs to



Sudanese club Al Hilal

## Coastal Union gear up for Community Shield with lessons from Kagame Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

COASTAL Union coach David Ouma is using the lessons learned from the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup tournament to propel his team forward in the upcoming Community Shield mini-tournament, slated for August 8 to 11.

Coastal Union, nicknamed 'Wagosi wa Kaya' or 'Mangushi', qualified for the 2024/25 CAF Confederation Cup after securing fourth place in the recently concluded Mainland Premier League campaign.

The fourth-place finish earned them a spot in the Community Shield tournament, where they will face Azam FC at Amaan Complex in Zanzibar on August 8.

While Coastal Union did not advance to the semifinals in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup tournament, they gained valuable experience with a win, a draw, and a close loss.

The Tanga-based team started strong with a 1-0 victory over Dekedaha of Somalia. They then faced a tough challenge against Zanzibar's JKU, resulting in a 2-0 defeat. Coastal Union displayed resilience in their final group match, securing a 1-1 draw against Hay Al Wadi of Sudan.

Looking ahead, Ouma remains focused and has set his sights on reaching the Community Shield final as part of their preparation to face F.C. Bravos do Maquis of Angola in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary stage.

This marks Coastal Union's return to international competition since their participation in the 1989 African Cup Winners' Cup, where they were eliminated in the first round. The competition was later merged with the CAF Cup to form the current CAF Confederation Cup in 2004.

Ouma has emphasized that the Community Shield tournament serves as a crucial stepping stone for the team to showcase their growth and determination.

"The CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup tournament exposed areas for improvement. We're using this as a learning opportunity to strategize and elevate our game. We have a strong foundation from last season's success, but we need to push further to stay competitive."

"The Community Shield is our first chance to showcase our progress. Securing a spot in the final is our primary objective. If necessary, we'll adjust our strategy to secure a third-place finish and avoid repeating last season's fourth-place finish. The upcoming mini-tournament serves as another stepping stone in our preparation to face Bravos do Maquis in the CAF Confederation Cup."

"So far, I am incredibly impressed with how seamlessly the new and returning players are integrating during training. Their commitment and tactical understanding inspire confidence. The Azam FC match will be a fantastic platform to demonstrate the strides we've made during pre-season," said Ouma.

Under Ouma, Coastal Union has shown significant improvement, reaching the Federation Cup semi-final match last season against Azam FC, which they lost 3-0, achieving a fourth-place finish in the Mainland Premier League, and now gearing up for the Community Shield and the CAF Confederation Cup.

In the CAF Confederation Cup, Coastal Union will begin their campaign with an away match at Estadio De 11 Novembro in Luanda on August 16 before returning home to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on August 23.

These achievements have generated excitement among the club's supporters and heightened expectations for their performance in the international arena next season.

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So far, I am incredibly impressed with how seamlessly the new and returning players are integrating during training. Their commitment and tactical understanding inspire confidence. The Azam FC match will be a fantastic platform to demonstrate the strides we've made during pre-season

## Tanzania's U-19 women's cricket team confronts Uganda in Bilateral T20 Series



Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) vice chairman Ashish Nagewadia (back row, C), poses for a photo with the national U-19 women's cricket squad during the farewell ceremony for the side ahead of its trip to Uganda to take part in the weeklong Bilateral T20 Series against Uganda scheduled to get underway in Kampala last Saturday. The ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam the same weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA'S U-19 women's cricket team has stepped up its preparations for the ICC U-19 World Cup Qualifier by facing Uganda in the Bilateral T20 Series, which got underway at the Lugogo Cricket Oval in Kampala yesterday.

The two teams will battle it out in the showdown comprising a series of five T20 matches to be played at the venue from July 22-27.

The week-long showdown, as disclosed by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Media and Communication Officer Atif Salim, is a vital part of Tanzania's U-19 women's team preparations for the ICC U-19 Women's World Cup Qualifier scheduled for next month in Rwanda.

The national U-19 women's team was officially seen off in Dar es Salaam last weekend before making the trip to Uganda for the five-game Bilateral T20 Series.

Ashish Nagewadia, TCA vice chairman, and women's senior and U-19 cricket teams' chief selector Virendra Kamania, attended the send-off ceremony.

Nagewadia praised the team's cricketers' dedication and expressed confidence in their potential to succeed internationally.

Kamania highlighted the series' importance for the players' development and preparation for future challenges.

The cricketers, eager and determined, aim to represent their

country with honour and come back triumphantly.

The nation, the official remarked, stands behind them, wishing for a successful and memorable series in Uganda.

The series against Uganda, according to Salim, promises to be an intense and valuable experience for the Tanzania U-19 women's squad.

The official pointed out that with the squad consisting of a blend of young talent and a few experienced players, the showdown aims to test the performers' skills and strategies.

The squad's head coach Arun Yadav highlighted the importance of the series for his charges' preparations, stating: "This series is an excellent opportunity for our young players to showcase their talent and gain crucial match experience."

Team captain Jeniffer Gabriel shared her excitement, pointing out: "We are thrilled to be playing against Uganda. It's a great opportunity to know where we stand and what areas we must improve before the World Cup Qualifier."

Salim disclosed cricketers making the national U-19 women's team battling it out in the series are Agnes Joseph, Zuhura Masoud, Saumu Deo (wicketkeeper), Saidath Simba, Lightness Eliud, Maria Lucas, Joan Jackson, and skipper Jeniffer Gabriel.

Adolphina Jeremiah, Englid Geoffrey, Josephine Ulirik, Rebecca Martin, Mwanaidi Athuman, Zakia Ally, Rahima Yahya, and Farida Amiry are also on the squad's list. Veteran female cricketer and coach, Monica Paschal, is the squad's assistant coach.

The national cricket governing body, Salim noted, has been zealous in providing the national U-19 women's team with the neces-

sary resources and support.

The association's CEO Hamisi Abdallah emphasized the significance of international exposure for the players' development.

Abdallah pointed out: "This series is vital for our U-19 women's cricket team as it prepares them for high-stakes tournaments like the World Cup Qualifier."

As the team was preparing to depart for Uganda, the official insisted that the entire nation stood behind them, wishing them success and hoping for strong performances that would build confidence for the ICC U-19 Women's World Cup Qualifier in Rwanda.

Cricketers making Uganda's U-19 women's squad are Malisa Ariokot, Lona Anyait, Patricia Timong, Jimia Muhamed, Michelle Ariago, Immaculate Nandera, and Asumin Akurut.

Irene Mutoni, Patricia Apolot, Naume Amongin, Hope Mbeiza, Erex Aronda, Girish Nabalime, and Rashida Tikabulala are the other players on the squad.

As per the Bilateral T20 Series fixtures released by the Uganda Cricket Association, the showdown's hosts were slated to confront the visitors in the opening clash yesterday afternoon, followed by a tie to be played the following day.

The two teams are scheduled to face each other at the same venue tomorrow, with the clash expected to start at 2 pm. The series' last game is set to take place on July 26.

Fourteen teams will compete in the ICC U-19 Women's World Cup Qualifier to become the sole representative for the rest of Africa at the U-19 Women's World Cup, slated for next year in Malaysia.

The U-19 Women's World Cup is a new ICC tournament, with the first edition won by India in South Africa in 2023.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

TELL ME WHO IS YOUR MENTOR?

