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RITA urges institutions to tender annual returns



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Govt to distribute 1.5m insecticide-treated nets



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Tree planting campaign to protect Dodoma's ring road



President Samia Suluhu Hassan draws a curtain with Andrea Azzola, an investor, at Bawe Island in Zanzibar, to launch a new hotel, as part of events to mark 61 years of the Zanzibar Revolution yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia amplifies project urgency across 15 leased Zanzibar islands

Such markets enhance the economic status of hardworking farmers, he said, urging those entrusted with the projects to make sure that they deliver

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Union and Zanzibar authorities have jointly appealed for prompt take up of projects already applied for and obtaining licences.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, accompanied by Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan, setting a three-month preliminary observation schedule for already licenced to begin implementing their projects in 15 small islands.

He issued this appeal at the launch of the Cocoon Collection hotel on Bawe islet in the Zanzibar Urban West Region, underlining that the projects need to be implemented within the specified period as otherwise there is a risk of the licence.

President Samia noted that the projects need to start without delay, as they are vital to Zanzibar economic expectations.

Completing those initiatives would transform Zanzibar, enhancing the productive use of idle islands and positively impacting the surrounding communities, she stated.

The launched hotel is a \$40m project, expected to employ over 400 local residents and enhance the scenic beauty of its shoreline. Bawe islet where the hotel is located, is among 15 small islands leased by the Zanzibar government for investment outlays.

The Union leader commended the Zanzibar authorities for implementing the ruling party manifesto, pointing at highlighting various projects outlined in the 2020 plan.

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Health minister in anti-TB drive for 76 districts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has launched a programme to identify tuberculosis (TB) patients in 76 districts in nine regions.

Jenister Mhagama, the Health minister, said at the launch of the programme here yesterday that it is part of efforts to eradicate the disease countrywide by 2030.

The government has allocated 185 new testing equipment costing 7bn/- altogether for detection of pathogens in laboratory samples, she said, noting that current estimates put annual new cases at 122,000 thus coming to 183 patients per 100,000 people.

By late 2023 a total of 93,250 patients were identified and treated, equivalent to 76 percent of the overall total of 122,000 patients, on the basis of estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), she explained.

The WHO Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2024 indicates that country data show an improvement on the two TB burden indicators of TB incidence rate and TB deaths, she stated.

The TB incidence rate has been reduced by up to 40 percent in the past

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'TRA must be strict with all tax evaders'

By Correspondent Allan Isack, Arusha

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has to take a firm stance against tax evaders, given their detrimental impact on the nation's development.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, issued this instruction when opening a five-day working session for senior TRA officials here yesterday, underlining that tax evaders hinder the country's progress. "Deal with them decisively and without

fear, as the law protects you and the nation stands with you," the minister intoned, insisting that tax evasion creates inequalities in economic activity.

TRA officials need to intensify efforts as no individual, regardless of status, is above the law, he said, describing tax evasion as unacceptable. "Do not fear criticism, as development relies on the taxes collected by the government," he specified, asking TRA officials to adopt strategies that target habitual defaulters without disrupting busi-

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'CCM has able cadres for replacing Kinana'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE ruling party has a pool of experienced and capable leaders to take the place of former Mainland vice chairman Abdulrahman Kinana (pictured), the party secretariat has declared.

Amos Makalla, the Ideology, Publicity and Training secretary, made this at a media briefing relating to preparations for the party congress slated for January 16 to 18 in the capital.

"There has been a wave of rumours and fervent speculation about who will be picked for Kinana's position, with some notable names being suggested. But I want to make it clear that the position of CCM vice chairman is not contested. It is filled through nomination at high-level meetings of the party," he said.

He emphasized that the party will adhere to its constitution to nominate a clearly capable leader who will handle the vice chairmanship role for the Mainland in a patriotic manner, committed to ensuring the party's political success.

The congress, preceded by sessions of the party's central committee and national executive committee, is the final stage of the nomination and endorsement of a new vice chairman for the vacancy left by the veteran party administrator and decades-long cabinet minister, who resigned back in July.

"All preparations for the key party gatherings have been completed under the supervision of secretary general Emmanuel Nchimbi," he affirmed.

The congress will have three agenda items, first selecting the Mainland vice chairman, receiving a report on the party's activities and achievements from 2022 to 2025, and reviewing the implementation of the party's election manifestos for the two parts of the union, he added.



The Guardian Limited Print Manager Balasubramanian Venkadachalam (R) explains the process of printing newspapers to Chinese Ambassador Chen Mingjian when she visited premises of this newspaper at Mikochei Light Industries Area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Samia amplifies project urgency across 15 leased Zanzibar islands

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including port construction at Mangapwani and Kizimkazi, now in progress.

"Zanzibar has undergone significant changes, with construction projects emerging across the island, showing positive development," she stated, while the Zanzibar leader stressed that the government was keen on progress in the projects being observed rapidly.

Licenses would be revoked from those failing to follow through, he cautioned, pointing out that this kind of investment not only creates jobs but also opens markets for agricultural products.

Such markets enhance the economic status of hardworking farmers, he said, urging those entrusted with the projects to make sure that they deliver.

The leasing of small islands in Unguja and Pemba is meant to boost the tourism sector and productively utilize them as assets, he said, hinting that some of them were earlier being used as contact points for illicit activities, including drug trafficking.

To date, 16 small islands have been leased for investment, with the Bawe island hotel being the first to be launched, he said, affirming that investors received support from the surrounding communities, particularly fishermen, as they brought medical services nearer.

In 2022, the Zanzibar government announced plans to market its islets to prospective investors, as Zanzibar boasts over 50 islets. Some of them have already secured investments, while a range of others are still idle, he added.

Minister unveils anti-TB cases drive in 76 districts

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decade, from 306 in 2015 to 183 in 2023, while the number of deaths due to TB whether HIV-positive or negative dropped by 68 percent, from 58,000 in 2015 to 18,400 deaths in 2023, the report noted.

Tanzania is thus among three countries with high TB burdens on track to reach the 'end TB' milestone by reducing the incidence rate by 50 percent in 2025. It also features among 13 countries in reducing the number of TB deaths by 75 percent during the period, she specified. She said that Tanzania is doing well in the fight against TB, currently ranked sixth among high burden countries that are doing well, citing efforts to do better since the country is still among 30 countries globally with the highest TB prevalence.

The 30 countries together account for 87 percent of all TB patients in the world, she said, expressing satisfaction at the great impetus to combat the disease as the government collaborates with other stakeholders in increasing efforts to contain TB spread.

"Today we are launching 75 modern GeneXpert machines used at the hospital level, and 110 Truenat machines which have been designed to facilitate work up at the

dispensary level," she stated.

Distributing the new equipment is expected to strengthen the network of services for examining and detecting TB pathogens through genetic testing of samples.

There will now be a total of 569 machines for such tests, also testing drug resistance, moving from 384 machines in 2023 thus registering a 48 percent increase, the minister noted.

Janeth Mayanja, the Chamwino district commissioner standing in for the regional commissioner, hailed government efforts to improve health services countrywide.

The machines provided will help in early diagnosis of TB patients, thus identifying more people who suffer from the disease and accessing treatment early, she said.

Dr. Ahmad Makuwani, the Health acting permanent secretary, said that despite the persistent TB threat, Tanzania has made great strides in fighting the disease, placed among six high burden countries that are doing well.

Great efforts are now being directed at identifying new patients as the government invests in medical technology, especially in medical equipment. The idea is to 'leave no one behind' in the TB eradication drive, by 2030.

Six business persons in court over 2.1bn/- loss

By Guardian Reporter

SIX business people based in Dar es Salaam Region have appeared before Kinondoni Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday, facing various counts related to the loss of over 2.1bn/-.

The accused individuals, who include two brothers and several others, were charged with multiple offences related to tax fraud and manipulation of the Tanzania Revenue Authority's (TRA) system.

According to the charge sheet read in court on Monday by Senior State Attorney Daisy Makakala, assisted by State Attorney Auni Chilamula, the accused persons are Stanislaus Mushi (27) and Nemence Mushi (29), both residents of Malamba Mawili in Ubungo District, Rose Nanga (33), a marketing accountant at Kimara in Ubungo District and Hussein Mlezi (37), a computer specialist at Kijichi Mbagala Kuu in Temeke District.

Others are Edwin Mark (22), a businessman from Yombo Vituka in Temeke District, and Salim Salehe (45), an artist from Vinginguti in Ilala District.

The charges were presented before Kinondoni Chief Resident Magistrate Ramadhan Rugemari.

According to the prosecution, the first 64 counts involve manipulating the TRA system.

The charges include fraudulent activity, namely registration of taxpayer identification number (TIN), value added tax (VAT) numbers, and electronic fiscal device (EFD) machines. One specific charge involves causing significant financial loss to TRA.

Makakala outlined the details of

the charges, noting that between November 1 and November 30, 2024, the accused persons fraudulently manipulated TRA system at various locations in Dar es Salaam.

It was alleged that the group used an EFD machine, registered under the number 3TZ843058288, which is owned by one Hadija Songea, to issue false receipts worth over 2bn/-. This was allegedly done to distort TRA system and mislead TRA Commissioner General by reporting inflated sales figures under Songea's name.

Further charges against the accused involve registration of fraudulent TIN, VAT and EFD machines in Songea's name. Specifically, between June 1 and June 30, 2024, Mushi, Nanga, and Salehe are accused of fraudulently registering a TIN and an EFD machine under Songea's name.

Additionally, between October 1 and October 31, 2024, the accused are alleged to have fraudulently registered VAT number under Songea's name.

The 68th count alleges that between November 1 and November 30, 2024, the accused caused TRA loss of 2,160,310,567.5/- in VAT revenue.

The accused face charges under Section 284A of the Penal Code, in conjunction with the Economic Sabotage Act.

Upon hearing the charges, the accused were not allowed to enter any plea, as the court does not have jurisdiction to hear cases related to economic sabotage. The prosecution said the investigation was ongoing.

The case was adjourned until January 20, 2025 for mention.



Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango congratulates Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama after his swearing-in ceremony during celebrations held at the Independence Square in Accra yesterday. Photo: VPO

'TRA must be strict with all tax evaders'

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nesses.

"Closing businesses or freezing accounts discourages bank usage, complicating tax collection. Instead, focus on addressing the defaulters themselves," he explained.

Dr. Nchemba highlighted the need to combat the use of fake electronic fiscal receipts, which contribute to revenue losses, as

TRA needs to ensure that all government revenue is collected, by curbing fraudulent practices.

Fostering a positive relationship between taxpayers and tax collectors vital as there is no enmity between the two. "A good relationship will expand the taxpayer base. Taxpayers are not slaves; they only need to fulfill their duty," he declared.

Yusuf Mwenda, the TRA com-

missioner general, reported that from July to December 2024, TRA surpassed its revenue collection target, obtaining 104 per cent of estimates.

It heightened its monthly targets through cooperation with compliant traders rather than by using coercive tactics, he specified, similarly attributing increased tax collections to growth of activity at the Dar es Salaam port, largely owing

to the presence of DP World port concession holder.

Tax evasion remains a challenge globally and domestically, he said, stressing TRA commitment to educating the public on voluntary compliance over tax obligations.

"We will engage various community groups, including influential figures, politicians, media personalities and religious leaders to promote tax education," he specified.



Finance Minister Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, speaks during the opening of a special five-day training for the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, focusing on public financial management, organized by the Ministry of Finance through the Office of the Accountant General in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Ministry of Finance

CBT decries cashewnut smuggling, says to sue for economic sabotage

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE Cashewnut Board of Tanzania (CBT) in Tanga Region has issued stern warning to farmers involved in illegal practices of smuggling cashewnuts outside the country instead of selling through official auction process.

Atufigwege Mwakyagi, CBT Tanga manager condemned the activities because, saying they are tantamount to economic sabotage

that undermines both local agriculture sector and the national economy.

In an interview with this paper on Monday, Mwakyagi said that farmers who engage in smuggling of goods face government action.

He highlighted the significance of cashewnuts as a strategic national crop, crucial to the economic development of the region and the country as a whole.

"The government has invested

heavily in boosting cashewnut production to benefit both farmers and the nation," Mwakyagi said, adding: "Efforts are underway to ensure smooth functioning of the legal auction process."

He specifically pointed to the growing challenge of smuggling across the border to neighbouring countries, revealing that authorities were working closely with various stakeholders to curb the illegal trade and encourage farmers to

deliver their nut to registered primary cooperative societies, which then transfer them to central warehouses. He also urged farmers to maintain high-quality standards for their crops, warning that poor-quality cashewnuts would not attract good prices at the auction.

"Farmers must understand that quality of their harvest directly impacts the prices they receive. Selling low-quality nuts will only reduce their earnings," he said.



Suspects in the murder of Christina Nindi Kibiki, who was Secretary of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) in Kilolo District, were brought before Iringa district Magistrate's Court yesterday for the third time. The case was adjourned until January 21 of this year. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

RITA urges institutions to tender annual returns

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Registration, Insolvency, and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has called on boards of trustees of various institutions to fulfill their legal obligations, including submission of annual returns. In a recent meeting with stakeholders from Dar es Salaam, Coast, and Morogoro regions, held in Morogoro, RITA Chief Registrar and Executive Director, Frank Kanyusi, underscored the importance of strengthening the management and regulation of the boards for the benefit of their members and the nation. "I urge institutions to visit RITA and register their boards of trustees, as a task force will soon begin inspections," Kanyusi stated. "Institutions operating without registration will face legal action."

He reminded participants that, under the law, boards of trustees must operate in the best interests of the institutions they manage, without personal financial gain. Trustees must also be fully aware of their institution's resources and liabilities. "Under the Trusteeship Act, Chapter 318, entities required to have a Board of Trustees include political parties, religious organizations and sports associations such as football, handball and basketball clubs," he explained.

"The law also applies to private social institutions, economic associations and professional bodies." Kanyusi further explained that the Chief Registrar acts as the Principal Trustee, overseeing and coordinating the registration and regulation of the boards. He also highlighted ongoing challenges in some institutions, particularly religious organizations, sports clubs, and

political parties, where unethical trustees often fail to meet their responsibilities.

"By collaborating with stakeholders and ensuring full compliance, we can protect funds and assets that may otherwise be misused or misappropriated," he said.

Registrar of Civil Society Organisations in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Emmanuel Kihampa, noted that registered associations gain legal legitimacy but must also register their boards of trustees with RITA to function effectively.

"There are significant conflicts in religious institutions and political parties due to disputes over assets. Such institutions lack boards of trustees that should oversee and protect the assets," he said.

Muhidin Mapeyo, Head of Legal Department at the Registrar of Political Parties, discussed amendments to Chapter 258 of the law, which now separates the duties of political party leaders from those of their party's Board of Trustees. This aims to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure proper oversight of party assets.

"The law now prevents political party leaders from also serving as trustees, unlike before when they held both roles, leading to mismanagement and abuse of power," Mapeyo explained.

The meeting was attended by stakeholders from various organizations, including the Registrar of Civil Society Organizations, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), the Commissioner of Lands, District Administrative Officers, District Executive Directors from Dar es Salaam, Coast, and Morogoro, the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA), and representatives from religious bodies such as BAKWATA, TEC, CCT, SDA, FPCT, and the Tanzania Sports Council (BMT).

By Getrude Mbagu

Electricity import from Ethiopia to address constant voltage instability

THE government has outlined efforts to address ongoing voltage instability in the country's northern regions, with a new electricity import deal with Ethiopia.

Despite Tanzania's overall surplus of electricity, regions such as Arusha, Manyara, Tanga and Kilimanjaro face challenges with voltage fluctuations, which the government aims to resolve through power imports.

Renata Ndege, Deputy Managing Director for Planning, Research and Investment at the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), said during a media workshop in Dar es Salaam at the weekend that purchasing electricity from Ethiopia would stabilize voltage

and ensure reliable power supply. Ndege highlighted that Tanzania's grid is already interconnected with Kenya's, enabling seamless flow of electricity from Ethiopia.

She said the initiative will involve purchase of 100 megawatts.

Recently, Ethiopian Electric Power CEO Ashebir Balcha said as part of the East Africa Electric Highway Project, electricity trials between Kenya and Tanzania were underway where the final grid testing phase started.

In his statement, Balcha said the project is supported by key international financial institutions including the World Bank, African

Development Bank, and French Development Cooperative, strengthening regional energy security and connectivity.

Ndege said TANESCO also plans to expand its reach through the Tanzania-Zambia (TAZA) power project.

Once completed, the initiative will connect Tanzania to 13 Southern Power Pool member countries and the Eastern African Power Pool via Kenya. The project involves construction of a 400 kV line spanning 616 kilometers from Iringa through Mbeya to Songwe and Sumbawanga.

Other notable 2024

achievements include the electrification of the Kigoma Region, reducing reliance on costly diesel-powered generators, and progress in the Chalinze power supply project, which is nearing completion.

Additionally, efforts to resolve power supply issues in Mtwara, Lindi, and Tanga are underway, with a 20 MW gas-powered electricity plant set up in Mtwara, and strengthened transmission lines toward Tanga.

The initiatives aim to ensure a more stable and sustainable electricity supply across Tanzania and the wider East African region.



CCM Secretary for Ideology, Publicity and Training, Amos Makala, speaks to journalists (not pictured) in Dodoma yesterday about the upcoming meetings of the party's Central Committee, National Executive Committee and the General Assembly, scheduled to take place in Dodoma this month. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Minister, apiculture stakeholders discuss coming global conference

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr. Pindi Chana is today scheduled to meet the leadership of the Tanzania Beekeeping Development Organisation (TABEDO) to discuss key issues surrounding development of Tanzania's apiculture sector.

A key focus of the meeting is the government's directives and preparations for hosting the global beekeeping summit, APIMONDIA, in 2027.

Tanzania has been selected to host APIMONDIA, which will take place from September 20-25, 2027, in Arusha. The event is expected to draw over 10,000 international beekeeping stakeholders from at least 133 countries.

TABEDO is the sole Tanzanian beekeeping association with membership in APIMONDIA, making it vital for the organization to fully engage in preparations for the event.

Deputy Chairperson of TABEDO, Kaizerege Camara, expressed appreciation for the minister's engagement and stressed the importance of the meeting in addressing sector challenges.

"We are grateful the minister has recognized the importance of meeting with us. We hope this will mark a new chapter in the sector's development," he said.

Camara highlighted challenges such as interference in forest reserves where beekeeping occurs and a shortage of skilled honey producers. He also noted that many local beekeepers lack modern tools, are uncertain about markets for their products, and lack a proper monitoring system in the honey supply chain.

He expressed optimism that the meeting would address these issues, helping elevate the sector's performance and ensuring Tanzania is well-prepared to host APIMONDIA.

As the central beekeeping association, TABEDO has a strategic plan aimed at significantly boosting the sector's contribution to national income, particularly through foreign currency earnings.

"Our efforts focus on improving services for our members. We aim to reach 100,000 beekeepers and gather accurate statistics to help the government plan effective development strategies to increase honey production and improve quality for export," Camara explained.

The ministry's latest statistics show approximately 2 million beekeepers in Tanzania, producing 31,000 tons of honey annually, generating about 5.18 million USD in revenue. Experts believe the sector has the potential to produce up to 138,000 tons per year.

Tanzania was chosen to host APIMONDIA due to its beekeepers' mastery of honey harvesting techniques that ensure both abundant harvests and bee health. These methods, including "Smoke and Selective Hive Opening" and balancing harvests with bee health, have earned international recognition.

Other contributing factors include expertise in hive management, beekeeping education, beehive construction, and a collaborative effort between beekeepers and conservationists to promote a greener Tanzania.

APIMONDIA, organised by the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations, facilitates knowledge exchange through congresses and symposia, bringing together beekeepers, scientists, traders, development agents, and legislators.

Tanzania ranks 14th globally and 2nd in Africa in beekeeping. Its honey and beeswax are mainly exported to Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Oman, USA, Japan, Botswana, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, tDRC, Somalia and Kenya.

TCRA launches 2nd season of 'it's very easy' campaign

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has launched the second season of its "It's Very Easy" campaign at Nyamanzi Grounds in Fumba, Zanzibar, during international trade fair leading up to the celebration of Zanzibar Revolution Day.

The event, which began on January 5, 2025, was officially inaugurated by Minister for Industry and Trade, Dr Selemani Jafo.

This season aims to raise awareness about the significance of DOT TZ domain. TCRA officers present at the

pavilion, including Sophia Mabada and Jasmine Kiyungi, emphasised that using DOT TZ domain helps identify individuals or businesses as Tanzanian, promoting trust and smooth business transactions.

Kiyungi explained that DOT TZ domain offers enhanced security by keeping all data and infrastructure within Tanzania, making it easier to address any technical issues locally. "Let's return home to our domain," she said.

Since its inception on October 1, 2024, the "It's Very Easy" campaign has made a significant impact among communication

stakeholders. The campaign has helped reduce online fraud by encouraging the public to report cybercrimes through the helpline number 15040. Additionally, it has led to a reduction in the use of fraudulently registered SIM cards by promoting verification of SIM cards linked to national IDs via *106#. Those who found unauthorized SIM cards linked to their IDs were able to cancel them through service providers.

Esvatie Masinga, TCRA Manage in Zanzibar stated that while the current season is focused on promoting DOT TZ

domain, the campaign will continue to educate the public on communication services and opportunities in the ICT sector. She highlighted the importance of leveraging communication technologies for job creation, online business promotion, and economic growth.

Furthermore, Masinga emphasised the transformative role of ICT in today's world and TCRA's commitment to nurturing young innovators and children to embrace ICT, equipping them with the skills needed for social and economic advancement.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO TANZANIA PAYS A VISIT TO TGL



The Guardian Limited Deputy General Manager Jackson Paulo welcomes Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian at The Guardian Limited offices at Mikocheni Light Industrial Area in Dar es Salaam yesterday.



Ambassador Chen exchanges greetings with TGL Finance Manager Samuel Organess after her arrival. Others are The Guardian Newspaper Managing Editor Wallace Mauggo (2nd L) and TGL DGM Jackson Paulo.



The Guardian Newspaper Managing Editor Wallace Mauggo (C) shows Ambassador Chen around TGL newsroom.



Nipashe Newspaper Managing Editor Beatrice Bandawe (L) speaks to Ambassador Chen.



Ambassador Chen (L) gets briefing at TGL digital section from News Reporter Mary Kadoke.



TGL Printing Manager Balasubramanian Venkadachalam (L) shows Ambassador Chen newspaper printing processes.



Ambassador Chen (L) in a meeting with The Guardian Limited team. The meeting was chaired by TGL Deputy General Manager Jackson Paulo (R).



TGL Deputy General Manager Jackson Paulo (C) and The Guardian Newspaper Managing Editor Wallace Mauggo receive the New Year gift from Ambassador Chen. All Photos: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Zanzibar Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwita, cuts the ribbon to officially open a grain storage warehouse at Ole Dodeani in Chake Chake District as part of the celebrations marking the 61st anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Police now eye passengers of overloaded motorcycles

By Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have warned passengers who exceed capacity on motorcycles and three-wheelers, saying they will face legal action, including being removed from the vehicles and handed over to authorities.

The warning was issued by Mbeya Regional Police Commander Benjamin Kuzaga during a recent operation to check various traffic violations.

Kuzaga stated that three-wheelers are only permitted to carry three passengers, and anyone attempting to board an already full one will face severe penalties to act as a deterrent to others.

"We've launched this operation to reduce frequent road accidents that have resulted in severe harm to people and their property," Kuzaga explained.

He added that some passengers of tuktuks are seen hanging off

the vehicles, saying if caught, they will be removed and subjected to legal actions. He emphasized that the operation will be ongoing and he will personally participate regularly.

Kuzaga also pointed out that some motorcycle taxi riders have been carrying more than one passenger, known as "mishikaki," which is a violation of the law.

Officer in charge of traffic in Mbeya Region Notca Kilewa urged public vehicle operators to stop the practice of not using set routes, warning that they will face legal consequences as the practice violates traffic laws.

He explained that the acts increase the cost of living for the public as passengers are forced to pay double fares instead of one.

"Anyone caught will face legal action, and I urge traffic officers to enforce the law by dealing with drivers who violate road safety regulations," Kilewa added.

He also mentioned that police were collaborating with Land Transport Regulatory Authority to take action against violators, and that anyone who witnesses a driver using illegal route should report it with vehicle details.

"We are working with LATRA to take action. If you see a driver taking a non-official route, note down the vehicle number and report it. We will not hesitate to take action against them," Kilewa said.

He emphasized that police are often blamed when accidents occur, so they focus on addressing the issue of irresponsible driving to reduce the complaints.

DC calls for resolution of peoples' challenges without discrimination

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TARIME District Commissioner, Major Edward Gowele, has called on village and mtaa government leaders to address citizens' concerns fairly and without discrimination.

Speaking recently at an orientation meeting for local leaders following the 2024 local government elections, Gowele emphasized the importance of resolving issues such as land disputes peacefully and fairly.

He urged leaders to manage conflicts within their communities impartially and to refer unresolved matters to legal authorities when necessary.

"Ensure every Tanzanian receives services and their rights on time wherever they are," Gowele said, stressing the need for justice and equality in service delivery.

Gowele also highlighted key priorities for the district, including improving education by ensuring all eligible children are enrolled in schools and overseeing development projects that contribute to the community's welfare.

Tarime Rural legislator Mwita Waitara advised leaders to avoid corrupt practices such as bribery and serve the public selflessly.

"Do not misuse your office seals to oppress vulnerable citizens. Serve the people with

integrity and work toward improving the lives of your constituents," he said.

Ng'eregere Village Chairperson Chacha Amiri proposed that the local government considers paying leaders a monthly allowance from internal revenues, given that village and mtaa leaders currently serve without formal government compensation.

The suggestion aims to reduce leaders' reliance on citizens for financial support while performing their duties.

The meeting aimed at building capacity of local government leaders to ensure effective governance and service delivery for residents of Tarime.



Contractor of a project under the Tanzania Cities Infrastructure Improvement Project (TACTIC) in Kahama Municipal Council, Shinyanga Region, puts culvert at the drainage channels to prevent water from entering residential areas at Nyasubi Street yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Govt to distribute 1 million insecticide-treated nets free

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

THE government is set to distribute 1.5 million insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) free of charge to households in Shinyanga Region as part of its ongoing efforts to combat malaria.

The distribution initiative, launched under the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), aims to provide each household with a net for every two people, as the government strives to eliminate malaria by 2030.

Peter Gitanya, senior official in the Ministry of Health, revealed the details here yesterday during a press briefing with journalists from the region.

He explained that the distribution will be conducted door-to-door, ensuring that all households are reached.

"We are currently in the process of registering households," Gitanya said, urging citizens to register between January 2 and 15, to ensure they receive their nets on January 16," he said.

Gitanya also highlighted the importance of registration, noting that households that fail to register by the deadline will not be eligible for the nets during the scheduled distribution.

Malaria remains a significant health issue in the country, and Shinyanga ranks fourth in the nation with a high malaria prevalence rate of 16 percent, well above the national average of 8 percent. The region follows Tabora, which has the highest malaria rate at 24 percent, Mtwara at 20 percent and Kagera at 18 percent.

Happiness Nania, also an official in the Ministry of Health, reassured citizens that those who have lost their registration cards can still

collect their nets by visiting relevant distribution centres.

Acting Shinyanga Regional Medical Officer, Faustine Mlyutu, called for active participation by journalists in the campaign, urging them to use their platforms to educate the public on the correct use of insecticide-treated nets.

"Use your pens to educate the community about the proper use of insecticide-treated nets so that we can build a malaria-free Shinyanga," Mlyutu said.

Greyson Kakuru, Chairperson of Shinyanga Press Club commended the government for coming up with the campaign, saying it further highlights its commitment to reducing malaria transmission and improving public health in the region.

He also emphasized the crucial role journalists can play in ensuring the correct message is communicated to the public.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 2002
COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

CONTAINER SPACE SOLUTIONS TANZANIA LIMITED
(In Liquidation: Company Number 18987)

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all the interested parties and the general public that a GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on 25th January 2025 at the registered office of the liquidator, at 10:30 in the morning EAT, at which the liquidator will lay an account of the winding up of the Company and provide any explanation thereof.

Liquidator (s) LINDA ALLAN MWAMBETE
Liquidator's address 368 MASASANI ROAD
MIKUMI HOUSE
OYSTERBAY
P.O. BOX 9673
DAR ES SALAAM
TANZANIA

Date of appointment 13 NOVEMBER 2024
By whom appointed MEMBERS

Signed: [Signature] Date: 24 December 2024
Name in Block Letters: LINDA ALLAN MWAMBETE

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WATER

Invitation for Pre-Qualification
Tender No. 49/2023-2024/W/11

URBAN WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMME PHASE 2 OF THE 7 TOWNS URBAN UPGRADE PROGRAMME

Construction Works for Water Supply Measures in Babati - LOT 1
Construction Works for Water Supply Measures in Babati - LOT 2
Project Ref No: BMZ N°: 2012 65 156 AND 2015 68 138

Funding: The Government of Tanzania and The German Government represented by Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW).

Date: 8th January 2025

- Project Measures:**
The objective of the Urban Water and Sanitation Programme Phase 2 of the 7 Towns Urban Upgrading Programme - Babati Water Supply Infrastructure is to provide safe, reliable and sustainable water supply services in Babati, Tanzania and thereby contribute to improvement in access, health, social well-being and living standards of the beneficiaries. The project will improve existing infrastructure and enhance the operational, commercial and service delivery efficiency of the Babati Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (BAWASA).

The water and wastewater services on the project area are now under the responsibility of BAWASA.

As of August 2023, there are twenty-one (21) water sources in Babati Town Council (TC):
 - Groundwater sources (16 boreholes)
 - Surface water sources (4 springs through intake)
 - Bacho WTP, with a designed capacity of 13,000 m³.
- The Tanzania Ministry of Water intends to prequalify contractors for the Work Contracts for LOT 1 and LOT 2 which are based on the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Building and Engineering Works designed by the Employer (Pink Book). Expected Construction Period is 18 Months and 15 months for LOT 1 and LOT 2, respectively + 12 Months Defect Notification Period.
- Applicants with qualified personnel, appropriate facilities and experience in the execution of comparable projects may request additional information to prepare pre-qualification documents for the above contracts. Pre-qualification documents will be available in English language at the address below and are free of charge. The documents must be completed and submitted in English language. Pre-qualification documents will be collected both physically and electronically through email pmu@maji.go.tz upon submission of application letter to the Secretary Ministerial Tender Board Ministry of Water, Government City, Maji Street, P. O. Box 456, Dodoma.
- Prequalification will be subject to KfW's "Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Plant, Goods and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries", see https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Richtlinien/Vergerichtlinien-2019-Englisch-Internet_2.pdf
- Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from the Ministry of Water at the address below during office hours, from 8:00 to 15:30 hours, Monday to Friday inclusive, except on public holidays. A complete set of prequalification documents in English language may be obtained free of charge by interested Applicants upon the submission of a written application to the address below.
- Applications for prequalification should be submitted physically in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 hours local time on **Friday, 7th February 2025**, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Lot 1- Construction Works for Water Supply Measures in Babati and/or Application to Prequalify for Lot 2- Construction Works for Water Supply Measures in Babati". Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **Friday, 7th February 2025**, at 11:00 hours local time. This advert can also be found in the Germany Trade and Investment (GTAI).

The address (es) referred to above is Postal Address:
Secretary, Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Water,
Ground floor, right-wing, PMU office No.1, Government City - Mtumba, Maji Street,
P.O. Box 456 Dodoma, Tanzania

PERMANENT SECRETARY

DAR RAPID TRANSIT AGENCY



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF CNG GAS FOR BUSES ON DART PHASE TWO

The **Dar Rapid Transit (DART) Agency** is a Governmental entity established by **Government Notice (GN) No. 120 of 25th May 2007** under the **Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of 1997**. The Agency's mandate is to **plan, develop, and manage an efficient public transport system** in Dar es Salaam to reduce traffic congestion, promote sustainability, and improve urban mobility.

- DART invites qualified suppliers/investors to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) supply for a fleet of 755 buses operating on BRT Phase Two. The selected supplier will also construct and operate the CNG refueling infrastructure (Mother and Daughter Stations) to ensure smooth and continuous fueling operations.
- The supplier will enter into direct contracts with bus operators for CNG supply, while the DART will oversee regulatory compliance, safety standards, and operational effectiveness.
- The Role of DART will include:
 - Oversight:** Ensure compliance with safety and regulatory standards.
 - Leasing Space:** Facilitate land leasing for fueling station construction.
 - Coordination:** Ensure no disruption to BRT operations by working closely with bus operators and stakeholders.
- Scope of Work
The successful supplier will be required to:
 - CNG Supply:** Provide a continuous, reliable supply to 755 buses.
 - Refueling Infrastructure:**
 - Mother Station:** Establish a central refueling station for compressing and storing CNG.
 - Daughter Stations:** Develop strategically located refueling stations for convenient bus access.
 - Maintenance:** Design, construct, and maintain all fueling infrastructure, including compressors, storage tanks, dispensers, and safety systems.
 - Safety Compliance:** Adhere to Tanzania's health, safety, and environmental regulations.
 - Technology:** Implement automated fueling processes and real-time monitoring systems.
 - Sustainability:** Minimize environmental impact in line with waste management and emissions standards.
 - Reliability:** Ensure system redundancy and backup solutions for uninterrupted fuel supply.
 - Scalability:** Design infrastructure to accommodate future fleet and station expansion
 - Collaboration:** Coordinate with DART, bus operators, and other stakeholders for seamless implementation and ongoing operations.
- Those who are interested and find themselves to be eligible must meet the under-listed conditions and avail the Agency with the following paper qualifications:
 - Submission Letter:** Indicating project interest, company details, and organizational structure.
 - Experience:** Demonstrated experience (minimum 5 years) in CNG supply and infrastructure development.
 - Financial Stability:** Financial statements for the last 3 years
 - Technical Proposal:** A detailed proposal with timelines, equipment specifications, quality assurance practices, and safety protocols.
 - Personnel:** Details of key team members with relevant experience
- Suppliers may apply as a JV but must meet all legal and technical requirements, with clearly defined roles for each member.
- Site Visits:** Interested suppliers are encouraged to visit the proposed site and may contact +255 629196033 for details effective from 8th January 2025
- Requests for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than five (5) days before the submission deadline.
- NOTE: This is not a Request for Proposal (RFP).
- The Agency has the mandate to accept or reject any submission and, if necessary, may annul the entire expression of interest process at any time without consideration for the interested investors.
- Expression of interest in a sealed envelope marked **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF CNG GAS FOR BUSES ON DART PHASE TWO (2)** Must be submitted **on or before 29th January 2025**. It should be either physically or electronically delivered to the address below.

Chief Executive

**Dar Rapid Transit Agency,
Ubungu Maji, Morogoro Road,
P.O. Box 724,
DAR ES SALAAM.
Email: ce@dart.go.tz**

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Ambassador Chen applauds TGL's commitment to ethical journalism

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

CHINESE embassy in Tanzania has commended The Guardian Limited (TGL) for its commitment to ethical journalism and balanced reporting during a courtesy visit to the company's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Chen Mingjian, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, made the remarks when she led the embassy's team on an official visit to the media house.

The envoy noted that TGL has set a commendable example to promote accurate, fair and balanced reporting, which is essential in fostering development.

"The Guardian Limited has consistently provided professional coverage of China-Tanzania relations and broader international affairs. I applaud your fair and balanced reporting, which plays a crucial role in fostering mutual understanding and strengthening diplomatic ties between our countries," she said.

The envoy also underscored the strong relationships between embassies and the media to keep the public informed.

According to her, in a landmark decision that signals a new phase

in China's trade strategy, President Xi Jinping last year announced imposition of zero tariff on a range of essential imports.

She added: "This bold move is expected to have significant implications for the global economy, particularly as China seeks to bolster its domestic market and foster greater economic cooperation with key partners including Tanzania."

She also emphasised the depth of the partnership, citing Tanzania's export of high-quality agricultural products like cashew and honey to China, as well as major infrastructure projects, including the Magufuli Bridge and infrastructure expansion at the Dar es Salaam port.

"China remains Tanzania's largest trading partner, top investor and primary project contractor. These accomplishments exemplify our shared commitment to mutual benefit and progress," she added.

Jackson Paulo, TGL Deputy General Manager, expressed his gratitude to the ambassador and her team, highlighting the importance of partnership and assured them the company's commitment to future cooperation and collaboration.

"We sincerely thank the

ambassador and the team for the courtesy visit to The Guardian Limited. We deeply appreciate it and look forward to working together in a spirit of cooperation, strengthening our partnership in the future," he said.

Wallace Mauggo, The Guardian Newspaper Managing Editor, applauded China's significant infrastructural support to Tanzania, emphasising the vital role of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) in fostering economic growth and improving connectivity between the two nations.

"China's substantial infrastructural support has played a pivotal role in Tanzania's development, with the Tazara railway serving as a cornerstone of economic growth. This strategic partnership not only strengthens regional connectivity but also facilitates trade and mobility between Tanzania and Zambia, which is crucial for our collective prosperity," he noted.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the China-Tanzania diplomatic cooperation. The achievements that were cemented by the founding fathers of the two nations, that is the late President Julius Nyerere and Mao Zedong.



Mukadam Sabuni (C), Councillor for Majengo Ward in Muheza District, Tanga Region, in discussion with Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency engineer Judica Athanas (R) during a visit to inspect construction of a culvert at Mdote Street yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Tree planting campaign out to beautify key road

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

RESIDENTS of Dodoma City, particularly those living along the Ring Road, have been urged to become active participants in environmental conservation through a community-driven tree planting initiative to beautify the section.

The campaign aims to protect the infrastructure along the Ring Road while promoting sustainable environmental practices.

Daimu Mmolosho, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Tanzania Prisons Service (Office of Agriculture, Livestock and Environmental Conservation)

made the call on Sunday during a tree planting event at Msalato Ward.

Mmolosho encouraged local residents to take leadership roles in planting and nurturing trees, stressing that the efforts would help safeguard both the environment and the road infrastructure.

A total of 1,500 trees were planted during the event, which covered the stretch from Msalato Road to the Ring Road.

Mmolosho noted that the initiative aligns with the government's vision for a greener Dodoma, emphasising the city's environmental enhancement.

He added that it is part of broader efforts to promote environmental sustainability and improve the overall quality of life in Dodoma.

Msalato Ward executive Officer Devotha Selufara underscored the importance of ensuring the young saplings are protected from livestock and other potential threats to their growth.

The event was organised by Tanzania Prisons Service in partnership with local residents, councillors, ward officials, mtaa leaders and Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), highlighting strong community efforts towards greening the city and preserving its infrastructure.

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Administrative Secretary Dr Toba Nguvula has given a 14-day ultimatum to resolve ongoing issues at Tandale Market in Kinondoni District to ensure the market operates 24 hours.

Dr Nguvula issued the directive on Monday, during the start of his inspection tour of development projects across Dar es Salaam's five districts.

The challenges facing the market include inadequate lighting, poor road access for vehicles, water shortages and flooding.

Dr Nguvula stressed the urgency of improving the issues, highlighting that goods often arrive late at night and that customers from distant areas face significant delays.

He said the deadline for resolving the issues is set for January 20, 2025.

"The investment made by the

Dar es Salaam sets 14-day deadline to address issues at Tandale Market

government at this market must be reflected in its operations. We want a market that operates efficiently 24 hours a day and serves the needs of the people," Dr Nguvula said.

Key actions to be taken include installation of large and more efficient lighting, acquisition of a generator for uninterrupted power supply, and purchase of a water pumps to address flooding and water shortages.

The market is also expected to improve its infrastructure to handle high volume of trade, with estimates indicating that the market could generate up to 2.5m/- per day once fully operational.

In addition to the improvements, Dr Nguvula directed Kinondoni Municipal Administrative Secretary and District Commissioner to collaborate with the Land Transport

Regulatory Authority (LATRA) to establish new bus routes serving the market.

Dr Nguvula also inspected Kinondoni Health Centre, noting the need for additional staff to support its services. The centre currently has 32 staff members and will be recruiting 20 more to meet the growing demand for maternal, child, and dental care services.

The RAS visited the new Kinondoni Municipality building, which is at 98 percent and instructed local authorities to move in immediately while exploring ways to generate revenue from the old building.

He said the efforts are part of the broader strategy to improve services and infrastructure in Dar es Salaam, contributing to the city's continued growth and development.



Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) hands a bucket of water to a woman at Arri Ward in Babati District, Manyara Region after launching a water project on Monday. The project, funded by Karimu Foundation, is valued at over 2bn/- and will benefit more than 3,000 residents. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

Boy breaks record after reaching highest peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

A 10-year-old boy, Anwaar Njiku, from Njiro in Arusha Region has made history by becoming the youngest person ever to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Njiku reached the peak of Africa's tallest mountain on January 5, 2025, after an impressive eight-day trek that started on December 29, 2024.

He climbed the mountain using the challenging Lemosho Route, descending via Mweka route. His feat is particularly remarkable considering the extreme altitude and varying climate conditions encountered during the ascent.

Mount Kilimanjaro, which stands at 5,895 meters (19,341 feet), takes hikers through several

diverse climate zones from tropical rainforests to alpine deserts, and finally, the arctic conditions near the summit.

The young adventurer's achievement was celebrated alongside a group of 10 international tourists, many of whom were fellow climbers on the same expedition. The boy's father, Athuman Njiku, also accompanied him on the climb, offering support and encouragement during the arduous journey. The climb was organised as part of a special birthday celebration for Njiku, marking the milestone with a truly extraordinary experience.

His remarkable accomplishment has now earned him a place in Tanzania's history. He is officially the youngest Tanzanian to reach

the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, a record previously held by 20-year-old Rawan Dakik, who also made headlines as the youngest Tanzanian to make it to the summit of Mount Everest in 2021.

The achievement has garnered widespread praise, not only for Njiku's physical and mental resilience but also for the inspiration it offers to other young Tanzanians and aspiring adventurers.

His success highlights the potential for determination and perseverance to break barriers, no matter one's age.

The boy's feat comes at a time when the government and tourism sector actors emphasise the importance of preserving Mount Kilimanjaro as a world-renowned natural and cultural heritage site.



UNITRANS TANZANIA LIMITED

JOB VACANCIES

Unitrans Tanzania Limited has the following exciting opportunity at Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, where Unitrans is subcontracted for various agricultural operations to the sugar industry.

We are currently looking for a suitably qualified, and experienced individual to fill in the following post.

CONTRACT MANAGER (01)

Job Purpose

To implement, manage and optimize all Unitrans operations on the sugar estate. Responsible for the efficient, competitive and commercially viable operation and administration of the company's operations at Kilombero.

Duties and Responsibilities

a) Effective management of operational processes and contracts/service

- Develop and maintain procedures which relate to day-to-day operational requirements
- Ensure efficient management of all operations on site including cane haulage and loading
- Vehicle downtime is monitored, controlled and kept to a minimum
- Ensure optimal usage of fuel
- Management of staff

b) Tyre management

- Monitor and track tyres and scraping requirements
- Manage tyre costs, quality and Suppliers' agreements
- Update the company tyre management system

c) Effective customer relationship management

- Undertake effective client relationship management, including client entertainment when necessary
- Audit the quality of service provided through personal interaction with the customer on an ongoing and regular basis and ensure timeous corrective action is taken as and when required

d) Management of financial and administration requirements

- Complete and submit financial report, budget and costing as required
- Undertake accurate and timeous operational forecasting
- Screen all suppliers by comparing costs and quality products

e) Management of safety, health, environment and quality

- Ensure all subordinates are trained as per safety requirements
- Manage housekeeping, safety and quality by ensuring that all housekeeping audits are conducted regularly, and that corrective action is taken if required. This includes -
 - Condition of the vehicle
 - Appearance of drivers
 - Appearance of offices
 - Manage accidents and insurance

Minimum requirements

- Degree in Mechanical Engineering or related Agricultural Degree.
- 5-7 years' experience in an agricultural industry with sugar cane operations.
- Knowledge and experience in Logistics and Supply Chain management
- Experience working with sugarcane harvester is an added advantage
- 1-2 years for the most complex task (strategic planning focuses on the next year's activities)
- Knowledge of general expense management / budgeting
- Sound knowledge of policies and procedures in supply chain and logistics management
- Human resources management skills
- Knowledge of Company Disciplinary and Grievance procedures
- Relevant written and verbal contracts / service level agreements
- Ability to work independently and under pressure (problem solving skills)
- Knowledge of equipment maintenance / workshop management
- General knowledge of the operations and configurations of mechanical vehicles

Application deadline is **21/01/2025**. Please scan the below QR code to go directly to the job advert on Unitrans Careers site to apply.

If you are unable to scan the QR code, please visit unitransafrica.com/careers/ Choose location Tanzania and click the arrow to view available roles.



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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ZANZIBAR ENERGY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND ACCESS PROJECT.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE AWARENESS RAISING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

CREDIT NUMBER: 68970-TZ
CTF LOAN NUMBER: TF0B5747-TZ
CTF GRANT NUMBER: TF0B5660-TZ

Assignment Title: Technical assistance for the preparation of the awareness raising strategy and action plan
Reference No. TZ-MOWEM-455671-CS-CQS

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), through the United Republic of Tanzania, has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Zanzibar Energy Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of this assignment is to develop an Energy Efficiency Awareness Raising Strategy and Action Plan. This plan will guide relevant stakeholders in effectively promoting energy efficiency among target audiences (industries, businesses, households, public institutions, etc.) and ensure their active participation in achieving energy efficiency goals. The strategy should be data-driven, inclusive of innovative outreach methods, and focus on changing behaviors and practices to reduce energy consumption across various sectors.

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected firm will be responsible for the following tasks:

Task 1: Review and Analysis of Current Energy Efficiency Programs

- Conduct a detailed review of existing Energy policies and EE guidelines, strategies, and programs at national and local levels, if any, and identify strengths and gaps.
- Benchmark international best practices and successful EE awareness programs that can be adapted.

Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement

- Identify and engage key stakeholders (government bodies, private sector, energy service companies, NGOs, community organizations).
- Conduct interviews, surveys, and two workshops to understand knowledge gaps, attitudes toward EE, and challenges in implementing EE measures.

Task 3: Development of Energy Efficiency Awareness Strategy

- Develop a comprehensive awareness strategy tailored to the needs of various target groups.
- Propose innovative communication channels and outreach activities (e.g., media campaigns, workshops, online platforms, etc.).
- Identify key performance indicators (KPIs) for evaluating the effectiveness of awareness-raising efforts.

Task 4: Action Plan Design

- Develop a five-year actionable, time-bound plan with clearly defined steps, responsibilities, resource requirements and budget.
- Propose measures for continuous stakeholder engagement and adaptation of the strategy based on feedback and results.
- Support and facilitate stakeholder consultations to ensure action plan incorporates view and inputs of the stakeholders.

Task 5: Capacity Building and Training

- Design and deliver training materials and sessions for client to build their capacity in implementing the strategy.
- Conduct one awareness-raising workshop by choosing one action plan for key target groups (media professionals, educators, government officials, etc.) as a pilot and demonstration of the implementation of the plan to MoWEM staff for future implementation of other action plans.

Task 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

- Develop a framework for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the strategy's implementation.
- Propose data collection methods and reporting mechanisms to track progress toward achieving EE goals.

The Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interest in providing the above services. Interested **consulting firm** should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. **The consulting firm (or consortium of firms)** should have at least the following qualifications and experience:

The consulting firm is required to have the following experience:

- Core Business and year in Business
At least Ten (10) years' experience in consulting work of which five (5) years must be in similar assignments.
- Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the following:
 - Must have successfully carried out at least three (3) assignments of a similar nature and scope for the energy sector in developing countries.
 - Provide information on previous assignments which should include the name of the assignment, name and full contact address of the client, tasks performed by the consultant under the assignment, assignment value (in US dollars), and period (dates) of execution of the assignment.
- Technical and Managerial capability of the firm in the areas of technical assistance for the preparation of the awareness raising strategy and action plan. (Provide the structure of the organization, qualifications, and number of key staff for the assignment and their CVs).

The attention of interested consulting firm is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Firms intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Regulations.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. For firms participating in JV, each member of JV should independently meet the requirement of EoI criteria. For firm participating as association of lead and subconsultant, only the experience and qualification of lead firm will be assessed as per EoI criteria

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Consultant Qualification Selection** set out in the Procurement Regulations. **(The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be Obtained upon asking through Email: proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz)**

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hour, **07:00 to 03.30pm East African Time.**

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below: (Both hard copy along with soft copy by 22nd January 2025 at 10:00 am local Time).

Ministry of Water Energy and Minerals
ZURA building 5th floor,
Procurement Unit, Room No. 502.
Attn: Saleh Said Suleiman (Project Coordinator)
P.O. Box 1569 Zanzibar
Maisara, Zanzibar
Tel: +255 776 858555
E-mail: proc.zesta@majismz.go.tz and copy to saleh.suleiman@majismz.go.tz

Note: Submission of Softcopy only will not be considered in opening ceremony and any difference in hard and soft copy, the information in hard copy will be used for evaluation.

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Assessing general science, math, ICT teaching ability is what we need most

ASSESSING whether training programmes for secondary school teachers in mathematics, science as well as information and communication technology (ICT) can be complicated in countries such as ours. The tests are normally tied to what secondary school pupils say on what they learn but it is unlikely that the results would be even, conclusive or actionable.

A top ministerial official announced this plan when opening a five-day training session for science and mathematics teachers along with quality controllers from Simiyu and Mara regions, in Tarime. It would be interesting to know why this exercise is being flagged off there, unless at a preliminary level it also reflects where the need is most felt. It is possible the level of school exposure to technology is just minimal, or ineffective.

On the basis of the official's remarks, the ministry seeks to assess the outcomes of its training programmes in those fields, with the assessment intended to involve pupils who will be given questions to evaluate their understanding of the subjects taught.

It is part of the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP) in which continual teacher training is a key component. That means comprehension tests would help to draw 'curves' of what is not understood, by which pupils and in tandem with the different casts of environment, for what reason.

The matter is hence just procedural as a modality developed to assess the impact of training on pupils' learning, with learners asked to gauge how

much they've benefited from the training provided to their teachers. Yet, there are spheres that surveys are likely to touch while the ministry will have rather scant responses for what is noticed, for instance, when it comes to limitations arising from language intrusions.

Pupils are exposed to Kiswahili terms for geometrics and other fields, and then they may definitely shift to relearn the same in English, fuelling confusion.

That is why it is unlikely that anyone is going to resolve the real preliminary issue of effectiveness of the government investing substantial resources in improving the capacity of secondary school teachers.

It is similarly unlikely that anyone will ask if there is need to shift to teaching in English from standard three, as language skills in a routine and usable manner are more helpful than training in sewing, woodwork or farm skills. The language gap, even if it isn't eventually identified as a handicap in the science, mathematics and ICT learning ability, if only for reasons of convenience, remains a life-long handicap, causing social divisions.

Enhancing teaching methods to foster pupils' understanding and interest in key science fields isn't definitely merely a matter of teaching methods, but whether other handicaps in life are likely to be keenly felt.

Nor would teaching refresher courses solve these drawbacks, the basis of which is dogmatic insistence on the national language while at the family and individual level, everyone knows that the most preferred language in our region is English.

TIC can only do so much as to enabling local investors' growth

WHAT indeed can the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) do to help local investors grow can be a vexing question whose answer is not necessarily what meets the eye, that is, if the agency would do x, y or z.

The more tantalizing part is what has not been said in the question, that companies grow on the basis of a priority plan or scheme anchored in TIC, which can be doubted immediately, as traders or investors would think of the revenue agency, first. That doesn't say TIC has no role to play, but it isn't within reach.

There are wider efforts and not just with the investment body, as the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and in like manner, the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) are being instructed to take decisive action on counterfeit products as they intensely harm local businesses.

When it comes to that sphere, not just regulating but law enforcements, it is clear the matter is much wider and by some implication, out of reach of TIC, and even the two others. The work of professional agencies is to assist with verification of standards for those who wish to obey the law.

It can be understood if local investors keep reminding policy makers of this problem, and they respond in the same manner as the issue is raised, which all the same raises some questions. How many countries around the world lack counterfeits, who are not just capable of shutting out counterfeits from other countries

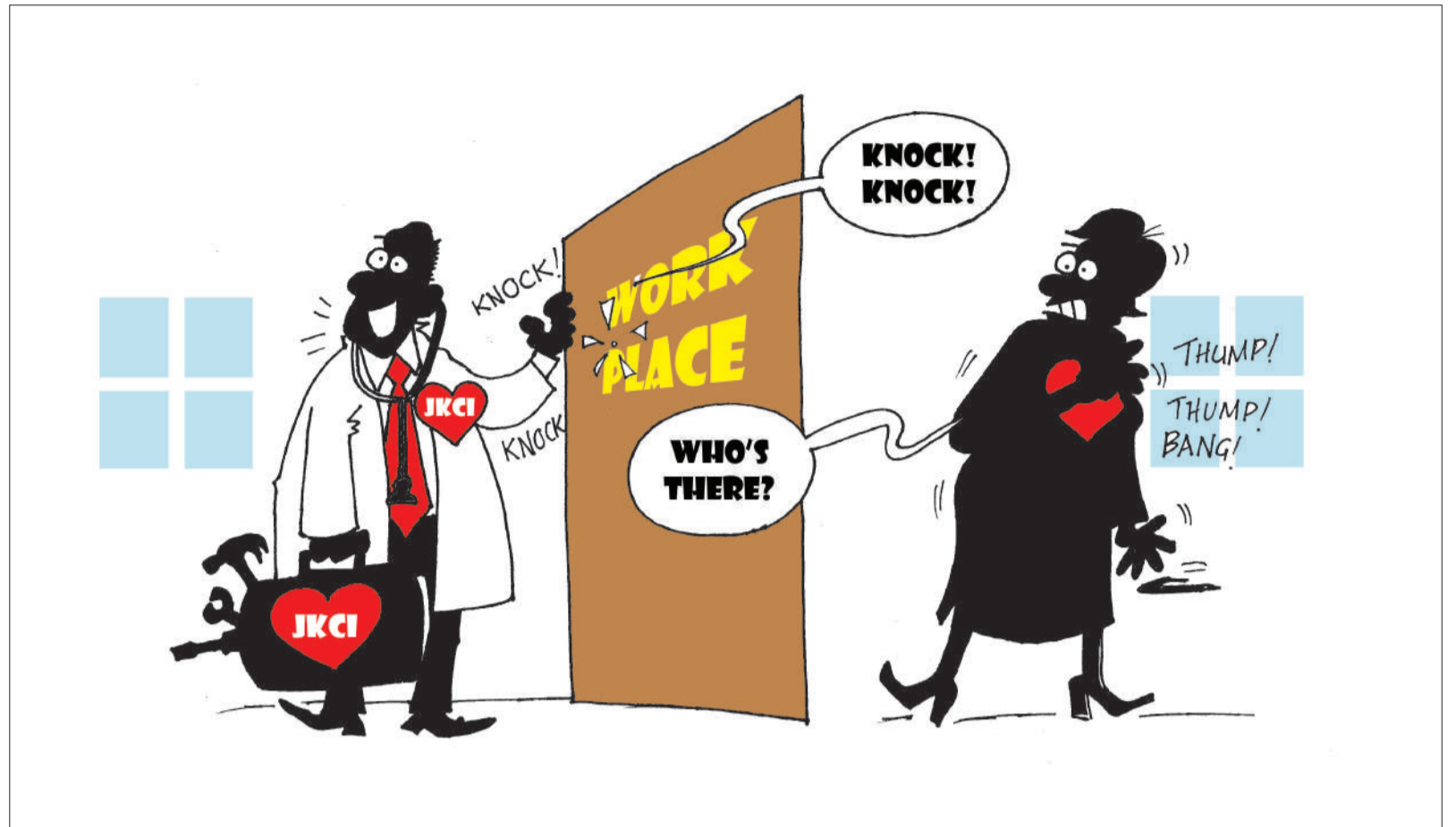
but stop them being produced internally? Do local investors wish for the standards mark or it is exporters who need it most - unless they find means of pushing the products via bush treks?

The wider public will sympathise with the minister's effort, even as there is some disconnect between investment facilitation as such and planning per se. It is the Planning Commission that is more at home with a to-do list that involves priorities expected to be met as the public interest.

This was more the case in the past, where the economy wasn't competitive, so planning was virtually an allocation of scarce resources in the proper sense of that ancient formulation. That isn't where we are at present, and local investors need to know how to compete, not rely on enforcement.

There is an expression by militants from another era summed up as 'get off their backs,' where Western critics saw big companies from rich countries as holding down poor countries especially in extracting profits and exporting the cash.

Here, the real cry to get off the backs of local investors would be tax levels, but it isn't the tax body that can change it but policy. It isn't possible for the Planning Commission to set out the case for lower taxes so that local firms can succeed, so the focus is directed at investment facilitation, standards and counterfeits. It isn't up to the minister or agencies to solve the issue but those who push to lead political parties, with loyalty issues to settle rather than a policy platform.



Africa needs capital to drive transformation, growth

By Rajesh Ramsundhar

AFRICA'S economic potential is undeniable, but to fully realise it, the continent faces a massive need for capital. With an annual financing gap of approximately US\$100 billion for infrastructure and a climate finance shortfall of US\$213.4 billion through 2030, this demand is vast and urgent.

On top of this, achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is estimated to cost Africa US\$1.3 trillion annually - equivalent to 42 percent of the continent's GDP.

What these figures make clear is that Africa needs capital to drive transformation, development, and ultimately, economic growth.

Yet, despite these challenges, Africa's resilience stands out.

Economic projections show that real GDP growth will rise to 3.7 percent in 2024 and 4.3 percent in 2025, continuing to outperform global averages.

This resilience opens new opportunities for investors and highlights the region's potential as a source of yield, especially as global investors seek assets in emerging markets.

While growth in Africa's insurance

markets - currently valued at US\$87.4 billion in 2023 and expected to grow to US\$153.9 billion by 2032, according to the IMARC Group - it creates pools of capital, these funds must be directed toward tangible investments.

But how do we match the growing demand for capital with the need for assets that can absorb this investment?

The answer lies in the creation and availability of investable assets. Africa's listed markets are relatively small, but as the continent develops, we expect to see more issuances from both corporates and governments, particularly in the debt markets. Additionally, as African governments look to privatise state-owned entities, the equities market will likely see large listings and corresponding growth.

The growth in the listed market will not be sufficient to absorb both local and foreign capital. Africa has a significant portion of assets in the private/non-traditional markets, and there is significant scope and opportunity for both investor and owners of assets to unlock access to these markets.

A key opportunity to bridge this gap lies in the adoption of Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) and

tokenisation. Tokenisation refers to the creation of digital tokens on a blockchain platform representing assets - whether financial (bonds, equities), tangible (real estate, commodities), or intangible (digital art, intellectual property).

By digitising these assets, we can bring them to market, enabling liquidity and broadening access for both local and global investors.

Imagine the transformative potential of tokenised infrastructure investments in Africa - tradable, liquid assets that can drive development. Whether it's property, infrastructure, or commodities, tokenisation allows these assets to be traded and settled more efficiently.

Analysts predict that by 2030, between US\$4 trillion and US\$5 trillion worth of tokenised digital securities could be issued globally, underscoring the vast potential of this market.

But it's important to remember asset creation is only one side of the equation. For Africa's capital markets to thrive, they need to be simple and efficient.

Currently, many African markets, particularly outside of South Africa, are fragmented. They operate with

disparate technologies, regulations, and frameworks, which make investing complex and costly. If we are to compete on the global stage, we need to harmonise our markets, aligning regulations and infrastructure to create a cohesive, unified system.

The question we must ask ourselves is: why do we each need to invest in separate technologies and infrastructures when we could share them? By consolidating infrastructure and adopting world-class systems, we can spread costs, create consistency, and ensure that African markets are globally competitive.

The future of Africa's capital markets lies in collaboration, harmonisation, and embracing new technologies that will enable us to realise our continent's full potential.

The time is now for Africa to reimagine how we build our markets. We must work together, leverage our collective strengths, and seize the opportunities that lie ahead. Africa's growth story is just beginning, and with the right strategies in place, we can ensure it reaches its full potential.

Rajesh Ramsundhar is group head of Investor Services, Transaction Banking, Corporate and Investment Banking at Standard Bank

A renewed vision for prosperity for landlocked developing countries

By Rabab Fatima

OVER 570 million people live in the world's 32 Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), spanning across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. These nations face unique and complex development challenges. Their lack of direct access to the sea, geographical isolation, limited infrastructure, and difficulty integrating into global trade and value chains hinder sustainable development and progress.

The lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising vulnerability to external shocks, climate change, and mounting debt burdens have further compounded these challenges, eroding progress achieved under the last developmental roadmap for LLDCs - the Vienna Programme of Action.

However, a pivotal moment for LLDCs is at hand. In the lead-up to the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs (LLDC3), to be held next year, the international community has adopted a new Programme of Action (PoA) to guide LLDCs' development from 2025 to 2035.

A new decade of opportunity and progress

The new PoA is a landmark achievement designed to address the structural challenges of LLDCs and accelerate their socio-economic integration into the global economy. This vision focuses on five priority areas critical to transforming LLDCs

into resilient and competitive economies: Structural transformation and science, technology, and innovation (STI)

Economic diversification is crucial for LLDCs. Their dependence on a narrow range of commodities leaves them highly vulnerable to external shocks. The new PoA prioritizes value-added industries and leveraging technology and innovation to help LLDCs integrate more effectively into global value chains and build more resilient economies.

Digital connectivity, which is pivotal for sustainable development, is also an important focus of the PoA. In 2023, only 39 per cent of LLDC populations used the internet, compared to the global average of 67 per cent. The PoA aims to create regional digital platforms for peer learning and capacity building while increasing support to LLDCs to leverage technology for sustainable growth.

Trade, trade facilitation, and regional integration

Trade drives economic growth, yet LLDCs account for just 1.1 per cent of global merchandise exports. High trade costs - averaging 30 per cent more than coastal countries - significantly hamper their competitiveness.

The new PoA highlights LLDCs' interest in establishing a dedicated work programme at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to address their unique needs. It also recommends

developing a high-level panel of experts to examine the application of existing international laws on freedom of transit for LLDCs, ensuring that LLDCs can engage in international trade under fairer conditions.

Transit, transport, and connectivity

Transport infrastructure is a critical link for LLDCs to global markets. Bridging the current gap - nearly 200,000 km of paved roads and over 46,000 km of railways - will require over half a trillion dollars.

To address this, the PoA proposes an Infrastructure Investment Finance Facility (IIFFF) for LLDCs to mobilize resources for sustainable transport infrastructure, thereby reducing trade costs and enhancing connectivity.

Enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change and disasters

LLDCs face significant vulnerabilities to climate-related disasters. Between 2012 and 2022, 447 such events affected 170 million people in LLDCs - double the global average.

The PoA emphasizes climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, and improved access to climate finance. It also notes LLDCs' interest in developing a dedicated work programme under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Lastly, and more importantly, Means of implementation

The success of the new Programme of Action depends on robust means of

implementation, including adequate resources, technical support, and strong partnerships. The PoA calls for increased development assistance and emphasizes the role of public-private partnerships in realizing its ambitious goals.

Driving Progress through Partnerships - a call for global solidarity and action

The adoption of the new Programme of Action is more than a commitment - it is a renewed call to action. Global solidarity is essential to provide LLDCs with the financial, technical, and capacity-building support they need. Strengthened partnerships and concerted efforts will enable LLDCs to leverage their potential and contribute meaningfully to the global economy.

The upcoming LLDC3 Conference in 2025 will serve as a critical platform to build this momentum and strengthen international collaboration and multi-sectoral partnerships for the implementation of the PoA.

With political resolve, enhanced partnerships, and tangible actions, LLDCs can emerge as dynamic contributors to the global economy, charting a path toward sustainable prosperity over the coming decade.

Rabab Fatima is United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

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By Telesphor Magobe

Climate change, biodiversity loss call for informed mitigation interventions

MANY Tanzanians are aware of the impact of climate change on their neighbourhood and on their livelihood, but may not be conscious of the right steps to take to mitigate it. If you ask people about the impact of climate change, they will mention a few changes in their neighbourhood and in their lives.

People living along the coastal region of the Indian Ocean will say they experience the scarcity of fish, the bleaching of coral reefs, the wilting of some mangroves, a rise in the level of the Indian Ocean, the salinity of freshwater wells and the frequent inundation of lowlands. They will also say some residents of the lowlands have relocated to highlands because the areas they were living in have been submerged by ocean water.

People who live along inland freshwater bodies too will say they experience the scarcity of fish, the disappearance of some fish species and the drying up of some of the rivers they used to see flowing normally when they were young. Likewise, other people mention desertification, soil degradation, drought, and unpredictable precipitation patterns. The latter has changed the way farmers prepare land, and grow crops, and has led to low crop yield, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 published by FAO says that lack of improvement in food security and uneven progress in economic access to healthy diets cast a shadow over the possibility of achieving zero hunger in the world by 2030. Sustainable development goal (SDG) Target 2.1 says: "By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and



people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round."

FAO's report (mentioned above) suggests that 582 million people will be chronically undernourished at the end of the decade, more than half of them in Africa. "There is the need to accelerate the transformation of our agrifood systems to strengthen their resilience to the major drivers

and address inequalities to ensure that healthy diets are affordable for and available to all."

There is also biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, plastic pollution and air pollution. The State of the World's Migratory Species 2024 says: "Overexploitation of natural resources is the primary cause of biodiversity loss in the world's oceans and the second most important driver of global biodiversity loss on land." It

adds: "habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation is among the main drivers of global biodiversity loss in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems."

Moreover, it says habitat destruction and degradation is also a significant driver of biodiversity loss in marine ecosystems, where the loss of habitats like seagrass meadows as a result of climate change, pollution, land reclamation and port expansion have triggered population

declines in some aquatic species which rely on seagrass as a source of food.

A World Bank report on the costs of environmental degradation from plastic pollution in selected coastal areas of Tanzania published in 2023 says plastic pollution is a global challenge. It suggests that, while each year, 19-23 million metric tonnes of plastic waste is estimated to leak into the world's aquatic ecosystems and the ocean, in Tanzania, it

is estimated that 29,000 tonnes of plastic waste enter the ocean each year. "This plastic waste leakage comes primarily from land-based sources due to the country's weak solid waste management," says the report.

There are also invasive alien species and diseases. A paper titled "Managing invasive plants through a nature-based approach in complex landscapes" authored by Ngondya Isakwisa and published

“This plastic waste leakage comes primarily from land-based sources due to the country's weak solid waste management.”

in 2022 says invasive plants are a global threat to biodiversity. Giving an example of Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), the author says there are at least 25 invasive plants which are prevalent in the main crater and other NCA grassland areas. "These two invasive [plants] are fire adapted and grow in pure stands or in patches with other native species, depending on site conditions and past disturbances such as fire, overgrazing, settlements, and precipitation."

Those living near Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, will say about the rapid disappearance of snow, which in the past used to cover the entire mountain, but today it remains a mere snow cap on the top of the mountain. UNESCO suggests that snow on Mount Kilimanjaro is likely to disappear by 2040.

According to UNESCO, Mount Kilimanjaro has lost 82 per cent of its snow cap since 1912 and 55 per cent of its glaciers since 1962. Climate change is the main cause of the disappearance of the snow cap on Mount Kilimanjaro as a result of rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns, with less snow falling on the glaciers.

Thus, climate change is real and is to stay unless something positive is done to address it. Human activities are the main cause of climate change and although there are global initiatives to mitigate climate change, informed interventions are needed because it is through such interventions that climate change can be effectively addressed.

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

MOST often during political elections in Tanzania and across the world, women face a number of gender-based barriers to leadership, something which contributes to their defeat.

Recently, the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) in collaboration with the Coady International Institute brought together a number of women who vied for different leadership positions in last year's civic polls.

On November 27th, 2024 Tanzanians voted for their leaders at local government level whereas posts being vied for included 12,280 village chairpersons, 4,264 street chairpersons, 63,886 hamlet chairpersons, 230,834 village council members and 21,320 street committee members.

The facilitator of a two-day training on psycho-social support, Mayasa Kalinga mentioned several factors which contributes to women being defeated in elections including gender inequality, harassment, psychological torture, cultural norms and stereotypes.

Traditional beliefs often prioritize male leadership, placing women primarily in domestic roles. This perspective limits women's opportunities in leadership positions.

According to her, women are under-represented in political and corporate leadership roles. This lack of representation perpetuates the belief that women are not suited for leadership.

Although women's access to education has improved, disparities remain. Limited access to higher education can hinder women's qualifications for leadership roles. At times, women face discrimination in hiring and promotions. Biases against women can result in fewer opportunities for advancement.



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) had recently organized training on psycho-social support to help women who were defeated in last year's civic polls recover emotionally. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Bridging the gap: Addressing gender inequality in politics and leadership

Kalinga said that women may lack mentorship and networking opportunities that are often available to their male counterparts, making it harder to navigate career paths.

"Many women are burdened with household responsibilities, which can limit their availability and time for leadership roles. Although there are policies aimed at promoting gender equality, enforcement can be weak, and there may be gaps in legislation that fail to protect women's rights in leader-

ship," stated Kalinga. Women in leadership positions may face harassment and violence, which can deter them from pursuing or maintaining their leadership roles.

To address the above mentioned barriers, she suggested for a multifaceted approach, including policy reforms, educational initiatives and cultural shifts to promote gender equality.

TGNP Senior Programme Officer-Training and Capacity Building, Anna Sangai said they

have collaborated with the Coady International Institute to organized the training taking into consideration that psycho-social support is crucial for individuals who experience electoral loss.

She said such training helps women in emotional recovery and validation of feelings. Losing an election can lead to disappointment, sadness and frustration. Psycho-social support provides a safe space for individuals to express and validate these emotions.

Support can help individuals develop healthy coping strategies to deal with the emotional aftermath of the loss. Social connection, community support, engaging with peers and supporters can foster a sense of belonging and reduce feelings of isolation.

Psycho-social support encourages continued engagement within the community, helping individuals maintain professional and personal connections. Regular support can mitigate potential

mental health issues that may arise from the stress of losing an election.

Psycho-social support can guide individuals toward seeking professional mental health services if needed. Such kind of support can inspire individuals to remain engaged in political or community activities, fostering resilience and motivation for future campaigns.

Sara Katanga from Kivule Ward in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region commended TGNP for the training saying it has

helped her navigate the complex emotions and challenges following an electoral loss.

She warned that there is no bigger sin than that of losing hope. "Politics is life; we need to struggle and move forward."

Ashura Singano from Saranga Ward in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam said that leadership is passion. She said the training motivated her to continue pursuing her political dreams. Singano urged fellow aspirants to also vie for political positions in this year's General Election.

Josephine Chamvanga from Mabwepande Ward commended TGNP for the training, saying it has fostered resilience and promoted mental well-being, it has enabled her to move forward positively and constructively.

Reassessing aspirations after an electoral defeat is a vital step in personal and professional growth. One should take time to understand what truly matters to him or her, such as community service, leadership, or social change.

Christina Shembilu urged fellow electoral losers to seek leadership opportunities. "Look for leadership positions in local organizations or community groups that align with your interests."

Rehema Mfaume said: "Consider further education, workshops, or training in areas that can enhance your skills and knowledge, such as public speaking, campaign management, or policy analysis."

She further suggested them to keep up with political trends, community issues and public policy developments to remain engaged and informed.

Meanwhile, Rose Mnyasenga advised fellow trainees to re-connect with their supporters. Maintain relationships with those who supported your campaign is crucial as they can offer encouragement and new opportunities.

By Circles Robinson

JULIET has just arrived in Uruguay on a journey that took less than two weeks and cost her less than 2,000 dollars. A nurse by profession, the 29 year old woman - who prefers to use a pseudonym - is one of the thousands of Cuban nationals who, faced with the growing difficulties in emigrating to the United States and transatlantic countries such as Spain, are changing the "northern route" for a new "southern route," towards Brazil, Chile or Uruguay.

In her case, she opted for South America after waiting for two years, since January 2023, to qualify for the humanitarian parole program to go to the US, where her sister lives, which never arrived. "As the months went by without any news, my sister and brother-in-law began to investigate, and friends who had emigrated by these routes recommended it to them."

The price was certainly a determining factor. As an example, she mentions her acquaintances who emigrated to Miami via Nicaragua and spent more than 10,000 dollars. When one of her friends told her what he had paid to go to Montevideo, \$1,150 for the plane ticket to Surinam and \$750 for the rest of the land transfers, she said: "With what my journey through the volcano route would cost, I can do five of these routes and arrive in Uruguay with dollars."

The conditions in Uruguay, which she had heard about, and the language, also affected her decision. "It wasn't like coming to the United States, where I would have family, people to guide me, but I would have a better quality of life than in Cuba."

At first, the journey south seemed to her to be free of the dangers of the sea route in the Florida Straits, or the organized crime in countries like Mexico or Guatemala, or the harsh Darien jungle. Even so, she admits that she had some misgivings - "that, after all, is human trafficking" - and so she was surprised by the safety and organization of the journey, through Surinam, French Guiana and Brazil, in a total of 13 days.

And her route, she says, was long. "There is a much faster way, all by plane, through Guyana, the English one, to Brazil, and then to Uruguay, but it was almost \$3,000 in total, and my



Migrants arriving in Rivera, Uruguay, from where many are trying to reach Montevideo

More Cubans are looking to South America over USA

family couldn't afford it." Everything is through the same network. "They have something for everyone: for those who have money or for those who don't have enough. Packages for all budgets."

They also have "different forms of payment": either from abroad, through relatives, by transfer and as they advance along the route, or in cash, all at once, upon arriving in Suriname, the first stop on the trip, which is reached from Havana by plane.

"I never thought that it would be so well coordinated as I experienced it," says Juliet. "If there is one thing I can highlight, it is how they treat Cubans. From the moment I arrived in Suriname to Uruguay, the coyotes, the guides, the drivers, everyone, everyone, at least in the experience I had, gave us spectacular attention. You were the priority at all times."

Juliet says the network even has a WhatsApp group through which the "organizers" communicate constantly with the

relatives. "Every second they ask for a photo, to see what condition we are in, to see if it is us, to inform the families when we lose internet. And the family asks and immediately they answer: 'look, they are going here, they are going there.' That was something that really impressed me, to be honest, because I had the idea that it would be chaotic."

Juliet does not know who these "organizers" are, nor does she want to go into too much detail, but she does know that all the "guides" who assisted them on the trip were compatriots, "from the coyotes to the drivers and the owners of the hostels, they are all Cuban." And she continues: "It is a very large human trafficking network. Perhaps not like the one in Nicaragua, but it is getting bigger." The recent figures revealed by Brazil - almost 20,000 Cubans settled in its territory between January and November of this year - confirm her assessment.

Another of her surprises was precisely "the number of Cubans" who had the same idea

as she did: "According to what they told us, we were the largest group of Cubans that had ever crossed on this route: 180 adults and 49 children." The entire group met in Cayenne, the capital of French Guiana, but normally traveled divided among vehicles of eight or nine people.

Juliet tells 14ymedio in detail the stops on her journey. First, from Havana to Suriname, with the Surinamese airline Fly All Ways, having purchased a round-trip ticket. In that Caribbean country, Cubans obtain a tourist visa valid for seven days.

The day after their arrival, they were taken from the capital, Paramaribo, to the border with French Guiana, a six-hour bus ride. "The road has two checkpoints where we have to hand in our passports. There is no problem as long as it is within the seven-day visa period," Juliet explains. "We arrived at the border around six or seven in the morning. Everything happened very quickly, they give you bottles, they give

you a snack and they put you in canoes. These canoes, in a matter of ten minutes perhaps, take you to the other side, and you are already in French Guiana."

In French Guiana, the guides give the group several instructions: "These guides are in charge of explaining to you that you must not leave a casetica, a small piece of land where they tell you that you cannot move, because if you move you are illegal and you could be assaulted and such." They spent a whole day there, until, at two in the afternoon, when the Attorney General's Office opened where they gave them a paper "that allows you to be legal throughout the entire route of French Guiana."

The next stop is the capital, where the Cubans are asking for asylum. "That day in Cayenne was extremely tiring. We arrived around seven in the morning and we spent the whole morning lying there waiting," she says. "Of course, they gave us a good explanation the whole time, and they give us snacks, water, lunch."

In the queue, she says, they tried to keep quiet as they were asked to, "but well, Cubans are always a bit undisciplined, and sometimes they scolded us for that."

Once they had obtained the papers in Cayenne, they were taken to the border with Brazil, a journey that was particularly difficult. "It's an eight-hour journey, most of it with lots of curves, and those buses go too fast. You open and close your eyes and it's one curve, another curve, and it's quite stressful." The contingent left French Guiana across the Oyapoque River, the natural border with Brazil, again in groups of eight and nine, in canoes.

Juliet's account of the legal procedure they undergo in Brazil provides one of the keys to why so many Cubans choose the South American giant as their destination. Before the Federal Police, they all ask for asylum. "With this refugee paper, you can stay in Brazil and you will have the same rights as a Brazilian," says the young woman, who took the paper to travel legally to the next border, because she was sure that she would end up in Uruguay.

"In my group, half of us stayed in Brazil and half of us came to Uruguay," she says. "There was a certain disagreement there, because everything has its pros and cons. In Brazil, things are very cheap, but many people didn't stay because of the language issue and because they fear that salaries are also cheap."

To get to Rivera, already in Uruguay, is a journey of thousands of kilometers passed through Macapá, Belem, Florianópolis and Porto Alegre, sometimes by bus, sometimes by ferry. Before leaving Brazil, Cubans must "give up the refugee" that they have been granted, and go to Uruguay to request it. "They are next to each other: Brazilian Immigration and Uruguayan Immigration," Juliet says. "That is the extent of the 'package' originally purchased. 'From Rivera you leave on a bus or pay out of your own pocket for a taxi to the very door of your house where you are going to live, in my case, Montevideo, but you pay for that.'"

Throughout the trip, she

kept noticing that even in the "most extremely poor" places, such as villages in the Amazon, "there was no shortage of water, electricity or food." And she added bitterly: "You realize that these serious problems in Cuba do not exist outside, that basic needs are covered."

Despite her good spirit in telling her story, Juliet first confesses that she still finds it difficult to talk about the fact of migrating: "It makes my chest tighten, I feel a deep sadness that only those who emigrate, leaving everything behind, understand."

The young woman had left her job as a nurse at the Eusebio Hernández hospital, known as Maternidad Obrera, in Havana, before the pandemic, "because I couldn't make a living from it, I couldn't get ahead." In addition, the disorganization irritated her and the lack of hygiene made her sick. "The ones who cleaned the hospital rooms were the inmates, who were brought from El Guatao, and many times due to lack of fuel they didn't bring them and we ourselves had to clean. No matter how many protective measures one took in the face of that cleaning, there came a time when I caught a bacteria, then a staphylococcus..." she details.

For the past two years, she has worked in a private institution. "I was not one of those who lived badly in Cuba, if I told you otherwise I would be lying, but I lived depending on the help I received from abroad," she confesses. "Maybe other people like to live like that, but I don't."

Her dream, now in Montevideo, is to be able to support herself and help her family. "The ultimate goal would be to go to the United States, but at the moment that is not possible, because I don't have the money and also because of the current situation. At the moment the idea is to establish a life here, work, move forward, start a business here."

In addition to her partner, with whom she will reunite at some point, she left on the island her father, her aunt, her cousins, her grandmother... All of them originally from Pinar del Río, "where the situation is extreme, worse than in Havana."

From tech to sustainability: Need for industrial sector's Gen Z, Gen Alpha to join its workforce

By Barbara Frei

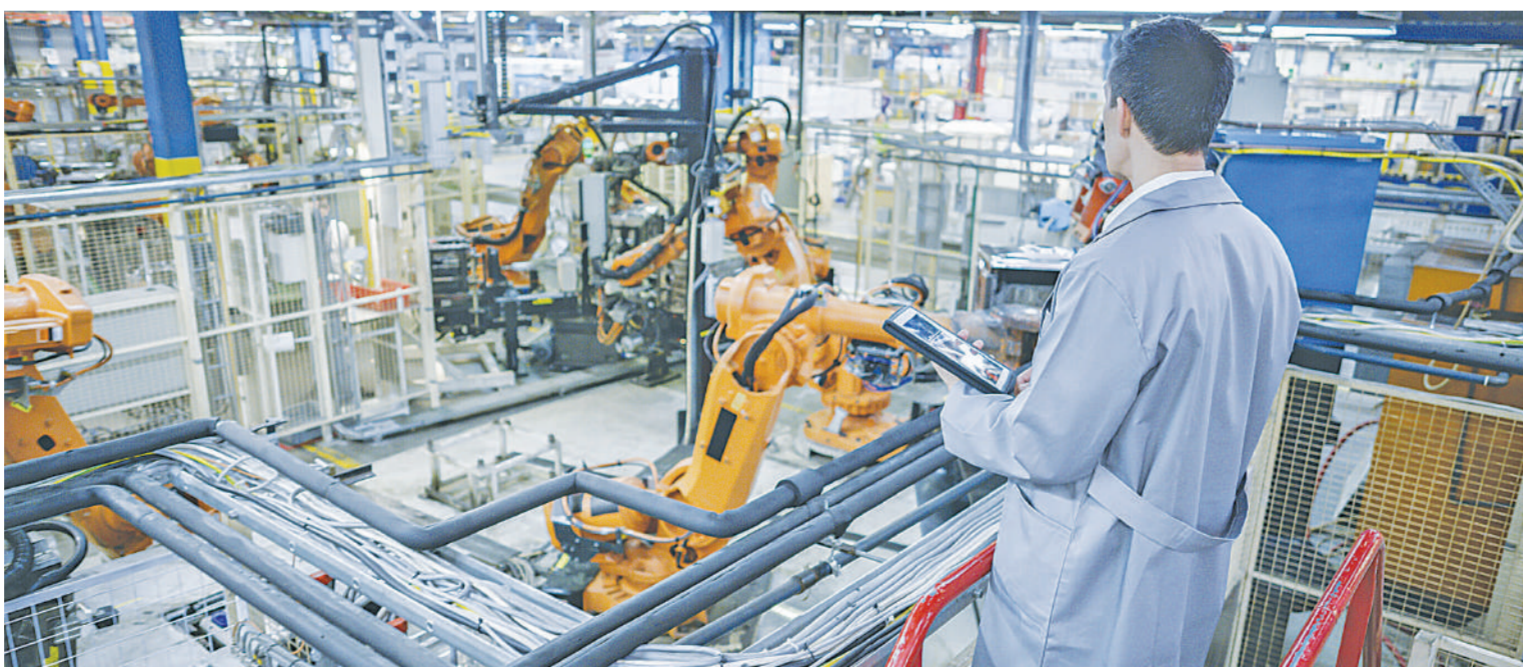
GLOBAL industry is in the midst of a recruitment crisis.

Much has been written about a digital skills gap in terms of upskilling current employees so they are not cut out of the tech loop. I would argue the equally important topic is how we attract a new tech-savvy generation of workers to the industrial sector.

With a predicted global labour shortage of more than eight million in the manufacturing sector by 2030, we have a real workforce availability problem to address, one that requires all of us to become industrial revivalists. What do I mean by that? I mean we need to do a better job of articulating to young people why industry is the best place to be when it comes to innovation and cutting-edge technologies.

Industries in the intelligent age

Driven by AI, the internet of things and big data, today's "intelligent" industries are cleaner, safer and more agile. Images of the dirty, unsafe factories of the past are being replaced by the clean, efficient manufacturing spaces of the future, where humans and machines



The workforce must adapt for the intelligent age

work side-by-side and in harmony. A new industrial identity is emerging.

This profound technological shift enhances productivity, reduces costs and promotes sustainable working practices that are increasingly appealing to the Gen Z and Gen Alpha workforce.

But are young people getting the message?

Of the two thousand American Gen Z workers surveyed by

Soter Analytics in its 2023 Gen Z Industrial Work Report, only 14% said that industrial work is a career they would consider. This is a sobering statistic.

At the same time, it also revealed that 27% of Gen Z want to work for a company that is at the forefront of the latest technologies and products, including drones, connected devices, AI and virtual reality (VR).

Data science, AI, robotics,

cybersecurity and cloud computing are increasingly common components of intelligent manufacturing. As industry relies on digital technology, robust cybersecurity measures are essential to protect sensitive data and maintain operational integrity against cyber threats. Cloud computing equally is needed to facilitate real-time data access and collaboration across manufacturing sites, supporting scal-

ability and providing a platform for advanced analytics that helps manage resources and respond effectively to market demands. A new breed of data scientists and analysts is desperately needed.

When it comes to AI, automation has set the stage, streamlining processes, generating valuable data and enhancing operational efficiency to enable AI to focus on more complex decision-making, including analyz-

ing and identifying patterns, making predictions and improving processes. This combination of AI and automation leads to intelligent automation, where machines not only perform tasks, but also learn and adapt over time, enhancing their performance.

So, as we compete for the hearts and minds of the digital generation who have grown up using technology to engage with and shape the world around them and who are comfortable working with innovations like artificial intelligence (AI), not in spite of it, this is a narrative we must tell more confidently if we are to attract them into the industrial workforce. This is a challenge we must win.

Furthermore, in the era where the gaming industry, social media, TikTok and internet influencers are all competing for the limited attention of Gen Z, we need to find ways to engage people differently. We must adapt and find methods, harnessing these types of influencer platforms to show off and shout louder about how automation and digitalization are transforming the world of industrial work for the better.

Spreading the sustainability message

Higher productivity, reliability and profitability have been key drivers since the

dawn of the Industrial Revolution. Now, in the era of global warming, digitalization enables precise control over critical processes to reduce energy use - enhancing the sustainability of the entire industrial ecosystem.

In McKinsey's 2024 report From hire to inspire: Getting - and keeping - Gen Z in manufacturing, Gen Z were the only cohort that consider "meaning" as a key reason to take, keep or quit a job. More than other workers, Gen Z want to make a difference.

As we convene once again in Davos, Switzerland in January 2025 for the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum we must connect the dots between this year's theme 'Collaboration for the Intelligent Age' and one of the key topics of discussion, "stewarding a just and inclusive energy transition" to show the critical role industries have to play in achieving both of these visions and to help attract a new generation of digital native workers.

Automation helps to make this vision a reality. Augmenting human capabilities by carrying out dangerous, repetitive and low-value operations with precision and speed not only positively impacts productivity - it empowers workers, fosters economic growth and generates new job opportunities.

Tanzania's disaster preparedness: a nation on edge

By Special Correspondent

As the dust settled over Kariakoo's bustling streets, Halima Abdallah's voice trembled from beneath the rubble of a collapsed four-story building.

"Help me, please! I don't get air," she gasped, trapped. For hours, rescue workers scrambled to locate her, relying on makeshift tools borrowed from a private company. By the time they reached her, it was too late. Abdallah had died.

Moments before the building's collapse, Husna Faime, a single mother, was finishing a client's order in her tailoring shop. Minutes later, disaster struck.

"I felt the ground shaking, and before I knew it, everything was falling," Faime recalled from her hospital bed a week later. Trapped under the rubble, she sent her sister a haunting text: "If I don't make it, please take care of Aisha. Tell her mom loves her."

Local volunteers dug through the debris with their bare hands, rescuing Faime hours later. Her survival was miraculous, but it revealed a grim reality: disasters, both natural and man-made, are a recurring threat in Tanzania, where communities remain unprepared.

Home to more than 62 million people, Tanzania faces numerous risks: floods, droughts, cyclones, and earthquakes. Adding to these are man-made disasters like road accidents, industrial mishaps, and building collapses. For the 34 percent of Tanzanians living in poverty, the cost of recovery is overwhelming.

In Kariakoo, a hub of markets and skyscrapers, hidden

dangers lurk. Corruption and substandard construction have turned many buildings into death traps. Investigations show that dishonest developers and corrupt officials routinely use cheap materials, cutting corners on safety regulations and bypassing inspections.

At least five major building collapses have been reported in Dar es Salaam in the last decade, claiming many lives. Kariakoo, in particular, has become a hotspot for such tragedies. Experts warn that many buildings in the area remain structurally unsound, posing constant risks.

Tanzania's vulnerability is compounded by inadequate disaster preparedness and infrastructure. Rapid urbanization, informal settlements, and poor drainage systems leave communities exposed to climate-related disasters.

"Our cities aren't designed to absorb the shocks of natural disasters," said Pius Yanda, a climate change adaptation specialist at the University of Dar es Salaam. Informal settlements are particularly vulnerable, with little infrastructure to handle flooding or other hazards.

Man-made disasters are equally concerning. Weak enforcement of building codes makes collapses tragically common. "The warning signs are always there," said Peter Kazimoto, a disaster risk reduction expert at the Tanzania Red Cross. "Developers prioritize cutting costs over safety, and enforcement is weak."

In rural areas like Morogoro, floods destroyed Ahmed Selemeni's maize crop, his only source of income. "We heard warnings on the radio, but no one came to evacuate us," he said. "Now we have nothing."



The recent collapse of a high-rise building in Dar es Salaam, which killed 16 people and injured more than 80, has reignited concerns about the city's disaster preparedness.

Although Tanzania has a disaster response framework, the Tanzania Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (TEPRP), its implementation is inadequate. Agencies like the Disaster Management Department (DMD) operate with limited resources, meeting only 35 percent of their

funding needs in 2023. "We've made some progress with early warning systems," said Jim Yonazi, an official in the Prime Minister's Office, "but we need more resources to mitigate risks effectively."

In the absence of strong government intervention, many Tanzanians have taken

matters into their own hands. In Tandale, a sprawling slum in Dar es Salaam, residents like John Mnyamasi have built rudimentary flood defenses using sandbags and canals. "We can't wait for the government," Mnyamasi said.

During building collapses, local volunteers

are often the first responders. Emmanuel Joseph, a Kariakoo resident, recounted rescuing 12 people from rubble. "When you hear someone crying for help, you just act—even if it means risking your own life," he said.

Experts stress the importance of disaster risk reduction to safeguard Tanzanians. "Disaster risk reduction isn't just about reacting to emergencies—it's about prevention," said James Mbatia, a former legislator and disaster risk specialist.

Investments in early warning systems, stronger infrastructure, and public awareness are critical. Neighbor-

ing Kenya, for instance, uses mobile apps to provide real-time weather updates, enabling faster evacuations. "Empowering communities with tools and knowledge can save lives," Mbatia said.

Critics argue that the Tanzanian government must take greater responsibility for disaster management failures. "It's like watching a fire spread while holding a bucket of water you never use," Mbatia said, pointing to predictable disasters like annual floods in low-lying regions.

Gordian Kazaura, an urban planning specialist at Ardhi University, highlighted the human cost. "The poorest suffer the most. They lack the resources to recover, and the government's response often comes too late," he said.

Despite the challenges, there is growing momentum for change. Organizations like the Tanzania Red Cross are training volunteers and advocating for better early warning systems. Workshops are equipping local authorities with emergency planning skills.

"Disasters are local by nature," said Kazimoto. "Empowering communities and regional committees to act swiftly, without waiting for central government instructions, is critical."

For survivors like Faime, recovery remains uncertain, but hope persists. "We need help, but we also need change," she said. "People like me can't keep starting over."

Halima Abdallah's final plea must serve as a wake-up call. Tanzania must transition from reactive responses to proactive resilience, ensuring that no cry for help goes unanswered. The time for action is now—before the next disaster strikes.

By Getrude Mbago

In a continent where electricity access remains a major challenge, Africa faces an uphill battle to bring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy to its citizens. As of today, around 685 million Africans—more than half of the continent's population—still lack access to electricity.

This has prompted a push for change, with the World Bank (WB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) joining forces in a bold initiative known as Mission 300. The plan is focused on connecting 300 million people to electricity by 2030, with Tanzania taking centre stage as the host of a critical summit aimed at advancing this agenda.

Mission 300 represents a transformative effort to address the continent's energy deficit. In a comprehensive collaboration involving various African nations and global financial institutions, the initiative seeks to deliver energy access to millions of underserved Africans by enhancing infrastructure, expanding renewable energy, and fostering sustainable development.

The World Bank and the African Development Bank, along with other development partners, have selected 14 African countries to lead the charge in the initial phase of the mission. The nations include Tanzania, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Chad, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, and Zambia. These countries have been chosen based on the low levels of electricity access within their borders, and the mission aims to dramatically change that trajectory.

Tanzania, a country that has made impressive strides in improving electricity dis-



Mission 300 Initiative: A new dawn for Africa's energy now

tribution, will play a key role in the mission. It is already home to a growing number of electrified households, and its commitment to expanding access further is critical to the success of the mission.

On January 27 to 28 Tanzania will host the African Energy Summit in Dar es Salaam. The event is expected to be a defining moment in the continent's energy transformation, bringing together Heads of State, key energy stakeholders, and development partners to foster agreements that will accelerate energy access for millions of Africans.

Gerson Msigwa, Chief Government Spokesperson and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Cul-

ture, Arts and Sports, expressed the nation's pride in hosting the summit, noting that the event will serve as a platform for pivotal agreements that will impact Africa's energy future for generations to come.

Speaking during a media workshop in Dar es Salaam over the weekend Msigwa said one of the key moments of the summit will be the signing of the Africa Energy Compact, a strategic framework that sets the course for achieving sustainable, equitable, and widespread energy access across the continent.

The compact is set to revolutionize how Africa approaches energy development by prioritizing clean energy sources

and ensuring that the energy transition benefits all Africans, including the most vulnerable.

Another critical milestone will be the unveiling of the first phase of National Energy Compacts for 2025-2030. These comprehensive plans, which will be rolled out by 14 countries—including Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia, and the DRC—will focus on enhancing energy access, reliability, and affordability, while promoting investments in energy infrastructure and generation capacity.

Furthermore, the Dar es Salaam Declaration will serve as a guiding vision for Africa's energy future, emphasizing the importance of renewable energy adoption, improved infrastruc-

ture, and energy equity. This collective vision will lay the foundation for long-term energy sustainability on the continent.

Mission 300: A major leap for Tanzania

For Tanzania, the implementation of Mission 300 is expected to bring monumental progress in electricity access. The country is set to connect an additional 2.5 million customers to the grid between 2025 and 2030, bringing the total number of Tanzanians with access to electricity to 7.7 million by 2030.

Currently, Tanzania has successfully connected 5.2 million citizens to the grid, with the government targeting 100 percent electricity access for all citizens by 2030. Through the National Energy Compact supported by the World Bank and the AfDB, Tanzania aims to connect an additional 13.5 million people—almost dou-

bling its current capacity—during the next five years. This will not only boost electricity access but also create opportunities for greater economic development and improved living standards.

Innocent Luoga, Commissioner for Electricity and Renewable Energy at the Ministry of Energy, emphasized the critical importance of the Mission 300 initiative in bridging Africa's electricity access gap and expanding infrastructure in underserved regions.

"We are not only hosting a summit; we are hosting the future of energy in Africa," said Luoga during a recent media workshop in Dar es Salaam. "Tanzania has already made significant strides in electricity access, and with the Mission 300 initiative, we are set to achieve even greater milestones in the years to come."

He said in recent years, the country has increased its electricity generation capac-

ity from 1,601.84 MW in 2020 to 3,169.20 MW in 2024. Major projects such as the Kinyerezi I and Rusumo power plants are nearing completion, and Tanzania has successfully connected 99.86 percent of its villages to electricity. Additionally, the government is focused on expanding clean cooking energy solutions and increasing the share of renewable energy in the national grid, particularly through solar, wind, and geothermal sources.

The government's commitment to energy infrastructure has also been bolstered by public-private partnerships (PPP), independent power producers (IPP), and engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts, ensuring that Tanzania's energy projects are both efficient and sustainable.

"Under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania has made energy a key national priority. The Mission 300 initiative and the upcoming African Energy Summit in Dar es Salaam are clear indicators of the president's commitment to ensuring that energy access is a right for all Tanzanians and Africans alike," he noted.

He said with the implementation of Mission 300, the country aims to provide electricity to millions of its citizens, unlock economic opportunities, and contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future for the entire continent.

As the Mission 300 initiative gathers momentum, the African continent is at a crossroads. The path forward requires collaborative efforts from governments, private sector players, international donors, and civil society organizations. The success of this initiative will not only hinge on financial investments but also on the collective will to drive policy reforms, implement large-scale infrastructure projects, and adopt innovative energy solutions."

Drought and farming: Women in S. Africa are using indigenous knowledge to cope

By Innocent Moyo

AFRICA'S small-scale farmers make up nearly 80% of all farms in the agriculture sector. In South Africa, there are about 2 million small-scale farmers, predominantly Black and based in the eastern summer rainfall region of the country.

A small-scale farmer produces food for their family on land that is generally smaller than five hectares. Small-scale farmers sell their excess produce but have limited access to resources, technology and big markets.

Africa's small-scale farming sector is hit hard when there's a drought because these farmers rely on rainwater. South Africa has been affected by major drought episodes over the years. However, 2015 stands out as the driest period on record since 1904, with drought affecting 2.7 million households, including small-scale farmers.

As droughts induced by climate change increase, South Africa's small-scale farmers need to adapt to the changed farming environment so that they can continue to produce food.

Our research investigated how small-scale farmers, particularly women, were using Indigenous knowledge systems to adapt to drought. Indigenous knowledge systems are collections of wisdom developed over many generations by people who live closely with nature. They include ways of organising and classifying the world, practical observations about the local environment, and methods for managing resources responsibly. The terms indigenous knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems are used interchangeably.

We studied small-scale farmers in the Umkhanyakude District Municipality of South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province. This is one of the most impoverished areas in the province, with an unemployment rate of 37.7%: 4.2 percentage points higher than the rest of the country.

Nearly all (95%) of the 690,000 people in the district live rurally, relying on social security grants, remittances from family members working elsewhere and small-scale agriculture to survive.

The Umkhanyakude District Municipality is also managed collectively by 18 traditional authorities under the Ingonyama Trust Board,



Communal wells have helped small-scale farmers adapt to drought in South Africa.

a contentious organisation that has been criticised for keeping male domination of the land alive and infringing on women's land rights.

As geographers who research climate change adaptation and Indigenous knowledge systems, we asked 384 small-scale farmers (61% of them women) to tell us how they were adapting to drought.

We found that farming practices based on Indigenous knowledge had built this community's resilience to drought, especially when led by women. Water harvesting, soil regeneration and pest control were some of the practices.

However, these practices are often overlooked in mainstream climate adaptation policies and interventions, which are driven by mostly non-indigenous stakeholders, based on western tech-

nical and legal solutions. Indigenous knowledge was not valued by colonisers during colonial times, a practice that persists in the patriarchal and capitalist systems that currently operate in our world.

Our research found that integrating Indigenous knowledge systems into formal climate adaptation frameworks will help small-scale farmers adapt to global warming and extreme weather. This could lead to sustainable ways of creating long term food security and gender equity.

The devastating impact of drought

The women small-scale farmers we interviewed reflected on the droughts they had experienced over the past 39 years (between 1983 and 2022):

The smell of decaying livestock

tainted the atmosphere. Moreover, salt began to crystallise in the river. We used this salt both for cooking and sold some it.

Droughts meant that it was a struggle to grow enough to feed their families and there was nothing to sell.

I lost three hectares of maize, nothing was growing, and even our livestock were perishing. Normally, we do not need to purchase feed for our livestock, but we had to.

Even the hand-dug wells dried up, and some farmers had to stop farming altogether.

We had no food. While goats managed to survive by relying on trees for sustenance, our cattle were not as fortunate and died.

How farmers adapted Various practices helped them survive:

Finding different supplies of

water: The farmers found ways to harvest rainwater. Collectively, they excavated hand dug communal wells and stored as much water as possible. They recycled the water they used at home and if they could afford it, drilled boreholes.

Conserving the moisture in the soil: This included hand ploughing, fallowing and tree planting. Women farmers used more organic waste on the soil - such as mulch and manure from cattle, chickens and goats, and crop residues. They also placed perforated plastic, used diapers and cardboard on the soil to retain soil moisture.

Planting different crops that can survive drought: Sweet potatoes, spinach, onions, taro, sugarcane and cotton were planted instead of water-intensive crops like cabbage, onion and tomatoes.

Homemade ways of getting rid of pests: The women farmers used wood ash, flour and homemade plant concoctions as well as the *Tirucalia tirucalli* tree (pencil cactus), which repels moles. They also manually removed caterpillars and applied water mixed with menstrual blood on vegetables to repel pests.

How women farmers carry the burden of climate change

Our research found that female-headed and low-income households paid the price for the changing climate. For example, small-scale farmers had to look for other work. But female-headed and low-income households had few options for other work and women couldn't leave home. They often had to do risky jobs like selling unlicensed alcohol, marijuana and fuel.

During the droughts, women farmers also had an increased workload from needing to carry water from wells in buckets to water the crops.

Male small-scale farmers were less restricted by domestic duties. They had more time and space to find other work during the drought, our research found. Women small-scale farmers have inadequate access to formal markets, financial services and formal employment.

Indigenous knowledge systems must be recognised

Indigenous knowledge draws on knowledge that has been built up over hundreds of years about actions that are useful in a specific local area. It is therefore very useful for communities who have to adapt to a changing climate. On the other hand, government climate adaptation plans, such as drought relief schemes, are often rolled out without understanding of the local knowledge or social identities in a specific area. This needs to change if small-scale farmers must cope with more intense and more frequent droughts.

The government, climate financiers and aid institutions must also move away from gender-neutral policies that maintain the status quo and impose additional burdens on women.

We call for the unsilencing, legitimisation and integration of Indigenous knowledge systems in both informal and formal adaptation programmes. This will empower small-scale farmers to preserve and transfer Indigenous knowledge and promote resilient agricultural practices. It will disrupt entrenched power dynamics and empower women farmers.

AI diagnostics can ease health crisis in war-torn Sudan

By Hazem Badr

SUDANESE health authorities are turning to AI to strengthen health systems after dozens of doctors were killed in the country's almost two-year long civil war, according to a senior official.

Sudan's health system is collapsing from shortages of medical supplies, a loss of doctors, and destroyed or looted medical facilities, particularly in hard-to-reach conflict areas, the World Health Organization has warned.

Al-Moghirah Al-Amin Gad Al-Sayed, director of the department of therapeutic medicine at the Federal Ministry of Health in Sudan, told SciDev.Net: "In conflict states, AI can play a big role, when traditional medical services are not available.

In areas where there is no doctor available to examine an x-ray, for example, AI can be used to match a patient's image against thousands of stored images and provide a diagnosis, he explained.

"Many studies have proven that [AI] shows great accuracy in medical diagnosis as a result of the data on which it has been trained, as well as the summary of human experiences and experiences that have fed it," he added.

Migration of doctors was



A mother and a child are now refugees at a transit centre in Renk, South Sudan where they arrived with others on 18 December after fleeing escalating violence in Sudan where the health system is collapsing from shortages of medical supplies, a loss of doctors, and destroyed or looted medical facilities.

a problem for Sudan even before the onset of a war in which 50 medical staff have

been killed in attacks on health centres by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces

(RSF), according to Al-Sayed. The absence of medical staff and supplies is also fuel-

ling antimicrobial resistance - where drugs are no longer effective against disease-

causing bacteria - as patients turn to antibiotics indiscriminately, says Al-Sayed. This could create a "generation of resistant microbes" and the loss of one of the most powerful weapons in medicine, he warns.

Al-Sayed says AI can "help greatly" in compensating for the absence of medical staff in conflict zones, but stresses that additional health workers are also urgently needed, along with supplies of medicines and medical devices.

More broadly, innovation in healthcare delivery, such as using neutral actors to deliver vaccinations in conflict areas, is also crucial as traditional methods of providing services are eroded, he believes.

Forgotten war

The international media has failed to highlight the suffering of the Sudanese people, laments Al-Sayed: "The world sympathises with the ugliness of Israeli crimes involving children in Gaza, which have been highlighted by the international media, while in Sudan we have thousands of stories that are more horrible, but do not receive the same attention."

Violence against women is widespread among these atrocities, forcing many fami-

lies to flee. More than 11.5 million people have been displaced since violent clashes broke out between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces in April 2023, according to the UN.

"The RSF has traditionally assaulted women wherever it enters, as a message to families to leave the area, so these attacks are the main reason for the migration of Sudanese families," Al-Sayed explained.

Extreme weather events linked to climate change, have also exacerbated the impacts of the conflict, putting pressure on sanitation services and fuelling the spread of diseases, he added.

Months of torrential rains and floods which started in June last year killed scores of people and destroyed thousands of homes. The UN said the rains had worsened an already critical health situation, resulting in further displacements, cholera outbreaks and widespread infestations of scorpions and snakes in some states.

"MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders) is a key partner in the functioning of hospitals in safe areas, helping to provide services in conflict zones, but it needs more donor support to be able to provide more supplies," added Al-Sayed.

BUSINESS

Gold gains as US dollar slips on Trump tariff uncertainty

By Anushree Mukherjee

GOLD prices rose on Tuesday as the US dollar eased due to uncertainty around President-elect Donald Trump's tariff plans, with further support coming from top consumer China's central bank adding to its gold reserves for a second straight month.

Spot gold was up 0.3 percent at \$2,642.32 per ounce, as of 1005 GMT. US gold futures rose 0.2 percent to \$2,653.60.

"The main factor is the softening of the U.S. dollar over the last two sessions, which has provided some relief for the precious metal," said Ricardo Evangelista, senior analyst at ActivTrades.

The dollar index eased towards a one-week low versus major peers as traders considered whether President-elect Donald Trump's tariffs would be less aggressive than promised following a report in the Washington Post.

Trump however denied the report, deepening uncertainty about future US trade policies. A stronger dollar makes bullion more expensive for other currency holders.

Traders are setting their sights on Friday's US jobs report for Fed policy clues, along with job openings data due later in the day, ADP employment and the minutes from the Fed's December meeting on Wednesday.

Fed Governor Lisa Cook on Monday said that the Fed can be cautious about any further rate cuts given a solid economy and infla-

tion proving stickier than previously expected.

Bullion is considered a hedge against inflation, but high rates reduce the non-yielding asset's appeal.

Meanwhile, China's gold reserves stood at 73.29 million fine troy ounces at the end of December as the central bank kept buying gold for a second straight month, official data showed.

"By re-entering the market in December, Beijing signaled that its gold acquisition program remains active—a development likely to lend continued support to the precious metal's price," Evangelista added.

Gold prices gained about 27 percent in 2024, mainly boosted by robust central bank purchases and Fed rate cuts.

Spot silver gained 0.8 percent to \$30.18 per ounce, platinum added 1.7 percent to \$948.95 and palladium rose 0.7 percent to \$926.58.

Gold prices are projected to continue their upward trend into 2025, building on significant gains from 2024.

Analysts attribute this anticipated rise to several key factors including central bank purchase, geopolitical tension, monetary policy shifts and economic policies.

Goldman Sachs forecasts gold prices could reach \$3,000 per ounce by the end of 2025 while BullionVault survey predicts an increase to \$3,070 per ounce by the end of 2025, a 17.8 percent rise from current levels.



Oil prices now extend losses

BEIJING

Oil prices extended losses into a second straight session on Tuesday on technical correction after last week's rally, while forecasts for ample supply and a firm dollar also weighed.

Brent futures fell 28 cents, or 0.37 percent, to \$76.02 a barrel by 0148 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 33 cents, or 0.45 percent, to settle at \$73.23.

Both benchmarks rose for five days in a row last week and settled at their highest levels since October on Friday, partly due to expectations of more fiscal stimulus to revitalise China's faltering economy.

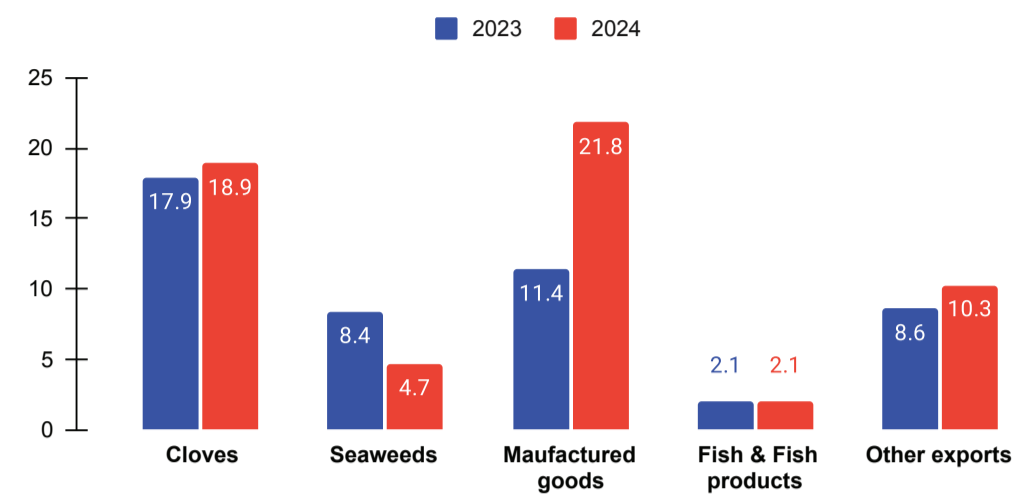
"This week's weakness is likely due to a technical correction, as traders react to softer economic data globally that undermines the optimism seen earlier," said Priyanka Sachdeva, senior market analyst at Phillip Nova, referring to bearish economic news from the US and Germany.

"Additionally, the dollar's strength is catching up with market sentiment and appears to be trimming the current gains in oil prices," Sachdeva said.



Manufacturing surpasses cloves as Zanzibar's top goods exports earner

Zanzibar's Exported Goods Value, during the year ending November (US\$ Million)



SOURCE: BOT/TRA

By Guardian Reporter

MANUFACTURED goods have for the first time in history surpassed cloves as Zanzibar's top goods exports earner, which indicates advancing progresses in industrialization drive, aimed at diversifying the isle's economy.

The recent provisional data by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) show that earnings from manufactured goods amounted to US\$21.8 million during the year ending November, 2024, an increase of nearly 91 percent from US\$11.4 million recorded during the year ended in November 2023.

For many years, Zanzibar has been depending on cloves as top goods exports earner, as during the year ending November 2023, the value of its exports earnings amounted to US\$17.9 million, which also increased to US\$18.9 million by November 2024.

However, services (tourism)

remains the Zanzibar's leading exports earning sector, accounting to 80 percent of total exports and 25 percent of GDP, as it injected a total of US\$1 billion during the year ending November last year, driven by an increase of number of tourists.

According to the central bank report, the strong increase of earnings from exported manufactured goods also boosted the isles' total earnings from exports of goods to US\$58 million from US\$48 million respectively.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) continue to dominate the Zanzibar's manufacturing sector, particularly in food processing, textiles, and handicrafts.

The Zanzibar's industrialization drive started way back in 2015, when the government led by President Dr Ali Mohammed Shein, was implementing

a five-year strategy aimed at involving different sectors to ensure industrial production increased to counter over-imp

portation and boost exports

earnings.

Official data show that between January and June 2024, manufacturing was the leading sector for attracting investment projects, with 196 projects worth US\$1.42 billion.

The Zanzibar's major manufactured goods exports include textile and garments, cosmetics, fragrances, food products, beverages, machinery, transport equipment and natural food additives.

The archipelago island is currently developing its manufacturing sector with incentives for industrial projects, free economic zones, and a public-private partnership (PPP) act.

To cement the growth of manufacturing sector, in August 2024, President Dr. Hussein Mwinyi laid the foundation stone for a new industrial park in Dunga Zuze village.

The park will be home to a variety of businesses, including those that produce goods, transportation equipment, textiles, garments, and food processing.

The industrialization drive positions Zanzibar to transition from a tourism-reliant economy to a diversified one, creating jobs and enhancing economic resilience.

However, the costs of manufacturing remain the major challenge in Zanzibar.

According to the research report on the manufacturing sector in Zanzibar by Jamal Msami and Emmanuel Maliti of Repoa published in 2023, the unit cost of manufacturing in Zanzibar are relatively higher, than the same costs from benchmarking countries.

According to the report, the unit cost of raw materials being used to produce non-woven bags in Zanzibar is US\$ 1.25 against US\$ 0.16 in India.

The report also shows that the manufacturer of wheat flour in Zanzibar incurs US\$ 432 to produce 1 metric ton (MT) of wheat flour. It is US\$ 218 in Russia and US\$ 338 in United States of America (USA).

"The higher unit costs in Zanzibar are attributed to the same business environment constraints that contribute to capacity under utilisation," said the report.

The study surveyed six large scale manufacturing industries in Zanzibar and benchmarked the situation in Zanzibar against the situation in comparable countries and regional averaged.

The central bank report shows that the third largest valued exported goods were souvenirs and spices, which injected a total of US\$10.3 million during the year ending November, followed by seaweeds, although its value shrunk by 43 percent to US\$4.7 million from US\$8.4 million due to decline of both unit price and volume.

By Guardian Correspondent, Geneva

The rising geopolitical uncertainty has stagnating the global cooperation, underscoring for the urgency of addressing shared challenges and offers leaders guidance on what cooperation can look like in a shifting world.

The new Global Cooperation Barometer published yesterday by the World Economic Forum reveals that the world is currently grappling with heightened competition and conflict, while also identifying various areas where leaders can drive progress through innovative collaboration.

Released amid geopolitical, technological and sociopolitical upheaval, the Global Cooperation Barometer 2025 was developed in collaboration with McKinsey & Company, uses 41 indicators to measure the current state of global cooperation.

The aim is to offer leaders a tool to better understand the contours of cooperation broadly and along five pillars: trade and capital flows, innovation and technology, climate and natural capital, health and wellness, and peace and security.

"The Barometer is being released at a moment of great global instability and at a time when many new governments are developing agendas for the year, and their terms, ahead," said Børge Brende, President and CEO of the World Economic Forum.

"What the Barometer shows is that cooperation is not only essen-



Report shows decline of global cooperation

tial to address crucial economic, environmental and technological challenges, it is possible within today's more turbulent context."

"This second edition of the Global Cooperation Barometer focuses on where cooperation stands today and what it can look like in the new technological age," said Bob Sternfels, Global Managing Partner, McKinsey & Company.

"Advancing global innovation, health, prosperity and resilience cannot be done alone. Leaders will need new mechanisms for working together on key priorities, even as they disagree on others, and the past several years have shown this balance is possible."

The report's analysis reveals that after trend-

ing positively for a decade and surpassing pre-pandemic levels, overall cooperation has stagnated.

This has been driven by a sharp decline of the peace and security pillar of the Barometer over the past seven years, caused by mounting geopolitical tensions and competition which have significantly eroded global collective security.

Levels of conflict and attendant humanitarian crises have increased in the past year to record levels, driven by crises including, but not limited to, the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan.

As the largely stable cooperative order that defined the post-Cold War period is giving way to a more fragmented landscape, solutions to

pressing challenges - from climate action to technological governance - require collaboration.

And despite the global security crises, the new findings indicate that collaboration has continued in various areas including vaccine distribution, scientific research, renewable energy development, and more - offering models for future cooperation.

Notably, according to the Barometer, peace and security have declined sharply in recent years, but other pillars have remained resilient and reveal emerging opportunities for international cooperation.

While geopolitical competition is rising in regard to certain frontier technologies such as semiconductors,

overall global cooperation on technology and innovation advanced in 2023, in part due to digitization of the global economy.

This helped drive the adoption of new technologies, a strong ramp-up in the supply of critical minerals - and a related drop in price of lithium batteries - and a rebound in student mobility.

However, rapid disruption from emerging technologies such as AI is reshaping the global landscape, raising the possibility of a new frontline of geostrategic competition or even an "AI arms race".

Cooperation on climate goals improved over the past year, with increased finance flows and higher trade in low-carbon technologies such as solar, wind and electric vehicles.

Yet, urgent action is required to meet net-zero targets as global emissions continue to rise.

UN fund trains innovators on clean cooking energy

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) through its EU funded Clean Cooking Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and COSTECH is running a 3-day innovation challenge bootcamp in Dar.

The event aims at elevating the skills, knowledge and awareness to clean cooking innovators who have unique interest in advancing the market for cooking technologies, appliances, financing and behavioral change.

Innovation Challenge in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, European Union and Costech, is running a 3-day bootcamp which aims to up-skill innovators in clean cooking.

The innovation challenge is part of the broader five-year CookFund



Shortlisted applicants of the Innovation Challenge attend the 3-day bootcamp, facilitated by the European Union funded CookFund Programme, implemented by UNCDF Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

programme (2021 - 2026) which aims to contribute to Tanzania's climate change commitment by increasing the share of the population

with access to sustainable cooking solutions.

Participants in the training are shortlisted innovators that are actively addressing

advancements in stove or fuel technologies, financing solutions tailored to clean cooking products, and behavioral change strategies

that encourage the adoption of these solutions at scale.

Speaking at the Innovation Bootcamp, Ngereja Mgejwa, Chairperson, National

Technical Committee on Access to Clean Cooking, shared the government's plans through the National Clean Cooking Strategy.

"The national strategy focuses on key interventions that support the goal to achieve 80 percent adoption of clean cooking solutions by 2034. These include increasing access to raw materials for production, promoting investment in the clean cooking sub-sector, broadening the scope of research and innovation, and building the capacity of implementers, much like we are doing here today."

During his welcoming remarks, Imanuel Muro, the CookFund Programme Manager encouraged participants to form partnerships that will scale their ideas adding, "With the clean cooking sector identified as critical to achieving Tanzania's climate and energy transition goals, this challenge presents a huge business opportu-

nity for innovators with solutions that are relevant to the Tanzanian context."

The CookFund Innovations Challenge aims to support entrepreneurs and enterprises seeking to address barriers related to affordability, availability, and behavioral shifts to expand clean cooking adoption in Tanzania.

Its objectives include promote innovative solutions for clean and affordable cooking technologies, encourage startups, organizations, and individuals to address environmental, health, and energy challenges in the cooking sector and support the global transition to clean energy, especially in underserved regions.

The challenge is open to individuals, startups, non-profits, researchers, and companies globally as it focuses on innovators from regions heavily affected by inefficient cooking systems, such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Indian flour mills struggle as wheat prices increase

AHMEDABAD

INDIAN wheat prices jumped to a record high earlier this week due to dwindling supplies amid robust demand from flour mills that are struggling to secure the grain to operate at full capacity, industry officials told Reuters.

The record prices are likely to lift retail inflation, which eased in November after surging to a 14-month high in October, and could influence the central bank's

decision on interest rate cuts.

"Wheat supplies are limited in the market. Even after paying record prices, flour mills are unable to secure enough to operate at full capacity," said Ajay Goyal, managing director of Shivaji Roller Flour Mills.

In December, New Delhi lowered the limit on wheat stocks that traders and millers can hold to help boost the grain's availability and moderate prices.

But the curbs failed

to bring down prices, which were trading around 33,000 rupees (\$384.66) per metric ton in New Delhi, up from 24,500 rupees in April and far above the government fixed minimum support price of 22,750 rupees for last season's crop.

The stock limit failed to improve supplies and bring down prices, indicating that private players are holding few supplies, and the government needs to sell more wheat from its reserves

to bulk consumers, said Pramod Kumar, a flour miller.

The state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) is selling 100,000 metric tons of wheat to bulk consumers every week, but this is not sufficient to meet demand, as private players' sales are falling, Kumar said.

In November, the government announced plans to sell 2.5 million tons of wheat from state reserves to bulk consumers in the year ending March 2025. This is

significantly lower than the nearly 10 million tons sold in the previous season.

The surplus wheat with the FCI is limited, preventing it from offering more to private players, said a New Delhi-based dealer with a global trade house.

Wheat stocks in state warehouses totalled 20.6 million tons at the start of December, slightly higher than the previous year's 19.2 million tons, but far below five-year average of 29.5 million.

African taxpayers unsatisfied with taxes spending by states

By Guardian Reporter, Nairobi

NEARLY half of African taxpayers don't see their taxes being spent for the public good, the new survey conducted by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, International Federation of Accountants and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) has shown.

Globally, only three in ten taxpayers agree that tax revenues in their country are spent for the public good (46 percent disagreeing, rest neutral).

According to the report, Africa painted a slightly more encouraging picture with 38 percent of African taxpayers agreeing that tax is spent for the public good, while 43 percent disagreed (rest neutral).

Across the globe, taxpayers support the idea of a fiscal contract - citizens agreeing to pay tax in exchange for services - but a global poll suggests that only a third see the deal working in practice.

The survey found that 52 percent of respondents agree that taxes are a contribution to the community rather than a cost (25 percent disagree, rest neutral).

Africa in contrast, nearly two thirds (21 percent strongly agreed and 44 percent agreed) with the statement 'taxes are a contribution to the community rather than a cost to me', while only just under 20 percent disagreeing.

Public Trust in Tax 2024: Latin America and Beyond surveyed some of the largest countries by population in different regions of the world.

The 2024 survey marks the most significant expansion of the work to date, both in terms of questions asked and countries covered.

Africa and Asia both sees tax as a matter of law compared with Latin America. In Africa 55.6 percent see it as primarily law and regulation, 13.8 percent as morals and fairness and 30.6 percent as an equal blend. In Asia the figures were similar (52 percent, 36 percent and 12 percent).

But in Latin America at 38.9 percent law and regulation was below an equal blend of 44.3 percent and the moral score was highest across

the globe at 16.8 percent.

Jamil Ampomah, director of Africa, ACCA said: "This is a groundbreaking study of public trust in tax in Africa. And while there is much in the research which is encouraging - especially compared with other regions of the world - we need to ensure the dialogue among governments, policy makers and stakeholders continues. We need to see public trust in tax maintained to help ensure sustainable development."

George Njari, Head of Eastern Africa at ACCA said: "Trust in tax systems is crucial for sustainable development and prosperity, and the findings of this survey highlight the challenges that many governments across the world face in building it. We look forward to using this important work to engage with policymakers, tax authorities and civil society to drive evidence-based policy initiatives to build effective and trusted tax systems."

Countries in Africa surveyed were Angola, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire Kenya and Nigeria.

The survey result also shows that Africa has a net positive trust in tax authorities of 34.1 percent, not as high as Asia's 38.9 percent but in sharp contrast to Latin America's negative rating of 4.2 percent

Women expressed slightly more positive sentiments about interactions with tax authorities than men in Africa and Asia, but this position was reversed in Latin America

Africa shares a similar view with other world regions that cheating on taxes is never acceptable at 63.6 percent with an average score across the globe of 61.5 percent

It was interesting to note that in Africa there is significant variation across the five sampled countries, with Egypt and to a less extent Cote d'Ivoire tending to have more positive views on taxation than the other countries.

Commenting on the finding that tax accountants are the most trusted source of information on tax, and politicians the least, Lee White, CEO of IFAC, said "Consumer and investor protection is the foundation for economic prosperity, which aligns with building trust in the tax ecosystem."



64pc of Africa business angels invest cautiously, report says

By Guardian Correspondent

AROUND 64 percent of active business angels in Africa make investments of less than \$25,000 per transaction, according to a December 2024 report by the African Business Angel Network (ABAN), in collaboration with the Briter Bridges research firm and the African Angel Academy.

The report, titled "ABAN Angel Investment Survey 2024," is based on a survey of 110 business angels from more than 30 countries, 38 percent of whom are women.

Business angels—often entrepreneurs, senior executives, or invest-

ment professionals—are cautious when investing their own funds, especially during times of economic uncertainty.

Between 2022 and 2024, the share of business angels making investments below \$25,000 rose to 77 percent.

Smaller investments allow for greater diversification, with less risk, as most of these investors focus on early-stage fundraising, such as pre-seed and seed rounds.

African business angels also take various approaches depending on their risk tolerance and investment goals.

Half of the respondents prefer equity investments through Simple

Agreements for Future Equity (SAFE), which are used by risk-tolerant investors seeking high long-term returns.

Meanwhile, 28 percent favor debt instruments, such as convertible bonds or loans, which provide returns over shorter periods. These options appeal to more risk-averse investors who seek quicker profits while still considering equity in high-growth companies.

When it comes to the type of businesses they target, 43 percent of business angels prefer investing in high-growth companies, such as innovative startups founded by entrepreneurs aged 25 to 40.

Moreover, 50 percent express a strong preference for businesses that already have a customer base or are generating revenue, even if they are not yet profitable.

Many business angels also favor companies operating in urban areas (90%) and those with strong female representation, whether as co-founders, leaders, employees, partners, or customers (79 percent). The report also reveals that 46 percent of these investors choose to invest through structured vehicles, such as angel syndicates.

This approach allows them to share risks, pool expertise, and gain better access to investment

opportunities. Meanwhile, 26 percent invest independently, while 28 percent prefer flexible strategies that combine both individual and group investments.

Business angels often partner with other types of investors and various players in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including venture capital firms (22 percent), tech hubs (14 percent), entrepreneurs (13 percent), international donors (9 percent), and governments (8 percent).

They also adopt strategies aimed at increasing their chances of success, such as joining angel networks (57 percent) or attending training sessions offered by the African Angel Academy (47 percent).

While they primarily fill funding gaps for early-stage companies, which are often less appealing to risk-averse investors due to their untested models, business angels typically provide more than just financial support.

According to the report, 93 percent of respondents offer at least one type of high-value support to entrepreneurs, including business advice (29 percent), mentorship (26 percent), help with networking (25 percent), and guidance on improving governance (13 percent).

Furthermore, 6 percent of business angels make follow-on investments in companies already in their portfolios, based on strong growth, trust in the management team, or positive market trends.



WORLD

Trump loses bid to delay sentencing in hush money case as he appeals

NEW YORK

US President-elect Donald Trump on Monday lost a bid to put off his sentencing on Friday for his criminal conviction stemming from hush money paid to a porn star.

Citing both presidential immunity and the demands of Trump's impending Jan 20 inauguration, his lawyers on Monday morning said Justice Juan Merchan's intention not to penalize Trump was "of no moment."

"Presidential immunity violations cannot be ignored in favor of a rushed pre-inauguration sentencing," the lawyers wrote in a court filing.

In a written ruling later on Monday, Merchan said Trump's motion was mostly "a repetition of the arguments he has raised numerous times in the past." The judge declined to push back Trump's Jan 10 sentencing, a date he had set just last

week.

In scheduling Trump's sentencing for Friday, the judge noted last week that he was not inclined to send Trump to jail. He wrote that a sentence of unconditional discharge, effectively putting a judgment of guilt on his record without a fine or probation, would be the most practical approach given Trump's looming inauguration.

The judge said Trump, 78, may appear at his sentencing either in person or virtually.

In their Monday filing, Trump lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove asked Merchan to hold off sentencing Trump while the appeals play out. Any delay would make it unlikely that Trump would be sentenced before his Jan 20 inauguration.

A Republican, Trump has long argued that Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a Democrat, brought the case to harm his reelection campaign. Bragg has



President-elect Donald Trump reacts at AmericaFest, Dec 22, 2024, in Phoenix. AP

said that his office routinely brings felony falsification of business records charges - the charge Trump faced in the case.

Prosecutors with Bragg's office had urged Merchan to deny Trump's bid to delay the sentencing.

"The balance of equities weighs heavily in the People's favor given the strong public interest in prompt prosecution and the finality of criminal proceedings," the prosecutors wrote on Monday afternoon.

The case stemmed from a \$130,000 payment Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen made to adult film actor Stormy Daniels to keep her quiet about a sexual encounter she said she had with Trump, who denies it.

After a six-week trial in state criminal court in Manhattan, a jury in May found Trump guilty on 34 felony counts of falsifying records

to mask the payment prior to the 2016 election.

The hush money case made Trump the first US president - sitting or former - to be charged with and convicted of a crime. Since the verdict, his lawyers have made two unsuccessful attempts to have the case tossed.

Merchan previously rejected their argument that the US Supreme Court's July finding in a separate criminal case against Trump that presidents cannot be prosecuted for official acts meant the hush money case must be dismissed. Merchan ruled that the hush money case concerned Trump's personal conduct.

After Trump won reelection, his lawyers argued that having the case hang over him while president would impede his ability to govern. Merchan denied that bid, writing that overturning the jury's verdict would be an affront to the rule of law.

Agencies

President Xi stresses winning tough, protracted battle against corruption

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Monday called for resolutely winning the tough, protracted and all-around battle against corruption.

Xi (pictured), also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, emphasized rigorous Party self-governance with the spirit of reform when addressing the fourth plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), which opened Monday in Beijing.

Xi said unprecedented efforts have been made to advance full and rigorous Party self-governance and the fight against corruption since the beginning of the new era, yielding widely recognized results.

He stressed the need to take resolute and sustained actions to fight corruption.

"Corruption is the greatest threat to the Party, and combating it represents the most thorough kind of self-reform," Xi said.

Confronted with significant challenges in the fight against corruption, the Party has remained committed to investigating and addressing all corruption cases to maintain the integrity of officials, Xi said.

But he also noted that the fight against corruption remains "a grave and complex challenge," calling for strengthening resolve and confidence in this regard.

Xi emphasized the importance of making greater progress in Party self-governance to ensure the Party remains the strong leadership core in building socialism with Chinese characteristics and to guarantee the steady advancement of Chinese modernization.

It is imperative to conduct concrete, targeted and regular political oversight, and maintain a high degree of unity with the CPC Central Committee in both words and actions, Xi said.

Noting that tightening Party discipline is an ongoing task, Xi called for establishing a regular and long-term mechanism for discipline education. It is essential to enforce strict management and supervision of officials, and encourage them to take actions in reform and innovation while abiding by rules and discipline, Xi stressed.

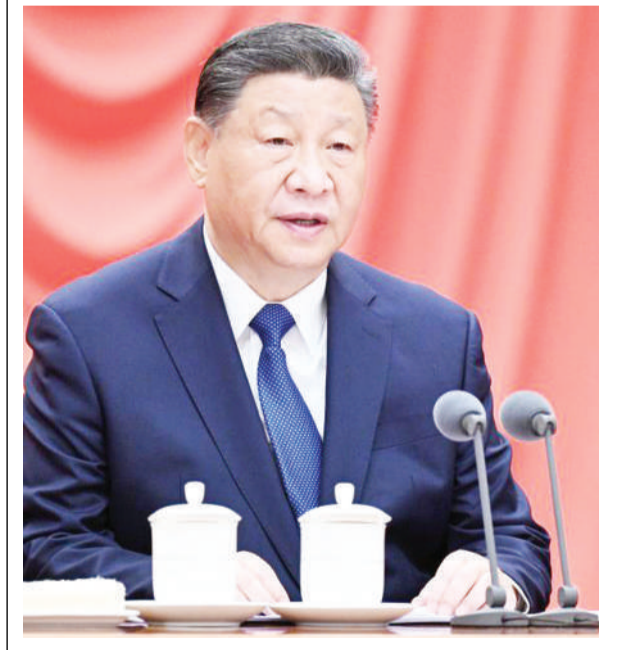
It is vital to maintain a tough stance against corruption, focusing on key issues, sectors and targets, Xi said, calling for efforts to address both bribe-taking and bribe-giving and eliminate systemic corruption risks.

He also underscored the implementation of long-term mechanisms to address pointless formalities and reduce burdens at the primary level.

Xi stressed that disciplinary inspection and supervision authorities are crucial in advancing the Party's self-reform, calling for more efforts to ensure their work is carried out in a standardized, law-based and professional manner.

Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi and Ding Xuexiang, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, attended the meeting.

Li Xi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CCDI, presided over the meeting. He said Xi's speech laid out a strategic plan for further exercising full and rigorous Party self-governance, urging unwavering efforts to advance the fight against corruption. **Xinhua**



Europe grapples with extreme weather, travel disrupted

BRUSSELS

EUROPE is grappling with a powerful wave of extreme winter weather, including heavy snow, sleet, and storms, which has disrupted transportation and infrastructure across the continent, leaving travelers stranded and local communities struggling to manage the chaos.

In Germany, the winter weather caused significant disturbances to air and rail transport over the weekend. At Berlin Brandenburg Airport, the number of arrivals was cut in half on Sunday evening due to the threat of sleet, with landings limited to just 20 planes per hour.

Frankfurt Airport canceled 120 of its 1,090 scheduled flights on Sunday, while Munich Airport operated with only one runway for much of the day, rescheduling 750 flights and canceling 35 as a precaution. Rail services across Germany, includ-



People are seen on a street in the snow in Oslo, capital of Norway Monday.

ing in Frankfurt, also experienced widespread delays and cancellations. The Netherlands saw similar disruptions on Sunday due to heavy snowfall. Around 70 flights were canceled at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport as icy conditions made operations difficult.

Snow-covered roads across the country led to a number of accidents, further complicating the

situation for travelers.

In Britain, snow and rain continued to cause major disruptions on Monday, including delays and cancellations of flights at airports and rail services, school closures and power outages. Severe weather also wreaked havoc in Ireland, where more than 34,000 customers were left without electricity and 40,000 without water by Monday.

Schools were closed, and authorities issued warnings about significant travel disruptions as crews worked around the clock to restore essential services. In the Czech Republic, Prague International Airport temporarily halted operations late Sunday afternoon due to freezing rain and ice. Many flights were either delayed or canceled, and electric train services were suspended in several parts of the country. Meteorologists have warned that freezing rain and hazardous conditions are expected to persist.

PM Modi appreciates letter from Biden handed over by NSA Sullivan

NEW DELHI

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday and assessed advancement in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership over the past four years. PM Modi appreciated a letter sent by US President Joe Biden, handed over to him by Sullivan.

PM Modi (pictured) reaffirmed his commitment to continue to deepen close cooperation between India and the US for the benefit of the people of the two countries and for the global good, according to a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

press release. He also conveyed his best wishes to US President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

"They positively assessed the significant advancement in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership over the last four years, especially in the key areas of technology, defence, space, civil nuclear, clean energy, semiconductors, and AI," MEA said in a release.

During the meeting, PM Modi recalled his meetings with Biden, including during his visit to the US for Quad Leaders'



Summit in September last year.

MEA said, "Recalling his various meetings with President Biden, including during his visit to the US in September 2024 for the Quad Leaders' Summit, PM appreciated President Biden's contributions towards strengthening the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, which leaves an enduring legacy."

PM Modi also took to X to share details regarding his meeting with US NSA Sullivan. PM Modi said that he looked forward to building upon the momentum in ties between the two nations for the benefit of people and global good.

In a post shared on X, PM Modi wrote,

"It was a pleasure to meet the US National Security Advisor @JakeSullivan46. The India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership has scaled new heights, including in the areas of technology, defence, space, biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence. Look forward to building upon this momentum in ties between our two democracies for the benefit of our people and global good."

During his two-day visit to India, US NSA met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi on Monday. During the meeting, the two sides held discussions on enhancing bilateral, regional and global cooperation. **ANI**

To embrace even broader prospects in pursuing Chinese modernisation

"ON the new journey of Chinese modernization, everyone is a key actor, every effort counts, and every ray of light shines," said Chinese President Xi Jinping in his 2025 New Year message.

When delivering the New Year message, Xi reviewed the extraordinary journey completed by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) over the past year, pooling the powerful collective force of all Chinese people striving in unity.

His message demonstrated to the world China's firm determination and confidence in building itself into a strong country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

The year 2024 was a crucial year

for achieving the objectives and tasks laid down in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). In the face of challenges posed by evolving dynamics at home and abroad, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has united and led the entire Party and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to respond calmly with a full range of policies, made solid gains in pursuing high-quality development, and successfully accomplished the main targets and tasks of economic and social development for the year. China's GDP in 2024 is expected to pass 130 trillion yuan (\$17.81 trillion) mark, as the country takes new solid strides in advancing Chinese modernization.

An article published on the website of Kenyan newspaper The Stan-

dard said that China's development story is one "of a vision realized through concerted effort and determination."

The recently published results of China's fifth national economic census showed that as the world's second-largest economy, China's average contribution to global economic growth has remained around 30 percent for the past five years, making it the largest driving force behind world economic growth.

Promoting green and innovation-driven development

Over the past year, China has made solid progress in green development and sci-tech innovation, continuously writing a new chapter of high-quality development.

Green and low-carbon development has been further enhanced in China, unfolding a more beautiful country. China has also fostered new quality productive forces in light of actual conditions. New business sectors, forms and models have kept emerging.

The Taklimakan Desert, the largest desert in China and the second-largest drifting desert in the world, has been completely encircled with a sand-blocking green belt stretching over 3,000 kilometers. Besides, China's annual production of new energy vehicles has surpassed 10 million milestone for the first time.

A recent report by the Financial Times pointed out that electric vehicles are expected to outsell cars with internal combustion engines in

China for the first time in 2025 in a historic inflection point.

According to the Global Innovation Index 2024 released by the World Intellectual Property Organization, China has moved up to the 11th place in the ranking of the world's most innovative economies, making it one of the fastest risers over the past decade.

Putting people's well-being front and center

"Of all the jobs in front of us, the most important is to ensure a happy life for our people," Xi said in his 2025 New Year message.

Everywhere in China, people in all fields - workers, builders and entrepreneurs, among others - are working hard to fulfill their dreams, enjoy-

ing enriching lives.

This vibrant scene fully demonstrates that China has followed a people-centered approach, insisting that development is for the people, reliant on the people, and that its fruits should be shared by the people, which is the precondition for the country to have the right view of development and modernization and build the great momentum of its march forward in the new era.

China's "journey of modernization is not just about material wealth; it is deeply rooted in a people-centered philosophy. The fruits of Chinese modernization have been transformed into tangible improvements in the quality of life for ordinary citizens," as reported by Bangladesh's Weekly Blitz. **People's Daily**

4 years after Capitol riots, political divisions, violence still plague US

WASHINGTON

JAN. 6, 2021 is a day etched in U.S. history, as supporters of Donald Trump stormed the Capitol in a failed attempt to block the peaceful transfer of presidential power to Joe Biden.

Since the riot, over 1,500 individuals have been criminally indicted in federal court. Trump, who once described the rioters as "great patriots," pledged to pardon them on his first day in office, Time magazine reported.

Four years later, political polarization and violence continue to plague the United States.

Gallup's 2024 report reveals that 80 percent of U.S. adults believe the country is deeply divided on core values, a sharp increase from 77 percent in 2016 and over 10 percentage points higher than earlier measurements in 2004 and 2012.

"Polarization" was chosen as the word of 2024 by the U.S. dictionary Merriam-Webster and a 2023 Pew Research Center poll found that the term "divisive" most commonly describes U.S. politics today.

Further data from Pew reveals that 64 percent of Americans consider the divide between Republicans and Democrats a "major problem," with both parties viewing each other as a significant threat to the nation's well-being.

Fueled by growing divisions, political violence has escalated across the United States in recent years. In October 2022, a man broke into the home of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in San Francisco and attacked her husband with a hammer. In June 2023, a Jan. 6 defendant was arrested while attempting to breach the home of former President Barack Obama. In August 2023, an armed man, accused of threatening President Biden, was fatally shot during an FBI raid in Utah. Additionally, in July 2024, an attempted assassination of Trump at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, shocked the nation. From 2022 to 2023, the



The U.S. Capitol building is pictured in Washington, D.C., the United States, on Jan. 6, 2025. (Xinhua/Hu Yousong)

Department of Justice prosecuted 27 threats against members of Congress, as reported by Foreign Policy.

Political violence has targeted not only political leaders but also ethnic minorities. In recent years, mass shootings have struck communities across the United States. For example, a racially motivated hate crime in New York in 2022 left 10 African Americans dead at the hands of a gunman.

Violent protests erupted from both the right and the left, further deepening societal divides. Following the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in October 2023, anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim incidents surged. About 18 percent of Americans believe that

political violence may be justified to "save" the country, an increase from 15 percent in 2021, said the 2024 American Values Survey released by the Public Religion Research Institute.

Looking ahead, a third of U.S. adults express very little confidence in the country's future, according to a Pew Research Center report in 2023.

"Imagine how polarized the country will be when our president talks about extremes? This of course affects each of us individually. Our democracy is being harmed. So I think the next four years would be worse," Aileen Bradley, a designer from New York City, told Xinhua. **Xinhua**

SCO turns new page on int'l relations, says spokesperson

BEIJING

THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) transcends the outdated idea of the clash of civilizations, Cold War mentality and zero-sum mindset as well as the old paradigm of forming exclusive circles, and turns an entirely new page on international relations, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Monday.

It is reported that Secretary-General of the SCO Nurlan Yermekbayev said in an interview that it is wrong to compare NATO and the SCO. The SCO emphasizes the non-aligned and de-ideologized nature and is for peace and cooperation.

Guo (pictured) said that the SCO has attracted an increasing number of partners and boasted higher-quality development since its founding 24 years ago, and now has become a regional organization that covers the largest area and population.

"The code of success for the SCO, which grows with strong vitality and strong impetus for cooperation, is that it puts forward and practices the Shanghai Spirit, a creative vision that champions mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development," Guo said.

As the rotating chair of the SCO, China will act on the slogan of "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move," bring member states together for deeper cooperation in the fields of politics, security, economy and cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and jointly build an even closer SCO community with a shared future. Guo said. **Xinhua**



Barrick update on Loulo-Gounkoto operations in Mali

TORONTO

BARRICK Gold Corporation remains restricted from shipping gold from its Loulo-Gounkoto mining complex in Mali. In addition, an interim attachment order has now been issued against the existing gold stock on site which further prevents its export and disrupts normal operations. Barrick believes the interim attachment order is unwarranted and is in contravention of the agreed dispute resolution mechanisms.

Barrick's president and CEO Mark Bristow says the inability to ship gold not only affects operations but has broader implications for the local economy, the 8,000 employees and its many local service providers. If this issue is not resolved within the coming week, Barrick will have no choice but to temporarily suspend operations at Loulo-Gounkoto. Such an action would be deeply regrettable but necessary, as previously reported.

"Barrick remains committed to constructive engagement with the Government of Mali to resolve the existing disputes amicably. As previously disclosed, we have initiated arbitration through the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) as a recognized mechanism to address these matters of disagreement while maintaining the integrity of existing agreements," said Bristow.

"In parallel, Barrick continues its efforts to reach an agreement with the Mali government on a memorandum of agreement to resolve the existing disputes, redefine the partnership's future and increase the State's share of benefits from the Loulo-Gounkoto complex."

He noted the situation was further compounded by the continued detention, on unfounded charges, of several of Barrick's Malian employees and the company was actively working to secure their release and ensure their well-being. The company reiterated its commitment to the safety and rights of its workforce as a critical priority.

"Barrick continues to be a steadfast partner to Mali and its people, contributing significantly to the country's economic and social development over nearly three decades. We are committed to dialogue and finding a mutually acceptable resolution that allows us to secure the future of Loulo-Gounkoto as a vital economic contributor to Mali," Bristow said.

Agencies

Microsoft to invest USD 3 billion in India to expand AI, cloud infra infrastructure

BENGALURU

MICROSOFT will make a USD 3 billion investment in India for cloud and AI infrastructure over the next two years, chairman and CEO Satya Nadella, informed from the stage at the Microsoft AI Tour in Bengaluru.

It will include the establishment of new data centers, and accelerating AI innovation in India.

Microsoft shared a comprehensive plan to train and skill 10 million people by 2030, reinforcing its commitment to partnering with India on the technology.

"Microsoft will also support the country's long-term competitiveness by training 10 million people over the next five years with AI skills, as part of the second edition of its ADVANTA(I)GE India program," the multinational technology company said in a statement.

Satya Nadella, chairman and CEO,

of Microsoft said the investments in infrastructure and skilling it announced today reaffirm our commitment to making India AI-first, and "will help ensure people and organizations across the country benefit broadly."

"India is rapidly becoming a leader in AI innovation, unlocking new opportunities across the country," Nadella added.

Microsoft will expand its cloud and AI infrastructure across data centre campuses in the country.

Microsoft already has three data centre regions in the market, and the fourth ready to go live in 2026. Today's investment announcement aims to develop a scalable AI computing ecosystem to meet the growing demands of India's rapidly expanding AI start-ups and research community.

As the nature of jobs evolves, AI is becoming an essential skill for professionals.

Separately, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella in the national capital and discussed various aspects of technology, innovation and AI.

Microsoft has been operating in India for more than 30 years now.

Puneet Chandok, President, Microsoft India and South Asia said, "In the last 12 months Microsoft has been a copilot to making AI a reality in India, taking it from boardrooms to classrooms, commerce to communities, and finance to farmers.

Today's announcement strengthens our belief in India's potential and our resolve to equip the country with the resources and future-ready skills needed to excel in the global marketplace.

We will continue to use AI to unlock possibilities for the next few decades and ensure communities across the country have access to the compute

they need to prosper in the AI era."

ANI



"Microsoft will also support the country's long-term competitiveness by training 10 million people over the next five years with AI skills, as part of the second edition of its ADVANTA(I)GE India programme"

China releases prototypes of world's fastest high-speed train

PROTOTYPES of the CR450 bullet train, the world's fastest high-speed train with a test speed of up to 450 kilometers per hour (km/h) and an operational speed of 400 km/h, were debuted in Beijing on Dec. 29, 2024.

The CR450 is significantly faster than the CR400 Fuxing high-speed trains currently in service, which operate at speeds of 350 km/h. Here are the secrets behind the higher speed.

Stronger Power

High-speed rail runs fast because it converts electrical energy into mechanical energy. The CR450, utilizing permanent magnet traction motors, has increased energy conversion efficiency by over 3 percent compared to the CR400, which uses asynchronous traction motors. The stronger power output enables the train to run faster.

Lower Resistance

As high-speed trains accelerate, aerodynamic resistance escalates exponentially with the velocity. When the speed rises to 400 km/h, the resistance will increase by 30 percent. This means that most of the energy generated by traction motors is expended in combat-

ing air resistance. With an innovative design, the CR450 has managed to slash operational resistance by 22 percent.

Lighter Weight

A lighter weight is crucial for high-speed trains. The CR450 has cut its weight by over 10 percent compared to the CR400, thanks to the adoption of new materials such as carbon fiber composites and magnesium alloys, as well as the topology optimization technique.

Better Performance

Apart from high speed, it is more important for bullet trains to have efficient braking. The CR450 now takes only 6,500 meters to achieve a complete stop from 400 km/h, the same braking distance as the CR400.

This outstanding performance has allowed the CR450 to reach a higher speed without increasing energy consumption. When running at 400 km/h, the eight-carriage CR450 consumes only 22 to 23 kilowatt-hours of electricity per kilometer, making it a cost-effective and eco-friendly choice for commercial operations.

The CR450 high-speed train also boasts many eye-catching



Photo shows a prototype of the CR450 bullet train. (Photo from the WeChat official account of CRRC Corporation Limited)

designs.

More Intelligent

The CR450 is equipped with intelligent monitoring and diagnostic systems, which allow the train to collect data such as axle temperature and pressure from over 4,000 monitoring stations in real time. This advanced technology has enabled the train to recognize, assess and determine its actions by itself.

Besides, the CR450 has innovatively adopted time-sensitive network transmission signals, leading to a ten-fold increase in the efficiency of real-time data transmission. This has facilitated the communication among different systems on the train and enhanced the control precision.

Quieter Operation

The passengers' level of

comfort is greatly influenced by noise levels, which typically rise by two to three decibels for every 50 km/h increase in speed. The CR450 has managed to reduce its in-cabin noise by two decibels, making the overall noise level comparable to that of the high-speed trains currently in service, which operate at 350 km/h.

More Comfortable

The height of the CR450 has been trimmed from 4.05 meters to 3.85 meters to make the train more slender. Even with the reduction in the overall height, the height of the interior cabin remains unchanged. Thanks to this compact design, the CR450 offers 4 percent more room for passengers and has expanded the storage capacity for large luggage by 100 percent.

More functions

The CR450 is designed with adaptive lighting that can adjust brightness according to the outdoor environment, touchless restrooms with "airborne buttons," and additional options like family compartments and multi-functional spaces.

"We are committed to providing passengers with diverse, convenient, and personalized services to enhance their travel experience," said Ren Guangqiang, an executive with the Locomotive & Car Department of China Railway.

The CR450's development represents China's venture into new and unexplored aspects of the high-speed train industry.

China Railway launched research on basic theories and key technologies for high-speed trains operating at 400

km/h in 2018, followed by the beginning of development efforts in 2021.

In 2022, the company released overall technical specifications and extensively carried out simulation calculations and ground-based tests, including technical parameter tests on the Zhengzhou-Wanzhou and Jinan-Zhengzhou high-speed railways, and new technology component replacement tests on the Mile-Mengzi and Fuzhou-Xiamen high-speed railways. The production of prototype trains officially commenced in 2024.

According to Li Yongheng, an executive with the Department of Science, Technology and Information Technology of China Railway, the CR450's successful completion was made possible with the data collected from the extensive track tests of over 200,000 kilometers, as well as over 1,000 simulation calculations and more than 1,000 ground-based tests.

"For the first time in the world, the CR450 uses actual track tests to determine boundary conditions and confirm top-level indicators, thereby creating technical specifications based on actual requirements," said Zhang Bo, head of the Locomotive & Car

Research Institute of China Academy of Railway Sciences Corporation Limited.

Sources say that the R&D team of the CR450 has performed more than 100 experiments to explore how different parameters of the train are affected by the rising train speeds. They have gathered data features in different speed contexts and operating environments such as bridges, tunnels, and curves, laying a robust groundwork for the development of the CR450 high-speed train.

With the debut of the CR450 high-speed train prototypes, China has set a global precedent by establishing a standard system for the commercial operation of high-speed trains traveling at 400 km/h.

"The CR450 has demonstrated China's overall capabilities in technological innovation and high-end equipment manufacturing," said Li.

According to an official with China Railway, the company plans to conduct a range of line tests and assessments for the prototypes to further examine performance indicators, so as to expedite its entry into commercial operation.

People's Daily

Zanzibar minister now calls for increased sports participation to promote health, fight diseases

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Riziki Pembe Juma, has urged citizens of the Isles to engage in various sports to maintain healthy lifestyles and prevent non-communicable diseases.

Riziki made the appeal recently while laying the

foundation stone for the construction of elite sports venues in Mwera Regeza Mwendo, West District A.

The project, titled Sports for Development, is a key initiative under the celebrations of the 61st Anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution, which will culminate on January 12, 2025.

"Health experts consistently encourage the community to exercise or participate in sports. I urge you all to take part in sports activities, as they

improve health and help prevent non-communicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure," Riziki stated.

The minister emphasized that beyond health benefits, sports play a crucial role in creating employment and contributing to individual and national economic development.

She highlighted how sports help youth stay away from negative behaviors and engage in con-

structive activities.

"I call on parents and guardians to allow their daughters to participate in sports. It is not a crime. What matters is observing discipline, ethics, traditions, and the culture of the people of Zanzibar," Riziki added.

Lucy Moto, a representative of the German international organization GIZ, which supports the project, noted that the initiative aims to construct six elite sports venues across Zanzibar.

"Three of these venues will be built in Unguja and three in Pemba, dedicated to basketball, netball, and volleyball," Lucy explained.

She further emphasized that the project will focus on promoting gender equality.

"Our goal is to break stereotypes against women and girls. Such stereotypes hinder economic, social, and political development for women and the nation as a whole," Lucy remarked.



The Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Riziki Pembe Juma (L), lays the foundation stone for the construction of elite sports venues in Zanzibar. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Singida Black Stars seek refund from Gor Mahia over aborted defender transfer

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE saga surrounding Rooney Onyango's attempted transfer to Singida Black Stars has taken a new twist, with the Tanzanian club now demanding a refund of the transfer fee paid to Gor Mahia last year as the deal remains unresolved.

Late last year, Singida Black Stars expressed interest in signing the Kenyan right-back. With approval from Gor Mahia and Onyango himself, the club proceeded to pay a transfer fee.

Although the exact amount paid remains unclear, sources suggest the initial agreed fee was USD 40,000. It is not confirmed whether Singida Black Stars paid the full amount upfront or only a portion, pending the transfer's completion.

When asked about the status of Onyango's signing, Singida Black Stars' Information Officer, Hussein Massanza, declined to provide details, stating that the club would release an official statement in due course. He added that the team is still working on squad improvements.

Onyango, a two-time Kenyan Premier League champion with Gor Mahia, is regarded as one of Kenya's top right-backs. He has also played for Thika United, Shabana FC, Gusii United, and the national team, Harambee Stars.

Earlier this week, Gor Mahia's Secretary-General, Sam Ochocha, disclosed that an agreement had been reached for Onyango's transfer, with the player set to leave in January. According to Ochocha, Gor Mahia had al-

ready identified a replacement for Onyango, who previously played for Wazito.

"The player informed us a few weeks ago that he had agreed on terms with Singida, and we've been in talks with them. We've made it clear that we have no problem letting him go. He will leave this month and join the Tanzanian side," Ochocha stated.

However, just hours later, Onyango refuted this claim, firmly stating that he had turned down Singida Black Stars' offer and had no intention of reconsidering his decision.

"I am not going to Singida Black Stars, that's for sure. I turned down the offer to join the team, and that's my final decision. It's not up for discussion," Onyango said.

In an unexpected develop-

ment, Singida Black Stars have now sent a formal letter to Gor Mahia, demanding a full refund of the transfer fee.

Although the exact amount paid remains unclear, sources suggest it could be either half of the agreed USD 40,000 or the full amount.

A Gor Mahia club insider confirmed the situation, saying: "It's true that Singida has written to us demanding a refund if the transfer cannot be completed. We are unsure of the exact amount paid, but the initial agreed sum was USD 40,000. We are working to resolve the matter internally and hope to find an amicable solution soon."

The dispute casts doubt over the player's future and raises questions about the transfer process, as both clubs scramble to settle the issue.

Aryna Sabalenka ready to summon the tiger inside for Melbourne three-peat bid

By Nick Mulvenney

ARYNA Sabalenka is clear favourite to win a third straight Australian Open title later this month but the Belarusian did not get to be world number one by taking anything for granted.

Unbeaten at Melbourne Park since a fourth round loss to Kaia Kanepi as second seed in 2022, the 26-year-old started her season by claiming her 18th career WTA title in Brisbane on Sunday.

Sabalenka (pictured) knows, however, that her winning streak and ranking will mean nothing to the other 127 women in the draw and landing a fourth major title on Jan. 25 will require another Herculean effort.

"Every time you're out there, you have to compete, you have to fight," she said on Sunday after beating Russian Polina Kudermetova in the Brisbane final.

"You have to show why you are world number one or why you're in the top 10. It doesn't matter. You have to show your level and you have to fight for it."

For all her power and weapons on court, Sabalenka's path to the top of the game was far from smooth.

She had to completely rebuild her serve after a bad case of the 'yips' in 2021 and was once as famous for her extraordinary tally of errors and on-court meltdowns as she was for her prodigious forehand.

Sabalenka famously has a tattoo of a tiger on her left arm, a recognition of her sign in the Chinese

zodiac and a reflection of her ferocious competitiveness on court.

While the comparison is valid in the latter regard, it might be said to fall short in one area given that, with the exception of mothers and their cubs, tigers are solitary animals.

Rather like Australian former Grand Slam champion Ash Barty, Sabalenka's success came only after she surrounded herself with a tight support team.

Coach Anton Dubrov, fitness trainer Jason Stacy and hitting partner Andrei Vasilevski now accompany her on tour with their importance evident by her emotional speeches of thanks to them after her triumphs.

"I have the great people around me. I'm able to have fun off court and be focused on the court," Sabalenka said.

"I think it's a balance (of) on and off the court life, be able to work really hard, be focused on your goals, but at the same time having some fun just so you're not going to drive yourself crazy."

Sabalenka, who won her first U.S. Open title last year, has lost only once in her last 28 matches at the two hardcourt Grand Slams and will take some stopping on Melbourne Park's blue courts.

"I definitely feel confident in my game. I'm just excited. I love playing there," she added in Brisbane.

"I love to fight for my dream. That's the conditions where I feel really comfortable in. I'm just super excited heading to the Australian Open."

REUTERS



Bulls save their best for last to stun Spurs

By Field Level Media

ZACH LaVine scored 14 of his game-high 35 points in the fourth quarter and grabbed 10 rebounds for the game while Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 11 boards to lift the host Chicago Bulls to a 114-110 win over the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night.

Chicago overcame a 19-point deficit that it faced in the third quarter, taking its first lead of the night on Coby White's driving layup with 47.1 seconds left in the fourth that made it 111-110. The Bulls ended the game on an 11-0 run.

Chris Paul missed a desperation 3-pointer in the final second for San Antonio. The shot followed a jump ball that was the result of a won challenge by the Bulls, who were able to get a foul call on a 3-point attempt by the Spurs reversed.

San Antonio went scoreless over the game's final 3:52. Victor Wembanyama had 23 points and 14 rebounds to go along with eight blocks while pacing eight Spurs scorers in double figures.

Paul had 18 points and nine assists for San Antonio. Julian Champagne scored 12 points, Jeremy Sochan, Devin Vassell and Keldon

Johnson each had 11 and Harrison Barnes and Stephon Castle chipped in 10 apiece.

San Antonio shot 46.3 percent from the field compared to 43.1 percent for Chicago. The Spurs dished out 31 assists and finished with a 49-47 edge on the glass.

LaVine, who reached the 30-point plateau for the fourth time in five games, added eight assists on Monday. White scored 23 points, and Patrick Williams added 12.

The Bulls didn't register their first points until a White layup at the 8:18 mark of the first quarter. They ended up trailing 29-20 after 12 minutes of action.

Buoyed by a balanced attack, the Spurs took a 65-50 lead into half-time. Wembanyama (12 points) and Vassell (11) had scoring totals in double figures at the break, while Sochan (nine) and Barnes (eight) weren't far behind.

San Antonio shot 57.1 percent overall in the first half compared to 38.9 percent for Chicago, which was led by LaVine (13 first-half points) and Vucevic (11).

Wembanyama threw down a dunk with 7:33 to go in the third quarter to provide the Spurs with a 19-point lead, 79-60.



Basketball youth team players pictured recently during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Sir Alex Ferguson and David Beckham pay respects to club icon Kath Phipps

LONDON

SIR Alex Ferguson, along with former and current Manchester United players like David Beckham, paid tribute to Kath Phipps, former club receptionist, at a funeral service on Monday.

Phipps, who served the club for 56 years, passed away at 85 on Dec. 5 and was hailed as a 'one-woman institution' in the Premier League club.

The service took place at Manchester Cathedral, attended by Ferguson, Beckham, Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes, Roy Keane and former club employees.

Many from the Manchester United community visited her before her passing. Ferguson shared memories and noted Phipps would have been pleased with United's recent 2-2 draw with Liverpool at Anfield, which he attended.

"Good result last night. Well done. Kathy would have loved that," said Ferguson.



REUTERS

Ugarte's standout performance at Anfield now gives Man United hope

By Lori Ewing

WITH seconds remaining in Manchester United's 2-2 thriller against Premier League leaders Liverpool on Sunday, Manuel Ugarte launched a stunning reverse pass to Bruno Fernandes that sent a ripple of fear around Anfield.

While many will remember United defender Harry Maguire missing a sitter, Ugarte's pass, while running towards his own goal, that set up the attempt was the highlight of a terrific performance for the Uruguayan -- and showed why his arrival in Manchester in September was met with so much optimism.

"His quality on the ball, it surprised me a little bit," former United midfielder Paul Scholes told Premier League Productions. "He's probably done better than I thought he would do."

"He (United manager Ruben Amorim) said before that Ugarte did well for him at Sporting Lisbon, as a really young player as well, so he knows him. This lad is really growing in confidence."

"I thought he took up some great positions, he helped defensively, he helped with the attack and I thought he had the composure to take the ball as well."

While the draw lifted United to 13th in the standings, still closer to the relegation zone than the European qualifying spots, it felt like a win. United finally played with the intensity and fearlessness that Amorim has been calling for since he arrived in mid-November.

The 23-year-old Ugarte has thrived under Portuguese boss and Sunday's match was another chance to silence critics who were ruthless with their comments in his early games for United.

Ugarte's shaky start under former manager Erik ten Hag had Dutch legend Marco van Basten among the harshest critics, calling his 41 million euro (\$42.74 million) transfer from Paris St Germain "idiotic".

On Sunday, Ugarte had 58 touches of the ball and an 88% passing accuracy, and went toe-to-toe with Liverpool's midfield of Alexis Mac Allister, Ryan Gravenberch and Curtis Jones.

Scholes credited Amorim's decision to start Ugarte and Kobbie Mainoo in midfield after Casemiro and Christian Eriksen were brutally exposed in United's 2-0 loss to Newcastle United six days earlier as a game-changer.

"Personnel makes a big difference, I think the middle of the pitch is the most important area of the pitch, and Monday (against Newcastle) obviously wasn't right," Scholes said.

"Today we knew we had half a chance with Ugarte and Mainoo. The manager by now should know his players. (Sunday's starting 11) has to be his best team."

United next travel to Arsenal in an FA Cup third-round match. An overriding message from Sunday's draw was: frustration over why their intensity against Liverpool had been woefully absent in previous games, and can they sustain it going forward?

Sunday will be a good test. "I take more out of that performance than actually winning against the champions (Manchester City)," Scholes said. "I think now that's a blueprint, that's the way they have to go forward, they have to follow up now, that's the standard."

(\$1 = 0.9593 euros)

REUTERS

Fever, injury and a cigar: Conceicao's start at Milan ends in Super Cup success



AC Milan coach Sergio Conceicao during the press conference after their Italian Super Cup final at Al Awwal Park, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on January 5, 2025. REUTERS

RIYADH

SERGIO Conceicao capped an incredible first week at AC Milan by lifting the Italian Super Cup on Monday, wrapping up a period which included two comeback wins, fighting

a fever, picking up an injury and smoking a cigar in the dressing room.

Conceicao replaced the sacked Paulo Fonseca as manager last Monday and, despite suffering with illness and a high temperature, he took his place on the bench to lead Milan to

a 2-1 semi-final win over Juventus on Friday.

Milan came from a goal down to beat Juventus but things looked decidedly worse in Monday's final when they found themselves two goals down to their local rivals Inter Milan after conceding a goal

either side of halftime.

"The team has character, it managed to win games against two great teams in the end," Conceicao told Mediaset.

"At halftime the coach has to change certain things, that's why they pay me."

Conceicao's side again

showed their fighting spirit, pulling back to 2-2 and, with the game in added time and heading for penalties, Tammy Abraham netted a dramatic winner.

The Milan players and staff celebrated with a visibly emotional Conceicao at the final

whistle but the manager picked up an injury and needed treatment on the bench before rejoining his team.

"Emerson Royal made a red card tackle on me," Conceicao said with a laugh.

"I'm very happy for the players because it wasn't easy, we had little time to work on the details that were important to me."

"The credit is all theirs because they absorbed my indications. There is still a lot of work but with humility we can do well in the Champions League and in the league."

After the win over Juventus, Conceicao had said that he was not a nice person, and did not smile much, but in the dressing room after lifting the Super Cup, the manager danced while smoking a cigar as the celebrations continued.

"At the end of the game the players immediately told me that I had to smoke a cigar; they knew that I do this ritual when I lift a title," Conceicao told a press conference.

"It's my 13th title as a coach; I'm happy and it has a special flavour for me."

REUTERS

Era ends as former champions Guangzhou denied permission to play in 2025 season



China's Guangzhou Evergrande fans celebrate after their team won the final match of the AFC Champions' League against South Korea's FC Seoul at Tianhe stadium in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, November 9, 2013. REUTERS

By Michael Church

FORMER Asian champions Guangzhou FC will not play professionally in 2025 after the Chinese Football Association did not grant the eight-times Chinese Super League (CSL) winners permission to play in the coming campaign due to the club's financial issues.

Guangzhou, once the dominant force in the country and the standard bearers of a decade of heavy spending in Chinese football, are one of three teams, including CSL outfit Cangzhou Mighty Lions and third-tier Hunan Xiangtao, ruled ineligible.

"The club has made a lot of efforts to gain admission to the professional league in the new season, however, due

to the heavy historical debt, the funds raised are not enough," Guangzhou said in a statement. "We regret that we failed to make it, hence our sincerest apologies to fans and the people from all walks of life that support the club."

"At the same time, thank you for your understanding and tolerance. We will not change our original intention and do our best to deal with the aftermath and support the development of Chinese football and Guangdong and

Guangzhou football."

The decision to exclude Guangzhou brings a final curtain down on an era of lavish spending within Chinese football.

Property developers China Evergrande purchased the club after

relegation to China's second tier in 2010 and invested heavily, paying inflated transfer fees and high wages to attract the country's leading players and high-profile overseas talent.

That move sparked a major boom in the

CSL as private business sought to deliver president Xi Jinping's dream to turn the nation into a regional power with the goal of qualifying for, hosting and, eventually, winning the World Cup.

As a sign of the club's ambition, Guangzhou hired World Cup winning coach Marcello Lippi in 2012 and the Italian led his team to the 2013 Asian Champions League title.

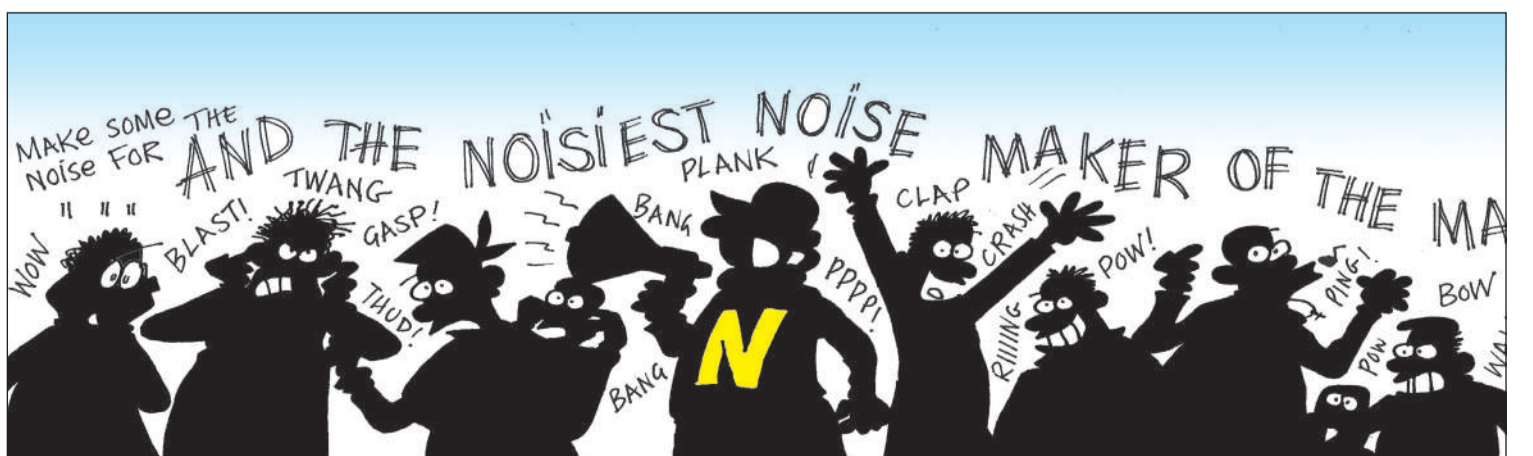
Two years later another World Cup winner, Brazil's Luiz Felipe Scolari, repeated the feat while continuing Guangzhou's domestic dominance as the club went on to win eight CSL titles in nine seasons from 2011 to 2019.

China Evergrande's financial issues, however, saw funding withdrawn from the club in 2021 and, after key players and coaching staff departed, Guangzhou were relegated to China League One at the end of the following campaign.

Guangzhou finished 12th in the first season back in China League One in 2023 before finishing third in the 2024 season, missing out on promotion behind Yunnan Yukun and Dalian Yingbo.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Sir Alex Ferguson and David Beckham pay respects to club icon Kath Phipps PAGE 19



Simba's path to CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals hinges on crucial clash in Angola



Ahoua's performances have quickly endeared him to Simba fans, and his ability to deliver in crucial moments has become a defining feature of his debut season.

His potential to influence the game in Angola will undoubtedly be one of Simba's key weapons against Bravos.

David's faces a tight schedule to prepare his team for the upcoming encounter. Simba's recent form has been encouraging, but the away match in Angola presents unique challenges.

The team's focus will be on maintaining their defensive solidity and capitalizing on opportunities to secure the result they need.

A win or draw in Angola would relieve pressure heading into their final group-stage match, allowing Simba to concentrate on maintaining their lead at the top of the group.

David's tactical acumen and the team's resilience will be put to the test in this high-stakes clash.

Simba's journey in the CAF Confederation Cup has showcased their growth as a competitive force in African football. With the support of their passionate fans and a squad brimming with talent, the club is determined to extend their campaign beyond the group stage. The match against Bravos represents a final hurdle in achieving that goal.

As the January 12 fixture draws closer, the anticipation among fans and players alike continues to build.

For Simba, the equation is simple: avoid defeat in Angola, and the dream of lifting the CAF Confederation Cup remains alive.

Simba delighted with team's performance in away victory

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC expressed satisfaction with their ability to secure difficult away wins in the CAF Confederation Cup after a 1-0 victory over CS Sfaxien at Stade Olympique Hammadi in Rades, Tunisia, on Sunday.

Jean Charles Ahoua scored the only goal of the match, securing a vital away win for Simba in their Group A encounter of the 2024/2025 CAF Confederation Cup.

Having already defeated the Tunisian side 2-1 in the first leg, Simba's second consecutive victory against CS Sfaxien strengthens their chances of advancing to the quarter-finals.

This victory places the Tanzanian side in second place in Group A with nine points, trailing group leaders CS Constantine, who thrashed Bravos do Maquis 4-0 later on Sunday. Both Simba and CS Constantine have nine points, but the Algerian team tops the group due to a superior goal difference (+5 compared to Simba's +2).

Simba now require a maximum of four more points from their two remaining matches to secure qualification for the quarter-finals.

Finishing at the top of Group A remains a key objective for the Tanzanian champions, as it could help them avoid facing strong teams such as RS Berkane, Zamalek, and USM Alger, who currently lead their respective groups.

Simba's Media and Information Manager, Ahmed Ally (pictured), expressed optimism about the team's performance, particularly their away form.

He highlighted the confidence the team has gained ahead of their remaining away match and the crucial group decider against CS Constantine.

"We're making good progress in the competition. Although we're one point shy of our coach's target of 10 points by match day four, we're satisfied with where we are. Our goal is to win the upcoming away game and then beat Constantine to finish top of the group."

"Our team's performance is steadily improving, and we're proud of the growth our players are showing every day. Winning away games in North Africa is excellent preparation for the next stages of the competition," said Ally.

Simba's next match is an away fixture against third-place Bravos do Maquis on January 12, 2025. They will conclude their Group A campaign with a home match against CS Constantine on January 19, 2025, in Dar es Salaam.

Simba have been enjoying a strong season across all competitions. After 21 matches, they have suffered only three losses and conceded just nine goals.

Their attacking form has also been impressive, with 31 goals scored in the Premier League, where they currently sit atop the standings with 40 points.



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club are just 90 minutes away from securing a spot in the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals, with their decisive match scheduled against Angola's GD Bravos do Maquis on January 12 at 7:00 PM (East African Time).

The highly anticipated clash promises to be a thrilling encounter as both teams vie for critical points in the tournament's group stage.

Simba, currently second in their group, need at least a draw in Angola to confirm their progression to the knockout phase.

A victory would not only cement their place in the quarterfinals but also bolster their chances of topping the group. However, the stakes are equally high for Bravos, who have accumulated six points and will be desperate to secure all three points to keep their quarter-final hopes alive.

Bravos' final group match will be against CS Sfaxien, a team that has struggled throughout the competition.

A win against Simba could position Bravos advantageously to fight for a place in

the quarterfinals.

This scenario makes the Angola showdown a must-win for the hosts, adding pressure to Simba's quest for qualification.

For Simba, securing a positive result in Angola would mean their final group match against CS Constantine at home could be a battle to determine the group's leader, rather than a fight for survival.

Head coach Fadlu Davids (pictured) and his squad are aware of the high stakes, and all eyes are on their preparation for this crucial fixture.

Simba returned to Tanzania in high spirits after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over

CS Sfaxien in Tunisia. The win has significantly boosted their chances of advancing to the next stage.

The team landed safely in Dar es Salaam early yesterday morning and has only a few days to prepare before heading to Angola for the all-important fifth-round match.

Midfield maestro Jean Charles Ahoua was the hero in Tunisia, netting his second goal of the CAF Confederation Cup campaign. His consistent performances have been pivotal in Simba's success, as he has directly contributed to three of the team's five goals in the group stage.

Ahoua scored in the fixture against Bravos and provided a key assist in the first leg against CS Sfaxien, underscoring his importance to the team.

At just 22 years old, the Ivorian midfielder has been a revelation for Simba since joining the club. Despite Davids noting that Ahoua has yet to reach his full potential, the young star's statistics are impressive.

In all competitions this season, Ahoua has been involved in 15 goals for Simba, scoring seven and assisting five in the Tanzanian Premier League, and contributing three directly in the CAF CC.

Kagera Sugar FC in talks to secure Yanga winger Denis Nkane on loan

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

KAGERA Sugar have initiated discussions to secure Young Africans SC winger Denis Nkane on a six-month loan, aiming to bolster their squad for the remainder of the season.

The club is optimistic that Nkane's addition will enhance their performance, especially after a sluggish start to the Premier League campaign.

Reports from Kagera Sugar indicate that the club has already formally approached Young Africans with an official letter requesting Nkane's services.

Under the leadership of head coach Sead Ramovic, Nkane (pictured) has not featured in any of the nine matches Young Africans have played this season, creating an opportunity for Kagera Sugar to swoop in.

A source within Kagera Sugar confirmed that the club is awaiting Young Africans' response regarding the loan proposal.

The official expressed confidence that Nkane could make an immediate impact on the team if the deal materializes.

"We are waiting for a response from Yanga, but we have already sent the offer. We believe that if we secure Nkane, he will add significant value to our squad, especially since we've struggled in the first round of the league. This transfer win-

dow is crucial for us to strengthen the team," the source said.

The source further emphasized Nkane's potential, noting that lack of opportunities at big clubs like Young Africans and Simba SC doesn't necessarily reflect a player's ability.

"If Nkane joins us, he will slot directly into the first team. Many players who fail to get game time at big clubs like Simba and Yanga are still highly skilled. The issue is often the intense competition for places. We believe that Nkane, with his abilities, will make a notable difference at Kagera Sugar," he said.

Kagera Sugar's Chief Executive Officer, Thabiti Kandoro, acknowledged the club's interest in Nkane but refrained from providing specific details, citing ongoing negotia-

tions. "It is true that this matter is under consideration, but we cannot disclose much at this stage as the process is not yet finalized. Once everything is completed as planned, we will make an official announcement. For now, we kindly ask for patience," Kandoro said.

Nkane joined Young Africans during the January 2021 transfer window from Biashara United in Mara. Despite showing promise, the winger has struggled to secure a place in the Jangwani-based outfit's starting lineup, competing under three different head coaches - Nasreddine Nabi, Miguel Gamondi, and now Sead Ramovic.

Nkane's lack of game time has been attributed to the stiff competition within Young Africans'

star-studded squad, which has consistently performed well in domestic and continental competitions.

However, Kagera Sugar believe that a move to their side could provide Nkane with the opportunity to showcase his talent and make a significant contribution to their campaign.

Kagera Sugar's pursuit of Nkane comes as part of the club's broader strategy to reinforce their squad during the mid-season transfer window. Having struggled to find form in the first round of the league, the club's management and technical bench are keen on securing players who can make an immediate impact.

Kagera Sugar's focus on Nkane highlights their belief in his ability to adapt quickly and contribute



significantly to their attacking options.

If the loan deal goes through, Nkane will likely play a pivotal role in the team's efforts to climb up the league standings.

The club's fans and management will now

be keeping a close eye on Young Africans' decision, which will determine whether Nkane's loan move becomes a reality.

For Kagera Sugar, securing the winger could be a turning point in their season.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

