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Weather experts meet in Mwanza next week

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DC warns herders destroying water infrastructure

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VP directs TARI to research on other crops for Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has appealed to research institutions, in particular the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) to focus on new crops that can thrive in Dodoma Region as the land there has the potential for producing a variety of crops.

The VP issued this appeal yesterday after laying the foundation stone for the construction of the Smart Grain Management Center, intended to control the spread of fungal toxins, in Mtanana area of Kongwa District.

The construction of the center provides a solution to long-standing challenges farmers have been facing as their produce is routinely excluded from markets due to its being permeated with fungal toxins.

He saluted the Ministry of Agriculture for providing training on appropriate farming practices to combat fungal infections in the region, where a total of 12,517 farmers were trained as an aspect of the project.

The ministry ought to keep up with agricultural education extension activities for the farmers, he said, directing the Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA), to ensure the regular availability of quality and affordable seeds for farmers.

It should exercise regulatory authority to



The government will not hesitate to revoke the licenses of seed producers if their agents use approved seed brands to sell counterfeit seeds in the market

remove fake seeds by inspecting points of sale and quality of seed production, he said, demanding also that the National Irrigation Commission address as requested by the Mtanana community.

They asked the VP to arrange for the building an irrigation dam to alleviate stormy outflows during heavy rain in the area, thus enhancing irrigation farming.

He instructed the meat and dairy boards, under the Livestock and Fisheries ministry, to address exploitation and fraud in cattle purchases, particularly in Kongwa District.

Markets for livestock and livestock products have to be fair and realistic, by ensuring that sales are conducted using proper measurements, not guesstimates, he said.

Top officials like ministers and deputy ministers, along with regional and district commissioners, need to reduce the time used in the office to instead visit various places to address the challenges that people and institutions face.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe said in his remarks that the Smart Grain Management Center project includes a flour milling factory, with the ministry seeking to add nutrients to grain and addressing challenges of receiving mixed nutrients from abroad.

The factory will enable smallholder farm-

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L) speaks with the pilot of the new ATCL Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner at the cockpit after receiving the plane, standing in for Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan, at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport on Tuesday. Photo: State House

Z'bar seeks EU uplift for seaweed farmers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR intends to place greater emphasis on the seaweed sub-sector

to produce quality products to ensure that market outlets are secure and expanding. President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi ex-

pressed this objective in a meeting with the European Union (EU) ambassador Christine Grau who paid a courtesy call

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Dr Tulia Ackson (L), president of the Inter Parliamentary Union and Speaker of the National Assembly, speaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) at the State House in Beijing on Tuesday. Others are speakers of IPU member legislatures. Photo: Parliament



Maths group wins bronze at Pan-African Olympiad

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA has won four bronze medals and secured 15th place among 25 countries at this year's Pan African Mathematics Olympiads (PAMO), held at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

Dr Said Sima (pictured), the chairman of the Mathematics Association of Tanzania (MAT) at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), announced the achievement at a city press conference yesterday.

He expressed satisfaction with the math team performance, clinching 15th position, earning 37 marks and four bronze medals. "We also appreciate the support and encouragement from Tanzanians who stood by us," he stated.

The Tanzanian team included Ambrose Rutashobya from Iyunga Secondary School, Ilham Awadhi from Feza Secondary School (Zanzibar), Mwanaarab Mbwana from Lumumba Secondary School (Zanzibar), Stella Maliti from Marian Girls Secondary School, and Zakaria Mwita from Azania Secondary School in the city.

He said that this is Tanzania's best performance since 2000, highlighting that last year's team in Rwanda did not win any medals, participating with six students who earned a total of 10 marks.

Dr Sylvester Rugehlya, the head of the Mathematics Department at UDSM, called for increased support from the ministry to improve mathematics skills and enhance the

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Zanzibar to boost natural attractions as tourist sites

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

EFFORTS are being made by tourism authorities in Zanzibar to develop natural attractions in Zanzibar to bring more tourists seeking this sphere of travel specialties.

Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, the Tourism and Heritage minister for Zanzibar, made this observation when speaking at events leading to the climax of the Kizimkazi Festival here yesterday.

He described the Kizimkazi Festival as a special opportunity for islanders to further develop the tourism sector, appearing at Makunduchi to receive a cycling competition that started in central Unguja and ended in Makunduchi suburb.

The competition included women and people with disabilities, as a sports tourism event, covering the Mwenge Makunduchi to Kobao route, with the minister stating that the festival has been used to facilitate training for various groups.

These range from entrepreneurs, farmers, herders and artists, with the knowledge gained from the training expected to be used to measure success in economic transformation for

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VP directs TARI to research on other crops for Dodoma

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ers to process their maize at a low cost, while the ministry develops a maize seeds regulatory procedure to eliminate fake seeds.

The government will not hesitate to revoke the licenses of seed producers if their agents use approved seed brands to sell counterfeit seeds

in the market.

Earlier, while visiting Mpwapwa District, the VP inaugurated Kimaghai "A" Secondary School which comprises 11 buildings and costs 544.2m/-, likely to reduce the distance that students from the Kimaghai and Inzomvu villages cover to attend classes.

Zanzibar to boost natural attractions as tourist sites

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each of the sectors, he said.

The growth of this sector is crucial for providing employment opportunities for Zanzibar youth, expanding the scope of opportunities, by seeking to make Zanzibar a regional tourism hub.

Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman said at the occasion that heritage tourism is essential for development in the Isles, as it leads to substantial foreign currency earnings, contributing to economic growth and job creation.

Zanzibar is poised to make significant progress in the tourism sector due to its rich heritage resources, but this cannot be fully realized unless large numbers of visitors come to Zanzibar to see these landmarks,

he stated.

To pass on this heritage to coming generations, it is important to promote historical landmarks through various events that gather people, including organizing different types of festivals such as the Kizimkazi Festival, he elaborated.

Events like this are vital for developing efforts focusing on the existing heritage and related cultural spheres, he said, pointing at Unguja South Region as having many heritage aspects venues or sights.

Mahfoudh Said Omar, the festival chairman, mentioned that the festival serves as a platform to discover young talents from various areas, contributing to joint efforts in addressing the national unemployment problem.

Maths group wins bronze at Pan-African Olympiad

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country's global standing.

"Participants had only two weeks to prepare, which we see as a challenge for future competitions. The ministry should work to provide better preparation resources and support," he urged

Dr Philip Filikunjombe, the director of legal services at the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), emphasized the potential for higher achievement if more investment is made in mathematics education.

Ambrose Rutashobya, a partici-

pant, noted that despite the relative success there is still work to be done to strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields of education.

Having a larger number of participants can lead to more points and better results, he said, stressing early preparation as crucial. "We faced challenges with limited digital resources during our online training," he specified.

The five participants were selected from 812 students who competed in a national mathematics competition earlier this year, he added.

Nigerians outraged by president's new plane

LAGOS

MANY Nigerians have reacted with outrage after a new plane was bought for President Bola Tinubu at a time when the economy experiences its worst crisis in a generation.

The purchase comes less than two weeks after thousands took to the streets across the country to protest at rising hunger and the cost of living.

Elected last year to lead Africa's most populous country, Mr Tinubu has introduced several economic reforms, including the removal of fuel subsidies, which have contributed to high inflation, currently over 30 percent.

President Tinubu said the reforms were necessary to cut government spending and stimulate long-term growth.

In January, the Nigerian president announced a 60 percent reduction in the size of official travel delegations, including his own entourage.

However on Monday, the president departed for France using a newly acquired Airbus A330, which has become the latest addition to the presidential fleet of more than five aircraft.

The cost of the plane has not been disclosed, and nor has the reason for his trip.

X user @Fdmlearn said it wasn't right that Nigerians were being told to undergo economic pain while the government was buying a new plane for the president.

"Wait so despite the Tinubu led Government telling Nigerians to bear the economic hardship and wait for a better tomorrow, they were busy paying cash for a new private Jet to add to the presidential fleet that has over 6 aircraft's already?"

Another X user @RealOlaudah was even angrier.

"Let's tell ourselves the truth. Tinubu's new Airbus presidential aircraft purchase for N150 billion at a time of penury, hunger, and want shows how wicked, selfish, self-indulgent, and insensitive to the plight of the average Nigerian he really is."

However, @Timi_The_Law says he supports the president's decision as the plane is not personal but belongs to the office of the president.

"Tinubu's decision to buy a new plane is the right one. The plane belongs to the office of the president, and future presidents will enjoy it," he posted.

It is not known if lawmakers approved the purchase, which was not mentioned in this year's budget.

In a statement on X, President Tinubu's media aide Bayo Onanuga said the new plane would actually save money.

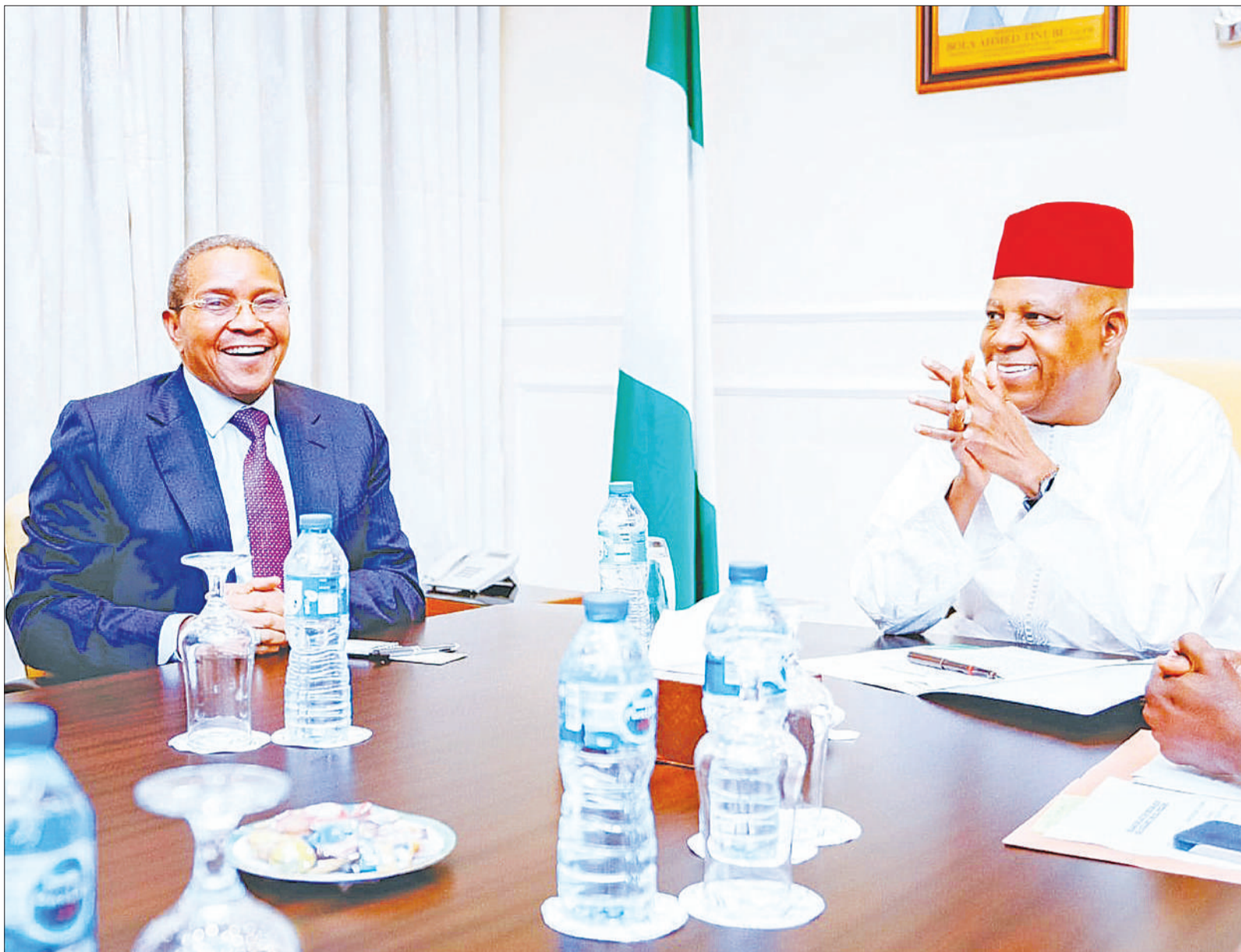
"The new plane, bought far below the market price, saves Nigeria huge maintenance and fuel costs, running into millions of dollars yearly," the statement read in part.

The new presidential jet was recently released to the Nigerian government after it was seized by a Chinese firm, Zhangson Investment Co. Limited, which obtained a Paris court order to seize some Nigerian government assets following an investment dispute with Ogun state in south-west Nigeria.

The 15-year-old plane, with a market value of \$600m (£460m) is said to have an elaborate configuration for VIPs and replaces the country's 19-year-old Boeing BBJ 737-700.

Nigerian officials have previously said that the presidential fleet had a high maintenance cost due to the age of its planes.

In June, lawmakers recommended the purchase of two new aircraft for the president and his deputy, saying the old ones were not safe.



Former President Dr Jakaya Kikwete (L) speaks with the vice president of Nigeria when they met at the presidential villa in Abuja on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Z'bar seeks EU uplift for seaweed farmers

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to the president at the State House.

As the vast majority of seaweed farmers in Zanzibar are women, the EU could initiate a scheme to support the women as an aspect of uplifting seaweed farming in the country, by training and delivering better equipment to attain higher quality levels in line with market standards.

He cited the blue economy as the main policy orientation for the economy, in addition to other development and investment areas such as tourism, asking the envoy

to explore opportunities in the blue economy sphere.

He praised the EU for its legacy of cooperation with Tanzania in sectors like education, water, health and infrastructure, whereas the envoy expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government in pursuing community engagement activities.

This is being conducted through local governments and civil society organizations (NGOs) on matters touching social welfare in both Unguja and Pemba, she stated, pointing at the Green City project.

This initiative has a component of supporting gender uplift projects, like empowering women in education, in the economy, like their participation in fishing and widening the extent of their financial inclusion and management capacity, she said.

Since 1990, Zanzibar has increasingly become a primary seaweed producer in Africa, usually conducted in small-scale patches of land within inter-tidal zones in areas marked out for marine conservation like outlying areas of mangrove forests and coral reefs.

Officials say that up to 88 percent of seaweed farmers are women, making this an important activity to elevate their incomes, social status and a higher role in the community.

New approaches to aquaculture and marine conservation have emerged only recently based on concrete projects since 2014. Zanzibar serves as the first attempt to test the level of adherence of seaweed farming with the global standard for nature-based solutions advocated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, welcomes Chinese ambassador Chen Mingjian at the ministry's sub headquarters in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Foreign Affairs

China seeks closer ties with Africa trade bloc COMESA

LUSAKA

CHINESE Ambassador to Zambia Han Jing on Tuesday presented his letters of accreditation to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) with a pledge to build enhanced ties with the African trading bloc.

Han, who is now the special representative of China to COMESA, presented his letters of accreditation to COMESA Secretary-General Chileshe Kapwepwe, during a ceremony at the

organization's secretariat in Lusaka.

Han said China attaches great importance to and enjoys good working relations with COMESA and will continue to build on this relationship.

He said China appreciates the progress made by COMESA in promoting regional integration and trade facilitation.

China will promote cooperation in various sectors, Han said, adding that the presence of COMESA at the forthcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will provide

another opportunity to enhance cooperation.

For her part, Kapwepwe said COMESA has partnered with China over the years in various sectors.

She emphasized the need to unlock new opportunities for enhanced collaboration and innovation by leveraging China's expertise, resources and best practices.

She said COMESA and the Chinese Embassy in Zambia are currently drafting a memorandum of understanding to formalize the collabora-

tion, adding the deal will be signed on the margins of the upcoming FO-CAC.

Kapwepwe said areas of cooperation under the deal include capacity building, agriculture, public and private sector investment, as well as technology in irrigation systems and logistics.

The trade relations between China and COMESA are growing, Kapwepwe said, adding China remained one of the major sources of imports for the regional bloc.

Mwanza to host meteorologists training on weather radar usage

By Henry Mwangonde

AS weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable due to climate change, weather experts from 12 African countries are scheduled to meet in Mwanza City next week for training on radar meteorology.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, acting Director General of Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) Dr Ladislaus Chang'a announced that the training set to take place from Monday to Friday will be conducted in collaboration with the Education and Training Division of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The training aims to enhance capacity of meteorologists from African countries in the use of radar systems.

"Participants in such training sessions gain practical experience due to presence of radar systems in the country," he said.

Dr Chang'a named the countries sending experts to Tanzania for the training as Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Comoros, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles and South Sudan as well as the host Tanzania.

"These training opportunities result from the government's efforts to invest in meteorological infrastructure and equipment. In

the East African region, we have been a leader in infrastructure and equipment," Dr Chang'a stated.

He added that by the end of the year, the government will have completed the construction of seven weather radar systems, positioning Tanzania among the countries with the highest number of radar systems in Africa.

The authority is expected to release a special forecast for the Vuli rains covering October, November and December later today.



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Hassan Saïdy (L), the Rural Energy Agency director general, exchanges contract documents with Drem Group Ltd director Idd Bakari at the signing ceremony for an electricity connection in 3060 townships countrywide, about 15 townships in each district, at an overall cost of 360bn/- . Four companies signed the contracts on Tuesday in the capital. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

VP wants Tarura to repair central road to boost economic activities in Kondoa

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has directed Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) to repair the Ntundwa - Hurui road in Kondoa District, Dodoma Region to facilitate economic activities for residents, including transportation of produce.

He issued the instruction after laying foundation stone for the construction of a bridge at Hurui River located in Kikore Ward, Mpwapwa District.

He urged residents of Kikore Ward and users of the bridge to maintain the infrastructure once completed for the benefit of the current and future generations. He instructed them to plant trees along the banks of Hurui River to prevent erosion that could damage the bridge.

Dr Mpango commended area residents for recommending the bridge project to address challenges they face after the previous bridge was destroyed by floodwaters in 2019. He assured

them that the government would continue to provide essential services, including infrastructure.

The VP also instructed that the water project underway in the area be completed by October 30 this year as planned. Additionally, he directed the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlement Development to work with area MP to address issues raised by Hurui Village residents regarding land allegedly sold to an investor without following proper procedures.

Construction of the Hurui Bridge

costs 1.6bn/- and is expected to be a crucial link, opening up economic and social opportunities by restoring connectivity between Kondoa District in Dodoma and Babati District in Manyara Region.

The bridge which is 30 meters long has been built on the Ntundwa - Mkunduru - Hurui road which is 46.4 kilometres long. The project also includes upgrading of 8 kilometres of road to gravel level and has been funded by the government through 100/- fuel levy.

Ex-poacher preaches conservation in Zim

HARARE

A PIONEER in Chiredzi, southeastern Zimbabwe is trying to change local attitudes towards wildlife.

Mastick Tembanechako has spent nearly three months in jail, where he said a programme aimed at turning poachers into conservationists changed his outlook.

Hunting is in the tradition of his community, a semi-arid area about 500 kilometers from the capital Harare.

So when recurring droughts made farming less viable, the man turned to poaching.

"I grew up as a hunter and it is a trade that became intrinsic, before game rangers eventually caught up with me in the animal reserve, hunting was our way of life but we did not know that we were committing a crime by killing animals," he said.

The father of a large family was caught late last year taking small game in the nearby Save Valley Conservancy, one of the largest private game reserves in Africa.

The only breadwinner resumed his breeding activities when he was freed.

He now earns a living selling piece of furniture he makes using tree branches and dry palm tree leaves. He learned new skills including carpentry in prison.

"I have tried to educate my fellow hunters and village men on the dangers of poaching and I'm proud to say the number of poachers from my village has decreased noticeably," he said.

"I pride myself in spreading knowledge on conserving wildlife, some of my peers have been learning how to craft sculptures and chairs under my wing."

"I began to realize that animals are for the benefit of the entire community, so poaching is a selfish

act," he said.

"I can kill a zebra today and eat it or sell the meat, but I am the only one who benefits. But if tourists come to view that same zebra, it is the entire community that benefits from the income."

His message is not an easy one. Across Zimbabwe, conflicts between people and animals are increasing.

Humans invade forested areas and droughts then push some animals living in those squeezed habitats to raid settlements.

Tinashe Farawo, a spokesman for the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, also works to tackle poaching in the country.

"Poaching is a cancer which we have been trying to deal with over the past few years," he said.

"But if you look at where we have the biggest concentration of animals, the greater part of Hwange National Park, we have not lost any single elephant over the last three or four years, because we are now more visible in the area."

According to Farawo, raising awareness is key to tackling the issue.



I have tried to educate my fellow hunters and village men on the dangers of poaching and I'm proud to say the number of poachers from my village has decreased noticeably



A bridge for Hurui river at Hurui village in Kondoa District, launched by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango as part of his working tour of Dodoma region yesterday. Photo: VPO

By Special Correspondent

DR Congo, other countries could start Mpox vaccinations in days, says CDC

AFRICA'S top public health agency has said the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and other countries on the continent could start vaccinating against mpox within days.

The DRC is the epicentre of a more deadly strain of the virus that emerged last year and has subsequently spread to some 12 other African states, with

confirmed cases in at least 3 countries outside the continent.

Last week, the World Health Organization declared the spread of the new strain a public health emergency of international

concern. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention now says vaccine doses are due to arrive shortly.

This follows pledges by the

European Union, vaccine-maker Bavarian Nordic, the United States and Japan.

The centre says it has been working on logistics and communication strategies with

countries experiencing mpox outbreaks in order to facilitate the roll out.

Its Director General, Jean Kaseya, said it was important to make sure everything was properly in place to

ensure the vaccines will be safely stored and correctly administered.

The total number of cases in Africa has risen to almost 19 thousand since the start of 2024, which over 90 percent of the cases in the DRC.

Mpox can be passed on by close contact with anyone with the infection and causes fever, muscle aches, and boil-like skin lesions.

It is usually mild, but can be fatal.

Encourage people to write will to end inheritance disputes, registrars urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MTWARA Regional Commissioner Col. Patrick Sawala yesterday called on district administrative secretaries and social welfare officers in Lindi, Mtwara, and Ruvuma regions to promote will-writing among residents to avoid disputes amongst heirs.

Opening a training for district administrative secretaries and social welfare officer from southern regions, Col. Sawala said that the session was aimed at enhancing officials' skills in managing public services related to among others, inheritance, marriage and divorce, provided by the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA).

"One of the main reasons for conflicts within families is failure by some parents to write will due to false belief that doing so welcomes death," he said, adding that writing a will is not predicting or welcoming death since many people who wrote their wills a long time ago are still alive.

He urged the officials to educate the public on the importance of writing a will, advice and assist them in drafting will to avoid unnecessary conflicts in the society.

He also advised residents to find means of self-sustenance rather than relying on inheritance, as this would help reduce conflicts.

He noted that the introduction of online service system (eRITA) would allow citizens to submit applications for services digitally without having to visit RITA offices, thereby broadening service accessibility and reaching more residents.

"I urge RITA to intensify efforts in educating the public so that more people can apply for services through this system," he said.

Frank Kanyusi, RITA chief executive officer, said the agency has

established a routine of organizing such training sessions and meetings for various stakeholder groups to provide education and discuss strategies to improve efficiency in serving the public.

"The training provided has empowered our service providers, especially in areas of birth, death, marriage, divorce, and trusteeship registration. Additionally, the training highlights the importance of statistics, which is crucial for economic planning by providing real-time need assessments and facilitating future projections," he said.

Kanyusi added that the training was given to the leaders because the Births and Deaths Registration Act designates district administrative secretary as the district registrar, making them directly responsible for birth, death, and marriage registrations, as well as monitoring and collecting divorce information in their areas.

He further elaborated that social welfare officers also received the training as they coordinate and manage registration programmes for children under the age of five.

Mariam Nkumbwa, Coordinator of Child Registration Programme (under five years) in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) said that the training was expected to improve registration process and data entry in the registration system.



I urge RITA to intensify efforts in educating the public so that more people can apply for services through this system



Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives committee for managing offices of national leaders enter offices of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, on a learning tour on activities of the council. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

TANZANIAN youth have been advised to avoid practices that lead to environmental degradation in order to restore nature and address climate change.

Charles Ndaki, lawyer with Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA), gave the advice here recently when presenting a topic on entrepreneurship opportunities related to land and how Tanzanian youth can own and use it in raising their economy based on legal systems and rights related to land ownership in the country and

Your economic activities shouldn't destroy environment, youth urged

sustainable methods of land use for agriculture considering weather conditions.

The training session was organized by Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) which implements Enhancing Youth Integration and Gender Equality for Improved Livelihoods (EYIGEL) project in Iringa Rural, Mufindi, Ilemela, Sengerema, Moshi Rural, Hai and Chamwino districts as well as Dodoma Urban with support from WE Effect.

Started in 2022 and set to end in 2027, the project targets to reach 11,606 youth, women and men in the aforementioned districts.

Ndaki said that people should have good use of land for sustainable development and stop tree felling as well as destroying water catchment areas.

He pointed out that acts of burning forests for preparation of farms may also cause land to be unsustainable as living organisms revitalizing it die in the process.

Lack of fertility makes land unsuitable for agricultural production, therefore, it is important to ensure that it is protected all the time, he said.

Edward Lalika, programme officer at TYC said that the aim of EYIGEL project is to strengthen lives of youth by giving the ability to be employed and self-employment.

Also, it aims to ensure that youth consider gender issues and health in their activities among other priorities, he said.

NAIROBI

MOJA EV Kenya, a Chinese firm, has ramped up marketing of its flagship Neta electric cars, targeting taxi drivers in the country's coastal region in a bid to enlarge its footprint in East Africa's largest economy.

Erick Lumallas, personal assistant to the company's chief executive officer, said during an August 17 meeting with taxi drivers in Mombasa that the uptake of electric vehicles in Kenya is growing as more people see their economic and ecological benefits.

"People are starting to learn about electric vehicles. They are learning about the economic benefits of electric vehicles and the environmental impacts that electric vehicles have on carbon footprint,"

Chinese firm for green transition in Kenya's coastal taxi industry

he said.

In June, the Chinese e-vehicle brand Neta announced its entry into the Kenyan market, with Moja EV acting as its distributor.

Executives have said the Neta V model will retail at 4 million shillings (31,000 U.S. dollars).

Zhou Jiang, an overseas business general manager at Neta, said that when fully charged, a Neta e-vehicle can travel 380 km, making it ideal for the Kenyan market, because it is more affordable and requires less maintenance than diesel-powered vehicles.

Lumallas noted that Neta electric cars can enable taxi drivers to

cut down on operational costs by 90 percent, adding that Moja EV has been investing in supportive infrastructure to facilitate greater uptake of new energy vehicles in Kenya.

He said that if Moja EV captures 30 percent of the taxi market in Kenya by 2026, the company will have played a pivotal role in the country's green transition.

Isaiah Odhiambo Ngoha, chairman of Pwani Online Drivers Umbrella, said taxi drivers in the coastal region are keen to adopt Chinese-manufactured electric vehicles since they will shield them from high fuel and maintenance costs.

LUSAKA

CHINA, as a leader in the green energy revolution, is an important partner to Zambia and Africa's energy transition, an energy expert has said.

Zambia and other African countries have benefited from China's support in green energy, said Johnstone Chikwanda, chairman of the Energy Institute of Zambia.

Africa has a lot to learn from how China has managed to navigate and implement green energy projects, including development of electrical vehicle industry, he added.

In particular, African countries will need China's help to meet the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal of providing universal access to clean, affordable

China key partner in Africa's clean energy transition - expert

and sustainable energy for all by 2030, the expert said.

The relationship between Zambia and China was established after the independence of Zambia on October 29, 1964.

China supported the political emancipation struggle of Zambia in this era through financial and material support. The first phase of the relationship emphasises the acquisition of political freedom from occupying colonial forces and promoting diplomatic relationships with China.

Zambia, after gaining political freedom in 1964, was supported by China through economic support

and infrastructure. The Zambian government began to invest in transportation infrastructure, to help the economic growth of the country and support political freedom movements in the region of the Southern African Development Community.

China considered the infrastructural development of the railway link as an opportunity to strengthen ties with Zambia.

In this regard, the former president of Zambia Kenneth Kaunda visited China in 1967 for the finalisation of the railway project and with the approval of the parties involved.



MTANDAO WA JAMII WA USIMAMIZI WA MISITU TANZANIA INVITATION FOR PROVISION OF PROJECT AUDIT SERVICES

Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu Tanzania (MJUMITA) also known as "The Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania" MJUMITA is an association of about 131 local community-based organizations (CBOs) with over 15,000 members in villages involved in Participatory Forest Management (PFM) in Tanzania. It is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) established in 2000 and registered in 2007 under the NGO act of 2002 with registration number OONGO/R1/00902. MJUMITA provides a forum for capacity building, exchange of knowledge, advocacy, and communication for these groups in Tanzania.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE AUDIT

The objective is to audit the financial report for the period 1/7/2023 - 30/06/2024 as submitted to WWF Tanzania and express an audit opinion according to ISA applying ISA 800/ISA 805, on whether the financial report of a programme is in accordance with the cooperation partner's accounting records and WWF Tanzania requirements for financial reporting as stipulated in the agreement including appendices between WWF Tanzania and MJUMITA.

Interested applicants can obtain detailed reporting requirements and budget to carry out the audit upon request through email info@mjumita.or.tz

Only expressions of interest received within 7 days from the date of this advertisement will be considered.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MJUMITA
P.O. BOX 21522
Dar Es Salaam



Chadema young followers in Ilemela District, Mwanza Region, move around in various areas to encourage residents to participate in providing fresh data for the Permanent Voter Register in an exercise that started yesterday in the region. Photo: Vitus Audax

Sudan's annual inflation ups to 193.94 pc in July

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S annual inflation rate jumped to 193.94 percent in July, up from 158.16 percent in June, the country's Central Bureau of Statistics said in a statement on Tuesday.

The inflation rate in urban areas rose to 181.70 percent in July compared to 155.89 percent in

June, while in rural areas, it surged to 202.25 percent in July from 159.43 percent in June.

According to the statement, the inflation rates declined in six states and rose in 12 states in July, with Kassala State recording the highest increase rate of 700.56 percent compared to 383.12 percent in June.

Sudan has been ravaged by a deadly conflict

between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023.

The conflict has severely affected the country's economy, contributing to soaring inflation, rising unemployment, increased poverty, and a depreciation of the national currency.



IPP Executive Chairman Abdiel Mengi poses in a group photo with the outgoing Guardian Ltd procurement manager Murugan Vajran (L) and commercial director Ajay Goyal (3rd R), their families and TGL print manager Balasubramanian Venkadachalam.



IPP Executive Chairman Abdiel Mengi (2nd R) poses in a group with former operations manager Murugan Vajran (2nd L) and outgoing Guardian Ltd commercial director Ajay Goyal (3rd R) and their spouses.



Beatrice Bandawe (2nd L), the Nipasha newspaper managing editor, presents a gift to TGL operations manager Murugan Vajran and his spouse.



Beatrice Bandawe (L), the Nipasha newspaper managing editor, presents a gift to TGL commercial director Ajay Goyal (C) and his wife



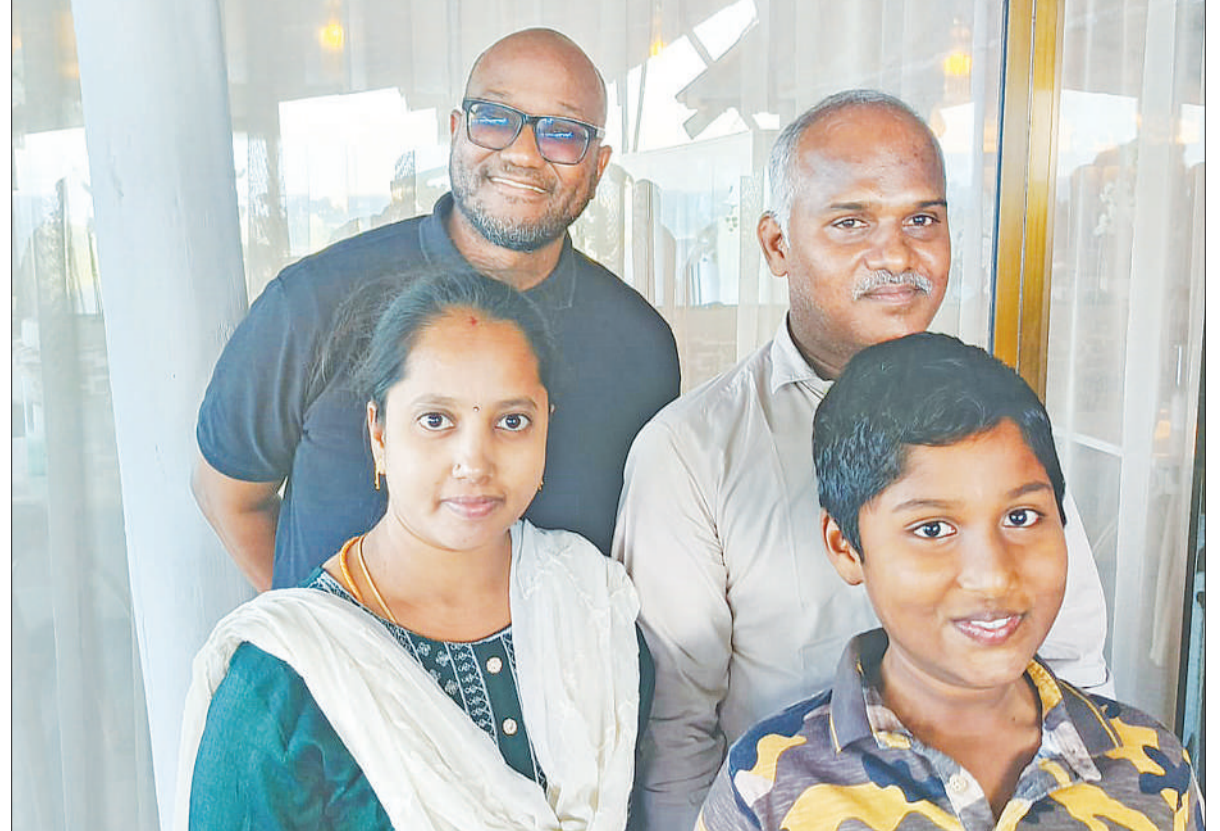
IPP Executive Chairman Abdiel Mengi (4th L) poses in a group photo with The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo (4th R), along with former TGL commercial director Ajay Goyal (2nd R), his wife (R) and former TGL operations manager Murugan Vajran (3rd L) and his wife.



IPP Executive Chairman Abdiel Mengi poses in a group photo with former TGL Guardian Ltd commercial director Ajay Goyal (L) and his wife



Members of the Guardian Ltd management in a group photo with former TGL commercial director Ajay Goyal (L) and former TGL operations manager Murugan Vajran and their spouses.



IPP Executive Chairman Abdiel Mengi poses in a group photo with former TGL operations manager Murugan Vajran and his family



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
TANZANIA COFFEE BOARD



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

- 1.0 POST : GENERAL MANAGER (GM)**
1.1 JOB TITLE : GENERAL MANAGER (GM)
1.2 DUTY STATION : MLOWO – MBOZI- SONGWE REGION
1.3 REPORTS TO : BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1.4 SUPERVISES : Finance and Administration Manager,
 Operations Manager
 Business and Promotion Manager
 Head of Internal Audit Unit
 Head of Procurement Management Unit
 Head of Legal Unit

1.0 SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Managing, planning and co-ordinating the Company's activities

1.1 Specific

- Ensuring effective overall management and supervision of the Company's activities.
- Overseeing the planning and execution of development activities.
- Directing the formulation of policy proposals for consideration by the Board in relation to physical and financial functions of the Company.
- Interpreting policies laid-down by the Board and issuing internal regulations and procedural instructions thereof.
- Preparing annual budgets for the Company and submitting them to the Board for approval.
- Reviewing regularly actual performance against plans, budgets and standards, and submitting reports to the Board detailing performance with recommendations for action necessary to correct adverse variances.
- Establishing the responsibilities of the immediate subordinates and delegating the necessary authority for them to discharge their duties effectively and efficiently.
- Making recommendations to the Board on staffing levels required by the Company and ensuring effective policies and procedures are established for management of human resource at all levels.
- Ensuring that the Company's activities conform to existing laws and regulations in the country.
- Linking the Company with the coffee industry stakeholders
- Acting as the final authority for management decisions within the Company.
- Safeguarding the Company's financial position and ensuring that it discharges its financial obligations.
- Ensuring that all Company's financial transactions are authorized and controlled in accordance with agreed procedures and the proper systems of internal controls are maintained.
- Ensuring that the accounts of the Company are prepared and submitted to the external auditors within four months after the end of the financial year.
- Maintaining harmonious relations between the customers, coffee cooperative unions and other stakeholders.
- Performing any other duties as may be assigned by The Board of Directors

1.2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Holder of a Master degree in processing engineering, Mechanical engineering or Electrical engineering, Master degree in Economics, Master degree in Laws, Master degree in Business Administration or any equivalent qualifications with at least ten (10) years' experience in a senior management position where as four (4) years must be in the coffee management sector.

- Should be computer literate.

1.3 SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFITS:

- MSS 15

1.4 TERMS OF SERVICE:

- The General Manager shall be employed under three (3) year contract terms renewable upon satisfactory performance.

1.5 MODE OF APPLICATION:

Applicants should enclose application letter with copies of relevant certificates, printed curriculum vitae with names of three work related referees and their full addresses to be addressed to:-

Director General
Tanzania Coffee Board
P. O. BOX 732
MOSHI
info@coffee.go.tz;

All applications must be received not later than three (3) weeks from the first appearance in this newspaper.

Minister banks on WASH services to boost economic growth in Kisarawe

By Guardian Reporter

IMPROVED Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in Kisarawe District, Coast Region are likely to boost economic growth following reduced burden of waterborne diseases, Minister for Industry and Trade, Selemani Jafo said yesterday.

He was speaking in Dar es Salaam during a dissemination workshop for the effectiveness of hygienic behaviour in schools and health care facilities programme which has been successfully implemented in the district for three years.

"Access to clean water and proper sanitation reduces the incidence of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea. This leads to fewer healthcare costs, less absenteeism from work and school as well as ensuring a healthier population," said Jafo who is a Kisarawe Member of Parliament.

He said that improved WASH services bring about changes especially in the areas of sanitation and personal hygiene, thus protecting the community from diseases caused by poor

hygiene. He commended the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for supporting the programme and funding from WaterAid Tanzania totalling euros 2,282,941. It was concurrently implemented in Tanzania, Madagascar and Nepal from 2021 to 2024.

The minister underscored the need for leaders, teachers, pupils and the community to ensure the sustainability of the constructed WAS facilities that are meant to ensure hygienic behaviours amongst users in 30 schools and 15 healthcare facilities.

Jafo said Tanzania is among countries that are doing better in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially goal number 3 which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and goal number 6 which is about ensuring access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene as the most basic human need.

Kisarawe District Commissioner Petro Magoti said the district is still in need of more WASH facilities since it has a total of 120 schools.

"We have 100 schools in need of the facilities. This will save children from waterborne diseases, thus improving their academic performance," he said.

Anna Mzinga, Country Director WaterAid Tanzania, said that construction of inclusive latrines, hand washing stations and water connections and storage facilities have significantly transformed the environment within selected health facilities and schools in Kisarawe District.

"Behaviour change interventions were applied and embedded to empower communities together with hygiene intervention packages specifically for schools and health facilities to instill lifelong hygienic practices."

According to her, the project has resulted in improved hand-washing behaviour among the targeted populations, development of robust evidence-based on hand hygiene and development of two comprehensive hygiene packages that include step-by-step guidance on how to conduct hygiene sessions in schools and health facilities.



Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for an international mining sector investors annual meeting set for November 19 to 21, with the Tanzania Chamber of Mines in a pivotal role. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

DC points finger at pastoralists as pipe damage causes water scarcity

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari,

Handeni

HANDENI District Commissioner Albert Msando has warned pastoralists who intentionally destroy infrastructure in an attempt to secure water for their livestock.

Msando sounded the warning when he participated in repairing leaking water pipes, the situation that affected seven villages—Kwedizinga, Kwedikwazu Magharibi, Mumbwi, Sezakofi,

Chanikakofi, Kwamnele and Kwamkono. The seven villages have been left without access to clean and safe water for several days.

He stated that such actions have caused unnecessary disruptions for residents who rely on the infrastructure for safe and clean water and vowed to take legal action against anyone caught engaging in tampering with water infrastructure.

"The government has established proper land use plans for everyone to achieve development. Breaking

water pipes to supply water to your livestock is unacceptable. This is my final warning; if you do not cease this misbehaviour, you will face legal consequences," he said.

He also praised residents for allocating their land for government development projects, emphasizing that this shows their commitment to progress.

"The district government has a plan for proper land use to execute various development projects, and your willingness to allocate land demonstrates your need for rapid development," he said.

China-Africa economic relations reach new heights, says official

BEIJING

CHINA-AFRICA economic and trade cooperation has continued to scale new heights since the 2021 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), delivering tangible benefits to the people of both China and Africa, Assistant Minister of Commerce Tang Wenhong said on Tuesday.

Tang made the remarks at a press conference detailing the progress and achievements that have been made under the nine cooperation programmes China announced during the FOCAC's 8th Ministerial Conference held three years ago in Senegal.

The nine programmes span categories such as medical and health, poverty reduction and agricultural development, trade

and investment promotion, digital innovation, green development and capacity building, among others.

According to Tang, driven by programmes aimed at trade and investment promotion as well as poverty reduction and agricultural development, China-Africa investment and trade cooperation has developed steadily. "China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years."

The official said a raft of cooperative projects, such as the Lekki port in Nigeria and the Nairobi expressway in Kenya, have materialized over the past three years. "China has also dispatched more than 500 agricultural experts to Africa and trained nearly 9,000 agricultural talents, providing strong support to Africa's agricultural modernization

process."

Driven by green development, digital innovation and other programs, Chinese companies have implemented a large number of clean energy projects in Africa, while exports of lithium batteries and photovoltaic products to Africa have increased significantly, Tang said.

He said China and Africa will continue to deepen friendship and discuss cooperation plans during the FOCAC 2024 Summit, scheduled to be held in Beijing from September 4 to 6.

"China will expand institutional opening up to Africa and deepen cooperation in industrial and supply chains, so as to further advance China-Africa economic cooperation and development linkage for shared benefits," Tang added.

Suspected serial killer flees custody in Kenya - police

NAIROBI

A SUSPECTED serial killer in Kenya has escaped from custody, prompting a manhunt, police have said.

In July police said Collins Jumaisi Khalusha had confessed to the murders of 42 women, including his wife, since 2022.

Khalusha's lawyer denied the claim, saying his client had been tortured to confess.

He had been held at a police station since being arrested in July, but on Tuesday, authorities said Khalusha and 12 others escaped by cutting through a wire mesh roof and scaling a perimeter wall.

An incident report from the station said police discovered the detainees were missing at 05:00 local time (03:00 GMT) when officers were serving breakfast.

The 12 individuals who fled alongside Khalusha were Eritrean nationals detained for entering the country illegally, the police said.

Khalusha, aged 33, was detained following the discovery of nine mutilated bodies at an abandoned quarry in the capital, Nairobi.

The victims were aged between 18 and 30 and were all killed in the same way, according to the police.

There murders sparked shock and outrage. Many questioned how 42 people could be murdered in the space of two years without police noticing and also how officers failed to detect that bodies were being left in a quarry around 100m (109 yards) from a police station.

Kenya's police watchdog launched an investigation to establish whether the police were linked to the killings, following "widespread allegations of police involvement in unlawful arrests and abductions."

It has not yet released its findings.

Police in Kenya have been accused of scores of human rights abuses in the past - and the force is currently under investigation over deaths and abductions following

recent anti-government protests.

At the time of Khalusha's arrest, Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) chief Mohamed Amin said: "It is crystallising that we are dealing with a serial killer, a psychopathic serial killer who has no respect for human life, who has no respect and dignity."

Khalusha's lawyer, John Maina Ndegwa, told the BBC in July: "He says he was strangled to confess. You could tell he was in distress, terrified and in anguish."

The suspect appeared in a court in Nairobi on Friday, when the magistrate ordered him to be held for a further 30 days so that police could complete their investigations, news agency AFP reported.

The discovery of the dismembered bodies came as the country was still shaken from the so-called Shakahola forest massacre, where more than 400 bodies were found in mass graves near the Indian Ocean coast.

Cult leader Paul Mackenzie had allegedly encouraged his followers to starve themselves in order to "go see Jesus."

He has pleaded not guilty to manslaughter.



Kenya's police watchdog launched an investigation to establish whether the police were linked to the killings, following "widespread allegations of police involvement in unlawful arrests and abductions."



Dr. Rose Reuben, the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) executive director, conducting capacity building training for journalists and public relations officers from private sector organisations, organised by the Aga Khan Foundation in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Mloganzila set to stage knee, hip surgery camp

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila (MNH-Mloganzila) has invited Tanzanians with knee and hip issues to participate in a surgery camp organised by local specialists in collaboration with an expert from India.

The camp, which will run from 26th to 30th of this month, will take place at MNH-Mloganzila, where hundreds of patients with such conditions are expected to

undergo surgery. Goodlove Mfuko, Assistant Director of Surgical Services at MNH-Mloganzila said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to journalists on the planned medical camp.

He said that attendees will receive thorough examinations before undergoing surgery at the camp, which is the second of its kind hosted by the hospital.

Mfuko said that all preparations are complete and that the camp will feature Dr Ram Mohan Reddy, a specialist from Indian-based Yashoda Hospital.

"This specialist will work alongside our local orthopaedic and accident specialists at MNH-Mloganzila. This will be the second time we provide this service, having previously performed successful hip and knee replacement surgeries on 170 patients," he said.

"This camp will allow us to collaborate with the Indian doctor and his team, gaining experience and exchanging knowledge to further enhance our services."

Dr Joseph Amos, an orthopaedist at MNH-Mloganzila who specialises in hip and knee surgery, mentioned

that the camp will address all types of hip and knee conditions.

"We will host an Indian specialist renowned for his expertise in hip and knee surgeries, with 20 years of experience, along with his team here," he said, noting that MNH-Mloganzila was identifying patients with hip and knee problems.

"The diagnosis includes assessing leg pain and groin discomfort. Patients visiting our clinics will receive comprehensive evaluations from our specialists. We will determine who requires surgery and who can be treated through other methods," he said.

'Record number of aid workers killed in 2023'

By Special Correspondent

A RECORD number of aid workers killed in conflicts around the world last year, more than half of them after the Israel-Hamas war started on 7 October, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has said.

"Last year, 280 aid workers lost their lives in 33 countries making it the deadliest year on record for the entire global humanitarian community," said Ramesh Rajasingham, head and representative of OCHA in Geneva.

He added that shockingly, this was more than double the previous year's figure of 118 and twice as many deaths as the yearly average over the last 20 years.

OCHA said 2024 "may be on track for an even deadlier outcome" with 172 aid workers killed as of 7 August, according to a provisional data.

More than 280 aid workers have been killed in Gaza, mainly in airstrikes. The war there is now in its 11th month.

The organisation said that "extreme levels of violence in Sudan and South Sudan" have also contributed to the death toll both this year and last.

"In Sudan and many other places, aid workers are attacked, killed, injured, and abducted. We demand an end to impunity so that perpetrators face justice," he said.

Leni Kinzli, spokesperson for the World Food Programme in Sudan, said there is active fighting in areas where people need help the most.

"There are airstrikes, bombings, shelling, in places like Khartoum and Al-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. So that's the physical security threat," she said.

"But then along the roads where we would have to transport food, there are so many checkpoints, so many different actors, armed actors involved, across different lines of

conflict."

In a tweet on World Humanitarian Day on Monday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said honouring the humanitarians killed was not enough.

The UN's acting humanitarian chief, Joyce Msuya, said "the normalisation of violence against aid workers and the lack of accountability are unacceptable" and enormously harmful to aid operations everywhere.

In a letter to UN member nations, 413 humanitarian organisations said that "brutal hostilities" seen in multiple conflicts have exposed the terrible truth that "we are living in an era of impunity."

They appealed to all countries, the wider international community, and all parties to conflicts to protect civilians and aid workers and hold perpetrators to account.

At a ceremony at UN headquarters on Monday dozens of current staff members and relatives of some of the victims stood in silent tribute to their memory.



But then along the roads where we would have to transport food, there are so many checkpoints, so many different actors, armed actors involved, across different lines of conflict



Dr Ally Possi (L), the solicitor general, receives token office documents from predecessor Dr Boniphace Luhende at the handing over ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Prisca Jackson

Plane crashes into Lake Nyasa, leaves 2 missing

LILONGWE

A SMALL plane has crashed into Lake Nyasa with three people on board, a Malawian official has said.

A Dutch passenger survived and was rescued by fishermen, but another passenger and the pilot were missing.

Malawi's Information Minister Moses Kumkuyu said in a statement that the rescued passenger was a woman, but did not give her age. She suffered minor injuries and was being treated at a hospital, he added.

The plane crashed near the shore of Lake Malawi (Nyasa) in shallow water, Kumkuyu said. He said the plane had been located and a rescue operation was underway.

The plane was a Cessna C210, which can usually carry six people, flying from the central lakeside town of Nkhotakota to the southern town of Liwonde. It was operated by charter airline Nyasa Express, the statement said.

Lake Malawi is the third largest lake in Africa and is approximately 580 kilometres (360 miles) long, more than half the length of the country.

In June this year, Malawi's Vice President Saulos Chilima was killed in a plane crash along with nine other people on board, after searchers found wreckage of the aircraft in a fog-cloaked forest.

The remains of the military plane were located in a mountainous area in the north of the country, a day after it went missing in bad weather.

"The search and rescue team have found the aircraft ... completely destroyed with no survivors, as all passengers on board were killed on impact," President Lazarus Chakwera said.

"Words cannot describe how heart breaking this is," he said, calling the crash a "terrible tragedy."

Seven passengers, including former first lady Shanil Dzimbiri, who was married to ex-President Bakili Muluzi, and three military crew members were on board. The group was heading to the northern town of Mzuzu to attend the funeral of a former justice minister.



The search and rescue team have found the aircraft ... completely destroyed with no survivors, as all passengers on board were killed on impact

THURSDAY 22 AUGUST, 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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Saving \$600m per year with cuts in container charges shows PPP helps

POLICY debate is unlikely to revisit the issue of public-private arrangements at the port of Dar es Salaam with reports of rather surprising positive outcomes, like saving upwards of \$600m (1.5trn/-) at the end of one year of operations under the new port arrangement. This projection was commonly expressed by the chief executive officer for DP World (T) and the Middle East, as well as the port authority director general at a press conference on Tuesday. It shows that there is no statutory dispute on the result.

What this implies is that port inefficiency was costing the country upwards of 1.5trn/- in container extra charges alone, not counting lost business from port inefficiency. What we are getting are preliminary indications from the past four months of DP World presence as unveiled at a DP World and Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) press conference on what has been achieved in four months. It was clear from what was being said that the port of Dar es Salaam is increasingly competing with Mombasa port.

Earlier it was just marginally camouflaged that Dar port was no match for Mombasa, despite evasive evaluations from this side of the border. Even before the joint press conference summed up achievements over the past four months, a decision last week by Ugandan oil importing authorities to use the port of Dar es Salaam instead of Mombasa was a curtain raiser to what was happening. The portfolio minister in Uganda talked about a series of non-tariff barriers in oil imports, but what her remarks hid from view was that they still were using Mombasa despite all these complications, until now.

As four months is but the same as brick laying for some and foundation building for others, achievements noticed are open to interpretation as to what this signals for future scenarios in relation to efficiency and revenues. Only an upward curve is feasible in that situation, though a worst case scenario remains plausible that it flattens out within a short time, if a different sphere of inefficiency crops up after plenty of successes. Thus the 1.6trn/- dividend is likely to be surpassed as more countries beef up their use of Dar port, and investment growth tied to the wider business environment climbs too.

Still the strategic dividend is less the income yield from cuts in container charges and uptake of port use by wider business interests even across borders, but the credibility of the public-private partnership model in vital economic lifelines.

There was an overdose of nationalism in how the port engagement was being viewed, and at the time any such projection of savings was being seen as propaganda to make the deal 'sweet.' Now it is genuinely possible public opinion will be less forbidding in PPP initiatives, easing up.

Still, as politics is about fault finding, there is no doubt that these achievements will have a strategic input in the psychological framework of political debate, modernizing its terms and reevaluating its expectations. The net result is likely to be a 'clean bill of health' for the 4Rs, when people visibly see that they work, the business environment improving noticeably. That is good news for policy cohesion, even for the next polls.

Handing \$8.3m in grants to private firms sets new tone in foreign aid

SHIFTs and changes in international development policy were evident lately when the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a \$8.3m (22.5bn/-) series of grants shared by nine local companies is a case of such changes. The US agency said this investment is intended to enhance trade, improve food security and boost the country's competitiveness in the export sector through the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Needless to say, we use just a small part of it.

There was an exhibition on the mission's activities in the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam focusing on USAID Africa trade and investment activity partnership, where the grants arrangement was unveiled. The USAID country administrators talked of the partnerships as demonstrating the potential of collaboration between the private and public sectors, where admittedly the US hasn't been especially vocal, seemingly tuned to the director participation of private firms, and a level playing field in that context. Now the US is finding new energy in that direction, as placing public funds into firms is likely to be followed by 'arranged marriages' between local and US firms shareholding.

Somebody may say that we are not there yet but there is potential to move in that direction depending on the need, as what is at stake has always been the image of US involvement in anything that forms a strategic dimension of economy, since the mid-1960s. We have tended to see Western private firms as potential adversaries and

just wished for greater access to public funds from those spheres, an arrangement that those holding office in African countries keep stressing as a moral issue. The main economic powers see this orientation as inefficient and not suitable to their own business wishes.

The use grants to start penetrating into the country's emerging export-orientated private sector is a bridge building move that will be evaluated on how far it is delivering, to see how far USAID can use that lever for products needed in the US market. It will also be evaluated to see the extent that it can yield business goodwill and ability to interlock shares, as so far this is a one-sided relationship where the local firms obtain public funds for targeted objectives. It is expected to generate the sort of synergies that can propel greater interaction capital infusion by US firms to kindred local companies.

For a section of business analysts, this initiative underlines the difficulty with which the country faces in developing tangible business links with the US that aren't direct or individual project initiatives, the sort that the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) relishes to obtain on a day to day basis. The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange came up around 30 years ago and it isn't a viable centre for capital formation, just collecting local savings in one or other dividend pursuit. There are large sums of money stashed in local branches of multinational banks which would be directed at industrialisation were it that the targeted firms have access to protection by US law via locked shareholding

"A CASE TO RECKON WITH"



Transforming India's villages through innovative water harvesting techniques



Training being provided to local farmers for water harvesting and the reuse of waste water for the local farming community.

By Umar Manzoor Shah

BRIJ Mohan, a 37-year-old farmer from Deoria, a modest village in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, has a story of resilience and transformation. Mohan, the lone breadwinner for his family, has two children, the eldest just 10 years old.

A year ago, Mohan grew cabbage on his 3-acre farm, but severe water scarcity limited him to cultivating the crop just once a year under difficult conditions. With minimal irrigation facilities, Mohan's farm yielded no more than Rs 40,000 annually (about USD 600).

"I had no shortage of land, quality seeds, or fertilizers. But the lack of water was a major obstacle to my livelihood. The late arrival of monsoons and limited water from government-sponsored irrigation schemes nearly pushed me to abandon farming. I was pushing my family towards starvation," Mohan told IPS News.

Many members of the farming community are in Mohan's situation, struggling with water scarcity that leaves their lives and fields high and dry.

Manga Ram, who lives just a mile from Mohan, has a similar story. He cultivates brinjal on his 4-acre land but faces meager water supplies that render his otherwise cultivable land barren mid-season.

"I can't blame the government for everything. I know there's a water shortage throughout the region. Farmers are craving water everywhere. But the losses were unbearable," Ram told IPS.

He added that last year he expected a harvest worth over Rs 90,000 (USD 1,200) but barely made half that amount.

"The saplings didn't get enough water, turning into dry twigs and leaving my hopes of a profitable harvest in ruins," Ram recalls.

The End of Imagination

According to government estimates, 72 of 75 districts (96 percent) in Uttar Pradesh, including Rampur, recorded below-normal rainfall this year. Data from India's Meteorological Department shows that in 59 districts, rainfall was "very low," with a significant deficiency of less than 60% of the recommended precipitation.

"Even major districts like Meerut and Allahabad received insufficient

water for farming. How could we expect this remote area to get government help? Farming was becoming increasingly difficult, as was sustaining our families and providing a good life for our kids," says farmer Suneel Singh.

Another farmer, Ram Dayal, describes the dire situation: "I have a 2-acre plot of land where I grow tomatoes. There wasn't enough rain, and the government's efforts to provide irrigation facilities were minimal. Our resources were too poor to rely on. We were praying for God's help, or it was the end of imagination for us," Dayal told IPS News.

Last year, a team of non-governmental agencies visited the area to understand the farmers' issues. They learned about the severe water shortage that was turning fertile fields barren. The local village heads and NGOs brought in scientific experts who proposed water harvesting and wastewater reuse for the farming community.

During surface irrigation, excess water draining from the fields, known as irrigation tailwater, is primarily considered agricultural wastewater. A certain amount of

tailwater drainage is necessary to ensure proper water penetration and irrigation efficiency.

The experts recommended building artificial ponds to collect water cheaply, such as by digging trenches lined with polythene sheets. Water could be stored for 4-5 days, enabling farmers to grow crops on small plots.

Following the guidance, farmers like Suneel, Ram Dayal, and Mohan dug 3-foot-deep pits with 8x6 foot dimensions and carved channels to divert wastewater into the pits. This method allowed them to collect and use wastewater for irrigation, watering their crops twice daily and protecting them from the scorching heat.

"I can now cultivate at least three crops a year. I grow cabbage, cauliflower, and brinjal, which was previously impossible," says Mohan.

He is hopeful that his profits will double in the future, allowing him to provide a comfortable life for his family. "I want my children to get an education but continue farming. Earlier, I was worried about their future. Now I am not," Mohan said.

IPS UN Bureau Report

Books are vital for cultivating a reading culture in learners, easing teacher's work



PARENTS play a crucial role in their children's education by providing them with all the needed learning materials including books as well as encouraging them to read. Books serve as silent teachers, offering constructive criticism and fostering a love for knowledge amongst learners.

As the famous philosopher Socrates suggested, the more one learns, the more one realizes how much they still don't know. This sentiment is particularly relevant for those who might assume that wealth alone is the key to success. While money has its value, it is the pursuit of knowledge that truly enriches lives. Knowledgeable persons are better positioned to manage and grow their wealth, demonstrating that knowledge ultimately leads to prosperity.

For many years, it has been said that the best inheritance one can receive is education. Building on this idea, some thinkers emphasize the importance of transforming education into practical knowledge. They argue that knowledge, much of which is found in books, is essential for success. An educated person who neglects reading risks becoming less influential, as it is knowledge, not just education that empowers individuals.

Education typically follows a structured path, with certifications validating one's learning. However, knowledge is less formal and is judged by what an individual knows and understands.

For example, a primary school student who can grasp concepts from a secondary school book demonstrates knowledge beyond their years. Today's society encourages the pursuit of knowledge, and scholars argue that without converting education into knowledge, the value of education diminishes.

To foster social and economic advancement, the society must promote a culture of reading. New ideas and concepts emerge daily, and as some scholars point out, an educated person who does not read today is at risk of becoming irrelevant tomorrow.

To ensure that children develop a habit of reading, parents are urged to provide them with books. Reading not only benefits individuals but also enriches society as a whole.

Books are vital for several reasons:
Building a reading culture: Reading is a cornerstone of civilization and personal growth. Knowledge gained through reading can transform lives, leading to better experiences and societal development. A commitment to reading drives progress and enables individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Expanding vocabularies: Understanding the meaning of words within a sentence or paragraph is crucial for comprehension. Regular reading helps individuals build their vocabulary, which in turn enhances their learning. Without a strong vocabulary, understanding complex ideas becomes challenging. Books provide the foundation for this vocabulary development, allowing readers to grasp new concepts more effectively.

Books play a crucial role in making a teacher's work more manageable. When students have their own books, teachers are relieved from the burden of writing exercises on the blackboard. This frees up time for teachers to focus on preparing other lessons. A well-prepared teacher is more effective in the classroom, as the quality of teaching is closely linked to the knowledge the teacher possesses. To maintain and expand their knowledge, reading is essential for teachers, and having more time to do so improves their teaching.

Books benefit learners, especially when they lose their exer-

cise books. It's not uncommon for students to misplace their exercise books, which can be particularly stressful during exam preparation. In such cases, having access to textbooks allows students to continue their studies and review the material without disruption.

In the pursuit of knowledge, a book is as essential as a weapon in warfare. Authors invest considerable time and effort in organizing their thoughts and research into a book. Writing is a specialized skill that not everyone possesses or is willing to develop.

Writers write to share knowledge and ideas with others, with

the primary goal of reaching an audience. While generating income may be a secondary consideration, the true purpose of writing is to contribute to the development of knowledge.

Supporting writers is essential for the continued growth of knowledge, which in turn empowers society. Encouraging a reading habit among young people is crucial so that it becomes ingrained in learners as part of their culture. Therefore, teaching should instill in learners a deep appreciation for books and the value they bring to education and personal development.

CLASSROOM MATTERS
 By **Thomas Lyimo**
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Lessons Tanzania can learn from global good governance index 2024

By **Telesphor Magobe**

TANZANIA is ranked 80th out of 113 surveyed countries in good governance across the world, according to Chandler Good Governance Index (CGGI) 2024 Report published by the Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG).

Although Tanzania is preceded by 79 surveyed economies, it is ahead of 33 countries in this ranking. The overall ranking is in eight pillars, namely leadership and foresight, robust laws and policies, strong institutions, financial stewardship, attractive marketplace, global influence and reputation and helping people to rise.

In each of the eight pillars surveyed countries were measured in this manner: In leadership and foresight, each country was measured against ethical leadership, long-term vision, adaptability, strategic prioritisation and innovation. In robust laws and policies, each surveyed country was measured against the quality of the judiciary, transparency and regulatory governance. In strong institutions, each surveyed country was measured against coordination, data capability, implementation and the quality of bureaucracy. In financial stewardship, each surveyed country was meas-

ured against government debt, country budget surplus, spending efficiency and country risk premium.

In an attractive marketplace, each surveyed country was measured against property rights, macroeconomic environment, attracting investments, logistics competence and stable business regulations. In global influence and reputation, each surveyed country was measured against international trade, international diplomacy, national brand and passport strength, and finally in helping people to rise, each surveyed country was measured against education, health, satisfaction with public services, personal safety, environmental performance, income distribution, gender gap, social mobility and non-discrimination.

In each pillar, Tanzania is ranked as follows with its positions (in descending order) in brackets: financial stewardship (52nd), leadership and foresight (57th), attractive market place (67th), global influence and reputation (90th), strong institutions (92nd), robust laws and policies (93rd), and helping people to rise (93rd).

In Chandler Good Governance Index 2023 Report, Tanzania also was ranked 80th out of 104 surveyed economies. In



George Simbachawene, Minister for Public Service Management and Good Governance

this report, although Tanzania was preceded by 79 economies, it was ahead of 24 economies. Its performance in eight pillars was as follows in descending order: financial stewardship (52nd), leadership and foresight (57th), attractive market place (65th), global influence and reputation (75th), helping people to rise (85th), strong institutions (88th) and robust laws and policies (91st).

In this year's ranking in East Africa, only four countries are ranked with their positions in brackets, namely Rwanda (56th), Tanzania (80th), Kenya (91st) and Uganda (91st). Bu-

rundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia and South Sudan were not surveyed, perhaps due to lack of data.

In last year's ranking in East Africa, Tanzania was preceded by two countries, namely Rwanda, which was ranked 52nd and Kenya, which was ranked 76th, but Tanzania was ahead of Uganda, which was ranked 85th. Only four countries were ranked as shown in descending order, namely Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The report suggests 10 lessons governments can learn

from this analysis especially when initiating reforms and maintaining them in line with good governance. These include strategic thinking, coordinated policies, fiscal prudence, low inflation, high rates of investment, a competitive marketplace, international trade openness, macroeconomic stability, leadership, teamwork, and a clear vision.

Furthermore, the report says governments should seek to govern with a view to being better tomorrow than they are today. "Good governance has become a more complex and precarious field than ever. At

the same time, new opportunities and prospective ways of governing are emerging. We see the CGGI and this report as contributing to a culture of learning, adaptation, and change—helping countries to understand where they stand as they navigate today's uncertain world and prepare for tomorrow's challenges."

The report focuses on four domains: geopolitical stability, socioeconomic development, technological advancements and environmental challenges. It says geopolitical stability is crucial for security and people's wellbeing as it provides necessary conditions for sustainable development, economic prosperity, effective governance, and positive engagement in the global community. As regards socioeconomic development, the report says it calls for governments working with businesses and investors to ensure a steady flow of resources, capital, and talent to their respective country (governance competition).

As regards technological advancements, the report appreciates the role played by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) in this rapidly evolving world, while at the same time cautioning its associated risks. However, it says, "in this rapidly evolving space,

slow-moving governments are especially vulnerable."

In relation to environmental challenges, the report is wary of extreme weather events, critical change to earth systems, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse and natural resource shortages by 2034. "Worryingly, countries most at risk of these nature-based challenges are also among the least prepared to effectively govern and manage them," the report says. On environmental challenges the report stresses the urgent need for countries to address governance issues that hinder efforts to mitigate these and other anticipated environmental risks.

Helping people to rise is a key pillar in good governance, according to this report. This pillar focuses on education, health, satisfaction with public services, personal safety, environmental performance, income distribution, social mobility, gender gap and non-discrimination. It is all about governments to use their capabilities to create enabling conditions for their people from all walks of life to achieve their fullest potential. "Good public outcomes mean enhanced opportunities and a better quality of life for people. These in turn improve trust in government."

By Aimee Gabay

One year after oil drilling referendum, what's next for Ecuador's Yasuní National Park?



A pair of scarlet macaws perched near the water hold at Yasuni National Park in Ecuador

ONE year since Ecuador citizens voted on Aug. 20, 2023, to halt all future oil drilling in Yasuní National Park, the government is nowhere near close to meeting its deadline. After the historic referendum, the country's Constitutional Court gave the government and the state-owned oil company Petroecuador one year to close the 43-ITT oil block (known as Block 43 or Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini) in the protected area home to isolated peoples in the country's eastern Amazon.

Progress toward the goal has been small, say the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) and the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE). Besides the creation of a commission to oversee the implementation of the referendum results, which was announced nine months after the vote, the government has not carried out any actions to decommission the 43-ITT oil block.

According to Petroecuador's statistical report, the state-owned oil company responsible for the oil block, they were still carrying out operations up until June, when they had their latest assessment of oil production. Between January and June, the block produced 50,454 barrels of oil per day, which is only 3.6% less than they had produced during the same period last year.

"So far, no one has approached the Waorani nationality," Gilberto Mincaye Nenquimo Enqueri, the ex-president of the Waorani Nationality of Ecuador (NAWE), said. Their ancestral territory includes the entire Yasuni Biosphere Reserve region, and like other Indigenous peoples, they are not included in overseeing the implementation of the referendum results. "The Constitutional Court said you must close in a year but there has been no document, no mechanism, that says from such a date to such a date it must close."

As a result of a national crisis in Ecuador, the declaration of an internal armed conflict with organized crime groups, a financial deficit of at least \$5.7 billion and increasing external debt of \$47.5 billion, President Daniel Noboa told local media in January that he would consider a moratorium to the referendum results. With Ecuador's dependence on oil income to stimulate economic growth and pay its debts, Noboa said a moratorium would be "a viable path" out of the crisis.

"We are extremely concerned about this situation," Zenaida Yasacama, the vice president of CONAIE, said over a phone call. "The national government took advantage of this issue of insecurity, and in the end, President Daniel Noboa has been able to do whatever he wants, and that worries us because we have no security as leaders."

According to Alberto Acosta, Ecuador's former minister of energy and mines and ex-president of the Constituent Assembly, the referendum results are mandatory and must be complied with immediately. Those who do not comply may be dismissed, according to constitutional provisions, Article 106.

"[The moratorium] is not legal," he said. "The Constitutional Court would have to authorize it on technical grounds. But until now, [the referendum] maintains the deadline of one year."

Neither the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition nor the Ministry of Energy and Mines in Ecuador responded to Mongabay's requests for comment.

Yasuní, one year later

After the referendum, the government was given one year to close the 43-ITT oil block. According to regulations, oil projects cannot be abandoned – closures require the dismantling of infrastructure and compliance with certain obligations, such as reparations for local populations and for nature.

The closure process requires investment, which, according to a bulletin published by Acción Ecológica, was never accounted for in the state budget after the referendum of August 2023. Each September, Petroecuador is required to prepare its investment and cost budget for the following year, and this gets approved in December. However, neither the government of former President Guillermo Lasso nor that of Noboa included any mention of the closure and dismantling of the 43-ITT oil block in this budget.

To date, the only concrete action that has been taken was an executive decree on May 8, 2024, nine months after the referendum, which announced the creation

of a committee to oversee the implementation of the referendum and decommissioning of the oil concession. However, this announcement did not include mention of a plan or timeline by which the process would commence or be completed, and the committee only includes representatives from government agencies; it does not include the participation of the Waorani or other affected Indigenous communities.

"The territorial organizations directly impacted were not included in them," Andrés Tapia, ex-communications coordinator at CONFENIAE, told Mongabay over email. This includes the Waorani and Kichwa Indigenous peoples, as well as members of the Tagaeri and Taromenane peoples – the last Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation in Ecuador.

"This is why the Waorani nationality through NAWE rejected the creation of said committee and demanded that the state include them in any decision in this regard since they are the direct actors in the territory," said Andrés.

Impacts of noncompliance

The government "would set a disastrous precedent for the country by failing to comply with the popular will and decision of this magnitude taken by the majority of the Ecuadorian people," said Tapia. "For the communities, the continuation of oil extraction will only mean more impoverishment and marginalization that almost 50 years of oil exploration has left for the communities."

While some Indigenous peoples haven't seen benefits from oil production in the region, other Indigenous communities living in or near the park who voted against the referendum say the industry brought development and stable livelihoods in the rainforest. The observed impacts on the environment, however, have been unequivocal.

Since it began operations in 2016, the 43-ITT oil block has led to numerous oil spills and the construction of a road through the 1,022,736-hectare (2,527,235-acre) biosphere reserve. Conservationists worry oil production threatens biodiversity and contact with vulnerable isolated Indigenous peoples such as the Indigenous Tagaeri and Taromenane communities.

Within the 43-ITT oil block, there was an increase in

forest loss between 2012 and 2022. According to one study, fewer than 8 hectares (19.7 acres) were lost as a result of oil activity in 2012, but by 2016, it had reached more than 77 hectares (190.3 acres). By 2022, around 300 hectares (741.3 acres) of forest had been lost.

Yasuní National Park, one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet, is incredibly dense in its richness. One hectare of the forest has more than 655 tree species, more than there are native tree species in the U.S. and Canada combined. A hectare is also projected to contain more than 100,000 insect species.

Failure to meet the Constitutional Court's deadline could put the region's isolated Indigenous peoples in peril and raise the risk of biodiversity loss and climate instability, Amazon Watch wrote in a press release.

Alternatives to oil money?

In January, President Noboa declared a state of emergency after one of Ecuador's most powerful gang leaders disappeared from prison, leading to chaos and violence across the country. In response to heightened insecurity, an energy crisis that led to a nationwide blackout for 17 million people in June and the country's financial crisis, the government implemented a series of measures, such as raising VAT taxes to 15% and partially withdrawing fossil fuel subsidies. Another measure is for a moratorium on the closure of the 43-ITT oil block as, according to ministers, Ecuador would

lose \$1.2 billion in oil income per year if operations were to stop.

A group of more than 20 economists from several institutions across the country, including the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador and the University of Guayaquil, dispute this figure and say it is inaccurate. In the most optimistic scenario, if oil activity were to continue, revenues would reach on average \$510 million annually until 2030, they wrote in a recent report.

Given that oil production has been declining and so has the price of oil, a more pessimistic scenario showed that in the period 2024-30, the oil production of the 43-ITT oil block would fall by 34%. Therefore, the economic returns are expected to be an average of \$275 million annually until 2030, the report said. Based on these two scenarios, the economists estimated an intermediate scenario where economic returns would come to \$393 million each year.

The economists proposed a series of economic alternatives to oil drilling in Yasuní, which they estimated could raise more than \$1.7 billion each year, surpassing the most optimistic scenario of oil revenues from the 43-ITT oil block. These alternatives included closing the tax gap, which is the difference between taxes legally owed and taxes collected, currently amounting to \$379.3 million, by 10%. By reducing the tax gap by this amount, the country could earn the equivalent of 96% of what the government would lose from

the exploitation of Yasuní.

To do so, the economists said the government should implement a series of measures aimed at labor formality and adequate employment, the digitization of records and transactions, improved tax regimes for small taxpayers and an increase in the budget of the entities responsible for carrying out tax audits and inspections.

Other measures proposed by the economists include a reduction in tax expenditure, which could bring in more than \$641 million annually, permanent tax wealth for both individuals and companies, which would generate tax revenues of \$321.60 million each year, an increase in the income tax rate for large financial institutions and other measures.

Nenquimo of NAWE said that the Waorani are interested in strengthening their bio economy by selling artisanal crafts and other products, such as energy drinks made from garlic leaves and the morete seed. However, this would require financial support that can go directly to communities and not through intermediary organizations, he said. With this money, they could develop environmental tourism projects and other community-led businesses.

"The Waorani could support themselves with other projects, but these projects must be linked directly to the community," he said. "For now, the Waorani has depended on others."

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Chinese modernisation to create new opportunities for global development

By Chen Minjian

OVER the forty years course of reform and opening-up, the Chinese economy has maintained a high growth rate and become the second largest in the world. Its contribution to world economic growth has stayed at around 30 percent annually, making China a main engine driving global economic growth. Today's China is closely connected and deeply integrated with the world, and its policy initiatives and development directions have a profound impact on the world. The recently held third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was closely watched by the world. The international community shares the view that the plenary session is of great and far-reaching significance, which will provide much-needed certainty to a world rocked by changes and turmoil, and create broader development opportunities.

The most important outcome is that the session adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, focused on the theme of Chinese modernization, and formulated systemic plans for further deepening reform. The session put forward over 300 reform measures, resulting in thousands of specific reform plans, which shall be completed by 2029. Throughout the full text of the Resolution, the words "reform" 145 times and "opening up" 35 times, demonstrating China's strong determination and confidence in comprehensively deepening reform and expanding opening-up, sending a strong message that China will expand high-standard opening up and share in the high-quality development outcomes. I would like to highlight the following aspects:

Firstly, we will steadily expand the institutional opening up. In recent years, China has stepped up opening up and the institutional framework innovation, established free trade zones and Hainan Free Trade Port, hosted the China International Import Expo, the China International Consumer Products Expo and the

Global Digital Trade Expo. Many landmark and innovative institutional innovations have been made in the area of liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, opening up in financial sector and improving the business environment. We will actively foster a first-rate business environment that is market-oriented, law-based and internationalized. By the new measures proposed in the Resolution, China will focus on institutional opening up, deepen institutional reform in investment, trade, finance, innovation and other key areas of international exchange and cooperation, improve relevant supporting policy measures, promote alignment with high-standard international economic and trade rules, create an institutional environment that is transparent, stable, and predictable, and elevate opening up to new levels more proactively.

The Resolution also emphasizes that China will unilaterally opening our doors wider to the world's least developed countries, which is a concrete step by China to promote an open world economy and advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. In addition, the progress of Chinese modernization will benefit more underdeveloped countries and their people.

Secondly, we will safeguard the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. China will remain firm in pursuing a more proactive strategy of opening up, and oppose trade protectionism and barriers. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, China's opening up has opened a new chapter, and doubled the number of signing free trade agreements. Our overall tariff level has been cut to 7.3 percent, relatively on par with the developed members in the World Trade Organization. China has become the world's largest trader in goods, the second largest in services, and a major trading partner of nearly 200 economies. The Resolution emphasizes that China will continue to participate actively in the reform of global economic governance, expand our globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas, and provide more global public goods. We will establish compliance mechanisms that are aligned with prevailing



international rules, and optimize the environment for opening up and cooperation. China has a population of more than 1.4 billion, and over 400 million people in the middle-income bracket are on the rise. It is estimated that for every 1 percentage point increase in the percentage of the total population to middle-income, annual consumption expenditures will increase by more than 150 billion US dollars. As a hyper-scale market with the biggest potential in the world, China's market will bring infinite business opportunities to its trading partner.

Thirdly, we will promote in both directions of inward and outward investment. At present, China is the world's second largest user of FDI, and the largest outbound investor globally. By the end of 2022, China's cumulative ODI stock has ranked among the world's top three in 11 consecutive years, with 47,000 offshore enterprises spanning 190 countries and regions worldwide, contributing 75 billion US dollars in taxes to their host locations and 2.5 million local job opportunities, boosting local economic development.

The Resolution points out that China will further reform the management systems for inward and outward investment, and protect the rights and interests of foreign investors by the law. We will expand the catalog of encouraged industries for foreign investment, appropriately shorten the negative list for foreign investment, remove all market access

restrictions in the manufacturing sector, and promote wider opening about telecommunications, the internet, education, culture, medical services, and other sectors in a well-conceived way. We will ensure national treatment for foreign-funded enterprises, improve relevant measures to make it more convenient for people from outside the mainland to live, receive medical services, and make payments in the mainland. Meanwhile, we will refine the institutions and mechanisms for promoting and protecting Chinese investment abroad, improve the management and service systems for outward investment.

Fourthly, we will improve the mechanisms for cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. Since the BRI was put forward 11 years ago, over 230 BRI cooperative ODI stock has ranked among the world's top three in 11 consecutive years, with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations. From 2013 to October 2023, the cumulative value of imports and exports between China and BRI partner countries exceeded 21 trillion US dollars, and two-way investment between China and Belt and Road countries exceeded 270 billion US dollars. The BRI has become the most popular public good in the world and the largest platform for international cooperation.

The new measures proposed in the Resolution will improve the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the BRI, continue to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technology, and

Innovation Cooperation Action Plan and redouble efforts to develop multilateral platforms for cooperation in green development, the digital economy, artificial intelligence, energy, taxation, finance, disaster mitigation, and other areas. We will build a multi-dimensional network to connect countries along the Belt and Road and make coordinated efforts to advance both major signature projects and "small but beautiful" public welfare projects.

These important measures put forward by the Session will provide institutional safeguards for further deepening reform comprehensively and expanding high-quality opening up, sharing its new development dividends with the world economy. China will uphold humanity's common values, and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. We will seek win-win cooperation and common development with the world so that the fruits of China's deepening reform comprehensively will benefit all countries fairly.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that "China's opening drive is not a one-man show. Rather, it is an invitation open to all." Guided by the vision of building a China-Africa community with a shared future, China-Tanzania practical cooperation has yielded fruitful results, illustrating a microcosm of China's expanding high-quality opening up. China has been Tanzania's largest trading partner for 8 consecutive years. In 2023, the

bilateral trade volume between China and Tanzania reached 8.78 billion US dollars, an increase of 5.7 percent year-on-year. China waived all tariffs on 98 percent of taxable imports from Tanzania. High-quality Tanzanian agricultural products such as soybeans, avocados and wild aquatic products have made their way to China. Tanzanians have also benefited from the trade between China and Tanzania through their hard work, increasing their incomes and improving their quality of life. China is also the largest source of foreign investment in Tanzania. In recent years, China's investment projects such as Keda Ceramics, Maweni Cement Plant and Sapphire Float Glass (Tanzania) Factory achieved remarkable results. The construction of major projects such as the fifth and sixth lots of the Central Standard Gauge Railway, the Nyerere Hydro-power Station, and the Magufuli Bridge by Chinese enterprises in Tanzania is steadily advancing. Our bilateral practical cooperation has contributed significantly to the diversification of Tanzania's trade, its economic transformation, and the improvement of the livelihoods of its people.

The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held in Beijing in early September. H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan will be invited to attend the event, and along with H.E. President Xi Jinping and African leaders, will celebrate China-Africa friendship, explore cooperation and chart the course for the future under the theme of "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future", reaching important new consensus. China is willing to take this opportunity to work with Tanzania to jointly implement the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, deepen China-Tanzania comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. China will deepen reform to promote greater opening-up, and in return will share new impetus, new dividends and new opportunities with Tanzania and other nations in the world through greater opening-up so that the Chinese and African people and the Chinese and Tanzanian people continue to benefit from the relationship and build a better future.

Chen Minjian (pictured) is the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania

Plastic pollution experts in Bangkok to negotiate treaty

BANGKOK

EXPERTS from around the world are expected to convene at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand, starting August 24, to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

The in-person meeting will be preceded by up to three virtual meetings per expert group, including a preparatory virtual meeting per group to facilitate logistics, planning and common understanding on organization of work and expected outcomes of the in-person meeting.

"Over the past three years, the global community has come together with the mission to end plastic pollution. We're now entering, the fifth and to be final negotiations in 2024," Bjorn Beeler, International Coordinator for IPEN (International Pollutants Elimination Network) said on August 13.

Bad precedent

Unlike at previous rounds of talk, the attendees will have to be part of a national delegation or chosen as one of two dozen invited technical experts.

In a series of letters to the United Nations Environment Programme, hundreds of civil society organizations said the action runs counter to the way international environmental treaties are usually made.

"In my 20 years of doing nego-



tiations, you may have technical expert group where you limit the number of experts you bring into the group, but you've never really removed observers or civil society or public interest groups," Beeler explained.

INC Executive Secretary Jyoti Mathur-Filipp replied in a letter that she wasn't authorized to let people in and there was no consensus on having observers participate.

U.N. documents aren't clear on the

question.

Clock is ticking

"The meeting that's coming up in Bangkok is known as an intersessional. This is to be a technical expert meeting which

is looking at two specific themes. They've had online calls before leading up to the discussion," Beeler said.

"Where there in Bangkok, they will have a discussion around chemicals of concern, criteria for how to identify those chemicals of concern and also look at recyclability. So that's the focus of one technical expert group. And the other technical expert group is to look at financing. Where could the funding come from to fund the development and implementation of a global agreement to end plastic pollution?"

In 2022, most of the world's nations agreed to make the first legally-binding treaty on plastics pollution, including in the oceans. The goal was to complete negotiations by the end of 2024.

Thousands of environmentalists, plastic industry representatives, scientists, tribal leaders, waste pickers and others concerned about plastic pollution have travelled as observers to four continents to share their views at the treaty talks.

Plastics are derived from organic materials such as crude oil, natural gas, cellulose, coal and, in more recent years, from biomass.

Recent data from the United Nations Environment Programme report, "Turning off the Tap", reveals that every year 430 million metric tonnes of plastic are produced.



Thursday 22 August 2024

Growth of Africa's fintech faces broader challenges

AJIBOLA AWOJOBI, LAGOS

As the sun rises over Lagos, Adebayo, a young Nigerian fintech entrepreneur, stares at his computer screen.

His brow furrowed in concentration and his startup, a mobile money platform to bring financial services to the unbanked, has just secured significant funding from a Silicon Valley venture capital firm.

It should be a moment of triumph, but Adebayo feels a gnawing sense of unease. The numbers on his screen tell a troubling story: his company is spending \$20 to acquire each new customer, yet the average revenue per user is a mere \$7.

Adebayo's predicament is not unique and not entirely true either. Across Africa, fintech startups are grappling with a challenging reality: the cost of customer acquisition often far outweighs the immediate returns. This scenario raises a critical question: Is Africa's venture capital-backed fintech model sustainable or fundamentally broken?

VCs and the promise of African fintech

The African continent has long been considered the next frontier for fintech innovation. With a large unbanked population and rapidly increasing mobile phone penetration, the potential for transformative financial services seemed boundless.

Venture capitalists, enticed by the prospect of tapping into a market of over a billion people—half without any formal bank account—have poured billions of dollars into African fintech startups over the past decade.

These investments have fueled remarkable innovations. From mobile money platforms that allow users to send and receive funds with a simple text message, to AI-powered credit scoring systems that enable microloans for small businesses, African fintechs have been at the forefront of financial inclusion efforts.

However, as Adebayo's experience illustrates, translating these innovations into sustainable businesses has proven to be a formidable challenge.

While Adebayo grapples with his early-stage startup's challenges, a major African fintech player with a customer base of 300,000 users has just raised a mammoth \$150 million, which brings its total funding to nearly \$600 million.

Based on a customer acquisition cost and revenue per customer established earlier, the economics of this deal seem precarious at best. A quick calculation reveals that the company would have spent around \$6 million just to acquire its current user base

while generating only \$2.1 million.

The funding, while impressive, thus raises serious questions about the sustainability of this model and the investors' expectations.

These scenarios serve as a stark illustration of the broader challenges facing the African fintech sector. It highlights the disconnect between the vast sums of venture capital flowing into the industry and the on-the-ground realities of customer acquisition and revenue generation.

For a company to justify such a massive investment, it would need to dramatically increase its user base, significantly reduce its customer acquisition costs, or find ways to generate substantially more revenue per user. Achieving any one of these goals in the complex African market is a tall order; achieving all three simultaneously is unarguably a Herculean task.

The funding also underscores the potential for overvaluation in the African fintech space. While such large investments can provide companies with the runway needed to scale and innovate, they also create immense pressure to deliver returns that may not be realistic given the current state of the market. This pressure could lead to unsustainable growth strategies, prioritizing user acquisition over building a solid economic foundation.

Balancing profitability & cost of growth

The core of the problem lies in the high cost of customer acquisition. According to a McKinsey analysis, some fintech companies in Africa spend up to \$20 to onboard a single customer, only to generate \$7 in revenue from that customer. This imbalance is staggering and points to deeper structural issues in the market.

Several factors contribute to these high acquisition costs. First, there's the challenge of digital literacy. Many potential customers, particularly those in rural areas, are unfamiliar with digital financial services. This necessitates extensive education and handholding, driving up the cost of onboarding.

Secondly, Africa's diverse linguistic and cultural landscape requires tailored marketing approaches for different regions. A strategy that works in urban Lagos may fall flat in rural Tanzania, forcing companies to invest heavily in localized marketing efforts.

Infrastructure challenges also play a significant role. The lack of robust digital infrastructure in many African countries is partly responsible for the high customer acquisition costs. Poor internet connectivity, limited smartphone penetration, and unreliable power supply in some areas



According to a McKinsey analysis, some fintech companies in Africa spend up to \$20 to onboard a single customer, only to generate \$7 in revenue from that customer. Photo: Agencies

make digital onboarding processes more difficult and expensive.

Moreover, many consumers are wary of new financial services, requiring significant investments in building trust and credibility.

The high customer acquisition costs are reflected in the overall profitability of digital banks globally. A BCG Consulting analysis revealed that only 13 out of 249 digital banks worldwide, or 5 percent, are profitable, with 10 of those firms being in the Asia Pacific region.

This statistic underscores the challenges digital banks face, particularly in emerging markets like Africa.

This reality presents a conundrum for venture capital firms accustomed to the rapid scaling and quick returns seen in other tech sectors. The traditional VC model, focusing on exponential growth and relatively short investment horizons, may not be well-suited to the realities of building sustainable financial services in Africa.

Rethinking the model

As awareness of these challenges grows, both entrepreneurs and investors need to rethink their approaches to fintech in Africa, taking into consideration the high cost of acquiring customers and the state of the continent's digital infrastructure.

One promising avenue is the development of white-label infrastructure. By creating common

technological solutions that can be customized and branded by different companies, fintechs can significantly reduce their development costs. This approach could be particularly effective for services like Know Your Customer (KYC) systems or payment processing platforms.

Taking the white-label concept further, an innovative solution is emerging: white-labeled services provided by community leaders with large networks in rural settings. This approach could help fintechs lower the cost of building their customer base. By leveraging the trust and influence of local leaders, companies can reduce the cost of onboarding and education. Word of mouth spreads faster in close-knit communities, potentially accelerating adoption rates and lowering acquisition costs.

Partnerships with established institutions are another strategy gaining traction. By collaborating with banks, telecom companies, or large retailers, fintech startups can leverage existing customer bases and distribution networks, potentially lowering acquisition costs.

Some companies are shifting their focus from B2C to B2B services. Targeting businesses rather than individual consumers could lead to lower acquisition costs and higher average revenue per user. For instance, providing payment processing services to small businesses or offering financial

management tools to cooperatives could be more cost-effective than trying to onboard individual users one by one.

There's also growing interest in impact-focused investment models. These approaches prioritize long-term social impact alongside financial returns, potentially allowing for longer runways and more sustainable growth strategies. Such models might be better suited to the realities of building financial infrastructure in emerging markets.

Looking to the future

As Adebayo contemplates his startup's future, he realizes the path forward will require a delicate balance between growth and sustainability.

The dream of bringing financial services to millions of unbanked Africans remains as compelling as ever, but the route to achieving that dream may need to be recalibrated.

The future of African fintech likely lies in a more nuanced approach to growth and funding.

Tanzania seeks to spur minerals value addition

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is expected to capitalise the 5th mining & investment conference scheduled to be held between November 19th and 21st to promote investments in minerals value addition in order to capture largest share of the sector's value chain.

The country has traditionally been exporting raw minerals concentrates, specifically those produced by large and medium scale miners, before changing its laws in 2017, which requires new entrant into the sector to ensure commitments in adding value locally.

The conference jointly organized by the ministry of minerals and the Tanzania Chamber of Mines (TCM) is expected to attract key stakeholders from the mining industry, government officials, investors and experts to explore opportunities, foster partnerships and chart a path toward sustainable mining practices.

Speaking during the press conference to official launching of the event yesterday, the minister for minerals Anthony Mavunde said since 2017 the government has emphasized on minerals value addition, through putting tough requirement for new entrants to commit on locally value addition.

"Since Tanzania is country rich in

mineral resources, and therefore promoting value addition is crucial for realizing the full potential of the mining sector," he said.

"Historically, Tanzania has been predominantly exporting raw minerals without significant processing, missing out on the opportunity to capture a larger share of the value chain. By encouraging local processing and beneficiation of minerals, the country can create a more sustainable and inclusive mining industry that benefits local communities and the economy as a whole."

The minister stated that by encouraging local processing and beneficiation of minerals, the country can create a more sustainable and inclusive mining industry that benefits local communities and the economy as a whole.

"During tabling the 2024/2025 budget, I clear stated that we will not issue any license for new minerals investors if they will not provide comprehensive plan for value addition," said the minister.

He said the government will continue to put in place conducive environment including infrastructure, laws and regulation to attract more investors in the mining sector, to increase its contribution to the economy.

Currently, the mining sector contributes 10.4 percent to the Gross Domestic

Product, which results into generating 2.1trn/- in local taxes, US\$3 billion in investments and US\$3.3 billion to the foreign exchange earnings.

The minister explained that some investors have shown commitments, including the planned US\$500 million Buzwagi Smelting Plant by Kabanga Nickel project.

He said, the Mineral Policy of 2009, emphasizes creation of conducive environment for the development of mining business and is supported by flexible and predictable legislations, reliable infrastructures and access to financial services.

Since 2017, he said, the Ministry of Minerals worked tirelessly in promoting the sector and provided awareness on available opportunities in the mining industry.

"This has attracted integration of the sector with other sectors of the economy and has successfully raised appetite and enabled the flow of capital from the financial institutions to various mining projects. With respect to that, we have seen a significant improvement to the small-scale sub sector," he said.

He said the efforts made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan have resulted on attracting more investors in the mining sector whereby currently the world has witness signing of nine Framework



Historically, Tanzania has been predominantly exporting raw minerals without significant processing. File Photo

Agreements by the Government of Tanzania with Multinational Mining Companies from different countries in the world.

"Tanzania has substantial mineral deposits, which require value addition," said deputy permanent secretary, ministry of minerals Msafiri Mbibo, noting that the sector will be well regulated to attract more investors, specifically in value addition.

The executive secretary, Tanzania

Chamber of Mines, Benjamin Mchwam-paka said "As we are embarking on critical minerals, value addition is a key".

The conference will provide a platform for participants to engage in meaningful discussions, share insights, and identify strategies for enhancing the sector's contribution to the country's economy and sustainable development.

The conference is specifically targeting to promote Tanzania's mining potentials by offering platform for inves-

tors to connect with mining companies, explore potential projects, and facilitate investment deals, foster public-private partnership, knowledge sharing and capacity building.

In recognizing the importance of environmental and social responsibility, the conference will focus on promoting sustainable mining practices, including environmentally friendly mining technologies, community engagement, and responsible resource management.

China's renewable energy interest in Africa

By Simon Freemantle & Jeremy Stevens

CHINA'S 'New Era' has altered the drivers and motivations of the country's macroeconomic policy. The country is elevating, from specializing based on relative efficiency (comparative advantage), to actively improving its competitiveness (competitive advantage).

To this end, New Productive Forces are the lodestar and policy is tasked with bolstering advancements in clean energy and high-tech industries.

China has mobilized resources for renewable energy capacity, which has expanded at a scale unmatched anywhere else in the world.

China has emerged as one of the leading producers of wind and solar power, and is a leader in the associated grid, storage, technologies and equipment. China's dominance has also involved control over supply chains of raw materials through domestic and overseas investments.

Meanwhile, economies of scale and agglomeration have resulted in lower unit cost of production, enhancing the prospects of renewable energy equipment manufacturing sales.

The New Era also includes an adjustment in China's foreign policy intent, calibrating China's influence in global affairs as commensurate with its economic status, and its status as an emerging superpower. Known as 'Big Power Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics', this has altered China's self-identification, urging for the development of a distinctive diplomatic approach befitting its role as a big power in world affairs.

Africa is an important element of China's realization of Big Power Diplomacy, providing support for China on issues involving its core interests, as an ally for China to play a greater role in global governance, and offering a stage for action as a responsible power on the global stage.

Again, renewable energy ecosystems are an important thematic area, offering a new frontier of global governance, serving as another catalyst in the ongoing shift towards a more plural global system.

Herein, China aims to become a "torchbearer in the global endeavour for ecological civilization". As such, Chinese financial commitments abroad have adopted more stringent sustainability metrics in the project evaluation process and are following the central directive to prioritize high quality and green projects that are smaller in size, but also have a material impact on the livelihood of local communities.

Renewable energy presents an opportunity to leapfrog traditional sources of power for Africa. Virtually



Simon Freemantle

every country across Africa has solar energy potential and most of its coastal countries have wind conditions that can contribute to redefining the energy transformation agenda in Africa.

Yet, Africa has the lowest share of the population with regular access to energy in the world and, almost without exception, African countries face growing energy demand and inadequate supply, rising carbon emissions, and vulnerability to oil price volatility, presenting serious headwinds to African economic growth, industrialization and modernization, and hindering the advancements in their socioeconomic well-being.

That said, it is worth stating that renewable energy technologies face high upfront costs and involve numerous uncertainties, making financing conditions highly relevant. The high cost of capital is a major impediment to scaling up clean energy investments in Africa, and reducing country-wide and project-specific risks will require a major effort.

Achieving Africa's energy- and climate-related goals by 2030 will require annual investments of over US\$200bn through the end of this decade. Therefore, change in the energy sector requires immediate action to provide an enabling environment for investment to overcome funding shortages.

Already, at this point, Africa offers an important and growing export market and presents smaller firms an opportunity to become project developers. Yet, without job creation, skill transfers and technology transfers, African development objectives are unlikely to be met.

China's renewable energy play in Africa sits in the centre of the New Era, critical to both the development of New Productive Forces and Great Power Diplomacy, and will be a priority during the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September 2024.

Africa must make the most of this convergence of Africa's energy shortage, along with the improving feasibility of renewables and China's global leadership, which has created a "gateway" for robust areas of collaboration between China and Africa.

Both sides must articulate specific metrics measuring the execution of coherent objectives that transcend rhetoric, sharing benefits fairly (not necessarily evenly), which would fortify the achievements of cooperation achieved so far, moving China-Africa relations into the New Era.

We argue in this note that, harnessed effectively, cooperation on renewable energy could become a more compelling and mutually advantageous peg of maturing China-Africa relations.

However, such advantages can only accrue if engagements are based equally on a strategic understanding of China's own



Jeremy Stevens

domestic imperatives and global ambitions and the alignment of African investment opportunities that not only speak to these factors, but also to the developmental priorities of African countries and regions.

With this in mind, and with the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) approaching, we make several recommendations for African policymakers in this note.

(1) FOCAC should focus on promoting green and low-carbon projects. Projects must include the export or wind turbines and solar panels, and the development of new equipment manufacturing, grid and transmission build and management. Furthermore, African policymakers should define specific and measurable goal for Chinese wind and solar energy capacity installation in Africa.

(2) In the spirit of China's "Hefei Model" of industrial investment and financing, funding vehicles must steer capital toward renewable energy and its concomitant supply chain, identifying and supporting key enterprises and projects. Banks and other financial institutions, and firms themselves, should be encouraged to come in during different stages of a project's life cycle as in each phase different parties offer relevant sets of skills and expertise, and pathways for different parties to exit safely and switch to other projects should be front and centre of discussions, whereby capital can continuously be recycled and expand the local industrial chain.

(3) Without doubt, there is a need for innovative solutions to foster the development of local currency financing ecosystems, broaden sustainable sources of capital, developing ESG and green financing frameworks so as not to be locked out of these growing financing markets. Local participation, skills transfer, and equitable profit-sharing arrangements should be prioritized in projects. China's commitment to local capacity development in renewable energy can play a role in supporting Africa's industrialization and localized manufacturing.

(4) African policymakers must create incentives to attract private firms for renewable energy projects, as these firms are more likely to integrate with local value chains and drive sustainable development. Also, African countries must coordinate their positions and projects to support regional interconnectivity and generate economies of scale, agglomeration and market to Chinese manufacturers.

Jeremy Stevens is Chief China Economist at Standard Bank, based in Beijing and Simon Freemantle is a Senior Political Economist in Standard Bank's global research team.

US regional banks rates rise to boost up balance sheets

NEW YORK

REGIONAL lenders at the heart of last year's banking crisis are cutting more deals to shore up their balance sheets and compete with rivals, extending a wave of consolidation in the sector that may attract anti-trust scrutiny.

The banks, generally with assets between \$10 billion and \$100 billion, have struck 38 deals so far this year, compared with 29 during the same period last year, according to Dealogic data.

More than two-thirds of lenders in the KBW Regional Banking Index have a greater than 50 percent chance of being acquired over the next 12 months, according to a Reuters analysis of StarMine M&A data provided by LSEG. The model assigns target scores based on fundamentals, share price valuations and other factors.

The regional banking sector has come under immense pressure as elevated interest rates have dampened borrowing, increased competition for deposits and led to larger losses on commercial real estate loans, forcing banks to scale up and diversify, investors said.

"The regionals need to consolidate to compete more effectively," said Macrae Sykes, banking portfolio manager at Gabelli Funds. "There are over 4,000 individual banks, many of which are not competitive in today's landscape."

Tie-ups lower banks' cost of capital and allow acquirers to grow and diversify deposits, a key source of funding. Industry deposit costs have grown each of the last eight quarters as savers have sought out higher-yielding products, although costs now look to be peaking, Morningstar said this month.

SouthState's acquisition of smaller rival Independent Bank Group which will create a lender with \$65 billion in assets is the biggest deal by assets this year. UMB Financial's takeover of Heartland Financial is close behind, creating a bank with \$64.5 billion in assets.

UMB CEO Mariner Kemper said in April that Heartland's low-cost deposit base was attractive to the bank and that such deals would allow lenders to expand into new states and access more depositors.

With Treasury yields declining,

banks that had delayed deals to avoid crystallizing losses on their securities holdings when yields were high are also expected to explore M&A.

Around 45 percent of paper losses banks had amassed on their securities holdings have been erased from their peak two years ago, Wells Fargo analyst Mike Mayo wrote in a report this month.

"As the interest rate and broader macro environment evolve, balance sheets will be able to more readily support M&A, which may lead to more activity," said David Portilla, partner at law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell who advises on financial services M&A.

New York Community Bancorp, whose CRE troubles triggered a sector-wide selloff earlier this year, is the top takeover target among regional banks, according to Reuters' StarMine data analysis, which assigned NYCB a score of 98.

The bank trades at a price-to-book ratio of about 0.48, according to LSEG data. A ratio below one typically indicates an undervalued stock. NYCB was followed by Valley National, Hope Bancorp, Banc of California, Texas Capital Bancshares and Fulton Financial, whose assets range from \$17 billion to \$62 billion and all trade at a price-to-book ratio of less than one.

"If there is going to be stress and possible attractive valuations, it is going to be down the food chain in terms of the size of the banks," said Brian Mulberry, portfolio manager at Zacks Investment Management which holds several bank stocks.

Mulberry said that mid-sized lenders like Fifth Third and Huntington Bancshares might have an appetite to snap up smaller rivals that would allow them to better compete with the likes of JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Wells Fargo.

While tie-ups should help shore up faltering smaller lenders, big deals are set to receive more scrutiny under new rules proposed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC).

Bank regulators review how deals will affect competition, systemic risk, and the needs of affected communities, while in some cases the Justice Department advises on antitrust issues.

Banks urged to adopt flexible debt repayment models

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THE Union of Tanga Business People (JWT) has called on banks and financial institutions to adopt more flexible debt repayment procedures for borrowers, instead of seizing assets to recover debts.

Speaking at the annual Business Club 2024 forum, which gathered numerous SMEs in Tanga, JWT Secretary General Masoud Ismail emphasized the need for more considerate debt recovery measures.

He proposed the formation of loan committees in each district, composed of bank officials and business representatives, to assess the reasons behind payment delays and help businesses find solutions.

Ismail also urged the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to engage with traders who are struggling to pay taxes on time. He suggested that such dialogue would help address challenges and foster better relations between traders and tax authorities.

"If these recommendations are implemented, I believe it would provide a better way to resolve debts," Ismail said.

"For instance, if someone has repaid a significant portion of their loan but faces unforeseen circumstances preventing them from settling the remaining balance, fellow businesspeople could step in to raise funds instead of resorting to asset seizures."

He added that the current business environment is highly competitive and challenging, with small traders



A cross-section of Tanga traders attentively listening to advice on improving business relations with banks and the TRA regarding tax and debt repayment. PHOTO: CHEJI BAKARI

(commonly known as "Machinga") competing with larger businesses.

Ismail expressed concern that this dynamic, coupled with inflationary pressures, is disrupting supply chains and negatively affecting tax collection, as smaller traders are not subjected to the same tax obligations as larger businesses.

"Entrepreneurs make up about 60 percent of the retail sector in the country, yet many of us are struggling due to inflation and an uneven tax

burden," Ismail said.

"We're required to pay taxes, but smaller businesses with capital under 100 million shillings are not, which squeezes our profit margins and hampers our ability to meet tax deadlines."

Another trader, Jamal Hussein, highlighted the growing importance of mobile phones in financial transactions, noting that banks are experiencing reduced cash flow as a result.

He urged banks to update their policies and

technologies to ensure even non-account holders can conduct transactions through banks, which would expand their customer base and support those in need of loans.

Some bank officials who attended the meeting expressed appreciation for the constructive feedback.

One financial institution committed to implementing the suggestions in order to improve the business environment and promote economic stability.



Gold fetches record price as central banks stockpile

SHANGHAI

A rush for gold shows no signs of letting up, as the price of the bullion hit an all-time high overnight on bets that the Federal Reserve is set to deliver its first interest-rate cut in four years, leading global central banks to amass more of the precious metal to diversify their assets.

The spot price touched a record of US\$2,531.75 per ounce overnight, marking a 22 per cent gain this year, and traded at about US\$2,510 an ounce on Wednesday.

UBS Global Wealth Management expects the metal to approach US\$2,700 by the middle of 2025, while Citigroup is even more optimistic, forecasting a rise to US\$3,000 in the same time frame.

Gold's ascent comes in the run-up to the Jackson Hole Symposium on Friday, during which Fed chair Jerome Powell is expected to give clues about anticipated policy easing.

Amid cooling inflation, a cut during the Fed's September 18 meeting now seems like a certainty, with the market pricing in more than a 25-basis-point reduction, according to the CME Group.

An environment with low borrowing costs burnishes the appeal of gold, which generates no rate-bearing returns.

DRC bank's rating upgraded for strong performance

KINSHASA

MOODY'S Investors Service has upgraded Rawbank's long-term deposit rating from Caal to B3, as announced recently.

This upgrade reflects the bank's improved profitability and strong capital position. The DRC-based Rawbank has strengthened its role as a key financial player in a country where the business climate is gradually improving.

The rating boost is largely due to a significant increase in interest income from loans, which surged by 48 percent in 2023.

This growth is driven by the booming mining sector, particularly investments in the copper value chain, a crucial part of the DRC's economy.

Moody's also notes a significant improvement in Rawbank's capitalization. The bank's capital adequacy, measured by comparing equity to risk-weighted assets, rose from 11.0 percent in 2022 to 15.7 percent in 2023.

This increase indicates better resilience against potential risks and stronger support for future growth. This progress was achieved through prudent margin management, resulting in nearly doubled net profits in 2023.

However, Moody's points out some concerns. The ratio of non-performing loans increased to 3.1 percent in 2023 from 2.5 percent in 2022, reflecting the bank's expanding loan portfolio, particularly in retail and small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

This expansion, though, presents a strategic opportunity to enhance Rawbank's presence in these growing sectors.

Despite the ongoing complexities in the DRC's economic environment, Rawbank's current performance is expected to continue and even improve.

Moody's analysts believe the bank will maintain enhanced profitability and capitalization, which should stabilize over the long term.

This new rating supports Rawbank's strategy to play a larger role on the international stage.

Notably, on August 6, 2024, Rawbank announced its investment in Africa Finance Corporation, a multilateral institution focused on financing infrastructure projects in Africa, with over \$200 million dedicated to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alone.

NFRA to start purchasing paddy in Katavi

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Katavi

RICE farmers in the Katavi region are on the verge of a promising season as the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) prepares to begin purchasing paddy at competitive prices.

In an exclusive interview, Mtambalike Samwel, NFRA's zonal in-charge for the Mpanda zone, revealed that preparations are underway to begin buying paddy at a set price of 900/- per kilogram.

"We are finalizing the necessary infrastructure and systems to ensure a smooth and professional procurement process for paddy from our farmers," Samwel stated.

The Mpanda zone was officially inaugurated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on July 14, 2024, following the completion of a 14bn/- expansion project.

This project included upgrading cereal grain storage silos and other critical infrastructure.

"We are proud and grateful for the president's support in empowering this facility, which will now serve a larger number of farmers," Samwel added.

The newly expanded center now has the capacity to store 28,000 tonnes of maize, a significant increase from its previous capacity of 5,000 tonnes. The zone plans to purchase at least 40,000 tonnes of maize this season, with 4,005 tonnes already procured as of yesterday.

"Our goal is to acquire 40,000 tonnes of maize in this first phase, and we plan to continue purchasing more to ensure food security both domestically and for neighboring countries in need," Samwel explained.

To streamline the cereal crop procurement process, the Mpanda zone has established four purchasing centers in Mpanda, Mwamapuli, Kibaoni, and Manga. These efforts will also support NFRA's contract with Zambia, under which Tanzania will export 650,000 tonnes of maize, with the Mpanda zone contributing 18,458 tonnes.

"NFRA, at the national level, has committed to exporting 650,000 tonnes of maize to Zambia. Each zone must contribute to fulfilling this contract," Samwel noted.



Casual workers at NFRA's Mpanda Zone pack maize grains at the newly expanded center. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo.

Thanks to improved government-set prices, currently at 700/- per kilogram, more farmers are selling their produce to the state-owned food reserve agency. Samwel highlighted that, before the establishment of the Mpanda zone, maize farmers earned 48,000/- per sack, but with the new stable prices, they now earn at least 70,000/- per sack.

To ensure that the zone receives top-quality maize, in line with NFRA's procurement standards, training programs have been initiated to educate farmers on how to produce maize that meets the required standards.

Katavi is well known for maize production, with the regional government designating 112,425 acres of arable land for food and cash crop cultivation.

NFRA's mission is to ensure national food security by efficiently procuring, reserving, and releasing food stocks. Their vision is to become an institution capable of responding promptly to food shortages in Tanzania.

Minjingu fertilisers factory to rise production capacity

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MINJINGU Mines and Fertilizers has announced that it is in the final stages of expanding its factory that will enable the company to increase its production capacity from 150,000 to 250,000 tons of fertilizer per year.

Managing Director Pardeep Sing Hans shared this update yesterday during the USAID Africa Trade and Investment (ATI) Activity Partnership Showcase event.

The event was also attended by the Minister of Industry and Trade, Selem-anj Jafo.

Hans assured farmers that they will have access to sufficient fertilizer of international standards for the upcoming planting season, which will significantly aid their agricultural activities.

In addition to serving the local market, Minjingu Mines and Fertilizers Ltd has been exporting fertilizer to neighboring countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, and Uganda.

Hans expressed confidence in the progress of the factory expansion, which is set to be completed in September.

"Tanzanians have warmly welcomed our fertilizer, largely due to the education we have provided on its proper use," said Sing Hans. He also urged the government to prioritize local industries by ensuring that domestically produced goods are purchased in large quantities. This, he emphasized, would protect local industries from foreign competition.

"We should cultivate a culture of supporting our own products. If we do purchase foreign goods, it should only be in cases of shortages. Otherwise, we must utilize local products to safeguard

industries and jobs for fellow Tanzanians," said Hans.

He further emphasized that Tanzanian farmers have been proud to use Minjingu fertilizer, noting that the company has conducted field visits to educate farmers on the correct application and benefits of using their products.

The fertilizer, which meets international standards, has also gained acceptance in foreign markets, proving to be beneficial for farmers beyond Tanzania.

During the event, the United States government, through the International Development Agency (USAID), announced an investment of \$8.3 million in nine Tanzanian companies to promote business growth, improve food security, and enhance Tanzania's competitiveness.

Craig Hart, Director of USAID/Tanzania Mission, announced the investment, highlighting its potential to boost Tanzania's export competitiveness through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Nine local companies, including Minjingu Mines and Fertilizers Ltd, will receive grants under the USAID Africa Trade and Investment Project. The other companies are BioBuu, Biotan Limited, Central Park Bees, Mount Meru Millers, Red Earth Limited, Sabayi Investments Limited, Tanzania Tooku Garments Co. Ltd, and Third Party (Love Honey).

"Today, we celebrate USAID's partnership with nine companies across key sectors such as honey, cashews, and textiles. This collaboration is expected to create 2,000 jobs, generate \$42.5 million in new exports, and further establish Tanzania as a regional economic hub," said Hart.

BANKING & FINANCE



Minister for Industry and Trade Dr. Selem-anj Jafo, listens to explanation from Pardeep Sing Hans, Managing Director of Minjingu Mines and Fertilizers Ltd in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

Five villages in Tarime receive 2.3bn/- mineral royalty

By Guardian Correspondent,

Tarime

Five villages in Tarime district have received 2.3bn/- as royalty payments Barrick Gold Corporation, through its subsidiary Twiga Minerals and the North Mara Mine.

The disbursement include recently 1.1bn/- and another 1.2bn/- disbursed during the second quarter of last year to the first quarter of this year.

The benefiting villages include Genkuru, Nyamwanga, Nyangoto, Kerende, and Kewanja.

The handover of the royalty cheques to the village leaders took place on Tuesday at Igwe Secondary School grounds in Tarime District, attended by village residents, members of the Parliamentary Committee on minerals, government officials, councilors, village chairpersons, Barrick North Mara employees, and Minister for Minerals, Antony Mavunde.



Minerals Minister Antony Mavunde speaks to villagers in Tarime District at the function where the Barrick North Mara Mine offered royalty payments to five villages in Tarime District yesterday in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Minister Mavunde stated that the government will continue to oversee the mining sector carefully to contribute to national revenue growth and benefit communities, especially those

living around mines through various legal levies, including community responsibility funds (CSR) which are used for implementing various development projects. Melkiory Ngido, Barrick's

Country Manager, thanked the government for creating a conducive investment environment and pledged that the company, in collaboration with various stakeholders, will continue addressing

community complaints and acting on government directives and advice to build good relations.

Presenting a report on royalty payments of one percent to the five villages, Barrick North Mara

Gold Mine General Manager, Apolinary Lyambiko stated that Twiga Company, in the second quarter of 2024, provided over 1.1bn/- in royalties to the five villages, bringing the total to 2.3bn/- for the first and second quarters of the year.

North Mara Gold Mine Limited has continued to provide royalties to these five villages, which held mining licenses when the mine was established by East Africa Gold Mines Limited (now North Mara Gold Mine Limited) on April 27, 1996.

He also noted that other payments made by the mine to the community and government from 2020 to 2024 amounted to 69bn/-, covering royalties to private license holders, contributions to the North Mara Trust Fund for education support, service levies to the Tarime District Council, and CSR funds for community development.

Acting Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on

Energy and Minerals, Hon. Masache Kasaka, praised the government under President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan for creating favorable investment conditions in the mining sector, especially in transparency in royalty payments.

Tarime District Commissioner, Major Edward Gowele, commended the government through the Ministry of Minerals for its excellent work in involving communities in national projects and promised full participation in resolving all existing conflicts in Tarime District.

On behalf of the village leaders who received the royalty payments, Nyangoto Village Chairman Mwita Musegi thanked Barrick for the funds and promised they would be properly managed to successfully implement projects that improve the lives of the residents.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with foreign parliamentary leaders attending the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of China's National People's Congress (NPC) affiliation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as the 2024 interregional seminar on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for parliaments of developing countries, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on Tuesday. Xinhua

Xi says China to continue to support NPC in deepening exchanges with IPU

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said Tuesday that China will, as always, support the National People's Congress (NPC) in deepening exchanges and cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Xi made the remarks while meeting with foreign parliamentary leaders attending the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of NPC's affiliation to the IPU, as well as the 2024 interregional seminar on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for parliaments of developing countries in Beijing.

Xi welcomed the speakers' visit to China, noting that they come from countries on different continents. "We are all members of the Global South," he said.

Despite different national conditions, China and the countries are all good brothers and good partners with a shared vision, Xi added.

Noting that the current global landscape is rapidly evolving, Xi said China is willing to work with other countries to advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and an inclusive economic globalization that benefits all, promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, and build the Earth into a harmonious family.

Exchanges between legislative bodies are an important part of state-to-state relations, Xi stressed, adding that legislative bodies should and are capable of playing an active role in forming state-to-state relations based on equality and mutual trust, expanding mutually beneficial cooperation for development, promoting open and inclusive exchanges and mutual learning, advancing global governance featuring fairness and equity, and making unique contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Xi briefed the foreign parliamentary leaders on the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, which was held in mid-July.

He stressed that China's unwavering commitment to high-level opening up will inject new momentum into the development of the world economy, provide new opportunities for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, and

open up new prospects for the common development of developing countries.

China is ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the legislative bodies of other countries to jointly explore modernization paths suited to their own national conditions, Xi added.

He described the adherence to the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the CPC and the commitment to developing whole-process people's democracy as "major experience of China in achieving remarkable progress in governance."

The true essence of people's democracy lies in the principle that matters should be discussed openly, with collective issues being deliberated by the public to accommodate aspirations and demands of the whole society, Xi noted. Whole-process people's democracy not only has a complete set of institutional procedures but also involves comprehensive participation and practices, making it extensive, authentic and effective, he said.

China will, as always, support the NPC in deepening exchanges and cooperation with the IPU, Xi said.

He added that on the basis of mutual respect for each other's development paths and institutional models, efforts should be made to strengthen the exchange of legislative and governance experience, jointly enhance the capacity to perform duties, and foster a favorable legal environment and a solid foundation of public opinion for deepening friendly cooperation among the Global South.

Tulia Ackson, IPU president and Tanzania's National Assembly speaker, Peter Katjavivi, speaker of Namibia's National Assembly, and Marinus Bee, chairman of Suriname's National Assembly, addressed the meeting on behalf of the foreign speakers.

They said the IPU has maintained long-term friendly and close cooperation with the NPC of China, and thanked the Chinese side for its commitment to promoting unity, mutual trust, friendship and cooperation among parliaments of all countries, as well as its contribution to the development of various undertakings of the IPU and the implementation of the SDGs.

Xinhua

Harris selected as Democratic presidential nominee

CHICAGO

US Vice-President Kamala Harris, who has already won enough delegates to become the Democratic presidential nominee in a virtual roll call vote earlier this month, was once again confirmed as the party's nominee Tuesday night during the Democratic National Convention.

California, Harris' home state, cast 482 votes for Harris, sending her over the top while concluding a ceremonial roll call.

"The future happens in California first, and Democrats, I've had the privilege of over 20 years to see that future taking shape with a star in Alameda (County) courtroom by the name of Kamala Harris," California Governor Gavin Newsom said.

On Aug 6, the Democratic National Committee announced that Harris had been officially certified as the party's presidential nominee following a five-day online balloting process. Tuesday marks the second day of the 2024 Democratic National Convention, held at the United Center in Chicago from Aug 19-22.

Several prominent Democrats, including former US President Barack Obama, former First Lady Michelle Obama and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, spoke at Tuesday's event.

While the convention continues with an enthusiastic crowd of Democrats inside the venue, pro-Palestinian protests have been organized on the streets of Chicago in response to the Biden administration's policies on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Several protesters were arrested Tuesday night in front of the Israeli Consulate in downtown Chicago, while a day earlier, thousands of demonstrators gathered near the United Center, with at least four arrested after breaching a security fence.

President Joe Biden closed the first day of the convention by delivering a nearly hourlong keynote speech, in which he lashed out at former President Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, and urged voters to support Harris in her bid for the White House.

Obama headlines Democratic convention

Meanwhile, Obama and his wife Michelle delivered a one-two punch at the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday night, urging Americans to back Harris in her 11th-hour presidential bid against Trump.

America's first Black president, Obama has thrown his considerable political capital behind Harris as she seeks to make history herself on Nov 5 as the first woman and first Black and South Asian person to be



Democratic presidential nominee Vice-President Kamala Harris speaks at the Fiserv Forum during a campaign rally in Milwaukee on Tuesday. AP

elected US president.

"We do not need four more years of bluster and bumbling and chaos. We have seen that movie before, and we all know that the sequel is usually worse," Obama told delegates on Day Two of the Chicago convention. "America is ready for a new chapter. America is ready for a better story. We are ready for a President Kamala Harris."

He took aim at Trump, the Republican who followed him into the White House in 2017 and praised Biden, his vice-president who was forced out of the 2024 race by Democratic allies who feared he would lose to Trump in November.

"History will remember Joe Biden as a president who defended democracy at a moment of great danger. I am proud to call him my president, but even prouder to call him my friend," Obama said, eliciting chants of "We love Joe."

Obama was introduced by his wife, Michelle, who tops Democrats' wish list as a future president.

"America, hope is making a comeback," Michelle Obama said, in a nod to Obama's first presidential campaign in 2008.

Pulling no punches, she cautioned that Trump would try to distort Harris' truth, much as he did "everything in his power to try to make people fear us." "His limited and narrow view of the world made him feel threatened by the existence of two hardworking, highly educated, successful people who also happened to be Black," she said to deafening applause.

"Who's going to tell him that the job he's currently seeking might just be one of those 'Black jobs?'" she asked. On the campaign trail, Trump has referred to migrants crossing into the US as taking away "Black jobs." Trump launched his political career through racist attacks on Obama's citizenship status and has reprised similar attacks on Harris.

At 63, Barack Obama loomed large in the messy deliberations that led Biden to step out of the race last month and endorse Harris, his vice-president.

Harris momentum

Harris, 59, has ridden a historic

whirlwind in which her campaign has broken records for fundraising and packed arenas with supporters.

Harris joined virtually from a campaign rally in Milwaukee. Delegates in Chicago raised signs saying "FREEDOM" that mirrored those raised by supporters at her Wisconsin rally.

Harris and her vice presidential pick, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, took to the Milwaukee stage in the same venue as last month's Republican National Convention, where Trump formally received his party's nod.

In her speech, Harris criticized Trump for saying he had no regrets about the US Supreme Court's 2022 ruling that overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that had recognized women's constitutional right to abortion. Three Trump-appointed justices joined a 6-3 majority on the high court.

"I do believe, you know, bad behavior should result in a consequence. Well we will make sure he does face a consequence and that will be at the ballot box in November," Harris said.

Democrats see abortion rights as a winning issue in this campaign and Harris had led the charge as vice-president.

Crossing the aisle

Republicans who have left the fold since Trump's takeover of their party crossed the aisle on Tuesday night to address the convention, including Trump's former White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham and former Trump voter Kyle Sweetser.

Grisham described her journey from a Trump "true believer" to the first senior White House staffer to resign after the Jan 6, 2021, assault by Trump supporters on the US Capitol.

Republican Mayor John Giles of Mesa, Arizona, remembered the late John McCain, the Republican US senator from his state who made a point of reaching across the aisle.

Agencies



Former President Barack Obama hugs former first lady Michelle Obama as he is introduced during the Democratic National Convention Tuesday, Aug 20, 2024.

Moment calls for solidarity, says Zimbabwe's Vice President

NEW DELHI

THE 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi witnessed a powerful call for enhanced collaboration between India and Africa, with distinguished addresses by Vice Presidents Muhammad Bs Jallow of Gambia, Jeremiah Kpan Koung of Liberia, and CGDN Chiwenge of Zimbabwe.

In his address, Gambia's Vice President Muhammad Bs Jallow extended warm congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on securing another term in office.

"I want to congratulate Prime Minister Modi for another term in office," Jallow stated, acknowledging the significance of stable leadership in driving forward the India-Africa partnership.

Jallow highlighted the formidable challenges faced by the global community, ranging from climate change to technological disruption and the need for inclusive development. He stressed that collaboration and strategic partnerships are key to harnessing collective strength to address these challenges.

He said, "Our world faces formidable challenges from climate change and technological disruption to imperatives of inclusive development. It is through collaboration, knowledge sharing and strategic partnership that we can harness our collective strength to address these challenges."

He added, "We envisage to deepen and strengthen the already existing ties between India and Gambia by further exploring several key initiatives and collaborations between the Gambia and India through this conclave."

He further expressed Gambia's commitment to deepening and strengthening the already existing ties between the two nations. Jallow outlined his vision for exploring key initiatives and collaborations between Gambia and India through the conclave, emphasizing the potential for innovative solutions that drive growth and create lasting impact.

Jallow said, "We can develop innovative solutions that drive growth and create lasting impact. This will be through economic partnerships, promoting trade opportunities by establishing more trade agreements that are facilitated by lack of investments."

India has revolutionized industries from healthcare to finance, creating solutions that are not only efficient but also scalable. The African continent too is witnessing a surge in innovation, with young entrepreneurs leading the change in areas like FinTech, agritech and renewable energy," he added.

Additionally, he expressed Gambia's openness to launching collaborative projects aimed at youth empowerment, helping young entrepreneurs and innovators gain access to necessary resources.

"Also, the partnership between India and the Gambia in the technology sector is focused on bridging the digital divide and ensuring that both countries can harness the power of the digital economy. Additionally, we are open to launching collaborative projects in youth empowerment that focus and empowering young entrepreneurs and innovators, helping them gain access to resources," Jallow said.

Liberia's Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung, in his address, lauded India's rich history and its meaningful contributions to global politics, economy, and security.

He said, "African countries have worked very hard to improve intra-Africa trade. I have come here to make India's case. India has a rich history. India continues playing meaningful roles in the world politics, economy and security."

ANI

FOCAC summit to elevate China-Africa ties in pursuit of modernisation, shared future - envoy

ADDIS ABABA

THE 2024 summit for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), scheduled for early September in Beijing, will inject vitality into China-Africa relations, jointly advancing modernization and building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future, Hu Changchun, head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union (AU), said here Tuesday.

Addressing a press briefing on the Third Plenary Session of

the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the 2024 FOCAC Beijing summit, Hu said the upcoming FOCAC summit is expected to further deepen solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa.

He said the summit will make new contributions to promoting global modernization and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity. Hu said the 2024 FOCAC Beijing summit will be an event to celebrate China-Africa friendship,

explore cooperation, and chart the course for the future under the theme of "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future."

From Sept. 4 to 6, the forum will hold a series of activities including the opening ceremony, a welcoming banquet and a gala performance, high-level meetings, the Conference of Chinese and African Entrepreneurs, and bilateral meetings.

"China and Africa have always

been focusing on cooperation to actively push forward the implementation of the outcomes of FOCAC, which has strongly promoted their common development, brought tangible benefits to the two peoples, and laid a solid foundation for the building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future," Hu told reporters. He stressed that China, as "Africa's good friend, good partner and good brother," applies the principles of sincerity, real results, amity, good faith, and of pursuing the

greater good and shared interests as its Africa policy. "Over the past 11 years, China has stayed committed to these principles.

Together with our African friends and drawing strength from the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, we have pressed ahead on the path of solidarity and cooperation, stood for justice amid shifting global dynamics, and looked out for each other in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic," Hu said. "We have taken China-Africa relations to new heights and

entered the new stage of jointly building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future."

Responding to questions on the crucial role of FOCAC in terms of augmenting China-Africa relations, Hu emphasized that the close interaction between the two peoples has closely linked the Chinese dream and the African dream, writing the most vivid chapter of the China-Africa community with a shared future.

Under the framework of FO-

CAC, people-to-people exchanges between China and Africa have become increasingly close and fruitful, and have been an important pillar of the common aspiration for building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future, he said. As of 2023, China has sent cumulatively 24,000 medical team members to Africa. A total of 45 medical teams are currently working at more than 100 sites in 44 African countries, according to the press briefing.

Xinhua

BRI cooperation boosts 'Made in Africa'

NAIROBI

FROM Uganda to Egypt, and from Senegal to Nigeria, Chinese-operated industrial parks and zones are thriving across Africa, helping the continent better integrate into the global production chain and promote new African brands.

Driven by the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China's involvement in African industry is also fostering the ecological and sustainable development of local manufacturing, thereby enhancing its competitiveness in the global market. As this fruitful cooperation continues, "Made in Africa" sees promising prospects.

"MADE IN AFRICA" BOOMING

Hellen Mugala, 27, joins hundreds of her colleagues each morning to commute to the Sino-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park in the eastern district of Mbale, Uganda. "This industrial park has helped many local people. I've gained skills and earned a living," she said.

The park, invested in and operated by the private Chinese company Tian Tang Group, has attracted more than 40 companies since its establishment in March 2018, creating over 5,000 local jobs.

One notable company in the park is Pearl Light Technology Co., Ltd, which manufactures lighting products, contributing to reducing Uganda's dependence on imported LED lamps by producing them affordably and facilitating repairs.

"Previously, Uganda's LED lamps were mainly imported, expensive, and difficult to repair. Chinese companies have changed this situation. Now, our company produces about 3 million LED bulbs and tubes annually, sold across Uganda," said local technician Joseph Otim.

Spanning thousands of hectares, the park encompasses a wide range of sectors, including household appliances, daily beauty products, home fabrics, building materials,



Ahmed Soliman, deputy general manager of Jushi Egypt Fiberglass Co., Ltd., checks on the fiberglass production line of Jushi Egypt at the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone in Suez province, Egypt, Aug. 10, 2023. Xinhua

medicines, smartphones, televisions and automobiles. It reflects the achievements of Sino-African cooperation under the BRI and serves as a model for promoting local industrialization and modernization through incubating local brands.

Among industrial zones of various types in African countries, many were built and operated by Chinese enterprises, such as the Diamniadio International Industrial Platform in Senegal, the Lekki Free Trade Zone in Nigeria, and the China-Egypt TEDA Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone in Egypt. Through these zones, African countries can participate more effectively in the global production chain and promote the internationalization of local brands.

ECO-FRIENDLY MANUFACTURING

The BRI encourages ecological and sustainable development, supports African

countries in adopting green technologies and clean energy in manufacturing. This not only helps protect Africa's natural environment but also gives African manufacturing a "green manufacturing" label, enhancing its appeal in the global market.

Based in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, Gogo Electric, one of the country's top three electric motorcycle manufacturers, imports lithium-ion batteries from China and assembles electric motorcycles for the local market.

Janos Bisasso, its chief operating officer, said that customers can always bring their used batteries to a battery exchange station, where they can get a fully charged battery at a lower price. Over time, customers may realize that exchanging batteries is less expensive than refueling, encouraging them to choose electric motorcycles.

In Kenya, the BasiGo project in Nairobi highlights the importance of cooperation

in the eco-friendly transportation sector. Faced with local currency devaluation and rising energy import costs, the Kenyan government has expanded support for the electric vehicle sector, which relies on the country's renewable energy resources.

BasiGo, a Kenyan startup, launched its electric bus service in March 2022, locally assembled from parts supplied by Chinese automotive company BYD.

Muturo Sifuna, BasiGo's marketing director, emphasized the significant energy cost savings of electric buses compared with diesel ones. They plan to introduce and operate 1,000 electric buses by 2025.

BETTER FUTURE FOR "MADE IN AFRICA"

Sino-African cooperation in the electric transportation sector has become a tangible example of the positive outcomes of the BRI. Chinese companies bring quality products and technologies that meet the needs of local businesses and contribute to the transition towards a more sustainable future.

Africa has enormous potential in natural resources and labor. Through cooperation with China, Africa has begun to update its own production capabilities, while eco-friendly manufacturing and innovative technologies allow African brands to gain positions in the global market.

Through further enhancing cooperation, China and Africa are shaping a promising future for "Made in Africa." African countries can develop more advanced technologies, get skilled professionals, and create larger markets.

The BRI has already laid a solid foundation. With the determination of both parties and the support of the international community, "Made in Africa" is entering an era of prosperity and sustainable development, contributing to the global economy and improving the lives of African people.

Xinhua

Russian diplomat notes Latvia's growing involvement in armed conflict in Ukraine

MOSCOW



LATVIAN Defense Minister Andris Spruds' statement about the country's

intention to send another batch of Latvian-made drones to Ukraine confirms this Baltic country's growing involvement in the Ukrainian conflict, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova (pictured) said.

In a comment, posted on the diplomatic agency's website, she noted: "We view remarks by Latvian Defense Minister Andris Spruds as confirmation of the increasing involvement of this Baltic state in the armed conflict in Ukraine."

Official Riga is deliberately adding fuel to the fire and provoking the expansion of the geography of combat without concealing its malicious glee that Latvian arms are being used by Vladimir Zelensky's regime to slaughter civilians and shell Russian towns."

"Unfortunately, given the current realities in Latvia, this comes as no surprise, since local political circles consist almost entirely of the ideological heirs of Waffen SS who harbor a deep-seated hatred for Russia and are intent on settling historical scores with it," she added.

Zakharova stressed that "Riga's belligerent actions will merely prolong the agony of the Kiev regime without impacting the results of the special military operation."

The diplomat also highlighted the fact that Russia's response measures had already taken a toll on the Latvian economy. "As for our response steps, they are already affecting Latvia's economy quite seriously."

Additionally, specific individuals, involved in crimes against Russia, will definitely be meted out due punishment - we are already conducting relevant investigations," the spokeswoman concluded.

Earlier, Spruds said that the republic had prepared another batch of about 500 Latvian-made unmanned aerial vehicles to be shipped to Ukraine.

Agencies

Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger condemn Ukraine's support for international terrorism

RABAT

BURKINA Faso, Mali and Niger condemn the Ukrainian authorities' open support for international terrorism, in particular in the Sahel region, according to a letter from the governments of the three African countries sent to the President of the UN Security Council.

"The Foreign Ministers of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger oppose and strongly condemn the open and acknowledged support of the Government of the Republic of Ukraine for international terrorism, in particular in the Sahel region," the document stresses. In addition, the official Ouagadougou, Bamako and Niamey demanded that the UN Security Council "assume responsibility in the face of Ukraine's deliberate choice to support terrorism in order to prevent these subversive actions that threaten the stability of the Sahel or even the African continent."

On July 25-27, in the Tinzaouaten region (in northwestern Mali), militant groups attacked units of the Malian armed forces, which suffered heavy losses. Soon, the representative of the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine, Andrey Yusov, announced Kiev's involvement in the attack of armed terrorist groups in the Tinzaouaten region.

Agencies

Medvedev rules out peace talks with Kiev until enemy 'completely defeated'

MOSCOW

MOSCOW will not hold talks with Ukraine after Kiev's attack on the Kursk Region, not until the enemy is completely defeated, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said.

"Everything fell into place after the neo-Nazis carried out this act of terrorism against the Kursk Region. Idle talk about wonderful peace by unauthorized mediators is over. Now, everyone understands - even if no one says it publicly - that there will be no talks until the enemy is completely defeated," he wrote on Telegram.

"In my view, the risk - albeit theoretical - of our country getting trapped in negotiations at some point, showed its face," Medvedev pointed out, adding that he was talking about "the

premature and unnecessary peace talks proposed by the international community, which were imposed on the Kiev regime." The Russian Security Council deputy chairman questioned the prospects of such talks, or what results they could produce.

Medvedev also hinted at those behind the attack on the Kursk Region, making unflattering comments about a former British prime minister.

"The filthy bastard with a disgusting face and tousled blond hair, who comes from the country where the terrorist operation was prepared, need not celebrate.

His country has made things worse for the territory of former Ukraine that it patronizes: there will now be more money thrown down the tube, much more destroyed equipment and



far more coffins. Now, let the unfortunate Ukrainian slaves passionately kiss the blood-covered hands of their Anglo-Saxon masters, the necrophiles who are torturing them," the Russian Security Council deputy chief concluded.

Agencies

“Everything fell into place after the neo-Nazis carried out this act of terrorism against the Kursk Region. Idle talk about wonderful peace by unauthorized mediators is over

Blinken's latest Mideast tour unlikely to bridge Israel-Hamas divide over Gaza ceasefire deal, analysts say

CAIRO

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken left Qatar on Tuesday night, concluding his ninth tour to the Middle East since the outbreak of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over 10 months ago. Like his previous eight trips, this one has hardly achieved anything.

Before arriving in Qatar, Blinken visited Israel and Egypt. His tour comes at a time when the world expects urgent progress toward a Gaza ceasefire, as the Palestinian death toll in the enclave has surpassed 40,000.

Concerns over a wider conflict have intensified after Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah vowed retaliation against Israel following the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and the killing of senior Hezbollah military commander Fouad Shokor in Beirut's southern suburbs at the end of July.

Despite Blinken's warning that the latest push for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal was "probably the best, possibly the last opportunity" at the start of his latest tour, there has been no advancement on the horizon.

Israel continued to strike Gaza on Tuesday, and Hamas has accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of obstructing an agreement by

imposing new conditions and demands, indicating a lack of progress toward reconciliation.

The latest round of Gaza ceasefire negotiations took place in Doha last week with the U.S., Egyptian and Qatari mediators having issued a joint statement that the talks had made "constructive" progress and that relevant parties would continue their efforts this week to negotiate the details of the deal's implementation.

After meeting with Netanyahu on Monday, Blinken announced that Netanyahu had accepted a bridging proposal aimed at narrowing Israel's differences with Hamas.

Speaking to the press at Doha airport on Tuesday, Blinken vowed to "do everything possible" in the coming days to "get Hamas on board with the bridging proposal."

"On Monday night, U.S. President Joe Biden accused Hamas of 'backing away' from a potential hostage deal with Israel that could halt the ongoing fighting in Gaza, according to Israeli media.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Hamas called Biden's remarks "misleading," which reflect complete American bias toward Israel and serve as a renewed green light for the Israeli government to "commit more



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Jerusalem, on Monday. Xinhua

crimes against defenseless civilians in pursuit of the goals of exterminating and displacing our people.

"Michael Milshtein, head of the Palestinian Studies Forum at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, said that "reports which reflect optimism are very much exaggerated or express wishful thinking rather than realistic situation." "The gap between the

two sides (Israel and Hamas) is very wide, particularly regarding the Philadelphi Corridor and Israel's demand that the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) stay there in the day after," he said.

"The Americans, deep in their mind, know that the gap between Israel and Hamas is very deep," he added.

Kheir Diabat, a professor from the International Affairs Department at Qatar University, said, "Despite the declared optimism

from the American side, American mediation could not solve the problem between Hamas and Israel, because reaching an agreement will not be easy due to the fundamental differences between them.

"Fighting continued on the ground in Gaza on Tuesday, with the IDF saying that they had killed approximately 40 militants in Rafah, a city in the southern Gaza Strip, through a combination of close-quarters

combat and airstrikes.

Rounds of ceasefire talks have repeatedly stalled since the outbreak of the conflict. Israel insists that the conflict can only end with the complete dismantling of Hamas, while Hamas demands a permanent ceasefire rather than a temporary one.

According to Mostafa Amin, an Egyptian researcher on Arab and international affairs, the failure of U.S. mediation in the Middle East and its inability to solve the problem from the outset until now arise from the lack of real pressure from Washington on Israel to stop the war, while it continues to supply Israel with weapons to kill the Palestinians.

Amin said that Netanyahu and the far-right officials in the Israeli government had realized that the Biden administration is unable to apply meaningful pressure on Israel due to its preoccupation with the upcoming presidential election and its unwillingness to jeopardize relations with Israel.

In reviewing U.S.-Israel relations since the outbreak of the ongoing Gaza conflict, there have been notable public rifts between Biden and Netanyahu.

However, experts believe that their disagreement was more about political maneuvering for domestic electoral than a substantive clash over Gaza.

In May, the Biden administration announced a pause in the shipment of heavy weapons to the Israeli government out of concerns over its plans to attack Rafah.

However, this move now appears to have been more of a smokescreen. Blinken's latest Middle East tour comes just days after the Pentagon revealed that he approved a potential sale of fighter jets and other military equipment to Israel, valued at over 20 billion U.S. dollars, on Aug. 13. "I don't believe the United States genuinely seeks sincere, authentic, lasting, and sustainable peace in the region," said Baris Doster, an academic at Istanbul's Marmara University.

Were such a peace to be achieved, the United States would have no reason to remain in the Middle East and would lose the basis for its presence there, he noted.

According to Doster, the instability in the Middle East serves several key interests for the United States: securing access to the region's energy resources and routes for exploitation; addressing Israel's security needs; countering the influence of other major countries; pursuing regime change in Iran; and facilitating arms sales in the region.

Xinhua

SPORT



Viktor Hovland, of Norway, lines up his putt on the fourth green during the final round of the St. Jude Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024, in Memphis, Tenn. (AP Photo)

The FedEx Cup playoffs deliver. Just not always the best player with the title

By DOUG FERGUSON

THE “silly” notion that Scottie Scheffler could have won two playoff events and still not capture the FedEx Cup after a dominant season is nothing new.

Go back 15 years to find Tiger Woods deciding to play the postseason opener for the first time, a big boost in the third edition of the FedEx Cup playoffs. It was only during the pro-am at Liberty National when he realized he could win every playoff event and still lose out on the season title if he didn't have a good week at East Lake.

Woods was more diplomatic about the points system in his press conference – “It is different, there's no doubt,” he said – than he was when talking about it away from microphones on the course.

But it had a happy ending for him. Woods won the BMW Championship, finished second to Phil Mickelson (the No. 14 seed) at the Tour Championship and won the FedEx Cup.

The system has been tweaked since then, but the philosophy is the same.

It's a case of pick your poison.

The PGA Tour could keep score for the entire season and run the risk of no drama at the final event, even with greater emphasis on the playoff events. Or it could have it come down to the last week with any number of possibilities.

Scheffler, much like Woods in 2009, would fit into that first category. He not only has six victories – the Masters, The Players Championship and four signature events – he has finished out of the top 10 just twice this year.

All that, and it still comes down to East Lake.

“I think it's silly. You can't call it a season-long race and have it come down to one tournament,” Scheffler said last week.

This wasn't a new revelation, from Scheffler or anyone else. Jon Rahm and Patrick Cantlay in recent years have expressed the same, followed by the standard, “It is what it is.”

Scheffler's choice of the word “silly” made for easy headlines. But he also acknowledged that under a different format, someone could have the FedEx Cup all wrapped up before the Tour Championship.

“That's not good, either,” he said. “It would be great for me, but those aren't the rules.”

The rules allow for a big finish. That would be someone like Billy Horschel, who didn't contend at a single tournament in 2014, got hot when the calendar turned to August, won the last two events and won the FedEx Cup.

Dramatic stuff, sure. But the best year belonged to Rory McIlroy.

It's not about the new strokes differential system in place since 2019. The top seed starts the Tour Championship at 10-under par with a two-shot lead, while the players who barely make it to East Lake start 10 shots behind. That's not different from when the points were reset; the odds are roughly the

same.

It still comes down to one week.

What gets lost is understanding what the FedEx Cup is and has always been – a bonus competition at the end of the year that delivers the best fields and great tournaments. It also pays handsomely, a prize now up to \$25 million.

It's important to players. It's meaningful. But it doesn't define a great season. Scheffler's year will not be looked upon any worse if he's watching someone else – Viktor Hovland last year, McIlroy the year before – cashing in at East Lake.

The tour tried to make amends with the “Comcast Business Top 10” to reward the regular season. Scheffler won in a landslide and earned an \$8 million bonus. But no one ever talks about who won that title.

One solution might be a computer formula that determines the size of the lead going into the Tour Championship that reflects a player's performance. Scheffler could start the Tour Championship with a four-shot lead, for example, after a season like this one.

Then again, Scheffler had a six-shot lead going into the final round in 2022 and still couldn't win. McIlroy captured his third FedEx Cup title that year. McIlroy has never won a FedEx Cup from the pole position.

As one can imagine, he has no gripes with the system. McIlroy is not being entirely selfish.

“I think it makes the Tour Championship more exciting from a consumer standpoint,” he said. “Is it the fairest reflection of who's been the best player of the year? Probably not. But I think at this point, we're not in for totally fair, we're in for entertainment and for trying to put on the best product we possibly can.” If there's anything that needs a closer look, it's the schedule.

McIlroy, the No. 3 seed to start the postseason, finished second-to-last at the FedEx St. Jude Invitational last week. The heat was stifling, and McIlroy was playing tennis after his first round. So much for conserving energy during the playoffs.

His tie for 68th against a 70-man field sent him to No. 5 in the standings. Don't be surprised if McIlroy or another top seed skips the first playoff event next year because it has so little bearing on them in the big picture.

It would help to rotate the opening event. Of course, there's the issue of that big building next to the fifth hole at the TPC Southwind – FedEx headquarters. It's a big bill FedEx is paying. The tour is no longer in New York or Boston. That should be considered.

There was talk a few years ago about rotating the Tour Championship, using East Lake as an anchor site every other year. But with the FedEx Cup in its 18th year, players now say “East Lake” as where they want to be at the end of the year.

In the meantime, no system is perfect. And no practical solutions have been presented. The only thing “silly” about the FedEx Cup is the amount of cash on the line.

SPORTS

Delaware Upanga SC-A eases into TCA Dar 50 Overs Cup Div A last four



Delaware Upanga SC-A. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

INDUSTRIOUS cricketer Ashish Kamania steered Delaware Upanga SC-A to the last four of this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar 50 Overs Cup's Division A, defeating Aga Khan SC by two wickets at Annadil Burhani Club oval last Sunday.

Kamania cracked 51 runs in an impressive outing at the crease to gallantly help his outfit get down to a successful chase of the opponents' total and nail a place in the semi-finals.

The Harsheed Chohan-led Aga Khan SC, the finalist of this season's TCA Caravans T20 Cup, batted first- making full use of their batting depth to end with 231/9 in the scheduled 50 overs.

Patwa, currently enjoying great batting form, was merciless to the Delaware Upanga SC-A bowling unit, in which the veteran performer ended with an impressive 94 from 97 balls, blasting 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Rishen Patel brought the Aga Khan SC opener's stint to an end after 273 overs, having the latter dismissed by Sanjay Bom who went for a catch from the batsman's bat.

The Aga Khan SC cricketer enjoyed a

good batting stand with fellow opener, Jumanne Mohamed, as the latter did notch 45 runs, which included five boundaries and a six.

An equally well-drilled cricketer Riziki Kiseto, deployed in the middle-order, put his experience to great use for Aga Khan SC given the performer posted 28 runs.

Moreover, Arslaan Premji and Dhrumit Mehta made notable showings with the bat, returning to the pavilion with 15 runs and 14 runs, respectively. Seif Athuman, deployed at number five, was three runs short of two digits in his effort to improve Aga Khan SC's total.

Ramesh Alluri led Delaware Upanga SC-A's bowlers in preventing Aga Khan SC batsmen from winding up the innings with an imposing total, notching 3-34 in 10 overs.

He was ably assisted by fellow bowlers, captain Asuri Rajendra and Rishen, and the cricketers took two wickets apiece.

Needing 232 runs to register the victory, the Rajendra-led Delaware Upanga SC-A defied the odds- bravely getting to the fruitful chase for eight wickets in 48.2 overs.

After experiencing a wobble in the early stage- which witnessed an early exit of opener Rishen- Delaware Upanga SC-A reorganized to efficiently wade off Aga Khan SC bowling unit's challenge and canter to victory.

Kamania comfortably led the successful chase with his 51 runs and teamed up with Maker

Mukesh (49 runs), Vikram Rathore (30 runs), and Rajendra who chipped in with 22 runs to silence Aga Khan SC.

Bom's 18 runs not out and Muhammad Sohail's 14 runs further played a pivotal role in Delaware Upanga SC-A's successful chase.

The batting squad was also boosted by 24 extras conceded by the Aga Khan SC bowling unit, which included one leg bye, 21 wides, and two no-balls.

Even though Kiseto (3-47 in nine overs) gave his all during Aga Khan SC's bowling stint, aiming to curtail Delaware Upanga SC-A's pursuit of success, his efforts ended in vain.

Fellow bowlers Vipin Abraham, Azhaar Premji, Dhrumit, and Kartik Syal took a wicket each in their club's futile attempt to keep Delaware Upanga SC-A in check.

Kamania was declared Player of the Match, thanks to his solid batting that had Delaware Upanga SC-A grabbing the unexpected win over pre-match favourite Aga Khan SC.

Simba's new midfielder Jean Ahoua eager to make an impact after promising start

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's newly-signed midfielder Jean Charles Ahoua has expressed his enthusiasm for making a significant impact on Tanzanian football after a promising start to his career with the Msimbazi Street-based side in the NBC Premier League 2024/2025 season.

Ahoua (pictured) made an impressive debut for Simba, providing an assist for the team's first goal in their 3-0 victory over Tabora United over the weekend. The win follows a successful transfer window for the club, with the addition of the Ivorian midfielder further strengthening their already formidable squad.

Despite the victory, Simba's attack raised some concerns. Steven Mukwala, Ahoua, and Joshua Mutala faced challenges in making decisive passes in the midfield, allowing Tabora United's defense to maintain some control. However, with the season still young, Ahoua remains confident that he and his teammates will soon find their rhythm.

Named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Ivory Coast Ligue 1 last season, Ahoua has quickly settled into his new environment at Simba and is determined to make a lasting impact.

The midfielder has already shown flashes of his talent in pre-season and is eager to contribute to the team's success.

Expressing his excitement for the season ahead, Ahoua acknowledged the challenges of integrating with new teammates but emphasized his commitment to understanding and implementing Coach Fadlu Davids' philosophy.

“The early focus has been on starting the competition well while we form a cohesive partnership and combinations going forward,” Ahoua said. “Our fans will soon see even better performances from me and my fellow players as we continue to gel.”

Ahoua also shared his enthusiasm for experiencing the intensity of the Mainland Premier League and the competitive nature of Tanzanian football. He expressed confidence in the team's ability to improve and deliver outstanding performances for their fans in the coming weeks.

“We are still early into the new season, and while we are getting used to each other, I believe that in a few months, we will have a strong team with the quality we possess both as a team and individually,” Ahoua added.

The midfielder praised the team's strength and depth, emphasizing their potential to compete for titles both domestically and internationally.

“We have a very strong squad with excellent players who can achieve our goal of winning titles this season and reaching the

advanced stages of the CAF Confederation Cup,” he said.

Ahoua's comments highlight Simba's focus on building chemistry and implementing the coach's strategies as they strive for success in the upcoming season.

While the result against Tabora United was positive, Simba will need to improve their midfield play to maintain their winning momentum in the league.

Simba's next match is against Singida Black Stars at KMC Stadium on Sunday.

The visitors will be heading into this match after securing a 3-1 win against Ken Gold FC at Sokoine Stadium last week.



Gundogan now becomes the third Barcelona player to be 'sacrificed'

BARCA UNIVERSAL

BARCELONA'S current financial struggles have placed them in a challenging position, forcing the club to make tough decisions that could impact their performance on the pitch.

One of the most surprising and difficult choices they face is the potential sale of Ilkay Gundogan, who was arguably their standout player last season.

Many fans are perplexed as to why Barcelona would consider parting ways with such an influential player, especially after his stellar contributions. However, as Santi Ovalle, a well-known Barcelona pundit, pointed out, the decision is purely driven by financial necessity.

If the club were not in such a dire economic situation, Gundogan would undoubtedly remain a key figure in the team. Unfortunately, Barcelona's pressing need to free up salary space to register new signing, Dani Olmo, has made this move almost inevitable.

Interestingly, this is not the first time that Barcelona have had to offload valuable players due to external financial pressures.

Over the past few years, the club has repeatedly found itself in a position where it must prioritise economic considerations over sporting ambitions.

*The case of Arthur Melo

A prime example of this is the case of Arthur Melo. When Barcelona signed Arthur from Gremio, there was significant excitement among fans who believed he could become a cornerstone of the team.

However, after just two seasons, he was sold to Juventus in a deal that raised many eyebrows. The transaction saw Arthur move to Juventus in exchange for Miralem Pjanic, with an additional €10 million paid by the Italian club.

On paper, the deal was valued at €72 million, but the true financial dynamics were far more complex.

The high valuation of both players in a post-pandemic market seemed unrealistic, and the deal only made sense when viewed as an accounting manoeuvre rather than a genuine footballing decision.

The inflated prices were necessary for both clubs to meet their

financial objectives, particularly in terms of Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations.

The immediate "income" from the sale was recorded in full, while the outgoing costs were amortised over the length of the players' contracts.

This creative accounting allowed Barcelona to post a substantial profit, nearly €50 million, just in time for the end of the financial year.

The deal, while beneficial from a financial perspective, did little to address the club's on-pitch needs and was more about balancing the books than improving the squad.

*Malcom's failure to reach potential

Another example of Barcelona's financially driven decisions is the acquisition and subsequent sale of Malcom in 2018.

Malcom's signing was part of a broader transfer strategy that has since been widely criticized for its lack of foresight. Many believe that the club's decline began with the world-record sale of Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain for €222 million in 2017.

The windfall from Neymar's sale was quickly reinvested in several big-name signings, including Philippe Coutinho, Ousmane Dembele, and Malcom. However, this spending spree did not yield the expected results, and Malcom, in particular, struggled to make an impact.

With competition from players like Coutinho and Dembele, Malcom found it difficult to secure regular playing time, and his tenure at Barcelona was marked by only 24 appearances, most of which were brief cameos.

Eventually, the club decided to cut their losses, selling Malcom to Zenit Saint Petersburg for over €40 million. This sale was part of an effort to recoup some of the funds spent on previous transfers and to free up a non-EU spot in the squad.

Alongside Malcom, Barcelona also offloaded several other players, bringing in over €120 million from sales that summer.

While these moves may have helped the club's finances in the short term, they also highlighted the challenges Barcelona face in balancing their economic realities with their footballing ambitions.

Foden named PFA player of year, Palmer young player



Phil Foden (left) and Cole Palmer used to play together at Manchester City [BBC Sport]

LONDON

MANCHESTER City midfielder Phil Foden has won the Professional Footballers' Association men's player of the year award, while Chelsea winger Cole Palmer was named young player of the year.

It is the first time since the 2009-10 campaign that both men's awards have gone to English players.

Wayne Rooney and James Milner won the player and young player of the year prizes respectively for that season.

"To win this award is something very special and it is one that I am very proud of and grateful for," said Foden.

"To be recognised this way by your fellow professionals means everything and I would like to thank everyone who voted for me.

"Last season was another very special one for everyone at the club, but now all our focus is con-

centrated on trying to achieve more success this term."

Foden scored 19 goals in 35 top-flight appearances in 2023-24 as City won a historic fourth successive Premier League, and - aged 23 - he became the youngest player to have won six league titles.

This is the first time the Stockport-born playmaker has been the PFA's player of the year, having twice been selected as the best young player.

He also won the 2023-24 Premier League player of the season award and was named the Football Writers' Association (FWA) footballer of the year.

Foden beat his City teammates Erling Haaland, who won the award last year, and Rodri, as well as Chelsea's Palmer, Arsenal's Martin Odegaard and Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins who were on the shortlist.

Palmer recognised after high-scoring season

Palmer may have missed out on

one award but he did not come away empty-handed.

The 22-year-old scored 22 goals in 34 Premier League appearances in his first season for Chelsea.

His form earned him a spot in the England squad for Euro 2024 and Palmer scored in the final which the Three Lions lost 2-1 to Spain.

The Blues forward beat Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, Manchester United duo Kobbie Mainoo and Alejandro Garnacho, former Crystal Palace player Michael Olise and Brighton's Joao Pedro to the young player prize.

In the women's categories, Manchester City's Khadija Shaw won the player of the year award and Manchester United's Grace Clinton was named young player of the year.

"Man City and Arsenal players dominate team of year

The Premier League team of the year, as voted for by players, was dominated by Manchester City and Arsenal players.

Kyle Walker, Rodri, Erling Haaland and Phil Foden feature from the reigning champions, while David Raya, William Saliba, Gabriel, Declan Rice and Martin Odegaard feature from the Gunners.

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk and Aston Villa forward Ollie Watkins are also included.

Goalkeeper David Raya (Arsenal)

Defenders William Saliba (Arsenal)

Virgil van Dijk (Liverpool)

Gabriel (Arsenal)

Kyle Walker (Manchester City)

Midfielders Rodri (Manchester City)

Declan Rice (Arsenal)

Martin Odegaard (Arsenal)

Forwards Erling Haaland (Manchester City)

Phil Foden (Manchester City)

Ollie Watkins (Aston Villa)

BBC

Cristiano Ronaldo aiming to help Al-Nassr end Al-Hilal's dominance in Saudi soccer league

By JOHN DUERDEN

CRISTIANO Ronaldo is lining up for another Saudi Pro League season with the main aim of helping Al-Nassr end the dominance of Riyadh rival Al-Hilal.

Ronaldo signed for Al-Nassr in December 2022 and has yet to win a domestic trophy with the club. In a social media post this week, he wrote: New season, same goal.

Al-Hilal won the title last season with 31 wins and three draws, finishing 14 points clear of second-place Al-Nassr.

Hilal beat Ronaldo's team 4-1 in the final of the Saudi Super Cup last weekend. The 18-team league kicks off its season on Thursday.

"I'm feeling a lot of apprehension because this season is going to be very difficult," Al-Hilal defender Kalidou Koulibaly, who signed from Chelsea last year, told The Associated Press. "Last year, it was a tough championship, but we managed to come out on top. This year, all the teams will be gunning to beat Al Hilal."

Last summer, a string of big-name stars arrived from Europe's top leagues to join Ronaldo in Saudi Arabia. According to Deloitte's Sports Business Group, a total of \$957 million was spent. This summer has been comparatively quiet, although the transfer window remains open until Sept. 2.

For Al-Hilal, the return of Neymar will be like a new signing. The Brazilian superstar made only five appearances for the Riyadh club before sustaining a serious left knee injury while playing in a World Cup qualifier in October.

"Neymar's return is highly anticipated by our players," Koulibaly said. "We know that there is still a little bit of waiting due to his injury but people will see a great Neymar. He still has this motivation when we see him in training."

Neymar returned to training last month and, according to local media, could start playing again in September.

In Neymar's absence, Serbian striker Aleksandar Mitrovic scored



FILE - Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring his side's second goal playing for a combined XI of Saudi Arabian teams Al-Nassr and PSG during a friendly soccer match at the King Saud University Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 19, 2023. (AP Photo)

28 league goals last season, second only to Ronaldo's record 35. Al-Hilal also has Portuguese international Ruben Neves and Morocco's Yassine Bounou in goal.

Al-Nassr's major new signing so far has been Brazilian goalkeeper Bento, who replaces Colombian international David Ospina. As well as Ronaldo, the Yellows have Senegalese star Sadio Mane, Croatian midfielder Marcelo Brozovic and defender Aymeric Laporte, who helped Spain to the European championship in July.

Other challenges are expected to

come from Jeddah clubs Al-Ahli, led by Riyad Mahrez, and Karim Benzema's Al-Ittihad, which has made the biggest signing this summer so far, paying over \$60 million to Aston Villa for French winger Moussa Diaby.

All four clubs, which were taken over in 2023 by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, are by far the country's best-supported teams.

League officials will likely be hoping a more competitive title race will help improve the average attendance, which was just over 8,000 per game last season.

Al-Hilal has international as well as domestic ambitions. The club will represent Asia in the expanded FIFA Club World Cup which kicks off June 15 in the United States.

Al-Hilal reached the final of the 2022 tournament before losing to Real Madrid.

"What will be expected going into that competition is that it's going to be Neymar's team," the 33-year-old Koulibaly said. "So we're going to do everything in training so that he's out there and in his best conditions to help us win trophies."

AP



Cyprus' justice minister lauds limits on away fans at high-risk soccer games but full ban preferable

NICOSIA, Cyprus

THE Cyprus soccer association's new limits on the number of fans who can travel with their team to away games are a positive step toward curbing stadium violence, even though the government sought to extend a full ban on travelling supporters, Cyprus' justice minister said Wednesday.

Justice minister Marios Hartsiotis said the government and law enforcement authorities continue to hold the view that extending the full ban imposed in January is necessary until new amendments to existing laws on fan violence are beefed up and talks between police, teams and fan clubs can come up with a better, more coordinated approach to tackling the problem.

But he said the government doesn't want to diminish the Cyprus FA's decision to keep some travelling fan restrictions on what it classifies "high risk" games.

"Soccer is a celebration and I say again, this celebration shouldn't turn into a fighting ring, or a war, or a battle that puts lives at risk," Hartsiotis told the state broadcaster.

On Tuesday, the Cyprus FA said for the upcoming season a maximum 800 away fans will be allowed in stadiums for contests involving 10 of the first division's 14 teams. Among those are current champion APOEL Nicosia, cross-town rivals Omonia and perennial favorites Apollonas Limassol, Paphos F.C. and Anorthosis Famagusta.

For smaller stadiums that can't accommodate 800 away fans, only 10% of seating will be available for visiting team supporters.

The full away supporter ban was imposed following a string of violent incidents that prompted the players' union to threaten a walkout by its members.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Foden named PFA player of year, Palmer young player

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga now rally supporters ahead of crucial second leg against Vital'O FC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AS the CAF Champions League preliminary rounds intensify, Young Africans are gearing up for a highly anticipated rematch against Burundi's Vital'O FC.

With a commanding 4-0 victory in the first leg, the Tanzanian champions are now urging their loyal supporters to fill the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam for the decisive second leg, scheduled for Saturday, August 24, at 7:00 pm.

The club's information and communication manager, Ally Kamwe (pictured), has issued a passionate plea to the fanbase, emphasizing the importance of a packed stadium to create an intimidating atmosphere for their opponents, which could be crucial in securing their progression to the next stage of the tournament.

"Our hope is to fill Benjamin Mkapa Stadium for the match against Vital'O," Kamwe stated. "We also have great motivation to perform well, thanks to the support from our Honorable President Samia Suluhu Hassan, affectionately known as 'Goli la Mama'."

Kamwe highlighted the significant role that President Samia's motivation has played in the team's performance this season. The President's initiative, which includes a financial reward for each goal scored by Tanzanian teams in continental competitions, has provided a significant boost to Young Africans.

Following their dominant 4-0 victory in the first leg, Young Africans received a Tsh 20 million incentive, as President Samia had pledged Tsh 5 million for each goal scored.

"The motivation from our President started at the very beginning of the season," Kamwe added. "Right now, we're calculating how many goals we need to score to maximize the reward. The funds from 'Goli la Mama' can even cover our workers' salaries," he added.

Kamwe also acknowledged the challenges ahead, noting that the team's focus is not only on their performance but also on supporting their fellow Tanzanian clubs participating in continental competitions.

The first leg of the tie, played at the Azam Complex, saw Young Africans dominate Vital'O FC with a convincing 4-0 victory. The team's new signings, Prince Dube and Clatous Chama, made an immediate impact, both finding the back of the net. Goals from Clement Mzize and Stephane Aziz Ki rounded off the comprehensive win, setting the stage for a potentially decisive second leg.

With one foot already in the next round, Young Africans are determined to secure their place in the lucrative group stages of the CAF Champions League. However, the team remains focused on the task at hand, knowing that the job is not yet complete.

The aggregate winner between Young Africans and Vital'O FC will advance to face either SC Villa of Uganda or Ethiopia's Commercial Bank in the second preliminary round. The victor of that tie will secure a spot in the group stages, scheduled to take place between October and December.

Young Africans' commanding performance in the first leg has showcased their potential to make a deep run in this season's CAF Champions League. As the team prepares for the second leg, the support of their fans will be crucial in creating the atmosphere needed to propel them to the next stage of the competition.

With the backing of their passionate supporters, Young Africans are poised to take another step towards achieving their continental ambitions as they face Vital'O FC in what promises to be an exciting and crucial encounter.

TPLB impressed by improved stadium infrastructure

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has expressed satisfaction with the significant improvements made to the infrastructure of various stadiums used during the league's opening matches.

Four stadiums were utilized for the season's kickoff, while other teams await their turn to play their inaugural matches due to commitments in CAF interclub competitions.

TPLB Chief Executive Officer Almasi Kasongo praised the stadiums for meeting FIFA's minimum requirements, emphasizing the importance of maintaining these high standards for the growth and development of football in Tanzania.

Kasongo assured fans that the league would not compromise on quality, regardless of the team playing or the stadium being used.

"The technical infrastructure of our stadiums must strictly adhere to the regulations outlined in the 17 laws governing football fields. This includes the pitch, technical benches, changing rooms, and security fencing," he stated.

"While the conditions were satisfactory today, they may deteriorate over time. Therefore, we must remain vigilant in maintaining these high standards, ensuring that no team or fan feels embarrassed by our facilities," Kasongo added.

The season debuted at CCM Kirusa Stadium, where Pamba Jiji FC played to a draw against Tanzania Prisons. Meanwhile, Mashujaa FC secured a 1-0 victory over Dodoma Jiji at Lake Tanganyika Stadium, and Ken Gold FC suffered a 3-1 home defeat at Sokoine Stadium to Singida Black Stars.

The newly constructed KMC Stadium welcomed Simba SC for their opening match against Tabora United, with the Msimbazi Reds emerging victorious with a 3-0 scoreline.

Several Tanzanian football clubs were unable to participate in the opening week of the Premier League due to their involvement in CAF interclub competitions.

Young Africans and Azam FC were both absent from domestic action as they focused on their CAF Champions League preliminary stage matches while Coastal Union traveled to Angola to face Bravos Do Maquis in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Additionally, Namungo, Kagera Sugar, Fountain Gate FC, JKT Tanzania, and KMC were all sidelined during the first week of the league.

As the season progresses, TPLB remains committed to ensuring that all stadiums continue to meet the required standards, reinforcing the board's dedication to enhancing the quality of football in Tanzania.

Simba's Joshua Mutale suffers hamstring injury, Leonel Ateba cleared for debut

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club have confirmed that winger Joshua Mutale sustained a hamstring injury during their recent Premier League match against Tabora United.

The match, held at the KMC Complex, saw Simba secure a 3-0 victory, but the win was overshadowed by Mutale's injury, which forced him off the field for treatment.

Dr. Edwin Kagabo, Simba's medical officer, provided an update on Mutale's condition, revealing that the player has already received initial treatment.

"We have done the initial treatment for Mutale and are continuing to monitor his condition. Further examination of the injury will be completed within the next 48 hours," Dr. Kagabo stated.

While the full extent of the injury is yet to be determined, Dr. Kagabo reassured fans that it does not appear to be severe.

"It doesn't seem to be very serious, and I believe he will recover soon and rejoin the team," he added.

Simba's medical team is hopeful that Mutale's recovery will be swift, but the club will take all necessary precautions to ensure that he returns to full fitness before rejoining the squad.

The injury comes at a crucial time for Simba as they prepare for their second Premier League match against Fountain Gate FC, scheduled for Sunday, August 25, at the KMC Complex.

The Simba squad has resumed training as they gear up for this important fixture. The team is eager to build on their strong start to the season, with the victory over Tabora United providing a solid foundation.

Coach Fadlu Davids is expected to fine-tune his tactics and ensure that the team is in top shape for the upcoming challenges.

In a related development, Simba's new striker, Leonel Ateba, is ready to make his debut after receiving the necessary clearances to play in the Tanzanian league.

The club's information and communication manager, Ahmed Ally, confirmed that all the paperwork for Ateba's registration has been completed, paving the way for his inclusion in the squad for the match against Fountain Gate.

"The management has already



Joshua Mutale

completed all the permit procedures for our new striker Ateba, and fans can expect to see him on the field in the next game," Ally said.

Ateba's arrival is seen as a significant boost to Simba's attacking options, especially after the decision to part ways with striker Freddy Michael Kouablan.

Kouablan, who had been with the club for a brief period, is now expected to continue his career elsewhere. Reports suggest that he could be heading to Algeria, where USM Alger, coached by former Simba boss Abdelhak Benchikha, has shown interest in acquiring his services.

This potential move would offer Kouablan a fresh start and an opportunity to prove his worth in a different competitive environment.

As Simba look ahead to their upcoming fixtures, they face a series of important matches that could shape their season. After the game against Fountain Gate FC, Simba will travel to Mbeya to take on Tanzania Prisons at the Sokoine Stadium on October 22.

This away fixture is expected to be a stern test of Simba's title credentials, with the team needing to secure points on the

road to maintain their momentum.

The fixture list then brings Simba face-to-face with Azam FC in what promises to be a high-stakes encounter. Scheduled for the fourth round of the Premier League, this match could have significant implications for the title race, with both teams eager to assert their dominance early in the season.

Beyond their domestic league commitments, Simba are also focused on their upcoming campaign in the CAF Confederation Cup. The club is set to face the winner of the preliminary tie between Zanzibar's Uhamiaji FC and Libya's Al Ahly Tripoli in the second round of the competition.

With Al Ahly Tripoli having already secured a 2-0 victory in the first leg, it appears likely that Simba will face the Libyan side in the next round.

The CAF Confederation Cup is a priority for Simba as they aim to make a strong impact on the continental stage. Success in this competition would not only enhance the club's reputation but also provide valuable experience for the squad as they seek to establish themselves as one of Africa's best football clubs.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



“

The motivation from our President started at the very beginning of the season," Kamwe added. "Right now, we're calculating how many goals we need to score to maximize the reward. The funds from 'Goli la Mama' can even cover our workers' salaries

EATV TUESDAY

MJADALA

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SSPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM