



### GENDER



'REVIEW ELECTION LAWS' PAGE 3

### BANKING



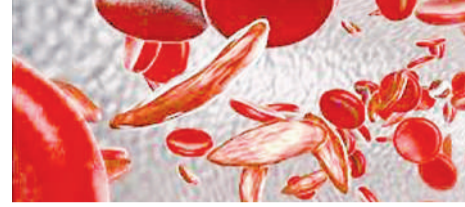
NMB NOW UPS ITS SBL TO 420BN/- PAGE 4

### WILDLIFE



ELEPHANTS KILL TWO PEOPLE PAGE 5

### HEALTH



GOVT TO DO SICKLE CELL DIAGNOSIS PAGE 6



Nairobi Safari signs management deal with Swiss firm

# LATRA installing speed tracking, fining system

## Police found 756 buses tampering with the vehicle tracking apparatus

By Getrude Mbago

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) will from next month apply an automatic fining mechanism for long-distance

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## BUSINESS

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Improved seed varieties boost food security

## SPORTS

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Gamondi happy with Yanga's 'tough win' over Coastal Union

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Real Madrid, Bayern qualify for Champions League last 16, Man Utd stunned



Belege Alex (in dotted blue shirt), chairman of Makang'wa village in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region, pictured yesterday having a word with police officers, Mikumi National Park officials and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority officials at the spot where elephants reportedly attacked and mortally wounded two people. Story on Page 5. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

## Saudi Fund issues a \$13m loan for transmission line

By Guardian Correspondent, Riyadh

region to the national grid.

THE Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) has issued a \$13m loan (32bn/-) for the construction of Benaco-Kyaka power transmission line connecting Kagera Re-

Treasury permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba signed the accord yesterday in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, with Sultan Almsarshad, the SFD executive director.

The ceremony was held on the sidelines of the Saudi-Arab-African Economic Conference bringing together financial, business and investment executives from the public agencies, the private sector, trade blocs, international organizations, opinion makers and think tanks.

The 32bn/- loan agreement will facilitate construction of a 220kV transmission line from Benaco in Ngara District to Kyaka, Bukoba District (166.17km) and

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## Airports agency starts to run KIA

From 2010 KADCO ran the airport through the leasing agreement whose legal validity has expired

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

OPERATIONS at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) have been taken

over by the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) after 25 years of the Kilimanjaro Airport Development Corporation (KADCO).

Last week, MPs asked the government to inform the legislature why KADCO was still operating at KIA while its contract has ended.

Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa tabled a report on the move, saying KADCO, a company registered on 11 March, 1998 under the Companies Act, Chapter 212 of the laws of Tanzania, was handed the KIA operational franchise as part of the privatisation policy during the third phase government.

"The government decided on July 6, 1998 that KIA operations be run by the private sector," he said, explaining the decisions as relating to high running costs for the airport "as the Tanzania

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## NBS: Overall inflation at 3.2pc rate last month

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

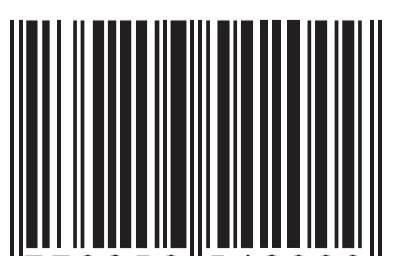
ANNUAL headline inflation for October 2023 declined slightly to 3.2 per cent from 3.3 per cent in September, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has indicated.

The decrease of the headline inflation shows a slower rate of price increases for commodities, averaged for the year ended October 2023, on the basis of a statement issued here yesterday.

The overall price index went up from 108.73 recorded in October 2022 to 112.18 in the year ending October, 2023, referring to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Tanzania revised quarterly GDP base year 2015 serving as 100 baseline units.

The food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate for October decreased to 4.5 percent from 5.6 percent the previous

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## LATRA installing speed tracking, fining system

FROM PAGE 1

buses found violating traffic regulations, including speeding.

LATRA director general Habibu Suluo told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the fining will be done via a vehicle tracking system (VTS) to be installed in all buses.

This will greatly help to prevent accidents triggered by speeding during the end year festive season, he said, affirming that the government via its agency, the traffic police division, has been working hard to fight reckless driving "but some drivers are still averse to adhere to the rules."

Many buses are now caught speeding on the road especially since the government allowed 24 hour travel services, he said, suggesting that automatic fining will boost safe journeys.

Drivers who will be found speeding will fall into automatic fines paid electronically through the government control number, he stated, insisting that the mechanism is for monitoring, recording and imposing fines directly.

Before commencement of the new modality, LATRA and the traffic police will convene a meeting with bus operators "to inform them on the decision and how it will be implemented," with envisaged fines set at 30,000/- to 50,000/- for each recorded mistake.

LATRA has suspended transportation licenses for 36 upcountry passenger buses and licenses of ten drivers for allegedly tampering with the VTS apparatus leading to relaying false information or incomplete reports.

"In the one month period since night travel services started, out of 246 buses with permits to travel during night, 197 have a speeding challenge," he said, noting night travel without acute measures can lead to more disasters.

In total 756 buses have been found tampering with the VTS including day time buses, to which traffic police commander SACP

Ramadhani Ng'anzi said the force will not remain silent as speeding claims lives and imputes disability.

In the operation, police officers caught 666 buses in excessive speeding and the drivers punished with fines. 50 were issued warnings while 32 were hauled to court and cases are proceeding, he stated.

Drivers whose licenses were suspended will be required to sit for an examination at traffic police premises before being handed back their licenses.

"The automatic fining system will be of great help as it will exert pressure on bus drivers to be vigilant while they are on long trips," he said, underlining that the safety of passengers is uppermost.

Priskus Joseph, the Tanzania Bus Owners' Association (TABOA) secretary general, commended LATRA for the measures that they are taking to halt reckless driving, intimating that the bus owners will heighten own controls.

He appealed to LATRA too avoid revoking bus operating licenses but deal with the drivers as they are responsible for the wrongdoing.

"Punishing owners for drivers' mistakes isn't good, so we call upon LATRA to think on this in order to enable the public to obtain transport services more reliably," he added.



**In the one month period since night travel services started, out of 246 buses with permits to travel during night, 197 have a speeding challenge**

## NBS: Overall inflation at 3.2pc rate last month

FROM PAGE 1

month, while the annual inflation rate for all items aside from food and non-alcoholic beverages inched up to 2.6 percent from 2.4 percent the previous month, the statement affirmed.

NCPI had relatively stable price movement from October 2022 to October 2023 hovering between 108.73 and 112.18 baseline units for the period. Annual headline inflation rates were relatively stable, in a sliding range of 4.9 per cent to 3.2 percent at the end of the period, it specified.

The NCPI rate for October, 2023 stood at 112.18 from 112.35 for the previous month, mainly attributed

to price decrease for key food items, it stated, citing the decline as relating to wheat grains by 1.3 percent, finger millet (0.4 per cent), maize (1.8 per cent), wheat flour (0.4pc), sorghum flour (3.6pc) and fresh fish (1.0pc).

Other food products in price decline were sardines (1.2pc), fruits (3.2pc), round potatoes (3.7pc), fresh cassava (1.5pc), dried beans (1.5 pc), dried lentils (1.0 pc), dried cowpeas (1.4pc) and dry cassava (1.1pc).

In the neighbourhood, Kenya recorded 6.9 percent CIP rate, mostly stable from the 6.8 percent rate in September while Uganda recorded a 2.4 percent inflation rate in October 2023 down from 2.7 percent in September, the statement added.

## Saudi Fund issues \$13m soft loan for transmission line

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a new 20/33kV substation at Bena-co.

The project under which the contract has been signed is part of the third five-year development plan (2021/22 to 2025/26) and is part of the main agenda of the sixth phase government," she stated.

The government is determined to build a competitive industrial economy to ensure development of people through implementation of various strategies, she stated.

The Kyaka-Benaco project was being implemented with funds from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at \$60m, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development in the United Arab Emirates (\$30m) and \$2.4m from public

revenues, she elaborated.

The new loan is in addition to several loans from SFD to implement various projects for water, roads and health sectors in both parts of the union, she affirmed.

The government is committed to increase growth facilitation and development of society via energy sector projects, providing people with opportunities tied with the projects, she said.

The Abu Dhabi Fund was established to support Arab countries but later cast a wider gaze to help other developing countries in Asia and Africa. The purpose is to achieve sustainable socio-economic growth with concessional loans, along with managing government grants and equities.



A Dar es Salaam resident has his shoes spruced up in style at a 'special corner' at the city's popular but now-muddy Mabibo mixed-goods market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Airports agency starts to run KIA

FROM PAGE 1

Airports Authority (TAA) was not established by then."

KADCO and the government entered three contracts also involving a shareholder and a leasing agreement, he said, elaborating that on May 14 2009, the government decided to buy shares in KADCO and that eventually KIA

should be handed over to TAA.

"From 2010 KADCO ran the airport through the leasing agreement whose legal validity has expired," he stated.

"As KIA is owned by the government through TAA and the contract for running the airport has ceased, KIA will now be run by TAA as Parliament demanded," he declared.

KIA is the third busiest airport after the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) and the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport, and the gateway to the country's main safari tourism hotspots in the northern circuit.

Informed sources said that sometimes in the past the government sought a review of the terms of the concession agreement, but

the shareholders rejected any amendments.

In 2009, the government decided to buy out the shareholders of the company and acquired 100-percent ownership of KADCO.

It remains unclear how much the government actually paid the shareholders to relinquish statutory control of the company, interviewed officials intoned.



Tanzania's Ambassador to the US, Dr Elsie Sia Kanza (C), speaks at a US-Tanzania Roundtable meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was jointly organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries and the Corporate Council on Africa. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Police call on public to provide correct evidence on GBV cases

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

POLICE in Dar es Salaam have urged the public to provide close support to the force by providing accurate information on gender-based violence (GBV) incidents and all the time be ready to stand as witnesses during cases.

Inspector Blandina Ndunguru of Chang'ombe Police Station- Gender and Children Desk made the call yesterday when presenting a paper on GBV cases reported at her desk. She said: "GBV incidents have

been increasing, especially harassment. So far, the desk has received 10 GVB cases in one week but eight of them lack evidence, something which thwarts investigation processes.

"That's why we're calling on the public to team up with the police force and take the culprits into the justice corner so that children get the justice they deserve."

Abubakar Rehani, a medical doctor, urged young people to protect their health by abstaining from careless sex, to avoid sexually trans-

mitted diseases, HIV/Aids and unwanted pregnancies.

"Protecting our health is very important, young people are the one at high risk, so it is better to work hard and make ourselves safe because health is a good capital, if your health is shaken, your life and economy will be shaken," Dr Abubakar said.

Winfrida Imarika project coordinator, which is under the Mulika Tanzania, said the aim of the project is to provide education to the women about reproductive health,

leadership, sexual violence and the economy.

"A good number of young people who are engaged in a small business known as chutneys from Temeke district, Dar es Salaam region, have been trained on reproductive health, sexual violence as well as methods of finding markets," he said.

According to her, a number of the young people have been trained on the health areas with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).



Habitat for Humanity International Country director Fortunata Temu speaks at the launch of the Housing Microfinance Tanzania-2023 Report in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# FIs called on to devise housing credit for low, middle-income earners

By **Grtrude Mbago**

FINANCIAL institutions have been urged to come up with housing loan products for low and middle-income earners in order to help aim to expand and strengthen access to quality and affordable housing for the population.

This follows the release of a report on Housing Microfinance Tanzania-2023 showing that the majority of Tanzanians (70 percent) are not living in decent houses due to poor access to low interest loans.

Conducted by Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) and Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC), the study aimed to dig deep and to understand barriers that low-income households' face in accessing affordable housing finance in the country.

Speaking during the launch of the report in Dar es Salaam yesterday, HFHI country director, Fortunata Temu said that creating the soft loans for the low-income Tanzanians and those working in the informal sector will enable them to easily purchase affordable and decent houses as well as build or upgrade their homes.

"Many lenders are currently putting high amount housing loans which exceeds 50m/- but many low- and middle-income earners can afford to take and repay small loans from 1m/- to 10m/-, so this is what we are trying to push and encourage financial institutions to think on this group," she said.

The situation pushes low income earners to fall into exploitative loans in the streets which are not formal things which do not help them improve their lives but rather push them into poverty due to high interest rates and harsh conditions of the loans.

She noted that Tanzania has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, however many families still struggle to access adequate and affordable housing.

"Low- and middle-income Tanzanian households face a number of housing challenges, including insufficient housing supply, overreliance on insecure, inadequate self-build informal housing, rising building materials costs, irregular income making it harder to plan for housing-related spending and/or access housing finance, and difficulties servicing outstanding loans," she said.

TMRC chief executive officer, Oscar Mgaya said that the two firms are working hard to engage financial institutions in order to facilitate

provisions of short-term housing loans to low-income earners in order to improve settlements.

Building on the foundations of housing finance set up by the World Bank and International Finance Corporation for the promotion of housing finance for low-income families through TMRC, Habitat for Humanity's support aims to further expand access to housing microfinance in the country through this partnership," he said.

He said: "The Company believes there is tremendous potential in Tanzania's housing finance market to reach low-income families. As a wholesale lender we are eager to build a case for housing microfinance in the country and explore how the financial institutions we invest in can tap into this market through tailored loan products."

He noted that the Tanzanian housing demand which is estimated at 200,000 houses annually and a total housing shortage of 3 million houses has been boosted by populations and access to mortgages but now what is needed is to have multi-housing loan products for low income populations.

Daniel Mhina, associate director housing finance- Africa at Habitat for Humanity International said current financing gaps in the Tanzanian market when it comes to low-income communities and their housing needs are high due to rapid population increase in relation to the number of houses in Tanzania as indicated by the Tanzania census 2022.

"Many Tanzanians want access to small loans with low interest rates and soft conditions to enable them to conduct repairs in their houses such as door, colouring, change iron sheets or but modern windows, but many financial institutions are not offering the services as they only focus on large loans," he explained.

He said that many investors are deterred in investing in this product because of the lack of collateral backing these loans.



**...Tanzania has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, however many families still struggle to access adequate and affordable housing**

By **Guardian Reporter**

# Activists: Election laws must be reviewed, gender-sensitive

ACTIVISTS on women's rights, gender equality, democracy and leadership have underscored the need to review election laws so that they are gender-sensitive, thus creating a safe environment for all candidates especially women with disabilities.

They made the appeal yesterday when speaking in Dar es Salaam at the four-day 15th gender festival, which is in line with celebrating 30 years of Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) and Transformative Feminist Movement.

The activists called on the government through the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs to send various election laws to the National Assembly for review.

Presenting the Declaration of Women's Claims in the 2024/2025 Election prepared by the Women and Leadership Network, facilitator from TGNP, Deogratius Temba said the network and other stakeholders have already submitted proposals

for amendments to the laws to the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, Office of Registrar of Political Parties and National Electoral Commission (NEC).

"We conducted studies to identify policy, legal and systemic shortcomings, which prevent women from fully participating in leadership and decision-making positions. We hope that if changes are made, we will remove obstacles for women, young people and people with disabilities to participate in elections as candidates and voters," said Temba.

He added: "This manifesto is aimed at calling on the government, institutions and all bodies involved in elections to be responsible for complying with agreements, protocols, international and regional declarations as well as the

constitutional principles specified in the National Vision 2025, to take deliberate steps to remove obstacles that perpetuate discrimination in our participation in elections as voters, or candidates vying for various competitive positions and finally, to be eligible to participate in leadership in various aspects of our society."

Temba added that the laws they proposed to be amended include the Election Law (CAP.343) (R.E.2015) which does not emphasize the implementation of the principle of equality in the selection of candidates by political parties without transparent criteria, and the observance of the principle of equality specified in the law of political parties.

On Special Seats, he said the system introduced the basis of discrimination against women

who entered parliament through it, adding this system. The Ministry should take into account the ethical recommendations of the system as included in the Constitution proposed by the Special Assembly in October 2014. With the Law on Election Expenses (CAP 288 (R.E 2015)) which burdens all candidates with the burden of expenses, regardless of economic differences between women and men.

He said that another law that requires a review is the Political Parties Act (CAP 258 (RE 2015).

He said Despite the relevant law specifying the basis of gender equality as a pillar to strengthen democracy, it has not specified the responsibility of political parties in implementing the outlined basis in the leadership of the relevant parties and the selection of candidates.

By **Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya**

# Govt suspends operations of Mbeya college

THE National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET) has suspended operations of the Mbeya Training College following violation of registration rules, which includes providing training of unregistered courses.

The council has directed the college management to submit a detailed report explaining why it offered unregistered courses. Failure to submit the report, stringent measures will be taken, including being de-registered.

Decisions to suspend its operations were reached mid this week when the Mbeya District defence and security committee accompanied by NACTVET officials from the Southern Highlands regions held a meeting with the college management and students.

NACTVET Manager in Southern Highlands regions, Joha Zabron said the college was registered in February this year to provide training on hotel management, secretarial, computer and business administration courses.

He said the college has violated terms of registration by providing courses such as laboratory specialists whereas some students registered for the courses do not have qualifications.

"NACTVET Executive Secretary has directed us to take action by suspending operations of the college as an initial step; owners have to explain why we should not completely de-register the college," said Zabron.

Mbeya district commissioner Beno Malisa said according to the information he received, some of the students who studied various courses at the college do not have the required qualifications, meaning their certificates would not be recognized by employment agencies.

"Certificates issued by the college are fake. Owners of the college have violated registration rules, a situation that justifies its suspension," he said, calling upon NACTVET and Vocational Education and Training

Authority (VETA) to conduct inspection at all the colleges in the district.

Malisa said they are taking stringent actions against the college so that it becomes a lesson to other college owners in the country. He ordered the police force to arrest the college owner as he waits to be punished in accordance with the laws.

Some interviewed parents have complained that since their children graduated from the college; they have not secured jobs because their certificates are not officially recognized.

## CARS FOR SALE BY CLOSED BID AUCTION

NO	MODEL YEAR	REG. NUMBER	CONDITION	FUEL SEATING CAPACITY
1	LANDCRUISER BLUE-2000	T 426 AVE	MINOR REPAIR	PETROL 7 Seaters
2	FUSO WHITE-2011	T 532 BSH	MINOR REPAIR	DIESEL 3 Seaters
4	GRAND VITARA BLACK -2008	T 441 AVB	MINOR REPAIR	PETROL 15 Seaters
5	COROLLA-BLUE	T 487 AJP	STRONG REPAIR	PETROL 5 Seaters

Requested One Bidder for all Vehicles (All cars to be SOLD to one Bidder)

Offer will be granted to the highest bidder for All Vehicles on the bidder review day.

CARS available for viewing during working hours 8 am to 4pm Mon to Friday and 8am to 2pm on Saturdays.

Serious and Interest Bidders CONTACT NO. **0767 282 995**

The United Republic of Tanzania  
President's Office



09.11.2023

**VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT**  
**EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is currently implementing Productive Social Safety Net Program which aims at protecting the Vulnerable Poor Households from severest consequences of poverty by implementing interventions that will lead to increased Household incomes and opportunities while increasing consumption.

The Permanent Secretary, President's Office, State House advertised a vacant post for TASAF Executive Director from 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and the deadline was 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The general public is hereby informed that the deadline for submission has been extended from 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

All other details remain as they were advertised in the original invitation.



PERMANENT SECRETARY  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, STATE HOUSE

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GODFREY OLIVER MAYAYA

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# NMB now ups its single-borrower limit to 420bn/-

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank, one of the largest lenders in the country, single borrower limit (SBL) has increased by 29 per cent to hit a historic level thanks to the lender's solid performance.

Filbert Mponzi, bank's chief of retail banking said the amount increased to 420bn/- in the third quarter of this year from 325bn/-, which was the highest single borrower ever issued by a financial institution in the history of the country.

"Our capital base as at 30th September has now reached 1.94trillion/- which translates into the SBL of about 420bn/- as per regulations of Bank of Tanzania which allows commercial banks to lend 25 per cent of its capital," Kimori said before signing a MoU with the Zanzibar Private Partnership under the President's Office Labour, Economic Affairs earlier this week.

The SBL figure is the legal credit limit the bank can now lend to a single borrower.

"We have so far recorded a robust year in terms of performance during the first three quarters this year and all indicators show that we will be having yet another historic year. Our ambition is to continue growing our asset base. Overall, we forecast that our assets will hit the 12trn/- mark before the end of this financial year," Kimori said.

According to the bank's Q3, 2023 financial results released recently, the bank posted a solid performance after its total assets surged by 22% to reach 11.53trn/- as compared to 9.46trn/- posted during the same period last year.

Kimori noted that the bank will continue to play a leading role in accelerating the transition from cash to digital payments as part of the bank's commitment to enhance financial inclusion.

The NMB Bank Profit After Tax

(PAT) increased by 23% to reach 398. bn/- in the third quarter this year as compared to 324bn/- recorded during the similar period in 2022

A statement issued by the NMB Chief Executive Officer Ruth Zaipuna recently attributed the bank's robust performance to a solid business momentum supported by a stable and accommodative operating environment.

"The solid financial results reflect a continued trust from our stakeholders and reaffirm our mission of being a catalyst for spurring the overall socio-economic development in the country," Zaipuna said.

On a net profit basis, the bank recorded an increase in profit by 22 per cent to 398bn/- against 324bn/- recorded in September last year.

"We remain optimistic about the future and remain committed to further supporting the communities we serve," Zaipuna added.



**Our capital base as at 30th September has now reached 1.94trillion/- which translates into the SBL of about 420bn/- as per regulations of Bank of Tanzania which allows commercial banks to lend 25 per cent of its capital**

# Government unveils strategies on opening up southern regions

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has lined up a number of infrastructural projects meant to economically open up Lindi and Mtwara regions as part of a national agenda to link the country.

Deputy Minister for Works Godfrey Kasekenya made the sentiments in the National Assembly when responding to a question by special seats MP Tecla Ungele.

In her primary question, the legislator asked what strategy the government has put in place to improve transport infrastructure to economically open Lindi and Mtwara regions.

In response the deputy minister said the government was constructing the Mtwara-Nanyamba-Tandahimba-Newala-Masasi road which is 210-kilometers long.

He said the Mtwara-Mnivata (50-kilometers) road segment has been completed, while the Newala-Masasi (160 kilometers) road together with the Mwit Bridge, are under construction and are expected to be completed by 2026.

"The government is also planning to construct Mtwara-Mingoyo-Masasi (200 kilometers) road which has reached a tendering stage with the start of the construction process being in the final stages," he said.

On Lindi region, he said the government is constructing the Nanganga-Ruangwa road (53.2 kilometers) which has reached 74-percent and the Nachingwea-Ruangwa (52.8 kilometers) is at the procurement stage.

He said the construction of the Masasi-Nachingwea-Liwale (175 kilometers) will be implemented through the Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Financing (EPC-F) where the contract for the project has been signed.

Mtwara Region is one of Tanzania's 31 administrative regions. The regional capital is the municipality of Mtwara. It is known for being the nation's largest producer of Cashew nuts.

Lindi is a historic southern Tanzanian coastal town and regional capital of the Lindi Region. The town is located at the far end of Lindi Bay on the Indian Ocean in south eastern Tanzania.



**The government is also planning to construct Mtwara-Mingoyo-Masasi (200 kilometers) road which has reached a tendering stage with the start of the construction process being in the final stages**



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R, back to camera) swears in newly installed Special Seats (CCM) legislator Aziza Sleyum Ally in the legislative body in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Dr Shein happy with performance by Mzumbe University

By Guardian Reporter

RETIRED Zanzibar President and Mzumbe University Chancellor, Dr Ali Mohammed Shein has expressed satisfaction with the university performance which includes introduction of the Centre for Leadership and Governance.

The report was presented to him by Vice Chancellor, Prof William Mwegoha who was accompanied

by Council Chairperson, Prof Saida Yahya Othman. The university performance covered a period of six months from May to November 2023.

Prof Mwegoha said that the introduction of the Centre for Leadership and Governance aims at providing training to leaders from in and outside the country. He said the university has so far registered

7,887 students for various courses in

the 2023/2024 academic year.

He said the university will conduct its 22nd graduation ceremony in November and December this year at its campuses in Morogoro, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam where a total of 3,943 will graduate with Certificate, Diploma and Degree. Out of the number, 51.46 percent are women and 48.54 percent men.

Meanwhile, Dr Shein commended the University for

the Recorded Successes, calling upon the management to prioritise construction of hostels for female students at its campuses in Mbeya Region.

"We must construct hostels for four female students; statistics indicate girls are now performing better in their final national examinations, hence the need to have enough hostels to accommodate them," he said.



Former minister Prof Mark Mwandosya speaks in a panel organised by the College of Business Education in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the focus being on the "inseparable trinity" of technology, business and regulation. Left is the Director General of the Information and Communication Technologies Commission, Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

# Mwandosya suggests policy formulation to control AI use

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

FORMER Minister for Communications and Transport, Prof Mark Mwandosya has advised the government to formulate a policy to control the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to prevent people from abusing the technology.

He made the plea yesterday in Dar es Salaam, during a public forum on technology, business and regulations organized by the College of Business Education (CBE) at its Dar es Salaam campus.

Prof Mwandosya said without control of the technology, people

could misuse it and cause chaos in society by doing things that are not pleasant.

He said since the world's technology grows faster, some countries are using AI technology to make devices such as computers and cars.

"If you look at many factories in developed countries, machines are now doing the jobs that were previously done by humans and they are doing those jobs faster and with better quality without problems," said Prof Mwandosya.

"There could be people who can take advantage of technology and misuse it. It is time to have a policy because experience shows that

businesses like to flourish where there is no policy or control," he said.

Prof Mwandosya, who is the Chairman of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) said the world is now shifting from manufacturing cars that use petrol and diesel to electric cars that use batteries.

"Tanzania should develop a policy for the use of electric vehicles because we have discovered minerals that will be used to make batteries used in electric vehicles," he said.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General of Information and Communication Technologies

Commission said technology should increase creativity and stimulate various economic activities.

"We should ensure that technology increases the knowledge of Tanzanians and to ensure the systems are safe and reliable. To create an inclusive digital economy, we must ensure that issues of innovation, creativity and digital entrepreneurship are used properly," he said.

Rector of CBE, Prof Edda Lwoga said the college has been organizing such debates from time to time to provide solutions to the various challenges through alternative ideas.

## Government calls on Kagera War veterans to submit particulars

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has asked all elders who suffered different kinds of disabilities when fighting for the nation during the Kagera War and are not receiving free medical services and disability pension to submit their personal information so that they are included in the list.

According to Home Affairs deputy minister Jumanne Sagini, available statistics indicate that about 272 disabled elders were receiving disability pension.

The Deputy Minister was responding to a question by Special Seats Member of Parliament (MP), Fakharia Shomari (CCM), who had demanded the government's statement over the fate of elders who had suffered during the battle between Tanzania and Uganda in 1979.

In response, Sagini who acted on behalf of the Minister for Defence and National Service, noted that until yesterday, 272 elders with disabilities were on the payroll, insisting that immediately after the Kagera War, the government started taking care of all persons who fought during the war.

"Many of those fighters were recruited and later permanently employed in different defence and security organs especially the Tanzania Peoples' Defence Forces, Tanzania Police Force and the Tanzania Prisons Service," said the Deputy Minister, adding that others however, were not employed due to different reasons.

The Uganda-Tanzania War, known in Tanzania as the Kagera War and in Uganda as the 1979 Liberation War, was fought between

Uganda and Tanzania from October 1978 until June 1979, culminating in the overthrow of Idi Amin's regime.

Amin installed himself as President of Uganda and ruled the country under a repressive dictatorship. Uganda also disputed its border with Tanzania, claiming that a section of Kagera – a 720 square mile stretch of land between the official border and the Kagera River, 18 miles to the south, should be placed under its jurisdiction, maintaining that the river made a more logical border.

This triggered war between the two countries after the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who was also Commander in-Chief of Tanzania Armed Forces could not tolerate such nonsense.

After that war it came into limelight that some persons had suffered different kinds of disabilities as a result of that war. Yesterday, the Deputy Minister said all disabled elders who participated during that war continue receiving medical services at different health facilities owned by the army.

"They are equally receiving pension and gratuity pay as per the pensions and gratuity regulations, and the ministry is still following up on the statuses of elders who fought for the country," he noted.

In the House, Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson asked the Internal Affairs Minister to convey the parliament's message to his counterpart in the ministry of Defence and National Service, insisting that there was a dire need to have a track record of these elders who fought for the country so that they are well treated at their old age.

## TAPSHA asks Samia to work on new ways of computing retirement gains

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the Tanzania Primary Schools Headteachers' Association (TAPSHA) have asked President Samia Suluhu Hassan to look with a close eye the new formula for computing retirement benefits, which has been a huge thorn to civil servants.

Rehema Ramole, TAPSHA chairperson made the appeal yesterday here when speaking during the association meeting.

She said the new formula has been a cry to many servants, we are appealing for the government to think on this, noting that the new formula for computing retirement benefits of 33 percent lump sum does not only affect the servants but the economic development in the society.

The chair also urged that teachers who are volunteering in various schools be given priority during employment while recommending that English subjects start from standard one in order to enable the children to have a quick understanding when they reach upper classes.

She however commended the government for its efforts in improving teaching and learning infrastructure, something which contributed to the increase in academic performance.

Deogratius Ndejemi, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) directed the heads of schools to ensure that they fulfill their responsibilities well which include fighting moral decay among school children.

Ndejemi said it is important for the community near schools to cooperate with teachers to protect students from evil actions and ensure that they uphold Tanzanian traditions and culture by teaching students the history of Tanzania.

He also wanted the leaders to supervise well all projects brought in schools to ensure that they are completed on time and have value for money.

The deputy minister also wanted teachers to invest in more innovative ways to ensure that children master

writing, reading and arithmetic.

"Schools in collaboration with parents and the community need to put a good system to facilitate meals to children in schools, this is very important in order to maintain health and nutrition for good academic performance," he asserted.

Early this week, Arusha Urban MP, Mrisho Gambo during the questions and answer session in the National Assembly wanted to know the government's plan to review the lump sum payment of 33 percent for workers.

Responding, Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) said the government recognizes the importance of improving servants' retirement benefits which include the lump sum payment.

He said that the social security funds will conduct an assessment in the financial statements ending June 2023, the government will consider expert's advice who will carry out the assessment in order to increase retirement benefits including the issue of lump sum payment.



**Schools in collaboration with parents and the community need to put a good system to facilitate meals to children in schools, this is very important in order to maintain health and nutrition for good academic performance**



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Amangula Kairuki pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday responding to a point raised by Ngorongoro constituency legislator Emmanuel ole Shangai relating to livestock reportedly impounded by Tanzania National Park (Tanapa) wardens in the Mugumu-Serengeti area in Mara Region and ultimately auctioned by court order. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NEMC calls on mine owners to take precautions against possible floods

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) has urged mine owners to take precautions against possible floods due to on-going rains.

According to NEMC, their dams used to store toxic waste and chemicals could overflow

in people's residences and sometimes cause deaths.

Speaking Dar es Salaam recently, Director General of the council, Dr Samuel Gwamaka said the Tanzania Meteorological Authority TMA has already issued a warning insisting the rains may result in disasters that can be serious and affect the lives of people.

He said the Environmental

Management Act, 2004, requires mines operators to take off their constructed dams to ensure they don't cause harm to the people. He said they are also required to educate people residing near mines on how to safeguard themselves during disasters.

Meanwhile, he said the council will from December 7th this year embark on an inspection at factories to check if they have plans

to recycle coloured plastic bottles that have been contributing to environmental pollution.

Coloured bottles are used in large quantities, causing environmental pollution and contributing to the clogging of ditches and sewerage systems during rains, he added, calling upon those who produce the coloured bottles to have machines to recycle them.

"We are giving one month to the factories to procure machines for recycling of coloured bottles. Failure to implement the directive, they will be banned from producing them," he said.



Rural Energy Agency director general Hassan Saidy (R) presents the agency's working report to Energy deputy minister Judith Kapinga at the REA offices in Dodoma city on Tuesday. Left is Energy ministry deputy permanent secretary Athumani Mbutuka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Elephants kill two people in Mvomero

By Guardian Correspondent, Mvomero

TWO people have died after being attacked by elephants when conducting their daily activities at Makang'wa village in Mangae ward of Mvomero District, Morogoro Region.

The residents who died in different occasions are Leah Lipasio (45), a widow and mother of two children with mental disability and Thelesphory Yustin (25), a farmer in Mangae.

According to reports, Yustin died on November 7, at around 11am at Shule hamlet while heading to farm and Leah was killed the same day at around 13pm at Makang'wa village while collecting firewood near her settlement.

The reporter arrived at the

Makang'wa village-5km from the Morogoro-Iringa highway and witnessed villagers continuing with burial operations of Leah, an event which was also attended by police force officers, conservators from Mikumi National Park and Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and other government officials from Mvomero.

Mainaya Lupasio, the late's brother said: "We received information that my sister has gone missing after she went to fetch firewood, we searched everywhere and we were told that in previous day, a jumbo was heard screaming in the forest, that's when we headed to the area and found the body."

Theresia Maruganje, a Makang'wa villager said residents are currently living under high fear due to the

elephants due to regular invasion of elephants in their settlements and farms, something which affects daily activities and economic growth.

"We are living in fear, elephants are freely roaming in villages, destroying crops in farms and properties, this is worrying and we call on the government to come up with a permanent solution to address the challenge," she said.

She wanted the government to take robust action to fight the regular wildlife invasion in their settlements saying that Leah has left two children who need special care as they are facing mental challenges.

Makang'wa village chairman, Joseph Masingisa said elephants have been a big nuisance in their areas as the animals have been

walking in groups of up to a 100 to 200 thus making citizens to fear to come out of their houses to engage in various activities including farming.

He called on the authorities to deploy more strategies to fight the vice as this was becoming a huge threat to people.

Belege Alex, Mangae chairman said that they have been spending much time to remind the public to take precautions which include avoid walking alone during nights.

According to him, since 2013 when elephants started to enter in the area, a total of 19 people in Mangae village have been killed by the animals.

"We have been making efforts to talk to authorities but things are becoming harder, we call for the government to have mercy with us and extend its help to rescue people's lives," he added.

## Tanzanians called on to venture into beekeeping to realise 'huge benefits'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) has urged Tanzanians to venture into beekeeping enterprises due to its countless benefits including creating sustainable employment.

Dr Wilfred Marealle, TAWIRI top researcher made the call yesterday here when briefing journalists on the forthcoming 50th International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (APIMONDIA) conference that will be held in Arusha in 2027 and expected to bring on board over 6,000 beekeeping stakeholders worldwide.

Dr Marealle said that the meeting brought on board beekeepers, scientists, honey traders, agents for development, technicians, and legislators to listen, discuss and learn from one another.

He said that the meeting which will be accompanied by great opportunities for tourism, various businesses and important discussions of the bee industry and its products.

"We ask all stakeholders not to miss this conference because it is important to bring together various experiences that will help productivity and great profits in the bee industry, we ask the beekeepers themselves to plan not to miss it due to the great importance of the conference," he said.

"That's why I want Tanzanians to use this opportunity of bees and its products, to be self-employed, to lead a life and to find the country's income," he said, noting: "Investment in this sector is easy, it does not require a lot of capital, you just put the hive in the right place, the bees make honey with no investment cost."

Dr Marealle said Tawiri helps with beekeeping education for farmers, harvesting, the right place to put the

beehives and also advise beehives that have been researched and recommended for productive use.

"Natural beehives last only two seasons and are easily broken while researched tanks are environmentally friendly and last more than 10 years if professionally maintained," he said.

On other bee products, Dr Marealle said that Tawiri has now bought modern equipment for harvesting bee venom, without affecting him, which along with the plans to complete a modern bee laboratory, they will start providing education on how to harvest the crop to increase production and productivity for the country and breeders, one gram is sold between 20,000/- and 25,000/-.

He mentioned that other products are bee milk, glue and pollen which have a good price in the market and the demand is high.

"Bee products such as milk, its venom and pollen (pollen), these are claimed to treat diseases such as diabetes, cancer and rheumatism, researches on this treatment I cannot talk about in detail because there are researchers," said Dr Marealle.

Tanzania is the 12th country in the world for honey production and the 2nd in Africa. It has 48.1 million acres of forests, 9.2 million bee colonies with the capacity to produce 138,000 tons.

Currently, Tanzania produces 30,800 tons, preceded by the country of Ethiopia that produces 45,000 tons.

Dr Marealle also asked the stakeholders involved in the natural resources and tourism to participate in the 14th International Tawiri Conference of scientists who will answer the answers to various wildlife problems and present topics that will help the sector. The conference will be held in the 12th month of this year.



Dodoma district commissioner Jabir Shekimwari (2nd-R) goes through documents a Dodoma resident submitted yesterday at a meeting meant to resolve land-based disputes. It was organised by the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has embarked on a campaign to carry a sickle cell diagnosis to every newborn child after new figures showed regions which are prone to Malaria also have the highest cases of the genetic disease in the country, National Assembly was told yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Godwin Mollel made the revelations during a question and answer session naming the regions as Mwanza, Tabora, Kigoma, Mara, Dar es Salam and the Coast.

Dr Mollel was responding to a primary question from Special Seats Member of Parliament Fatma Toufiq (CCM) who wanted to know the rate of sickle cell problems in the

## Govt to carry out sickle cell diagnosis on every newborn

country and regions mostly affected by the disease. "The country has recorded 200,000 sickle cell cases and around 11,000 children are born with the disease on an annual basis," said Dr Mollel indicating that the disease transmitted through inheritance from the genetics of a parent.

The Deputy Minister noted statistics from the Health Management Information System (HMIS) show that around 86,990 sickle cell patients received

treatment in the year 2022.

According to him, the ministry has been embarking on a campaign to encourage engaged couples to test for sickle cell before wedlock.

"Tanzania has been ranked the fifth to record the highest number of sickle cell cases globally and the third in the African Continent," stated Dr Mollel.

Similarly, the government aims to carry out the diagnosis of every child who is born in the country to know the magnitude of the

problem.

Every year more than 11,000 children are born with sickle cell disease in the country. HU alone has the potential to prevent to prevent one out of every three deaths caused by the disease and almost all forms of disabilities.

Despite Hydroxyurea being a simple oral medication with more than 30 years of evidence being very effective and safe, yet it is not readily available, affordable and accessible to patients.

## Appeal to the youth: Learn from efforts by long-serving activists

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN youth have been urged to emulate and back efforts taken by veteran activists who worked hard to fight and promote women's rights and gender equality since the 1990s.

The move greatly contributed to positive legal and systemic changes to promote gender equality.

Prof Ruth Meena, women rights veteran activist made the call on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the 15th Gender Festival and 30 Years of the Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP). The well-attended festival brought on board more than 2,000 participants from within and outside Tanzania.

She said: "This festival is a testimony to our youth, so don't give up on this effort, your elders have fought a lot, these movements need the building of collective strength. The power of a single organization cannot dismantle oppressive systems."

She explained: "There is no single system to create it, we share due to the ability of the professional organization, so that we can be successful, we share the working areas. For example, Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) did the news issues, Tanzania Women's Lawyers Association (TAWLA) and Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) dealt with legal issues, there are big and strong platforms that we have built, we have laid the foundations, we ask the youth to continue from here," Prof. Ruth said.

Dr Avemaria Semakafu, country coordinator of the Tanzania Women Cross Party (TWCP) - Ulingo platform said there are still some oppressive systems that need to be addressed both at family and society level so as to make women free to engage in economic

activities as well as enjoy life with their families.

"Studies have confirmed that while there are many promising opportunities to advance women's empowerment and gender equality in Tanzania, the high rates of gender-based violence in the country remain a serious concern, something which call for the government to continue to strengthen the policy and legal environment to protect the nation's women and girls," she said.

She said: "We need 50 to 50 equalities, for more women to come forward to hold leadership positions and decision-making levels. We need to support women who vie for various positions by voting for them," Dr. Semakafu said.

Prof Marjorie Mbilinyi, also a veteran activist said: "In 1990, we saw a number of issues including natural resources where large companies came due to the privatization policy. At that time, we had a large national debt, people were asking for forgiveness, those who gave us loans gave tough conditions."

"TGNP made sure we conduct a budget analysis from a gender perspective to determine the gap and the effects of the national debt on gender. We want to see the opportunity for citizens to participate directly in decisions, all citizens benefit directly from the distribution of our resources. Recently, the opportunity to express opinions and listen to each other has increased greatly due to technological development," Prof Marjorie.

Rose Marandu, executive director of Women Fund Tanzania (WFT) said that there is a great benefit of using feminists to reach groups with great challenges.



Emmanuel Chibago, the councillor for Matumbulu ward in Dodoma Urban District, airs his views at a meeting held yesterday. The thrust of his remarks was on what he said was the slow pace by city authorities in implementing projects in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Tanzania and US in final talks for nickel, cobalt processing factories

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

TANZANIA and the United States of America are in final talks for the construction of an industry, meant to process Nickel and Cobalt which are key minerals in manufacturing batteries to power electric vehicles.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Stephen Byabato informed the National Assembly when responding to a question by Member of Parliament from the House of Representatives Ameir Abdallah Ameir, who wanted to know the contribution of economic diplomacy in boosting science and technology and the production sector.

"The factory is expected to be completed in 2026, and is anticipated to promote major innovations by coming up with new technologies for manufacturing

vehicle parts, transfer technology and create young talents among the youth who will get the opportunity to work there," said Byabato.

The minister said execution of economic diplomacy has brought about a major revolution in the area of science and technology, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the country.

He went on to reveal that economic diplomacy is part of the implementation of the foreign Policy which involves critical plans and strategies aiming to benefit the country economically, socially and politically through collaboration with other countries, regional and international integrations.

Among the strategies include searching for foreign markets, attracting trade, investment and tourism and concessional loans and looking for scholarships outside the country and transfer of state-

of-the-art technology used in the production sectors like industry, agriculture and energy.

Expounding further, he said economic diplomacy has helped to promote the production sector by securing markets for the country's products.

"As of September 2023, Tanzania had sold 13,708 tons of meat as compared to 1,777 tons which were sold in the year 2020/2021. The markets have been secured in countries including China, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)," he said.

The Deputy Minister noted that the markets have scaled up the productive sector in general his supplementary question, Ameir inquired of the government plan to use economic diplomacy to promote the blue economy taking into account that the potential of

deep-sea fishing is yet to be utilized effectively.

Byabato stated that the blue economy makes up economic activities which involves the development of ocean resources which the mainland and Zanzibar has been endowed with.

Tanzania in collaboration with the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) has secured around \$20 million dollars for the procurement of four ships, whereby two will be handed over to Zanzibar and the other two in the mainland for the development of the blue economy.

He noted that the vessels will support the operation of Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (TAFICO) and Zanzibar Fisheries Company Ltd (ZAFICO) specifically sea farming research in areas of education and technology among others.

# TAEC issues caution to unauthorised importers of radioactive minerals

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PROF Lazaro Busagala, the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) director general has warned importers of unauthorised radioactive minerals, saying that the risk facing tough legal action.

Prof Busagala made the comments recently during an event to observe the International Disaster Reduction Day, held at the national level in Dodoma.

He said there has been an increasing wave of unauthorised importation of various radioactive minerals, which poses a threat to national security and the health of citizens.

Prof Busagala stated that they have detected and legally dealt with a total of 17 incidents of such illegal activities at different regions along the country's borders.

He provided an example of a notorious incident where a resident of Dar es Salaam was caught illegally importing over 9kg of processed Uranium (U238 Uranium, 2.6× 109Bq/g), through their intelligent system.

He said that despite the vital socioeconomic benefits of radioactive minerals, including Uranium, if not handled professionally, they can have negative effects on the human body such as destruction of body cells, serious eye diseases and blindness, loss of fertility and other environmental damage.

Radioactive minerals are minerals that contain radioactive isotopes, which are atoms of an element with an unstable nucleus that decays, or breaks down, over time. This decay releases energy in the form of radiation, which can be harmful to humans.

Prof Busagala also said that during the 2021/2022 financial year, TAEC had increased inspections of imported food products to 66,609 inspections, which is a 274 per cent increase

compared to the total of 7,817 inspections conducted during 2016/2017.

Tanzania has been a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since January 6, 1976 and has received numerous benefits through this membership, including technical and facility assistance for implementing projects in the health, agriculture, livestock and energy sectors.

TAEC is the regulatory body responsible for all atomic energy matters in the country. It runs a programme to provide necessary knowledge on the proper handling of radioactive materials to various institutions in the public and private sectors.

The programme targets institutions that use radioactive mineral technologies in their operations including those in the road construction, health and water, mining, crude oil pump construction and nuclear power generation sector.

Senior Research Officer at TAEC, Jerome Mwimanzi emphasised that the handling of radioactive materials requires technological awareness and precautions to prevent environmental and human disasters.

He mentioned that there have been at least 30 cases of disasters in the past due to the illegal trafficking of radioactive sources in the country.

Mwimanzi added that illegal importation and marketing of uranium have contributed to the outbreak of dangerous disasters. TAEC is working with other like-minded institutions to curb this trend by implementing key initiatives.

To address the situation, the Commission has developed important regulations including the Regulation on Radiation Safety in the Mining and Processing of Radioactive Ores and the Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials of 2011.



A resident of Matwiga village in Chunya District, Mbeya Region, pictured yesterday drawing water from a point installed under the Matwiga Dam project, which has only recently become operational - 17 years of waiting. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

# Govt to install transformer to end power cuts in Moro

IN efforts to end power outages in Morogoro Municipality, the government is now finalizing processes to install a 120-Megavolt ampere (MVA) transformer at the Msamvu grid substation in Morogoro Region.

The exercise to install the transformer which will be completed at the cost of 10.5bn/- is expected to be finalized in November 2023, according to the Deputy Minister of Energy, Judith Kapinga.

Kapinga was responding to a main question posed by Special Seats legislator, Christine Ishengoma (CCM), who had wanted to know the government's plan in ending power woes in the Morogoro Municipality.

Responding, the Deputy Minister said that the 120 MVA transformer would see electricity outages in the municipality being reduced or ended completely as the government was continuing with putting up of different electricity infrastructures in the Morogoro Region.

The 120 MVA transformer has a rating of 120,000 KVA. A 120 MVA transformer is highly effective against sudden short circuits in addition to low levels of local discharge, loss, noise, and noise. It can hold up to 51,600 liters of oil

because it weighs about 208,000 kg, at its maximum capacity.

Yesterday, Kapinga added that despite having the new transformer at the Msamvu substation, the government through the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) was equally doing repairs on various power infrastructures in the Morogoro Municipality in efforts to ensure that electricity shortage was becoming a history in the region and the country at large.

In September, President, Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan issued a six-

month ultimatum to the TANESCO Director General, Engineer Gissima Nyamo-Hanga to ensure the electricity crisis in the country is resolved.

President Samia pledged to support the state power utility Managing Director in the endeavour.

However, just a day after the President's directive, Nyamo-Hanga assured the public that come March 2024, there will be no power cuts in the country anymore due to the various plans that TANESCO had put in place.

# Teleco in new drive to award customers

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania has launched campaign to reward its loyal customers with tonnes of gifts and cater to healthcare assistance for children from economically challenged families in referral hospitals across Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

The campaign is dubbed: 'Share Joy, Touch Lives', which seeks to reward their loyal customers, and the telco will embark on charitable activities.

Speaking during the launch of the festive campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Linda Riwa, Vodacom Tanzania Consumer Business Unit Director said that the campaign aimed at sharing the joy and touch the lives of our customers and the wider community across all 31 regions countrywide. In ensuring that our customers remain jovial and in a festive mood as we wind up the year, we will be awarding them with instant rewards and weekly prizes including cash of up to 10m/-, motorcycles, televisions, smartphones, 5G and 4G routers and so much more. I believe these gifts will not only lift our customers' spirits but also provide them with opportunities to elevate their lives when put to good economic use," said Riwa.

The campaign is expected to run for approximately 10 weeks up to mid-January 2024 whereas during the month of November, the campaign will focus on rewards and handovers to customers while December will be dedicated to community outreach for children at referral hospitals.

"In addition to the festive campaign, Vodacom will extend

its love to families during this festive season through charitable endeavors across the region. Holidays, above all, are about family and there is no greater joy than welcoming a new member into the family. I'm sure many of you still hold dear the memory of the first time you welcomed a new life into your homes - the joy, the anticipation, the love. This festive season, we aim to support families welcoming new members by providing free one-year medical insurance cover to babies born from the 1st to the 31st, through our digital insurance product, VodaBima. Our goal is to give parents peace of mind to focus on what truly matters - family, festivities, and the love they share," added Riwa.

Epimack Mbeteni, M-Pesa director stated that Vodacom recognizes that during this festive season, many Tanzanians make purchases and payments for various services. Therefore, Vodacom encourages them to conduct these transactions through digital channels, especially M-Pesa, as it is easier and safer. Additionally, the more transactions customers make through this method, the more chances they have to win instant prizes or those offered through weekly draws.

Nguvu Kamando, director of digital services explained: "We understand that staying in touch with our loved ones is a top priority during the festive season therefore, every time a customer purchases airtime and bundles, they will increase their chances of winning instant rewards like cash, airtime, and data."



Dr Salum Khamis (R), Director of Operations and Services in Zanzibar's Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday presenting to Zanzibar Maisha Bora Foundation representative Mohamed Nyahega medical supplies and various other items for use by persons with disabilities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Educate public on the importance of conserving forest reserves, LGAs told

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has directed local government authorities to educate the public in their localities on the importance of conserving forest reserves as stipulated by laws to avoid land conflicts.

Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Festo Dugange made the directives in

parliament when responding to a question by Handeni urban legislator Reuben Kwagilwa who asked what the government was doing to end a border dispute between Handeni and Kilindi.

"When will the government end the border dispute between Handeni and Kilindi districts at Bondo," the legislator queried.

In response the deputy minister

said the government has ended the conflict following a directive issued by Tanga Regional Commissioner during a meeting held on 25, July 2023.

He said the government had sent a team of experts including land officers, regional and district security committees from both sides which also went through the government GN.

"The decision was made and minutes for the meeting were sent to the office of the Regional Commissioner for implementation," he said.

Executive Directors for the two districts have been directed to offer awareness campaigns to their people on the importance of respecting the boundaries which differentiates the two districts by referring to the government GN and changing the registration of Bondo primary and Parakwiyo so that they appear in respective districts.

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## Getting the better of issues like GBV is indeed more easily said than done

FORMER South African Vice President Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka was chief guest at the opening of the 15th gender festival organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), recently held in Dar es Salaam.

She had incisive remarks on the problem of gender-based violence, with a section of the media understandably highlighting what she had to say on the need for men to join in the campaign against GBV in Tanzania and elsewhere.

By their very nature, appeals of the kind are directed at an individual conscience, whereas the hope is often directed at the collective level - by writing laws to stop such violence.

Efforts have over the years been directed at ensuring blanket stoppage of GBV, but the nature of such relationships makes it that cessation of violence presumes cessation of stable affinities and at times an effort at striking an affinity is seen as GBV and therefore liable for a penalty.

That was sort of the gist or spirit of the 1998 legislation, here known as Sexual Offences (Special Provisions Act) and often disregarded except in substantive cases of rape - not merely glancing at a woman three times, hurting her feelings.

With more than two thousand delegates from 14 countries around the world, meeting and exchanging views for two weeks running at the festival, there should be room for plenty of ideas on what to do with respect to the various aspects of the GBV issue.

To an extent, it should not be a forum where justice can be done about the different aspects and manifestations of GBV - for instance, the methods women use to put aside their formal conjugal companions and partake of property.

At times one sees widows and

imagines that it is all courtesy of early natural deaths of husbands, or sees younger men dying and imagines that it is just "one of those things", whereas in many cases it is intentionally done.

There is another aspect of tradition that is vexing in some societies and low-level ambivalence among various sections of public authorities, namely, the whole phenomenon of - and dispute on - child marriages.

There are two ways a child can be identified: the usual legal method and a social method, if a young woman shows signs of behavioural adulthood, which can be said to simply start at 18.

While there are indeed dangers in young people being married off to suitors, there is also a greater likelihood of durable ties when the relationship is formal and is conducted at an early age.

One reason is that conjugal affinity needs a fulcrum to retain that admiration for a long enough period such that loyalty to those affinities finally becomes natural. Marriage at a late age has thin roots, socially or behaviourally.

Public authorities in both parts of the Union, but particularly in Zanzibar, are on record over the past few months as lamenting the way marriages are collapsing - that is, issuance of divorce notices or demanding such intervention.

The point is that human beings are born to be free and not to conform to standards of behaviour that their neighbours want or demand of them - that is, if we were to speak like poets or literalists.

When women are becoming freer and freer economically and getting married off not at 18 but any time thereafter, with suitors often looking for younger women likely to accept obligations at the domestic level, the household cement crumbles. Activists need to discuss that.

## Nobody picking up tab for flooding risk in small mine dams - after NEMC alerts

RESIDENTS of a number of mining areas are living in fear of the effects of heavy rains falling around the country - that there is a likelihood of flooding leading to loss of lives.

The National Environment Management Council (NEMC), whose activities are usually closely tied to what happens in mining areas, has lately aired those concerns.

The agency has gone on and asked mine operators to take safeguards, especially in relation to dams where solid waste is directed or deposited. It has talked of dangers for those dams filling up or breaking on the seams, with clear threat to households.

Top NEMC officials have reminded the public that the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has issued alerts on the likelihood of flooding and instances of emergency arising from El Niño rains.

The mining areas and storage of solid waste is one thing, while it is possible that the mines themselves may be disturbed if there is a disproportionate flow of water underground, chiefly for undercapitalised small mines.

Their often rudimentary tools and lack of usable equipment for use in testing resilience to flooding in this or that particular situations may also cause a few worries, even as the big danger is the more vivid environmental risk.

But even within the ambit of the dams or rather large basins storing solid wastes, this appeal about the need to take precautions essentially speaks of the need for such precautions.

It is not also an indication of its feasibility, as it isn't entirely evident that there is room of capital outlays aside from that preliminary construction - that is, except if it were large miners.

But even here there is often considerable limitation as to what portion of operating capital is put to environmental safety. They close if pushed.

NEMC has talked of the dams being 'very big' and therefore taking up plenty of acreage, which implies that they are largely walled off rather than built to limit outward expansion.

Had the construction been sufficiently inward, chances of massive overflowing would be somewhat limited. However, if they are shallow, the dangers would be magnified for the surrounding communities.

Again, even for areas where visible and somewhat viable preliminary construction has been done, no rush to add to safety regards would be likely if any adds-on to existing structures are big.

As often happens, NEMC alerts related more to elaborating on the responsibility of the relevant investor, and ensuring public awareness is sufficiently raised on the matter.

When it comes to the latter, the snag is that miners are rather unlikely to overstate the dangers or admit them for what they are unless they are actually prepared for additional environmental investments. The record is that they aren't too forthcoming in that regard, in which case they will not make much of it.

But the irony is that NEMC will likely observe that same rule, as it is clear it isn't disposed to take up flood-related emergency investments.

Thus, it will likely leave the issue to disaster management committees in the Prime Minister's Office. With each pushing aside the costs of safeguards, as it were, we can only hope for clemency from the rains as chances of being prepared for emergencies will be slim indeed.



## Experts: Urban agriculture should be climate-smart

By Mekonnen Teshome

URBAN agriculture has immense contributions to food security but should be climate-smart, urban agriculture experts underscored at the inaugural edition of the African Conference on Agricultural Technology (ACAT) held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, from October 30 to November 4, 2023.

It was organised by the non-profit Africa Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF).

The meet was attended by agricultural researchers, policymakers, industry leaders and innovators from around the world to discuss agricultural productivity in Africa.

Urban agriculture can help increase access to fresh, nutritious food for city residents, said Margaret Gill, emeritus professor at the UK's University of Aberdeen.

However, if not managed properly, urban farming can exacerbate climate change by emitting methane from decomposed wastes from urban farming plots, she said.

She elaborated: "Besides, urban farming and gardening can affect water resources in cities and the use of pesticides. The cultivation of non-native species can threaten local biodiversity as well."

Therefore, she added, cities should adopt climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly practices, taking the region and local bio-geographical and climatic conditions into account.

The professor said that urban agriculture has to embrace environmental-friendly practices, like planting drought-tolerant plants, to cut back on the consumption of irrigation water, which is usually scarce in urban areas.

"In the face of rapidly progressing climate change, urban agriculture would play a critical role in ensuring food security, dietary diversity, community cohesion and well-being and ecological benefits, such as hydrological functions, air quality and soil quality, argued Henry Gordon-Smith, founder and chief executive of advisory services and technology firm Agritecture.

But proper management of water and energy as well as access to agricultural technologies are among the burning issues in making urban agriculture climate smart and effective, he pointed out.

Gordon-Smith also brought up hydroponics as a modern agricultural technology that boosts urban farming productivity as access to land plots is limited and climate conditions are not favourable for farming without the use of greenhouses. It also helps tackle the issue of soil scarcity.

"Traditional agriculture is responsible for 75 per cent of the world's fresh water consumption and hydroponic technology could save up to 90 per cent of the water consumed," he said.



Urban agriculture also involves livestock development, which in turn is associated with climate change, Gordon-Smith noted.

The sector requires the utilisation of natural resources and has its own impact on the global greenhouse gas emissions of methane and nitrous oxide, he added.

In most parts of the world, urban communities keep livestock at their homes, said Gill, mentioning India and Scotland as instances.

Mitigation strategies to reduce emissions from the livestock sector are highly needed, as the increasing demand for livestock products is driven by population growth across the world, she said.

Urban agriculture requires many efforts related to mitigating pollution, climate change and efficient use of water and energy, said Renalda Bernard Mlay, founder of agricultural company Renie Fresh in Arusha, Tanzania. It also requires substantial capacity building efforts and application of

appropriate technologies.

Urban and peri-urban agriculture offers a fundamental strategy for building the resilience of a city's food supply, given that 55 per cent of the world's population resides in urban areas, while 79 per cent of all the food produced is destined for consumption in cities, said Sylvia Horemans, member of board of trustees of AATF and chief executive of agricultural company Kamano Seed, Zambia.

"A staggering 800 million people worldwide are involved in urban and peri-urban area activities, while 266 million urban households are involved in crop production in developing countries," she said.

"According to the United Nations, by 2050, an estimated 68 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas, with the most significant growth expected in small cities and towns in Africa and Asia," Horemans stated.

The rapid urbanisation places immense pressure on food supply chains and underscores the need for innovative solutions, she said. "The impact of global trends in population growth and urbanisation is compounded by other vulnerabilities, including climate change and the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

These factors collectively contribute to an overall increase in food insecurity, malnutrition, and the rise of diet-related non-communicable diseases, she said, emphasising the importance of stable food production, shorter and simplified food supply chains, and distribution tools that can adapt to changing circumstances.

Urban agriculture requires many efforts related to mitigating pollution, climate change and efficient use of water and energy, said Renalda Bernard Mlay, founder of agricultural company Renie Fresh in Arusha, Tanzania. It also requires substantial capacity building efforts and application of

## '2.8bn people may likely reside in area with severe ecological threats by 2050'

THE number of people residing in countries facing severe ecological threats will go up to 2.8 billion by 2050, according to a report by an international think tank, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). Currently, the number stands at 1.8 billion.

More than half of the hotspot countries facing a severe threat are in sub-Saharan Africa, found the IEP report, entitled Ecological Threat Report 2023.

It looked at global ecological threats and identified the countries and sub-national areas most vulnerable to conflict, civil unrest and displacement as a result of environmental degradation and climate-related events.

The report covered 221 countries and independent territories, which were divided into 3,594 sub-national areas, accounting for 99.99 per cent of the world's population. Of these countries and territories, 66 face at least one severe ecological threat.

natural disasters, demographic pressure and water risk.

There are currently 42 countries experiencing severe food insecurity, and nearly four billion people live in areas experiencing high or severe food insecurity, the majority living in sub-Saharan Africa.

Water risk is one of the most significant ecological threats the world is currently facing. Two billion people globally live in areas that lack access to safe drinking water.

While water risk is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, it is also increasing in the Middle East and North Africa, Russia and Eurasia.

A 25 per cent increase in food insecurity, as measured by the report, increases the risk of conflict by 36 per cent.

Similarly, a 25 per cent increase in the number of people without

access to clean drinking water and natural disasters increases the risk of conflict by 18 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively.

"As we approach the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Ecological Threat Report provides a timely reminder of the need for leaders to act, invest and build resilience for the future," said Steve Killelea, founder and executive chairman of IEP.

Ecological threats increase the risk of conflict and result in forced migration. Building resilience to these threats will require substantial investment now and into the future, the report said.

The report included many policy recommendations aimed at supporting local communities to improve water capture, agricultural yields and resilience.



# What the law says about buying disputed property in good faith

THIS article is an outcome of various requests from readers who want to protection of their rights upon purchasing property innocently and with good faith at public auctions. Many requests were made following what was handled down by Court of Appeal of Tanzania in Civil Appeal No 166 of 2019 between Hamis Bushiri Pazia and others vs Sauli Henry Amon and 3 others.

It provides some highlights regarding what one should know before purchasing a property so that the buyer can be covered within legal parameters termed as bonafide purchaser of property for value without notice.

Legally, a person who purchases a property innocently and in good faith without having knowledge of the defects is called bonafide purchaser. The aforesaid word derives its meaning from latin word 'in good faith'.

Legal term bonafide purchaser has been subjected to a number of wrangles of judicial interpretations. However, for the purposes of this article, Court of Appeal of Tanzania, in the case of Suzana S. Waryoba vs Shija Dalawa, Civil Appeal no 44 of 2017, defines bonafide purchaser as follows:

"Bonafide purchaser is someone who purchases something in good faith, believing that he/she has

clear right of ownership after the purchase and having no reason to think otherwise. In situation where a seller behaves fraudulently, the bonafide purchaser is not responsible. Someone with conflicting claim to the property under discussion would need to take it up with the seller, not the purchaser, and the purchaser would be allowed to retain the property."

In simple language, once the bonafide purchaser purchases a property and transfers the same in his or her name without knowledge of its defect, then any claim or whatsoever should be directed against the seller and not the bonafide purchaser.

In our jurisdiction, various laws were enacted to ensure bonafide purchaser is statutorily protected. Section 135 of the Land Act 1999 provides various conditions for the purposes of the bonafide purchaser to be protected, particularly when a property sold at public auction.

The protection is only available once transfer of title deed to the name of the purchaser is completed through lawful means. What bonafide purchaser is required to state or plead is that auction was conducted in public on certain date and he or she had no idea of the defect of the property purchased.

Apart from civil protec-



tion, criminally the bonafide purchaser is also protected under section 9 of the Penal Code, Cap 16 R.E 2019. This provision is available to ensure those who purchase properties from sellers without any knowledge either expressly or implied on defectiveness are protected under the defence of bonafide claim of right.

In the Criminal Appeal No 4 of 2022 between Elia Mwa-tebela vs Subi Patrick Mwamboneka, at the High Court of Tanzania in Mbeya, the appellant was released on the ground that at the time of purchase of the property alleged to have been stolen by the seller, he had no means of having knowledge that the said property was stolen hence the accused released from the criminal liability.

It is settled practices in common law judicial system that courts of law are very reluctant to interfere with right of the bonafide purchaser when it comes to an issue of challenging the ownership of a property which was acquired in good faith unless the said

transaction was done fraudulently and more particularly the purchaser was also integral part of the said unlawful act or had reason to become aware of the said fraud or unlawful act.

In the case of Stanley Kata-ma Masiki vs Chihyo Kuisia w/o Nderingo Ngomuo (1981) TLR 143, the court held that "The court should be slow to disturb such a purchase and would desist from reviving estate claimed."

What is relevant here is that some of the relevant conditions need to be within legal framework so that one can be protected under the said defence. There is no single condition but always varies from case-to-case basis. However, from our experience of handling such disputes in courts of law and upon going through various laws, we found some of the basic ones which are predominant and need to be met so that the defence of bonafide purchaser can be entertained.

First, the purchaser must be registered or hold certificate

of title issued by the registrar of title or from authority that he or she is the lawful owner of the property. Motive behind this principle is that in case of any defect or encumbrance on the title, then the name of the purchaser would not be entered in the land registry.

The law presumes at the time of purchasing the property there were no registered defects. Therefore, it is important for the purchaser to finalise the process so that he or she can be protected under the law. Failure of it, the defence cannot be available to the purchaser.

In the case of Registered Trustees of Africa Inland Church Tanzania vs CRDB Bank Plc and others, Commercial Case 7 of 2017, the court held that protection of bonafide purchaser under section 135 of the Land Act start after the transfer and registration of the said property to the bonafide purchaser.

Secondly, property should be acquired in good faith without unlawful intention after conducting due diligence on

the property. Here, good faith refers to acting honestly, fairly and without unlawful intent when purchasing the said property.

Due diligence is also important before purchasing the same and this can be done quickly through land registry or if sale is through court order, then file can be perused. In case of failure to conduct due diligence, one may pay purchasing consideration and the purchased property may not be transferred due to the said encumbrance available either from the registry or court order.

Good example is the recent Court of Appeal decision in the case of Hamis Bushiri Pazi and 4 others vs Sauli Henry Amon and 3 others. In this case, a property was purchased through auction conducted by court order handled by a court broker.

The purchaser had developed property into a new and better outlook after purchasing the same. However, Court of Appeal did not accept defence of bonafide purchaser and proceeded to set aside the sale. Among other grounds which inspired the court to arrive at such a decision was that due diligence to the registries was not done to ensure clearness of the property purchased and the court went further and made declaration that even what was developed on the said property should be left to the previous owner.

Thirdly, the purchaser must have no means of having notice of defects or should not be integral part of fraudulent act of the purchasing transaction. As a matter of law or cardinal principal, fraud vitiates everything. The court is not there to bless unlawful acts in either way particularly when the purchaser was integral part of the said unlawful act.

However, fraud or unlawful act which courts look into are the ones which point that the bonafide purchaser was the integral part of the same or had reasons to know before purchasing the property in question. If one can establish the above three predominant principles, then he or she is good to go and is properly protected by law.

Note: the material and information contained in this article are for general information purposes only. They only provide either elementary or basic legal knowledge on the above subject. Anyone considering legal action should consult an experienced lawyer to understand current laws and how they may affect a case in question.

You can send questions or comments to our email [info@legisattorneys.co.tz](mailto:info@legisattorneys.co.tz) or postal address Managing Partner, Legis Attorneys, P. O. Box 3750, DSM. You can visit our website [www.legisattorneys.co.tz](http://www.legisattorneys.co.tz)

## Agriculture: Let's use this 'silver bullet' to shoot youth unemployment

By Mark Mapambano

STATISTICS about youth unemployment in our country are startling. What we can do to tackle it is stunningly open secret—investing heavily in the agriculture sector. Why it has taken us so long to do the right thing is puzzling. Now that something is being done is encouraging.

For starters, out of the approximately 900,000 young Tanzanians aged between 15 and 24 who enter the job market annually, only between 50,000 and 60,000 get a decent and salaried employment. The rest struggle to make ends meet, seeing many adults depend on their parents for years.

It should be remembered that Tanzania is one of the countries with the youngest populations in the world. The World Population Review 2022 shows that our country has a median age of 18 years and youth and children account for 31 percent and 44 percent of the population respectively. This is younger than African continent's median age which is 18.8 years.

It is undisputed that youth is the most energetic and productive section of any society. A country's ability and potential for growth is determined by the size and strength of its youth population. It is rightly argued that developing countries with large youth population like Tanzania can see tremendous growth, provided they invest in developing young people's skills.

All manner of studies have been conducted and findings show that Tanzania's agriculture sector—which contributes nearly one-third of our country's GDP but employs over 75 percent of the population—has the potential to increase incomes and improve livelihoods.

That is why initiatives that focus on agriculture as a means to tackle youth unemployment and achieve economic growth are heart-warming. President Samia Suluhu Hassan is particularly passionate about unlocking the potential of the sector which is rightly described as the sleeping giant.

Speaking at a presidential panel of the Africa Investment Forum (AIF) in



President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks in a presidential panel at the African Investment Forum in Marrakech, Morocco, on Wednesday. She is with Comoros President Azali Assoumani (L) and Rwandan Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente. File photo

Marrakech, Morocco, on Wednesday, she reiterated her plan to transform the sector and increase its growth from the current 4.6 percent to 10 percent by 2030.

To transform the agriculture sector, the government has come up with the Building a Better Tomorrow Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA), which is aimed at promoting youth engagement in modern agro-sector activity for sustainable and improved livelihoods, president Samia said. It is a tool for attainment of the Agenda 10/30 that envisages increasing youth employment by 1.5 million.

Running between 2022 and 2030, BBT-YIA is designed to address many challenges that hinder youth involvement in agriculture, including negative perception towards agriculture, limited agricultural entrepreneurial skills, poor access to land, limited accessibility to financial services, markets; and modern agricultural labour.

BBT-YIA's estimated budget is

356.199bn/- (USD 148,416,167) of which 24 percent of the budget will come from the government. The programme attracted US dollars 500 million (about 1.25tr/-) funding from development partners at the Africa Food Systems Forum 2023 which took place in Dar es Salaam early September this year to finance its projects in the next six years.

BBT-YIA is not just about tilling the land but also involves livestock keeping and fishing as well as the entire ecosystem from input to production, processing and marketing.

The programme is about modernisation and commercialisation of agribased productive activity, demanding heavy investments in mechanisation, irrigation, agro-processing and digital platforms taking up numerous youth groups, the president affirmed.

Digital platforms under BBT assist in accessing agricultural extension services, marketing and enabling smallholder farmers to access credit plus extension services, she stated, expressing grati-

tude for the continental lender for the provision of substantive support.

A growing section of the youth is now engaged in the productive initiative, she stated, telling the delegates that as a mother she decided on some of the issues as a private agenda for education and health.

The government has set aside 160,000 acres for the programme and beneficiaries are allocated up to 10 acres each, which they will end up owning.

Its formulation process adopted a participatory approach involving the government, the private sector, development partners and other key stakeholders.

In a course of eight years, the government intends to achieve 12,000 profitable enterprises across 12,000 villages in the country through partnerships among the Ministry of Agriculture, private sector, development partners, Tanzania Youth in Agriculture Association and like-minded Non-Government

Organizations.

The programme was designed to start by training 200,000 youth, involving 20,000 youth in internship programmes, and mentoring and coaching 15,000 youth-led agribusinesses through incubation programmes.

The selected beneficiaries are categorised into four clusters with cluster one being youth entrepreneurs in established agribusinesses, cluster two youth entrepreneurs whose agribusinesses are yet to be established, cluster three youth trained to be the workforce in established agribusinesses and cluster four youth with no interest in agriculture.

After decades of attempts to tackle youth unemployment, it is as if we concluded that there is no silver bullet with which to do so. We can now use agriculture as a silver bullet to shoot youth unemployment.

The author comments on current affairs. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

By Gaiane Yenokian

# Nagorno Karabakh: Fully displaced but far from safe

FROM the balcony of the house she's lived in for the past weeks, 32-year-old Margarita Ghushunts says she often looks in the direction of her home, in Nagorno Karabakh.

"Every time I look that way, I remember the hellish journey we took to escape from home. It feels like losing it over and over again," she tells IPS.

Also called "Artsakh" by its Armenian former residents, Nagorno-Karabakh was a self-proclaimed republic within Soviet Azerbaijan which had sought international recognition and independence since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988-1994) ended with an Armenian victory. Azerbaijan would unleash its armed forces in 2020 and take back many of the areas lost years before.

**But grievances were still not settled.**

On September 19, Azerbaijan launched a massive attack against Nagorno Karabakh. All the population – more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians – fled the region for Armenia within a few days.

Panicked by the Azerbaijani attack, the civilian population rushed to evacuate. The sole road connecting Nagorno Karabakh to Armenia – closed by a 9-month blockade imposed by Azerbaijan – had just been reopened, but it could be closed again at any moment.

After a 28-hour, exhausting ride to the Armenian border from Nagorno Karabakh's capital city Stepanakert, Margarita, her husband Harutyun and their three minor children arrived at her father's house in Tegh village, in southern Armenia.

The village is located right on the Azerbaijani border. Margarita can even see the Azerbaijani military positions and their flags waving from the neighbouring mountain peaks.

"We can also hear the periodic gunshots so my children cannot sleep peacefully. Even when they hear the sound of thunder, they come to me and ask: 'Mama, are they shooting at us again?'"

**Killed and tortured**

On September 28, the last leader of Nagorno Karabakh, Samvel Shajramanian, issued a decree dissolving the self-proclaimed Nagorno Karabakh Republic as of January 1, 2024.

Today, the population of the evacuated enclave is spread throughout the regions of Armenia. Some of them are in the accommodations provided by the government, while others rent houses or live in free accommodations offered by caring individuals.

In several public speeches and international meetings, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly emphasized that the rights of Armenians living in Nagorno Karabakh would be safeguarded "with Azerbaijan's national legislation and international commitments".

But there's little trust among the Armenians. Less than 40 remain in the besieged enclave. They are now provided with humanitarian aid by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

On October 19, the Armenian Human Rights Defender, Anahit Manasyan, re-



Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh on September 25, departing from the besieged enclave. Virtually the entire population has fled for fear of violence by Azerbaijani forces. Credit: Gaiane Yenokian/IPS

ported that the bodies of the victims in Nagorno-Karabakh during the Azeri attack from September 19-21 showed signs of torture and mutilation.

It matches data issued by Armenia's Investigative Committee on the 31st of October which points to 14 people being tortured by the Azerbaijani military and 64 people dying on the road from Nagorno Karabakh to Armenia.

In an interview with IPS in Yerevan, southern Armenia, International law and human rights expert Siranush Sahakyan notes that previously recorded cases of brutal murders among the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh demonstrate the futility of Aliyev's words.

"After the 2020 war, up to 70 civilians

decided to remain in their settlements of Hadrut, Shushi and other regions which came under Azerbaijani control. All these civilians were either captured, taken to Baku, tortured and killed or murdered in their own houses. Their bodies were desecrated," recalls Siranush Sahakyan.

UN also called on Azerbaijan that "Rights and security of Karabakh Armenians must be guaranteed". Other than just making calls, says Siranush Sahakyan, the UN should also create the conditions for it.

"The first condition is to eliminate hatred against Armenians. Also, an international fully mandated mechanism needs to be deployed in Azerbaijan to protect Armenians in case they face security is-

sues. Without a substantial change in the situation, no one will return," stresses the lawyer.

**Fear of new attacks**

Margarita Ghushunts's little daughter, Rozi, was born under the blockade of Nagorno Karabakh during which they were deprived of gas, electricity, food, medicine, and fuel, and the healthcare system was almost non-functional.

But it was not the harsh living conditions that forced Margarita to leave Stepanakert.

"We could bear all the cruelty of the blockade to protect our right of self-determination, but as Artsakh's government was forced to surrender arms to save the

civil population, we could not stay there anymore," explains the displaced woman.

Life in Artsakh without its defence army, she claims, "simply equates to death for the population."

Today, Ghushunts her neighbours often ask if they will stay in the village. Her answer, however, is unsettling for everyone. The displaced woman fears Azerbaijani troops "may launch an attack on Armenia at any moment."

It can happen. According to the Armenian MFA, after the 2020 war Azerbaijan has occupied 150 square kilometres of the internationally recognized territories of the Republic of Armenia.

On November 1st, The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention issued a "Red Flag Alert" for the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of Armenia, due to the alarming potential for an invasion of Armenia by Azerbaijan in the coming days and weeks.

Siranush Sahakyan, the International law expert interviewed by IPS, claims that the ratification of the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (ICC) by Armenia's parliament on the 3rd of October could open the door to an international investigation of Azerbaijan's crimes against Armenia.

"Non-ratification of the Rome Statute by Azerbaijan creates obstacles to investigate their crimes in Artsakh, but it will fall under jurisdiction for the crimes committed on the internationally recognised territory of Armenia starting from May 2021. This could be one of the ways to protect Armenia from future international crimes," Sahakyan states.

The Avanesyans also left Nagorno Karabakh to settle in Vazashen, another border village in Armenia's north. But they soon decided to move again.

"Our neighbour pointed out the Azerbaijani positions right in front of the village. He mentioned that they could not graze the cattle because the Azerbaijanis were stealing it. The children got scared, so we had to seek another shelter," Lusine Avanesyan, a 35-year-old mother of five children told IPS from Kalavan village.

That's where they moved again after the local guesthouse offered its rooms for the family allowing them to stay as long as they wished.

Romela Avanesyan, Lusine Avanesyan's mother-in-law, began exploring the resources available in Kalavan to start a farm as soon as they arrived.

The displaced 61-year-old remembers the pomegranate garden she planted many years ago but was forced to leave behind. While they were rushing to evacuate Karabakh, she held onto what was most precious to her: the seeds of plants and vegetables from her garden.

"I was urging my grandchildren to pick only the cracked pomegranates and leave the beautiful ones to ripen," Avanesyan tells IPS. Today, she adds, "those pomegranates are lost, and so is our entire homeland."



Refugees in Kornidzor, the first town on the Armenian side of the border, on September 25. Many arrived empty-handed after fleeing on foot through the forest and under shelling. Credit: Gaiane Yenokian/IPS

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# Digital clubs to push digitalisation

By Guardian Reporter

**T**ANZANIA is promoting a culture of innovation and creativity as part of its strategy to mainstream the use of information and communications Technologies (ICTs) in the country, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, Mohammed Khamis Abdulla said in Dar es Salaam recently.

Launching a Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) produced handbook on the procedures for the formation and coordination of digital clubs recently, Abdulla said the ministry had set targets of building talents and innovations from the primary school level.

The ministry was working with the ICT Commission to manage the formation of digital clubs involving youths at all educational levels, he added.

The clubs would enable youths to apply their talents and innovation potentials to pursue their dreams while promoting an innovation culture in the country. They would also create employment, build critical thinking skills among youths, address, and overcome their challenges.

The Permanent Secretary explained that digital clubs are essential component of the Digital Tanzania Project, which seeks to promote ICT use among Tanzanians. They are platforms for youths in peer groups to improve their awareness of opportunities created by technol-



The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, Mohammed Khamis Abdulla launches a Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) handbook on the procedures for the formation and coordination of digital clubs in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo Courtesy of TCRA

ogy and digital applications, he explained.

For example, students may identify issues in their locations and discuss ways of addressing them through ICTs and digital applications, he said.

TCRA Director General, Dr Jabiri Bakari said the programme was part of the Authority's determination to promote, among youths, interest in ICTs and awareness and understanding of their potential.

The clubs would improve their skills and readiness to fully participate in the digital economy from lower education levels to universities, he noted.

The clubs would also build student's interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), basic subjects for careers in ICTs, he added.

TCRA would cooperate with other education sector stakeholders, including teachers and students in tertiary institutions and universities in the digital clubs programme, Dr Bakari.

TCRA will review and update the guidebook to accommodate new technologies and their applications, he said.

Dr Bakari assured ICT innovators in the Country that the Government through TCRA would continue offering scarce, valuable resources of frequency spectrum, numbering, domain names and Postcode free of charge to those involved in coming up with new ICT solutions that would benefit communities from different lifestyles.

## Grape farmers in Dodoma, wine producers pin high hopes on 6th CIIE

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

**T**ANZANIAN grape farmers and wine producers are looking to the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in the eastern Chinese city of Shanghai, which runs from Sunday to Friday, with great expectations.

One of the showcased products at the event is a range of wine brands from Alko Vintages, a local winery based in Dodoma.

Alpha Kefa Mabwai, a grape farmer from Hombolo village in the Dodoma region, ex-

pressed his pride at seeing wines made from the grapes he cultivates featured at the expo. "The exhibition of wines made in Tanzania at the 6th CIIE will have various benefits, mainly it will promote our grape farming and it will open up a huge market in China with a population of 1.4 billion people," Mabwai said when tending to his two-and-a-half-hectare grape farm.

Stefano Elimringi, another grape farmer from the same village, shares this enthusiasm and emphasizes the expo's potential for attracting Chinese investors to the grape farming and winemaking sector in Tanzania. "It makes me so proud to see our locally produced wines made from our grapes exhibited at the 6th CIIE."

Frank Kato, the sales manager for Alko Vintages, is excited about showcasing high-quality wines made from a variety of tropical grapes, carefully selected from family-owned vineyards in the Dodoma region.

"The vineyards are largely semi-organic, cultivated by hand and watered with fresh spring waters, originating from the Eastern Arc Mountains of Udzungwa," Kato said, adding that Alko Vintages, being the largest wine producer in Tanzania, sees the CIIE as a golden opportunity to introduce a variety of its brands to the Chinese market.

The Chinese market is incredibly vast and crucial globally, Kato said, noting that their participation in the 6th CIIE is an opportunity to reach a wider audience, increase sales, and expand their market share.

Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian expressed her belief that the 6th CIIE would be a fantastic platform for Chinese consumers to become more acquainted with "Made in Tanzania" products.

"We hope that Tanzania's products and services will enter China through the CIIE, stand firm based on their own advantages, and establish close cooperative relationships with Chinese partners," Chen said last month at a farewell ceremony for Tanzanian exhibitors attending the 6th CIIE held at the Chinese Embassy in Dar es Salaam, the business hub of Tanzania.

China looked forward to Tanzania using China's developed e-commerce platform to establish a sales network, expand sales channels and bring Tanzanian products to Chinese customers, the ambassador said.



Women look at the border, hoping that their relatives reach Chad to escape death as they wait for them in Chad, November 7, 2023.

## Darfur refugees now report new spate of ethnically driven killings

ADRE, Chad

PEOPLE fleeing to Chad have reported a new surge in ethnically-driven killings in Sudan's West Darfur as the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) took over the main army base in the state capital, El Geneina.

On Tuesday, a Reuters reporter saw a trail of men crossing from Darfur into Chad at Adre, about 27 km (17 miles) west of El Geneina. Three of those who fled said they had witnessed killings by Arab militias and RSF forces targeting the Masalit ethnic group in Ardamat, an outlying district in El Geneina that is home to the army base and to a camp for internally displaced people (IDP).

The RSF did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Reuters was not able to independently verify the accounts of what took place.

Reports have it that that between April and June this year, the RSF and allied Arab militias conducted weeks of systematic attacks targeting the Masalit, El Geneina's majority ethnic African tribe, as war flared in the country between the RSF and Sudan's army.

In public comments, Arab tribal leaders have denied engaging in ethnic cleansing in El Geneina, and the RSF has said it was not involved in what it described as a tribal conflict.

At talks in Jeddah, the warring parties agreed to facilitating aid deliveries and confidence-building measures, mediators said on Tuesday, but efforts to secure a ceasefire have so far failed.

The attack on the army base in Ardamat started early last week, when militiamen also started shelling homes

in the IDP camp, said Nabil Meccia, a nurse who said he had crossed into Chad after being detained by the RSF at the border and paying to secure his release.

He said he had seen RSF forces killing civilians as they sprayed gunfire during raids in the Ardamat camp, and lining men up and executing them. Like others, Meccia had moved to Ardamat, where residents hoped for protection by the army, after the attacks elsewhere in El Geneina this year.

An army soldier who declined to be named, who fled the Ardamat base, said a drone attack early on Friday had destroyed its defences and that military commanders had left by Saturday morning.

As army troops pulled out of their base, community leaders in Ardamat collected weapons to try to secure safe passage for civilians, said Meccia and Sharaf Eddin Adam, another civilian refugee who arrived in Chad.

Residents with access to vehicles managed to escape, but others were arrested or forced to labour by the RSF before several dozen were lined up and executed in Ardamat's Kobri district just after midday on Sunday, Adam said.

He said he saw dozens of bodies of civilians lying lifeless in the street and that people were also beaten and flogged.

The war in Sudan has caused a major humanitarian crisis and the displacement of more than six million people, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). More than 500,000 people have crossed into Chad, mostly from West Darfur, the IOM says.

Medical charity MSF said the number of refugees arriving in Chad had sharply increased in the first three days of November to 7,000. The refugees were mainly women and children, and many recounted stories of large-scale violence against civilians, it said. UN officials in Chad said thousands more were expected to cross but had been prevented from doing so by RSF forces demanding money.

Another witness, Mashaar Omar Ahmed, said militia and RSF forces, some in plain clothes and some in uniform, had executed more than 30 men in Ardamat's District B after separating them from the women.

"They asked the men if they were Masalit, and they didn't deny it," she said, carrying her 6-month-old daughter. She said 10 members of her family had been missing since Sunday.

Sarah Adam Idris, a 30-year-old who said her husband, siblings and other men in her family were missing after the attack, said assailants had raided the IDP camp at Ardamat on Sunday morning. Despite tribal leaders seeking assurances for safe passage the RSF had stormed, torched and looted houses, killing men, she said.

The soldier said that when he arrived at the border with Chad he pretended to be a civilian and denied that he was Masalit in order to pass. Another man was taken away after RSF border guards found a picture of him in army uniform on his phone, the soldier said.

Abdel Karim Rahman Yacoub, a truck driver who made it into Chad after pretending not to be Masalit, said he saw the RSF killing two other men based on their identity.



# EL SEWEDY INDUSTRIAL CITY IN TANZANIA STANDS TO ATTRACT 1TRN/ IN INVESTMENTS

CAIRO

**E**gypt-based El Sewedy Industrial Development, a subsidiary of El Sewedy Electric, has announced to construct an Industrial City in Tanzania, on an area of 2.6 million square meters.

This was revealed recently during the "African Investment Forum (AIF) - Egyptian Industries on Tanzanian Land," which was attended by the representatives of more than 100 Egyptian industrial institutions.

The city aims to attract investments worth more than \$400 million (nearly 1tr/-) from investors throughout the region, thus creating more than 50,000 job opportunities and providing important support for the country's industrial development and the industrial development strategy 2025.

The new City plan accommodates 200 factories in sectors of strategic importance to Tanzania, such as medicines, building materials, food and beverage industries, and engineering industries.

The city includes El Sewedy Academy for Technical Education and Vocational Training, which is committed to the highest international standards for qualifying the Tanzanian workforce to keep pace with global developments in the market.

The new project is located in the city of Kibaha, Tanzania, 15 kilometers away from the "Kwala" Dry Port, and is



distinguished by the presence of the "Rovos" Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), which extends over a length of two thousand kilometers, and connects Dar es Salaam, the industrial city and the Dry Port, which facilitates transportation of people and goods.

Hossam Heiba said that GAFI's hosting of "AIF - Egyptian Industries on Tanzanian Land" has been reflecting the development of Egyptian - Tanzanian relations at all political, economic and cultural levels over the past years.

He pointed out the many future partnership opportunities to stimulate growth and optimal exploitation of the competitive advantages in the two countries, especially the attractiveness of the location and the development of the investment environment. The two governments implemented an ambitious economic reform program to enhance the business environment.

The GAFI CEO added that the challenges that the global economy is going through cre-

ate huge opportunities for investment cooperation among African countries. Over the past years, GAFI has signed many memoranda of understanding with African promotion agencies and encouraged Egyptian capital to conclude investment partnerships with African Business Community.

TIC Executive Director Gilead Teri reviewed the great potentials of Tanzania as an investment destination, the incentives and facilities available to international investors, the efficient implementation of the one-stop-shop in investor service centers, in addition to its rich natural resources, a large market that includes 60 million consumers, and trade and development agreements with many countries, especially the Southern African Development Community (SADC) agreement, which includes, in addition to Tanzania, 15 African countries.

Teri indicated that his government aims to conclude investment partnerships with the Egyptian side in the manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and food industries, and to benefit from Egyptian expertise with regard to real estate investment and infrastructure development, since Tanzania's expansion of infrastructure projects has contributed to reducing production costs to the least average in the region, which contributed to making the volume of Egyptian investments in Tanzania amount to \$1.3 billion since 1997.

Engineer Mohamed Al-Qammah, CEO of El Sewedy Industrial Development,

announced that the construction of the first phase of the City, of a surface area of 500,000 square meters, will be completed within a year. He expressed his aspiration to cooperate with the Egyptian business community in various fields and to benefit from Egypt's industrial capabilities in a way that will increase the investment movement and trade exchange between the two countries.

Engineer Ibrahim Qamar, El Sewedy Electric East Africa Regional Director, presented El Sewedy Electric's pioneering role in investing in Tanzania, as the company's presence in Tanzania dates back to 2018, and one of its most important projects is the construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant and Dam, the largest hydroelectric power station in the history of Tanzania.

In addition to a group of factories for cables, transformers, and electrical components in Tanzania, which have begun production and export to Tanzania's neighboring countries since 2021, the most important of which are Kenya, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The company plans to continue investing benefiting from the governmental and legislative support, to make Tanzania the mainstay of expansion plans in Africa, and to benefit from the country's unique location, which shares borders with eight countries, six of which are landlocked countries, which qualifies it to become an economic hub and a regional transit point.



By Guardian Correspondent

## US envoy goes advocating strong, vibrant private sector in Tanzania

development of business and economic growth of the two countries.

Ambassador Battle was speaking during the US-Tanzania Roundtable organised by the Confederation Tanzania Industries (CTI) in partnership with the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA).

He said a strong private sector is a major basis for economic growth in many developed countries, helping to create many jobs necessary for people to get out of poverty to the middle class.

He said if the government wants to achieve its goals easily, it should create a friendly environment to bolster the private sector for creating many jobs and stimulating the country's economy.

On African Growth and Opportunity Programme (AGOA) Ambassador Battle said the programme has been of great benefit to economies of many African

countries and all US major parties Republican and Democrat support it.

"The US President Joe Biden supports AGOA, the Congress of the United States supports this programme and without a doubt you can witness how it has been a saviour for the development of many African countries to enter the American market," he said.

This US-Tanzania Business Roundtable shows how both countries are committed to trade relations because there are many opportunities between and have a responsibility to develop this relationship in the interest of our people.

The Chairman of (CTI), Paul Makanza said CTI has been cooperating with the Corporate Coun-

cil of Africa (CCA) with the aim of promoting trade and relations between the US and Tanzania.

"We have discussed how American products can easily come to the Tanzanian market and how American businessmen can come and invest in making their products here by adding value to them," he said.

He said that Tanzania has not yet made good use of the large American market as it has been sending a lot of raw materials, especially agricultural material and various minerals, instead of sending value-added products.

The Executive Director General of (CTI), Leodegar Tenga said they are determined to continue the existing cooperation by being close and understanding what

American businessmen have and what their Tanzanian counterparts have. Ambassador of Tanzania in the US, Dr Elsie Kanza, said it is important to give businessmen information about the products required in the US and to manufacture them based on the standards that will be accepted in the market. "The American market is very large but many traders fail to reach the required standards and not only Tanzania traders from many African countries have been unable to reach them," he said.

The ambassador said that in the special meeting of AGOA held for four days in South Africa, they have agreed to empower the businessmen of African countries so that they can reach the required

standards so that they can benefit from the opportunity of the market.

"At this meeting we have talked a lot and received concerns from the private sector of the United States and the private sector of Tanzania to ensure that we work together to promote Tanzanian exports to the United States and American exports to Tanzania," she said.

The Investment Promotion Manager at EPZA Panduka Yonazi said the Export Processing Zones (EPZ) programme has industries that make products for the US market and provide jobs to over 7,000 people.

The industries are namely, Tanzania Tooku Garment - Dar es Salaam, Mazava Fabrics in Morogoro and Red Earth in Arusha.

"The extension of AGOA contract is of paramount importance because it guarantees investors with reliable markets and also protects employment, whereby 70 per cent are women," he said.

## Nairobi Safari signs management deal with Swiss firm

By Frank Monyo

The Nairobi Safari Club has signed a management partnership deal with global hotel operator Swiss-Belhotel International to manage the iconic all-suite hotel in the heart of Nairobi, Kenya.

According to the statement issued by Nairobi Safari this week, the management partnership with Nairobi Safari Club is part of Swiss-Belhotel International's Africa portfolio expansion strategy for the Hong Kong-based global hotel management group that focuses on the unique fusion of Swiss hospitality professionalism with Asian passion for service.

Located at the 16-storey Lilian Towers, Nairobi Safari Club by Swiss-Belhotel owned by local hospitality investment firm Mukawa (Hotels)

Holdings Ltd, is Nairobi's only all-suite hotel and stands out as a landmark in the Central Business District (CBD) area, thanks to its award-winning architectural design.

As part of the strategic partnership, the four-star hotel established in 1984 by the late Kenyan Businessman and Member of Parliament, Honourable Stanley Munga Githunguri, will be rebranded as Nairobi Safari Club by Swiss-Belhotel.

Speaking when they jointly confirmed the partnership, Directors of Mukawa (Hotels) Holdings Ltd, Ms Clare Njeri Githunguri and Ms Lilian Joy Nyagaki Githunguri, said plans are underway to revamp the facilities and service offering of the Nairobi Safari Club by Swiss-Belhotel.

While paying tribute to their father's legacy, Clare



Mukawa (Hotels) Holdings Ltd directors Clare Njeri Githunguri (L) and Lilian Joy Nyagaki Githunguri (R) exchange documents on hotel management agreements with Swiss-Belhotel International's Senior Vice President Laurent Voivenel at the signing of a deal for the management of Nairobi Safari Club by the International hospitality group. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Njeri Githunguri and Lilian Joy Nyagaki Githunguri said the partnership with Swiss-Belhotel has been undertaken in

keeping with the Honourable Stanley Munga Githunguri's vision that Nairobi Safari Club be a premier hotel in Nairobi,

Kenya.

"We are pleased to announce the management partnership with Swiss-Belhotel International, one of the global hotel operators who share in our dream and passion for delivering a world-class city hotel," Clare Njeri Githunguri and Ms Lilian Joy Nyagaki Githunguri said.

They added, "The overall revamp and uplift of the product and services at Nairobi Safari Club by Swiss-Belhotel will be executed in line with Swiss-Belhotel International's 36-year-old expertise and its philosophy of "Passion and Professionalism".

The partnership, including international marketing business management and talent development, comes hot on the heels of the recent naming of Nairobi as the best city destination globally in the just

released Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2024.

Nairobi Safari Club by Swiss-Belhotel boasts 146 rooms, ranging from studio and panorama rooms to executive and presidential suites. It offers extensive conferencing facilities, including a 300-guest capacity grand ballroom.

The hotel also features a unique outdoor pool, a spa (with sauna and massage therapy), a modern and fully equipped gym. Other amenities include a well-stocked bar, two restaurants, round-the-clock room service, complimentary Wi-Fi access throughout the hotel, and secure private car parking facilities for hotel guests.

On his part, Swiss-Belhotel International's Chairman and President, Mr. Gavin M. Faull, stated, "As the tourism industry continues to grow in Afri-

ca, we are seeing an increased appetite for our world-class brands from hotel owners in the continent. Our accelerated growth trajectory in Nairobi reflects our confidence in the Kenyan market."

Laurent A. Voivenel, Senior Vice President of Operations and Development, EMEA & India, and Senior Vice President of Group Human Resources and Talent Development at Swiss-Belhotel International, added: "This is a significant milestone for us. With an eye on the changing market dynamics, we are strategically building our portfolio to inspire more guests to experience our brands and hotels. Nairobi Safari Club's iconic status and Swiss-Belhotel International's operational excellence will undoubtedly create a unique hospitality offering in the heart of Nairobi."

## DUBAI

# DUBAI PROPERTY PRICES MARK 11TH CONSECUTIVE QUARTER OF GROWTH

Prices of residential properties in Dubai have seen their 11th consecutive quarter of growth, up by 5 percent, according to new data, with apartments in Dubai South seeing a 73 percent increase over the past year.

Property consultancy Knight Frank said average residential property prices rose by 5 percent in Q3 2023, with growth of 30 percent since Q1 2020 and 19 percent annually, but prices are still 7 percent below the peak of 2014.

Faisal Durrani, partner, head of research, MENA, said Dubai's prime markets accounted for 4.8 percent of transactions by total value for the first nine months of 2023, while 51 percent of transactions were for secondary market sales, which he said reflected the high proportion of end users.

Off-plan market sales totalled AED 100 billion (\$27.2 billion) for the first nine months of the year with ready homes reaching AED 104.9 billion.

Apartment prices in Dubai rose by 5.1 percent in Q3 2023, reaching more than AED 1,300 per sq. ft., growth of 26 percent increase since Q1 2020, but still 10 percent below the 2014 peak.

Dubai villa prices experienced

a 4.5 percent increase between June and September, with an average price of AED 1,580 per sq. ft., up 57 percent increase since Q1 2020.

Prices of apartments in the Dubai South area had increased by 73 percent over the last 12 months, while those in Jumeirah Lakes Towers grew by 67 percent, and Umm Suqeim Third by 37 percent.

Dubai South villas have also recorded the most significant quarterly price change with prices up by 33 percent during Q3.

The Palm Jumeirah is still the most expensive apartment sub-market at AED 3,390 per sq. ft., with prices surpassing Q1 2020 levels by 122 percent, Knight Frank said.

Cash buyers continue to dominate the market, constituting around 80 percent of transactions in Q2 2023, helping insulate the market from rising borrowing costs and contributed to record sales in 2023.



"While cash transactions have been at their highest level on record at 82.4 percent during H1 2023, there's a possibility that many buyers will consider refinancing in the future," the report said.

The agency said the city's population is projected to reach 7.8 million by 2040, meaning a sig-

nificant increase is needed in residential development, especially in prime markets, where only 368 homes are currently under construction, while there are 77,874

homes due for delivery overall by 2028 excluding branded residences, which is significantly below historical building rates.

"In the past, Dubai's residential property market has been affected by an oversupply, which has hindered capital value growth," the report said.

"However, developers have been measured in addressing the current demand, leading to noteworthy price appreciation."

Durrani said: "Our forecasts are not without risk. A global economic slowdown and the knock-on impact on the local economy, combined with the risk of an escalation in regional tensions are medium to high risks, with the latter potentially emerging as a key catalyst for higher oil prices."

"This in turn could fuel global inflation and higher interest rates, which could drive up borrowing rates further and therefore dampen demand."

## Improved seed varieties help to boost food security

By Guardian Reporter, Bagamoyo

AGRA Tanzania and the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) have challenged the media in Tanzania to play a more proactive role in disseminating critical advancements in seed technology, which could dictate the future of food security and economic resilience in the face of an increasing population and challenges associated with climate change.

In response to a call from the TEF, AGRA (Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems) Tanzania successfully hosted a two-day training session for about 45 journalists and media editors last week.

The aim was to deepen the understanding and report the right information on improved seed varieties and agricultural seed systems while also illuminating the truths and potential of hybrid and improved seed technologies in Tanzania.

Vianey Rweyendela, Country Director of AGRA Tanzania, emphasized, "The media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and policy. By equipping media professionals with facts, we empower them to inform and educate the wider community, thereby influencing the successful adoption of improved agricultural practices."

AGRA in Tanzania has contributed to the development of 44 new crop varieties of staple foods, including maize, cassava, beans, and soybeans, through collaboration with government research institutions and private sector partners.

About 30 of these varieties have successfully entered the commercial market. Additionally, AGRA has been instrumental in fortifying the seed sector by offering support across the entire seed value chain. This support includes building the capacity of plant breeders, local seed companies and various other stakeholders, contributing to the sector's growth and sustainability.

"The adoption of improved seed varieties currently stands at only 20 per cent, indicating that if a higher adoption rate is achieved, Tanzania will be well-positioned to fulfill its goal of becoming the most formidable food breadbasket in the continent," noted Ipyana Mwakasaka, AGRA Tanzania Program Officer - Seed Systems. The seed deficit is driving the need for seed imports in the country, he said.

"To uplift smallholder farmers in their transition from subsistence to farming as a business, accurate

information is vital. Misinformation and myths exacerbate the poverty of smallholder farmers. Equipping them with reliable knowledge catalyzes positive change, enabling sustainable livelihoods. Dispelling myths and promoting accuracy is essential for their success in agriculture."

Deodatus Balile, Chairman of the Tanzania Editors Forum, commended AGRA for their dedication to enhancing the capabilities of Tanzanian journalists in the agricultural sector.

"Equipping our media professionals with an in-depth understanding of agricultural intricacies is vital for Tanzania as it aspires to be Africa's leading food producer," he said. He stressed the importance of these educational programs, advocating for their increased frequency to ensure that journalists can effectively contribute to a well-informed agricultural narrative.

He further emphasized the strategic importance of this knowledge: "Understanding the full spectrum of agricultural issues, from soil and seed science to policy, is fundamental for accurate reporting and can position Tanzania at the forefront of the continent's food industry."

A trainer at the workshop, Plant breeder and research scientist Dr. Emmarold Mneney, was emphatic that for Tanzania to feed Africa, it needs to invest more in seed innovation. "Understanding seed technology and its intersection with climate change is the key to sustainable seed production and a prosperous agricultural future in Tanzania," he noted. He trained the senior journalist on understanding seed, breeding, and multiplication of different seed classes, as well as understanding seed demand and forecasting.

Dr. Geradina Mzena, a Plant Breeder and Molecular Geneticist, who also serves as the Manager of the National Plant Genetic Resource Centre at TARI-HQ, highlighted the importance of seed production technology for maize farming:

"The future of maize farming lies in harnessing the power of hybrid and improved seed production technology to enhance food security and resilience in the face of changing agricultural landscapes."

Dr. Mzena emphasized that hybrids, known for their impressive yield potential, come with a significant caveat. "Hybrids demand new seeds every season," she noted, "making them a costly choice for



farmers who need to purchase seeds frequently."

Dr. Twalib Njohole, Registrar of Plant Breeders Rights, noted that to feed the world, new, improved varieties of plants are an important and sustainable means of achieving food security in the context of population growth and climate change.

"New varieties can be the key to accessing global markets and improving international trade for developing countries," he said.

He also emphasized the role of new plant varieties in improving lives in both rural and urban areas and fostering economic development.

Zera Mwanemwa, Seed Certification Officer at TOSCI (Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute), highlighted the pivotal role of TOSCI in seed development and its significance for Tanzania's agricultural sector. She emphasized that TOSCI promotes a vibrant and dynamic seed sector in Tanzania, working hand in hand with farmers, policymakers, and stakeholders to achieve sustainable agricultural development and contribute to the nation's overall pro-

perity.

Mwanemwa also touched upon the legal framework under which TOSCI operates. She stated, "Our work is guided by the Seed Act No. 18 of 2003, as amended in 2017, along with the Seed Regulations of 2007, which were revised in 2014. This legal framework provides us with the tools and authority to oversee the seed sector and ensure its integrity and performance." Through its stringent certification processes, TOSCI contributes to the production of high-quality seeds, which in turn helps farmers achieve better yields, she said.

Baldwin Shuma, CEO of Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA), emphasized the interconnectedness of food security and seed security, stating, "Food Security should be planned together with SEED SECURITY. It's a strategic partnership for a resilient agricultural future." He stressed the critical need for Tanzania to reduce its reliance on imported seeds, stating, "Tanzania must reduce over-dependency on imported seed." He underscored the importance of

self-sufficiency in seed production to ensure food security and agricultural sustainability.

"Empowering local seed producers and enhancing their capacity is essential for building a resilient and sustainable seed sector," he noted.

The training moderators, experienced veteran editors, Neville Meena and Jesse Kwayu from Media Brains Tanzania, emphasized the paramount importance for the media fraternity to clearly distinguish between "nafaka" (grains) and "mbe-gu" (seeds).

This critical distinction ensures accurate reporting and contributes to a deeper understanding of agricultural terminology and practices.

"Through this training, we have come to recognize that seeds are not a mere commodity but a lifeline for our farmers and a cornerstone of our agricultural development," Absalom Kibanda said, emphasizing the pivotal role of informed and precise discussions surrounding the development of seeds.

## US 30-year mortgage rate sees plunge in 16 months

NEW YORK

The interest rate on the most common type of U.S. residential mortgage plunged last week by the most in nearly 16 months on the back of a rally in the Treasury market that drove down the benchmark yields used to set home loan costs.

The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) on Wednesday said the average contract rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage dropped in the week ended Nov. 3 by a quarter percentage point to 7.61 percent, the lowest in about a month. It was the largest weekly drop since late July 2022.

The second weekly decline further pulled home-purchasing borrowing costs down from two-decade highs near 8 percent reached in October when yields on the 10-year Treasury note, the benchmark for U.S. home loan rates, had been charging higher.

That months-long updraft in yields saw a sharp reversal last week after the US Treasury said upcoming debt issuance would be somewhat less than previously expected and the Federal Reserve left its key overnight policy rate on hold for a second straight meeting.

"Last week's decrease in rates was driven by the U.S. Treasury's issuance update, the Fed striking a dovish tone in the November FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) statement, and data indicating a slower job market," said Joel Kan, the MBA's vice president and deputy chief economist.

The MBA's mortgage market composite index, measuring the volume of mortgage applications for both home purchases and refinancings of existing loans, rose 2.5 percent from the week prior to 165.9.

Purchase applications rose 3 percent on the week, but they remain 20 percent below this time a year ago. That indicates prospective buyers are still waiting on the sidelines despite the dip in rates, said Kan. Sellers locked into lower mortgage rates continue to hold their homes, keeping a lid on inventory in the housing market.

## CONSTRUCTION

## OFFSITE CONSTRUCTION SHOULD LEAD THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

By David Johnson

The construction sector historically has been so reticent to embrace new technology. Back in 2016, the government had to issue a mandate to force the industry to adopt BIM Level 2. Now, working for a global modular construction business, I have another perspective on the take up of digitisation globally.

VBC is very much a design-led provider of manufactured buildings and technology is central to that. There is a culture of innovation, and we have a number of board and non-executive directors who are from technology backgrounds.

Digital communications and AI are all around us and, particularly post-Covid, are now vital to integrating teams working in different locations. From video conferencing and document sharing to workflows and automation in manufacturing, digital technology removes administrative burdens and allows project management across different time zones.

Construction needs better planning - too many projects in the UK are still delivered late and over-budget. Better quality information across the board will improve decision making and the management of risk.

Data is critical to a technology-led business like VBC and informs our decision making in every area - design, pre-construction, costing, scheduling, compliance, health and safety in the factory and on site, quality control, environmental performance, and many other facets of building delivery.

AI helps us to analyse that data, simu-



lating human intelligence - learning, reasoning and self-correcting. It is all around us and is extremely well suited to construction and particularly to offsite manufacturing. Some examples:

AI can be tasked with automatically generating tender documents that combine cost, technical and qualitative data - removing the need for bid writers to continually recycle the same information.

You can input data and software can produce a design solution using our standardised modular building components. Run multiple design models and you can assess different options to increase building efficiency, optimise use of space and advise on cost implications.

Use data to analyse high-traffic areas in a building and adjust the product specification in the building design for those areas.

For offsite construction to thrive, you

need standardisation and volume. But with data intelligence, you can also incorporate customisation into offsite solutions.

AI can be used to observe health and safety and avoid common issues with near miss reporting. Accurate automated data is collected in real time and fed back into the process.

Post occupancy, AI can 'manage' maintenance and troubleshoot issues which can be fixed when building occupancy is lower - which technology can pinpoint and send in the engineer.

In manufacturing, production lines can be fully automated. An example is VBC's timber-framed modular factory in California, which is robotised and integrated with design. Our wall assembly line is a zero-labour process. We also use AI to manage workflows more efficiently.

One of the biggest challenges of invest-

ing in and running a modular factory is continuity of pipeline. AI could potentially be used to recognise gaps in predicted manufacturing capacity, and then to generate sales leads for a client with a project that will ensure continuity of production.

VBC has ambitions to move towards truly industrialised manufacturing and the most critical factor to achieving this is design. And with the huge shortfall in affordable housing, reducing programme at each stage of construction has an enormously positive impact on local communities with long housing waiting lists.

Automated analysis of site constraints can develop the optimum building scale, mass and tenure mix of a development. We already use parametric design, but AI will take this to the next level. It can simulate building use over time, highlighting inefficiencies and pinch points. It can be tasked with watching how people interact in completed buildings and use this data to inform future design.

This can all be done in real time, rather than having protracted design engagement processes.

Time-intensive tasks can now be automated, such as checking for compliance issues. What this will do is free up design teams to focus on creativity and design excellence, with less time spent on resolving technical issues.

Intellectual property is an issue for modular and MMC - everyone wants to protect their IP. This means there is too much fragmentation across the sector.

However, with a platform approach,

information can be shared between manufacturers and then issues such as fire protection and compliance are much easier to achieve - and there is less risk for the client.

Procurement has created a problem - competitive tendering means that modular manufacturers are much less likely to share data, which is a barrier to improving processes. An alternative is for clients to validate capabilities and encourage greater collaboration.

The sharing of information could improve the productivity of the whole modular industry - and by adopting a platform solution, manufacturing capacity could be aggregated.

The construction industry is facing a significant challenge with serious skills shortages that have far-reaching consequences. As we continue to witness a growing demand for infrastructure and housing, the shortage of skilled labour in traditional construction roles, such as carpenters, electricians and plumbers, has become increasingly apparent.

However, this crisis has paved the way for the integration of technology, which presents a unique opportunity for construction to have greater appeal to the younger generation.

Engineers, computer scientists and data analysts will be integral to the construction process to optimise project design, offsite manufacturing, construction management and even maintenance.

Construction will continue to be a relationship-based industry and it is important not to dehumanise it - people do business with people.

## China kicks off construction of new telescopes

BEIJING

China has recently launched the construction of two 40-meter-aperture radio telescopes in Shigatse, located in Southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, and in Changbai Mountain area in Northeast China's Jilin province, respectively.

The two telescopes, developed by Shanghai Astronomical Observatory (SHAO) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, are expected to offer technical support for the country's lunar and deep-space probe missions in the future.

Zheng Weimin, a researcher at SHAO, said that the two telescopes will further enhance

the observation capability of the very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) network in China.

"VLBI is a radio interferometry technology that can be used to obtain fine radio images and precise positions of cosmic objects, and can perform high-precision positioning of deep space probes," Zheng said.

Unlike conventional techniques, the VLBI technique can combine observation signals from different telescopes for joint processing, he explained.

"In other words, it is a 'virtual telescope' with a size equal to the maximum separation between the telescopes," Zheng added.



The current VLBI network in China comprises four observatories across the country, located in Beijing, Shanghai, Urumqi and Kunming. The maximum distance from the current telescope baseline in China is about 3,200 kilometers from Shanghai to Urumqi.

However, after the completion of the two new telescopes, the maximum distance from the new baseline in China will be about 3,800 kilometers from Changbai Mountain to Shigatse, which will increase the highest

angular resolution by 18 percent, Zheng said.

"That's why it is necessary to build separate telescopes at Shigatse and Changbai Mountain," he said, adding that the two new telescopes will further extend the VLBI network.

The inclusion of the two new telescopes will also allow simultaneous observation of two targets in different celestial regions, providing stronger support for the lunar and deep-space probe missions in the future.

The construction of the tel-

lescope in Shigatse began in September. The Shigatse station, located at an elevation of about 4,100 meters, provides an excellent observation environment for the telescope.

The construction of the telescope at Changbai Mountain began in October and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. An overall insulation technology is used to ensure the telescope's operation in the cold environment of Northeast China.

## Tanzania, Zambia seek to resolve trade challenges

By Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA and Zambia have agreed to resolve 25 existing trade challenges by November 30 this year, to enable the private sector to do business without any barriers between two countries.

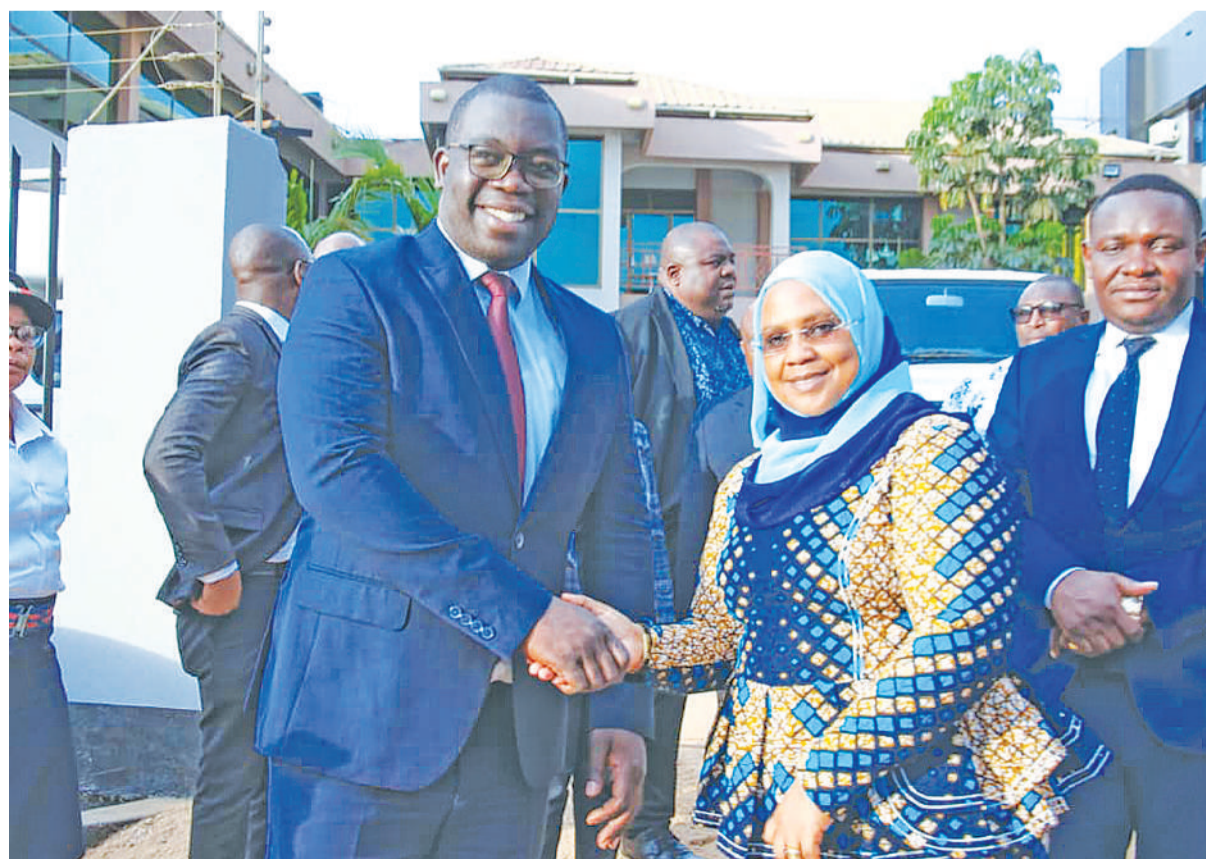
That was said yesterday by the Minister of Industry and Commerce Hon Dr. Ashatu Kijaji and the Minister of Trade and Industry of Zambia, Chipoka Mulenga together with the Deputy Minister of Transport, David Mwakiposya Kihenzile when they met and participated in the Second Joint Meeting to Discuss Business Challenges between those countries at the Ministerial level held at the Nakonde Border, Zambia this week.

Dr. Kijaji said the agreement to solve the challenges is based on the implementation of the President's Orders when she met with the President of Zambia, Hakainde Hichilema dur-

ing the National visit to the country on October 23rd - 25th, 2023 where they agreed to facilitate the private sector to do business between the countries.

In addition, she said that the two countries have also agreed to resolve the challenges quickly to ensure that every challenge that arises between the countries will be resolved to enable the private sector to do business freely in order to promote the business and economy of those countries because the private sector is the engine of economic growth for nations.

Minister Mulenga said that the countries have agreed to solve the challenges in order to enable the private sector to build a strong economy under the foundations set by the founders of those countries. Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Hayati Kenneth Kaunda, which enabled those countries to live in peace and stability.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji bids her Zambian counterpart, Chipoka Mulenga (L), at the end of a joint meeting on business challenges between the countries. It was held at Nakonde Border, Zambia. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

## GCC residential real estate value to hit \$3.43 trln by 2028

RIYADH

The value of GCC real estate is likely to reach \$4.43 trillion this year and show a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.65 percent through 2028 to achieve a market volume of \$5 trillion, according to Select Property, a leading UK-based property developer.

Moreover, the GCC's residential real estate value is on pace to grow at a CAGR of 2.85 percent to hit \$3.43 trillion, stated Select Group, an investment partner with over 18 years of experience in Dubai, said

With the region appearing to have sidestepped any negative ramifications of a global recession, investors are leveraging this economic strength by seeking global investment opportunities to diversify their income, it added.

According to Select, the rental prices in the UK are projected to grow by 15.9 percent between now and 2027, thanks to several key factors including increased investment interest from the GCC.

From June 2022 to June 2023, average rental prices throughout the UK increased by 5.1 percent.

The rental demand in prime city centre locations like Manchester is at an all-time high with rental yields of up to 8% being achieved annually, stated the developer.

This promising investment potential has contributed to a forecast of more than \$3 billion from the Middle East being invested in the UK's real estate sector in 2024, it added.

"With its resilience during economic uncertainty in recent years, the UK has maintained its long-standing position as one of the world's smartest choices for property investment," said Select Group CEO Adam Price.

The GCC, he stated, has played a key role in spurring this growth as intelligent investors have taken notice of the market's increasing property prices and competitive rents to capitalise on both short- and long-term returns.

"With the GCC's strong economic performance holding steady, the UK's real estate sector appears poised to remain a beneficiary for the foreseeable future," he added.





## NATO seeks to go beyond its geographical boundaries, violating own doctrines – Putin

NOVO-OGARYOVO

NATO aspires to expand its geographical boundaries, including into Asia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"We are watching certain countries' attempts to expand their zone of influence. What is more, the North Atlantic Alliance, strangely enough, is attempting to go beyond the geographical boundaries of its operation, in breach of its own doctrinal documents," the Russian president said at a meeting with Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC).

In the Russian leader's opinion, "the United States is dragging all of its allies further into orchestrating a tense situation in the Asia-Pacific Region, by trying to establish new military and political alliances there, including with regional nations." The Russian president emphasized that the US "is guided by its own selfish interests here."

Putin stated that Moscow and Beijing were tempering their response to Washington's attempts to set up military and political blocs in Asia.

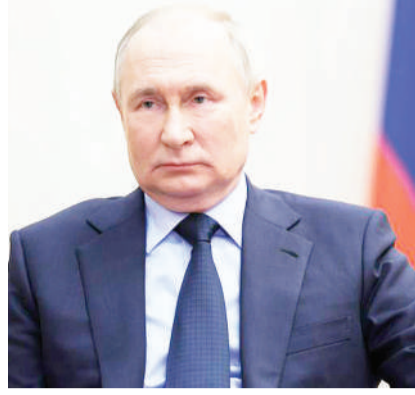
"We see all this and alongside our friends - including, first and foremost, the People's Republic of China - are responding in a calm and balanced manner, bolstering our defense capabilities, including through joint naval and air exercises," the Russian president assured.

Putin specified that such exercises are conducted regularly.

"The level of our cooperation is constantly rising," Putin stated.

The Russian president is convinced that the consultations between the vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission and the Russian Defense Ministry "will be useful and will definitely contribute to enhancing collaboration in this crucial area for our countries."

Earlier, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu held talks with Zhang Youxia. Shoigu pointed out that bilateral military relations are developing steadily, but this cooperation is not directed against third countries and is carried out solely to meet each other's interests.



## G7 foreign ministers call for pauses in Israel-Hamas conflict

TOKYO / AMMAN / OTTAWA

FOREIGN ministers from the Group of Seven (G7), King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday separately called for actions to address the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip over the Israel-Hamas conflict.

As the conflict topped the agenda of a two-day meeting of the foreign ministers in Tokyo, they released a joint statement after the talks that they support humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian movement and release of hostages.

"We underscore that a two-state solution, which envisions Israel and a viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace, security

and mutual recognition, remains the only path to a just, lasting and secure peace," the statement said.

It also called for humanitarian support for civilians, including food, water, medical care, fuel, shelter and access for humanitarian workers.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said humanitarian pauses should be long enough to allow all hostages to be released, and for significant amounts of aid and medical resources to get in, so the work can begin to de-escalate the situation in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon where tensions are spilling over.

"And where we actually start doing the work of the real heavy lifting that's going to be required to get back on track to a two-state solution, to start imagining what the long-term future of a viable Palestinian state looks like: safe, secure. And, beside a safe, secure, viable and successful Israeli state," Trudeau said.

Currently, a petition on the House of Commons website is requiring the prime minister to take the necessary measures to address the Israel-Palestine conflict including calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Also on Wednesday, King Abdullah II of Jordan called for stepping up international actions to reach an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, according to a statement by Jordan's Royal Hashemite Court.

He made the remarks in a phone conversation with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, during which they underscored the necessity to intensify international efforts toward a humanitarian truce in Gaza while securing uninterrupted delivery of food, medicine, water, and fuel to the besieged enclave.

The Jordanian king highlighted the pivotal role of the UN and its agencies in providing relief services for Gaza, calling for sustained support for the operation of international organizations in the war-torn enclave.

He reiterated that a political solution based on the two-state solution is the only way to end the conflict.

Meanwhile, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Wednesday declined any potential talks on post-conflict scenarios in Gaza, describing such discourse as "unrealistic and unacceptable," the state-run Petra news agency reported.

He made the remarks during a seminar attended by journalists and writers in the capital Amman, where he reaffirmed Jordan's priority of calling for an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip.

Safadi underscored Jordan's unwavering position against any "fragmented solutions" to the Gaza crisis.

Xinhua

## China will always be important opportunity for global development

CHINESE President Xi Jinping sent a letter to the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) on Nov. 5. He said that China will always be an important opportunity for global development, firmly advance high-standard opening up and continue to make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

The CIIE once again demonstrated to the international community China's sincere aspiration to share its market opportunities with the rest of the world, a firm determination to advance high-level opening up, and proactive actions to build an open world economy.

The CIIE is the world's first import-themed national-level expo. It aims to promote open cooperation and win-win results among all parties.

Since its debut in 2018, the CIIE has been successfully held for five sessions. It has leveraged the strengths of China's enormous market, fulfilled its platform function for international procurement, investment promotion, people-to-people exchanges and open cooperation, and made positive contributions to creating a new development pattern and promoting world economic development.

Foreign exhibitors to the event, recognizing the increasing significance of the CIIE, said they looked forward to further deepening mutually beneficial cooperation with the Chinese market and would continuously expand their investment in China.

The CIIE serves as a window for fostering a new development pattern that creates new opportunities for the world through China's further development.

The China Pavilion at this year's CIIE has a record-breaking area of 2,500 square meters. With the theme of "Chinese Modernization, World's New Opportunities," an exhibition was staged to display the achievements of China's pilot free trade zones over the past decade, showcasing the latest progress of China's high-level opening up and high-quality development.

These efforts demonstrate that the new development pattern China is building is not a closed domestic cycle but a more open domestic and international dual cycle. It not only meets China's own development needs, but also benefits people from all countries.

China vowed that it would introduce the foreign investment regulations at a faster pace, improve the open and transparent foreign-related legal system, and implement the "pre-establishment national treatment plus negative list" management system for foreign investment across the board.

It promised to continue to encourage bold trials and experiments in pilot free trade zones and quicken the development of the Hainan Free Trade Port as pacesetters of opening up in China.

Besides, the country also said it would upgrade trade in goods, develop new mechanisms for trade in services, import more quality products, and establish pilot zones for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation.

China continues to release the dividends of openness and cooperation through the CIIE, vividly illustrating the expo's theme - "New Era, Shared Future."

The CIIE is a platform that promotes high-level opening up and shares China's enormous market with the world. Hosting the CIIE is a significant decision for China to ad-



People visit the Medical Equipment and Healthcare Products exhibition area of the sixth China International Import Expo, Nov. 5, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Wang Chu)

vance a new round of high-level opening up and a major initiative for China to proactively open its market to the world.

This year's CIIE continued to draw eager participation from "old friends" and "new friends" alike. Around 200 companies have signed up to exhibit for the sixth consecutive year. Meanwhile, 11 countries joined the Country Exhibition for the first time, and 34 made their offline debut.

Over 3,400 exhibitors and nearly 410,000 professional visitors attended the CIIE, and the number of Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders participating in the event reached a new high in history.

The continuous improvement in the quality and level of the CIIE fully demonstrates that China, with its expanding openness, boasts strong appeal.

Time-honored stores, pioneering startups, globally renowned companies, and even small and medium-sized enterprises from the least developed countries are all leveraging the platform of the CIIE to enter the Chinese market and share the opportunities. "Confidence in the Chinese market" has become a shared perception among foreign enterprises attending the CIIE.

The CIIE provides shared international public goods and services that facilitate an open world economy and let the world benefit from win-win cooperation.

Currently, the world economic recovery lacks momentum and requires the solidarity and cooperation of all countries. The CIIE is a platform for trading goods and services, as well as exchanging cultures and ideas. It carries a distinctive feature of openness and continuously contributes to the development of an open world economy through both conceptual and practical support.

By facilitating cultural and idea exchanges, the CIIE fosters consensus on open cooperation. Through the trading of goods and services, the CIIE injects momentum into global economic de-

velopment through open cooperation.

At this year's CIIE, over 400 representative new products, technologies, and services made their debut. The Hongqiao International Economic Forum, themed "Joining Hands in Development, Opening Up for the Future," featured 22 sub-forums covering hot topics such as green development, digital economy, and intelligent technology. These discussions aimed to foster broad consensus on promoting economic globalization, revitalizing the global economy, and enhancing the resilience of world economic development.

The enthusiastic participation in the CIIE fully demonstrated that open cooperation is the trend of the times, while mutual benefit remains a shared goal of all countries. China will stay committed to pursuing high-level opening up with a broader vision, a more open mind and a more proactive attitude. It will join hands with partners worldwide to create an even more prosperous future.

People's Daily



**This year's CIIE continued to draw eager participation from "old friends" and "new friends" alike. Around 200 companies have signed up to exhibit for the sixth consecutive year. Meanwhile, 11 countries joined the Country Exhibition for the first time, and 34 made their offline debut**

## New York State Senator joins US VP Kamala Harris for Diwali celebrations

WASHINGTON

NEW YORK State Senator Kevin Thomas joined US Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff at their Diwali celebrations on Wednesday.

"It was an honor to celebrate Diwali with @VP Kamala Harris in DC. Tonight, may your Diwali be free from darkness and abundant with light. Happy Diwali!!" New York State Senator Thomas posted on social media platform X.

Addressing the event, Harris said that the festival of Diwali is being celebrated at a time when there is a lot happening in the world.

She said, "We celebrate Diwali at a time when there is a lot happening in the world. And I think it's important that as we celebrate Diwali which is about celebrating the light we understand, it is always the context of understanding...and there is certainly a difficult in the dark moment we are facing...in particular the reports coming out of Israel and Gaza and I know for all of us it's devastating and heart-breaking," according to Diya TV, America's first South Asian TV Network.

"President Joe Biden and I are working to support Israel's right to defend itself," she added, saying "It is critically important that we celebrate something like Diwali...it is also about shedding light, and also about speaking truth" she added.

Indian-American entrepreneur Ajay Jain Bhutoria was also present at the event.

Taking to X, he posted pictures of the Diwali celebrations and said that he is honoured to join Harris on the occasion.

"Honored to join VP Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff at their Diwali celebration. In these

trying times, I extend my heartfelt wishes for peace and healing to all facing turmoil and suffering. Let Diwali bring light and unity," he wrote on X.

Indian American lawmakers, community members, influencers & public figures were also seen at the function which demonstrates the Indian-American community's expanding representation and influence in American politics.

Indian Americans are about 1 per cent of the U.S. population and make up 82 per cent of all eligible voters in the US -- but are large enough in numbers to make a decisive difference in certain swing states.

President Trump's embrace of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi fueled speculation that it could drive many Indian American voters to the Republican Party, but data post-Biden's 2020 win suggested the opposite. Something that was also seen in 2016, where 77 per cent of Indian American voters supported Hillary Clinton and 16 per cent for Trump.

Eminent Indian-American Ajay Jain Bhutoria had earlier said that President Biden and Vice President Harris have been instrumental in helping millions of Americans during the pandemic, and their vision for the future is inspiring.

"President Biden and Vice President Harris have the experience, vision, and values that are needed to continue to move our country forward, and I am proud to support their re-election campaign," said Bhutoria, a long-time supporter of Biden and a major fundraiser for his campaign.

Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights which symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil. This year, Diwali will be celebrated on November 12.

ANI

## AU calls for concerted efforts to combat drug trafficking, supply in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has called on public and private actors in Africa to exert concerted efforts to combat drug trafficking and supply in the continent.

The call was made by Angela Martins, acting director for social development, culture and sport at the AU Commission, addressing a continental technical experts' consultation on drug demand reduction, the AU said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

"While efforts to combat drug trafficking and supply are undeniably important, we acknowledge that addressing the demand side of the equation is equally critical," Martins said.

"By focusing on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration, we can break the vicious cycle of drug use and dependency, and create healthier and more resilient communities." She underscored the significance of dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and cooperation among experts, policymakers, civil society, and stakeholders, recognizing that no single country can effectively tackle the drug menace alone.

Martins also emphasized the need to develop comprehensive strategies that address the root causes and consequences of drug use through collective action and international cooperation.

The consultation on drug demand reduction was strategically formulated to delve into the 2023 Pan-African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use report, which aims to improve health security, and socio-economic well-being of Africans by addressing substance use and treatment.

Xinhua

## India a key strategic partner, says White House ahead of 2+2 Dialogue

WASHINGTON

THE White House has called India a key strategic partner and said the US will leave it to the Indian government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to decide the country's stance on any particular crisis or contingency around the world.

National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby said was speaking about India's stand on the Israel crisis.

"India is a key strategic partner. And I think you saw that on full display when Prime Minister Modi was here," John Kirby said.

"We'll leave it to the Indian government and the Prime Minister to decide, what their stance is gonna be on any particular crisis or contingency around the world, to include the Middle East, but they remain a key strategic partner, and we're dedicated to advancing that partnership, every

single day," Kirby said.

This comes as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is set to arrive in New Delhi tomorrow to participate in the 5th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

The 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is a diplomatic summit held every year since 2018, with the Minister of External Affairs and the Defence Minister representing India and the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defence representing the United States.

The discussions centre on common issues of concern between the two countries.

Meanwhile, terming India a crucial "moral voice" across the world, Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon recently urged New Delhi to designate Hamas as a terror organisation in India as well.

He stated that both India and Israel have a "shared war" against terror and counter-terrorism is one of the areas where the countries align.

Speaking during a press briefing,

Gilon said, "Prime Minister Modi Ji was among the first leaders in the world to come out with a clear statement...this was before we had understood the full magnitude of what had happened...I think, that set a very strong tone of clear condemnation of terrorism. It's important to us because India is a very close ally."

"India is also a very important moral voice in the world and when it comes to terror, India is also coming from the point of view of someone who knows what they're talking about being victims for so many years of terrorism," he added.

Gilon cited several countries that have designated Hamas as a terror group

"I think that it's also time to officially designate Hamas as a terror organization also in India. Most of the democracies, the EU, US, Canada, and Australia, I believe have already done this, and I think it's good," he said.

The Israeli envoy further said that

Israel has spoken with relevant authorities in India and the two countries are having dialogue on the issue.

Earlier, India said it sees the attack by Hamas on Israel as "a terrorist attack" and that it has always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine that lives side by side at peace with Israel.

Replying to questions during the weekly media briefing regarding the situation concerning the Israel-Hamas war, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also said there is a universal obligation to observe international humanitarian law and the need to fight terrorism.

"Designation of terrorist organisation under Indian law is a legal matter. I would refer you to the relevant authorities. I think we have been very clear that we see this as a terrorist attack."

ANI



Azam FC head coach Youssouph Dabo. Agencies

## Azam coach elated by his players' prowess

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC head coach Youssouph Dabo is elated by his team's latest performance after picking six points away as the league goes for a short break due to FIFA international games for national teams.

Azam bounced from back-to-back NBC Premier League defeats involving a 3-2 loss against Yanga at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium followed by a 3-1 home defeat to Namungo.

After the defeats, the ice-cream makers bounced with a 3-0 win away at Lake Tanganyika against Mashujaa followed by a win against Ihefu 3-1 away at Highland Estates.

The outcome saw Azam accumulating 19 points from nine matches as they gradually climbed up the league ladders, recording six wins and one draw while conceding the two defeats.

Dabo has said that there are big changes in his squad and the quality and maturity that have grown within his players is due to the way his players now have understood what he wants.

"My players have understood my style of play and system to be used. Now it is a process of good results,

whether at home or away. Our goal is to do well and to create big scoring chances for ourselves in our matches. Our aim is to finish in the top three positions, something that is possible.

"We lost two matches in a row by a large number. I sat with my players and instructed them how to fight for the team by helping each other. I see it has paid off because we have won and reduced the number of goals conceded," has said

He then said their focus now is on the other upcoming Premier League fixtures as they want to keep on with the same pace of battling for maximum points in each game they face.

"Of course, I understand some players will be heading for international duties while some will be with us on training camps as usual, but our aim and goal remain the same and I want to see more domination in our upcoming matches. It will be difficult games, but in the end, we need maximum points," he said.

Azam play their next three NBC Premier League fixtures at home against Mtibwa Sugar on November 24, KMC on December 8, and JKT Tanzania on December 11.

## TPDF athletics coach hails Simbu, Magdalena

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

HEAD coach for the Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) athletics team Anthony Mwingereza has hailed his charges for their exploits at the just-ended World Military Half Marathon Championships which took place in Lucerne, Switzerland.

The inaugural championships were organized by the International Military Sports Federation (CISM) and attracted more than 200 athletes hailing from 38 nations.

Tanzania People's Defense Force officers Felix Alphonse Simbu and Magdalena Shauri won silver and bronze medals in men and women categories respectively.

Speaking yesterday, Mwingereza said he is delighted by the performance of the country athletes at the championships, saying the event attracted top runners who were competing for six medals.

"It's true our two athletes, Simbu (Alphonse) and Magdalena Shauri, won medals in Switzerland, in the maiden World Military Half Marathon. I accompanied the team to the event and am very happy that from the six medals which more than 200 athletes were competing for, our athletes managed to win two," he said.

On top of performing well at

various international and domestic events, both Simbu and Shauri are the only local athletes who have already qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

According to CISM, the inaugural 1st World Military Half Marathon Championships showcased a formidable lineup of participants, including the reigning European Marathon Champion from Poland, Aleksandra Lisowska, as well as prominent athletes like German marathon runner and Olympic contender Hendrik Pfeiffer.

Other nations with strong contenders, such as Bahrain, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, brought their own chances of securing victory to the competition.

The information further says the opening ceremony enjoyed the presence of notable figures, who included Lucerne City Councillor Franziska Bitzi Staub, Chief of the Swiss Delegation to CISM Colonel Christian Hess, CISM official representative Lieutenant-Colonel Jure Velepec, and Brigadier General Niels Blatter.

CISM was founded in 1948 and has 140 member states. Its motto is "Friendship Through Sport", and competitions are held in 26 different sporting disciplines.

## Djigui Diarra desires to keep more clean sheets this season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA SC goalkeeper Djigui Diarra is aiming for massive improvements from his last season which has earned him the right to vie for the best CAF goalkeeper of the year award for the 2022/2023 season.

The Malian international won the best goalkeeper award in the last domestic season for the second year running since his arrival at the club in the 2021/2022 season replacing Farouk Shikalo, the Kenyan custodian.

The 2022/2023 season proved to be a remarkable one for Diarra, as he not only secured the Golden Glove award in the NBC Premier League but also led his team to their 29th league title.

His outstanding performances and leadership qualities have cemented his position as a vital asset for Yanga.

"This season is very difficult. I did not have a good start like last season. So far in the seven matches I have been in goal, I have allowed five goals in the league, but that does not discourage me because I have great faith in the wall that protects me," said Diarra who has four 'clean sheets' so far.

"I have come back with new strength, believing that allowing goals is part of the game. I will continue to train and reduce mistakes in the upcoming matches, the intention is to help my defense to protect the victory we get."

Speaking about being mentioned in the 'CAF' awards, Diarra said that it is a big step for him, and it increases his confidence to keep competing with the big goalkeepers.

"My quality has been seen on the field to be mentioned along with the goalkeepers of big teams. For me, it's a victory. The league has 16 teams, I'm the only one in Tanzania who has been nominated. This is a big victory for me," he said.



Yanga goalkeeper Djigui Diarra. Agencies

"I already see myself as a winner. To be one of the best ten goalkeepers in Africa is something special. I have gained strength and confidence that everything is possible and I will continue to be better than where I am now."

Diarra joins a class of top-class goalkeepers vying for the continental best against Mo-

hamed ElShenawy (Egypt and Al Ahly), Yassine Bounou (Morocco & Al Hilal), Andre Onana (Cameroon and Manchester United), Ronwen Williams (South Africa and Mamelodi Sundowns), Edouard Mendy (Senegal and Al Ahli), Oussama Benbot (Algeria and USM Alger), Youssef El Motie (Morocco and Wydad Athletic Club) Pape

Mamadou Sy (Senegal and Generation Foot) and Landing Badji (Senegal and AS Pikine)

Diarra's exceptional shot-stopping abilities, leadership on the field, and extensive experience make him an indispensable asset for Yanga as they strive to maintain their dominance in Tanzanian football.



Kenya's Tusker FC striker Ibrahim Joshua (Agencies)

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi and Agencies

KENYA'S Tusker FC striker Ibrahim Joshua has expressed confidence after being recalled to the Taifa Stars squad set to take part in this month's set of 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifying matches.

The 29-year-old is part of the 35-man squad that was on Monday evening released by the national team head coach Adel Amrouche.

Joshua, although categorized

as one of the nine midfielders selected, features as a striker for Tusker FC, and was recently involved for his club in a 1-0 win over Sofapaka.

His only other appearance this season was a start against defending FKF Premier League champions Gor Mahia.

With the latest call-up, Joshua will potentially receive his fourth career cap for the national team, having only featured on three separate occasions before.

"I am very excited to be back

## Taifa Stars striker ready to show his worth after the recent inclusion

in national colors. I am confident it's time to show my worth ahead of the upcoming fixtures. I am ready to compete and make everyone better because we are fighting for our nation's team colors together, as players and fans around the country.

"I hope we will be well prepared and ready to face any opponent. I believe we have players who can fight for the country; the most important thing is to be well prepared.

"We must respect all opponents in our group, not just Morocco and Zambia. Each country has a chance to battle and earn a qualification," said Joshua

His debut for Taifa Stars was in March, last year, when he came on as a second-half substitute in a 3-1 friendly win over the Central African Republic.

His first start was against Sudan in a friendly match a few days later, with his last call-up and involvement as a starter coming September last year in a 2-1 friendly loss to Libya at the Martyrs of February Stadium in Benghazi.

Ten of the 54 national teams participating in the preliminary qualification matches will represent the continent at the finals to be held in The United States,

Mexico and Canada.

The full squad comprises the following players:

Goalkeepers: Beno Kkolanya (Singida Big Stars), Aishi Manula (Simba), Aboutwalb Mshery (Young Africans), Kwesi Kawawa (Karlslunden, Sweden) and Metacha Mnata (Young Africans).

Defenders: Dickson Job (Young Africans), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Young Africans), Ibrahim Hamad (Young Africans), Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam), Nickson Kibabage (Young Africans) and Haji Mnonga (Aldershot Town, England).

Others are Abdulhamid Banda (Richards Bay, South Africa), Edward Manyama (Azam), Abdulmalik Zakaria (Namungo), Omari Mvugi (FC Nantes, France), Novatus Miroshi (Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukraine) and Edwin Balua (Tanzania Prisons).

Midfielders: Ibrahim Joshua (Tusker FC, Kenya), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba), Sospeter Bajana (Azam), Baraka Majogoro (Chip-pa United, South Africa), Feisal Salum (Azam), Mudathir Yahya (Young Africans), Morice Abraham (FK Spartak, Serbia), Himid Mao (Tala'ea El Gaish, Egypt) and Ludaki Chasambi (Mtibwa Sugar).

## Manchester Utd's latest farce points to an early Champions League exit

By Miguel Delaney

WORSE than a defeat that could decide Manchester United's Champions League season, this was almost multiple losses in one as Erik ten Hag's hapless side found new ways to just collapse. Twice.

An evening that had almost everything left United with nothing, and looking so unconvincing. It wasn't quite defeat from the jaws of victory but farce from the semblance of competence.

United somehow lost 4-3 in Copenhagen to leave themselves in danger of going out at the group stage for the third time in eight years. They are currently bottom of the group, but that only comes after they just bottomed out. United had been leading mere minutes from the end of normal time in both halves and, incredibly, twice went in behind. The second was of course the one that mattered, as Ten Hag's side disappeared from view to the soundtrack of raucously celebrating Copenhagen fans. This was one of the greatest nights of their history. It was one of United's most miserable recent results, which is saying something.

There were mitigating factors, such as Marcus Rashford's contentious red card, but they don't fully explain this. It is why the word "somehow" does a lot of the heavy lifting here, in the way United's ponderous midfield didn't.

The blunt truth was that this brought together many of the problems Ten Hag has been enduring from this season. Above anything, beyond the lack of tactical idea, there was the lack of conviction.

That's where the biggest issue lies. It just should never have got to this in the modern Champions League against a club as moderately resourced as Copenhagen. It should never be the case that a serial Champions League winner like Raphael Varane offers up a late pass like that. It said so much about the game, and what was wrong.

The manner of their final two match-winning goals were so easy, and the most damning aspect of that was they almost represented a mirror of how the game started.

The defeat was all the more galling because of how good it looked. United were through and ahead without even doing too much. Aaron Wan-Bissaka was presented with a route down the right that saw Scott McTominay free right by the goal. He so easily squared for Rasmus Hojlund to just slot in. The young Dane was back where he grew up and making himself at home again.

The second was an even easier finish, although did admittedly require more graft to get there.

It had also come out of a situation where there was a warning for United. Copenhagen were beginning to get at their defence more. Openings were appearing. Through that, though, a massive opening appeared behind them. From one defensive clearance, Alejandro Garnacho just surged forward to force a save from Kamil Grabara but there was Hojlund to just tap it in again. It looked so easy but of course came from a pounding run as the rest of the Copenhagen defence was concentrating on Garnacho.

That was an admittedly rare burst, though. It was conspicuous even before that goal that United were trying to cautiously control the game. It was like Ten Hag was trying to build confidence in the gameplan again. They were so studiously keeping possession and looking to construct moves, but without too many strides.

That made what followed all the more ironic. The game quickly went out of all control. Perhaps the two are connected. It might not have got to that had they seized the initiative. But they were 2-0 ahead. It should have been safe.

It ended up coming down to an interpretation over Marcus Rashford's level of control. Either way, the referee judged it was a red card, and off the forward went.

That happened at 42 minutes, which might have been time enough for United to just see it to half-time. There were instead a massive 13 minutes of stoppage time, although two of those were admittedly for moments unrelated to play. One was when a supporter ran on with a Palestinian flag. Another, shortly afterwards, was when a different fan had to be tended to by medics. The stadium announcer mercifully stated soon afterwards that he was awake and well.

All of that still meant there were more than 20 minutes for United to play through until the break, but they began to fold with alarming speed. Diogo Gonçalves had already hit the bar with a free-kick. On exactly 45 minutes, he squared for Mohamed Elyounoussi to finish. The Copenhagen crowd had already been buoyant, especially behind that goal, but they were by now electric.

There was that sense of opportunity.

It was far from the last time that was to happen. It was also a moment that brought another debatable decision - although this admittedly the least of them. The ball struck Harry Maguire's hand in the area, and Gonçalves struck his penalty well.

There were a mere 10 minutes between Rashford's red and the penalty decision.

Making the result even worse, they were then granted a reprieve through a decision that was far more debatable. There was another handball that can only be described as a "Champions League decision". Bruno Fernandes at least ensured the penalty was beyond doubt, smashing it into the top corner.

THE INDEPENDENT

## Real Madrid, Bayern qualify for Champions League last 16, Manchester United stunned

LONDON

REAL Madrid and Bayern Munich were among the clubs to qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League with two group games to spare on Wednesday, while Manchester United's poor form continued as they slipped to a stunning 4-3 defeat against FC Copenhagen.

Last season's runners-up Inter Milan and Real Sociedad also secured their tickets for the knockout phase, joining holders Manchester City and RB Leipzig in advancing to the last 16.

Madrid, the record 14-time European champions, made sure of their progress from Group C with a 3-0 home win over Braga after surviving an injury setback just before kick-off.

Goalkeeper Kepa Arizabalaga pulled out hurt in the warm-up, but his replacement Andriy Lunin excelled by saving Alvaro Djalo's sixth-minute penalty.

With Jude Bellingham rested, Brahim Diaz gave Real a 27th-minute lead before Brazilian duo Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo both scored in the second half.

Napoli are poised to go through from the group alongside Real despite being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Union Berlin.

'Phenomenon' Kane - Matteo Politano put Na-



Real Madrid were too good for Braga as they secured a spot in the Champions League last 16. Agencies

poli ahead late in the first half but David Datro Fofana, on loan from Chelsea, equalised soon after the restart.

The result allowed Union to end a 12-game losing run but they cannot now qualify for the last 16.

Their Bundesliga rivals Bayern qualified with a 2-1 victory at home to Galatasaray, their 17th consecutive win in the Champions League group stage.

Thomas Tuchel's side saw Galatasaray have a goal disallowed for offside before Harry Kane headed in the opener with just 10 minutes left.

Kane then added another, his 19th goal already for Bayern in just 15 appearances, before Cedric Bakambu pulled one back in stoppage time for Galatasaray.

"He's a phenomenon and we're proud that he's playing in the team," Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer told broadcaster DAZN of Kane.

Galatasaray still stand every chance of going through from Group A after United lost in a remarkable game in Denmark.

Copenhagen stunned United - Erik ten Hag's team appeared to be cruising thanks to two goals in the first half an hour by their Danish striker Rasmus Hojlund.

Yet they suffered a blow when Marcus Rashford was controversially sent off in the 42nd minute for a foul on Elias Jelert, and Copenhagen took full advantage to haul themselves level by the break.

Mohamed Elyounoussi

pulled one back before Diogo Goncalves equalised from the spot in the ninth minute of stoppage time.

Still United got back in front via a Bruno Fernandes penalty midway through the second half, but Lukas Lerager made it 3-3 seven minutes from time and Rooney Bardghji, the 17-year-old Kuwait-born Swedish Under-21 international, got Copenhagen's winner in the 87th minute.

Ten Hag's team have now lost three of their four Champions League matches this season and have been beaten in nine of their 17 games in all competitions.

"I think first we played very good until the red card. The red card changed everything. Then it becomes a different game,"

Ten Hag told broadcaster TNT Sports.

"I saw lots of positives, but in the end we lose some focus. It's hard when you play so long with 10 men."

Arsenal almost through - Meanwhile, Arsenal are on the brink of progressing from Group B after a 2-0 home win over Sevilla, in which Bukayo Saka set up Leandro Trossard for the opener in the first half, and then added the second after the break.

"I'm really happy with the performance from the team. They showed aggression and commitment," Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta told TNT Sports.

The Gunners are four points ahead of both Lens and PSV Eindhoven, with the Dutch side boosting their own hopes by beating the French side 1-0 thanks to Luuk de Jong's early header.

Lens had substitute Morgan Guilavogui sent off late on.

In Group D, Inter secured their progress with a 1-0 win away to Red Bull Salzburg in Austria, a game settled by a late Lautaro Martinez penalty.

That result also allowed Real Sociedad to qualify after their earlier 3-1 defeat of Portuguese giants Benfica, who have lost all four matches in the group.

Mikel Merino, Mikel Oyarzabal and Ander Barrenetxea all scored in the first 21 minutes for the hosts, before Brais Mendez hit the post with a penalty. Rafa Silva pulled one back for Benfica.

AFP

## From Champions League to bottom of table: How sexting scandal sent Ajax into freefall

By Sam Dalling

"DIRECTOR of Football Affairs Marc Overmars will leave Ajax with immediate effect," began the late-night statement on the club's official website.

It was February 6, 2022. Earlier that day, Ajax, via a routine home victory over Heracles, had opened-up a five-point gap at the Eredivisie's summit. A third-successive title was in sight. Many in the Netherlands believed the club was in the early throes of a dominant period. The Dutch Bayern Munich.

Overmars, who won three titles and the Champions League as an Ajax player before spells at Arsenal and Barcelona, had been in post since 2012. He had, alongside chief executive Edwin van der Sar, overseen footballing operations since 2017.

That included appointing Erik ten Hag, and they helped shape a side that went within Lucas Moura's injury-time effort of a Champions League Final. But it emerged that Overmars had sent explicit photographs to at least one female staff member from the bathrooms of club offices. He had to go.

"A series of inappropriate messages sent to several female colleagues over an extended period of time underlies his decision to leave the club," the official release continued.

In response, Overmars said: "Unfortunately, I didn't realize that I was crossing the line with this, but that was made clear to me in recent days. I see no other op-



The scandalous exit last year of Marc Overmars, Ajax's former director of football, was an apparent precursor to the crisis that has engulfed the club this season. Agencies

tion but to leave Ajax."

It was framed that Overmars had decided to depart rather than being dismissed. Words matter; it spoke volumes for men's football culture.

How though, does that sorry episode get us to the Ajax of now, a club appearing outwardly dysfunctional, the 36-time Dutch champions recently propping up the Eredivisie?

It would be too simplistic to point to Overmars's departure as the sole reason for Ajax's freefall. But it was hugely significant. They won the title a few months later, and then Ten Hag left for Manchester United that summer. Both Lisandro Martinez and Antony followed him. Ryan Gravenberch and top scorer Sébastien Haller were sold too.

Managers come and go and Ten Hag was always likely to move. What became apparent though, was a lack of future-proofing or succession planning.

Alfred Schreuder replaced Ten Hag but was gone by January. Under interim coach John He-

with Stuttgart. He is data driven, a modern operator. But he was not an Ajax man, nor had he played at the highest level. The late Johan Cruyff would not have approved.

With Ajax absent from European football's top table, Mislintat had a selling remit. Deals taking Jurrien Timber and Calvin Bassey to Arsenal and Fulham respectively were concluded early. The departures of Edson Alvarez and Mohammed Kudus to West Ham dragged into August.

Mislintat replaced Heitinga with Maurice Steijn, whom he termed an "overachiever" but supporters were underwhelmed.

They held similar sentiments when it came to Mislintat's dozen incomings - many viewed as simply blocking the pathway for the next graduates of the club's renowned De Toekomst academy. None was a proven performer at the highest level. A trio came

from second-tier clubs, including Chuba Akpom from Middlesbrough. Just three have started more than half of Ajax's league games so far this season.

What Ajax will hope is their nadir came in September in De Klassieker. Ajax versus Feyenoord. The visitors were 3-0 up when Ajax's F-Side ultras threw fireworks onto the pitch. The game was halted twice before being abandoned early in the second half. Outside the Ajax fans rioted. The remaining 35 minutes were completed behind closed-doors four days later, with Ajax losing 4-0.

Mislintat, who despite appointing Steijn, was reportedly undermining him, lost his job. Ajax cited a "lack of broad support within the organisation". It was, they said, "unrelated" to an investigation into Mislintat's club's transfer dealings.

Within three weeks, Steijn departed too. He lasted just seven league games, overseeing Ajax's worst start to an Eredivisie season.

The final straw was a trip to Utrecht where, having come from 2-0 down to lead 3-2, Ajax conceded an equaliser. Again, Supporters threw missiles onto the pitch. Ajax conceded in injury time to lose 4-3.

That was followed by a 2-0 defeat at Brighton in the Europa League, the return fixture of which takes place in Amsterdam on Thursday night.

And now? Both Louis van Gaal and Danny Blind are returning to the club's Supervisory Board. Former player John van 't Schip will manage the side until the end of the season.

He returned shortly after his wife's passing, addressing that loss in his opening speech to the players. The sense is that they will battle for him; already they have picked up a pair of wins.

No one really believes relegation a realistic possibility. But much work lies ahead. Ajax must re-find their DNA.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Real Madrid, Bayern qualify for Champions League last 16, Man U stunned

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**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Ma  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

**5Sports**  
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## TOC cautions national sports associations on kit sponsors

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has cautioned National Sports Associations (NSA) which will compete at the coming Paris Olympics against entering kit sponsorship without consulting the committee.

TOC vice-president Henry Tandau on Wednesday said it is normal for athletes to put on kits with a log of their sponsors at local and international events, but at the Olympics, the athletes are supposed to put on kits with logos (images) of the sponsors of the Olympics.

He said National Olympic Committees (NOCs) manage local sponsorship programs in non-competing categories to The Olympic Partner (TOP) sponsors that support their sports development activities and Olympic teams.

TOP is a global sponsorship program managed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its aim is to generate diversified revenue to be shared in equal measure between the Organizing Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs) and the Olympic Movement.

The TOP program is established for a duration of four years minimum, corresponding to the Olympic quadrennial period.

Currently, Athletics Tanzania (AT) and Women's football national team have their kit sponsors.

Tandau, who will also be the Chief de Mission for the Tanzania team at the 2024 Paris Olympics, advised the two (AT and Women's football national team) to seek advice from TOC.

He said currently TOC negotiations with a potential kit sponsor for local athletes who will qualify for the Paris Olympics are at an advanced stage.

"For now, athletes can wear any kit, but once they qualify for the Paris Games the duty of dressing them is our responsibility. We are aware that Athletics Tanzania (AT) and Women's football national team have their kit sponsors, but they will not be allowed to wear kits of their sponsors at the Olympic Games," he said.

However, Tandau said shoe sponsorship remains exclusively for the athlete.

The country will feature athletes from five disciplines, namely athletics, swimming, boxing, judo and women football.

Alphonse Simbu and Magdalena Shauri are the only local athletes who have so far qualified for the Paris Olympics.

The Olympic Games are considered as one of the most effective international marketing platforms in the world, reaching billions of people in over 200 countries and territories throughout the world.

## Gamondi happy with Yanga's 'tough win' over Coastal Union



Yanga striker Clement Mzize (C) scores their winning goal against Coastal Union during their NBC Premier League match at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Wednesday. Photo: Courtesy of Young Africans

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

HEAD coach Miguel Gamondi spoke of his huge satisfaction after Young Africans battled their way to a fifth consecutive NBC Premier League win by beating Coastal Union 1-0 at Mkwakwani Stadium on Wednesday evening.

Clement Mzize's fifth goal of the season earned Wananchi all three points to stretch their lead at the top of the league table to four points.

Young Africans' defense of the league title goes on and they now sit four points ahead of second-placed Azam.

In his post-game reaction, Gamondi explained why he was really happy with the performance that secured a tough win for his side.

He admitted his team found it more difficult as Coastal Union defended well but was pleased with the result.

"I am happy for the victory.

It was a very tough game, we expected that. Coastal Union defended very well but we had control of the game. I think they didn't shoot even once. Our goalkeeper was a spectator.

"We knew we had to score in the first half in order to open the game, but we couldn't. But the players fought very well, too much fighting spirit. We tried to be calm because in a game

like that when you become nervous it is different.

"After that, we made good changes with Jesus Moloko and Clement Mzize. We opened up a little bit and were lucky they turned

around the situation.

"I am happy with the points. Winning three points after playing Simba on Sunday is very good and Wananchi must be very proud," he said.

Gamondi's opposite number Fikiri Elias was gracious in defeat and complementary of the defending champions acknowledging the gulf in quality.

"In one way or another, I congratulate my boys. They have done a great job. Tactically, defensively we were very much okay. I think it is the quality of the team that our opponents have that has helped them get results.

"We had a plan to attack from the center, behind their six men. Yanga like to press with six players so they leave space in the midfield. We failed in that aspect. The three times we went ahead to attack them we failed," he said.

Elias added: "I congratulate Yanga. They are a good pressing team. They play with a great work rate and you could see the difference."

The NBC Premier League takes a breather into the international break as Young Africans now shift focus to the CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign.

They will travel to Algeria to take on CR Belouizdad in their first CAF Champions League Group Stage game on November 25.

## Chaburuma credits substitutions for JKT Queens comeback victory

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

JKT Queens shocked Atletico Abidjan by completing a second-half turnaround to defeat the CAF Women's Champions League hosts 2-1 in the second round of Group A match played at the Amadou Gon Coulibaly stadium in Korhogo.

The Tanzanian representatives came into the game on the back of a 2-0 loss to Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies of South Africa while hosts Atletico Abidjan had drawn 1-1 with Morocco's Sporting Club Casablanca in their opening round of matches last weekend.

In the potentially crucial encounter on Wednesday night, JKT Queens had fallen behind to Sandrine Niamien's 33rd-minute goal and were heading for a damning second defeat in a row until Winifreda Gerald and Alia Salum both found the net in the final 10 minutes to clinch the three points.

JKT Queens head coach Ester Chaburuma made offensive reinforcements in the second.



JKT Queens player (R) fights for the ball with two players of Ivory Coast's Atletico Abidjan during their CAF Women's Champions League Group A match held at the Amadou Gon Coulibaly stadium in Korhogo on Wednesday night. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

Her decision to make changes after the break was a turning point for the match, namely the introduction of Winifreda.

Winifreda was introduced at the start of the second half to

replace the more experienced Diana Mnaly.

The youngster was lively from the outset.

She kickstarted the comeback with a cool strike after Eto Mlenzi's through ball in

the 66th minute.

The goal was initially ruled for an offside before the referee consulted VAR.

Alia, another youngster who was introduced in the 74th minute, guided a header

past the on-rushing Ivorian goalkeeper to make it 2-1 six minutes to normal stoppage time.

In the post-match press conference, Coach Chaburuma reflected on her side's performance and explained the tactical move that completely changed the complexion of the game in the second half.

"At half-time, we noticed the defensive shortcomings of our opponents which were mainly in the physical aspect. We brought in two fast players, which allowed us to keep the ball and above all, press forward.

"We will recover well ahead of the last game in order to secure our qualification in the next match," she said.

JKT Queens midfielder Donisia Minja took the Woman of the Match award to accompany her outstanding performance against Atletico Abidjan.

On Saturday, JKT Queens, currently second in the group on three points, will only need to avoid defeat against Sporting Club Casablanca to progress to the semi-finals.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

