



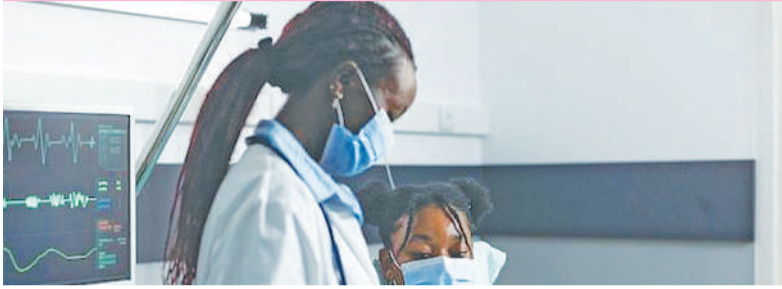
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Adhere to professionalism, women accountants advised



National Pg 4

Use data for better healthcare, medical experts told



National Pg 6

Over 2,000 water meters stolen in Mbeya - official



Minister consulting with media on polls coverage

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology has pledged strong collaboration with various stakeholders, including media organizations and journalists, in conducting coverage of upcoming civic polls.

Jerry Slaa, the minister, issued this assurance at a meeting with media sector stakeholders, indicating that he expects to meet with the Right to Information Coalition on Friday, grouping upwards of 16 institutions.

The minister sought to assure stakeholders of the government's intention to protect a favourable environment for coverage of the civic polls preparations and voting exercise, as a torchbearer to the parliamentary and presidential elections next year.

The minister intends to hold meetings with activist organisations, saying there are 1,023 media institutions across the country, underlining that the media sector is cross-cutting and characterised by different orientations, all of which relate to policies, laws, regulations and statutory guidelines.

The statutory variations provide ample room for journalists to use the right to obtain and disseminate information without fear of criminal repercussions, he said, reiterating instructions from

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Safety of Kariakoo buildings: PM names 19 for probe team



Tanzania People's Defence Forces officers pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday carrying the caskets bearing the bodies of some of the people who died in Saturday's collapse of a multi-floor building in the city's sprawling Kariakoo market zone. It was shortly before the public paying of respects at Mnazi Mmoja grounds. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

The inspection will focus on safety standards and ways to improve emergency preparedness in the instance of such incidents in future

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has formed a 19-member task force to assess the structural integrity of all buildings in the Kariakoo area following the tragic collapse of a building on Saturday, which claimed 16 lives, with nearly 90 survivors rescued from the rubble.

The move follows instructions from President Samia Suluhu Hassan in a televised message in the wake of the disaster, tasking Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa with constituting a probe team.

The premier announced the formation of the task force during a ceremony at Mnazi Mmoja grounds, where the victims of the disaster were being honoured at the national and city level before being transported for burial proceedings.



Once the rescue operation concludes, we will intensify efforts to ensure the structural integrity of buildings in the zone

Brigadier General Hosea Ndagala, the head of the Disaster Management Department in the Prime Minister's Office will head the team, while Melecky Mwano from the Contractors Registration Board (CRB), will serve as its secretary.

The premier said that the team's primary role will be to assess the condition of buildings in Kariakoo and advise the government on appropriate steps, as Kariakoo is a vital marketplace, not only for Tanzania but for neighboring countries as well.

"We must ensure the safety of its buildings to protect the lives of entrepreneurs and the public," he said, underlining that findings of the task force will help guide the government in implementing new safety standards and measures for the area.

He also provided updates on the rescue effort, noting that as of mid yesterday, 86 individuals had been rescued from the rubble while 16 have been confirmed

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SPORTS



TANZANIA, GUINEA SQUARE OFF IN AFCON 2025 QUALIFIER DECIDER

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HARRY KANE SPARKS ENGLAND ROUT AGAINST IRELAND AND NATIONS LEAGUE PROMOTION

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BoT tightens oversight, delists 55 online lenders

Under the rules, providers are prohibited from sharing customer data with foreign entities, and restrict lenders from accessing users' phone contacts, messages or photos

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has taken stronger action to regulate online lending services, receiving 16 applications for licenses but granting approval to only four providers that met required standards.

Mary Ngasa, an assistant manager in the BoT Microfinance Department, said in an interview that 55 unlicensed applications have been indexed and re-



Many microfinance institutions bypassed regulations when launching apps

ferred to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) for removal from online platforms.

Licensed providers are now required to prominently display notifications confirming BoT approval, offer transparent loan terms and provide accessible customer support contact details, she stated.

BoT has uncovered instances where microfinance institutions operate multiple online lending platforms without

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EU delivers €2.5m for clean energy access, in 17 districts

By Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa, Morogoro

THE European Union (EU) has provided €2.5m (7bn/-) to support the clean and safe energy drive, to be used

in 17 districts across six regions as a pilot project.

Makfura Evergris, the project coordinator at the country office of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), said at a training event here yesterday that the initiative will run for three

years in selected districts of Mwanza, Tabora, Morogoro, Tanga, Coast, and Dar es Salaam regions.

The project is intended to enhance the capacity of the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) in improving the value

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Safety of Kariakoo buildings: PM names 19 for probe team

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dead.

Rescue operations are being pursued until every person is accounted for, he emphasised, affirming that the rescue teams had reached underground levels of the collapsed building, where voices are still being heard.

He praised the collaborative efforts of various institutions during the rescue operation, echoing remarks by the president in a televised message from the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, directing a comprehensive inspection of multi-storey buildings in the central busi-

ness district.

The inspection will focus on safety standards and ways to improve emergency preparedness in the instance of such incidents in future, she said, conveying her condolences to the families of the victims.

She declared the government's commitment to covering treatment costs for the injured and assisting with burial arrangements, asserting that public safety was the top priority.

"Once the rescue operation concludes, we will intensify efforts to ensure the structural integrity of buildings in the zone," the message intoned.

EU delivers €2.5m for clean energy access, in 17 districts

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chain for access to clean and safe energy, with the initiative involving capacity building for the agency's officials.

It also has a component for the provision of vital equipment such as patrol vehicles, communication radios, high speed boats for monitoring charcoal trafficking along the seashore, and pilotless planes (drones) to strengthen observance of forest resource regulations for various stakeholders, she stated.

If successful in the pilot regions the project will be expanded to other regions, she explained at the three-day training session designed to equip forest officers, court administrators, magistrates and local government officials.

The project was designed in the wake of a 2020 study which showed that 63.5 percent of households rely on firewood for cooking, 26 percent use mostly charcoal, and only five percent have adopted natural gas.

The findings underscore the challenge of accessing clean cooking energy, the presenter noted, affirming that the study also indicated that the widespread use of firewood and charcoal has caused significant deforestation.

The 26 percent of the population who routinely use charcoal contribute to forest destruction and environmental degradation in their incessant demand for the product, she stated.

This project addresses disparities in energy access to improve for-

est management, as it also seeks to improve understanding of forestry policies and regulations. A correct awareness of procedures among forest officers and magistrates handling forestry-related cases is vital, she stated.

The project is also directed at educating communities concerning misconceptions about forest resources, she said, whereas Judge (rt'd) Robert Makaramba highlighted the fragmentation of institutions managing forestry and environmental issues, with a view to foster effective communication and progress.

He proposed merging institutions under a single body dedicated to environmental conservation, citing Ghana's example of an energy commission managing all energy sources, including firewood and charcoal.

He said that penalties requiring offenders to restore damaged environments need to be instituted rather than imprisonment, envisioning a situation where an individual who cuts down a tree could be required to plant 100 trees.

Rajabu Hassan, the Legal and Environmental Action Team (LEAT) training coordinator, noted that LEAT is implementing a project on integrated strategies for improving forestry energy management.

The project is meant to strengthen enforcement of forestry resource laws, where the activist group is collaborating with the Judicial Administration Institute to develop curricula for colleges on investigating forestry crimes, he added.

Minister consulting with media on polls coverage

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan on September 14.

"I have also appointed six members to a board that will assist with various issues in this sector, and this will open the way for us to establish an independent table and an evaluation fund for journalists," he said.

The ministry is coordinating the process of improving media policy, to enhance media sector professionalism, helping journalists to deliver accurate information in a timely manner and free to do so in accordance with the law, he elaborated.

Asserting that Tanzania has become a model for peace and strengthening national unity with media contribution, he emphasized that the ministry and the media are one family, that the ministry's doors are open for suggestions that can help to build the sector.

Expressing determination to

bring about reforms in the media sector, he pointed at policies and laws that need reform, insisting on listening to various media outlets to exchange experiences on how to improve the sector.

Deogratius Nsokolo, president of the Union of Tanzanian Press Clubs (UTPC) presented recommendations in relation to the civic polls and the general election.

Media outlets should be empowered to carry out their duties professionally without interference, and journalists be enabled to carry out their responsibilities in line with professional codes and guidelines, he said.

Media outlets should not be discriminated against based on religious or political views, and journalists need to be respected, he said. Media managers should oversee operations fairly, regardless of whether the outlet is public or private, he added.

Iringa RC backs REA's efforts to promote clean cooking energy

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

IRINGA regional commissioner (RC) Peter Serukamba has expressed strong support for the Rural Energy Agency (REA) in its initiative to distribute 9,800 cooking gas cylinders across the region.

The project aims to promote the use of clean cooking energy,

contributing to a healthier and more sustainable environment.

Serukamba made these remarks yesterday after receiving the REA project implementation report for the region, presented by Advera Mwijage, Director of Alternative Technologies and Renewable Energy.

The Regional Commissioner (RC) commended the Rural En-

ergy Agency (REA) for its ongoing efforts to promote clean energy and highlighted the agency's success in electrifying remote villages and hamlets.

"I applaud REA for continuing the distribution of gas cylinders to support the use of clean energy. Additionally, I commend your efforts to bring electricity to rural areas. I urge you to

strengthen collaborations with various stakeholders, including large companies, to ensure these projects benefit people across the country," Serukamba said.

In her report, Mwijage revealed that gas cylinders would be distributed across three districts: Kilolo and Mufindi in Iringa Region. The goal is to further encourage the adoption of safe and

clean energy alternatives.

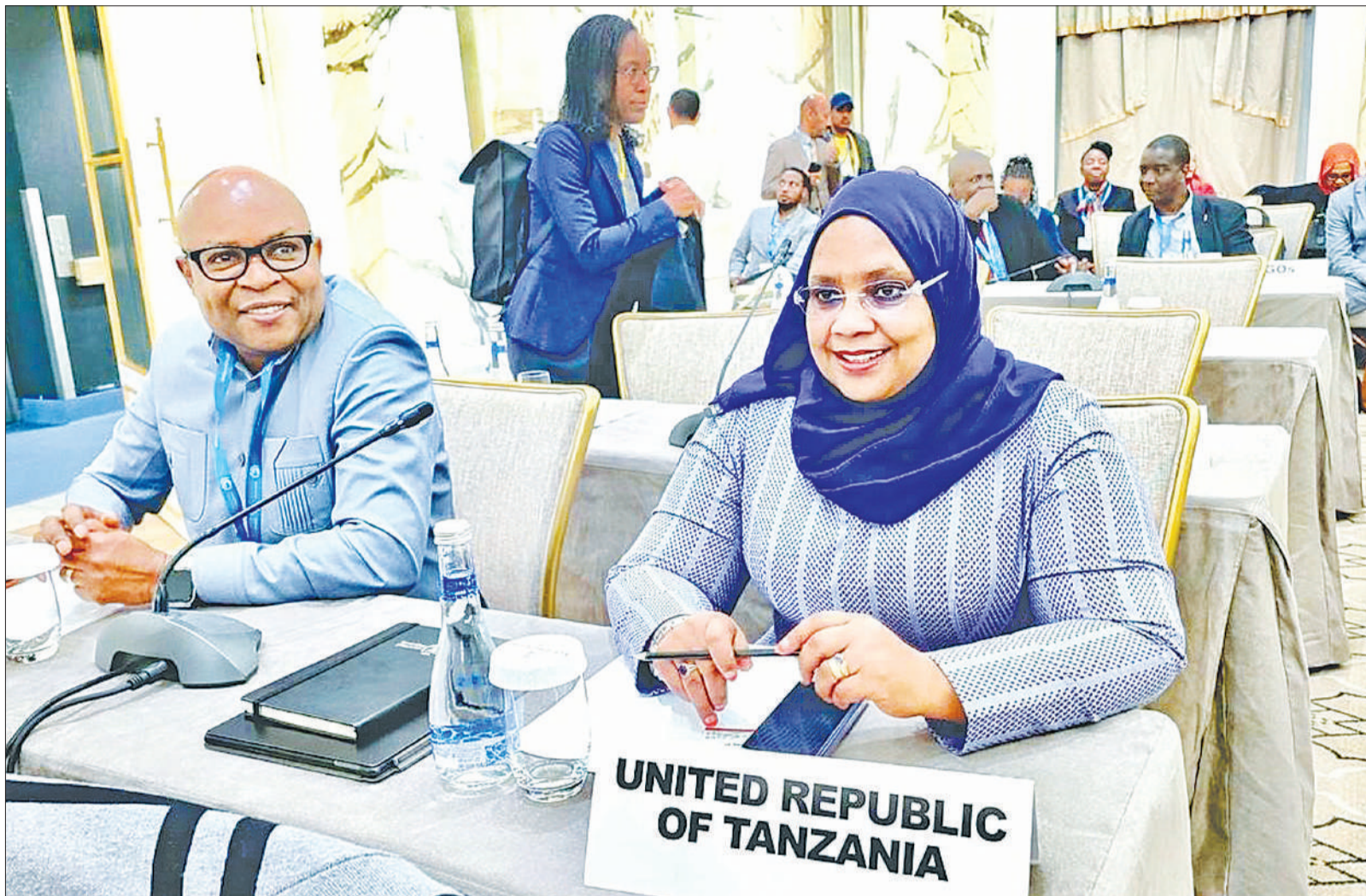
Mwijage also announced that Lake Gas Company would begin distributing cooking gas in the region starting in January 2025, providing residents with access to this cleaner energy source.

She further encouraged Tanzanians to take advantage of the opportunity to apply for the construction of fuel stations through

REA.

The project, which will establish fuel stations with capacities ranging from 10,000 to 15,000 litres, has already received funding from the government.

"I commend the government for its continued investment in these projects, which will benefit many communities," Mwijage said.



Dr Ashatu Kijaji (R), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), pictured in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Sunday attending a consultative meeting held as part of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the ongoing 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29). Left is Dr Kanizio Manyika, acting Assistant Director in the Environment Department of the Vice President's Office. Photo: VPO

BoT tightens oversight, delists 55 online lenders

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approval, with some institutions managing up to 10 apps under one license, she further noted.

"We've received 16 applications, and only four have been licensed. We expect others to comply soon," she said, elaborating that despite repeated public calls for registration, 55 unlicensed providers have been identified and placed under scrutiny.

Deogratius Mnyamani, another BoT officer, said that BoT assessed 71 applications, engaging providers and conducting thorough vetting before granting licenses. "Many microfinance institutions bypassed regulations when launching apps," he asserted, noting that BoT requires licensed providers to submit regular updates on their loan policies.

This includes details on loan

types, interest rates, repayment terms and compliance processes, he said, whereas Dickson Gama, the central bank's acting microfinance manager, explained that oversight was initiated in 2018, addressing numerous fraud complaints from unregulated providers.

This informed the development of stricter guidelines, he said, pointing at violations of regulations such as launching unapproved apps, which resulted in disciplinary actions against several licensed entities.

On September 24 BoT introduced new guidelines to further tighten oversight of online lending, making it mandatory for a company to operate just one such platform.

Under the rules, providers are prohibited from sharing customer data with foreign entities, and restricts lenders to access users' phone contacts, messages or pho-

tos.

The rules also require that guarantors must be informed and provide consent before loans are approved as well as restricting borrowers from disclosing and sharing borrower's information.

The rules also require that interest or repayment demands before the agreed-upon due date are prohibited as well as ensuring that customer service representatives use professional language and handle complaints effectively.

To ensure compliance, all licensed apps must display the provider's identity, BoT license number and contact details. BoT also plans to introduce unique identification numbers for registered apps to track compliance, he stated.

Noting that some countries require app stores to approve lending applications before they are listed, which BoT is considering adopting

similar procedures, he said that the 2018 Microfinance Act and the 2022 Personal Data Protection Act provide an adequate framework.

They offer legal protection against harassment, defamation and unauthorized data sharing, where victims of online lending abuse can report violations to BoT for redress, he said.

A recent survey in Dar es Salaam revealed troubling practices in the online lending industry, including hidden loan terms, excessive interest rates - in some cases exceeding 80 percent of total loan amount - and extensive harassment.

The survey also highlighted instances where unlicensed lenders publicly shamed defaulters or contacted their personal networks about outstanding debts, to which the central bank linked such harassment with 68 deaths of women across eight regions.



Dr Jim Yonazi (2nd-L), Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), updates journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the search and rescue operation at the multi-floor building that caved in on Saturday in the city's sprawling Kariakoo market zone. He issued guidelines on the extending of relief aid related to the disaster. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel



Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) shares a light moment with African Development Bank (AfDB) president Dr Akinwumi Adesina at the ongoing 29th Conference of the Parties (COP-29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Saturday. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Adhere to professionalism, women accountants advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WOMEN accountants have been urged to adhere to their professional ethics, enhance management of public funds in their daily duties to improve the country's financial control.

Jenifa Christian Omolo, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance made the call yesterday here during the opening of a training session for women accountants from various regions and councils across the country.

Omolo emphasised that the government expects the accountants to apply the knowledge gained from the training in order to achieve positive results and contribute to the strengthening of public financial management.

She explained that the training would cover a wide range of topics, including communication, financial matters, economic empowerment, time management, problem-solving strategies, ethics and mental health.

"The sessions will enhance their communication skills, both written and verbal, and improve their ability to listen, understand different perspectives, and engage in meaningful discussions," Omolo said.

She noted that strengthening communication skills will help foster good relationships, promote transparency, build unity, and resolve conflicts in the workplace and local communities.

Additionally, Omolo highlighted that the training would provide participants with essential tools for managing personal finances, budgeting, identifying investment opportunities, and maximising their potential.

Ayoub Banzi, Assistant Government Accountant General, said that the training will benefit approximately 300 women accountants from various regions and councils across mainland Tanzania.

He added that the initiative is the first in a series of planned programmes aimed at continuing to support and empower women in the accounting profession.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

Look for more funds to finish truck parking terminal in Mbozi, PS urged

WORKS minister Innocent Bashungwa has instructed Permanent Secretary Aisha Amour to urgently secure additional funds for the completion of the first phase of the Chimbuya truck parking terminal project in Mbozi District, Songwe Region.

The project, being implemented by Tanroads, has an estimated cost of 2bn/-. The government has already allocated 1.8bn/-, which has been fully utilized, according to Minister Bashungwa.

He issued these instructions yesterday during his two-day visit to the Songwe Region, where he inspected the ongoing construction of the first phase of the project.

The Chimbuya truck parking terminal is part of the government's efforts to alleviate truck congestion in Tunduma, a busy border town. Once completed, the facility will accommodate up to 600 trucks.

"Tanroads Manager, I've seen the progress of this project, and I urge you to accelerate the work. I expect this facility to be operational by the first week of December. I hereby instruct the Permanent Secretary to secure the necessary funds to ensure the first phase is completed without delay," said Minister Bashungwa.

He also directed the Permanent Secretary to secure funding for the second phase of the project and recommended that the contractor currently handling the first phase, Mehrab Company of Mbeya, be awarded the contract for the second phase as well.

Bashungwa instructed Dr Christina Kayoza, Tanroads' Director of Maintenance, to travel to Songwe immediately to oversee the implementation of his directives.

Additionally, the Minister ordered that by November 20, 2024,

a mobile weighbridge be deployed to the Mpemba area of Tunduma to help alleviate congestion and reduce traffic jams. This follows requests from local Members of Parliament, David Silinde and Japhet Hasunga, who had jointly called for the weighbridge to address the area's traffic issues.

In a progress report on the project, Suleiman Bishanga, the Tanroads Manager for the Songwe Region, confirmed that the project is moving forward, with the first phase funded by the 1.8 bn/- allocated by the government.

Eng. Bishanga noted that the current phase of construction focuses on creating a parking area to accommodate between 150 and 200 trucks, offering essential services at the site. Once the second phase is completed, the parking terminal will have the capacity to accommodate up to 600 trucks.



Invitation to Tender (ITT)

CONSTRUCTION OF YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES AT MAJIMOTO, INYONGA, TOWN CLINIC CENTRE, ITENKA, KASEKESE HEALTH FACILITIES IN KATAVI REGION

Tender Ref. No. PIT/VUMA/02/FY25

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan has over 80 years' experience and works in more than 75 countries across the world. Working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. Plan International Tanzania (PIT) operates in 8 regions with footprints within 16 regions since 1991, currently supporting 25,000 vulnerable children and their families to access health care, quality education, safe sanitation and water, productive livelihoods and protection of their wellbeing.

Plan International Tanzania has received grant from the Global Affairs Canada (GAC) for Construction of Youth Friendly Spaces as indicated below:

S/No	Lot #	Description	Location
1	01	Construction of Youth Friendly Service Centre (YFSC)	Mpanda Municipal Council (Town Clinic Center)
2	02	Construction of Youth Friendly Service Centre (YFSC)	Nsimbo District Council (Itenka Health Centre)
3	03	Construction of Youth Friendly Service Centre (YFSC)	Tanganyika District Council (Kasekesse Health Centre)
4	04	Construction of Youth Friendly Service Centre (YFSC)	Mlele District Council (Inyonga B Health Centre)
5	05	Construction of Youth Friendly Service Centre (YFSC)	Mpimbwe District Council (Majimoto Dispensary)

Bidders may quote for one, two or all Lots, but for each Lot, bidders must quote for all items and quantities. Bids not quoting for all items and quantities in a Lot will be considered non-responsive and rejected for that Lot.

The Plan International Tanzania now invites sealed tenders from eligible building contractors registered in Class six and above for construction of Youth Friendly Spaces.

Tendering will be conducted through the Internationally Published Tender (IPTs)

Plan International Tanzania invites sealed bids from eligible contractors. Interested eligible tenderers must confirm their intention to tender indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to: tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Tender documents in the English language will be sent to interested tenderers by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing, postage or delivery of the tender documents.

Tenderers are hereby requested to submit the tenders physically in a sealed envelope by hand to the Country Director:

Plan International Tanzania
Country Office
Office Building No. 6 Group Floor,
Mlimani City Office Park, Sam Nujoma Road,
P.O.Box 3517 Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

Or

Plan International Tanzania
Vijana na Ubora Malengo na Afya (VUMA) Project Office
Plot 48 Block B, kitunguru 1 Street, Ileembo.
P.O. Box 465 Mpanda, Katavi, Tanzania.

The deadline for submission of the tenders is **11AM, on Wednesday, 18/12/2024, East Africa Time (EAT)**. The outer cover should be clearly marked "Tender No. PIT/VUMA/02/FY25 for Construction of Youth Friendly Spaces. Not to be opened before 11AM, on Wednesday, 18/12/2024, East Africa Time (EAT). Late or Electronic bids will be rejected

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



TENDER No. TP/11/2024/ICB/S/030

PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS FOR A PERIOD OF 2025-2027

- Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Co Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk storage facility for Petroleum Products with its shares divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA of Switzerland. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
- TIPER hereby invites via International Competitive Bidding (ICB) eligible, competent and experienced consultants and contractors to bid for the following requirements as per scope of works:

Lot No.	Description of services
1	Provision of various civil works
2	Provision of various mechanical works
3	Provision of electrical and instrumentation projects
4	Provision of consultancy services for various civil projects
5	Provision of consultancy services for various mechanical works
6	Provision of consultancy services for electrical and instrumentation projects

- Eligible Bidders are only contractors and consultants registered by respective boards and have work experience. Bidders who don't meet this condition above are not eligible to bid for this tender.
- Eligible bidders will be provided with tender document and scope of work for each service as mentioned above.
- Interested and eligible bidders may request for an electronic copy of the tender document by sending their signed and stamped application letter(s) and copies of relevant registration certificates from the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) and Engineers Registration Board (ERB) for consultants through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz from date **19 September, 2024 to 3 December, 2024 between 8:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M.**
- Bids MUST be submitted in hard copies only in envelopes sealed with postal seals or fire seals. Softcopies of bids should be submitted via a USB flash driver embedded in the hardcopies of bid submitted. No bid should be submitted by email.
- All bids MUST submitted in plain sealed envelopes in one original plus one copy, properly filled and marked name of the tender lot they apply for example "Tender No. TP/11/2024/ICB/S/030 Lot 5 for Prequalification for Provision of consultancy services for various mechanical works".
- All bids must be delivered physically to: The Secretary, Tender Committee, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.
- The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **4.00 P.M.** local time on **3 December, 2024.**
- There shall be NO public opening of bids.
- Late bids, a portion of bids, and electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- TIPER is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),
P.O. BOX 2608, KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.

NEEC to unveil business development guidelines

By Guardian Correspondent

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) is set to launch new Business Development Services (BDS) guidelines aimed at strengthening Tanzania's business sector. The guidelines are designed to provide Tanzanian businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), with the structured support needed to succeed.

In a statement to reporters in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, NEEC's Executive Secretary, Bengi Issa, explained that the BDS Guidelines focus on several key areas to enhance business performance. These include boosting sales growth, improving profitability, streamlining operational efficiency, fostering positive behavioural changes among employees, building management capabilities, and increasing overall business competitiveness.

"This holistic approach demonstrates NEEC's commitment to equipping SMEs with the tools needed to thrive in today's competitive market and contribute to Tanzania's economic transformation," Issa said.

She emphasized that NEEC is committed to ensuring the timely implementation of the guidelines, which have already been thoroughly prepared.

"We have completed the preparation of the guidelines and are now finalizing the launch date," she noted.

Issa mentioned that while the initial plan was to launch the guidelines during the economic empowerment forum in Dodoma from December 3-4, 2024, the final decision on the launch date is yet to be confirmed.

NEEC is also set to bring together over 700 participants for the 8th annual economic empowerment forum, which will be held in Dodoma. The forum will include representatives from government ministries, regional authorities,

councils, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, educational and research institutions, and private organizations, including the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

This year's forum theme, "Economic Empowerment is the Foundation of Tanzania's Development," highlights the importance of creating pathways for Tanzanians to achieve economic independence and seize emerging opportunities.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to grace the forum.

The event will review the implementation of NEEC's empowerment policies, evaluate the outcomes from last year's 7th forum, and offer insights into both successes and challenges. Awards will be presented to regions, entrepreneurs, and organizations that have excelled in promoting empowerment under NEEC's guidance.

Through initiatives like the BDS Guidelines and the annual economic empowerment forum, NEEC seeks to create a supportive environment for sustainable business growth in Tanzania.

Issa also emphasized that the forum will provide a platform to launch NEEC's annual report and present awards to outstanding performers in entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. Various awards will be given to regions, ministries, institutions, and stakeholders who have excelled in these areas.

"We are still a developing country, and many of our citizens are working hard to improve their livelihoods. Empowering our people economically is essential to ensuring they achieve sustainable growth," Issa concluded.

The forum will offer valuable networking opportunities, allowing participants to explore government initiatives and meet successful entrepreneurs, small business owners, and individuals who have benefited from economic opportunities.



Iringa regional commissioner Peter Serukamba (L) pictured yesterday while receiving a report from Alternative and Renewable Energy director Advra Mwijage on progress in the implementation of projects by the Rural Energy Agency (REA) in the region. The agency has thus far distributed 9,800 cooking gas cylinders in the region in a drive meant to promote the use of clean cooking energy. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MEDICAL practitioners in Dodoma have been urged to harness the power of data to enhance healthcare delivery and decision-making.

The call for improved data usage in healthcare was made by Kaspar Mmuya, the Dodoma Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), during the opening of a capacity-building training for health workers in the region.

Organized by the Health Information Systems Programme (HISP) Tanzania, the training aimed to enhance participants' skills in collecting, processing, and accurately utilizing health data. The goal was to improve healthcare services in their respective areas. HISP Tanzania is implementing the District of Excellence (DoE)

RAS calls on medical experts to use data for better healthcare

initiative in Dodoma City and Bahi District Council, focusing on enhancing data management and utilization at the subnational level.

Dr Wilfred Senyoni, HISP Tanzania's Project Director, explained that the initiative centers around four key areas: data management, digital innovation, capacity building, and research. Through collaboration with regional, district, and facility teams, the DoE project ensures that its goals are met via a cooperative approach, turning insights into practical applications for tangible outcomes.

During the capacity-building

training, Dr Senyoni emphasized the significance of effective health data usage in supporting informed decision-making and planning within the health sector. "This training is a crucial step in ensuring our health workers are equipped to leverage new technologies and modern methods in health data processing," he stated.

At the event, Dodoma RAS Mmuya welcomed the initiative and urged participants to fully utilize data in their work. He also stressed the importance of adopting a professional approach to duties, emphasizing integrity and the need to avoid corrupt

practices that could tarnish the reputation of healthcare providers. Additionally, he encouraged health workers to embrace paperless technologies for collecting health data, in line with modern practices for efficient information management.

Since 2010, the Ministry of Health has been using the District Health Information Software (DHIS2) as the national health management information system (HMIS). DHIS2 is a tool used to capture and manage health data efficiently, with information collected directly from healthcare facilities or at the district level.

Plastic waste chokes Congo dam, causing widespread power cuts

BUKAVU

A Tide of plastic waste flowing into a major hydroelectric dam in eastern Congo is causing regular power cuts in several major cities, creating a challenge that local authorities are trying to solve.

The Ruzizi dam located at the south end of Lake Kivu, which borders Rwanda, supplies the city of Bukavu and others with electricity and the power outages are hurting local businesses.

The problem is linked to the growing use of plastics coupled with a lack of waste collection in the region. Heavy rainfall

causes waste to flow down from the mountainous terrain to the lake, where it collects and blocks the machinery.

"This waste effectively blocks the water. Water has difficulty entering the forced conduits to provide the pressure and speed required for the machines," Ljovj Mulemangabo, provincial director of national power company SNEL, told Reuters.

Each day cleaners attempt to extract the plastic bottles, jerry cans and other debris that causes the dam's machinery to shut down for hours. Despite their efforts, the plastic accumulates and

causes outages.

Didier Kabi, the provincial minister of environment and green economy, is among those working to find a solution. He told Reuters in an interview that requiring households to join a waste collection organization could help stop plastic from accumulating in the lake.

"This will enable us to see to what extent everyone needs to collect their own waste at household level," he said.

Surface-level cleaning isn't enough as the waste accumulates to a depth of 14 meters, with divers required to clean the river bed to prevent turbine blockages.

Alex Mbilizi, a metalworker in Bukavu, said the lack of power was causing problems.

"Our bosses are pressing us because of delays in completing their orders, and we don't know what to do," he said.

By Special Correspondent

MUTATIONS in malarial parasites linked to artemisinin-resistance in Southeast Asia have now been found in African children hospitalised for complicated malaria, according to a new study presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH).

It provides the first evidence that resistance to the lifesaving antimalarial drug may be emerging in the group of patients that account for most of the world's deaths from malaria: young children in Africa with serious infections.

The study is published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and led by researchers from the Indiana University School of Medicine, Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda the University of Pennsylvania and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

The team found partial resistance to the malaria drug artemisinin in 11 of 100 children, aged 6 months to 12 years, treated in Uganda for a complicated case of infection by the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*. The term "complicated" malaria is used to define cases where the disease is at risk of causing potentially life-threatening complications,



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (L) presents a gift to Italy's Ambassador to Tanzania, Giuseppe Sean Coppola, shortly after talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Study finds artemisinin resistance in African children with severe malaria

like severe anaemia or brain-related problems known as cerebral malaria.

The children in the study received what is considered to be the gold standard for treating complicated malaria infections: an intravenous infusion of artesunate, an artemisinin derivative, followed by an oral combination of artemether, another derivative of artemisinin, with a malaria drug called lumefantrine.

The introduction of artemisinin therapies 20 years ago was a major advance in malaria therapy due to their ability to treat cases quickly and came at a time when resistance was already being observed to other available treatments. The first evidence of partial resistance to artemisinin was reported in 2008 in Cambodia and by 2013, studies suggested the antimalarial was failing to treat some cases. Over the last few years, there has been increasing evidence that artemisinin-resistance may have spread into East Africa.


While all of the children in the study eventually recovered, 10 patients who were thought to have been cured also suffered a

repeat malaria attack within 28 days from the same strain of malaria that caused the original infection, suggesting that the initial treatment did not fully kill the infecting parasites. Two children required longer than the standard maximum of three days of therapy because they failed to clear their parasites.


Chandy John, Professor and Director of the Indiana University School of Medicine Ryan White Center for Infectious Diseases and Global Health, and one of the study's lead authors, said: "This is the first study from Africa showing that children with malaria and clear signs of severe disease are experiencing at least partial resistance to artemisinin."

"It's also the first study showing a high rate of African children with severe malaria experiencing a subsequent malaria episode with the same strain within 28 days of standard treatment with artesunate, a derivative of artemisinin, and an artemisinin combination therapy (ACT)."

"The fact that we started seeing evidence of drug resistance before we even started specifically looking for it is a troubling sign."



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA NISHATI
MAMLAKA YA UDHIBITI WA
HUDUMA ZA NISHATI NA MAJI
(EWURA)



PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under Section 19 of the EWURA Act, Cap. 414)

NOTICE is hereby issued to the public that the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has received an application for a Provisional Electricity Generation Licence as per the below details. EWURA invites the public to provide comments and/or objections to the application. Details of the Applicant and the nature of the license application are given hereunder:

S/NO	DESCRIPTION
Name and Address of the Applicant	ARMSTONE HYDRO LIMITED, P. O. Box 75396, KINONDONI - DAR ES SALAAM.
Location	Njomulole/Kanyoni Village, Muhange Ward, Kakonko District in Kigoma Region
Details of Shareholders	1) ARMSTONE HOLDINGS COMPANY, P. O. Box 75396, DAR ES SALAAM, Share 98% 2) JOSEPH NYONYI LUJARA, P. O. Box 75396, DAR ES SALAAM, Share 1% 3) DK. GELARD JACOB P. O. Box 75396, DAR ES SALAAM, Share 1%
Description of the Facility	The power plant will have a total installed capacity of 3.0MW, using hydropower and generating electricity for selling to TANESCO for distribution through the National Grid.
Type and Duration of the Licence	Provisional Electricity Generation License for a duration of three (3) Years

Any person who has any comment or objection should submit the same in writing to EWURA within twenty-one (21) days from the date of this notice to the below address. The application documents can be viewed upon written request.

EWURA House, 3 EWURA Street, 41104 Tambukareli, P.O Box 2857, Dodoma, Tanzania
Tel: +255 26 2329002 - 4, Fax: +255 26 2329005
E-mail: info@ewura.go.tz

Issued by:
Director General
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Jenifa Omolo (at the podium), Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Finance ministry, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday opening training for female accountants from all local government authorities in mainland Tanzania. The idea was to enhance financial management skills in public institutions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Tanzania stresses importance of SADC peacekeeping training

TANZANIA has reaffirmed the importance of peacekeeping training programmes within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), emphasizing their role in preparing participants for effective peace support operations.

Major General Idd Nkambi, the General Officer Commanding the Tanzania Peoples Defense Force, emphasized the importance of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC) pre-deployment training during his address in Dar es Salaam yesterday at its official opening. The training aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful mission execution while minimizing risks and ensuring the safety of both personnel and civilians.

"This training programme is designed to provide essential knowledge and skills for participants to successfully carry out their missions, while minimizing risks and ensuring the safety of personnel and civilians," Major General Nkambi explained.

He added that the programme addresses the challenges participants may encounter during peace support missions, ensuring they are well-prepared and supported for future deployments. "The knowledge gained here will be crucial for their success in future

missions," he noted.

Major General Nkambi also reflected on the long-standing collaboration among SADC member states, describing the initiative as a continuation of the unity formed during the liberation struggles. "This initiative reinforces the strong relationship between SADC member states, fostering mutual benefits and collaboration," he said.

He urged the member states to remain vigilant and proactive in their efforts to support regional security.

Rear Admiral Gottlieb Pandeni, Commandant of the SADC RPTC, described the training as a significant step in strengthening peacekeeping capacity across the region. The event underscored SADC's commitment to regional peace and security, marking a major milestone in fostering collaboration and capacity-building among member states.

"Today, we begin a national-level rollout of the peace support operation training programme, which incorporates both continental and regional lessons to enhance capacity," Rear Admiral Pandeni said.

He explained that the programme provides a framework for standardization based on African Union doctrines and training standards, promoting cohesion among peace operation components. "The centre is mandated to build the capacity of member states' forces at senior and middle management levels, while member states develop forces at the operational level," he added.

Rear Admiral Pandeni also highlighted the importance of the "Train-the-Trainers" initiative as a key element of pre-deployment preparation. "This initiative ensures that personnel are effective, responsive, and capable of achieving mission objectives. Trainers must pass on their knowledge in an engaging and impactful way," he said.

Brigadier General George Itang'are, Commandant of the Tanzania Peacekeeping Training Centre (TPTC), mentioned that participants from across SADC member states are involved in the training. "So far, participants from Mozambique and Malawi have arrived, and the remaining participants are expected soon," he said.

Iran commits to bolstering cooperation with Tanzania

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

IRAN has reaffirmed its commitment to deepening cooperation with Tanzania across key sectors, including trade, politics, architecture, and agriculture, with a particular focus on irrigation, reflecting their long-standing historical ties.

Hossein Alvandi Bahineh, the Iranian Ambassador to Tanzania, recently announced the opening of the Iranian Cultural Center during a special event at the Iranian Embassy in Dar es Salaam. The occasion coincided with the celebration of Shirazi Day, a significant event that highlights the historical connections between Iran and Tanzania.

Ambassador Bahineh underscored the importance of preserving the centuries-old relationship between the two nations, which spans over 1,000 years. He highlighted the migration of Shirazi-origin communities from Iran to East Africa, particularly to Zanzibar and other parts of the Swahili Coast, where they played a key role in trade and other activities that strengthened ties between the regions.

"The arrival of the Shirazi people marked a turning point in the development of trade, political systems, and diplomatic relations between our nations," Ambassador Bahineh said. "Their contributions laid the foundation for an exchange of knowledge and experiences that continues to benefit both countries today."

The Ambassador further stated that the opening of the Iranian Cultural Center in Tanzania signified a new chapter in their growing partnership. He emphasized that the center would provide Tanzanians with the opportunity to learn about the rich histories of both nations, including their shared experiences before and after independence.

"We take great pride in the cultural exchange between our countries," he added. "This includes Zanzibar's unique architectural style in Stone Town and the irrigation farming techniques that have been passed down through generations—examples of the deep-rooted ties between Iran and Tanzania."

Maryam Mansab, Director of the

Zanzibar Department of Museums and Antiquities, highlighted the importance of Shirazi Cultural Day in promoting the Swahili language. She pointed out that many Swahili words are derived from the Shirazi dialect, enriching the language and contributing to its widespread use across East Africa and beyond.

"Shirazi Cultural Day celebrates the linguistic and cultural contributions of the Shirazi community to the Swahili language. Many words that are now part of everyday conversation have played a significant role in shaping Swahili into a global language," Mansab explained.

Veronica Bisendo, Information and Public Relations Officer at the National Library Services Board, also praised Iran's contributions to preserving Tanzanian history. She noted the extensive publications at the library documenting the role of the Shirazi community in Tanzania's struggle for independence and their support for the development of the Swahili language.

"Iran has played a vital role in supporting the publication of books that reflect Tanzania's rich history, especially the contributions of the Shirazi community," Bisendo said. "We encourage citizens to visit our library to learn more about this important historical connection."

Latifa Omary, a student who attended the opening of the Iranian Cultural Center, shared her personal reflections on the event. "Through the cultural exchange at the center, I learned how the Shirazi community's influence helped shape the Swahili language, introducing words that have become an integral part of the language today," Omary said.

Ambassador Bahineh concluded by reaffirming Iran's commitment to strengthening its historical relationship with Tanzania, offering training programs for Tanzanian professionals, and fostering greater cooperation in areas such as architecture, agriculture, and trade.

"Our enduring partnership is rooted in a shared cultural and historical legacy," Ambassador Bahineh said. "We look forward to expanding our collaboration, ensuring that both countries continue to benefit from our close ties."



Expression of Interest (EOI) for Supply of HDPE Poly Pipes and Plasson Fittings for AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

AUMS Geofields (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest for the Supply of HDPE Poly Pipes and Plasson Fittings for its operation at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for **pre-qualification** please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 25/11/2024 quoting "EOI Supply of Poly Pipes and Fittings" in the subject line of your email. Email size shouldn't exceed 20mb's

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

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

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on 25/11/2024 shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

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

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

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

For more information on **African Underground Mining Services** and its operations please refer to the following [website www.aumsg.com](http://www.aumsg.com).

PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR PROCUREMENT OF PIPES TO

TO M&P EXPLORATION PRODUCTION TANZANIA LIMITED



(Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/020)

1. M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following:

GOODS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2 X NEW FLOW LINES

The work shall include but not be limited to:

- Procurement and delivery of steel pipes (required sizes)
- Procurement of pipe fittings and valves (required sizes)

The supplier has to demonstrate the capability to deliver goods to MPEP Mnazi bay site.

2. This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and objective tender process.
3. Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
 - a) Proof of experience and technical capability in providing said goods preferably in Oil & Gas industry.
 - b) Proof of financial capability (with latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and current annual return.
 - c) International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
 - d) Proof of registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a company profile, certificate of registration with BRELA, Tax Authority certificates for Tax Identification Number and Value Added Tax, Valid Business License, Proof of registration with ERB (Engineers Registration Board), Regulatory license and permits (if applicable), Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
4. All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to procurement@tanzaniamp.co.tz, not later than **29th November, 2024**.

Govt vows to curtail rise in murders and suicide cases

By Correspondent Daniel Limbe, Karagwe

THE government has pledged to collaborate with development stakeholders and religious leaders to tackle the growing incidents of murder and suicide in the country.

Works Minister Innocent Bashungwa reaffirmed the government's commitment during the weekend at the 30th anniversary celebration of the Mavuno Project, a non-governmental organisation based in Karagwe District, Kagera Region.

The occasion also marked the 6th graduation ceremony for Form Four pupils at Mavuno Model Secondary School.

Bashungwa's statement was in response to a call from Mavuno Project Director, Charles Bahati, who urged the government to collaborate with NGOs and religious leaders to address the growing incidents of violence. Bahati highlighted that the rise in such tragic events signifies a deep societal crisis requiring collective action from all sectors.

The Minister stressed that the Sixth Phase Government is dedicated to promoting peace, love, and emotional stability among Tanzanians, which is essential for citizens to fully benefit from the government's development initiatives.

"Responding to your recommendation, we will take action. Through my office, the local council, and the district commissioner's office, we will establish a formal platform to engage Mavuno, other NGOs, religious leaders, and relevant stakeholders to discuss and address the challenges facing our district, region, and country," Bashungwa stated.

He praised Mavuno for its visionary efforts in establishing a secondary school for girls, which has significantly benefited the rural community. He encouraged parents to support their children's education, emphasising that education is a key to unlocking future opportunities.

"Mavuno's achievements serve as an inspiration, not only within this district but also regionally and nationally. This success is a result of effective management, discipline, and dedication from both students and teachers. I particularly commend the head of this school for her exemplary leadership. You should be proud of the milestones you've reached," he said.

Education, health sectors in Morogoro and Mtwara receive boost worth 56.7m/-

By Guardian Reporter

IN a continued effort to support government initiatives aimed at improving public services in the education and health sectors, NMB Bank has donated equipment to primary and secondary schools, as well as health facilities, in the Morogoro and Mtwara regions.

Valued at 56.7m/-, the donations include 219 desks for pupils at Mafisa 'A' Primary School in Morogoro Municipality, as well as Njengwa and Mbemba Primary Schools in Nanyamba Town Council, Mtwara. Additionally, the bank has provided 220 tables and chairs to Kingo Secondary School in Morogoro and to Mtiniko, Mnongodi, and Nyundo Secondary Schools in Nanyamba Town Council, Mtwara Region.

In the health sector, NMB donated 10 hospital beds and mattresses for patients, along with two specialised delivery beds for use at Nanyamba District Hospital. A further 26 mattresses were supplied to Dinyecha and Nyundo Health Centres in Nanyamba Town Council to enhance patient care.

While presenting the donations in Morogoro, NMB's Chief Officer for Corporate and Government Clients, Alfred Shao, emphasised the bank's commitment to supporting health and education by allocating 1 per cent of its annual profits to address community challenges.

"When we received this request to support schools and health facilities in this district, we were encouraged and immediately chose to collaborate with the government to strengthen these vital sectors in our

Mavuno Director Bahati described the rising cases of murders and suicides as a true reflection of deeper societal challenges. He called on the government and development partners to come together to find sustainable solutions.

"These incidents are not only tragic for the families involved but also tarnish the reputation of the villages and districts where they occur. Such fears disrupt community cohesion and undermine local economies," he said.

Bahati also highlighted Mavuno's work in tackling other critical issues, including food security, environmental conservation, access to clean water, solar energy promotion, and improved farming practices. He pointed out that mental health challenges have escalated, with many people suffering in silence. If left unaddressed, these issues could further destabilise society.

Karagwe District Council Chairman, Wallace Mashanda, commended Mavuno for its pivotal role in implementing large-scale development projects that the government alone could not fully realise. These projects have effectively tackled pressing issues such as child malnutrition and improved farming techniques.

"Mavuno has been a lifeline for the people of Karagwe. Through its collaboration with district experts, the organisation has ensured that donor-funded projects deliver tangible results," Mashanda remarked.

Andreas Horsche, Mayor of Fürth, Munich, Germany, expressed his satisfaction with Mavuno's achievements over the past 30 years.

Horsche, who visited Karagwe to inspect projects funded by Germany, Austria, the United States, and Sweden, pledged continued support for the organisation's initiatives in the region.

"Mavuno's efforts have had a profound impact, and we are committed to maintaining our partnership to support the development of Karagwe and Kyerwa," Horsche said.

During his visit, Horsche toured several initiatives, including the construction of clean water tanks, organic farming projects, environmental conservation programmes, solar energy installations, and biogas production from animal waste. These initiatives have significantly improved the livelihoods of local communities.

community," said Shao.

He commended the government's efforts in advancing national development, adding that NMB, as a key stakeholder, feels a responsibility to contribute to improving essential public services.

In Mtwara, the bank's Southern Zone Manager, Olipa Hebel, reaffirmed NMB's dedication to addressing challenges in health and education, stressing their fundamental importance to national development.

Dinyecha Health Centre Secretary, Hamisi Hassan, expressed gratitude for the donations, describing the equipment as both modern and essential.

"These modern items will ensure safer deliveries for pregnant women and significantly alleviate our equipment shortages. We encourage other stakeholders to follow NMB's example and provide support," said Hassan.

Kapende Jamali Abdallah, Nanyamba Town Council Chairman and Councillor for Kitaya Ward, also praised NMB for its longstanding commitment to improving local services.

"For seven consecutive years, this bank has supported us in education, health, and disaster relief. I urge them to continue this invaluable support," said Abdallah.

The 2022/23 report by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) highlighted ongoing challenges in infrastructure and furniture shortages in primary and secondary schools nationwide, with Morogoro and Mtwara among the most affected regions.



Kahama district commissioner Mboni Mhita (L) alongside with Abdul Mpei, secretary to the Kahama constituency legislator, plant a tree at the Busoka Ward Police Station construction site at the weekend. The station is being built through community efforts and support from local businesspeople, the idea being to boost security. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region has issued a stern warning to drivers seeking new or renewed driving licences, urging them to avoid using brokers and instead follow the correct lawful procedures to prevent facing legal consequences.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander Benjamin Kuzaga issued a stern warning during a recent meeting with transport stakeholders aimed at addressing challenges in the local transport sector.

Commander Kuzaga expressed concern that some drivers, frustrated by bureaucratic hurdles in the licensing process, resort to brokers who promise quicker or easier results. He emphasized that this approach is illegal and carries severe consequences, including the issuance of incomplete or

Police warn drivers on using brokers for licensing services

fraudulent licenses.

"Drivers are required to submit their documents directly to the Regional Traffic Officer (RTO) for thorough review. This includes undergoing a mandatory driving test. Only after verification and approval by the RTO will the Regional Police Commander authorize the issuance of a license," Kuzaga stated.

He stressed that intermediaries or brokers are not authorized to handle licensing matters and warned that those caught facilitating illegal practices will face legal action.

Addressing concerns about the lengthy and often complex procedures, David Jackson, a driver,

cited bureaucracy in the licensing system as a significant challenge, leading to delays and inefficiencies. He argued that these issues push many drivers to seek help from brokers who claim to fast-track the process.

Jackson urged authorities to streamline the licensing procedures to make them more accessible and efficient for all drivers.

In response, Commander Kuzaga acknowledged these frustrations but reiterated the importance of following proper legal channels to maintain the integrity of the licensing system and ensure road safety.

"We understand the concerns of

drivers, but shortcuts compromise the safety of everyone on the road. It is crucial that drivers comply with the legal process to ensure only qualified individuals are granted licenses," he said.

The police pledged to raise awareness about the correct procedures and closely monitor licensing activities to prevent fraud. Drivers were also urged to report brokers or individuals involved in illegal transactions.

The meeting addressed broader transport-related issues, including road safety, traffic law enforcement, and the need for enhanced driver education and public awareness campaigns.



Korogwe Town Council executive director Mwashabani Mrope (R), pictured at the weekend presenting one of 30 tablets to Ramadhani Sekija, head of the council's agriculture, livestock and fisheries department. The items are issued by the Livestock and Fisheries ministry as part of a strategy to enhance efficiency and productivity in the sub-sectors. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

Over 2,000 water meters stolen in Mbeya - official

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

UNIDENTIFIED individuals have stolen over 2,000 water meters and 50 sewer covers across various parts of Mbeya City, causing losses exceeding 170m/- for the Mbeya Water and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya-WSSA).

Additionally, some dishonest residents have been reported to sabotage water infrastructure through illegal connections, further deteriorating the quality of public services.

Gilbert Kayange, Mbeya-WSSA managing director disclosed these details during a press briefing on the state of water infrastructure sabotage and service delivery.

Kayange noted that the theft of water meters and sewer covers has surged in recent times, although the motives behind these acts remain unclear.

In response, the authority, in collaboration with security agencies, has launched operations to apprehend and prosecute those responsible.

"So far, 12 individuals connected

to this sabotage have been arrested, and some have already been charged in court with economic sabotage. We will continue to take legal action against all those found guilty," Kayange said.

He explained that each water meter costs the authority 80,000 shillings, while a sewer cover is valued at 200,000/-. Water meters are provided free of charge to residents during their initial service connection.

Kayange urged residents to protect water infrastructure and report saboteurs so they can face le-

gal consequences.

He also announced a reward of 1,000,000/- for anyone providing information leading to the arrest of those involved in the sabotage.

The director further warned illegal users to cease their actions immediately, as such practices often lead to water contamination and pose significant health risks.

"To address these issues, our management team is conducting street-by-street monitoring across the city to resolve citizen complaints and curb infrastructure theft," he added.

SA sets up team to help bring out illegal miners

JOHANNESBURG

AUTHORITIES in South Africa have put together a team, including mine rescue experts, to come up with a plan to bring to surface illegal miners

On Friday, a government delegation led by the police minister visited the site and engaged with the community and relatives of miners who remain trapped in a disused gold mine in a town southwest of Johannesburg.

"We need a much quicker process because it is risky and dangerous for them to remain where they are for a longer period," said Senzo Mchunu. "Now, in order to achieve that, not only do we need the multiplicity of agencies here, as is currently the case, including the South African National Defence Force. But we need the community—we need their understanding, their cooperation, and their willingness to confront challenges."

Mchunu added that they had been informed the mineshaft was 2,500 metres deep and that any intervention would be extremely dangerous. He also noted that his team was mindful of the possibility that the miners might be heavily armed.

According to the police, 369 firearms, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, five million rand (£220,000) in cash, and 32 million rand (£1.4 million) worth of uncut diamonds have been recovered from illegal miners since the government's operation began.

Officials have closed entrances to the mineshaft, which had been used to supply food, water, and other basic necessities, as part of a government strategy to force the miners to come to the surface and be arrested.

On Thursday, a body believed to be that of one of the miners was brought to the surface. Police stated they were working to determine the person's identity and cause of death.

Relatives of the miners remain torn between anguish and hope.

"Four of my family members were trapped in Shaft 10 and Shaft

3. So far, only my partner has made it out. The three others are still underground. I have no idea if they are alive because we've heard of dead bodies being pulled out of there. We haven't had a chance to see or identify any of the bodies. But so far, I remain hopeful and may get some sleep at night," shared Priscilla.

Xuna, another community member, expressed her outrage: "Some members of the government are parents to young boys. How would they feel if their children were underground, dying of hunger? Would they be happy? Of course not. But their children live privileged lives. The minister came to see the shaft this morning, and I hope he witnessed the tragedy and pain happening underground. May he have the heart to understand that these are also people's children."

There are no official estimates of the number of trapped miners. However, police initially cited local information and suggested that up to 4,000 people might be underground. On Thursday, a police spokesperson said that figure was highly inflated, estimating instead that about 400 individuals could be underground.

More than 1,000 miners have surfaced at various mines in North West province, with many reported to be weak, hungry, and unwell after spending weeks without basic necessities.



We need a much quicker process because it is risky and dangerous for them to remain where they are for a longer period

Initiative launched to upskill 1 million youth across Africa

By Special Correspondent

AS part of its commitment to enhancing digital literacy for the continent's next generation, Vodacom Group has partnered with technology providers to offer young people across Africa access to digital skills.

In collaboration with AWS, Microsoft, Skillsoft, and other organizations, Vodacom aims to bridge the digital skills gap in eight African countries and upskill 1 million young people by 2027.

The Vodacom Group Digital Skills Hub will be launched in South Africa, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho, Egypt (Talimy), the Democratic Republic of Congo (VodaEduc), and Kenya (Industry Digital Talent Program). The initiative aims to empower the next generation of digital innovators, fostering Africa's digital society by leveraging existing e-learning platforms in the respective markets.

According to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), over 230 million jobs in Africa will require digital skills by 2030, yet the continent faces a significant gap between supply and demand for digital expertise.

"The African continent struggles with high levels of unemployment, gender inequality, income disparity, and limited access to education, healthcare, and essential services. These challenges drive our mission to connect for a better future, using digital technologies to promote inclusion and improve lives. The launch of the Digital Skills Hub reflects our commitment to leading the way toward a digital and more inclusive Africa," says Shameel Joosub, Vodacom Group CEO.

The Vodacom Digital Skills Hub offers certified, self-paced digital skills training for individuals aged 18 to 35, complementing the company's existing free e-learning plat-

forms across its markets. These platforms enable students in remote or underserved areas to access quality education. Examples include Talimy in Egypt, e-Fahamu in Tanzania, VodaEduc in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Faz Crescer in Mozambique, and an e-learning platform in South Africa, which all provide a wealth of online resources to suit different learning needs.

"As a purpose-driven company committed to connecting for a better future, we are excited about this initiative, which aims to inspire the next wave of digital innovators. Our goal is not only to address the digital skills shortage in Africa but also to nurture a pipeline of young talent and advance the continent's digital future, creating opportunities for empowerment in an inclusive digital economy," adds Vivienne Penesis, Director of Human Resources at Vodacom Tanzania.

The Vodacom Digital Skills Hub is specifically designed to empower the next generation—especially young women—to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The AWS Educate program is one of the first to be offered through the Digital Skills Hub, supplementing Vodacom's existing online learning platforms aimed at empowering young people in STEM fields. In Tanzania, AWS Educate will complement ongoing youth empowerment initiatives such as VYB, which targets young people aged 15-28.

"With over 400 million young people between the ages of 15 and 35 in Africa, the continent has the youngest population in the world. Digital skills are now essential, and it is crucial that we invest in these young people, providing them with the digital tools to drive their growth and development—and, in turn, the development of the continent," concludes Vivienne.



Tanga regional commissioner Dr Batilda Burian (R) symbolically presents a car and two motorbikes to Pangani district commissioner Gift Msuya (C) in Pangani yesterday for use by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Authority in the district. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

Kisumu village resident to serve 20 years in prison for wildlife offences

By Correspondent Daniel Limbe,

Biharamulo

A resident of Kisumu Village in Biharamulo District in Kagera Region, Fikiri Rugaila (43), has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after being found guilty of possessing government trophies and an illegal firearm.

Rugaila faced two charges: illegal possession of government trophies and unauthorized possession of a firearm, both in violation of Tanzanian law.

The ruling was delivered recently by Senior Resident Magistrate Subira Mashambo of the Biharamulo District Court, who affirmed that

the evidence presented was undeniable. She stated that the sentence would act as a deterrent to others engaged in similar offenses.

Before the judgment was handed down, Rugaila was given an opportunity to make a statement. He requested a reduction in his sentence, expressing remorse for his actions and noting that he had already spent a significant amount of time in custody awaiting trial.

During the proceedings, Prosecutor Edith Tuka, supported by Suddy Lugano, presented the case against Rugaila. The court was informed that Rugaila had been arrested in possession of various wildlife trophies, including the hides of hyenas, impalas, and buf-

faloes, as well as a firearm. These items were discovered during a special search of his home by officers from the Burigi-Chato National Park.

The first charge, possession of government trophies, was detailed as a violation of Section 86(1) and (2)(C) of the Wildlife Conservation Act, in conjunction with Section 60, paragraph 14 of the First Schedule, and Section 60(2) of the Economic Sabotage Act, as amended in 2022.

The second charge, illegal possession of a firearm without government authorization, was based on a violation of Section 20(1) (a) and (b) of the Firearms Act No. 2 of 2015, along with paragraph 31 of the First Schedule and Section 60(2) of

the Economic Sabotage Act.

The prosecutor emphasized the seriousness of Rugaila's offenses, noting his prior involvement in similar criminal activities. Given his history, the prosecution requested a severe sentence to serve as a deterrent to others.

After considering all the evidence, Magistrate Mashambo delivered her verdict, sentencing Rugaila to 20 years in prison. The court underscored that the sentence would serve as a warning to those involved in illegal hunting, poaching, or unlawful firearm possession.

Rugaila has the right to appeal the decision if he is dissatisfied with the court's ruling.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Geophrey Pinda (in tie and specs) makes remarks while on an inspection tour of Haydom Health Sciences Training Institute in Manyara Region on Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

UN agencies warn of hunger crisis in South Sudan

JUBA

United Nations agencies on Monday warned of a hunger crisis facing South Sudan, with returnees fleeing the Sudan war expected to have the highest levels of food insecurity.

The World Food Program (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said alarming new food security data from South Sudan shows that 57 percent of the population will be acutely food insecure through the 2025 lean season, with returnees and young children facing some of the highest levels of hunger and malnutrition as economic pressures, climate extremes, and the effects of Sudan's war worsening hunger.

Meshack Malo, FAO country representative in South Sudan, said the emergence of the economic crisis and associated high food prices as a key driver of food insecurity sends a powerful message that it is time to collectively ramp up investment in supporting South Sudanese to produce their own food.

"This will not only reduce the household food budget but will also create more employment opportunities in the agriculture sector and increase household incomes so that they can seek more healthy diets," Malo said in a joint statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), released on Monday, shows more than 85 percent of returnees fleeing Sudan will

be acutely food insecure through the next lean season, starting April 2025. The returnees will also make up almost half of those facing catastrophic hunger, as they struggle to rebuild their lives amidst an unprecedented economic crisis, severe flooding, and prioritization of resources as needs outpace funding.

According to the report, many communities across South Sudan will continue to struggle as the economic crisis, extreme flooding, prolonged dry spells, and conflict continue to interrupt gains made.

"Year after year we see hunger reaching some of the highest levels we've seen in South Sudan and when we look at the areas with the highest levels of food insecurity, it's clear that a cocktail of despair, conflict, and the

climate crisis are the main drivers," said Mary-Ellen McGroarty, WFP country director and representative in South Sudan.

The IPC also indicates that the impact of concurrent crises in South Sudan is far-reaching. The overall number of people facing acute food insecurity is projected to increase to almost 7.7 million, or 57 percent of the population, through the next lean season, up from 7.1 million this year.

Almost 2.1 million children are at risk of malnutrition, up from 1.65 million, the report said, citing illness as a major contributing factor to the children's malnutrition. Almost half of all children included in the data collected had been ill in the two previous weeks.

Blue economy working group can seize opportunities for 'big results'

POLICY initiatives formulated periodically can have profound impact on the way the national economy is guided, at times drastically reordering implementation of development plans - or budgeting.

This isn't always a major shift from what there was previously but each incoming government has well-meaning ideas and plans, with Zanzibar having led the way to a 'blue economy' philosophy. It gives a different light to what can be done at the economic level in starting with water bodies.

After the idea made waves in the Isles, where methods taken up to implement the strategy are largely consonant with uplift efforts for small fishers as an experimental strategy of the relative mechanisation of the fishing industry, the Union authorities are seemingly warming up to the concept.

The Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) has accordingly launched a new blue economy working group, saying it will examine how to unlock economic opportunities towards driving sustainable socio-economic growth. Alternatively, it is possible to create new opportunities in proceeding with a wider view involving the land in that area and not just the sea and those eking out a living on its shoreline.

Plenty has already been done in that regard, including with the leasing out on commercial terms islands in the proximity of some islets.

Zanzibar has gone a little further in coming up with a skyscraper project it is hosting of up to 72 floors.

Similar experiments in Dar es Salaam over the past decade have had mixed results, in some cases

outright disappointing, a major reason being a shift in expenditure methods in the middle of the past decade.

The visibly extrovert governance outlook that had plenty of visitors pouring in and jostling for office space was cramped in the second part of the decade as the 'surplus' was shifted to strategic infrastructure projects.

This remains the outlook to date but a resilient natural resources economy is rebuilding exuberance.

Aligning blue economy dreams in Zanzibar and the Mainland, and then finding out what is practical and what is not on the basis of current trends in global investments has its challenges.

There are interlocking expectations that are thinly covered up such as seeking to become a hub for various logistics and leisure in the sub-region.

However, it is curious if it has the sociopolitical stability to stomach a 'vanguard' role as the centre of recreation tourism in eastern and southern Africa. It also needs to figure out what reforms it can conduct that won't ignite dissensions.

The long-term investments we seek in the blue economy go alongside various demands but Tanzania can use its Diaspora and wider foreign investment to ensure much-needed calm.

Traditional residents of Dar es Salaam started becoming coastal zone landlords decades ago with the first waves of urban uplifting, now progressively spreading to the inner city areas.

With appropriate planning, private ownership of land by 99-year leases for all of Tanga, Coast, Dar es Salaam as well as Lindi and Mtwara regions would be a landmark of a workable blue economy shift.

Yes, all developing countries need to take decisive steps on climate change

HARDLY anyone will differ with National Assembly speaker Dr Tulia Ackson, who is also current Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) president, on her appeal at the ongoing 29th conference of the parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, capital of the central Asian state of Azerbaijan.

Ackson urged members of the Tanzanian delegation to seek to leverage the insights gained during their side meetings with various stakeholders at the conference and implement them upon returning to Tanzania.

It means that a major conference like the global climate change jamboree can help alter some fixed points on what the problem entails, what can be done among the developing nations and whether we can also take decisive steps in seeking to take unavoidable measures to address climate change.

It is an issue of both clarity and ambition, where the top legislator sounded high on ambition and was asking her fellow delegates to try and get the points clearly.

Her idea had a bearing on making worthy contributions to the debate on what we could do to effectively address climate change. Yes, that was salutary.

To take that appeal on its stand, one has first to concur with the legislator that merely discussing the impacts of climate change was far from enough. Rather, Tanzania and developing countries generally need to ensure sustainable environmental conservation.

The IPU secretary general meanwhile aptly cautioned that addressing the impacts of climate change should not be left to governments alone but

had to involve a wider array of stakeholders.

That is where new ideas are most needed - not on how other stakeholders can pump in cash to state authorities or conserve patches of land but to make money from big-time conservation.

One of the world's most daunting problems is the steady proliferation of ever-stronger typhoons, tornadoes and hurricanes.

Things promise as time goes on, particularly with the melting of glaciers while devastating events are yet to be fully felt in the form of landfalls.

Collaboration between governments and the private sector is essential towards achieving positive outcomes in combating climate change impacts, and governments have to open new spaces to combat such effects.

There is an ancient story where a country farmed big and put up stores for seven years and then during subsequent famine the land that was being owned communally until then was later surrendered to the king as the price for food.

That story remains relevant to this day because governments need to take lands that are in need of extensive conservation efforts to lease them to the world private sector.

The lessees would be directed against squeezing out underground water but just desalinate sea water in whatever quantities were deemed to make sense.

That would be in the hope that, by the time all the deserts had changed into forests, hurricanes would have stopped and the world would be a better place. That is within reach if developing countries stop merely asking for funding. On this score, we stand convinced that COP29 is listening.

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By Fabrice Fries

THE spectacular decline of the journalism profession is met with alarming indifference. The worst part is that we are getting used to it.

We are no longer surprised to read the grim tally of journalists killed in the line of duty, nor to learn - through an investigation by the Forbidden Stories collective - that several of the more than 100 journalists killed in Gaza were clearly deliberately targeted; nor to hear that newsrooms are increasingly instructed to hide press armbands.

It seems entirely normal to everyone that security budgets are rising exponentially in organisations involved in field journalism.

We are no longer surprised to hear that one of the first actions of Argentina's Milei government was to shut down the Télam news agency, leaving 700 employees stranded, or to read that the newspaper La Nación lost all its government advertising revenue overnight.

The unfolding of the populist "playbook" no longer comes as a surprise to anyone: the media, alongside the judiciary, are the first target.

Incidentally, politician and economist Javier Gerardo Milei has served as Argentina's President since December 2023.

We are no longer surprised to hear of the murder of a journalist in Mexico whose name was thrown to the wolves on social media or

platforms being required to pay news organisations for access to news. Google has already signalled that it will no longer index news organisations in New Zealand if this goes ahead.

Finding the right Stuff to keep news alive in New Zealand

By Cheryl Ireton

NEW Zealand's news industry has had a torrid year, with widespread cutbacks and Newshub's closure. Amid the gloom and fragility, the country's biggest news outlet is pursuing opportunities to share news and content - and get paid for it.

Stuff, New Zealand's biggest news organisation, reaches 82 per cent of the population each month - an audience of 2.2 million. Last year, it "consciously uncoupled" the newsroom into two distinct business units: Stuff Digital and Masthead Publishing.

The Masthead operation produces journalism tailored for its subscribers in key metropolitan and local areas. Stuff Digital meanwhile provides news for the country's biggest news website, Stuff.nz, and produces a daily news bulletin for TV Three, the entertainment channel owned by Warner Bros. Discovery.

Stuff Digital is determinedly growing its direct relationship with readers - mindful of new legislation, similar to a law in Canada and Australia, working its way through the country's Parliament.

If passed, it could lead to

Surprise, surprise: journalism is facing serious trouble - but no one is noticing

the suicide attempt of a German journalist cyber-harassed by far-right trolls.

Journalists have now accepted the reality that anything they have published in the past could one day be used to discredit them.

We are no longer surprised that "factual journalism" is stigmatised as a front for complicity with the establishment, or that organisations devoted to it are sometimes called upon to pick sides, to abandon a neutrality which, of course, is only seen as a front.

Polarisation is undermining the legitimacy of these organisations, the worst part being that this process of de-legitimation has already delivered tangible results.

We are no longer surprised by the often-apocalyptic tone of some media conferences, whether discussing the news deserts emerging in the heart of the United States; the declining trust in the media; the increasing job cuts, or the impact of artificial intelligence transforming search engines into answer engines, bypassing traditional media.

And this is not to mention the pollution of the media ecosystem by AI-generated "cheap news" sites.

We are no longer surprised that each 'breaking news' story has its counterpart in the form of

information taken out of context, fabricated or slightly reworked.

No event seems to occur without some conspiracy theory being grafted onto it. Destabilisation campaigns have become so common that they rarely make the headlines.

The same is true when platforms announce that they are deleting hundreds of thousands of accounts.

Disinformation has become widespread, daily - and factual journalism organisations have had no choice but to focus on the false, which has now become an integral part of the news cycle.

What is surprising, however, is that this does not provoke a stronger reaction.

Often, what emerges from the testimonies of journalists who have faced these difficulties is how lonely and powerless they feel.

For instance, where are the major voices that spoke out when the Forbidden Stories investigation was published? Look closely, there are really not that many.

For the record: Forbidden Stories is a non-profit organisation with the mission to continue and publish the work of other journalists facing threats of imprisonment or murder.

To achieve this, it allows journalists to send their work to the organisation so that other journalists

have access to the material in case the original investigator is not able to follow it anymore.

Forbidden Stories partners with agencies such as Reporters Without Borders and Freedom of the Press Foundation.

So, if World News Day can help raise awareness, spark a reaction - even a modest one - then long live World News Day!

• Fabrice Fries is a French business executive, who is currently chairman and CEO of Agence France-Presse (AFP). He previously held various managerial positions in media companies such as Vivendi, Havas and Publicis Groupe. He penned this piece as an external contributor for the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA). It was specifically in marking World News Day, a global initiative that takes place each September 28. It is meant to draw public attention to the role journalists play in providing trustworthy news and information that serves the citizenry and democracy. It is a global campaign aimed at amplifying the power of journalism to make a difference, a powerful reminder that credible journalism matters and is worth defending and promoting.

the most important thing is still delivering trusted journalism that matters for New Zealand.

New Zealand's biggest news websites, particularly Stuff and The Herald, are incredibly well read. There's been talk recently of a decline in trust in media here, and we take this seriously.

Stuff is the biggest news website and the seventh biggest website in New Zealand. We are not immune to commercial pressures, but we still have a loyal audience and a really strong readership that is loyal to us. This presents opportunities.

What's working for Stuff?

We've had a really big year. We started off by re-platforming Stuff; we put it on a new tech stack to make it more sustainable and flexible.

We have also been developing some really interesting commercial partnerships: we just partnered with Team New Zealand and the Americas Cup to livestream the yachting race in Barcelona; we embarked on a commercial mission to find the right sponsors.

The masthead or publishing arm - essentially our legacy newspapers and newspaper products - is also growing its subscriber base and converting print-only users to digital, which gives us different revenue

streams.

So it has been a hard year, but I'm optimistic that we have managed the newsroom really well, with the right reporters in the right place, a strong editorial strategy that is aligned with our resources, and we have alternative revenue streams.

Given the closure of news organisations, how do you balance the national agenda with local coverage; what's your focus?

Stuff very much covers the biggest stories happening right now in New Zealand. That is our focus. With regards to local coverage, Stuff will, of course, also look to cover the biggest stories in key local markets such as Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland.

One of the wonders of Stuff is that the biggest story of the day can be a global headline, like the US election, or it could be a rather light or quirky local story.

Have you made decisions about what not to cover?

This is always challenging, because Stuff can be seen as all things for all people, as we deliver to a very wide national audience. But we need to pick our battles and choose stories that align best with our editorial priorities, which are what we believe matter most for our audience.

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanzania eyeing economic gains from G20 leaders' summit in Rio de Janeiro



President Samia Suluhu Hassan is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to attend the G20 heads of state and government summit - a significant platform for global cooperation and development. Photo: State House

THE 19th G20 Leaders' Summit began on Monday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, offering promising economic opportunities for Tanzania. The gathering, which features leaders from the world's most powerful economies, presents a significant platform for global cooperation and development.

It is the first time the summit is hosted in South America under Brazil's presidency. The event focuses on addressing global issues such as energy transition, sustainable development, and reforming multilateral institutions, all under the theme 'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet'.

Brazil has also introduced initiatives like the global alliance against hunger and poverty, the global mobilization against climate change as well as programmes to boost bio-economy efforts.

These initiatives aim to strengthen global cooperation on urgent challenges like climate change, social inequality and poverty. The summit marks significant progress in inclusivity, with the African Union officially joining as a permanent member in 2023.

It offers developing countries, including Tanzania, unique opportunities for collaboration on issues like clean energy access, climate-smart agriculture and technology transfer.

Tanzania's President, Samia Suluhu Hassan is attending the summit, marking a historic moment as the first African female president to participate in a G20 meeting.

Her presence is expected to foster partnerships that could secure concessional funding and expand access to clean energy, boosting Tanzania's developmental trajectory.

President Samia's invitation to the G20 symbolizes a notable achievement for a developing country. Her administration's economic reforms and proactive diplomacy have elevated Tanzania's international profile, securing a place at the table with the world's wealthiest nations.

This opportunity underscores Tanzania's growing importance on the global stage and serves as an honour not just for the nation but also for Africa.

The G20, an international forum comprising 19 member states and the European Union, recently welcomed the African Union as a member in September 2023.

The group collectively represents 75 percent of global trade and 85 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Member countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The summit's agenda focuses on promoting global economic stability, addressing climate change, enhancing energy security, and fostering development.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, highlighted strategic importance of Tanzania's participation, insisting that President Samia's efforts are geared at securing technology transfer and financial support for the country and the African continent.

"Tanzania's participation is a testament to President Samia's tireless work to attract investment, fight pov-

erty, and achieve sustainable development goals," said Minister Kombo.

He also noted that the summit will enable Tanzania to advocate for clean cooking initiatives, renewable energy infrastructure, and climate-smart agricultural practices, aligning with national development priorities.

The summit provides a platform for Tanzania to promote investments in food security and climate resilience while addressing the broader effects of climate change on regional food systems.

Kombo expressed optimism that Tan-

zania's involvement would elevate its international standing, enabling long-term partnerships to realize the nation's Vision 2025 and Zanzibar's Vision 2050.

"This milestone underscores Tanzania's commitment to tackling global challenges such as social inclusion, economic equality, and climate resilience," he stated, adding that President Samia's active participation demonstrates her dedication to representing Africa's interests on the world stage.

A historical perspective This is not Tanzania's first engage-

ment with such high-level forums. The late President Benjamin Mkapa attended the G8 Summit in Scotland in 2005 while former President Jakaya Kikwete participated in a similar meeting in Japan in 2008.

These early interactions laid the groundwork for Tanzania's current role in global economic discussions.

Over the years, the G20 summits have focused on various themes. The 2023 summit in New Delhi, India, operated under the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', emphasizing sustainable development, gender equality,

debt relief for developing nations and strengthening health systems.

Previous summits have been hosted in Bali, Indonesia (2022), Rome, Italy (2021), and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2020) among others.

As the G20 Summit continues in Rio de Janeiro, Tanzania's active engagement signals its readiness to embrace global opportunities and address challenges collaboratively.

The outcomes of this summit are expected to significantly shape Tanzania's path toward economic growth and sustainable development.

Tanzania among top 10 global tax inequality reduction performers

By Telesphor Magobe

TANZANIA is ranked among the top 10 tax performers in reducing inequality worldwide, according to the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRI) 2024.

The top 10 countries in the category of "tax impact on inequality" with their pre-tax Gini percentage in brackets are Ireland (-11.3), Kenya (-8.5), Belgium (-8.0), Australia (-7.4), Argentina (-7.2), Tanzania (-7.0), Lesotho (-6.8), Tunisia (-6.2), Canada (-5.9) and the USA (-5.1).

In 2022, Tanzania was among the top five countries with the most inequality-reducing tax systems on income. The top five countries with their change in Gini were Ireland (-0.0595), Kenya (-0.0512), Tanzania (-0.0431), Lesotho (-0.0423) and Argentina (-0.0405). Their percentage points' change to pre-tax Gini was as follows: Ireland (-12.9), Kenya (-8.5), Tanzania (-7.1), Lesotho (-6.8) and Argentina (-7.1).

This year's top 10 inequality reducers collect a large amount of progressive taxation (except Ireland, which diverts revenues away from other countries), according to the (CRI) 2024 report.

"Half of these countries are from the Global South - and three are low-income - showing that states of all levels can reduce inequality through their tax system with the right policies," the report says.

The report measures the commitment of 164 countries and regions to reducing inequality. It assesses their performance across the three pillars of 1) public services (education, health and social protection), 2) progressive taxation, and labour rights and wages.

It says the progressive taxation pillar indicator analyses the impact of tax policies on income inequal-



Minister for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba

ity as measured by the change in the Gini coefficient before and after taxes (measuring the degree to which countries' tax policies and collection are reducing or increasing inequality). It measures the overall impact of fiscal policy on income inequality, as tracked by sustainable development goal (SDG) 10.4.2: "Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality."

The report says previous editions of the CRI have shown that, on average, tax systems and collection are regressive - that is they exacerbate inequality rather than reducing it.

"This is because of the high dependence in many countries on indirect taxes such as VAT/GST and excise duties. In

the CRI 2024, there has been a dramatic increase in this trend - mainly because much more VAT is being collected. The average increase in inequality caused by the tax system has doubled to 0.6 per cent, compared to 0.3 per cent in 2022."

The report suggests that although each country has the potential to reduce inequality to succeed, the international community also needs to take stronger measures.

"It is encouraging that inequality is now being better measured and mainstreamed by international organisations, with a new World Bank inequality indicator and potentially a new inequality indicator within SDG10. But both the IMF and World Bank (and the broader international community) need to step

up their efforts to support countries in implementing policies that reduce inequality sharply."

As government priorities, the report recommends developing realistic and time-bound national inequality reduction plans (NIRPs) to reduce inequality, with regular monitoring to check their progress.

It also recommends prioritising public spending on essential public services such as education, healthcare and social protection.

It says all countries, particularly low and lower middle-income countries, should ensure their health budget is at least 15 per cent of total public expenditure and education 20 per cent - and that this spending benefits the poorest

people by improving access to and quality of education, health and social protection, so that they maximise progress to universal coverage targeted by the SDGs.

Another recommendation is increasing progressive taxation by taxing the income of the richest 1 per cent, for example, to a minimum of 60 per cent of their income from both labour and capital, with higher rates for multi-millionaires and billionaires. "The wealth of the super-rich should be taxed at rates high enough to reduce the concentration of extreme wealth, reduce inequality and lower power concentration."

It also recommends developing gender-responsive policies to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work - and ensure that paid care workers are represented and awarded justly. The public nature of care services needs to be clearly stated - that is the duty of the state as the primary provider of public care services.

Working with the UN, the World Bank should systematically produce, publish and use data on the impact of fiscal action on inequality. It says the World Bank has a particular role to play, as one of the leading global actors supporting household surveys, and as the 'custodian' of the largest global inequality databank and of SDG indicators 10.1 and 10.4.2. Thus, it needs to produce more frequent and higher-quality data on inequality, including enhancing analysis of top incomes in developing countries using administrative tax data and other methods.

Another recommendation is reaching and implementing global agreements to tax super-rich individuals and corporations. It says the G20 and UN need to work further on developing better international standards to tax super-rich individuals and multinationals more effectively, through minimum effective tax rates on their income and wealth, and with a fair share of the resulting revenues coming to lower-income countries.

Lastly, it also recommends taking urgent measures to tackle the debt crisis and increase concessional financing flows. It says the international community led by the G20, IMF, the World Bank and the UN need to take urgent measures to reduce debt service burdens by bringing down global interest rates, reducing borrowing costs for middle-income countries that have to go to markets to fund their budgets, and providing long-term rescheduling or cancellation for lower-income countries.

By Emir Nader

Residents of Lebanese combat zone 'decided to stay' as rockets fly above

SINCE the start of the Israel-Hezbollah war, hundreds of thousands of Lebanese have fled their homes because of the fighting. But the residents of one town right in the combat zone have decided to stay.

Rmeish, just 2km (1.2 miles) from the border, is home to 7,000 Maronite Christians - and surrounded by firing on all sides.

"There's lots of damage. Maybe 90 percent of houses have damage of some kind, glass smashed and cracks in the walls. I don't know what's going to happen when winter comes," says Jiries al-Alam, a farmer who also works as an undertaker with the town's church.

"We are determined to stay but hardly anyone sleeps at night because of the air strikes. Thankfully, there's been no deaths among the residents so far, but 200 of my cattle died from the military flares," he adds.

A day after Hamas launched its unprecedented attack on southern Israel from Gaza on 7 October 2023, its Lebanese ally Hezbollah began launching rockets into northern Israel, which in turn, started to strike Lebanon.

The residents of Rmeish began seeing rockets flying in both directions above them.

"Lots of families raised white flags on their homes and cars to say that they are peaceful and have no link to what is happening," says Father George al-Ameel, 44, a priest and teacher in the town.

"We want to stay in our homes and don't want any war in our town."

After Israel began its ground invasion of Lebanon on 1 October this year, the war drew closer to Rmeish, with heavy fighting taking place in two villages both less than 1.6km away.

"We were staying in our house for months, then the air strikes started getting very close and suddenly our house was hit, we were forced to leave in the middle of the night," says Rasha Makhbour, 38.

"People's work has stopped and no-one goes out, our children's school is shut, everything has changed."

Rasha's family of six moved to another house in the centre of town after theirs became uninhabitable.

"We believe the rockets that hit our home came from the south, not from our country," she says.

The Israel Defense Forces told the BBC that there were "no known IDF strikes" on Rmeish during the dates Rasha Makhbour's house was damaged, claiming it was a "failed launch by Hezbollah".

Israel has issued a general evacuation order for the south of Lebanon since its ground invasion began. The UN says over 640,000 people have been displaced from there as they flee the fighting.

The Israeli government says that its military goals in southern Lebanon are to push back Hezbollah and return 60,000 Israelis displaced from its northern



border towns to their homes. On the border with Israel, Rmeish is the only Lebanese town that has not been directly ordered to leave.

While neither side has directly threatened the residents of Rmeish during the conflict, they have had their loyalty to Lebanon questioned.

"There have been voices under the table spreading rumours that our presence here is evidence of our collaboration with Israel, the enemy. We completely reject this," says Father al-Ameel.

It is a message reiterated by Rmeish's mayor, Milad al-Alam. "We've had no guarantees of safety

from any side," he says. "Our town is peaceful, and our only cause is to stay for our identity and our country."

Until the start of Israel's ground invasion, a Lebanese army unit had stayed in Rmeish and helped organise movement in and out of the town. But as Israeli forces moved to cross the border, the Lebanese army - which is not directly involved in the war - decided to pull out of Rmeish, much to the distress of locals.

The Lebanese army said it rejected the description that they have 'withdrawn' from border locations, referring the BBC to a statement that the army is "repositioning" a number of military

units in the south.

Then at the end of October, the main route out of Rmeish itself was hit - leaving residents feeling further isolated and vulnerable. Since then, just one aid convoy has reached the town with the coordination of UN peacekeeping forces, the Unifil mission said.

"We have needs for fuel, foods and medicines, there was a delivery coming from Tyre that had to turn around," says Father al-Ameel. "If someone is hurt, there's no hospital for serious medical care."

Mayor Al-Alam tells us he is optimistic that the route out of town will be regularly usable again soon, so they can fill

up their fuel reserves, even if the route through an active warzone is dangerous.

Others in the town remain anxious.

"The situation is really bad. There are no goods, no food or fuel coming through. We're starting to see items going missing from the shelves," says Jiries al-Alam, the town undertaker.

"But we'll find a way through. Now is the olive season and in the worst case we can just eat olives. We want to stay in our homes and so we will die in our homes if we have to."

Marco Rubio: Trump's foreign policy pick might be a hopeful sign for Nato

By Natasha Lindstaedt

ALMOST all of Donald Trump's nominees for critical positions within his presidential administration have been non-traditional. Fox News presenter Pete Hegseth was just named as Trump's possible defence secretary. Alongside Elon Musk, pharmaceutical company entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has been tapped to lead a newly named Department of Government Efficiency.

With little background in border protection, South Dakota governor Kristi Noem has been nominated as the director of the Department of Homeland Security. Linda McMahon, World Wrestling Entertainment co-founder has been named Trump's pick for secretary of commerce.

All of these people have been incredibly loyal to Trump. Few have experience

of being elected and representing the public.

That makes the nomination of Florida senator Marco Rubio a little surprising. Rubio wasn't an election denier, something that the other picks have been vocal about, and he has years of experience as a senator. Rubio also famously made fun of Trump's hands when he was vying against him for the Republican nomination in 2016.

In Trump's usual fashion, he responded by referring to Rubio as "Little Marco". But these two have clearly buried the hatchet, which is unusual for Trump. Rubio ended up campaigning on behalf of Trump and became one of his biggest fans.

So what makes Rubio a surprising pick for Trump's foreign policy leader? Rubio is seen as more of a traditional interventionist and isn't a fan of Russia. He called Vladimir Putin a "killer", although with-

in the last two years, Rubio has moderated his position.

This month, Rubio said that though he supports Ukraine, the war has to end. Rubio reasoned the US was funding a stalemate and this was no longer in Ukraine or US interests. Although he added: "That doesn't mean that we celebrate what Vladimir Putin did or are excited about it."

However, Rubio was also one of the Republicans who voted against the Ukraine aid bill in April 2024. It is likely that Rubio will support Trump's desire to make a deal with Russia, that would involve Ukraine capitulating and giving up significant territory.

Rubio on Nato While Rubio has clearly changed his tune on Ukraine to align with Trump, he is not in lockstep with Trump on Nato. In fact, Rubio co-sponsored legislation alongside Democratic senator Tim



Kaine, that would make it more difficult for Trump to withdraw from Nato by requiring two-thirds of the Senate to ratify withdrawal.

As Trump has notoriously been critical of Nato, this is likely to be an area of disagreement between the two, but might be seen as a hopeful sign by other Nato member nations.

Trump, however, seems to be willing to look past this because he agrees with Rubio's

hawkish approach to China and Iran. Rubio has proposed banning companies controlled by the Chinese Communist Party or the Chinese military from accessing US capital markets.

Rubio also advocated that electric cars that use Chinese technology not receive subsidies, and sponsored a law to prevent the import of Chinese products that were manufactured with forced labour.

Rubio on Iran

When it comes to Iran, Rubio sees no difference between the leadership of hardliner Iranian former president Ebrahim Raisi and the more moderate current president, Masoud Pezeshkian. Rubio has advocated for tougher sanctions on Iran, and more pressure applied to curb the regime's nuclear ambitions. A staunch supporter of Israel, Rubio has argued that Iran's main goal is to make Israel unliveable.

If confirmed, Rubio would make history as the first Hispanic American secretary of state, and is fluent in Spanish. In Latin American politics, Trump has demonstrated blind faith in Rubio's knowledge of the region.

During Trump's first term, Rubio was certainly involved in US foreign policy towards Latin America, acting almost as a de facto secretary of state.

Rubio worked to reverse the Obama administration's softer stance on Cuba, and levy tougher sanctions against the Cuban military.

Rubio also was instrumental in cracking down on Venezuela. Rubio has made clear his position that Venezuela has become a "narco" state that cannot be negotiated with.

Rubio has clarified that all options should be on the table when dealing with Venezuela, and thus has not ruled out a military response to remove Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro from power. Though it's unlikely that the US would invade Venezuela, Rubio will likely advocate for much harsher sanctions against the country.

So what best characterises Rubio's foreign policy? He definitely wants to take a tough approach towards America's adversaries, but wouldn't advocate military invasions.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

ATC students build an electric vehicle charged using power outlets at home

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Most challenging thing about electric cars at the moment should be the charging stations which seem to be almost lacking in Tanzania, thus discouraging most people from shifting to engine-less vehicles.

However this is now changing because students at the Arusha Science Secondary School have come up with a new electric car system which allows the vehicles to be charged from any domestic power outlet using ordinary three-pin AC or DC plug receptacles and wall sockets.

To demonstrate that, the clever students of Arusha have converted a one ton pickup truck into an electric vehicle which can be charged at home, pub or anywhere where there are power

sockets.

In fact, the truck can even be charged remotely using large power banks, available in shops, quite a revolution.

"Our students are working to make things easier for people planning to convert into green transportation," explained Godlisten Lema, the Arusha Science teacher who heads the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) department of Information Communication Technology (ICT) at the institution.

"From a single charge, which takes an average of six hours to juice up the lithium ion battery which powers the electric motor," added Michael Pendaeli Sikawa, one of the students undertaking the electric car project.

Another student, Diana Onesmo, boasted that the Arusha Science



Elizabeth Simboti (L) poses for photos at Mborra Village, Rundu, Kavango East region, Namibia

devised vehicle can travel over 70 kilometers, or more if not loaded at the modest speed of 80 kilometers per hour in total silence.

This is the second clean energy car that the Arusha Science students have built.

The first, which is also a pickup truck, a solar powered vehicle produced in 2022 and the car is still running to date.

"This electric car system is still in the development stage in that it

currently applies to mini truck vehicles with a rear wheel drive set up and manual steering system," revealed Innocent Samuel Mtei, who is also an Arusha Science student.

The system can be fitted in vehicles such as Suzuki Every, Honda Acty, Daihatsu Hijet, Mazda Porter Cab, Subaru Sambar, Isuzu Mini Truck, Tata Super Ace Mint Mini Truck and Nissan NT100/NV100 Clipper and their vans equivalents.

For the prototype however the students have used a 1994 model of Suzuki Carry truck which they replaced the engine with an electric motor and ditching the gear box.

The blue coloured truck moves very smoothly, being much lighter and silent, but still lugs heavy cargo and climbs hills with ease.

The fact that the electric motor is perched directly onto the rear axle next to the differential hub, it

powers the wheels directly reducing the possibility of the car getting stuck in sand or mud.

As for the student, they advise that, if one happens to have an old pickup truck with a dead engine, they should not throw them away or turn the cars into scrap but rather take them to Arusha science where they can be given new lease of life to become clean and greener form of transportation.

ZEC set-up needs gender equality for trustworthy electoral process

By Correspondent Salum Ameir, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) plays a crucial role in overseeing elections in Zanzibar, ensuring they are fair and transparent. As a government body, the commission is responsible for organizing and managing elections, maintaining the integrity of the electoral system, and promoting good governance. This work is vital for building public trust in the political process and ensuring that every voice is heard.

One significant issue within the commission is the limited representation of women. From 1993 to 1998, there was only one female member, and this pattern has continued in subsequent terms, including 2003-2007, 2008-2013, 2013-2018, and 2018-2023. In the current 2023-2027 term, two women have been appointed, yet no woman has ever held the role of chairperson or vice-chairperson, raising questions about gender equality in leadership roles.

Women make up 51 percent of Zanzibar's population, with men comprising 49 percent, according to the 2022 Population and Housing Census in Zanzibar. This imbalance underscores the importance of including women's voices in decision-making within the electoral process.

Efforts to address gender representation within the Zanzibar Electoral Commission have been met with silence from many current members, stifling discussions on gender equality and leaving important issues unaddressed. This lack of diverse perspectives results in missed opportunities for a more inclusive electoral system.

Jokha Makame, the only woman in the commission during the 2018-2023 term, shared her experience, noting that true gender equity is still lacking. "I expected to see four or three women in the commission. I was very eager to see women in leadership, and whenever I had the opportunity, I would encourage them to step forward in their constituencies to seek positions and not to hesitate. I have worked hard for this, but any other woman can do the same. I believe women are attentive, honest, trustworthy, and capable."

Her words underscore the need for more female voices in governance and advocate for structural changes to achieve greater equality.

Khamis Mbeto Khamis, Secretary of the Special NEC Committee for Zanzibar's Department of Ideology and Publicity, said, "We cannot question the President's decisions on this matter; he makes these selections, and our responsibility is to follow the instructions given."

Similarly, Masha Ramadhan, a shehia coordinator from Uzini Central District in Unguja, stated, "The President selected the Commission members fairly; if it has more men than women that is how he sees it fit."

This acceptance of unequal representation sidelines women's contributions and limits their influence in critical decisions. Such an environment can cause women's needs and perspectives to be overlooked, reinforcing traditional gender roles and hindering progress toward a fairer society. Without efforts to promote inclusivity, this cycle of exclusion may persist, limiting women's opportunities to lead.

Equal representation has been a long-standing



goal for women, especially for the Tanzania Media Women's Association, Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar), since 2010. Their advocacy aims to amplify the voices of all women in Zanzibar, working with other NGOs to promote gender equity. However, the effectiveness of these efforts in meeting the needs of the majority of women for equal representation remains a question.

Dr Mzuri Issa, Director of TAMWA Zanzibar, supports women in politics, stating, "The situation is still unsatisfactory regarding women's positions in the Commission; there is a need for more representation of women on that Commission."

She added: "The commission must also ensure that all its committees achieve gender balance. Efforts should begin with their laws and policies to ensure that equality is integrated throughout, as the current implementation is still not substantial enough."

Since 1993, Zanzibar's situation has not progressed as much as in other East African countries. For instance, Uganda has made notable strides in including women in their electoral commission, appointing Hajjat Aisha Lubega as deputy chairperson. Kenya has also shown progress. This contrast highlights the importance of learning from successful examples in the region.

Men have also voiced support for equal representation. Dadi Kombo Maalim, a Male Change Agent, said, "I believe that even the chairperson of the Commission should be a

woman at this point because we have already seen the great capabilities of women through President Samia Suluhu Hassan."

Dadi emphasized that this shift is essential for effective leadership, demonstrating how male allies can help achieve gender equality for everyone's benefit.

Other advocates also stress the importance of women's inclusion. Hawra Shante, communications officer for Jumuiya ya Wanawake wenye Ulemavu Zanzibar (JUWAUZA), emphasized, "There are two positions allocated to opposition parties within the Commission; they have a chance to recommend women members. They should ensure that capable women are included, and they will see the benefits."

She noted, "Diversity in leadership leads to better decision-making and more effective governance."

Hawra added, "Our goal as activists is to fill all leadership positions, not just the Electoral Commission. We aim for a 50-50 representation by 2030. However, with only a few years left, it is clear that this agenda is falling behind in implementation."

Asha Aboud, former chairperson of the Association of NGOs Zanzibar (ANGOZA) and a long-time advocate for women's leadership, stated, "This is not just about equality; having two positions for women out of seven means there's still an imbalance."

She further said, "When we discuss gender, we must include women, men, people with disabilities, the elderly, and

youth. We need representatives from all these groups so that each group's rights are recognized more easily."

For meaningful progress in gender representation within the Zanzibar Electoral Commission, government officials, civil society organizations, and community members need to advocate for reforms in laws and policies that promote gender fairness in appointing commissioners.

The Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) was formed on March 26, 1993, under Article 119 (1) of the Zanzibar Constitution of 1984 and Section 4 of the Elections Act No. 11 of 1984. It is led by a Chairperson appointed by the President of Zanzibar, a vice-chairperson, and a lawyer among its seven members, with two representatives from opposition parties.

Today's crisis of teen pregnancies, births is controllable and stoppable

André Ndayambaje

DURING my radio session that focuses on the untold stories of teen mothers, Sheila shared her heart-touching story. After unintentional unprotected sex, she said she was denied emergency contraceptive pills at the health center, and so became a mother at age 15. She is far from alone.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that in 2023, birth rate among teenagers of 10-14 years was estimated at 1.5 per 1000 women. The same report shows that in 2019, around 21 million teen pregnancies were reported in lower- and middle-income countries and 55 percent ended up in unsafe abortions.

The report also shows the estimated teen birth rate was 97 per 1000 adolescent in the WHO African Region compared to 13.1 per 1000 adolescent girls in the European Region. There is also a variation of teen birth rates in countries, like Zambia where teen childbearing incidence varies from 14.9 percent in Lusaka to 42.5 percent in the Southern region.

The actual number of teen childbirths continues to rise in Rwanda, where recent data show that teenage pregnancies have increased by 200% in the last ten years. In 2023, Over 22,055 cases of teen pregnancies were reported in Rwanda, with 39.4 percent of contribution to school dropout rate among high school girls.

Teen birth is troubling for many reasons, including the health risks. Indeed, in my work as a midwife, I see firsthand how fatal risks can arise for both the mother and baby when the mother is a teenager. This can include permanent genital and urinary systemic impairments. An actual impairment happened to Sheila.

Teen mothers experience social and cultural discrimination, stigma, family rejection, and gender-based violence and abuse. These issues disturb their mental health, and lead to increased cases of suicide among teen mothers, several times Sheila said attempted.

Earlier this year, the WHO shared a clear message around the importance of addressing this problem: "Preventing pregnancy among adolescents ... is foundational to achieving positive health outcomes across



the life course and imperative for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to maternal and newborn health".

The evidence and realities echo loudly that the issue of teen pregnancy remains an uncontrollable public health concern around the globe and in the region, and it requires innovative changes in mitigation strategies. We must do more to address it.

Indeed, parents, teachers, and church leaders should not wait until teenagers already have messed up to act. Teaching children early

about sexual and reproductive health is one way to prevent teen pregnancies.

By the time they go to school, children need to be equipped with competency to make informed choices. This should be done by providing free, accessible, friendly, safe, and comfortable spaces and opportunities for teen audiences to openly discuss sexual and reproductive health and physical, emotional, and biological changes.

During COVID-19 lockdowns, I began a radio and television program that reached over 13,000

youth who were stuck at home. "Time for Teenagers" covered a range of reproductive health topics and was very effective.

After COVID-19 restrictions, the program continues with a mix of radio/TV sessions and high school-based outreaches. Uncountable positive feedback and stories are day-to-day shared by the audience.

Through parental relationships and series of non-judgmental dialogue a teen can establish such correct behaviors towards sexual relationships. The evidence indicates that these early self-awareness skills help a child understand personal values, emotions, and boundaries vis-à-vis any exposure even when she/he is away from guardianship.

Further, to achieve a reduced teen pregnancy rate, barriers and other social-culturally constructed sorts

of obstacles which prevent teenagers from accessing and utilizing Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Services and Rights (ASRHSR) must be removed. This is a very good example of the Government of Rwanda for its proven effort to provide non-restricted access to contraception for teens of 15 years.

The full package of SRH services must be offered for free and be accessible at the community and primary health care levels. The terms of affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability should refer to designed comfortable, confidential, and safe spaces.

Unfortunately, in many settings essential ASRH services remain inaccessible due to the high direct and indirect costs involved. For instance, in Rwanda the price of emergency contraception dose is \$10 to \$15 in private dispensaries, and the kind of option seems unobtainable in public health settings.

Yes, it will require collective resilience to win this battle against teen pregnancy and births. We can all play a vital role to safeguard our teen community and prevent such regretful stories and cases of Sheila and many untold ones. The shared vision is to create a world where teenagers make their informed choices, the bridge to their dreams.

Sheila is not the real name of the person whose experience is used in this article.

The author is a global health specialist and Aspen New Voices Fellow-2020.

Easing travel restrictions to boost intra-African trade

By Kingsley Ighobor

"AS an investor, as someone who wants to make Africa great, I have to apply for 35 different visas on my passport," Dangote also lamented during the Africa CEO Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, in May 2024.

For Dangote and many African business leaders, mobility restrictions stymie business; removing them will unlock the potential of intra-African trade, which currently stands at an unimpressive 17 percent—far behind Europe's 60 percent trade within its borders.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), unveiled by African leaders in March 2018, is expected to boost intra-African trade and consolidate a market of 1.3 billion people with a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion. The World Bank estimates it could increase Africa's income by \$450 billion by 2035, potentially lifting 30 million people out of extreme poverty.

The AfCFTA could expand Africa's tax base and its capacity to sustainably manage its approximately \$1.1 trillion—and growing—debt, asserts the Brookings Institution, a US-based think tank.

Implementation of the trade pact is progressing well, said Wamkele Mene, the Secretary-General of the

Accra-based AfCFTA Secretariat, at the GABI event. With 54 AU member states signed on (only Eritrea has not) and 48 countries submitting instruments of ratification, Mene expects trade to grow significantly, although challenges remain.

Free movement is key. A 2023 AU and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) study maintains that free movement within the continent is "indispensable for intra-African trade and the region's integration and development agenda."

Yet only four African countries—Benin, The Gambia, Rwanda and Seychelles—offer visa-free entry to all African citizens; 33 countries provide visa-free travel to citizens from at least 10 African countries; and 30 countries still require visas for over half of Africa's nations, according to the 2023 Africa Visa Openness Index, produced by the African Development Bank Group and the AU Commission.

Conceptually, African leaders themselves would like to ease movement restrictions. For example, the AU's Agenda 2063 envisions "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa." In 2018, they adopted the protocol on free movement of persons, ahead of the AfCFTA's entry into force.

As well, the AfCFTA Secretariat



identifies "excessive border delays" and "cumbersome document requirements" as non-tariff barriers that must be eliminated to facilitate smoother intra-African trade.

But when trading under the AfCFTA began in January 2021, the free movement protocol was still not in effect. As of October 2024, only 32 countries have signed the protocol, with just four (Mali, Niger, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe) ratifying it—well short of the 15 ratifications required for it to take effect.

Barriers to implementation. Why are countries reluctant to ratify the free movement protocol? According to the AU-ECA study, there

is limited awareness among states of the economic benefits of free movement. Greater labor mobility could drive intra-African trade, knowledge transfer, capacity building and improved market access for African products and services.

Additionally, many countries lack adequate border management infrastructure, making it difficult to efficiently handle migration flows and enforce security measures.

Also, some states fear that foreign workers may take local jobs or strain public resources like health, education and sanitation services.

Visa fees remain a vital revenue source for many countries, often

helping to offset budget deficits. Removing these fees could temporarily impact national budgets, even if free movement might yield greater economic benefits in the long term.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also raised health concerns, with some countries worried that unrestricted cross-border movement could facilitate the spread of diseases, complicating public health management.

The AU-ECA study notes a gap between the protocol on the free movement of persons and the AfCFTA's emphasis on the free movement of goods and services, expressing concern over the disproportionate focus on the latter. It recommends that

both aspects be prioritized.

The path forward. Despite these challenges, there is optimism among free trade area advocates. AfCFTA's Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), which began in October 2022 with seven countries, has grown to 39 countries, including economic powerhouses South Africa and Nigeria. The GTI is a pilot for the AfCFTA's legal and operational framework, and its success bodes well for broader goals like the free movement of persons.

The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), a joint initiative by the AfCFTA Secretariat and African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), is facilitating cross-border payments in local currencies and is gradually gaining traction among traders. With over 42 currencies in use among 48 participating countries, PAPSS aims to reduce costs associated with currency exchange, particularly benefiting traveling business leaders and young entrepreneurs.

There is the point of relative integration successes in Africa's regional economic communities—in the East African Community (EAC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for instance—that could pave the way for broader continental integration.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I BBC 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM MATANGAZO 08:30 AM BRAND TALK 08:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 08:50 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 09:00 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 09:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 09:20 HRS DJ SHOW 09:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 09:40 HRS NEWS BRIEF 09:50 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:00 HRS DJ SHOW 10:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:20 HRS NEWS BRIEF 10:30 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:40 HRS HOJA YA LEO 10:50 HRS SPOTI LEO 11:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 11:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 11:20 HRS NEWS BRIEF 11:30 HRS AFRO TIZI 11:40 HRS NEWS BRIEF 11:50 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I BBC 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 7:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 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Radio One



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Volatile naira sours South African investors' appetite for Nigeria

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Korogwe DC calls for new revenue sources

Page 15

Tanga Region forest management project in the offing

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

KILINDI District Council in Tanga Region is seeking a donor to support the expansion of Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) to fight deforestation within the villages land.

Mng'anya Chrispin, Kilindi District Council, head of planning and coordination made the call recently while speaking to journalists and staff from the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) who paid a visit to assess the impact of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project.

Currently, deforestation is very high in Kwamazuma, Kilindi, Negero, Lukole, Kwafumbili, Kwadudu, Jungu, Muungano, Kwedijero, Mzunguwasala, Mkindi, Kwinkwembe, Pangwi, Masilei and Lumotio villages, and the indigenous trees are at risk of disappearing.

"We request TFCG and MJUMITA to scale up the IFBEST project in these villages to prevent deforestation, as people are illegally cutting indigenous trees for charcoal production, agriculture and livestock grazing," he says

The project is implemented by TFCG and MJUMITA with funding from the European Union through the ministry of finance.

The main goal of the project is to enhance environmental sustainability through sustainable forest management and wood-fuel production.

He lauded TFCG and MJUMITA for introducing the IFBEST project in Kilindi District, as it has brought positive changes to Lusane, Mswaki, Mapanga and Mmbogo villages.

Under the IFBEST project, residents are trained on the importance of conserving natural vegetation, sustainable charcoal harvesting, forest conservation and how to establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) in their localities.

He also lauded TFCG for donating one printer, two Global Positioning System (GPS) kits, one laptop and one office cabinet to Kilindi district to improve performance in forest conservation activities, monitor forest management and check for any destruction of forests.

The Laptop are used for record-keeping, while the GPS kits will help measure areas, maintain accurate records, and provide correct information in the system.

The IFBEST project was officially introduced in the district in February 2024.

He also requested the ministry of livestock to assist in constructing cattle dips for pastoralists. Elida Fundi, MJUMITA's good governance and advocacy officer said the project is being implemented in Gendagenda, Mkalamo, Mseko, Lusane, Mmbogo, Mapanga, Nkhobole and Mswaki villages.

The project has enabled villages on proper land use plans, allocate forest reserve for community based forest management, sustainable charcoal production and land for pastures, and resolve village boundary conflicts and they are now living together.

They also collaborate on everything and continue with other activities instead of moving from place to place, something that was not the case in the past.

"As TFCG and MJUMITA, we are very happy with the achievement made so far. Currently, women have contested for lead-



Simon Lugazo, IFBEST's project manager (4th L) presents Laptop and office cabinet to Mng'anya Chrispin, Kilindi District Council's, head of planning and coordination. Looking on are staff from TFCG and MJUMITA.

ership in the Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRC) and the village councils. Today, they are leaders who actively conduct patrols within the forest reserves," she says

In Lusane, Mnkonde and Gendagenda villages, Kilindi and Handeni districts of Tanga Region, women hold leadership positions and are working in various roles.

Additionally, women in Lusane village are involved in decision making processes and have the opportunity to engage in various activities.

MJUMITA is training them how to influence and advocate for community-based forest management, as well as the sustainable harvesting of biomass energy from conserved village land forest reserves.

The training advocates for sustainable fuel wood production to government officials, politicians, and other stakeholders.

"Under the capacity-building programme, they train participants on gender equality, good governance, law enforcement, and the policies, laws,

and regulations that guide the implementation of community based forest management and the sustainable harvesting of fuel wood," Fundi said.

The training has been offered to members of the Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRC), village leaders, sustainable charcoal and timber producers, private forest owners, and others who wish to advocate for forests with funding from the European Union, through the ministry of finance.

"We have decided to provide this training after discovering that many forests are increasingly disappearing, as people continue to exploit them recklessly for charcoal production and timber harvesting," she says.

The training aimed to help them understand their rights and benefit from the forest resources and products available within their village land.

Also raising their voices and benefiting from forest resources, competing for various positions such as village natural resource committee, village leadership, and various forest matters to dispel the notion that forestry is a men dominated job.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from TFCG and MJUMITA, women are now involved in sustainable charcoal production and timber harvesting, forest conservation and management activities and have taken up high leadership positions such as chairing village natural resource committees.

The IFBEST project is being implemented in Gendagenda, Mkalamo, Mseko, Lusane, Mmbogo, Mapanga, Nkhobole and Mswaki villages.

Mariam Parikole from Lusane village says, "Men now understand that women are beneficial in the community, they listen to our ideas and put them into action. Women have been selected for the village natural resource committees. Thank you for bringing this project to our village," she says

Natus Manumbu, Kilindi district land development officer added that, so far Lusane and Mmbogo villages, located in Luande Ward in Kilindi District, have village land use plans and are now involved in Community Based Forest Management (CBFM).

The land-use plans implemented in both villages have helped prevent land conflicts.

The land use plan has helped the village gain legal authority, enabling them to manage their village legally and obtain a certificate of customary right of occupancy.

Currently, the citizens are aware of the boundaries in their village. They have formulated by-laws and are aware of both administrative and internal boundaries, something that was not the case in the past.

EPZA expands global reach to attract investments

By Guardian Reporter

THE Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) has made a significant move to broaden its global reach in a bid to attract international industrial investors.

This expansion follows productive discussions between the EPZA Director General, Charles Itembe, with representatives from leading Chinese companies, including Huaqu International Investment Co. Ltd. and the Global International Promotion Committee.

Itembe, who led a special EPZA investment promotion team for Special Economic Zones, stated that the agreements reached included plans to enhance cooperation through the exchange of information on investment opportunities and the sharing of expertise to boost Tanzania's industrial sector.

"These efforts align with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's broader economic diplomacy strategy, which seeks to ensure Tanzanian products establish a strong presence in global markets," Itembe stated while briefing on the success achieved during a recent trip to China.

As part of the agreement, EPZA will establish a special office in Shanghai to promote investment opportunities and serve as a liaison between EPZA and Shanghai-based companies interested in investing in Tanzania.

In these discussions, EPZA is focusing on attracting Chinese investors in sectors such as textiles, construction, agricultural processing, leather, timber, coffee, tobacco, and electrical products.

"China, a country that has made significant strides in the industrial and manufacturing sectors, presents a valuable opportunity for Tanzania," he said.

With substantial funds allocated by China for international investments, this presents a timely opportunity for Tanzania to leverage these resources, driving the nation's economic growth.

During the visit, potential investors ex-



EPZA Director General Charles Itembe

pressed interest in establishing industries in Tanzania, including textile, construction materials, food processing, and packaging factories.

EPZA remains committed to attracting more industries to Tanzania, in line with President Samia's vision of a manufacturing-driven economy that taps into the African free trade market, where products made in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) can access broader markets.

This is a crucial moment for Tanzania to strengthen its manufacturing sector through

the SEZ initiative and capitalize on international agreements.

This move is strategically significant as it aligns with Tanzania's broader economic growth plans. By attracting global investors, particularly from China—one of the world's leading industrial powers, EPZA seeks to bolster the nation's manufacturing sector.

This initiative will not only contribute to job creation but also pave the way for technological advancements and increased exports, further integrating Tanzania into the global economy.

School milk feeding project benefits 100,000 students

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

A total of 100,000 students in 140 primary and secondary schools across the country are currently benefiting from the School Milk Feeding Program (SMFP) which is being implemented by the Tanzania Daily Board (TDB).

This was unveiled over the weekend by the TDB's Acting Marketing Manager, Joseph Semu when the state-owned Board made a special tour of the Mbeya region to inspect progress in the implementation of the crucial program.

The five-year initiative currently covers eight regions, but the plan is to extend it to a total of 500 schools across the country.

"Under this program, the plan was to start with at least 100 schools during a period of 2023/2024 while other 100 schools will be added every year for the five consecutive years of the implementation, and schools covered is expected to increase from 125 to 625 schools by 2027, with the targeted beneficiaries students are those aged between 4 to 19 years," he observed.

Semu expressed that the program is being executed in the region through partnership with key stakeholders, including the small-scale milk processors.

"In Mbeya, Rungwe and Busoleko councils the processors are now producing an average of 240,000 liters of milk daily, making it possible to support the government's goal to provide every student with a daily cup of milk," he said.

He detailed that as per the program's rolling out, the students distributed with the processed milk, either pasteurized, UHT, cultured milk or yoghurt depending on the availability and infrastructure of the area.

Furthermore, he said the quantity of milk supplied is 150mls to 200mls produced, adding the initiative was working to sensitize and encourage parents to contribute money for enabling the program to survive.

"Implementation of this program plays a meaningful role to help spur school enrolment and reduce absenteeism whereby once the children are in schools, the program can also contribute to their learning through avoiding hunger and expanding their cognitive abilities,"

he added.

Speaking for his part, Dr. Samora Mshang's, the Mbeya regional Veterinary officer said they're working several efforts to modernize dairy farming practices in the region to ensure the production of high-quality milk for schools.

"We'll continue standing at forefront to collaborate with the TDB to educate the dairy farmers to improve milk production standards," he informed.

Speaking on behalf of others, a standard three student at Mwenje primary school, Reuben Fred, hailed the government and the TDB for implementing the program.

However, Fred underscored the need for the Board to source more funds for supporting the program in order to ensure all students are benefiting accordingly.

Acting Regional Nutrition Officer, Lightness Shitbone, said for their part, they are continuing to engage the community on the benefits of school milk programs, including fighting malnutrition and stunting.

The Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) needs around 15bn/- to have the program implemented into a needed scope, standards and duration.

The five-year program, (2023-2028) incorporates a range of stakeholders from private and public sectors.

These include the President Office, (Regional Authority and Local Government), Prime Minister's office, ministry of education, ministry of health, Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

Others are Tanzania Milk Processors and their association (TAMPA), Tanga Fresh Limited, ASA Dairies Limited, Shambani Milk, Profate Dairy, Nronga Women Dairy, Land O'Lakes Venture 37, Heifer International (Heifer Tanzania), Solidaridad, Nutrition Connect, TETR.

Records prove that in Tanzania school milk feeding programs started way back in early 2000s, and has involved different models (ways of implementation), whereby it reached a peak of 125 schools and 99,000 children in the recent past.

Develop industries as carriers of new forces

BEIJING

NEW quality productive forces, which take innovation as the driving force and industry as the carrier, feature high technology, high efficiency and high quality.

Developing new quality productive forces requires production relations and institutional arrangements that meet the characteristics of this new productivity.

China has included the development of new quality productive forces in a top-level document.

During the first and second industrial revolutions, the country missed the opportunity to advance, but we must rise where we once fell.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, through 75 years of relentless efforts, especially the reform and opening-up, China has achieved an average annual GDP growth of 8.9 percent and expanded its economic scale by 46-fold.

Today, China is the world's largest manufacturing country. Not only have we made up for the lessons missed, but we have also caught up to, and even surpassed, developed countries in many industries during the third industrial revolution.

This is evidenced by advancements in computer production, application, the widespread development of information technology, and the deployment of 4G and 5G networks, as well as a leading position in 6G research.

These achievements make our country closer than ever in history, and more confident, in achieving the great rejuvenation of China.

However, currently, the world is witnessing the rise of a fourth industrial revolution characterized by artificial intelligence, clean energy, robotics, quantum information technology, virtual reality and biotechnology.

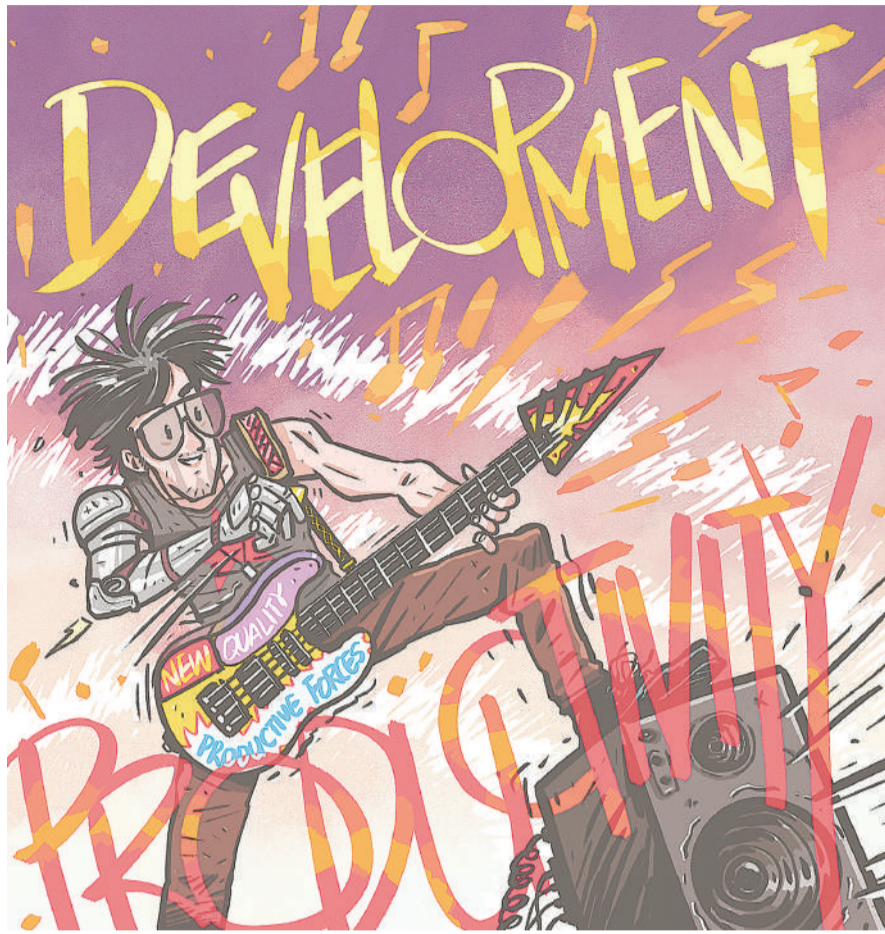
If China fails to keep pace with this wave of industrial revolution, the country may once again fall behind developed countries.

Faced with such challenges, how can we promote the development of new quality productive forces?

As we can see, every industrial revolution is marked by the emergence of entirely new industries. The fourth industrial revolution has already given rise to a number of emerging industries, such as new energy vehicles, AI, robotics, drones and genetic engineering. Moreover, future industries like quantum communication and nuclear fusion are expected to become industrialized in the coming years.

The core essence of new quality productive forces lies in the qualitative enhancement of productivity levels brought about by technological transformation.

Traditional industries, through the



integration of digital intelligence and green technologies, can also embody the characteristics of high technology, high quality and high efficiency, thus becoming carriers of new quality productive forces.

Different provinces and regions across China are expected to develop new quality productive forces without neglecting or abandoning traditional industries, and must prevent bubbles.

Generally speaking, development should be based on existing industrial foundations, adhering to the principles of pragmatism and local adaptability and leveraging comparative advantages. New industries should be developed where feasible, and traditional industries should be transformed and upgraded where appropriate.

According to new structural economics, existing industries can be classified into five categories – catch-up industries, leading industries, transition industries, emerging industries and strategic industries.

They are based on three criteria, namely the gap between local industries and global frontiers, alignment with local resource endowments, and whether they represent new industries arising from technological revolutions.

Catch-up industries are prevalent in developed regions or countries, where Chinese industries hold comparative advantages at the mid-to-low end. The technologies and product quality in these industries are still catching up with their counterparts in developed countries. Many local chip manufacturing and photolithography industries exemplify this type.

Leading industries include home

appliances such as televisions and air conditioners. In many regions of China, the home appliance sector not only has a comparative advantage, but also often leads the world in product quality and technology.

Transition industries used to possess comparative advantages and lead globally, but have lost that advantage due to economic development, changes in capital accumulation and resource endowment structures.

Labor-intensive processing industries that developed in the 1980s and 1990s, such as footwear, bags and textiles can explain it. Additionally, industries that have shifted their technological pathways and lost markets, like the transition from color film to digital technologies, represent this category.

Some of these emerging industries result from the fourth industrial revolution, particularly those with short research and development cycles primarily reliant on human capital.

Regions in China rich in human capital have a comparative advantage in these industries. Others arise from new technologies that provided developmental opportunities based on specific natural resource endowments, such as solar and wind energy technologies in sparsely populated desert regions. Additionally, some mature industries can become emerging in less-developed areas where they had previously lacked comparative advantages.

Characterized by long R&D cycles – often requiring 10 to 20 years – strategic industries necessitate substantial financial and material capital investments.

Games however remains optimistic that ongoing reforms in Nigeria aimed at enthrone a market-based pricing of foreign exchange will make it easier for foreign companies to do business there in the future.

The naira has indeed been volatile. Between 2004 and 2024, the naira has suffered multiple sudden devaluations against the US dollar.

From approximately N136 to a US dollar in 2004, the currency has weakened more than 12x to N1652/USD as at November 15, 2024, averaging a drop of about 55 percent every year.

The rand, on the other hand, has been more stable, only weakening from 6 ZAR per USD in 2004 to 17 ZAR/USD as of November 2024. That's an average drop of 9 percent per annum.

The trend in the South Africa's rand vs US dollar allows SA's businesses to make adjustments and hedge against currency risk, as the currency devaluations are generally tied to broader economic indicators like trade balance, interest rates, and inflation, which tend to be more stable and predictable in South Africa than in Nigeria.

In Nigeria's case, the devaluations have been sudden and happened only after efforts to artificially prop up the currency failed. That has left little room for businesses to plan and hedge against currency risks.

Additionally, Nigeria's forex restrictions, policy-induced distortions in the currency market, and heightened inflation rates have created substantial risk for foreign businesses.

These businesses struggle with the challenge of repatriating profits, pricing goods competitively, and managing costs in a highly volatile currency environment.

The CBN's occasional restrictions on accessing foreign currency to curb devaluation also exacerbate these issues, contributing to liquidity challenges for foreign-owned companies.

The appointment of Olayemi Cardoso as CBN governor late last year has sparked a raft of reforms from floating the currency to raising market rates to a record high in order to stabilise the currency and make it more market-driven.

The reforms have led to a steep decline in the currency, which has shed over 80 percent of its value since the reforms began.

Critics say Nigeria put the cart before the horse by floating the currency before securing significant dollar inflows. The naira depreciation has hurt businesses and slashed the purchasing power of consumers.

Foreign firms operating in Nigeria, who must report their sales to their parent companies in dollars, have been the worst hit.

In the last decade, several prominent South African companies have withdrawn from Nigeria, citing currency volatility and challenging economic conditions as primary reasons.

Africa's largest food retailer announced its exit from Nigeria in 2020, selling its stores to local operators. Shoprite cited currency volatility, supply chain issues, and difficulties in repatriating profits as the main reasons for its departure.

The currency devaluation made it increasingly difficult for Shoprite to operate profitably in Nigeria, given the

high costs of importing goods and the challenge of maintaining competitive pricing amidst rising inflation.

Shoprite's exit from Nigeria and some other African markets to focus on its core South African market did not prove too costly for the retailer, which recorded improved profit and margin in its first financial report since exiting Nigeria.

The Cape Town-based retailer grew trading profit by 14 percent to 5.4 billion rand (\$358 million) in the six months through January 2, 2022, with trading margin improving to 6.0 percent from 5.7 percent six months prior.

Trading profit at its South African supermarket business rose 16 percent to 4.9 billion rand (\$319 million) in the period, according to the financial statement released this week, which means it contributed 90.7 percent to the total profit reported by the group.

In full-year 2023, Shoprite posted record revenues of 219.5 billion rand, 17 percent up from the 187.5 billion rand recorded in 2022, a further sign that for Shoprite, it's no Nigeria, no problem.

The year 2024 was even much better for Shoprite. Its sales rose by 9.7 percent to 240.7 billion rand, boosted by both its upmarket and discount grocery brands.

Shoprite's exit was not solely due to its loss-making Nigerian operations but because the new CEO Pieter Engelbrecht was not as bullish about expanding across Africa as his predecessor, according to Dianna Games of the SA-Nigeria business chamber.

"Shoprite's pull back from Nigeria and Kenya was due a change of leadership. The new leadership didn't have as much appetite for Nigeria, and the company is now doing really well in South Africa," Games said.

"They've reinvested a lot of money in South Africa. They (Shoprite) pulled back on the African story, but put down bigger roots at home," Games told BusinessDay during an interview in Johannesburg.

During a September investor call, CEO Pieter Engelbrecht credited Pick n Pay's strong performance in 2024 to increased investments within its home market of South Africa.

Nampak sold its Nigerian can-making unit, Bevcan, to Alucan Investment for \$68.5 million (N103.8 billion) in May 2024.

The sale of Bevcan, Nigeria's second-largest manufacturer of beverage cans, was part of Nampak's effort to raise 2.7 billion South African rand (\$147.8 million) to pay its debt.

Nampak acquired Bevcan Nigeria in 2014 for \$180.6 million, suggesting the company recorded a \$109.5 million loss on the asset sale.

The company said in its financial statement that the devaluation of the naira and removal of petrol subsidy triggered a \$54.7 million loss in 2023 and an impairment loss of \$84.8 million on Bevcan Nigeria.

The sale of Bevcan Nigeria came after Nampak closed its metal business in Nigeria and sold its property, equipment and machinery to Twinings Ovaltine Nigeria Limited for N7.5 billion.

Nampak said it made a decision to close its Nigeria Metals business from July 31, 2023 "due primarily to subdued demand for metal can products manufactured by this operation."

Volatile naira sours S. African investors' appetite for Nigeria

LAGOS

SOUTH African business owners recognise the vast potential of Africa's most populous nation, but many are hitting a roadblock—the unpredictable swings of the naira.

With dreams of tapping into Nigeria's bustling market, these investors find themselves at a crossroads, wary of riding the waves of currency chaos.

"Nigeria is a large and attractive market but the unpredictable swings of the naira make it scary to go in there," Stephane Cohen, a business owner in South Africa, said.

Read also: CBN to penalise DMBs aiding, abetting naira hawking

"Most of the South African businesses have been forced to close shop and that's not a good look. It means it's really tough to do business there and that zaps confidence," Cohen said.

Cohen's view seems to be shared by several other business owners and investors in South Africa who have hit the brakes on investment in Nigeria since a record-breaking 2019.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow from South Africa fell to a seven-year low of \$378.49 million in 2023, a sign of waning investor confidence in the country.



A raft of South African businesses have exited Nigeria in recent times, from popular supermarket chain, Shoprite Holdings, to the less-known Nampak, Africa's biggest packaging company.

"A poll done on South African businesses showed that the number one reason why Nigeria is such a tough place to do business is the currency volatility," said Dianna Games, CEO of the Johannesburg-based South Africa-Nigeria business chamber.

"If you look at the way the naira has moved against the US dollar since 2014 to date, oh my goodness. Although there's been some depreciation with the rand, it has been a little bit more stable, and it's more predictable because it's market-based," Games said.

Co-op bank Q3 profit: Soaring eagle planning delivers double-digit growth

NAIROBI

CO-OPERATIVE Bank of Kenya has reported a Profit Before Tax of Ksh26.8 billion for third quarter of 2024, a commendable 8.5 percent growth compared to Ksh24.7 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Profit after tax grew to Ksh19.2 billion from Ksh18.4 billion reported in the third quarter of 2023.

The strong performance is in line with the bank's strategic focus on sustainable growth, resilience, and agility, said Co-operative Bank Group Managing Director and CEO, Dr Dideon Muriuki. According to the Q3 financial results, Co-op Bank delivered a competitive Return on Equity of 21.3 percent, riding on the 'Soaring Eagle' Transformation Agenda.

The group reported "excellent efficiency gains" from the various initiatives to record a Cost-to-Income Ratio of 45.8 percent in Q3 2024, from 59 percent in FY2014 when it kicked off the growth and efficiency journey. Financial Position: Total Assets grew to 8 Billion, a 13.5 percent growth from Ksh661.3 Billion in the same period last year. Net loans and advances grew to 3 Billion from Ksh378.1 Billion in 2023, while customer deposits grew to Ksh 0 Billion, an 18.7 percent increase from Ksh432.8 Billion.

External funds from development partners stand at Ksh58.0 Billion compared to 65.6 Billion in 2023. Shareholders' funds have grown to Ksh131.8 Billion, a 22 percent increase from Ksh108.1 Billion in 2023 driven by the strong growth in retained earnings of Ksh16.3 Billion.

Comprehensive Income: Total operating income grew by 8 percent from Ksh53.4 Billion to Ksh59.2 Billion. Total non-interest income grew by 2 percent from Ksh20.6 Billion to Ksh 22.3 Billion. Net interest income grew by 3 percent from Kshs 32.8 Billion to Kshs 36.9 Billion. Total operating expenses grew by 12.7 percent from Kshs 0 Billion to Kshs. 32.7 Billion.

FRIENDSHIP ON THE MARITIME SILK ROAD: Connection from the charms of water between Tanzania, China

By Liu Weiwei

OVER 619 years ago, the legendary Chinese navigator Zheng He set sail from Jiangsu, embarking on seven voyages to the Western Seas, reaching the East African coast. Along the Tanzanian coast, the discovery of Chinese porcelain shards witnesses an extraordinary maritime journey, a saga of cultural exchange, and the shared history between China and Tanzania that transcends oceans and time.

In this new era, Tanzania plays an initiatory role in China's African policy. Chinese President Xi Jinping has highlighted the significant conceptual value and guiding importance of China-Tanzania relations, emphasizing their alignment with the historic momentum of development in the Global South. China is committed to working with Tanzania to establish this relationship as a model of China-Africa ties and Global South Cooperation, thereby contributing to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

As we celebrate 60 years of diplomatic ties, Jiangsu, guided by the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Tanzania, seeks to build on this enduring friendship through extensive collaboration in culture, tourism, education, and trade.

Surmounting mountains and oceans, shaping our future together. The meeting of the "Charm of Jiangsu" and the "Pearl of East Africa" represents a deep-rooted friendship and shared interest between the two regions, carrying the aspirations for a better future. These aspirations reflect a united pursuit of modernization and a joint commitment to building a high-level China-Africa community of shared destiny.

Cultural tourism blossoms: Seeking the poetic distance together

In July this year, a Tanzanian television drama titled "Welcome to Maile Village", inspired by stories of Chinese medical aid teams in Zanzibar, was a hit in Tanzania. A Tanzanian netizen commented, "Maile" is the phonetic translation of the Swahili word for "forever," symbolizing everlasting Sino-African friendship. As a Tanzanian who speaks Chinese, this drama brought my two worlds together, and I absolutely loved it."

Cultural and tourism exchanges have become a bridge for fostering mutual understanding. Through this bridge, countless heartwarming stories of national friendship and people-to-people bonds have unfolded between Jiangsu and Tanzania.

Tanzania is a natural and historical extension of the Maritime Silk Road, while Jiangsu sits at the intersection of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road. The two sides have a deep Silk Road friendship. In Jiangsu, landmarks like the Longjiang Shipyard in Nanjing, Tianfei Palace in Suzhou, and Wenfeng Tower in Yangzhou serve as "living relics" of Maritime Silk Road history.

In Tanzania, an artist named Kabogo runs a gallery where he paints and sells artworks in his 30s. His depictions of wildlife, vivid and vibrant, convey the purity of nature through surrealist techniques. Kabogo, who learned his craft from street artists, says his works in the Tingatinga style—an iconic Tanzanian art form—are popular among tourists. He expressed that many Chinese people, including those from Jiangsu, have bought his paintings, giving him a sense of recognition for his creations.

Both Jiangsu and Tanzania are renowned for their rich humanistic heritage. As a cradle of human civilization, Tanzania is home to world heritage sites like Serengeti National Park and Mount Kilimanjaro National Park, treasures of universal value. Tanzania has participated for several years in the Grand Canal Culture and Tourism Expo held in Jiangsu, leaving a profound impression with African-inspired woodcarvings and woven crafts. A resident of Suzhou, Fan Xia, remarked, "Tanzania's unique cultural tourism resources have allowed me



Picturesque scenery of the Huai'an Section of the Grand Canal (Photo by Xue Jinlong)

to deeply appreciate African culture and understand the significance of cultural exchange."

Jiangsu, as one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization, boasts a harmonious blend of graceful Wu, vigorous Chu-Han, lovely Huaiyang, and elegant Jinling cultures. Fatia Saidi, a Tanzanian student at Jiangsu University, said that world cultural heritages such as Suzhou Gardens and Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum are intertwined, and world intangible cultural heritages such as Kunqu Opera and Yunjin brocade are everlasting and new. "Time is too short to experience many other profound historical and cultural hit points."

Both Jiangsu and Tanzania are closely tied to water. Tanzania, one of Africa's most water-rich nations, is home to the Nile and Lake Victoria. Meanwhile, water bodies cover one-sixth of Jiangsu's 100,000 square kilometers, making it the only Chinese province with a combination of major rivers, lakes, and seas. This shared affinity of water enriches the dialogue between the two regions, creating a natural synergy for cultural and tourism exchanges.

At the 6th Xugong International Customer Festival held in May this year, over 1,200 overseas business guests gathered in Xuzhou to experience the culture of the Han Dynasty and explore the scenic beauty of Pengcheng. Ali from Tanzania immersed himself in the afterglow of the sunset by Yunlong Lake. He said, "The rippling waters and the soaring birds are so beautiful. I hope to bring my family next time, and I even plan to send my children to university in Jiangsu."

Hundreds of boats race forward: A Kaleidoscope of cooperation

"True friendship brings people close however far apart they may be."

Healthcare cooperation is a cornerstone of the bond between Tanzania and Jiangsu. Zanzibar's President, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, has praised Chinese medical teams for providing advanced treatments, training local doctors, and building a foundation for Zanzibar's medical development. In September, Dr. Kamis Ali Kombo from Zanzibar's Kivunge District Hospital attended the Belt and Road Training Program for Healthcare Excellence, organized by Jiangsu Province Hospital. "Doctors from Jiangsu taught us how to treat accident victims, such as those with fractures and trauma, enhancing our emergency response capabilities," he shared.

In recent years, trade and investment between Africa and China have grown rapidly and China has become Tanzania's largest source of foreign investment. In 2023, China remained Tanzania's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching \$8.78 billion, a 5.66% year-on-year increase. Jiangsu accounted for \$730 million of this, marking a 12.6% growth from the previous year.

The Chinese saying "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime" embodies this partnership. In 2013, Jiangsu's Jielong Group invested \$30 mil-

lion to establish Jielong Holdings (Tanzania) Ltd in Tanzania's Nyanza Province, introducing modern agricultural practices. The company collaborates with over 30 farmers' organizations, providing materials, field management, and training to enhance agricultural self-sufficiency.

At Lake Victoria, Johnna, a Tanzanian, has been studying aquaculture techniques at Jiangsu's Freshwater Fisheries Research Center in Wuxi. "I hope to bring these methods back to Tanzania to benefit my community," he said.

Collaborative development: Sharing a bright future

"With shared aspirations, no distance is too great."

During the 2024 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation this September, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed her nation's commitment to becoming a model platform for innovative socio-economic cooperation between Africa and China. She reaffirmed Tanzania's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative to deliver tangible benefits to the people. Quoting Chinese President Xi Jinping, she noted, "The development of China-Africa relations is an ongoing journey, never a completed task."

Marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Tanzania, Jiangsu and Tanzania are joining hands to elevate practical cooperation across various sectors to new heights.

"Let all appreciate their own beauty and that of others." On November 20, the Jiangsu-Tanzania Cultural Tourism Promotion and Exchange Event will be held in Mwanza, Tanzania. Using this opportunity, Jiangsu aims to promote cultural exchange, foster industrial synergy, and enhance mutual trust and connection between the two regions. In a "mutual journey" of collaboration, Tanzania and Jiangsu will explore shared opportunities, enjoy the splendor of natural landscapes, and embrace future development prospects.

As a cultural and tourism powerhouse in China, Jiangsu com-

bines ancient traditions with dynamic modernity. Here, water and culture intertwine, and humans coexist harmoniously with nature. "Charm of Jiangsu" is the province's most distinctive feature, reflecting a vision of a beautiful life for all. To support the growth of tourism, Jiangsu's Department of Culture and Tourism will sign a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Tanzania Tourism Board to enhance bilateral tourism development. Additionally, leading tourism companies from Jiangsu, including China Travel Service (Jiangsu), Tuniu Travel, and Tongcheng Travel, will partner with Tanzanian travel agencies to promote reciprocal tourism and expand the market together.

Nanjing Hongshan Forest Zoo, one of China's most distinctive zoos, is home to over 260 rare species and more than 3,000 animals, attracting over 5 million visitors annually. The zoo plans to collaborate with Tanzania's Serengeti National Park on wildlife conservation initiatives. This partnership will focus on habitat preservation, species monitoring, and sharing expertise on ecological sustainability. Together, they aim to address critical conservation challenges and promote sustainable development.

The friendship forged along the Maritime Silk Road continues to flourish. With open arms, we welcome Tanzanian friends to Jiangsu, a land where history and modernity meet. From picturesque water towns to bustling urban centers, the province offers a wealth of experiences: stroll through Suzhou's classical gardens, marvel at Nanjing's historical sites, and savor the blend of tranquility and vibrancy. Jiangsu awaits, ready to welcome you on an unforgettable journey along the Silk Road.

Korogwe DC calls for new revenue sources

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Korogwe

KOROGWE District Commissioner William Mwakilema has urged town councilors to collaborate with experts to ensure effective collection and expansion of domestic revenue sources.

Speaking during a recent council meeting discussing the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year, Mwakilema emphasized the need to create and develop new revenue streams.

"Collaboration between councilors and economic experts is crucial for expanding and enhancing revenue sources, which will boost our income," he stated.

Mwakilema noted that increased revenue would not only support the council's daily operations but also facilitate the completion of development projects.

Korogwe Town Council Deputy Chairman, Nassoro Mohamed, expressed appreciation for the DC's

advice, pledging that councilors would work with economic experts to identify and monitor revenue sources effectively.

Executive Director Mwashabani Mrope reinforced the DC's message, highlighting the importance of joint efforts in revenue collection.

"DC Mwakilema, your timely advice aligns with our current initiatives, including the construction of Manundu Market to enhance revenue collection," Mrope said.

Korogwe Town Council's economy largely depends on agriculture, trade, and small-scale industries.

The region benefits from its strategic location along key road networks, supporting trade in agricultural products such as maize, cassava, and other cash crops.

Local markets and small businesses contribute significantly to the council's revenue base, while initiatives to enhance infrastructure and services aim to boost economic activities.



Korogwe district commissioner William Mwakilema addresses a meeting in Korogwe at the weekend. Left is Korogwe Town Council Executive Director Mwashabani Mrope. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

Chinese steel exports boom

By Katharine Gemmill

CHINA'S steel exports have exploded higher. History suggests it can't last.

Steelmakers in the world's biggest producer are leaning heavily on overseas sales to soak up a surplus caused by the country's years-long property crisis.

But they're running into dumping accusations from importers and a protectionist Donald Trump will soon be back in the White House. The flare-up in tensions is starting to resemble the industry's last trade crisis of nearly a decade ago.

Unless Beijing rips up its current playbook and decides to re-inflate the housing market or splurge on infrastructure, then steel consumption in China is in long-term decline.

But mills have barely cut production to match that reality. The result is near-record exports. Over 11 million tons were shipped last month, a nine-year high.

Investors fret that Trump's re-election will prompt another trade war. Even though China doesn't sell much of the alloy to the US directly, protectionism could ripple through the world's steel markets and choke global trade. Analysts at ANZ Group Holdings Ltd. reckon Chinese mills may try and 'front run' any increase in tariffs by boosting exports even further over the next few months, according to a note from the bank last week.

Chinese steel has a history of stoking trade tensions. Importing countries have opened 25 anti-dumping investigations so far this year, the most since 2016, according to China's commerce ministry. If that period's any guide, expect sales to drop sharply.

"China's steel exports may start to decline by end-2026 as more trading partners step-up anti-dumping export controls and total steel production falls," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Michelle Leung.

China is mostly exporting its steel to nearby developing economies that still need to build infrastructure at scale. Nations in Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Middle East have seen the biggest increase in imports this year and many are partners in Beijing's Belt and Road initiative.

WORLD

G20 Summit: Xi calls for multipolar world, inclusive globalisation

Brazil welcomes PM Modi with vedic chants and traditional festivities ahead of G20 summit

RIO DE JANEIRO

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi was welcomed by Brazilian Vedic scholars chanting Sanskrit mantras upon his arrival in Brazil for the G20 summit yesterday.

The group of Vedic scholars, comprising men and women of all ages, sang melodious Sanskrit shlokas in PM Modi's presence. They were dressed in traditional Indian attire, and the Prime Minister keenly listened to their harmonious recitation.

According to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs, there is significant interest in India's culture, religion, performing arts, and philosophy in Brazil. Organizations like the Ramakrishna Mission, ISKCON, Satya Sai Baba, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, and the Bhakti Vedanta Foundation have active chapters in Brazil. Indian philosophy and spirituality were among the first aspects of Indian culture to influence Brazil, resonating with the country's colourful folkloric traditions and joyous festivities.

Upon PM Modi's arrival at Hotel Nacional, he received a warm welcome, including a traditional Dandiya ceremony performed by dancers in vibrant Gujarati attire. Members of the Indian diaspora greeted him with gifts, waved Indian flags, and displayed his pictures to express their enthusiasm for his visit.

Speaking to ANI, the Vedic scholars

underlined the influence of the Vedas on their lives. "I started about 10 years ago, I could not see any meaning in my life at the time. When I started studying Vedas I realised who I am. I am a little bit nervous but I am happy," Jenifer Scholles, a Vedic scholar said.

Vedic scholar Jonas Masetti also known as Acharya Vishwanatha said, "Many people in Brazil connect with Vedic culture and Indian culture. The first time they hear mantras, they feel a lot of joy and peace in their hearts. Many students learn Sanskrit, mantras, stories of Ramayan and Mahabharat."

PM Modi is in Brazil to attend the 19th G20 Leaders' Summit, scheduled for November 18 and 19.

As a Troika member, India is playing a significant role in shaping the agenda, building on the momentum from its own G20 presidency last year.

In a statement, PM Modi expressed optimism about Brazil's leadership in continuing the focus on the Global South's priorities.

"Last year, India's successful Presidency elevated the G20 to people's G20 and mainstreamed the priorities of the Global South. This year, Brazil has built upon India's legacy. I look forward to meaningful discussions aligned with our vision of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,'" he said.

PM Modi also plans to use the summit to strengthen bilateral ties with other world leaders.

RIO DE JANEIRO

UPON arriving in Rio de Janeiro for the 19th G20 Summit on Sunday, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed readiness to work with all parties for an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

In a written statement, Xi hoped for the G20's greater role as an important platform for international economic cooperation.

This year's G20 Leaders' Summit, scheduled for Nov 18-19, marks the first gathering of the kind since the accession of the African Union as a full member, a historic milestone that strengthens the voice of the Global South.

Javier Miranda, former president of Uruguay's Broad Front party, expressed his hope that this summit will mark a significant step toward building a multipolar world - one that fosters dialogue.

In a world fraught with wars and conflicts, the commitment to dialogue stands as one goal of this G20 meeting, he told Xinhua.

Following its assumption of the presidency, Brazil has established the summit theme as "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet". Key priorities outlined by the Brazilian government include combating hunger, poverty, and inequality,



Workers gather near a poster at the venue of the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov 16, 2024. XINHUA

advancing sustainable development, and driving reforms in global governance.

"Building a just world requires the G20 to honor the principles of mutual respect, equal-footed cooperation and mutual benefit, and support Global South countries in achieving greater development," Xi said in a signed article published in Brazilian media outlet Folha de S. Paulo on Sunday.

"Building a sustainable planet requires the G20 to promote sustainable production and lifestyle as a way to achieve harmony between humanity and nature," he said.

The Chinese president also pledged China's active support for the initiative of a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty proposed by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"As we gather at the G20 to address critical global issues such as governance, hunger, sustainability, and the environment, we recognize the crucial role of our partnership with China," said Rodrigo Castro, deputy secretary for Major Events and Promotion Actions of the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Many of the solutions to address challenges faced by developing nations stem from ideas and practices already implemented in China, Castro said.

"For us Brazilians who are hosting the G20 ... we are very proud to welcome the president and the entire Chinese delegation," he told Xinhua.

Apart from the G20 summit, Xi is also to pay a state visit to Brazil, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

During the visit, Xi will hold an in-depth exchange of views with the Brazilian president on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common interest.

Brazil is the second stop of Xi's two-nation tour, which has taken him to Peru. In Lima, he kept to a tight schedule, attending the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, paying a state visit to Peru and holding a series of bilateral meetings, including one with his US counterpart, Joe Biden, on the sidelines of the APEC meeting.

Xinhua

Hezbollah media chief Mohammad Afif killed in Israeli airstrike on Beirut

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM

AN Israeli airstrike targeting the office of Syria's Ba'ath Party in central Beirut on Sunday noon has killed Hezbollah Media Chief Mohammad Afif and three other people, local TV channel al-Jadeed reported.

According to al-Jadeed, Israeli warplanes attacked the office located between the area of Ras al-Nabaa and the Sodoco Square commercial center with two air-to-surface missiles after the Ba'ath Party received a call from the Israeli army asking it to evacuate the building hosting the party.

Most part of the targeted building was destroyed during the airstrike, and ambulances rushed to the area to remove the rubble and search for victims, al-Jadeed reported.

Israel's military on Sunday claimed responsibility for the airstrike that killed Afif.

Afif joined Hezbollah in the



Hezbollah's Media Chief Mohammed Afif, speaks during a press conference in Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Nov 11, 2024. AP

1980s and served as a media advisor to the group's late leader, Hassan Nasrallah, who was assassinated by Israel in late September.

In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces described the attack as "an intelligence-based strike", alleging that Afif "directed Hezbollah operatives to gather field footage for use in propaganda and psychological warfare".

Since Sept 23, the Israeli army

has leveled up its air attack on Lebanon in an escalation of conflict with Hezbollah. In early October, Israel initiated a ground operation across its northern border into Lebanon.

According to the Lebanese health ministry, the death toll from Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon since the beginning of the war on Oct 8, 2023, has reached 3,452, with injuries up to 14,664.

India-US ties to strengthen under Trump, says US Envoy Eric Garcetti

NEW DELHI

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti underscored the bipartisan foundation of India-US relations, expressing optimism about their continued growth under President-elect Donald Trump.

"The great thing about the US-India relationship is that it is bipartisan. It has never relied on the Democrats or Republicans being in charge of our United States Congress or the Presidency. It has grown with (every changing) president, so I expect the relationship will grow with the Republican president again," Garcetti (pictured) remarked.

Speaking on the Open Doors Report 2024, Garcetti highlighted a surge in Indian students studying in the US, marking a 50 per cent increase over the past two years.

"The Open Doors Report shares great news that builds on last year's great news when it comes to India & US and our education partnership. It shows that there has been an increase of more than 20 per cent, building on an increase of 30 per cent and more. More than a 50 per cent increase in the number of students coming to the US just over the last two years," he said.

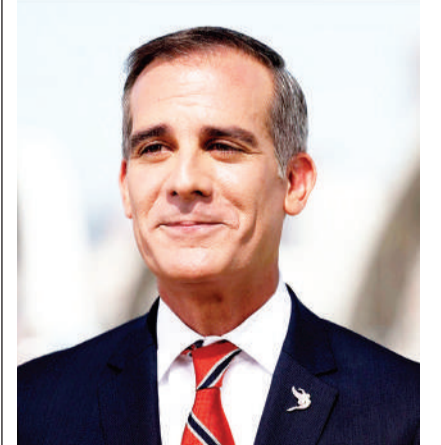
Garcetti emphasised the mutual benefits of this trend, calling it "great for Indians, great for India, and great for America and American educational institutions."

The Ambassador also spotlighted the STEM India Fellowship, designed to encourage Indian women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. "We love all Indian students but we have put a particular focus on having women students, especially in the field of science and technology, education and medicine," he explained.

Garcetti stressed the fellowship's role in fostering leaders in critical sectors, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and climate technology. "These investments that we are making together are bringing 40 students to the United States for graduate-level education," he added.

Regarding possible immigration policy changes under the Trump administration, Garcetti refrained from speculation but noted the significant contributions of Indian students. "I can't comment yet on what the immigration policies will be, but certainly, I will share the amazing impact that Indians have had on higher education in America, and how that impact makes the world a better place," he concluded.

With education and innovation at the core, Garcetti's remarks underscore the enduring and evolving partnership between India and the US under diverse political leaderships. **ANI**



Netanyahu aide accused of leaking classified documents to undermine hostage deal

JERUSALEM

AN aide to Israel's prime minister is suspected of leaking classified documents to a European newspaper to sway public opinion against demonstrations supporting a ceasefire-for-hostage deal with Hamas.

The Magistrate's Court in the Israeli city of Rishon LeZion eased a gag order on Sunday, revealing new details about the case, which has triggered a political scandal and sent shockwaves through the Israeli political sphere.

Eli Feldstein, a media advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has been arrested and interrogated by the Shin Bet internal security agency.

Three additional security personnel, whose names remain undisclosed, have

also been detained in connection with the case. Feldstein's detention was extended by five days on Sunday, and he is expected to face charges next week, according to the court.

The documents allegedly came into Feldstein's possession via an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reserve officer, who is also a suspect in the investigation. According to the court, Feldstein allegedly leaked the classified materials to portray Yahya Sinwar, the late Hamas leader, as unwilling to agree to a ceasefire deal that would also secure hostage release.

After an Israeli military censor blocked the publication of the documents on an Israeli TV channel, Feldstein bypassed local censorship by providing the material to Germany's Bild newspaper.

THE ice and snow economy is characterized by a long industrial chain, significant spillover effects, and high social benefits.

In recent years, with the deepening promotion of the concept that abundant snow and ice provided by the climate are also invaluable assets, and China's continuous efforts to get 300 million people involved in winter sports, China's high-quality "cold resources" of ice and snow have accelerated their transformation into the "hot power" of economic development.

Recently, the Chinese government issued policy measures for stimulating the vitality of the

China's ice, snow economy shows strong momentum

ice and snow economy through the high-quality development of winter sports, which clearly state that China's ice and snow economy will reach a scale of 1.2 trillion yuan (about \$166 billion) by 2027, and 1.5 trillion yuan by 2030.

The successful hosting of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics has driven the rapid development of ice and snow tourism, competition and performances, sports training, and ice and snow equipment manufacturing, fully demon-

strating the strong momentum of the ice and snow economy.

Yang Xuedong, director of the Sports Economy Department of China's General Administration of Sport, said that sports events play a significant role in driving economic development, promoting consumption and stimulating investment.

During the 14th National Winter Games held earlier in Hulun Buir, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region this year, Hulun Buir received a total of 1.774 million tourist visits, gen-

erating 32 billion yuan in sports and other consumption.

In recent years, winter tourism in China has been gaining popularity. It plays an important role in promoting winter consumption and driving economic growth.

According to data from the China Tourism Academy, the number of ice and snow tourists increased by 38 percent year on year during the last snow season, and revenues increased by 50 percent. Data from online travel companies showed that

the total consumption of ice and snow tourism increased by 132.5 percent compared to the 2019-2020 snow season.

During the last snow season, an ice and snow fever swept across various regions in China. The booming tourism in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang province gave a significant boost to local catering, accommodation, entertainment, and shopping industries. Harbin received over 87 million tourist visits, a 300 percent increase year on year, and reported tourism rev-

enue of 124.8 billion yuan, a 500 percent increase year on year.

Jilin province, which neighbors Heilongjiang province, received 125 million tourist visits, up 121 percent from a year ago. The province's tourism revenue surged 140 percent year on year to 241.9 billion yuan.

Altay in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region welcomed nearly 4.89 million tourist visits, a 36 percent increase year on year, and its tourism revenue reached 5.1 billion yuan, up 45.8 percent

compared with that in the same period last year.

After the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics, winter sports have received wider attention and been joined by more people across China.

Ice and snow equipment is the foundation for the development of winter sports and is also a crucial component of the ice and snow economy. Currently, China has developed a product system consisting of 15 major categories of ice and snow equipment, with the industry rapidly expanding and the technical quality of products steadily improving. **People's Daily**

Africa set to leverage advantages from G20

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN countries should use the opportunity of G20 membership to promote trade and investment with the world's most powerful nations, experts said ahead of this year's G20 summit.

Sizo Nkala, a senior research fellow at the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Africa-China Studies, told China Daily that the African Union joining the Group of 20 is an important step for Africa to increase its visibility on the global stage, and gives it the opportunity to negotiate with rich nations on equal terms.

This year's G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is the first to be held with the African Union as a member. Last year, the G20 accepted the AU as a permanent member of the group.

"The acceptance of the AU will have an impact on the global economic trajectory. Africa will sit at the table with rich nations and voice its concerns and interests and speak for itself," said Nkala.

Alan Mukoki, CEO of the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said while he welcomes the permanent status of the AU at the G20, it remains to be seen

how Africa will use and take advantage of it.

He pointed out that Africa must take advantage of this new status to promote trade with the most powerful nations, and seek investment to develop the continent.

Mikatekiso Kubayi, a senior researcher at the South African think tank, the Institute for Global Dialogue, agreed with Mukoki.

He said: "Africans regaining their prominence in multilateral affairs must put their house in order. Africa should negotiate with big players to benefit the continent. The world has realized that Africa, with its gross domestic product of \$3.1 trillion and population of over 1.4 billion, cannot be ignored."

Kubayi said African countries and many nations in the Global South need technical skills and funding to assist them in a just transition to clean energy and the gradual phasing out of fossil fuels, and the G20 can assist them in that regard. He said the G20 could also help Africa to prepare for the effects of climate change.

Joseph Upile Matola, an associate economist from the South African Institute of International Affairs think tank, said the AU's permanent G20 membership has the po-



A woman walks past the logo of the 19th G20 Summit near the main venue of the summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov 16, 2024. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

tential to contribute to development in the continent.

He said that African countries are interested in investment from the G20 in trade, funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation, addressing debt, and peace and security. He said the AU should speak with one voice on trade negotiation issues to deal with bigger nations in the G20.

Ignatius Schoole, CEO of consultancy KPMG South Africa, said the African business community should build business links with G20 members to promote

economic cooperation, investment, and technological exchanges.

The continent faces food insecurity, instability, poor economic growth, inequality and a lack of critical skills, which they can acquire through their association with the G20, he added.

South Africa will take over the G20 presidency on Dec 1, and host the G20 summit next year. **Xinhua**

Kremlin says decision to launch ATACMS missiles deep into Russia 'escalation of tensions'

MOSCOW

MOSCOW, November 18. /TASS/. Russia assumes that the decision to launch ATACMS missiles deep into Russia means a qualitatively new round of escalation of tensions, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.



"If such a decision has indeed been formulated and communicated to the Kiev regime, then, of course, this is a qualitatively new round of escalation of tensions and a qualitatively new situation in terms of the involvement of the United States in this conflict," Peskov said.

"We are proceeding from this," he emphasized.

Moscow's position should be absolutely clear to everyone, the spokesman pointed out. "These signals have been received by the collective West. And they were voiced by the president in St. Petersburg," Peskov recalled.

On September 12, Russian President Vladimir Putin pointed out that a potential decision to use Western long-range weapons against Russia would mean nothing less than the direct involvement of the United States and other NATO countries in the war in Ukraine.

This would drastically alter the nature of this conflict, and Russia would be forced to take appropriate measures in response to the escalating threats, the Russian president warned.

Putin emphasized that Ukraine would not be able to strike deep into Russian territory without Western support, as it would require satellite intelligence and flight missions to do so.

On November 17, The New York Times reported, citing sources, that Biden had authorized strikes from Ukrainian territory deep into Russia using ATACMS tactical ballistic missiles.

In turn, Le Figaro sources claimed that France and the UK had authorized strikes with SCALP and Storm Shadow tactical missiles. The article was later retracted from the newspaper's website without explanation.

There has been no official confirmation of this information from Washington, Paris, or London.

Former leading Australian broadcaster arrested over indecent assault allegations

SYDNEY

A former leading Australian radio host and national rugby team coach was arrested on Monday over allegations of indecent assault offenses spanning multiple decades.

Police in the state of New South Wales (NSW) arrested Alan Jones, 83, following a long and thorough investigation into multiple alleged indecent assaults and sexual touching offenses.

In a statement, NSW Police said that detectives from the Child Abuse Squad in March established a strike force to investigate alleged incidents between 2001 and 2019.

Officers on Monday morning executed a search warrant at Jones's luxury Sydney apartment and arrested the veteran broadcaster. NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb told reporters that detectives had worked tirelessly on the investigation.

"This is a result of a very long, thorough and protracted investigation," she said at a press conference. Jones is one of Australia's best-known media personalities, having worked in radio for 35 years before retiring in 2020. Between 2002 and 2020, he hosted one of Sydney's highest-rating breakfast radio shows.

Prior to his media career, Jones worked as a teacher, a speechwriter for former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, and head coach of the national men's rugby union team, the Wallabies. Nine entertainment newspapers in December reported that Jones had used his position of power as a teacher and a high-rating radio host to allegedly prey on a number of young men. Jones has denied the allegations. **Agencies**

Pope joins calls for 'genocide' probe in Gaza

HONG KONG

WITH accusations of Israel committing "genocide" in Gaza being amplified in recent weeks, the head of the Catholic Church has become the latest high-profile figure to call for a probe into Tel Aviv's conduct in Gaza.

In a new book based on his interviews titled *Hope Never Disappoints. Pilgrims Towards a Better World*, Pope Francis addresses current issues, underscoring the importance of respecting human dignity, Vatican News reported. And in the book, which is set for release on Nov 19, he reportedly says that what is happening in Gaza "has the characteristics of a genocide".

"It should be carefully investigated to determine whether it fits into the technical definition formulated by jurists and international bodies," Vatican News quoted Pope Francis as saying.

This revelation comes after the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories said on Nov 14 that Israel's "warfare" in Gaza was "consistent with the characteristics of genocide, with mass civilian casualties and life-threatening conditions intentionally imposed on Palestinians there".

Kamaruzaman bin Yusoff, adjunct professor at the Department of Islamic History and Civilization at Universiti Malaya in Malaysia, told China Daily that the pope "is always doing extra work for the betterment of the



Pope Francis gestures during a mass for the World Day of the Poor at St Peter's basilica in the Vatican, on Sunday. AFP

people of the world" and that he has spoken without fear and favor to put pressure on several international issues, war, and atrocities against women and children.

"This issue is across all religious groups, a humanitarian catastrophe," Yusoff said.

He said the world courts' advisory had already called on Israel's leaders to prevent committing genocide of the Gaza people. The recent actions taken by Israeli leaders "give a more and extensive and further negative impact when they started to bombard Lebanon", affecting the people tremendously, Yusoff said.

In January, a 17-judge panel of the International Court of Justice declared that Palestinians had a right to be protected from acts of genocide and called on Israel to "take all measures within its power" to prevent acts which could fall foul of the 1948

Genocide Convention.

The UN Special Committee, in its Nov 14 press release, also said that through Israel's "siege over Gaza, obstruction of humanitarian aid, alongside targeted attacks and killing of civilians and aid workers, despite repeated UN appeals, binding orders from the International Court of Justice and resolutions of the Security Council, Israel is intentionally causing death, starvation and serious injury, using starvation as a method of war and inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinian population".

It noted that since the conflict escalated, Israeli officials have publicly supported policies that "strip Palestinians of the very necessities required to sustain life", decimating essential services, and unleashed an environmental catastrophe that would have lasting health impacts.

"These statements along with

the systematic and unlawful interference of humanitarian aid make clear Israel's intent to instrumentalize life-saving supplies for political and military gains," it said. The report announced in the press release covers the period from October 2023 to July 2024.

Further, by early 2024, "over 25,000 tons of explosives", which the committee said was equivalent to two nuclear bombs, had been dropped on Gaza.

Israeli strikes and bombings of medical facilities and makeshift tents in both Gaza and Lebanon have been reported. Lebanon's National News Agency reported that six paramedics were killed at the Islamic Health Authority center in Nabatieh on Nov 17.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society posted on X that it evacuated 15 patients and 16 companions from Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza to Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, in coordination with the World Health Organization.

Additionally, it said, 15 patients and two companions were evacuated from Al-Awda Hospital to Al-Shifa Hospital, in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Gokhan Batu, an analyst on Israel studies at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in Türkiye, told China Daily that the forced evacuation of the northern regions and subsequent displacement of the population to the south, as well as attacks on so-called "safe zones", had significantly worsened the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"Israel's justification of its actions by citing the presence of Ha-

mas and other groups does not alleviate the severe hardships faced by the civilian population. The case at the ICJ, initiated by South Africa, has exposed serious challenges in the enforcement of the court's provisional orders, indicating a regression in conditions since those orders were issued," Batu said.

Last week, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that Türkiye was cutting all ties with Israel. It was widely reported on Nov 17 that Türkiye had denied Israeli President Isaac Herzog's plane access to Turkish airspace en route to Azerbaijan where the COP29 climate conference is being held.

Since Oct 7, Batu said, Türkiye has become "one of the most vocal critics of Israel's military actions in Gaza, escalating its condemnation to tangible sanctions".

"Despite the tensions between Türkiye and Israel, Türkiye has had to navigate its strong ties with Azerbaijan carefully, ensuring that these relations remain unaffected by external conflicts," he said.

"Herzog, crucial to the stalled normalization efforts between Türkiye and Israel and known for his moderate stance, has nonetheless endorsed the narrative that there are no innocent civilians in Gaza," Batu added.

Later on Nov 18, the UN Security Council was set to hold a briefing session on the topic of ending the war in Gaza and securing a lasting peace that will be chaired by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, Wafa News reported.

China-Peru infrastructure cooperation improves people's livelihood

ABOUT 80 kilometers north of Lima, capital of Peru, the Chancay Port jointly undertaken by China Harbour Engineering Company and the Fourth Harbor Engineering Co., Ltd. under China Communications Construction Company is under construction.

Blue quay cranes stand in neat rows at the construction site, busily performing their tasks. Over 20 autonomous transport vehicles are seamlessly moving newly arrived containers to the storage yard.

Since the first phase of the project began construction in 2021, "From Chancay to Shanghai" has become a catchphrase in Peru. As the project is near completion, this vision is becoming a reality.

Upon completion, the port will serve as a new land-sea route between China and Latin America, leading to a notable reduction in shipping time. It

will also link to the Pan-American Highway through tunnels, providing direct access to Lima and significantly facilitating trade and regional connectivity.

José Arista Arbildo, Peru's minister of economy and finance, said that the Chancay Port, as a landmark project of Peru-China cooperation, will substantially reduce logistics costs, enhance competitiveness and open up market opportunities for Peruvian products, making Peru a regional logistics hub.

There is a broad scope for Peru-China cooperation, and the Peruvian government is committed to promoting practical cooperation between the two sides in more areas, the minister said.

Under the framework of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Chinese companies have made significant contri-



Students have a class at a school built by a Chinese company in Peru's La Libertad region. (People's Daily/Wang Yuan)

butions to Peru's infrastructure development, bringing tangi-

ble benefits to local people.

Peru's La Libertad region has developed spacious, well-lit

classrooms and playgrounds equipped with necessary facilities for students. Just a few years ago, the situation was entirely different.

In 2017, the area was hit by severe flooding, causing considerable water damage to the school, leading to extensive wall cracks, and presenting serious safety threats to the old buildings.

To address this situation, Peru's National Infrastructure Authority allocated funds for the school's reconstruction, which was undertaken by Yellow River Co., Ltd. under Power Construction Corporation of China (PowerChina).

The new campus, which was officially delivered in August this year, covers approximately 4,500 square meters, with a total building area of 4,000 square meters. Divided into kindergarten and primary school sections, the renovated

school can accommodate over 1,000 students. It includes bright classrooms, administrative offices, a library, computer rooms, science labs, as well as basketball courts, a kitchen, and a dining hall.

"The well-designed new campus is equipped with complete facilities, creating a safe and modern learning environment that is highly regarded by students and parents," said the principal of the school.

The principal expressed deep gratitude for the involvement of the Chinese company in the school's reconstruction, believing it not only benefited the students but also supported the educational development of the region.

"We hope that Peru and China continue deepening cooperation so as to bring us more benefits," the principal added.

SPORT

Simba coach Fadlu Davids highlights versatility of new winger Elie Mpanzu



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Fadlu Davids has shared insights into the potential roles for newly signed winger Elie Mpanzu ahead of the mini transfer window.

Davids praised Mpanzu's versatility and technical skill, emphasizing his ability to enhance the team's attacking dynamics.

Mpanzu's arrival is part of Simba's broader strategy to bolster their options on the flanks, addressing a key area identified for improvement.

The 24-year-old winger's move to Simba from DR Congo's AS Vita Club was marked by protracted negotiations and significant hurdles. Initially, AS Vita demanded a \$250,000 transfer fee, but Simba's persistence and an eventual offer of \$200,000 secured the deal.

Before his Simba move, Mpanzu (pictured) experienced challenges in Europe, including trials with Belgium's KRC Genk that did not materialize into a transfer. Despite these setbacks, Mpanzu remained focused, joining Simba's training sessions in September to prepare for his official debut.

He made his unofficial debut in a recent 1-1 draw against KMC, where he showed glimpses of his potential.

Davids believes Mpanzu has the ability to significantly contribute to Simba's attacking play, both in scoring goals and creating opportunities. He highlighted Mpanzu's adaptability, envisioning him excelling in various roles on the pitch.

"We expect Mpanzu to contribute significantly, both in terms of goals and assists. His versatility will allow him to fit seamlessly into our tactical framework," Davids stated.

Davids stressed the importance of Mpanzu mastering Simba's offensive and defensive strategies.

"He needs to understand his role within our system - when to attack, when to defend, and how to maintain the high standards of the Simba jersey. Transitioning to a new team is challenging, but Mpanzu's talent and work ethic will enable him to adapt quickly."

Mpanzu joins an already dynamic frontline that

includes players like Joshua Mutale, Edwin Balua, Ladack Chasambi, Leonel Ateba, Steven Mukwala, and Jean Charles Ahoua. His addition aims to increase creativity and competition, particularly in wide areas.

Simba have enjoyed a strong start to the season, scoring 21 goals in their first 10 league games. However, Davids is keen on sharpening the team's attacking edge as they prepare for both domestic and international competitions.

To ensure a smooth integration, Mpanzu has been focusing on building chemistry with his new teammates during training and friendly matches. Simba's technical team has also emphasized individual and group discussions to familiarize Mpanzu with their strategic approaches to different opponents.

Davids remains optimistic about Mpanzu's immediate and long-term contributions to the team:

"Through training and friendly matches, we're confident Mpanzu will adapt seamlessly. His ability to create scoring opportunities and foster healthy competition within the squad will add depth and quality to our attack."

As Simba seek to maintain their dominant form, Mpanzu's arrival offers a timely boost. The Congolese winger is expected to play a pivotal role in driving the team's attacking momentum and ensuring consistent success throughout the season.

For Simba fans, Mpanzu represents more than just a new signing; he is a symbol of the club's ambition to continually evolve and compete at the highest levels.

National judo team departs for Dakar African Open

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE national judo team left the country yesterday for Senegal to participate in this year's edition of the Dakar African Open, which kicks off today.

According to the National Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA) Secretary General, Innocent Mallya, the team comprises three judokas and two officials.

The athletes include Ibrahim Khamis, Thomas Mwenda (60kg category), and Anangisye Pwele (73kg category). Leading the delegation are Zaidi Omari and Yusufu Mbalamula.

Mallya revealed that the team had been training at a residential camp at Kurasini Police College to prepare for the event, which has drawn participants from 17 countries.

The competition features 79 male and 49 female judokas from across two continents.

The Tanzanian team is expected to return home next Sunday, and Mallya expressed optimism about their chances.

"The athletes representing Tanzania were selected on merit and have undergone rigorous training under top coaches. I believe they are well-prepared to perform at a high level. While the competition will be tough, I am confident our team will rise to the challenge," he said.

The Tanzanian delegation's participation in

the Dakar African Open has been made possible through the sponsorship of Olympic Solidarity via the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

Speaking on the support, JATA president Zaidi Hamisi extended his gratitude to TOC for their continued efforts in promoting sports development in the country.

Recently, TOC organized a 10-day National Technical Course for Judo Coaches (Level One), which was held at the Olympiafrica Centre in Mkuza, Kibaha.

The course, facilitated by an International Judo Federation (IJF) expert from Turkey, attracted 26 participants, equipping them with advanced skills and knowledge.

At the closing ceremony, TOC vice president Henry Tandau encouraged the participants to apply the newly acquired skills to enhance the sport's development in Tanzania. He also presented certificates to the attendees.

As the Tanzanian team embarks on this continental challenge, expectations are high. The Dakar African Open presents an opportunity for the judokas to showcase their skills and gain valuable experience on the international stage.

For the athletes, the rigorous preparation and support from JATA and TOC underscore the commitment to raising Tanzania's profile in the sport of judo.

SPORTS

Taifa Stars face a potential battle royal against Guinea today

By Lloyd Ellipokea

THE Taifa Stars' journey to seal a coveted spot at the 2025 AFCON culminates today in a make-or-break, epic matchup against Guinea at the majestic Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium here in Dar es Salaam.

Indeed, today's high stakes clash is likely to be a hard-fought, compelling affair between two teams who know that only a victory will secure their qualification for the perpetually enthralling AFCON finals next year.

In the last round of the 2025 AFCON qualifiers that took place last weekend, the Taifa Stars topped Ethiopia 2-0 in a vital Group H qualifier, which increased the Stars' tally of points to seven.

The problem is that in Guinea's key qualifier against the Group H table-toppers, the DR Congo, last weekend, the West African contenders astonishingly earned a wafer-thin 1-0 triumph over runaway group leaders.

It should be noted here that the DR Congo have already claimed a berth at the 2025 AFCON finals and they did so in fine style too.

Returning to Guinea's stunning triumph against the DRC, that victory increased the West African side's number of points in Group H to nine.

This then means that the Taifa Stars have seven points heading into today's all-important football contest while their opponents Guinea possess nine points.

Considering that today's momentous football duel is the last match of the 2025 AFCON qualifiers across the vast expanse of the continent, it is patently obvious that if Tanzania can prevail against Guinea, then it will mean that the Taifa Stars will have qualified for the much-anticipated AFCON finals next year.

With Guinea being only two points ahead of us in the Group H standings,



Taifa Stars squad pictured on Saturday during their AFCON 2025 qualifier against Ethiopia held at the Pentecost Martyrs Stadium in Kinshasa, DRC. Stars won 2-0. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

a draw for the Taifa Stars today will see us ultimately come up short of our goal, which is to qualify for the eagerly awaited 2025 AFCON finals.

Thus, as an expectant nation waits for a pleasing victory, it is hoped that the Taifa Stars can fabulously deliver the goods against their tricky opponents, Guinea today.

Let us now turn our attention to local football where the Young Africans SC coach Miguel Gamondi was axed last weekend following two deeply disappointing, consecutive defeats in the NBC Premier League.

While not wishing to raise the ire of countless Young Africans supporters, I feel that the club's move to dismiss their Argentinean head coach was utterly uncalled for.

It should be remembered that Young Africans had suffered a mere two losses on the trot, which definitely does not indicate that the team are in a worrying

slump.

Yes, Dear Reader, I hear you bellowing at me that one of those losses came against the lowly Tabora United, which was likely the straw that broke the camel's back.

Nevertheless, perfection in any human endeavour including football is undeniably unattainable.

In light of that, one feels that Gamondi should have been given more time in the Young Africans hot seat, especially when one remembers that he exceptionally steered the club to win both the Premier League trophy and the Federations Cup last season.

That being said, there is no use in crying over spilt milk. As Young Africans SC ready themselves for the upcoming CAF Champions League's group stage to kick-off, one can only hope that they do not come to greatly rue the sacking of their Argentinean tactician.

From dominance to doubt: Why Yanga let go of Gamondi

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC have made the unexpected decision to part ways with Argentine head coach Angel Miguel Gamondi, despite the team's relatively strong start to the league season.

While some initially attributed his dismissal to consecutive defeats - 1-0 against Azam FC and 3-1 against Tabora United FC - insiders reveal that the reasons run deeper.

Reports suggest dissatisfaction with Gamondi's tactical approach and a series of lackluster performances, even in matches where results were favourable.

Young Africans secured eight wins in their first ten league matches, yet many of these victories were narrow 1-0 outcomes, which raised concerns among fans and club management.

Known for their dynamic, attacking football, Young Africans' inability to dominate opponents this season stood in stark contrast to their emphatic displays in Gamondi's first year at the helm.

During his debut season, Gamondi (pictured) transformed Young Africans into a force to be reckoned with, delivering memorable results such as the 5-1 thrashing of arch-rivals Simba SC and dominant victories like 4-0 against Dodoma Jiji and CR Belouizdad in the CAF Champions League.

These performances set a high standard that the team has struggled to meet this season.

Gamondi's dismissal wasn't solely tied to on-field performances. His conduct off the pitch also played a role, most notably his suspension and TSh 2 million fine for physically confronting Singida Black Stars' fitness coach, Sliman Marloene, during halftime at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

This incident, a violation of Premier League regulations, further strained his relationship with the club.

Combined with a perceived lack of progress in team performance, these factors led Young Africans' management to act decisively.

To fill the void left by Gamondi, Young Africans have appointed German tactician Sead Ramovi as head coach. The former TS Galaxy manager (2021-2024) faces the dual challenge of defending Young Africans' domestic titles and competing in the CAF Champions League.



Ramovi, known for his disciplined tactical approach, has experience building resilient teams, but some fans remain skeptical of whether his relatively modest managerial background is sufficient for a club of Young Africans' stature.

Young Africans' management has placed immense trust in Ramovi to restore the team's attacking prowess and bring consistency to their performances. The club's goals for the season are ambitious: retaining the NBC Premier League title, the Federation Cup, and making significant strides in the CAF Champions League.

For Ramovi, the immediate priority will be to win over fans and reinvigorate a squad that has struggled to replicate its past dominance. Key players like Stephane Aziz Ki, Clatous Chama, and Clement Mzize will be integral to this effort as the team looks to rediscover its flair and confidence on the pitch.

Despite the circumstances of his departure, Gamondi's contributions to Young Africans cannot be overlooked. He led the club to unprecedented success in

recent years, including breaking a 25-year drought by reaching the CAF Champions League group stage and advancing to the quarterfinals.

Under his leadership, Young Africans claimed the Premier League title, the Federation Cup, and the Community Shield, while also delivering unforgettable victories against both domestic and continental rivals. His impact on Tanzanian football will be remembered, even as the club moves in a new direction.

Gamondi's exit marks the end of an era for Young Africans, but it also presents an opportunity for renewal. Under Ramovi, the club aims to maintain its status as a powerhouse in Tanzanian football and make deeper inroads on the African stage.

As Young Africans embarks on this new chapter, the focus remains on meeting the high expectations of its management, players, and passionate fanbase.

Whether Ramovi can meet the challenge and guide Young Africans to sustained success will be a story worth following.

Hungary coach Szalai 'doing well' after collapse

BBC

HUNGARY coach Adam Szalai says he is "doing well" after collapsing during his side's Nations League match against Netherlands on Saturday.

The match in Amsterdam was halted for 13 minutes when the 36-year-old was taken ill in the seventh minute.

A makeshift medical tent was erected to treat Szalai on the bench before he was rushed to hospital, leaving captain and Liverpool midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai in tears on the pitch.

"Thanks for the lots of messages, I'm doing well," Szalai wrote on Facebook.

Hungary's Football Association said the country's former international striker was "stable and conscious" on Friday night.

Szalai, who won 86 caps before retiring from playing in 2023, was carried from the bench on a stretcher at the Johan Cruyff Arena before the match resumed.

When play did restart, the Netherlands were awarded a penalty after a video assistant referee (VAR) review.

Ajax striker Wout Weghorst converted the 21st-minute spot-kick and celebrated by sliding on his knees towards the corner flag as the hosts opened the scoring in a 4-0 victory.

The former Burnley and Manchester United forward was criticised for his celebration, but said later: "I never thought for a moment that this could come across as unpleasant."

"In retrospect, you think, 'would it have been more respectful to cheer less exuberantly?' Let it be clear that his life is more important than my goal. I hope I don't have to explain that to anyone."

"Taking a penalty is normally exciting but I think this was one of my most difficult penalties ever. When you score it, there is pure relief and release. That's why I didn't realise how I was cheering."

Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk added: "I didn't think the celebration was exaggerated at all. Hungary made the choice to continue playing. Then you get on with playing the match."

The Dutch qualified for the Nations League quarter-finals with the success.

Mahrez among the scorers as Algeria finish qualifiers in style

ALGIERS

RIYAD Mahrez was back among the goals for Algeria on Sunday as they completed their Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign with a 5-1 home thrashing of Liberia on Sunday.

Mahrez had not scored for his country in his previous seven outings including their calamitous early exit from the last Cup of Nations finals in the Ivory Coast at the start of the year.

But he contributed the second goal as Algeria fought back after conceding early to register an easy win and finish their Group E campaign with five wins and a draw for a runaway 16-point haul at the top of the standings.

They ended eight points ahead of Equatorial Guinea, who lost 3-0 to Togo at the same time but still qualify in second place.

The qualifiers for the 2025 finals, which Morocco is hosting from Dec. 21, 2025 to Jan. 18, 2026, will be completed on Monday and Tuesday.

There are five places up for grabs in the 24-team field with 19 countries already qualified for the tournament.

REUTERS

Marquinhos asks Brazil fans to keep the faith

FIVE-TIMES World Cup winners Brazil have struggled to impress in South America's qualifiers for the 2026 tournament but defender Marquinhos had called on fans to stick by the side ahead of Tuesday's home game against Uruguay.

With a run of five wins, four losses and two draws, Brazil are fourth in the standings on 17 points, five behind leaders Argentina, with the top six qualifying automatically for the World Cup in North America. Uruguay are second on 19 points.

Brazil were held 1-1 in Venezuela on Thursday, with Vinicius Jr seeing a late penalty saved, and stand-in skipper Marquinhos said the players still took pride in playing for the shirt even when results did not go their way.

"Even though many things might cause people to lose hope in the national team, we ask that they never lose their passion for it," the 30-year-old told a news conference on Sunday.

Brazil, who were beaten by Uruguay in Montevideo last year, are in a transitional phase under head coach Dorival Junior and it will take some time to iron out the problems, he added.

"We will still make some mistakes because this transition is still very new, with all these changes of players and teams," said Marquinhos, who deputises for regular captain Danilo.

"But we will make fewer and fewer mistakes and that makes us happy."

"We don't worry too much about the standings as long as we're in a comfortable position. We want to win to move up the table, make the work flow better, and gain confidence."

Brazil go into Tuesday's match without a host of top players with defender Eder Militao and forwards Neymar and Rodrygo among those sidelined due to injury.

REUTERS



Harry Kane sparks England rout against Ireland and Nations League promotion

By JAMES ROBSON

HARRY Kane's 69th international goal sparked a second-half scoring spree that fired England back to the top tier of the UEFA Nations League on Sunday.

In temporary head coach Lee Carsley's final game in charge, a 5-0 win against Ireland secured promotion and ensured England will be back among Europe's leading nations in the next edition of the competition.

"I wanted the England team to be exciting to watch and attacking," Carsley said. "I see them do it day in, day out on the training ground. And now we've seen it (on the field)."

England won its group on goal difference ahead of second-placed Greece, which beat Finland 2-0.

Kane's 53rd-minute penalty at Wembley was a record-extending goal for his country after Liam Scales brought down Jude Bellingham in the box and was sent off for a second yellow card offense.

Within five minutes England was 3-0 up through Anthony Gordon in the 55th and Conor Gallagher in the 58th.

Substitute Jarrod Bowen made an immediate impact, scoring with his first touch in the 75th and Taylor Harwood-Bellis, making his debut, headed in another four minutes later.

"A really important win for us," Kane said. "It was a tough first half, but we came out second half with a lot more energy and we finished it off."

England, which is set to welcome new head coach Thomas Tuchel in January, needed to match Greece's result to top Group B2.

Anastasios Bakasetas had put Greece ahead in the 52nd in Finland, with Kane's England opener coming a minute later.

Christos Tzolis scored the second for Greece, which faces a playoff to try to win promotion.

After five wins from six games, Carsley will now return to his perma-



England's Harry Kane scores the opening goal from the penalty spot during the UEFA Nations League match between England and the Republic of Ireland at Wembley stadium in London Sunday. (AP)Darko Vojnovic/AP

nent role as head coach of England's under 21s. Tuchel begins in January and will lead the campaign to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

He should have plenty of options when he selects his first squad after Carsley handed debuts to eight players during his short reign.

In his final game, Gordon, Gallagher, Bowen and Harwood-Bellis all scored their first senior goals for England.

"Lee has achieved the main objective from the six fixtures this autumn: securing promotion back to the top tier of the Nations League," English Football Association CEO Mark Bullingham said. "The players have really enjoyed working with Lee and his team - they have made a real impact in their interim roles."

"Rabiot double

Adrien Rabiot scored two goals as France beat Italy 3-1 to win Group A2.

Both teams had already secured their places in the quarterfinals before the match in Milan, but France needed to win by at least two goals to take top spot.

"It's been a while since we've played a match like that, fighting all together," Rabiot told French television channel TF1. "The aggressiveness that we showed, our team spirit, that should all be highlighted. That is the real face of the France team."

Rabiot headed the visitors in front just inside two minutes.

France shocked San Siro into silence in the 33rd when Lucas Digne curled in a magnificent free kick from 25 yards that went into the top left corner via the underside of the bar and Guglielmo Vicario. It went down as an own-goal from the Italy goalkeeper, who was a late replacement after Gianluigi Donnarumma fell ill with a stomach bug.

Italy pulled a goal back two minutes later when Andrea Cambiaso volleyed past Mike Maignan.

But Rabiot grabbed his second in the 65th with another header - the sixth goal in a row Italy has conceded from set plays.

While the match had started with the Italy fans booing the French anthem, it finished with France sup-

porters proudly singing the same song in triumph.

It was the first time Italy had lost a home game by two or more goals since 1983, according to soccer statistician Opta.

Also in the group, No. 6-ranked Belgium fell to a surprise 1-0 loss against Israel - ranked 81st. Yarden Shua's goal settled the game, which was held in Budapest, Hungary, in the 86th. Israel was relegated to League B despite the win.

Belgium must now face a playoff to try to avoid relegation.

"Haaland hat trick

Erling Haaland leads the Nations League scoring charts after hitting a hat trick in Norway's 5-0 win against Kazakhstan in Group B3.

The Manchester City striker took his total to seven goals and is two clear of Viktor Gyokeres, Cristiano Ronaldo and Benjamin Sesko, who are all tied on five.

Norway was promoted to the top tier, ahead of second-place Austria, which drew 1-1 with Slovenia.

AP

Carsley's mission accomplished as foundations laid for Tuchel

BY PHIL MCNULTY

LEE Carsley's mission was accomplished and it took only a matter of minutes before the Football Association thanked England's interim manager for a job well done.

It came immediately after a 5-0 thrashing of the Republic of Ireland at Wembley, leaving Carsley to return to his role as England Under-21 coach, with a record of five wins from six games and the incoming Thomas Tuchel able to take control of a team back in the top tier of the Nations League.

FA chief executive officer Mark Bullingham announced Carsley will also deliver "a very detailed handover" to the German before his arrival as England head coach on 1 January.

Carsley's time in charge has had its complications, the biggest self-inflicted with his wild "no striker" team selection that was the catalyst for the embarrassing home defeat by Greece in October, a result that ultimately denied him the opportunity to leave with an unblemished record.

The 50-year-old also got caught up in chaotic mixed messaging about whether he wanted the job or not, especially when he appeared to rule himself out, and then in again, just minutes after last month's 3-1 victory in Finland - matters made worse by the FA later revealing Tuchel had already been signed and sealed even before the Greece loss.

When measured by results and player development during his six games, however, Carsley can reflect on a job very well done, revealing himself to be a coach willing to make bold decisions, giving youth its head while adopting a fearless approach to selection.

It backfired horribly against Greece but there is still plenty of positive, optimistic news he can provide Tuchel when that report lands on his desk.

There was even a statistical quirk from his final game as four England players scored their first senior goals as the Republic of Ireland subsided. They were Anthony Gordon, Conor

Gallagher, Jarrod Bowen and Taylor Harwood-Bellis, who may have brought a grimace from the watching Roy Keane - the Southampton defender's future father-in-law and a former Ireland captain - when he headed the fifth on his debut.

It was the first time this had been done since England beat Northern Ireland in October 1930, with Harry Burgess, Jimmy Hampson, Sammy Crooks and Eric Houghton the goalscorers.

It was a night when everything Carsley touched turned to gold - or more precisely goals. Bowen scored with his first touch 29 seconds after coming on, while another substitute Harwood-Bellis struck just four minutes later.

The game was changed in the 53rd minute by a flash of genius from Harry Kane, back after being left out in favour of Ollie Watkins for the 3-0 win in Athens and facing some potentially unflattering reviews after another sluggish first-half performance.

England's 31-year-old captain looked heavy-legged and off the pace in a dreadful first half from both sides, but showed the enduring quality that makes him invaluable when he showed stunning vision and range of passing from the left-hand touchline to pick out Jude Bellingham in the area with a perfect right-foot delivery.

Bellingham was floored by defender Liam Scales, who received a second yellow card. Kane scored his 69th goal for his country from the spot and it was game over.

Kane has been a central figure to Carsley's reign in charge, not least with his public and uncharacteristically outspoken slap-down of those England players who withdrew from the squad for these two internationals.

He then doubled down on his message as he insisted it endangered the culture former manager Gareth Southgate had built up during his eight years in charge, when it became a pleasure to play for the country again.

The fact that Carsley was able to engineer two such comprehensive wins with a squad depleted by those nine withdrawals will only add to his personal stock, along with both his and the FA's satisfaction.

Kane spoke out in his capacity as England's skipper, senior figure and statesman, but it did not stop Carsley showing his own decision-making strength, choosing Watkins ahead of the country's record goalscorer in Athens. It was a pick well rewarded with an early goal from Aston Villa's striker that turned a potentially hazardous task into an easy one.

Kane is still England's first choice, but Carsley's willingness to use Watkins, and the success of the move, proved he does not have to be the only choice.

Tuchel will feel the benefit of Carsley's temporary spell because of his determination to introduce youth, further opening the pathway from under-21s to senior level, and all helped by his insider knowledge of the talent com-

ing through the England system.

Carsley used 32 players overall, giving a debut to eight - Morgan Gibbs-White, Angel Gomes, Lewis Hall, Harwood-Bellis, Curtis Jones, Tino Livramento, Noni Madueke and Morgan Rogers.

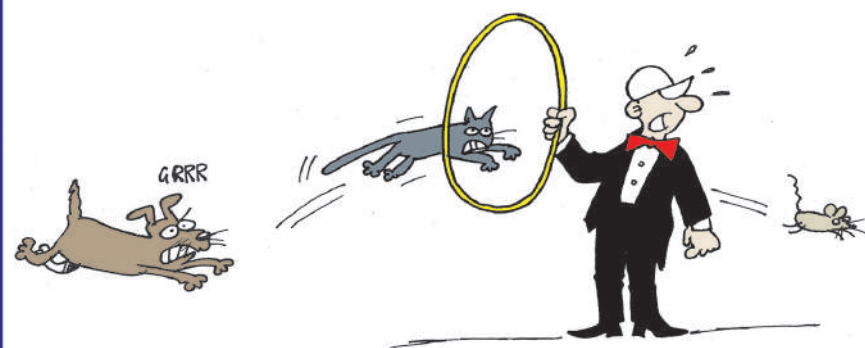
They can all reflect on their contributions with satisfaction, especially Liverpool midfielder Jones, who has looked a class act in his two starts, while Chelsea forward Madueke has looked a constant threat.

Gomes made an impression as a midfield option, Gibbs-White showed he can be a creator while there is a big opportunity for Newcastle's Hall at left-back, where Tuchel's options look short. The 19-year-old pair Rico Lewis and Kobbie Mainoo, from Manchester City and Manchester United respectively, also added to their England experiences, which will be in the positive ledge of Carsley's handover.

Eight players who figured in the England side that beat Spain to win the European Championship Under-21 final in 2023 were used by Carsley in his interim period - Levi Colwill, Harwood-Bellis, Jones, Gomes, Madueke, Cole Palmer, Gordon and Gibbs-White. Burnley goalkeeper James Trafford also played in that final and was in a squad chosen by Carsley.

It was also clear he has the respect of England's players, helped by his determination to open up the path for youngsters, a strategy appreciated by Harwood-Bellis.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Harry Kane sparks England rout against Ireland and Nations League promotion

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dauids calls for focus ahead of crucial fixtures



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach, Fadlu Dauids, has urged his squad to remain focused as they prepare for their rescheduled league clash against Pamba Jiji FC and their upcoming CAF Confederation Cup opener against Angola's Bravos do Maquis.

The Mainland Premier League fixture, initially postponed, is now set to take place on November 22 at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

Dauids (pictured) views this match as a vital opportunity to fine-tune the team's performance and maintain match fitness ahead of their Confederation Cup match on November 28.

Dauids highlighted the importance of treating each match with the same intensity and avoiding complacency. Despite Simba's strong position at the top of the league table, he stressed the need to approach Pamba FC with determination and focus.

"Each match is critical for maintaining momentum. We cannot underestimate any opponent, regardless of their position in the table. Staying focused on Pamba is crucial before we think about Bravos," Dauids emphasized.

The gaffer expressed confidence that the domestic encounter against Pamba Jiji will help the team stay sharp, particularly for players who did not participate in international fixtures during the AFCON qualifiers.

Simba recently played a friendly match against KMC, which ended in a 1-1 draw, as part of their preparation.

"The friendly against KMC was helpful in keeping the players match-fit and maintaining our rhythm. While it wasn't a competitive fixture, it allowed us to assess our performance and identify areas for improvement," he noted.

While Simba have been dominant this season - winning eight out of ten league matches, scoring 21 goals, and conceding only three - Dauids cautioned against underestimating Pamba Jiji FC, who have struggled with just one win in 11 matches.

"It's essential not to let our thoughts drift to the Bravos match prematurely. We must focus on each game individually. Underestimating Pamba would be a mistake, and I've reminded the players of the importance of staying grounded."

He added: "Uncertainty around the scheduling of the Pamba match caused some players to shift their focus to Bravos. While it's good that they are mentally preparing for the CAF game, the priority right now is Pamba."

Following the Pamba fixture, Simba will return to Dar es Salaam to host their first CAF Confederation Cup Group A match against Bravos do Maquis on November 28 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. Simba have been drawn into a challenging group that also features CS Constantine from Algeria and CS Sfaxien from Tunisia.

Simba's performances in the Mainland Premier League, where they lead with 25 points after 10 matches, have set high expectations. Dauids emphasized the importance of carrying the same level of discipline and effort into the continental competition.

"We need to ensure that the same level of commitment we show domestically is mirrored in our CAF campaign. The upcoming matches will test our ability to stay consistent under pressure," he said.

The coach aims to use the match against Pamba to refine Simba's tactical play, both offensively and defensively, while maintaining their sharpness ahead of the Confederation Cup.

Dauids hopes that this strategic approach will provide a seamless transition into the higher-stakes competition.

For Simba fans, the next two weeks are crucial, with the team balancing their domestic dominance and continental aspirations.

Dauids is determined to ensure that Simba remain a force to be reckoned with on all fronts.

27 candidates qualify for TOC General Election

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has revealed a list of 27 candidates who have met the initial requirements to contest in the committee's upcoming general election, scheduled to take place on December 14 in Dodoma.

Speaking yesterday, TOC election chairperson Ibrahim Mkwawa confirmed that all 27 individuals cleared the first round of vetting for the 12 available positions.

This election marks the first under the new TOC constitutional amendments, which transitioned the roles of Secretary General and Treasurer from elected to appointed positions.

The battle for the TOC presidency is shaping up to be a competitive four-way race, with Michael Washa, Anthony Mtaka, Henry Tandau, and Nasra Mohammed vying for the top position.

The vice presidency has two contenders, Suleiman Jabir and Jamal Iddi, making it a straightforward but equally important race.

A total of 20 candidates are competing for seats on the TOC Executive Committee.

According to Mkwawa, the committee will consist of five members each from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, with a mandate to ensure at least two female candidates from each side.

"We have 27 people who have met the requirements to contest in the TOC general election. The process is ongoing. Complaints can be lodged today and tomorrow, and the final decision on these complaints will be made on Tuesday next week," Mkwawa stated.

The finalized list of candidates is expected to be announced on December 3, with campaigning slated to run from December 5 to December 13.

Mkwawa reiterated the committee's commitment to gender equity, ensuring that women candidates are adequately represented in the election.

"Gender balance will remain a priority as we prepare for this election," he emphasized.

The TOC election process is being overseen by a dedicated commission led by Mkwawa, with Malangwe Ali Mchungahela serving as vice chairperson and Halfani Omari as secretary.

As the election date approaches, the TOC's commitment to a transparent, inclusive, and competitive process is clear.

All eyes will now turn to the campaigning period, where candidates will present their vision for the future of Tanzanian sports development.

Tanzania, Guinea square off in AFCON 2025 qualifier decider



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA host Guinea at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium this afternoon in their final Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 qualifying match in Group H, desperate for maximum points to secure their spot at the continental showpiece.

On Saturday, Taifa Stars kept their AFCON 2025 qualification hopes alive after a 2-0 win against Ethiopia in Kinshasa.

First-half goals from Saimon Msuva and Feisal Salum saw Hemed Morocco's side bounce back from a 2-0 defeat to group leaders DR Congo last month to claim their second win of the qualifying campaign.

However, Tanzania are still two points behind their second-placed visitors. They must win against Guinea to qualify, and they will be counting on home advantage when they take to the pitch against the West Africans.

Tanzania came from behind

to defeat Guinea 2-1 in the first leg of this fixture played in September and they are eager to build on it, a result that coach Morocco (pictured) is expected to use as inspiration for his side against an opponent they have won twice and lost once.

In his pre-match press, coach Morocco emphasized that all his players are in good shape and aware of what is at stake in the game.

"It is our last game that is a decider and we all know that as we try to do our best to ensure we get the desired result. I think we are in a better position than at any other time," he said.

However, one concern for the Taifa Stars is their recent poor home record. Taifa Stars have not won any of their last three home matches, including the two they have played in this AFCON qualifying campaign against Ethiopia and DR Congo.

Despite the quick turnaround from the weekend's game at Stade des Martyrs de la Pentecôte, coach Morocco is set to pick a similar XI to that which lined up against Ethiopia, given what is at stake.

On the flip side, Guinea are heading into

this encounter with the mission to avoid defeat, as a draw would be enough to clinch the second ticket in Group H.

Having begun their campaign with back-to-back losses, the National Elephants turned it around in style by winning their next three.

A crushing 4-1 win over Ethiopia ignited a comeback, as they then beat them again 3-0 in the return.

Borussia Dortmund striker, Serhou Guirassy, scored a stoppage-time strike to secure all three points against Congo DR on Saturday, ensuring that the Syli National remain in the driving seat heading into the final game.

Head coach Kaba Diawara will be pleased with his team's turnaround in this AFCON qualifying series, having won their last three games in a row, scoring eight goals and conceding just once; six of those eight goals came from the in-form Guirassy.

Stats also show Guinea have won two of their last three away games - against Ethiopia in AFCON qualifiers and against Algeria in World Cup qualifiers - and this will give them confidence against Taifa Stars.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
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 shapping 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