



## MOURNING



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## Regional maritime security: Tanzania pushing vigilance

By Henry Mwangonde

TRANSPORT minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has stressed the need for enhanced vigilance, cooperation and adopting strategies by Western Indian Ocean countries to address security challenges.

Delivering a keynote speech at the 7th high-level meeting on the implementation of the Jeddah amendment to the Djibouti code of conduct in Dar es Salaam yesterday, he said that participating states have agreed to work together to build national and regional capacity to address broader maritime security issues.

He described maritime security as a foundation for the sustainable development of the maritime sector, citing the Djibouti code of conduct agreed in 2009 and later amended in 2017, as covering a wider range of transnational maritime threats beyond piracy.

“The Jeddah Amendment acknowledges the vital role of the ‘blue economy,’ including shipping, seafaring, fisheries and tourism in fostering sustainable economic growth, food security, employment, prosperity, and stability,” he stated.

He expressed deep concern about the gradual rise in threats of piracy, armed robbery against ships and other illicit maritime activities including predatory fishing in the Western Indian Ocean rim and along



**Any gaps in the region’s maritime safety and security can have severe consequences for the lives, economies and livelihoods of those dependent on maritime stability**

the Gulf of Aden coastline.

The crimes pose serious risks to the safety of persons and vessels at sea, as well as to the protection of the marine environment, he said, noting that despite efforts of the member states to implement the Djibouti code of conduct, malicious groups working to undermine regional stability through new threats are prevalent.

The meeting was intended to assess progress in implementing resolutions, address challenges and develop solutions to the issues, he said, pointing at the recent surge in threats in the Red Sea.

It is crucial for member states to collaborate in developing effective strategies to ensure safe maritime traffic in the region, he said, stressing the need to enhance surveillance, improving information sharing and strengthening regional cooperation to combat these evolving threats.

Arsenio Dominguez, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) secretary-general urged member states in the zone to update national laws to strengthen sustainable maritime safety strategies.

They need to collaborate on efforts to eliminate the threats of piracy and armed

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# Samia commissions 236 cadets in pomp, fanfare



Commander-in-Chief President Samia Suluhu Hassan inspects an honour guard shortly before commissioning 236 Tanzania People’s Defence Forces officer cadets at the Tanzania Military Academy in Monduli District, Arusha Region, yesterday. Photo: State House

*The graduates now have a great responsibility to use the knowledge gained to fulfil their duties in practice*

By Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi, Arusha

POMP and fanfare coloured the commissioning of 236 officer cadets who graduated at the Tanzania Military Academy (TMA) in Monduli, an event graced by the commander-in-chief, President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The graduates are commissioned cadet officers awarded the rank of second lieutenant, which the college administrators said included the 5/2021 batch for the military science degree (BMS) and the 71/23 (regular) class.

Before conferring the commissions, the president inspected a parade by the cadet officers, made up of 196 men and 40 women cadets.

The 5/2021 BMS class had 75 cadets completing three years of training at the academy and earning degrees, while in the 71/23 regular class, 95 officers completed one year of training, and 88 officers received military science training in friendly African countries and beyond.

The first military science degree was awarded to 75 new officers, 53 men and 22

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## Tanzania has high hopes on UN desertification palaver

By Guardian Reporter

A UNITED Nations meeting on global efforts to fight the desert situation is important for Tanzania, top government officials affirm.

Abdallah Hassan Mitawi, the Union deputy permanent secretary in the Vice President’s Office (VPO) made this affirmation in Dodoma yesterday, at a meeting for the Tanzanian delegation for the 16th conference of the parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, slated for the Saudi capital of Riyadh early next week.



**The government was keen on adopting land use plans and providing education to such groups to stop activities that cause environmental damage**

The delegation is made up of senior officials from the Vice President’s Office (Union and Environment), sector ministries and other development stakeholders, which the top official said will be in a good position to fully engage on the issues relevant to the future of the country.

Agnes Meena, the Water deputy permanent secretary and Njamasi Chiwanga, director of the Lead Foundation, an environment restoration organisation, attended the meeting, where deputy minister Khamis Hamza Khamis, called for greater efforts to stop farming and cattle rearing further damaging the country’s

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## Constitution, citizenship education starts Jan ‘25

*“This education is critical for preparing youth to acknowledge their rights and responsibilities, as well as to understand how they can contribute to safeguarding the nation”*

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is finalising an action plan to introduce constitutional and citizenship education in primary and secondary schools, as well as vocational

education and training institutions. Dr Franklin Rwezimula, Constitution and Legal Affairs deputy permanent secretary unveiled this plan when opening a working session on rolling out the plan, intended to further foster patriotism

across the country.

The planned curriculum was developed by the ministry in collaboration with education stakeholders, to instil a sense of national pride and responsibility among pupils and students.

He asserted that the initiative would serve as a catalyst for positive societal change, fostering increased patriotism, adherence to the constitution, national unity and democratic participation, while also promoting peace and stability in the country.

“This education will help prepare

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## SPORTS

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**Davids hails Simba’s tactical execution in CAF group stage opener**

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**Under-confident Mbappe needs time and love, says Real Madrid boss**



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## Regional maritime security: Tanzania pushing vigilance

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attacks on ships in the region, underlining that the safety and security of shipping, as well as the maritime environment in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden, is crucial to global trade.

"Any gaps in the region's maritime safety and security can have severe consequences for the lives, economies and livelihoods of those dependent on maritime stability," he said.

Some countries in the region are facing disruptions in food imports due to trade delays driven by conflict, port closures and rising insurance charges on shipping, all of which contribute to soaring food prices, he explained.

"We must maintain safe and secure shipping channels to ensure the continuity of global trade and connectivity for billions of people, especially in light of ongoing attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea," he added.

## Constitution, citizenship education starts Jan '25

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young people to be fully aware of their rights and duties towards their country," he said, underlining the belief that education provided from early childhood to upper levels will empower the next generation.

Those passed through this curriculum will become ethical, skilled, knowledgeable and true patriots who love their country, he said, insisting that "this is an essential step, as the nation requires a generation of patriots to preserve the peace we enjoy."

The current generation faces challenges posed by limited understanding of patriotism, ethics and human rights, he said, hinting that this can sometimes result in societal unrest.

Teaching constitution and citizenship inspires young people and contributes to stakeholders assisting in facilitating the provision of this education in schools and vocational institutions across the country, he said.

Educational modules for the curriculum for use in vocational training colleges are in the final stages of preparation, for inclusion in the syllabi of such colleges from early next year, he said.

The working session was intended to review the action plan and ensure that constitution and citizenship topics are effectively incorporated in school and college syllabi, he elaborated, noting that the meeting follows extensive consultations with experts with the relevant ministries.

These are Constitution and Legal Affairs, Education, Science and Technology, Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office, coordinated by the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE).

Experts provided recommendations on the content of constitution and citizenship education in line with the updated 2023 curricula, with a second meeting with VETA tutors.

They were tasked with developing educational modules to be added to the vocational schools syllabi, while a third meeting sought to align understanding of the constitution and citizenship content, setting out the best approach to tasking up these topics, he said.

The final meeting involved VETA experts and the Lushoto Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA) to set out the content, identify key themes and prepare a teaching outline for vocational schools, he specified.

Dr Jerome Machuge, a TIE curriculum expert, proposed that the proposed modules be attached to Tanzanian history and political ethics.

The modules will be integrated into the current curriculum, with specific lessons designed to cover constitution and citizenship topics, he said.

Additionally, textbooks for the relevant levels will have to be developed, while teachers will undergo training to incorporate this subject into their lessons as part of the ongoing process, he said.

Anthony Kasore, the VETA director general, emphasized that within the technical education curriculum, young people would learn about the constitution and citizenship, which would help foster patriotism and self-awareness in defending and protecting their country.

"This education is critical for preparing youth to acknowledge their rights and responsibilities, as well as to understand how they can contribute to safeguarding the nation," he added.

## Samia commissions 236 cadets in pomp, fanfare

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women, while President Samia presented awards to officers who excelled in various fields. In the 5/2021 BMS class, the top performer was Second Lieutenant Cloud Ndaiga, administrative officials said.

In academic performance, Second Lieutenant Xavery Malobana was handed the honour, while the best in military tactics was Second Lieutenant Kelvin Adrian, they said.

The best officer from a friendly country was Second Lieutenant Thabi Masuku from Eswatini, while for the 71/23 regular class, the top performer was Second Lieutenant John Bahati. Second Lieutenant Charles Charles excelled in academics and the best in military tactics was Second Lieutenant Apha Gustav.

Dr Stergomena Tax, the Defense and National Service minister, emphasized the importance of military science degree training not only for the army but for the nation as a whole.

"The importance of this training is evident in the army's efficiency in executing its duties. It equips officers with the skills needed to conduct military operations and prepares them to become leaders with the ethics, discipline and expertise to lead the armed forces," she stated.

The training fosters patriotic leadership capable of safeguarding the nation's borders and addressing

internal and external threats, she said, noting that in the broader context, the training strengthens the army and the nation, contributing to peace, security, plus social and economic development.

Major General Jackson Mwaseba, the TMA commandant, reminded the graduates of the significant financial and resource investments made by the nation in their education.

He emphasized that the graduates have a responsibility to use their knowledge to benefit both the army and the nation.

"The nation needs educated individuals with patriotism, discipline and good morals who will help build our country on sustainable foundations, he said.

The graduates now have a great responsibility to use the knowledge gained to fulfil their duties in practice, he added.



**It equips officers with the skills needed to conduct military operations and prepares them to become leaders with the ethics, discipline and expertise to lead the armed forces**



Prof Hawa Tundui (R), a lecturer with Mzumbe University, leads the academic parade during the graduation ceremony held at the university's Mbeya city campus yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

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environment.

The Riyadh meeting will coincide with the 30th anniversary of the desertification convention, where the top policy adviser lamented actions of some farmers to cut down trees and burn forests.

Often the reason is to prepare for the next farming season or herders seeking to feed livestock, as such arbitrary action contributes to drought and "eventually there is a threat of many areas becoming deserts."

## Tanzania has high hopes on UN desertification palaver

Farmers along with herders ought to stop migrating as this fuels risks of desertification, when this involves cutting down trees to graze livestock, later leaving the areas destroyed.

Efforts are needed to ensure that this is stopped as it causes many areas to face drought and become semi-desert, he emphasized, af-

firming that breeding and modernised agriculture are sectors that promote the economy and the country.

Breeders and farmers conducting this activity are responsible for ensuring that they follow environmental guidelines and thus reduce the risk of desertification, he said

Herders need to stop grazing or

watering their livestock in water sources as they cause damage to the environment, with water drying up and leading to drought, he further noted.

The government was keen on adopting land use plans and providing education to such groups to stop activities that cause environmental damage, he added.



Assistant Inspector of Police Mwanaisa Massawe pictured yesterday making remarks at a meeting held in Bagamoyo town, the focus being on a project meant to support drug addicts. The event was organised by Life & Hope Rehabilitation Organisation, a local CSO. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Civil societies in Zambia reject offered NGO Bill

LUSAKA

CIVIL society organizations in Zambia have raised concern over the government's introduction of a bill that they say is restrictive and suffocates active non-governmental organizations in the country.

The new bill, known as the NGO bill of 2024 and signed by Attorney General Mulilo Kabesha, proposes stringent controls over non-governmental organizations and continues to place them under the authority of a government-dominated registration board.

The NGO bill further proposes a code of conduct and requires NGOs to submit annual information about their activities, accounts, funders and the personal wealth of officials. NGO officials could face fines or prison sentences of up to three years if they fail to submit their annual returns or

conduct an audit.

In addition, if implemented, the new law will compel NGOs to re-register every five years.

At a recent news briefing in Lusaka, Zambian NGOs expressed concern the proposed bill, if enacted, would affect their independence and stifle their operations.

Jacob Makambwe is the spokesperson for a consortium of 12 NGOs in Zambia, including Transparency International Zambia, Chapter One Foundation, Alliance for Community Action and the Centre for Trade Policy and Development.

"We express our concern that the government has not conducted meaningful and widespread consultation on this matter," said Makambwe. "Having perused the NGO bill of 2024, we find its content largely focuses on control of NGOs. We therefore reject the NGO bill of

2024."

According to the Zambia Statistics Agency, there are more than 1,500 registered NGOs in Zambia. Currently, NGOs are regulated by the registrar of societies under the Ministry of Internal Security.

Some NGOs have accused the Zambian authorities of following the same path as previous governments that sought to impose restrictions on the operations of NGOs since 2009. But President Hakainde Hichilema says his administration is committed to promoting fundamental freedoms.

Lorraine Mwanza, is the chairperson of the Media Institute of Southern Africa, a non-governmental organization that focuses on media freedom. She told VOA she is not happy with the newly proposed law governing NGOs because she believes it infringes on fundamental freedoms. "Why should NGOs be subjected to

this?" she asked. "We are just standing in for the voiceless, we are standing in for the poor."

Guess Nyirenda, a governance expert, urged the government to have wide consultations with NGOs as they are partners in development.

"Among some of the critical roles of NGOs include advocacy and policy influence. This is about amplifying and marginalizing voices by the NGOs," said Nyirenda.

According to media reports, Zambian authorities have made several attempts to enact restrictive laws for NGOs since 2009. NGOs opposed the 2009 law regulating their operations.

Charity Musamba, a development expert and lecturer at the University of Zambia, said there is a need to strengthen regulations to ensure the accountability and financial transparency of NGOs.





Prof Richard Kagalawe (L), Deputy Rector (Academics, Research and Consultancy) with Dar es Salaam's Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, speaks at the academy's convocation in the city yesterday. He is with convocation chairman Gerald Mwamsiku (R) and MNMA Languages and Literature lecturer Dr Ahmad Sovu. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Farmers make proposals to solve land challenges

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SOME farmers in the country have made policy proposals meant to address the land-related challenges faced by small scale farmers across the country.

The recommendations were reached after a two-day National Land Rights Dialogue for Sustainable Production held in Dodoma which brought together farmers from different parts of the country and government officials to discuss the challenges.

They argued that land-related issues continue to be a major challenge, especially for smallholder farmers who depend on the same for crop production, livestock keeping and other

economic activities.

The meeting was organized by Tanzania Federation of Small Farmers Associations (SHIWAKUTA), a member organization of smallholder farmers in the country.

Reading the statement at the end of the meeting, SHIWAKUTA Policy and Advocacy Officer Thomas Laizer said the proposals aim to address the main land-related challenges faced by smallholder farmers and the need for improvement.

He argued that smallholder farmers often lack security of land ownership, making them vulnerable to eviction and land confiscation.

"Without formal title deed or legal recognition, farmers have little incentive to invest in

land improvement or establish sustainable land use practices" he said, calling on the government to ensure they get documents.

On land damage, he noted that unsustainable farming practices, deforestation and arbitrary farming have led to widespread land degradation in many areas, leading to a decline in soil fertility and low agricultural and livestock production.

Degraded land also exacerbates the effects of climate change such as soil erosion, flooding and drought which reduce the size of productive lands and affects smallholder farmers in the country.

Laizer explained that despite their important contribution to agriculture, women often

face significant barriers to land acquisition and ownership.

Participants pointed at traditional practices that prevent women from acquiring and owning land, limiting agricultural production and denying women the opportunity to participate in decision-making and land use.

"The conflicts not only endanger agricultural activities but also threaten peace, social cohesion and social stability", reads their statement.

In recommendations, the association noted that to promote sustainable agricultural production, the government and stakeholders should focus on strengthening land tenure security for smallholder farmers.

## Dar MPs, residents mourn dedicated leader Ndugulile

By Correspondent Restuta James

MEMBERS of Parliament (MPs) from Dar es Salaam Region and area residents have expressed profound sorrow over the passing on of Dr Faustine Ndugulile, the late Kigamboni MP, describing him as a dedicated and compassionate leader who valued collaboration.

A sombre atmosphere enveloped his residence, situated about 200 meters from the Kigamboni ferry. Local residents, CCM leaders, MPs and Kigamboni Municipal Council staff gathered to offer their condolences and comfort the bereaved family.

Special Seats MP Janejelly James (CCM) and other mourners praised the late MP for his unwavering dedication to his constituents and his honest advice.

"Dr Ndugulile was a people's person who always fought for his constituents and gave honest advice. He united Dar es Salaam MPs and was approachable for genuine counsel. He would tell you the truth, even if it wasn't what you wanted to hear. 'You can't do this.' We have truly lost a great leader," James said.

She added that the best way to honour Dr Ndugulile's legacy is to continue standing for truth and justice.

Mbagala MP Abdallah Chaurembo (CCM) also spoke highly of Dr Ndugulile, describing him as a leader who liked collaboration and valued others' input.

"He was results-oriented, focused on ensuring visible

development and progress," Chaurembo remarked.

Other MPs, including Abass Tarimba (Kinondoni MP) and CCM leaders in Dar es Salaam also visited the late MP's home to pay their respects.

Speaking on behalf of the family, his brother, Wilbert Ndugulile, informed reporters that Dr Ndugulile's body will arrive in the country today at 12:35 pm from India, where he had been receiving medical treatment.

According to a schedule provided by the National Assembly, the body will be received by Deputy Speaker, the Clerk of the National Assembly, government representatives, and CCM officials.

The body will then be taken to Lugalo Military Hospital where it will remain until Sunday. It will subsequently be moved to his home in Kigamboni.

A state funeral is planned for Monday at Karimjee Grounds where President Samia Suluhu Hassan will lead mourners. The event will also be attended by international representatives, including officials from the World Health Organization (WHO), MPs and government ministers.

Following the ceremony at Karimjee, the body will return to Dr Ndugulile's home at Kigamboni. On December 3rd, it will be taken to Machava Grounds in Kigamboni for the members of public to pay their last respects.

Dr Faustine Ndugulile, born on March 31, 1969, passed away on Wednesday in India after a reported prolonged illness.

## Southern African countries out to protest UK anti-hunting bill

By Special Correspondent, Gaborone

SIX southern African countries have voiced disappointment with new efforts by the British Labour Party government to introduce a bill that seeks to ban the importation of wildlife trophies from Africa. Representatives from the six nations have requested a meeting with British government officials to discuss the issue.

The Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill was among a list of proposed laws that went for a first reading in the House of Commons in October. The second reading is in January.

The Labour Party came into power this year promising to eliminate hunting in the United Kingdom within five years.

Steve Reed, the secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs, introduced the bill that had collapsed under the Conservative government.

Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe requested an urgent meeting with Reed.

In a letter addressed to him on Monday, the countries' envoys want to know if the government will support the bill.

U.K.-based Adam Hart, professor and conservation scientist at the University of Gloucestershire in England, says the reintroduction of the bill is counterproductive.

"It is disappointing that the government are bringing the bill back. It is going to waste more parliamentary time," said Hart. "If it is passed, it will have no conservation benefits whatsoever as has been shown in recent analysis. No hunted species is threatened by trophy hunting. In fact, trophy hunting is instrumental in protecting the habitat and their species in many cases."

The southern African countries are concerned that a group of animal welfare organizations, some from Africa, support the proposed ban. The nations argue the lobby undermines their position on hunting as the affected countries.

Hart said the meeting between the nations' representatives and

Reed is important.

"It is also disappointing that the government doesn't seem to want to listen to nations that are much more successful than the U.K., and they are not willing to take the advice of those people or even listen to them," said Hart. "So hopefully, they will take this meeting, and they will consider what is going on in the nations that the largely populist agenda is going to affect."

Conservationists opposed to animal hunts argue the killings could drive endangered species to extinction.

Botswana-based conservationist Neil Fitt supports trophy hunting but says it should be done ethically.

"Trophy hunting is a viable contributor to ecosystem management from financial and animal numbers point of view," said Fitt. "It is definitely a tool which is in the toolbox for management and needs to stay there, provided quotas are issued on a scientific basis. Not all have been in the recent past, and that hunting is undertaken ethically."

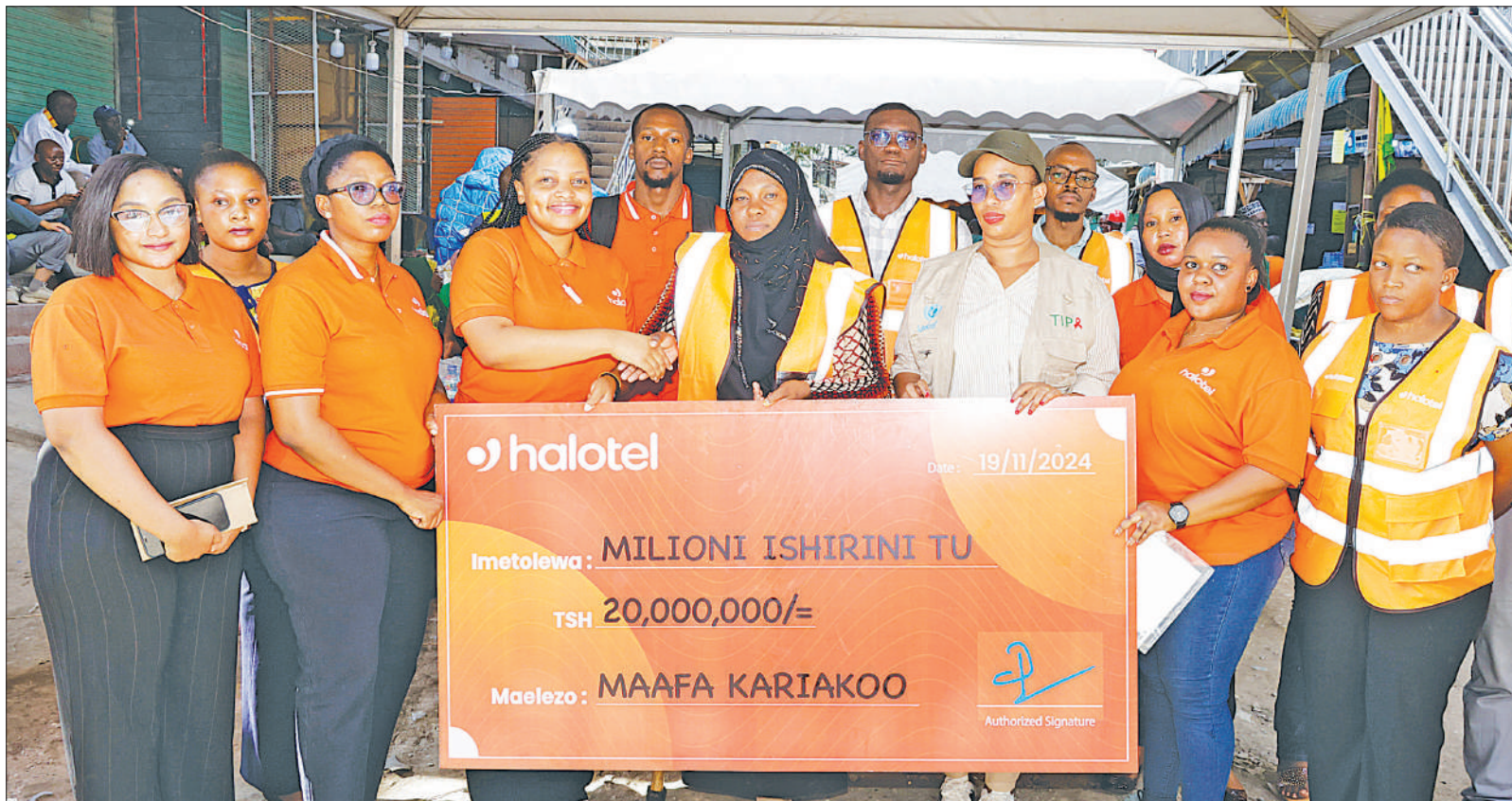
Botswana, with the largest elephant herd in the world at more than 130,000, has been at the forefront of a campaign against trophy hunting from Africa.

Southern Africa is home to some of the world's largest wildlife populations, including more than 230,000 elephants.

Fitt said it is up to the southern African countries to convince the U.K. and the rest of the world that trophy hunting is sustainable.

"Should Britain and/or others stop the importation, to be honest, that is absolutely up to them as a sovereign state," said Fitt. "We as an independent sovereign state do not like to be told what we can do. What we need to do is demonstrate – which I hope the people are trying to do – the viability of it, the ethics and the sustainability for the whole environment of our country and other countries."

With more than 6.4 million hunters, Europe is a major importer of hunting trophies from Africa.



Halotel Tanzania deputy marketing manager Roxana Kadio (3rd-L) pictured with colleagues in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a dummy cheque for 20m/- to Ummu Nderiananga, Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, and Coordination). It was the firm's contribution in connection with the recent tragic collapse of a multi-storey building in the city's sprawling Kariakoo market zone. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Peace monitors want speedy merger of forces in S. Sudan

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's transitional unity government has been urged to accelerate the unification and deployment of armed forces to facilitate registration of opposition parties with armed wings, according to peace monitors.

Charles Tai Gituai, chairperson of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), which oversees the implementation of the peace agreement, highlighted that opposition parties like the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO) and the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) have been unable to register. "The Political Parties Act 2022 prohibits the registration of

political parties with armed wings. Therefore, it is crucial for the agreement's parties to expedite the unification of forces, enabling these parties to register and participate in the upcoming elections," Gituai stated during the ongoing Eighth Governors' Forum in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The forum, an annual event, gathers governors from the country's 10 states to deliberate on governance, security, and economic issues.

As of June 30, 29 political parties had successfully registered with the Political Parties Council, one of South Sudan's electoral bodies. However, Gituai noted that steep registration fees, amounting to \$75,000, have deterred some parties from registering, as the

nation prepares for its first-ever elections, scheduled for December 2026.

Regarding security arrangements, Gituai revealed that only about 7,000 of the 55,000 unified forces who graduated in August 2022 have been deployed.

"The remaining forces have not been deployed, and Phase II of unification and the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) process have yet to begin. Additionally, the Strategic Defense and Security Review Board has not submitted validated policy documents, and the unification of the mid-level command structure remains incomplete," he explained.

Nicholas Haysom, special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and

head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), emphasized the need for urgent actions to demonstrate political will and commitment to implementing the peace agreement.

Haysom identified six immediate priorities, including the deployment of unified forces, initiating Phase II joint training, reaching consensus on the mid-level command structure, launching civic education campaigns, beginning voter registration preparations, and amending the National Security Services Bill to promote broader civic and political freedoms.

The calls for action underscore the urgency of addressing key milestones in South Sudan's peace process to ensure a peaceful and inclusive path toward elections.



## REA set to offer over 13,000 gas cylinders in Njombe to reduce charcoal dependence

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE Rural Energy Agency (REA) is set to distribute over 13,000 affordable gas cylinders across four districts in Njombe Region to reduce reliance on charcoal as the main energy source.

Advera Mwijage, Director of Renewable Energy and Alternative Technology at REA, announced here yesterday that each district would receive 3,255 gas cylinders, sold at half the regular price, with the government covering the remaining cost through subsidies.

Mwijage urged residents to take advantage of the initiative, emphasizing that high gas prices have long been a barrier for low-income households. She also

encouraged investment in rural fuel stations to further improve energy accessibility.

REA is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Energy. Its main role is to promote and facilitate improved access to modern energy services in rural areas of Mainland Tanzania. REA became operational in October 2007.



...take advantage of the initiative, emphasizing that high gas prices have long been a barrier for low-income households

## Over 100 missing, 15 dead after landslide wrecks Uganda - police

KAMPALA

AT least 113 people were still missing and 15 confirmed dead yesterday after a landslide hit eastern Uganda, the police said.

The landslides triggered by heavy rainfall affected multiple villages in the Bulambuli district, about 280 km (178 miles) from the capital Kampala.

A rescue operation was underway after at least 40 houses were swept away, the Ugandan Red Cross Society said on X.

The Ugandan police said that as well as the 15 bodies, another 15 injured people had been rescued and admitted to hospital.

At least six of the bodies recovered were children, the Ugandan Red Cross Society told the BBC.

Heavy rainfall has inundated the East African country for the last few days.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja issued a disaster warning on X.

"People are suspected to be missing and some feared buried by slides," her statement said.

Rivers have burst their banks, flooding schools and churches, destroying bridges, and isolating communities.

The military has been deployed to assist with search and recovery efforts.

On Wednesday, the defence forces said on X that two boats had been deployed during an operation to rescue a taxi stuck on a bridge near the town of Pakwach.

One of the boats capsized and an

engineer died.

In parliament on Thursday, the speaker, Anita Among, expressed her condolences to the relatives of those who have lost their lives in the flooding across the country.

This is not the first time that eastern Uganda has been hit by floods and landslides.

In 2010, a landslide in Bududa killed about 300 people. This was one of the most devastating natural disasters in the country.

The region is mountainous with arable land which is good for farming - one of the reasons people are reluctant to move away, alongside their attachment to their ancestral land.

But this year alone, the heavy rainfall, flooding, and landslides have forced thousands of people to leave their homes, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



The landslides triggered by heavy rainfall affected multiple villages in the Bulambuli district, about 280 km (178 miles) from the capital Kampala

## South African Tourism launches unique pinhole camera initiative

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African Tourism has partnered with Ogilvy to create the 'Live South Africa' campaign, featuring a custom-made pinhole camera constructed entirely from local materials.

The 'South Afrikan' uses Cape Beech wood, scrap metal for the lens, and cork leather strapping, decorated with traditional designs by visual artist Samuraj Farai.

Three local photographers - Andile Phewa, Andile Buka, and Tsele Nthane - used the camera to capture authentic portraits showcasing South African life, from Bo-Kaap's culinary scene to Soweto's culture and the Madikwe wilderness. The images will be exhibited at Amsterdam's Restaurant Braai in December.

The initiative, targeting tourists from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Sweden, aims to present South Africa through local perspectives. "We're showcasing the country's soul through the eyes of its people, capturing the nation's authentic beauty with a unique artistic tool," said Tolga Büyükdoganay, Ogilvy's

chief creative officer.

The campaign plans to expand by involving more local photographers to provide diverse perspectives of South African life and culture.

South Africa has many tourist destinations, including national parks, cities, and other attractions such as Kruger National Park, Cape Town, Blyde River Canyon, Drakensberg, Robben Island, Johannesburg, Stellenbosch, Sabi Sand Game Reserve, and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.



We're showcasing the country's soul through the eyes of its people, capturing the nation's authentic beauty with a unique artistic tool



Children and youths undergoing vocational training the tutelage of Kipunguni Community Voice Centre learn how to bake coconut cakes and bread at the CSO's premises in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday. Also taught are ways to combat sexual and other forms of abuse, environmental conservation and life skills. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Police arrest four over theft of 600 bags of subsidized fertiliser worth over 80m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

POLICE in Tabora Region have arrested four individuals suspected of stealing 600 bags of subsidized fertilizer intended for tobacco planting season in Sikonge District.

The consignment valued at 88.98m/- was stolen on 24th last month around 4:00 pm, according to Tabora Regional Police Commander Richard Abwao.

The theft was discovered by the manager of Mkwawa Leaf Tobacco

Company who found that 600 bags, equivalent to 30 tonnes, were missing.

Abwao alleged that a truck involved was a FAW model with registration number T.703EDD with a trailer bearing registration number T.647EDK.

The fertilizer was reportedly sold to a businessman in Katavi Region who deals in agricultural input.

The arrested suspects are Paulo James Milia (49), Athumani Kilatu, Eneza Nyika Eneza (37), and truck

driver Tito Haule (48).

Police were able to apprehend the suspects and recover the stolen fertilizer after thorough investigations. The businessman who purchased the fertilizer remains at large.

Abwao confirmed that the suspects would face court charges once the investigation is complete.

Tabora Regional Commissioner Paulo Chacha said that the government in collaboration with law enforcement and concerned citizens would take strong

measures against actions that undermine the agriculture sector, including fertilizer theft.

Chacha explained that the driver who was transporting the fertilizer from Songwe Region to Sikonge District, offloaded it in Katavi Region in collaboration with accomplices and sold it to the businessman before abandoning the truck in Sikonge.

Chacha also announced a reward of 3m/- for detectives who successfully prevent illegal fertilizer sales.



DANGER LOOMS: Garbage lies abandoned just next to Dar es Salaam's much-frequented Mbezi Mwisho bus terminal, seriously inconveniencing the public. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkalama

THE Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Singida Region is set to spend 30bn/- for renovation and construction of roads and bridges in the 2024/25 financial year.

Singida Regional TARURA Manager Ibrahim Kibasa unveiled this here yesterday when speaking to reporters, saying that out of the budget, 22bn/- will be directed towards completing various road projects while 8bn/- will be used to address road damage caused by rainfall.

He said that resolving transport challenges in rural areas, especially

## Roads construction, repairs in Singida to gobble up 30bn/- this financial year

in getting crops to towns and markets would significantly improve farmers' income by eliminating the costs associated with selling produce at low prices, thereby increasing the value of their crops.

Kibasa highlighted several completed projects in Mkalama District, including a 700-metre asphalt road leading to the District Commissioner's office and another road leading to the DC's residence.

A total of 224m/- has been spent in the special maintenance of the Iguguno-Lyelembo-Msingi road, a 4.3-kilometre stretch and construction of two stone bridges.

TARURA Manager for Mkalama District Rahabu Thomasi said the project implemented at Kidi and Yulansoni villages within Msingi Ward, commenced on September 20 last year and was completed on March 18 this year.

Thomasi explained that the project, carried out by contractor

M/S Timajo Engineering Company Limited, was funded by the central government through levy funds for the 2023/24 fiscal year at a total cost of 224,122,220/-.

She revealed that the region had been allocated a budget of 24.5bn/- for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

The budget was divided into five categories: 5.5bn/- for routine maintenance, 600m/- for new projects, 4bn/- for constituency, 12bn/- for fuel and 1.8bn/- for clearing road obstacles.



## Pleas for collaboration to ensure better environment for special needs learners

By Guardian Correspondent, Chamwino

CHAMWINO district commissioner Janeth Mayanja has called on stakeholders to support the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment where children with special needs can access education without barriers.

Speaking yesterday during the handover of construction materials for a kitchen at Buigiri Primary School for special needs pupils provided by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Mayanja emphasized the importance of collaboration with education stakeholders.

The donation, valued at 3.9m/-, included 700 bricks, 27 bags of cement, 25 roofing sheets, 24 timber planks, nails, paint, and 500,000/- for labour costs.

Chief Government Statistician Dr Albina Chuwa underscored

the importance of statistics in planning development initiatives and expressed pride in contributing to the improvement of learning environment for special-needs children.

One of Buigiri Primary School pupils Yohana John expressed gratitude for the support, noting that the new kitchen would improve food preparation conditions for both pupils and teachers.



**The donation, valued at 3.9m/-, included 700 bricks, 27 bags of cement, 25 roofing sheets, 24 timber planks, nails, paint, and 500,000/- for labour costs**



Kinondoni District's opposition TLP chairman, Bakari Makame, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, expressing gratitude over the conduct of Wednesday's local government elections. He is with Communist Party representative Emmy Mwakisole (R) and Makini Party official Issa Msakula. Photo: Correspondent Iman Nathaniel

## Regard for human rights key in ending AIDS - UN

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

Director of UNAIDS said.

AHEAD of the World AIDS Day, UNAIDS has launched a report calling on leaders to tackle human rights as a key part of their strategy to ending the public health issue.

Officials notably pointed to laws or social norms which result in blocking people from accessing life-saving treatment.

"When girls are denied education; when there is impunity for gender-based violence; when people can be arrested for who they are, or who they love; when a visit to health services is dangerous for people because of the community they are from—the result is that people are blocked from being able to access HIV services that are essential to save their lives and to end the AIDS pandemic. To protect everyone's health, we need to protect everyone's rights," reads the report.

Fewer people contracted HIV last year than at any point since the emergence of the disease in the late 1980s, a report has revealed.

"Progress has been driven by biomedical advances, and advances in the protection of human rights and by community activism but big gaps remain in the protection of human rights and these gaps are keeping the world from getting on the path that ends AIDS," Christine Stegling, the deputy executive

Director of UNAIDS said. However, the number of new HIV infections is on the rise in at least 28 countries.

The Head of HIV Services welcomed the result of studies on Lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injection tried on young women in South Africa and Uganda.

Long-acting medicines that only need to be injected a few times a year could tip the scales but only if a human rights approach is taken to share the technology to bring down prices and enable production in every part of the world.

Of the 39.9 million people living with HIV, 9.3 million people are still not accessing life-saving treatment. Last year, 630 000 people died of AIDS-related illnesses, and 1.3 million people around the world newly acquired HIV.

The UNAIDS new report titled 'Take The Rights Path' brings together the latest research, case studies, and recommendations for getting the world on track. It includes guest essays by Elton John, by Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba, by Irish President Michael D. Higgins, by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, and by former President of the International AIDS Society Adeebe Kamarulzaman amongst others. It provides a clear roadmap: Take the rights path to end AIDS.

## Tobacco farmers demand over 50m/- 'crop insurance' refund from lender

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

TOBACCO farmers under Uyogo Primary Cooperative Society in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region, have demanded a refund of 51.7m/- deducted from their accounts by NBC Bank without prior notice over two consecutive farming seasons.

Speaking here yesterday, the farmers threatened to cut their ties with the bank if the amount was not returned within the current farming season.

Maganga Masanja, Chairman of Uyogo Primary Cooperative Society made the request during the cooperative's 31st Annual

General Meeting which was attended by 159 of its 179 members.

The meeting addressed several issues, including distribution of subsidized agricultural input, income and expenditure as well as the status of tobacco and cotton production.

Masanja said that upon inquiry, they were told the deductions were for crop insurance, a service they neither requested nor needed.

He called on NBC Kahama Branch Manager Simon Mtwale to ensure that the full amount is refunded, threatening that failure to do so would force the farmers to discontinue their relationship with the bank.

In response, Mtwale acknowledged the deductions, explaining that they were intended for crop insurance, a service meant to protect against potential losses during storage or at the market.

He requested that the cooperative society's board submits a formal request for a refund and cancellation of the crop insurance service which he would forward to the bank's headquarters for further action.

He assured the farmers that the matter would be resolved urgently and that their funds would be returned.

According to Masanja, during

the 2023/24 farming season, \$8,024 (21.26m/-) was deducted and in the 2024/25 season, \$11,346 (30.26m/-) was withdrawn.

He stressed that the funds could have been used for farming preparations to reduce farmers' dependence on loans from financial institutions.

Fadhili Mwalili, Ushetu District Cooperative Officer, urged financial institutions working with tobacco and cotton farmers to respect their clients' wishes, noting that crop insurance is not mandatory.

He advised the bank to refund the money to prevent unnecessary disputes with farmers.



Singida municipal director Joanfaith Kataria has a word with new elected local government chairpersons and members yesterday shortly before they were sworn in. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African authorities warned the public and travellers of rabies in dogs, Cape fur seals and wildlife in the country as the traditional Thanksgiving holiday season approached.

The alert was issued on Tuesday by three government departments, including the Department of Health, and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of South Africa.

Every year on the fourth Thursday of November, people celebrate Thanksgiving Day. This year, it fell on November 28 (yesterday).

"Collectively, the departments wish to alert members of the public about high-risk rabies areas in South Africa where the disease occurs in dogs, Cape fur seals and

## South Africa warns travellers of rabies risks before Thanksgiving

other animals," reads the notice.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that affects all mammals and can spread from animals to humans. According to the NICD, the virus is transmitted in the saliva of infected animals through bites, scratches, and licks. It affects the brain and is fatal once a person or animal shows clinical signs, but it can be prevented through the vaccination of animals and immediate medical attention in people exposed to an infected animal.

Multiple reports of attacks on humans by aggressive Cape fur

seals, also known as South African seals or brown fur seals, have been reported over the last few months along the Cape coastline in South Africa, said the notice. The Cape coastline refers to the coastlines of several regions in South Africa, including the Eastern Cape, the Western Cape, and Cape Town.

"This is the first incidence of rabies being maintained in a marine mammal population. The public is urged to take note of this new risk of rabies in Cape fur seals and keep a respectful distance from these animals," it said.

Meanwhile, according to the notice, there have been human deaths attributed to rabies from dogs in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Limpopo and North West provinces of South Africa this year.

"The public is urged to stay away from stray animals and not to touch animals they don't know," said the notice. "If a person suspects that an animal has rabies, this should be reported to the local state veterinary office, local welfare authority, wildlife rescue centre, Protected Areas Management Authority, or the police."



## Uongozi Institute gets new board, challenged to thrive

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has challenged the Uongozi Institute to mobilise financial and other resources to enable it to position itself as a forward-thinking organization capable of fulfilling its mandate.

George Simbachawene, Minister of State in the President's Office for Public Service Management and Good Governance, outlined the directives yesterday in Dar es Salaam during inauguration of the institute's 5th board of directors.

Simbachawene stressed the importance of maintaining a steadfast commitment to developing high-quality leaders. He also underscored the need for effective communication of the institute's outcomes and impact to ensure its sustainable growth within Tanzania and across Africa.

The newly appointed board of directors is chaired by Ambassador Ombeni Sefue and includes members such as Ambassador Theresa Zitting (Ambassador of Finland to Tanzania), Dr Laura Torvinen (former Finnish Ambassador to Tanzania) and Dr Brian Cawley (former Director General of the Institute of Public Administration). Other members are Ambassador Maj Gen (rtd.) Gaudence Millanzi, Begum Taj (former Tanzanian Ambassador), Prof. Samwel Wangwe, (retired professor of the University of Dar es Salaam) and Dr Hamis Mwinjyivua (senior lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam).

Simbachawene highlighted the institute's reputation as a leading regional entity dedicated

to strengthening African leaders' capacities to achieve sustainable development. He emphasized that such an institution requires a board with international recognition and expertise.

"All board appointments must be based on personal merit and relevant experience to support the institute's objectives," said Simbachawene.

"The government has entrusted you with the critical task of developing African leaders to drive the continent's growth. Accept this appointment with honour and humility."

Sefue reaffirmed the institute's capability to cultivate leaders across Africa, enabling them to address critical socioeconomic challenges. He noted the institute's role in supporting significant initiatives like the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and leadership development along the value chain.

"The institute remains committed to enhancing the capacity of ministers, private sector leaders, as well as regional and district commissioners," he said. "Our goal is to strengthen leadership at both national and regional levels."

Uongozi Institute CEO Kadari Singo highlighted notable achievements, including the launch of a women's leadership programme. He assured stakeholders of the institute's financial stability, citing contributions from diverse sources that support its initiatives.

Singo praised the dedication of the institute's leadership and staff who have been instrumental in driving its success and extending its impact.

## Interpol arrests over 1,000 cybercrime suspects across Africa in two months

By Special Correspondent

INTERPOL has arrested 1,006 suspects in Africa during a two-month cybercrime crackdown that left tens of thousands of victims, including human trafficking cases, and caused millions of dollars in financial losses, the global police organization has announced.

The operation, dubbed Operation Serengeti, was conducted in collaboration with Afripol, the African Union's police agency, and took place from September 2 to October 31 across 19 African countries. The operation targeted criminals involved in ransomware, business email compromise schemes, digital extortion, and online fraud, Interpol stated in a press release yesterday.

"From pyramid schemes to large-scale credit card fraud, the growing volume and sophistication of cyberattacks are deeply concerning," said Interpol Secretary General Valdecy Urquiza.

Interpol identified 35,000 victims worldwide and reported losses of nearly \$193 million. Local law enforcement agencies and private sector partners, including internet service providers, played a pivotal role in the operation.

"With Serengeti, Afripol has significantly strengthened its support for law enforcement in African Union member states," said Jalel Chelba, Afripol's Executive Director, in the statement.

In Kenya, police made nearly two dozen arrests related to an online credit card fraud scheme linked to losses of \$8.6 million. In Senegal, eight people, including five Chinese nationals, were arrested for an online Ponzi scheme worth \$6 million.

Chelba noted that Afripol now

focuses on emerging threats such as AI-powered malware and advanced cyberattacks techniques.

Other dismantled networks include a Cameroonian group suspected of using a pyramid scheme for human trafficking, an international criminal group in Angola running an illegal virtual casino, and a cryptocurrency investment scam in Nigeria, Interpol revealed.

Interpol, which has 196 member countries and celebrated its centenary last year, assists national police forces in combating terrorism, financial crimes, child exploitation, cybercrime, and organized crime by facilitating communication and tracking suspects.

Despite being the world's largest police organization, Interpol faces challenges such as increasing cybercrime cases, rising child abuse incidents, and growing divisions among member countries.

Last year, Interpol had a total budget of approximately €176 million (\$188 million), compared to over €200 million for Europol, the European Union's police agency, and around \$11 billion for the FBI in the United States.



**From pyramid schemes to large-scale credit card fraud, the growing volume and sophistication of cyberattacks are deeply concerning**

## Innovators develop hailing platform, savings scheme for bodaboda riders

By Guardian Reporter

INNOVATORS have developed a system that allows motorcycle taxi (bodaboda) riders to connect with passengers and save money to support them in future.

The innovation has been developed under incubation initiative of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

Justin Kashegera, one of the

innovators, unveiled this in Dar es Salaam recently, saying transportation sector has employed a significant number of youth in the country and the new system will help riders increase their daily earnings from an average of 10,000/- to 50,000/-.

He explained that the system would help riders connect with passengers and various stakeholders in need of transport services which will increase their



Dr Aisha Mahita (C), Medical Tourism Coordinator with the Health ministry, makes remarks at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday when seeing off 20 medical specialists from various hospitals in the country shortly before they left for the Comoros to provide specialised medical services there. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWENTY specialist doctors from Tanzania's largest hospitals have travelled to the Union of the Comoros for a week-long medical camp aimed at offering advanced treatments, including heart surgeries, cancer care and brain surgeries.

The team comprises experts from Dar es Salaam-based Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) and Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma.

Speaking at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) yesterday before the doctors departed, Dr Aisha Mahita, Medical Tourism Coordinator in the Ministry of Health, highlighted the mission's objectives.

"Tanzania receives many patients from Comoros. This medical camp will help us better understand the common diseases they face and

## Specialist medics leave for Comoros, to serve at one-week medical camp

develop strategies to address them. We also promote medical tourism. Our government has heavily invested in the health sector and the world needs to know that Tanzania excels in this field. After Comoros, we plan to extend the efforts to other countries," she said.

Vice Chairman of the National Medical Tourism Committee Abdulmalik Mollel emphasized the trip's dual purpose: to enhance skills of Comorian doctors and explore investment opportunities in the health sector.

"This mission allows us to collaborate with stakeholders in Comoros, identify opportunities and engage with authorities on how to leverage them effectively. I am proud to represent Chairman of the National Medical Tourism Committee, Prof. Mohamed Janabi

to witness our top doctors taking part in this initiative," he said.

He expressed gratitude to the hospital directors who facilitated the release of specialist doctors for the mission, naming JKCI Executive Director, Dr Peter Kisenge, as the trip's main organiser.

"Dr Kisenge played a pivotal role in coordinating with his fellow hospital directors to ensure we had the right specialists for this mission. The Medical Tourism Committee is deeply grateful for his contributions," he added.

Mollel also acknowledged Tanzanian Embassy in Comoros for its support in ensuring the trip's success.

Dr Salehe Hamis, a cardiologist with JKCI, shared the range of treatments the team will offer, including cancer screenings,

bone treatments, brain and nerve surgeries and cardiac care.

"JKCI has a tradition of providing specialist services across Tanzania; due to significant investment in expertise and modern equipment, we decided to extend the services to neighbouring countries. This time, we have a multidisciplinary team from various hospitals," he said.

Zarina Ali, a brain and nerve surgeon at MOI, emphasized the importance of capacity-building during the mission.

"Our goal is to empower local doctors in Comoros to handle common brain and nerve conditions. For complex cases, we aim to establish a referral to MOI. This initiative is also a way to promote Tanzania's medical tourism," she said.



Eliakim Paulo, a lawyer with the Civil Social Protection Foundation, makes remarks at a community campaign against gender-based violence held in Babati Town on Wednesday in commemorating this year's edition (Nov 25 to Dec 10) of '6 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence'. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

bodaboda have joined the system, which currently operates in Dar es Salaam and Mbeya regions. We are set to expand to over 20 cities and towns and we expect this system to be used by more than two million youth."

He also expressed gratitude to COSTECH for providing a good environment for developing the innovation which he hopes will address challenges facing the riders and the nation at large.

"To date, more than 5,000

Erasto Mlyuka, COSTECH Incubation Manager, said the commission supports such innovators and helps them reach a stage where they can be trusted and supported by various stakeholders.

He mentioned that, so far, COSTECH has facilitated the incubation of 45 companies, nine of which are currently active, creating various job opportunities.

"We support growth of innovative

businesses from the idea stage to becoming companies that can operate. During incubation, they require equipment and infrastructure to help them offer competitive products for which we currently use university facilities."

"Other support comes from the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO). Of the 45 companies, 10 operate both nationally and internationally," he said.





Zanzibar Commissioner of Police Hamad Khamis Hamad (L) has an audience with Zanzibar Chief Sheikh Saleh Omar Kabi in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Make voting environment friendly to people with special needs, INEC told

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

PEOPLE with disabilities (PwDs) have called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to create inclusive voting environments for individuals with special needs to address challenges faced during recent local government polls in future elections.

The appeal was made by Meka

By Special Correspondent,

Nairobi

THE ninth annual meeting of the Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) has opened in Nairobi to accelerate industrialization and foreign direct investment (FDI) into the continent.

The three-day meeting is held under the theme 'Building Inclusive and Sustainable Economies: The Role of African Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Attracting Impactful Investments & Redefining Competitiveness' with more than 300 participants, including policymakers, operators, representatives of financial institutions, and United Nations officials, to address the challenges faced by SEZs.

Juma Mukhwana, principal secretary for the State Department of Industry in Kenya's Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, said that SEZs are the tool to help Africa expand its industrial base because they are key drivers of manufacturing, job creation and sustainable growth.

"Kenya has recorded economic gains since the establishment of SEZs in 2015 with more than 10 licensed zones spread across the country," he said.

According to him, the zones have attracted more than 100 billion Kenyan shillings (about \$772 million) in both local and foreign investments as well as created 7,000 jobs in the

Maingi, Secretary of the Federation of Disability Organizations in Tarime Town Council following civic elections held on Wednesday.

Maingi emphasized the need for improved voting infrastructure, including accessible polling stations, to accommodate PwDs rather than relying on unfriendly facilities meant for able-bodied people.

Maingi highlighted issues such as inadequate infrastructure, lack of

proper guidance for persons with disabilities and delays in opening polling stations which prevented some individuals from exercising their constitutional right to vote. Additionally, the placement of voter lists in inaccessible areas forced many voters to leave without casting their ballots.

In Shinyanga, Rehema Joshua, Chairperson of the Federation of Disabled Persons (SHIVYAWATA),

shared that they ensured all persons with disabilities in their area were able to vote at polling stations.

Despite the challenges posed by infrastructure, priority was given to the elderly and persons with disabilities. She encouraged individuals with disabilities to actively participate in future elections, both as voters and candidates, to ensure better representation.

## Conference on African SEZs' role in industrialisation kicks off in Nairobi

manufacturing sector.

Ahmed Bennis, secretary general of AEZO, said that there are currently more than 220 economic zones in Africa comprising free ports, export processing zones and industrial parks across the continent.

Noting that Africa can become an attractive destination for FDI through the harmonization of SEZ regulations and tax incentives, Bennis added the zones can become manufacturing hubs that can benefit from trade liberalization as a result of the African Continental Free

Trade Area.

Olufemi Ogunyemi, managing director of Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority, said that SEZs can help Africa achieve economic transformation through diversification of the industrial base and a shift from export of raw materials to value-added products.

Charles Itembe, director general of Tanzania's Export Processing Zones Authority, said that SEZs hold a lot of promise for Africa because they offer facilities that can help the continent improve its industrial competitiveness.

## African executives call for innovative health financing to address growing disease burden

By Special Correspondent

SUB-SAHARAN African countries should explore innovative health financing models to enhance their response to the growing disease burden on the continent, African executives have suggested at a virtual forum.

The forum, convened by Africa Health Business, a Pan-African healthcare consultancy, and Novartis, a Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company, was held under the theme 'Health as an investment: Sustainable resourcing for comprehensive, outcome-based delivery of quality healthcare services'.

Senior policymakers, industry executives, investors, researchers and campaigners attending the event agreed that addressing the financing gap is crucial to improving health outcomes across Africa.

Amit Thakker, executive chairman of Africa Health Business, based in Nairobi, said that adequate financing for the health sector will lead to improved life expectancy, economic growth, and social cohesion across the continent.

Thakker observed that every U.S. dollar invested in health could generate an additional 35 dollars for African economies while expanding access to essential services such as childhood immunization, safe motherhood, and early diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases.

"Investing in health will create wealth for African nations. Their gross domestic product will expand because of increased lifespan and productivity of the workforce," Thakker said.

Micheal Njapau, director-general of the National Health Insurance Management Authority of Zambia, observed that with declining external funding for Africa's healthcare systems, governments should leverage domestic resources and enhance the accountability and governance of state-run health insurance schemes.

According to Njapau, fiscal and regulatory incentives are key to encouraging the adoption of public medical insurance schemes among low-income populations, who have been most affected by infectious diseases.

He called for stronger public-private partnerships to address the underfunding of Africa's health sector, which is grappling with shrinking fiscal space, recurrent outbreaks, conflicts, geopolitical uncertainties, and the effects of climate change.

Angela Gichaga, chief executive officer

of Financing Alliance for Health, a Nairobi-based health financing lobby, said that policy harmonization, political goodwill, and fiscal reforms are essential to stimulate investment in Africa's health sector.

Gichaga urged governments and industry to invest in the social determinants of health, including education, clean drinking water, sanitation, and nutrition, which contribute to sustained economic growth, peace, and stability.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

ANJANI YA SIMU USAMAJI DISTRICT IMMIGRATION OFFICE  
TELEFAX: +255 22 269595 P.O. BOX 3316, DAR ES SALAAM.  
TELEFAX: +255 22 269594 KIBAHORI, DAR ES SALAAM.  
SIMU: +255 210703 REF: C.68/020/V/138 28.11.2024

REF: APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP

Notice is hereby given that CHENEZO MUPUKUTA Whose photograph is attached above has been in the country since 2015 is applying for Tanzanian Citizenship to the Minister of Home Affairs. Her Nationality at present is ZIMBABWE and her working address is P.O. Box 8802 Dar es Salaam. Apart from Dar es Salaam she has never resided in any other Region in Tanzania.

By this notice, anyone who has any reason as to why Citizenship should not be granted to the applicant may send a written and signed statement of facts to the Commissioner of Immigration Services through Immigration Headquarters, 4 Mwanuzi Road, P.O. Box 1181 DODOMA.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
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## JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA WIZARA YA FEDHA



### MWALIKO WA KUSHIRIKI MKUTANO WA PILI WA JUMUIYA YA WAHASIBU WAKUU WA SERIKALI AFRIKA-AAAG

Tanzania inatarajia kuwa mwenyeji wa Mkutano Mkuu wa Wahasibu wa Serikali wa Afrika mwaka 2024 (AAAG) utakaofanyika jijini Arusha kuanzia tarehe 2 hadi 5 Desemba, 2024.

Mkutano wa pili wa Jumuiya ya Wahasibu Wakuu wa Serikali Afrika utakuwa na mada mtambuka ambazo zitaisaidia watumishi wa kada mbalimbali kuwaongezea ujuzi na Maarifa.

Pia Mkutano huu utasaidia Viongozi na Watumishi wa Tanzania kupata nafasi ya kubadilishana uzoefu na kupeana fursa na Viongozi na Watumishi toka nchi nyingine za Afrika, Benki ya Dunia na IMF. Mgeni rasmi anatarajwa kuwa Mheshimiwa Dkt. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania.

Ada ya ushiriki wa mkutano ni **Shilingi za Kitanzania 1,300,000/=** kwa kila mshiriki. Hivyo, Mamlaka husika zinaombwa kuwaruhusu na kuwalipia Wahasibu, Wakaguzi wa Ndani, Maafisa Usimamizi wa Fedha, Maafisa TEHAMA na watumishi wa kada nyingine kuhudhuria mkutano huu.

Washiriki wote wanatakiwa kuanza kijiisajili kupitia lango (portal) lifuatalo: <https://conference.aaag.org.zm> kuanzia sasa hadi tarehe 01 Disemba, 2024 na ada ya ushiriki iliipwe kupitia **akaunti namba 9924915301 yenye jina African Association of Accountants General (AAAG)**.

Aidha, kwa Taasisi za Umma, Kampuni mbalimbali na watu binafsi wanaotaka kudhamini Mkutano huu kwa lengo la kujitangaza kibiashara na kufanikisha Mkutano huu; Wizara ya Fedha inawakaribisha.

Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga Namba ya simu +255 713 525 592 barua pepe, veronica.kishala@hazina.go.tz na evans.sayile@hazina.go.tz Sanduku la Posta ni Katibu Mkuu, Wizara ya Fedha S.L.P 2802, Dodoma.

Pia kama muombaji amesahau namba ya simu, barua pepe na Sanduku la Posta anaweza kupata mawasiliano kupitia wakuu wa Hazina Ndogo waliopo kila mkoa Tanzania bara na Ofisi ya Mhasibu Mkuu wa Serikali Zanzibar.

**Kwa Nakala Ngumu tafadhali wasilisha kwa anuani ifuatayo:**

**Sekretariati ya Kamati ya Maandalizi Mkutano wa AAAG, Wizara ya Fedha Idara ya Mhasibu Mkuu wa Serikali Jengo la Hazina (Ghorofa ya Pili), 18 Barabara ya Jakaya Kikwete, S.L.P 2802, DODOMA.**

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:

**KATIBU MKUU - HAZINA Novemba, 2024**

**CCBRT**  
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION IN TANZANIA

### Tender Notice:

**Introduction**  
Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) is a locally registered non-governmental organization established in 1994. Since its establishment, CCBRT has grown to become the largest rehabilitation and disability service provider in Tanzania through its ophthalmology, orthopedic and rehabilitation, plastic and reconstructive surgery, and maternal and new-born health services.

**Details**  
CCBRT invites qualified and competent companies to submit a quotation for supplying and installation of Facility Management Tools and Bio Medical Tools under LOT 11 & 12

CCBRT reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant and is not bound to accept the lowest offer. Prospective bidders are hereby notified that canvassing of any kind will lead to automatic disqualification.

CCBRT may plan to visit supplier's premises to verify the information contained in the bid documents and obtain assurance from the vendors. The bidders are required to pay a non-refundable bidding fee of TZS 50,000/=. Payment should be deposited to CRDB Bank:

- Account number 0150516115911,
- Account name CCBRT

The bidding document is available from 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 from 8am to 3pm at the CEO Secretary's office, situated at Off Kimweri Road, Msasani, Dar es Salaam. Mobile 0752442595 / 0784552524

**How to submit bids**  
Bids should be submitted on **13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 before 2:00 pm**

In person and inside a sealed envelope, at CCBRT Hospital premises, Off Kimweri Road, Msasani, Dar es Salaam

**Chief Executive Officer, CCBRT P.O.Box 23310 Msasani, Dar es Salaam**

**IMPORTANT: BIDS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, REGARDLESS OF THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY.**

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182681



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## Accepting poll results advisable, as ears, eyes on next year's vote

JUST after casting her vote on Wednesday, President Samia Suluhu Hassan appealed to people to accept the outcome of the civic elections as held across mainland Tanzania.

That was likely to be the case for the most part, but a litany of incidents of violence on candidates, obliterated voter names and missing names of candidates cast a shadow on the much-touted and highly involving process.

There were sporadic cases of poll organisers falling short of correcting a series of anomalies, which could suggest or actually touch off some form of 'recurrence' with the stakes much higher in the General Election slated for late next year.

There was plenty of civic diligence as the top serving and retired leaders became community role models in lining up and vesting votes, with participation generally seen as encouragingly high and the voting peaceful on the whole.

Still, there were sporadic indications of the situation turning far from as peaceful as 'sermons' during the countdown to polling day has pleaded for.

As expected, the situation as kept being beamed by international media outlets had extensive focus on these intermittent 'ugly' incidents rather than on what went well.

There have been complaints of poll organisers this time around having fallen short of ensuring that they do away with hurdles to particular sections of voters or candidates for the civic polls.

Accordingly, even bigger worries are being expressed just about a year to the obviously much more demanding next parliamentary and presidential elections.

Understandably, the populace wish to see every effort being genuinely made to ensure that the coming elections prove that Tanzania and Tanzanians say what they mean and mean what they say in talking of the need to place a premium on democracy and democratisation.

We keep seeing cracks emerging in the social fabric on the basis of the virtual routine of the exercise

of violence in the form of either turf wars involving 'rival' political parties or the settling of scores within the same party.

None of this can be clarified as there is no intention of 'naming and shaming' those behind particular acts of violence. One reason may be that we don't have sufficient political pluralism or social cohesion to fully stomach the work an independent prosecutor would do.

There is thus still work to do among civic organisations towards sensitising the public on the conditions under it would be possible to have sustainable peaceful political activities, peaceful electoral campaigns and results that hardly anyone would find cause to contest.

We need to see under what conditions no political force, especially by those holding office, will seek to disenfranchise anyone.

To put it a bit differently, we need to see under what conditions those seeking to disenfranchise a section of the voters and more significantly some candidates won't have the 'critical mass' needed to dictate policy.

Before arriving at any such answer - and one can make a bold guess that answer would be along the lines of having a new national Constitution in place - it is also vital to figure out under what conditions all truly well-meaning voices will be allowed room to be heard even if they are what one would term independent.

Our people need to trust voices preaching peace and harmony in serving our country and nation while going on to genuinely walk that talk.

They need to trust those truly believing that political and positions in the service of the public are not tickets to any particular form of reward or thanksgiving in the wake of elections.

Come the day when our political and all other endeavours or engagements cease being occasions for us to do fight to ensure that our sweat and toil translate into a life of unqualified happiness, comfort and joy and we shall have added much-needed value to those pursuits.

## Three-year Norway-SAGCOT deal to revamp agriculture could go quite far

POLICY implementation in Tanzania's agriculture stands to take a turn for the better what with the government having landed a three-year deal with Norway described as meant to drive transformation in the crucial sector.

It appears that the Norwegians will work directly with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) on extensive plans not just for Tanzania's southern regions, as its logistical implications touch much wider areas.

In this, Norway has highlighted the significance of the long-standing partnership and cooperation between the two countries.

There is a new input, though, in that the pact is consonant with Norway's priorities in climate action, food security and sustainable agriculture.

SAGCOT has been particularly emphatic on the transformative aspect, taking the view that the agreement is a vital input towards driving agricultural transformation.

The funding is in part meant to enable SAGCOT to strengthen initiatives focused on innovation, sustainability and economic growth, with the Tanzanian agency operating as a limited liability company and thus able to work with the private sector.

To its credit, SAGCOT has made progress by graduating from a corridor-focused initiative to engaging in more widely encompassing sustainable agricultural practices in line with its

2030 Vision.

There are admittedly still unresolved issues in relation to the proper transformative vision not just with SAGCOT but also in the manner that vision is shared by other parties.

Visits to Iringa and Morogoro regions make one notice tangible impacts arising from SAGCOT's work, with reading about achievements in reports one thing and actually seeing real transformation in the field and meeting farmers and communities entirely different. The vision is made clear - in the wish to share successful practices

SAGCOT meanwhile sees its 2025-2027 strategic plan tailored to ensuring measurable impact. It may a bit too early in the day, but it is helpful that a third party to our own development planning and evaluation affirms that there are visible impacts on the ground.

The wider effort appears to target changing agro-sector practices for a large part of the population, while the redesigning of the project to an operating company eases its work and may improve the financing.

The issue is how far farming practices will likely change without substantial alteration in land ownership mechanisms.

This is plausible as capital slowly seeps into agriculture by attracting scores of investment firms as in horticulture.

It is even more visibly attracting retirees and youth as well as migrants from what is now becoming an extension of the Tanzanian Diaspora. There is reason to hope for the best.



## I care what people think. And you should too.

By Sochima M.

IN a society that regards indifference to other people's opinions as the pinnacle of self-assuredness, we are now confronting the limitations of individualism as a path to self-actualisation.

As social beings, we know that you can "protect your peace" into utter isolation. And at a time when the global loneliness crisis has reached fever pitch, we're forced to interrogate what brings people together in the nurturing, engaging communities our survival depends on.

One belief that has unwittingly undermined the pillars of community is the idea that any form of judgment comes at the expense of individual happiness and freedom. This belief leads many of us to the foregone conclusion that it's better to simply "mind our business".

But this conclusion overlooks the fact that community, by definition, requires involvement in other people's lives. It's dangerous to live in a society that believes as long as you're individually content, no one else has the right to critique you.

Can you truly say you trust someone if you wouldn't trust him or her to fairly discipline your children? And, moreover, is your connection resilient enough to overcome a deeply personal disagreement?

Community means different things to different people. However, for the purposes of this conversation, I would define community as a group of people with shared values who nurture one another for the good of the collective.

Growing up, I used to hate when my parents scolded me for certain choices, saying: "What will people think?"

I thought that was so narrow minded. But, looking back, I see the wisdom in my parents' ability to cultivate and sustain community.

A large part of that is because they weighed how their actions would bring either cohesion or discordance amongst extended family and friends. Because of this, many of our parents have friendships that have carried them from primary and secondary school to now approaching retirement.

Naturally, these friendships are marked with periods of disagreement, but they are grounded in a mutual understanding of the importance of togetherness.

Togetherness doesn't mean that we always agree, but that we know that we are better off together than alone.

I completely understand the fear of being vulnerable to other people's judgment. I've often found myself avoiding community religious groups for this very reason.

However well-intentioned they may be, it's uncomfortable being forced to acknowledge the ways your behaviour is incongruent with the values you hold. Shame is at the centre of this dissonance and it's one of the most insidious emotions because it forces us into hiding.

While many champion the idea of "bringing back shame", that very thinking is partially responsible for this period of extreme isolation. Shame prevents us from connecting authentically and compels us to retreat further into our heads rather than confronting the source of our discomfort.

So, what does healthy judgment look like? Meaningful judgment seeks to improve behaviour for the benefit of the individual and collective. Barry Schwartz, author of the Paradox of Choice, highlighted in a podcast interview the importance of distinguishing between "that's bad" and "you're bad".

Far too often, judgment is perceived as a condemnation of a person's character. Love, which is at the centre of any healthy community, doesn't keep scores. It doesn't hold on to grudges and grievances as long as behaviour has changed.

Having to change your behaviour for the sake of a loving community is inconvenient at its worst and transformative at its best. There's a proverb that says: "Open rebuke is better than hidden love." In other words, would someone who genuinely cares for you allow you to behave in a way that's to your own detriment?

Truly, people giving you feedback not only want you to be better but genuinely believe that you can be better. It's more concerning when no one is checking you because your blind spots will remain just that.

Another timeless proverb reminds us: "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice."

When I talk about practising judgment, I mean that it has to start with the people closest to you. Healthy judgment requires a deep understanding of the individual's lived experiences, motivations and values.

I clarify this because many of us find it easy to judge people we don't know without earnestly considering their points of view. Yet, when it comes to calling out a loved one's bad behaviour, we're quick to turn the other cheek to avoid offence.

This tendency to quickly condemn someone you don't know while withholding critique from those you consider close is one of the primary obstacles we face in the quest for community building. Obviously, not all critique is created equal.

Many entrepreneurs argue that seeking approval can actually lead

you astray. The founder of Whole Foods has shared that his mother begged him from her deathbed to give up his pipe dream.

[For the record: Whole Foods Market, Inc., a subsidiary of Amazon, is an American multinational supermarket chain headquartered in Austin, Texas, which sells products free from hydrogenated fats and artificial colours, flavours and preservatives.]

And while skepticism can prematurely clip one's wings, it also seeks to protect. Moreover, dismissing all advice just because of one misjudgment cuts you off from valuable insights from people who know you best. Yes, some have achieved their goals by ignoring outside opinions, but most have trusted people whose opinions they cherish.

Another common dismissal of judgment is discrediting the person expressing it merely considering their past mistakes or opposing views. It's unfortunate, because we likely agree with the people we dismiss more than we realise.

Celebrated African-American writer and civil rights activist James Arthur Baldwin famously reminded us that anyone we encounter in the world could have been us under different circumstances - which is what we fear deep down.

Moreover, ignoring the opinion of people you dislike is shortsighted because it's often said that you'll get the best feedback from your haters, the reason being simply that they have no incentive to flatter you.

Another common pitfall of judgment is intellectual arrogance - which I personally find annoying. Healthy judgment requires both curiosity and humility.

A true intellectual is humbled by the understanding that no one can know everything and that everyone you meet knows something you don't.

It's incredibly arrogant to assume that, because of a certain type of education or reading list, you definitively know what's better for someone than that person knows for herself or himself.

I encountered this type of arrogance often in consulting, and it was a major turn-off. The best solutions came from learning directly from our clients and understanding the intricacies of their day-to-day operations.

Without that first-hand knowledge, our advice would be nothing more than a theoretical exercise, completely disconnected from the realities of their business.

Franz Fanon captures this in *The Wretched of the Earth*, emphasizing the need to involve the masses in crafting solutions because they understand their own realities better than any academic studying in a vacuum.

Similarly, rhetoric like "voting against your interests" serves as a thought-stopping cliché, imposing a one-size-fits-all definition of interests and how they should be prioritised.

Think about it: if you placed Harvard-trained PhDs in the middle of Wyoming and asked them to farm for the local community, that community might very well starve - that is, given the level of experiential skill farming requires.

In the same way, it's absurd to expect policymakers to devise economic strategies that affect farmers' livelihoods without grappling with the reality of those farmers' daily lives.

Our societal progress hinges on the consideration of voices we often wilfully ignore, acknowledging that expertise comes in many forms.

I acknowledge that this essay has a narrowed focus on individual responsibility which can be viewed as problematic, given that many factors driving our fractured communities are systemic.

However, history has repeatedly proven that individuals have the power to influence the culture by practising the principles they hope to see reflected in politics, business and society at large.

So, while the socioeconomic obstacles to building community can't be overemphasized, my optimism refuses to accept that our collective story ends with us being victims.

Social media culture has strongly rejected the notion of being a people pleaser. However, to be in community, your behaviour has to be considerate and, yes, pleasing to others.

The price of togetherness is accepting that our destinies have become linked. Now, this isn't about sacrificing at the expense of your well-being; we all know the adage of being on a plane and securing your own life vest before assisting others.

However, in our pursuit of self-preservation, we forget that making it out of the plane alive requires collective effort and cooperation. Furthermore, if you spend too much time adjusting your own life vest, you risk missing the window of opportunity to sail off into salvation.

If your beliefs are never challenged in your community, I have news for you: you don't have friends, you have fans. And while fans are great for the ego, they are not as great for the personal accountability required to self-actualise.

So many of us have focused on trying to avoid discomfort that we have unknowingly limited our capacity to experience radical joy. I am confident that this joy we are all after is found in the loving accountability that community demands.



# Health implications of exposure to chemical residues in foodstuffs

By Telesphor Magobe

**T**ANZANIANS are encouraged to self-employ so that they may not depend on formal employment. This is because not all citizens can be formally employed. Thus, many people engage in various economic activities to earn a living. Some employ themselves as smallholder farmers and grow a variety of crops, some employ themselves as livestock keepers or poultry keepers and others engage in various forms of business.

Farmers, livestock keepers or poultry keepers apply some synthetic chemicals, but due to limited knowledge in agricultural, livestock or poultry best practices expose themselves to those chemicals at various stages of farm management as they boost growth and production. One area which is not observed well is pre-harvest interval (PHI) or withdrawal interval between chemical application and use.

When PHI or withdrawal interval is not observed, farmers subject buyers of their crops or products to chemical residues found in the use foodstuffs like vegetables and fruits, milk, eggs and meat.

A self-employed dairy cow keeper confided this story to me. He said he was keeping a dairy cow and a veterinary officer inoculated it against disease, but unfortunately he overdosed it and so after a few days his cow died. He felt very bad about it because of the loss he would incur. But he got an idea of skinning the carcass which he did and at about 03:00 dawn he supplied some meat to several butchers in his area and was able to sell all the meat he had at a profit.

Imagine the health risks the consumers of such contaminated meat were exposed to, but the dairy cow keeper



Measuring pesticide residues in food

might not have known what he did was unethical and illegal. This is true to many people across the country whether they are smallholder farmers, livestock keepers, poultry keepers or just businesspersons. So, it is crucial that they are helped to train in farming or business ethics and must also be acquainted with what the law says about what they do so that they may know what they ought to do when they face situations where they have to choose ethically or legally.

But how many smallholder farmers, livestock keepers, poultry keepers or

businesspersons are acquainted with ethical or even legal practices? Many of them just do what they do to make a living (get money) and don't care whether what they do or produce affects the health of their customers or end-users of what they grow or produce. Yet, this is the area also the government has forgotten to keep a wary eye on. As a result, many people are involved in food business without heeding food safety requirements and in doing so risk the health of their customers or users of their products.

When you visit many business centres and markets you will find that men and women engage in various activities which give them money. Some fry chips, some make juice, some prepare chicken, some cook rice or ugali, some fry fish or meat and others sell fresh fruits they cut and pack them as take away products. However, almost all of them do it in an unhygienic way, but customers may be aware or unaware of this.

What customers do is just to buy and eat what they have bought at that very time and may carry part of it to their families. This means all of us are

exposed to chemical residues which are in the foodstuffs we consume and are likely to contract food-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like overweight, obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and cancer. According to Mainland Tanzania Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population Technical Recommendations (FBDGs) Manual (2023) prepared by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with FAO, NCDs result from a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental, behavioural and dietary factors.

Citing a study conducted by Kinabo et al. (2016) and FAO (2007), the FBDGs manual says in the rural setting of Mainland Tanzania, fat and oil intake contributes about 9-14 per cent of energy intake. "Most of the cooking oil is palm and sunflower oil. There could be a higher intake of oils and fats in urban areas where there is a high frequency of consumption of deep-fried foodstuffs in schools." It recommends the energy intake from oils and fats to be less than 30 per cent.

Kiwango et al. (2018) in their study suggest that "overdosing and harvesting of crops before pre-harvest intervals is a possible scenario, and would result in unacceptable pesticide residues in vegetables with a subsequent increased risk of human exposure."

Health risks can be mitigated if producers adhere to best practices and food safety requirements and consumers buy and use foodstuffs with only acceptable chemical residues. Although it is difficult to detect chemical residues in foodstuffs it is good to bear in mind that food must be prepared and consumed in hygienic conditions, including personal hygiene.

By Adonis Byemeliwa

**I**N the chilly early hours of Dodoma's Nkukungu ward, on Ndachi Street, Haji Katoto, a father of four, begins his daily mission under the rising sun. Battling the wind and dust, he scours the streets for discarded glass bottles, collecting empty high-end liquor brands like K-Vant and Hennessy. His determination to provide for his family is unwavering despite his hardships. For Katoto, turning trash into cash is more than just a job—it's a lifeline for survival.

"I collect bottles from brands such as Serengeti, Heineken, Windhoek, Flying Fish, and Kilimanjaro," Katoto says, his voice filled with determination. "I also sell large and small wine bottles—750ml and 330ml, of any design people need."

His day begins with rounds at bars and entertainment spots, where he picks up bottles with the help of his network of agents. He buys a mixed batch of bottles for Sh5,000, then meticulously sorts them by type and brand.

"The liquor companies find it expensive to keep producing new glass bottles," Katoto explains. "When you bring used bottles, they only need to clean them, replace the corks, and apply fresh labels, making them ready for reuse."

A lifeline amidst struggles

Despite challenges like delayed payments from wholesalers, Katoto continues to provide for his family. "I buy a mixed bag for 5,000/-," he explains. "But once I've sorted them, I can sell the bottles for 36,000/-, especially dompo bottles, which come in bags of 333. Windhoek bottles fetch a different price."

Katoto, who has been in the business for ten years, says it's a way to make ends meet. "I don't pay rent for the space I use to store my bottles; it's just a spot a friend lent me. The guard is paid by the property owner, so I don't worry about security."

His journey is a testament to the resilience and creativity of those engaged in non-traditional employment. "When I've collected enough bottles, wholesalers usually send a truck to pick them up. Sometimes, they take the bottles on credit, but when things go well, I'm paid in cash," Katoto adds.

Economic potential and environmental impact

Katoto's work isn't just about making a living; it also contributes to reducing hazardous waste. Glass bottles, long considered worthless in urban areas, are more challenging to recycle than plastic ones. Environmentalists have raised concerns over the dangers of improperly disposed glass bottles, but Katoto is helping to address that problem.

## From waste to wealth: Dodoma's bottle collectors cash in as they clean up streets



Haji Katoto meticulously sorts the bottles by quality and source.

The National Environment Management Council (NEMC) acknowledges the importance of such grassroots initiatives. "People like Katoto play a crucial role in managing waste in our cities," says an NEMC representative. "Glass bottles are difficult to recycle, but by collecting and reusing them, individuals like him are not only cleaning the environment but also creating economic opportunities."

In a country grappling with a rising unemployment, many young people are finding innovative ways to make a living. Katoto's commitment to his work, despite societal perceptions, is a symbol of the drive to stay productive and avoid the pitfalls of crime or drug addiction, which often lead to prison.

Katoto believes the government should support small entrepreneurs like him. "If the government provided interest-free loans, we could grow our businesses," he says. "Since we're helping reduce hazardous waste, NEMC should consider offering us grants to expand our work."

A growing movement

Katoto's work is part of a broader movement. In Arusha's Sakina Azimio neighborhood, a group of young people is working to reduce glass bottle waste while also creating a source of income. Among them are Gerald Josephat, who holds a degree in Industrial Relations from the Institute of Social Work; Mafita Jordan, a graduate in Public Procurement from the Arusha Institute of Accountancy; Erick Matem, an artist and designer; and Alfred Simon, a tour guide. These young entrepreneurs have found a way to repurpose discarded glass bottles into something valuable.

While plastic bottle recycling is common, glass bottle collection is relatively rare. Most glass bottles are discarded after use, their value seemingly gone. But the Visionary Youth Network, as this group calls itself, sees glass bottles differently. To them, wine, whiskey, Konyagi, and champagne bottles aren't just waste—they are materials for creating beautiful decorations for homes, offices, hotels, and entertainment venues.

"We've given these bottles a second life by transforming

them into decorative pieces," says Josephat. "At the same time, we're helping preserve the environment, aligning with the United Nations' climate goals."

Josephat's idea to decorate glass bottles came from his volunteer work with Raleigh Tanzania, an NGO based in Morogoro. As part of the organization's 'Home Action' program, participants had to create a project outside the organization to earn a certificate.

"We collect bottles from bars and hotels where they would otherwise be thrown away," explains Josephat. "Sometimes, we get help from hotel staff who collect a few bottles and bring them to us. Otherwise, we buy them from bottle collectors."

Turning waste into art  
Creating a decorated bottle takes approximately two hours, from the initial preparation to the final design application. Unlike traditional artists who paint by hand, Josephat and his team use Adobe design software to craft floral patterns and messages, which they print as stickers and adhere to the bot-

tles. This digital approach not only accelerates the process but also ensures consistency and precision in their designs.

The time required to complete a bottle varies depending on the complexity of the design. "More intricate, colorful designs take longer," says Josephat. For example, bottles with detailed, multi-colored patterns may require up to four hours, while simpler designs are finished much faster. This flexibility allows them to cater to different customer preferences, offering both simple and ornate styles.

A finished decorative bottle is sold at prices ranging from 10,000/- to 15,000/-, depending on the design and the occasion. "We also create custom designs for special events like weddings and send-offs," adds Josephat. "Last Christmas, we sold a product called the 'Christmas Bottle' across the country, including in Dar es Salaam, and it was quite popular."

Although the market for their products is still small, Josephat is optimistic about its growth. Since launching in June 2021, the team has sold

over 30 orders and is now looking to tap into the tourism sector, with Arusha as a key opportunity for expansion. "On a good day, we can produce up to 12 bottles," says Josephat, noting that production is demand-driven and adaptable.

Despite challenges, these young entrepreneurs are transforming waste into valuable products, addressing both environmental concerns and unemployment in Tanzania. Josephat calls on stakeholders, especially in tourism and government, to support their initiative. A 2013 study by Joshua Palfreman found that Tanzania generates over 50,000 tonnes of glass waste monthly, 90 per cent of which is recycled by large manufacturers like Kioo Ltd.

Minister Ridhiwani Kikwete has emphasized the government's commitment to creating more jobs, particularly in the informal sector, recognizing the crucial role of workers like glass collectors in the economy.

Josephat and the Visionary Youth Network are leading the charge in transforming waste into valuable resources. By converting discarded glass into decorative items, they are setting an example of how waste can be repurposed into assets that not only protect the environment but also empower local communities.

With adequate support from the government and private sector, they could scale their initiative and potentially impact the broader economy by creating new opportunities in green entrepreneurship. Josephat envisions expanding the project to include glass workshops for unemployed youth, where they can learn to recycle and innovate, ultimately contributing to both environmental sustainability and youth empowerment.



By Kate Dooley

# After nearly 10 years of debate, COP29's carbon trading deal is seriously flawed



NEGOTIATORS at the COP29 climate conference in Baku have struck a landmark agreement on rules governing the global trade of carbon credits, bringing to a close almost a decade of debate over the controversial scheme.

The deal paves the way for a system in which countries or companies buy credits for removing or reducing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the world, then count the reductions as part of their own climate efforts.

Some have argued the agreement provides crucial certainty to countries and companies trying to reach net-zero through carbon trading, and will harness billions of dollars for environmental projects.

However, the rules contain several serious flaws that years of debate have failed to fix. It means the system may essentially give countries and companies permissions to keep polluting.

What is carbon offsetting?

Carbon trading is a system where countries, companies or other entities buy or sell "credits", or permits, that allow the buyer to offset the greenhouse gas emissions they produce.

For example, an energy company in Australia that produces carbon emissions by burning coal may, in theory, offset their impact by buying credits from a company in Indonesia that removes carbon by planting trees.

Other carbon removal activities include renewable energy projects, and projects that retain vegetation rather than cutting it down.

Carbon trading was a controversial part of the global Paris climate deal clinched in 2015.

The relevant part of the deal is known as "Article 6". It sets the rules for a global carbon market, supervised by the United Nations, which would be open to companies as well as countries. Article 6 also includes trade of carbon credits directly between countries, which has begun operating even while rules were still being finalised.

Rules for carbon trading are notoriously complex and difficult to negotiate. But they are important to ensure a scheme reduces greenhouse gas emissions in reality, not just on paper.

A long history of debate

Over the past few years, annual COP meetings made some progress on advancing the carbon trading rules.

For example, COP26 in Glasgow, held in 2021, established an independent supervisory body. It was also tasked with

other responsibilities such as recommending standards for carbon removal and methods to guide the issuing, reporting and monitoring of carbon credits.

But the recommendations were rejected at COP meetings in 2022 and 2023 because many countries viewed them as weak and lacking a scientific basis.

At a meeting in October this year, the supervisory body published its recommendations as "internal standards"

and so bypassed the COP approval process.

At this year's COP in Baku, the Azerbaijani hosts rushed through adoption of the standards on day one, prompting claims proper process had not been followed.

For the remaining two weeks of the conference, negotiators worked to further develop the rules. A final decision was adopted over the weekend, but has attracted criticism.

For example, the Climate

Land Ambition and Rights Alliance says the rules risk "double counting" - which means two carbon credits are issued for only one unit of emissions reduction. It also claims the rules fail to prevent harm to communities - which can occur when, say, Indigenous Peoples are prevented from accessing land where tree-planting or other carbon-storage projects are occurring.

Getting to grips with carbon removal

The new agreement, known formally as the Paris Agreement Trading Mechanism, is fraught with other problems. Most obvious is the detail around carbon removals.

Take, for example, the earlier scenario of a coal-burning company in Australia offsetting emissions by buying credits from a tree-planting company in Indonesia. For the climate to benefit, the carbon stored in the trees should remain there as long as the emissions produced from the company's burning of coal remains in the atmosphere.

But, carbon storage in soils and forests is considered temporary. To be considered permanent, carbon must be stored geologically (injected into underground rock formations).

The final rules agreed to at Baku, however, fail to stipulate the time periods or minimum standards for "durable" carbon storage.

Temporary carbon removal into land and forests should not be used to offset fossil fuel emissions, which stay in the atmosphere for millennia. Yet governments are already over-relying on such methods to achieve their Paris commitments. The weak new rules only exacerbate this problem.

To make matters worse, in 2023, almost no carbon was absorbed by Earth's forests or soils, because the warming climate increased the intensity of drought and wildfires.

This trend raises questions about schemes that depend on these natural systems to capture and store carbon.

What next?

Countries already can, and do, trade carbon credits under the Paris Agreement. Centralised trading will occur under the new scheme once the United Nations sets up a registry, expected next year.

Under the new scheme, Australia should rule out buying credits for land-based offsets (such as in forests and soil) to compensate for long-lasting emissions from the energy and industry sectors.

Australia should also revise its national carbon trading scheme along the same lines.

We could also set a precedent by establishing a framework that treats carbon removals as a complement - not a substitute - for emissions reduction.

By Maithreyi Kamalanathan

## Climate change in Azerbaijan puts women at increased risk of gender-based violence

CLIMATE change exacerbates existing gender inequalities and gender-based violence. At COP29 in Azerbaijan, governments have been urged to prioritize gender-responsive climate policies that address the specific needs of women and girls, and serious concerns have been raised about backtracking on women's rights during these crucial negotiations on climate action.

In Azerbaijan, extreme weather events made worse by global warming and poor environmental management are heightening the risks women and girls face. As the frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters increase, more families are being left vulnerable, accelerating the need for targeted interventions.

Clean World Social Union participated in COP29 to address the critical intersection of gender inequality and the climate crisis, advocating for policies that prioritize the needs and rights of women and girls in the face of environmental challenges.

Clean World Social Union is one of only two civil society organizations in Azerbaijan providing specialist accommodation and support to women escaping gender-based violence. They operate a shelter in the capital city, Baku, housing up to 60 women and children. A second shelter in Ganja, managed by the Public Union "Tamas," accommodates 25 residents.

Clean World Social Union collaborates with the international women's rights organization Equality Now to strengthen the legal rights of women and girls in Azerbaijan.

Coordinator Leyla Suleymanova spoke to Equality Now about how climate-induced displacement is impacting women in the country and why the government urgently needs to do more in response.

What are some of the ways that climate change is affecting women and girls in Azerbaijan?

Climate change is definitely making women more vulnerable to gender-based violence. We've worked with many women from rural areas whose families have lost their homes and livelihoods due to floods, drought, and other environmental crises. People become homeless, their lives have been devastated. Before, they had opportunities to earn money to improve their lives, but now they don't.

This is forcing people to migrate and is pushing them into urban areas. Gen-

der-based violence increases because when people become poorer, it puts pressure on families who cannot earn a living, and men can become more violent. Every day, we receive hundreds of calls from women, but due to the limited capacity of our shelters, we have to refuse many.

After extreme climate events, many women migrate alone to urban centers like Baku to support their families. However, some do not have

the necessary skills or knowledge to find employment and earn money. Displacement caused by ecological crisis isolates women from their social networks and support systems, and makes them more vulnerable to abuse. As well as domestic violence, we have seen increases in commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking.

How is Azerbaijan's government responding to the impact that climate change is

having on women in the country?

In Azerbaijan, there is some understanding about how climate change impacts women and girls, but not enough. And while the government is doing some things about climate change, it's not making the connection between ecological crisis, gender issues, and gender-based violence.

Changes in legislation and punishment for child marriage are getting tougher, but



I think the ecological crisis is making the situation worse. With people becoming poorer and life getting harder, this connects to child marriage. Some families think if they have a girl who they cannot afford to provide food and education for, she should be married off quickly.

In cases of gender-based violence after extreme weather events, women often don't have financial support, don't know who to turn to, and may have psychological issues. It is sometimes very difficult to support these victims as they need free and regular assistance, but there are many we cannot help because of limited resources. And when there are floods, there is a big increase in the number of women needing help but we cannot provide so much support.

I have not heard of any official strategies or action plans to improve the situation for women when an ecological crisis happens. Government strategies should include implementation and coordination to address women's issues. Without this, it is difficult to deal with these problems.

What action on climate change to support women is needed from governments?

Women and girls are being directly and disproportionately affected by the ecological crisis and we have to raise this with governments and other key stakeholders. There is a critical opportunity to address the unique challenges by developing and implementing comprehensive frameworks and gender-responsive strategies that tackle both the immediate and longer-term impacts.

Vocational training programs can help women adapt

to climate change by equipping them with skills for sustainable livelihoods. This is particularly crucial for women in rural areas who may need to migrate to urban centers, where employment opportunities are more accessible. Providing these tools empowers women to rebuild their lives and communities while fostering resilience against climate-related challenges.

It is equally important to increase women's participation in decision-making processes related to climate policies. By including women's perspectives and experiences, governments can create more equitable and effective solutions. Gender equality must be central to these discussions, ensuring women's voices shape policies addressing ecological and societal impacts.

Strengthening support systems is another vital step. Expanding access to psychological counseling, legal aid, and safe shelters for women and girls will address the immediate fallout of climate shocks. Additionally, building local capacity to meet the needs of women affected by these events will ensure long-term sustainability.

Public awareness campaigns are necessary to educate communities about the gendered impacts of climate change, and women should be given information about who they can turn to for support when their rights have been violated. Initiatives can shift societal attitudes, promoting a greater understanding of women's vulnerabilities and the need for protective measures.

The COP29 summit in Azerbaijan underscored the urgency of integrating gender issues into climate action. Coordination among government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners is essential to ensure these efforts are effective, inclusive, and provide women and girls with protection in the face of an evolving climate crisis.



By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale,

## Iringa

FOR small producers in the rural areas waiting for the process of land certification that culminates in being issued with a customary certificate of right of occupancy (CCRO) needs patience of a vulture. District councils which are tasked with surveying, mapping and making land use plans for village and individual land and eventually issuing the certificates have skimpy budgets. Most of them have budgets that can attend to only two villages, the size of the villages notwithstanding.

Local and international NGOs might lend the district councils a hand but these have a timeline to meet and they too are often starved of funding. Then there is bureaucracy that goes with government machinery, squabbling among officials and by the time a land certification project takes off it would be months behind schedule. So when it is time for the project to pack and go, many would-be beneficiaries would not have been reached and they would have to wait indefinitely for another opportunity.

Perhaps that is why there was excitement recently when 500 residents of Ikula Village in Kilolo District of Iringa Region were issued with CCROs with the certification process having taken just about two years, thanks to the implementation of "Enhancing land rights and land security of Rural Communities in Iringa and Morogoro Regions" project. The remaining 200 villagers have to wait for the completion of various procedures so that they can be given their land ownership certificates.

The Tanzania Grass Roots Oriented Development (TAGRODE) is implementing the project in partnership Kilolo District Council and Ikula Village Government with the project area also covering villages in Iringa and Kilombero District.

"Our objective is to ensure that all villagers within the project area who have pieces of land will eventually get CCROs. We insist that everyone has the right to own land and such land must be protected because their life now and in future depends upon it," said Zubery Mwachulla, Executive Director of TAGRODE. He explained that the project runs for three years beginning 2023 and on completion all villagers will have acquired CCROs. "We spent the first year of the project educating villagers on land rights and raising awareness on the importance of secure tenure in order to build the sense of ownership. Villagers must feel that they own the land, they must benefit from it and therefore they have the obligation to protect it so as to sustain those benefits for future generations," explained Mwachulla, adding that the Village Land Council, the Village Council and the Village Assembly are all involved in ensuring that villagers access land rights. "We are happy that today we are giving out the first batch of CCROs to the villagers".

Behind the success of the project stand members of the Community Forum



Division secretary Anthony Kidawa (R) congratulates one of Ikula residents who received a CCRO recently. Looking on are (L-R) Nestor Itoua-Ayessa (Brot, Germany), Zubery Mwachulla, Executive Director, TAGRODE and Emma Rohring (Brot, Germany)

## CCROs: Calling card for small producers in rural areas

whose job is to mobilise villagers to make good use of the opportunity provided by the project so that their pieces of land undergo certification. But there is an important job to be done, that lays the groundwork for certification to be conducted. "Our primary role is to educate villagers and raise their awareness on land rights and secure tenure so that the spirit and the urge to own, protect and manage the land would continue through generations. Villagers must first know and appreciate their right to own land. Then they must understand the importance of land as their only source of various livelihoods now and in future; only then does land certification become meaningful," explained Stanley Francis Kivike, a member of the village community forum.

He said that Forum members receive basic training on issues of land rights, land management and conflict resolution and they on the other hand pass the knowledge to villagers. They are also trained in gender equality in ownership of land and other property as a means of breaking down traditions that oppress women. To ensure that training and awareness raising is continuous, Forum members visit villagers in their homes from time to time in order to remind them of issues like ensuring the boundaries of their plots are clear, avoiding conflicts with neighbours and managing land as source of diverse livelihoods.

"New challenges emerge as villagers become more aware of the importance of land, with some of them encroaching into other people's land. Now, the demand to have pieces of land surveyed, mapped and owners issued with certificates is rising but the pace of the certification process does not match this demand," explained Kivike.

Farida Andrea Msola is a member of the Ikula Village Land Council (VLC) which she says is instrumental in resolving land con-

flicts in the village and provides opportunity for women to contribute effectively to the decision making process regarding land matters. "Both the Village Land Council and Community Forum have women members. This goes a long way towards ensuring that women's rights are promoted and protected. The Community Forum has made the Council's burden lighter because they complement our work as some of the conflicts which might have reached the Council are now settled by the Forum as a result of which parties don't have to wait for a long time in order to have their disputes resolved," explained Ms. Msola.

With implementation of the project, a new approach to resolving conflicts is now being employed whereby the Village Land Council conducts sessions at sites under dispute in the presence of both parties and witnesses in order to make fair decisions. "Very often we are forced to visit the area that is contested in order to make a fair decision and dispense justice. When we see the actual situation on the ground we make better decisions that when we just read documents or hear the word of mouth from conflicting parties and their witnesses," she said.

In Ikula village women are now recognized as equal owners of land to men. They take part in all decision making processes and their views and opinions are incorporated in decisions that are reached. It is also common for women to own land independent of men and they are free to do what they want with it. The tradition barriers that bar women from owning land and other property are being dismantled, a situation which gives them confidence to run their lives and raise their economic and social status.

The event to issue the first batch of CCROs to the villagers was witnessed by Emma Rohring and Nestor Itoua-Ayessa from Brot fur die Welt in Germany, the organization

that provides funds for TAGRODE. "We have come to learn from our partners about how they implement the project. But we also wanted to meet the beneficiaries and hear from them," said Ms. Rohring.

During discussions with some villagers, she wanted to know why the villagers were so excited about CCROs. A member of the VLC, Faraji Selemani Nyamoga explained that villagers who had acquired CCROs would now have more freedom to use their land in order to improve their lives. "Now that we have evidence of ownership, we are free to use the land to meet our needs. Without this evidence, one lives in fear of the land being taken away by common, land grabbers or even troublesome neighbours. But it is also about value addition; with the certificates, land attains a higher value. The owner can use it as collateral to get loans from financial institutions," he said, adding that the certificates place a new commitment and responsibility to the owners to manage the land sustainably since their ownership is now protected.

Testimony by some recipients of the land certificates showed that the villagers generally accepted the project and participate fully in its implementation because they had high expectations of reducing or eradicating land conflicts as recurrent conflicts did not give them the opportunity to work on the land for maximum productivity. All villagers are small producers and when conflicts erupt they interfere with production. Under the circumstances they cannot attain food security and reduce poverty.

The TAGRODE project is set to close its doors in 2025 and questions abound as to whether the benefits realised so far will be sustained by district councils and village governments.

"TAGRODE is a small organization. It cannot handle the requirements of all villagers

in the project area. It may not meet expectations of all villagers within the project timeframe and even if it does, it might not be able to sustain the achievements and address new demands even if it is going to operate for the next 100 years. It is important that other partners, including Kilolo District Council, join forces so that what the project has achieved is sustained and new demands are addressed accordingly," noted Itoua-Ayessa.

Land certification is within the portfolio of district councils and it is one of the means of protecting ownership of land for an individual or a village, although the process is often slow and only a few villages are reached.

"Surveying, mapping and certification of individual and community land will continue even after the project concludes. The District Council has a budget for that, albeit a small one, but we will move on given the fact the demand for certified land ownership is on the rise," explained Bernard Kajembe, Kilolo District Planning Officer. He said that the Council has the duty to sustain what the villagers have gained from project implementation and such benefits have to be passed down to tomorrow's generation. Kilolo District has 94 villages out of which 58 have been surveyed and land use plans made.

"The District council allocates funds for surveying, mapping and certification of village land but the budget is enough for only two villages annually. To ensure that more villages are attended to we have introduced a system whereby villagers may contribute 30,000/- each so that their land can be surveyed and mapped and eventually be issued with CCROs. With support from other partners the system will increase the number of villages the District Council can reach each year and so sustain what has been achieved through the TAGRODE project."

## How EACOP empowers youth in the country's energy sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE energy sector has long been a cornerstone of economic growth, and it is becoming even more critical to the futures of Tanzania and Uganda through the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

This sector not only powers industries and homes but also acts as a significant driver of job creation, particularly for the youth. As technological advancements reshape the energy landscape, there is a growing call for young people to seize opportunities in this dynamic field, fostering personal growth while contributing to national economic development.

Recent years have witnessed transformative changes in the energy industry, with renewable energy and sustainable practices taking center stage. This shift has created a demand for skilled workers, especially those proficient in emerging technologies, opening the door for young talent.

At a recent forum titled "The Role of Youth in the Energy Sector and Its Transition in Africa," hosted by the EACOP Project at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), stakeholders emphasized the vital role of youth in driving the future of energy.

Ambassador John Ulanga, Director of the Department of Diplomacy and Economics at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, highlighted the growing opportunities for youth to become leaders in the energy sector. He noted that African universities and technical colleges now offer training in fields like renewable energy, engineering, and environmental



Director of the Department of Diplomacy and Economics at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador John Ulanga, speaks recently in Dodoma during a forum titled "The Role of Youth in Africa's Energy Transition," organized by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project over the weekend at the University of Dodoma (UDOM). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

conservation.

"The renewable energy agenda is global. If young people maximize opportunities such as university programs, conferences, and workshops, they can secure employment or even become self-employed, significantly contributing to national economic growth," said Ambassador Ulanga.

The EACOP project has been instrumental in empowering youth through training programmes that blend theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience. Many

graduates from these programmes have secured positions within the project or established their own businesses, aided by internationally recognized certifications.

EACOP, which spans 1,443 kilometers from Hoima in Uganda to the Tanga Peninsula in Tanzania, has become a valuable platform for skill development. Through partnerships with universities and technical colleges, the project equips young people with practical skills in energy-related fields.

Guillaume Dolout, Managing Director of EACOP, emphasized the project's commitment to nurturing a new generation of skilled workers. "Graduates from our training programs have found employment in various areas of the project, while others have used their certifications to pursue broader opportunities in the energy sector," he said.

Institutions like the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) and Arusha Technical College (ATC) have played key roles in equipping students with the skills needed to thrive in the energy industry.

The EACOP initiative has sparked interest among young people like Irene Ongati and Nassoro Nuru, engineering students at UDOM. They expressed enthusiasm about the opportunity to gain practical experience and join the energy sector despite their lack of prior exposure.

"This is a great opportunity for us," said Nuru. "We're excited to acquire the skills and experience that will help us succeed in the future."

Recognizing the sector's diverse needs, EACOP also offers opportunities in areas like human resources, administration, and community relations, ensuring a broad spectrum of talent is nurtured.

Stakeholders, including government representatives and international contractors, emphasized the importance of collaboration in preparing youth for leadership roles in energy.

Deogratius Meela, Energy Officer at the Ministry of Energy, lauded EACOP for actively involving students in nation-building,

Similarly, Clement Sanga from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology stressed the importance of practical experience, allowing students to exchange knowledge with international experts.

Experts like Professor Godlisten Kombe of UDOM and Getrude Mpangile from TotalEnergies highlighted the need for continued investment in youth training, particularly in refining technologies, to ensure sustainable job creation.

For many students, EACOP's training programs have opened doors to new opportunities. Beneficiaries like Eliwaza Mema and Nicolas Tadei Shukuru credit the initiative for providing them with advanced tools and hands-on experience, preparing them for successful careers in energy.

Derrick Moshi, Director of Planning and Investment at the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), emphasized the importance of educating youth about the role of energy in the global economy to position them for success.

"The collaboration between youth, government, and the private sector is key to ensuring Africa's energy future is both sustainable and youth-led," Moshi said.

The EACOP project is more than an infrastructure initiative—it is a catalyst for youth empowerment. By offering training and employment opportunities, it is shaping the next generation of energy experts. As the sector evolves, young people are set to lead technological innovation and drive sustainable economic growth for Tanzania, Uganda, and beyond.







BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

## INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN MORTGAGE OUTREACH TO MICROFINANCE SECTOR

Low- and middle-income earners, including non-waged individuals, are set to benefit from expanded formal residential mortgage financing through microfinance institutions.

This moment will start when an initiative to be implemented in a partnership between Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC) and Habitat for Humanity International will become operational.

The market research for consumers and other stakeholders in the housing finance for Housing Microfinance (HMF) has already been completed.

Low- and middle-income households face several housing challenges, such as insufficient supply, reliance on insecure and inadequate self-built housing, rising building material costs, irregular incomes complicating housing-related spending, limited access to housing finance, and challenges in servicing outstanding loans.

The research explored the current state of the HMF market, assessed demand for new HMF products, and provided partnering institutions with insights into how local financial institutions (FIs) can participate in Tanzania's emerging HMF market.

It identified low- and middle-income households earning between 80,000/- (\$34) and 1,500,000/- (\$630) monthly as the most suitable target borrowers for housing microfinance products.

Last year, TMRC and Habitat for Humanity signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as the first step toward strengthening the low-income housing finance sector in Tanzania. The initiative aims to build a customized infrastructure that includes low-income earners in decent and affordable housing op-

portunities.

The Tanzanian mortgage market has struggled to fully cater to the population's housing finance needs, with the microfinance segment underserved due to lower income levels, limited access to formal financial systems, and reliance on informal housing.

According to the Bank of Tanzania's (BoT) mortgage market update for September 2024, the mortgage market in Tanzania registered a 4 percent growth in the value of residential mortgages to 649.8bn/- in 30 September 2024 from 625bn/- recorded on 30 June 2024.

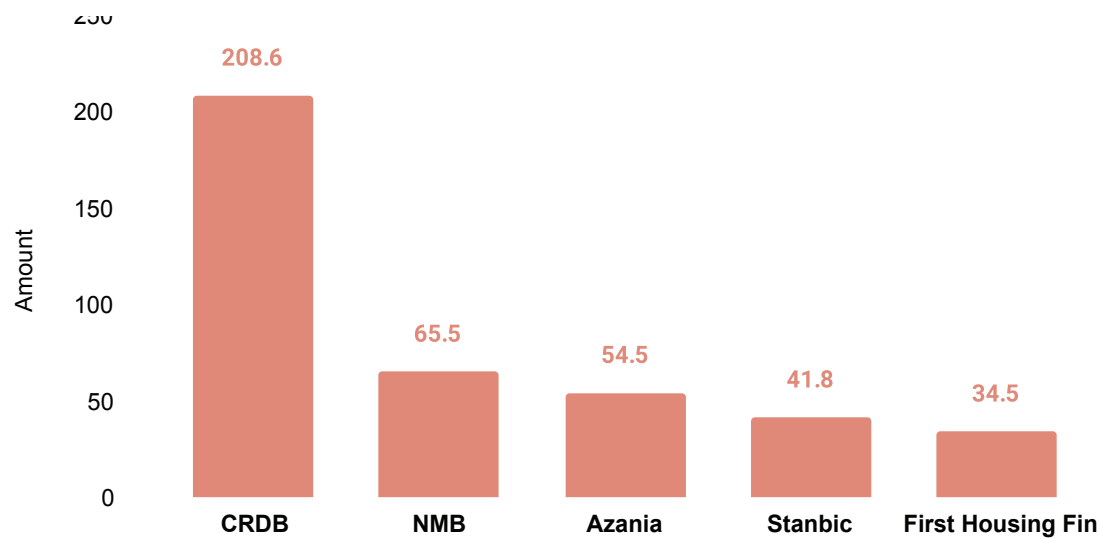
On a year-to-year comparison, 9.4 percent growth was registered in value of mortgage loans from 593.76bn/- recorded at the end of the third quarter of last year.

The number of banks and financial institutions reporting to have mortgage portfolios stood at 31 as of 30 September 2024. Overall average mortgage debt size as of 30 September 2024 was 111.05m/- equivalent to US\$ 40,6472 compared to 104.80m/- equivalent to US\$ 38,358 reported on previous quarter.

The ratio of outstanding mortgage debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) stood at 0.38 percent similar to the previous quarter.

Mortgage debt advanced by the top 5 Primary Mortgage Lenders (PMLs) accounted for 62 percent of the total outstanding mortgage debt.

Typical interest rates offered by mortgage lenders ranged between averages of 15 - 19 percent.



SOURCE: BANK OF TANZANIA

The Tanzanian housing sector's fast-growing demand is mainly driven by the strong and sustained economic growth with GDP growth averaging 6.2 percent over the past decade, the fast-growing Tanzanian population.

It is estimated that the Tanzania population will more than double by 2050, and efforts by the government in partnership with global non-profit institutions and foreign governments is needed to meet the growing demand of affordable housing.

The BoT report shows credit extended to the private sector remained robust, as risks on lending remained low. Credit to the private sector grew at 16.7 percent, slightly lower than 17.6 percent in the previous month.

The BoT's Monthly Economic Review for October shows credits to building and construction remained high since last year ranging from 11.6 percent to 22.6 percent, with the share of outstanding credits to the sector ranging from 4.1 percent to 4.7 percent.

Credit extended to agricultural activities continued to record the highest growth, at 39.5 percent, supported by government policies to promote productivity.

Meanwhile, personal loans—primarily credit extended for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)—remained the largest component of credit to the private sector, at 36.4 percent, followed by trade, at 12.8 percent and agriculture, at 11.8 percent.

The Tanzanian housing demand

which is estimated at 200,000 houses annually and a total housing shortage of 3 million houses as per the National Housing Corporation (NHC) report has been boosted by easy access to mortgages.

The number of mortgage lenders in the market has from 3 in 2009 to 31 by September 2024 and the average mortgage interest rate falling from an average of 22 percent to average of 16 percent.

As of 30 September 2024, 31 different banking institutions were offering residential mortgages. The mortgage market was dominated by five top lenders, who commanded 62 percent of the market.

CRDB Bank Plc is a market leader commanding 32.11 percent of the mortgage market share, followed by NMB Bank (10.09 percent), Azania

Bank (8.39 percent), Stanbic Bank (6.44 percent) and First Housing Finance Company Limited (5.31 percent).

The report says demand for housing and housing loans remains extremely high as it is constrained by inadequate supply of equitable houses and high-interest rates charged on housing loans.

Most lenders offer loans for home purchase and equity release while a few offer loans for self-construction which continue to be expensive and beyond the reach of the average Tanzanians.

While interests on residential mortgages improved from 22 - 24 percent in 2010 to 13 - 19 percent offered today, market interest rates are still relatively high hence negatively affecting affordability.

Additionally, cumbersome processes around the issuance of titles (especially unit titles) continue to pose a challenge by affecting borrowers' eligibility to access residential mortgages.

Further, competition in the market has led to emergence of other products that are impacting mortgage market growth as the products have favorable terms than mortgage product and are used for housing purposes.

These products are competing with mortgage in terms of loan amount and to some extent tenor as they are offering consumer loans for the tenor of up to seven years amounting to more than 150m/-, an amount enough to buy a housing unit.

The competition comes from the ease with which competing products, specifically, consumer loans is available relatively easily compared to lengthy process experienced in mortgage loans as well as additional costs in mortgage loans including registration costs, valuation fees and insurance costs which are not applicable in consumer loans.

## Autonomous construction equipment market due to reach \$9.77bn by 2030

FLORIDA



Autonomous construction equipment market is projected to grow from US\$4.40 billion in 2024 to US\$9.77 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 14.2 percent from 2024 to 2030, as per the recent study by MarketsandMarkets

According to the report, the growth of the autonomous construction equipment market can be attributed to rising labor costs and their advantages in remote environments.

This equipment also come with benefits such as cost efficiency, improved workplace safety, and a shift towards low-emission equipment.

Alternatively, higher initial investments, regulatory compliance challenges, and infrastructure limitations are a few restraining factors that hinder the widespread adoption of autonomous construction equipment.

Farm tractors are projected to lead the equipment segment for autonomous construction equipments. The demand is mainly driven by the shortage of skilled workforce, leading to increased labor costs, the need for this equipment mainly in vineyards, and a growing emphasis on precision agriculture.

These tractors are effective for various appli-

cations, including crop tillage, seeding, and precision harvesting. Smaller tractors (<30 hp) are widely offered with autonomous functionality for crops such as grapes and strawberries.

The most important reason is the high cost of labor in vineyards. According to certain secondary sources, it can be as high as USD 1000 per acre.

Autonomous tractors can enhance efficiency and reduce dependency on manual labor. The transition from traditional farming methods to organized and contractual farming will likely reduce dependence on manual labor.

Also, the gap in each row for these crops is narrow, usually 6-8 feet, due to which these lightweight, small autonomous tractors reduce the soil compaction, operate precisely without damaging these cash crops used in vineyards, and boost crop production.

Additionally, the grow-

ing emphasis on efficiency, productivity, and advancements in agricultural technology is expected to boost the demand for autonomous tractors.

Electric autonomous construction equipment is projected to be the fastest-growing segment.

Electrically driven semi- & fully autonomous construction equipment will grow fastest by 2030.

The focus on improved productivity and worker safety and developing environmentally sustainable vehicles drive this market growth.

Electric excavators and loaders are a few prime electric construction equipment with autonomous features like automated digging, automated grade control systems, etc. Furthermore, equipment like excavators & haul trucks operate with zero noise, which is critical in urban localities, and interact with respective equipment at the working site while monitored and managed from a central-

ized onsite control room. Additionally, electric propulsion of other equipment like farm tractors, haul trucks, and dozers with autonomous technology may bring promising growth opportunities. Though the adoption of electrically-propelled autonomous construction equipment is in the infancy stage, ongoing key developments in battery technology, enabling longer operational ranges and faster charging times, may help fuel the adoption.

ized onsite control room.

Additionally, electric propulsion of other equipment like farm tractors, haul trucks, and dozers with autonomous technology may bring promising growth opportunities. Though the adoption of electrically-propelled autonomous construction equipment is in the infancy stage, ongoing key developments in battery technology, enabling longer operational ranges and faster charging times, may help fuel the adoption.

The integration of complex sensors and softwares required for autonomous functions in electric powered vehicles are easy compared to ICE powertrain due to simpler powertrain structure.

Further, autonomous driving can help in optimize the energy consumptions in EVs with different autonomous features which will lead to increase in efficiency.

Also, advancements in cameras, sensors, and data compression technology can enhance performance and efficiency, spurring the market demand for electric autonomous construction equipment.

Americas is estimated to have the largest market share in the autonomous construction equipment market during the forecast period.

## Biden to boost Lobito corridor in Angola visit

NEW YORK

US President Joe Biden is expected to unveil major updates on the Lobito Corridor project during his visit to Angola in early December, marking a significant milestone in a regional infrastructure initiative designed to connect Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Zambia.

The Lobito Corridor, supported by the US, European partners, and private investors, is a flagship effort under the G7-led Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). The initiative aims to mobilise \$600 billion in infrastructure financing for growth markets by 2027.

In October 2023, a seven-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the US, Angola, Zambia, the DRC, the EU, the African Development Bank, and the African Finance Corporation (AFC) to accelerate development.

Speaking at a digital briefing on Tuesday, Dr. Frances Brown, Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council, emphasised the corridor's holistic approach:

"This isn't just about a railroad or critical minerals. It's about strengthening communities, improving access to education, facilitating agricultural trade, and enhancing digital connectivity through transparent and competitive procurement processes."

She said another set of announcements will be about the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact signed for Zambia to complement the broader agricultural and rail investments in Lobito.

Helaina R. Matza, Acting Spe-

cial Coordinator for the PGII, detailed the initiative's progress, highlighting nearly \$5 billion mobilised by the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and partners over the past 18 months. The key milestones include:

The ongoing refurbishment of 1,300 kilometres (km) of Benguela rail line from the Port of Lobito in Angola to the DRC, supported by a \$550 million DFC loan. In July 2023, the Lobito to Atlantic Railway (LAR), a joint venture between Trafigura, Mota-Engil, and Vecturis, secured a 30-year concession to operate the line.

African Finance Corporation (AFC), as anchor partner, signed concession agreements with Angola and Zambia and completed a feasibility study for the greenfield Zambia-Lobito railway this year.

The new 800-kilometer greenfield railway, which will extend the Benguela line from Angola into Zambia, is scheduled to break ground in early 2026. In September 2024, the US Trade

and Development Agency gave a \$2 million grant for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of the project.

Matza highlighted the Lobito Corridor as a model for public-private partnerships (PPP) that prioritises the needs of African countries while leveraging concessional financing and private collaboration to fast-track progress.

"The two rail lines will ultimately bring down the transit time that we're seeing across those three countries from 45 days to a fraction of that time, to less than a week. What that can do for agribusiness I think is absolutely astronomical," she noted.

According to Matza, the project is envisioned as a cornerstone of a broader network of interconnected African infrastructure projects. It aims to connect with other initiatives like the Central Corridor, reducing trade costs, strengthening supply chains, and advancing the African Union's Agenda 2063 for economic integration.





# AUSTRALIA SEEKING TO EXPAND TRADE, INVESTMENT RELATIONS WITH TANZANIA

By Guardian Reporter

The government of Australia will continue to enhance the bilateral trade and investment relationship with Tanzania, to support the country's National Development Vision 2050 objectives.

This was said by the Australia High Commissioner to Tanzania Jenny Da Rin, when she was presenting her credentials to President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"It was a pleasure to present my credentials to Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. I look forward to further strengthening ties with the Tanzania Government, with a view to growing our bilater-

al trade and investment relationship and people-to-people connections over time," said Da Rin.

Australian and Tanzania enjoy a positive and growing relationship with strong people-to-people links core to the relationship.

"Australia is proud to have provided opportunities for Tanzanians to study in Australia through the Australia Awards Program, over 7,000 Australians visit Tanzania every year and Australian volunteers have contributed to the development of Tanzania since 1964," she said.

Australian investment in Tanzania is expanding, with mining contracts signed in the past two years with Australian companies valued

at over 10trn/- (USD 3.6 billion).

Thirty-five Australian companies have invested in mineral exploration, mining, value addition and geohazard management while applying the highest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards.

In August 2024, Tanzanian Minister of Minerals Anthony Mavunde was an official guest at Africa Down Under, Australia's most significant Africa-focused mining conference, where he held bilateral talks with Australia's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Tim Watts MP.

Tanzania's Commissioner of Minerals, Dr Abdul Mwanga, is currently in Australia undertak-

ing further mining-related university studies under the Australia Awards program.

"Australia supports Tanzania's National Development Vision 2050 objectives, and our shared commitment to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, through our direct assistance to education, agricultural productivity, livelihoods, climate resilience, energy generation, women's empowerment, maternal and child health projects," she said.

Since 2020, Australia has dedicated almost AUD2 million dollars to these efforts through our Direct Aid Program and Australian NGO Cooperation Program.



Australia's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Jenny Da Rin (L), has a word with President Samia Suluhu Hassan, shortly after presenting her credentials. Photo: Australian High Commission



## Construction companies face lowest workloads since 2008

By ZACH HAYWARD-JONES

Current workloads for construction businesses have fallen to similar rates as the 2008 financial crisis, according to a survey from Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

Rising costs, skills shortages, and barriers to growth are all contributing to the slowdown in productivity in the construction industry. And as we approach the end of the year, we take a look at the trades which have suffered most and what areas of the industry are defying the trend.

Over the past three months, workloads for small builders are down seven per cent on the previous quarter. With low productivity stifling the construction industry throughout the year, it seems the trend could continue into 2025.

Rising costs of services, a drop in demand, and a lack of available workers all play a part in the decline in productivity, according to FMB's research. But the main contributor may be an overall drop in enquiries.

Enquiries have fallen a further three per cent in the last three months compared to the previous quarter. With housebuilding being the most affected area of the industry, seeing a 30 per cent decline in enquiries in the same period.

While there's a collective productivity issue, certain areas of the industry remain defiant. When FMB members were asked what their most common type of work was in the past three months, 67 per cent said renovations.

And with home improvements also experiencing a boost, it highlights the increased demand for smaller scale jobs. The fewer workers required for smaller jobs and tighter customer budgets potentially make renovation jobs more suitable for construction workers and their customers.

The shortage of skilled workers has been a defining factor for the industry in 2024. And according to the research from FMB, there's been a steady decline in employment in each quarter of the year.

Almost a quarter (23 per cent) of FMB members reported a decrease in employees in the last three months. This has been consistent throughout the year, with the first (28 per cent) and

second (24 per cent) quarters showing similar results.

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, commented: "What is concerning is that the poor numbers reported by builders seem to be here to stay as they have been a constant throughout 2024. The last time such a negative trend was reported was in the years following the financial crisis of 2008."

And the struggle to hire certain trades continues. General labourers are proving the most in demand, with 34 per cent of respondents sharing their difficulty hiring them. FMB members also highlighted a shortage of, carpenters, roofers, painters and decorators.

With 38 per cent of respondents saying the skills shortage has resulted in job delays, it's clear this is contributing towards the overall decline in workloads.

Tradespeople are spending more on materials and wages. As a result, they're charging more for their services. The majority of FMB members (65 per cent) indicated that rising costs led to an increase in their prices. And over half (54 per cent) have lower than expected profit margins, which is an increase from 52 per cent in the last quarter.

Low productivity and rising costs have left the industry in a challenging position. And businesses are having to adapt to this environment.

Over a quarter (26 per cent) of respondents said they've had to restrict recruitment plans due to cost pressures, a slight increase from 22 per cent in Q2 2024. This leaves some small businesses in a position where they don't have enough skilled workers to take on work while also feeling the pressure of rising costs.

And these circumstances are so testing that 10 per cent of FMB members shared that their business has been put at risk of closure.

Brian Berry thinks increased funding is a key solution for the industry.

**Zach Hayward-Jones (pictured) is a copywriter at Simply Business, with seven years of writing experience across entertainment, insurance, and financial services. With a keen interest in issues affecting the hospitality and construction sector, Zach focuses on news relevant to small business owners**

## Infrastructure must be a policy priority in enhancing African's trade resilience

By LEWIS MLAY

AFRICA'S future trade resilience depends not only on favourable policies but also on robust infrastructure that can unlock the continent's economic potential.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that closing the continent's infrastructure financing gap—projected at \$68 billion to \$108 billion annually—would significantly enhance Africa's competitiveness in global trade.

Poor road and rail networks, unreliable energy grids, and limited digital connectivity continue to hinder the free movement of goods, services, and people, making it essential for policymakers to prioritise infrastructure development.

Infrastructure plays a pivotal role in reducing trade costs, improving access to regional and international markets, and facilitating the seamless movement of goods and services.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which aims to significantly boost intra-African trade, will only achieve its full potential with critical infrastructure investments such as roads, ports, and rail systems in place.

Under the AfCFTA, up to 90 per cent of liberalised goods will have tariffs reduced by the latest

2030 and 7 per cent by 2035.

According to the Standard Chartered report "The Future of Trade: Africa. Spotlight on the African Continental Free Trade Area", realising Africa's trade potential requires strong cross-border infrastructure in order to enhance resilience. The report identifies three key gaps hindering infrastructure development: the capability gap, financing gap, and bankability gap.

Addressing these challenges will require close collaboration among governments, development banks, private investors, and contractors to build a pipeline of viable projects that promote greater connectivity across the continent.

Tanzania's focus on infrastructure development has positioned it as a regional hub, setting an example for other African nations. The construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), linking Dar es Salaam with neighbouring countries, is a case in point.

Additionally, port modernisation initiatives are also key to the country's strategy. By improving cargo handling capacity, Tanzania facilitates importing and exporting high-value goods, including minerals and agricultural products.

Despite these successes, challenges persist. Across Africa, fragmented regulatory frameworks, limited public-private partner-



ships (PPPs), and underdeveloped digital infrastructure continue to hinder progress. Africa's ports account for only 6 per cent of the world's overall waterborne cargo traffic and approximately 3 per cent of global container traffic.

A comprehensive approach is needed to unlock the full potential of the AfCFTA and foster long-term trade resilience. Governments must prioritise infrastructure investment in national budgets while collaborating with international financial institutions and development partners. PPPs present a viable solution for bridging the financing gap, bringing in private sector expertise and capital.

Digital infrastructure investments are equally essential. The

Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) offers a promising solution for seamless cross-border transactions by reducing reliance on external currencies. Such initiatives will help promote financial inclusion and facilitate smoother intra-African trade.

The future of Africa's trade growth depends on coordinated action. Regional integration, supported by strategic infrastructure investments, is essential for overcoming historical trade barriers. By prioritising inclusive policies and infrastructure development, African countries can unlock new economic opportunities, reduce poverty, and improve living standards for millions.

Standard Chartered remains committed to supporting this transformation by collaborating with governments, businesses, and other stakeholders to develop resilient infrastructure that promotes sustainable economic growth.

As we move forward, policymakers, financial institutions, and development partners must align their efforts to build the infrastructure required to drive Africa's trade future potential. Africa's trade future rests on our ability to prioritise infrastructure investment today.

**Lewis Mlay (pictured) is a financial analyst based in Dar es Salaam**

## IMF urges SA to implement electricity, logistics reforms

WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has again urged South Africa to implement its economic reforms "ambitiously", while arguing for priority to be given to reforms in the electricity and logistics sectors that pose binding constraints to higher growth.

An IMF staff mission visited South Africa from November 11 to 25 for the 2024 Article IV annual consultation, and a report was published on November 26 that included an IMF growth forecast of 1.1 per cent for this year and 1.5 per cent for 2025.

The 2024 outlook is in line with the National Treasury's own forecast, while the 2025 outlook is slightly below the 1.7 per cent outlined in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

The IMF describes the Government of National Unity (GNU) as an opportunity to place South Africa's economy on a path toward higher and more inclusive growth on the back of ongoing reforms to



safeguard macroeconomic stability and address impediments to growth.

The mission welcomed the reform progress made under "Operation Vulindlela", which has been retained by the GNU, to address sectoral bottlenecks in electricity, freight logistics, digital communications and visa management, while encouraging the implementation of additional reforms.

South Africa, it said, should continue to develop a competitive wholesale electricity market,

establish a fully independent transmission system operator, and put in place regulatory frameworks for transmission and distribution.

"Expanding the transmission network is essential to allow connecting new renewable energy capacity to the grid.

"Private-sector participation in transmission can be facilitated by advancing with planned Independent Power Transmission projects, streamlining the regulatory framework, and exploring innovative financing options to

de-risk investments."

The statement also calls for an acceleration of reforms aimed at attracting private-sector participation in freight rail and ports, including by establishing fully independent transport and ports regulators, finalising the legal framework for a competitive rail sector, and ensuring competitive and transparent concession processes.

The IMF also pointed to the need for ongoing reforms in the areas of water infrastructure and to digitalise the payments system and public services.

Also highlighted were opportunities to streamline business procedures and regulations to support small and medium-sized entities, improve governance processes and tackle labour market "rigidities".

In response, the National Treasury said that priority would be given to continued restructuring of Eskom and to establishing a competitive energy market with adequate supply for a growing economy.



## CONSTRUCTION

# HOW TO OVERCOME BARRIERS IN CONSTRUCTION INNOVATION

## NEW YORK

Many of today's contractors are striving to become more innovative, particularly since it can help streamline workflows, enhance efficiency, and improve profitability.

Many challenges stand in the way, however, which are preventing contractors—and the construction industry as a whole—from fully embracing the many innovations currently available in the marketplace.

Some of these challenges are under their control and can be fixed with a bit of grit and perseverance, while others—like a complex ecosystem and the fact that no two projects are ever alike—are not.

Put together, this can leave contractors with an unclear path forward, which would help explain why construction has not been seen as an innovation leader and has even struggled to show significant productivity gains on the same scale as other industries.

Columbia Business School's Center on Global Brand Leadership, with support from Trimble, recently explored the innovation challenges that are holding contractors back and offered up solutions that are designed to drive their innovation goals forward. Below are a few key findings from the report, "Innovation Growth in the Lynchpin Industries," all directly applicable to today's contractors.

## What barriers exist for construction innovation

Unique projects within a complex ecosystem. In construction, no two projects are alike, leaving project managers to



tackle each one differently based on varying on-site conditions, making successful approaches difficult to scale.

The construction ecosystem is also incredibly complex, with an emphasis on upfront planning and subcontracting, as well as optimized timelines and lowered costs. This can deflate the risk-reward equation for new technical innovations, making them difficult to implement across projects or throughout business operations.

**Varying regulations.** Construction is heavily regulated for good reason: The industry is complex and dangerous, with one wrong move leading to a lost limb or a lost life.

Although necessary, regulations can also depress new innovations because they not only need to have a viable proof of concept, but they must also meet strict

regulatory requirements, which vary by state, region, and country. This can slow innovation implementation due to the imbalance between risk and reward.

**An aging workforce.** An aging population is another innovation challenge for the construction industry. Although an experienced workforce has many inherent benefits, it can also stifle new ideas by creating a reliance on fixed thinking, as workers are typically more comfortable doing things as they've always done them versus trying something new.

Transitioning to more integrated digital systems and physical automation can help firms do as much (or more) than before. It can also inspire younger generations to consider a job in construction as they see the industry as more aligned with their career expectations.

## What can advance construction innovation

**Interoperability.** Siloed data has been another huge barrier to innovation as contractors often have data in various locations and unconnected to one another, leaving contractors unsure of the state of a project or the business at large. Construction stakeholders also typically have different software preferences, which can slow projects as everyone isn't working off the same information in real time.

Interoperability—or the ability for data from different software systems to automatically connect with one another—is an innovation opportunity as it enables stakeholders to use their software of choice so long as it is connected to other software solutions, enabling stakeholders to more easily share data across and between systems. This creates a single source of truth, helping contractors run their projects more efficiently and effectively.

**Government investments.** Many governments across the world have stepped up their interest and commitment toward helping lynchpin industries implement new innovation practices because they understand the potential economic advantages that can come from it. The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is just one example of this being put into motion here in the United States.

Government intervention is increasingly happening in response to shifting economic trends and the impacts of climate change, causing governments to recognize the need to function as partners in promoting innovation.

Contractors should work hand-in-hand

with government entities to analyze site and community needs, as well as involve other local and national stakeholders to push projects forward that will most effectively use public resources. A balance between common needs with low variability, alongside high-priority and site-specific projects can create the greatest impact.

**Venture capital.** Venture capital has become a big innovation driver for many industries, but that's not been the case for construction despite the fact that it makes up roughly 4 percent of the US GDP. Although it has historically not been a big recipient of venture capital funding, that's changing as venture capital money has ramped up from the finance industry and from the construction industry itself.

This includes Trimble Ventures, which is Trimble's corporate venture capital fund that invests in early and growth-stage innovative companies that align with the company's mission of transforming the industries it serves.

Venture capital has the added bonus of enticing younger demographics into construction by demonstrating the industry's commitment to innovation. This can help drive talent recruitment among both traditional and non-traditional audiences.

The construction industry can become more innovative if contractors are willing to overcome common challenges and embrace innovations that can help their companies become more efficient, productive, and profitable. But they must first understand what's holding them back and then put new solutions into place that can help them individually and collectively.

## BYTORALEIFLAND

In recent years, Europe has seen a rapid rise in low-emission zones as cities wrestle with the climate challenge. Limiting emissions from vehicles is an obvious solution.

In 2022, there were more than 320 low-emission zones, a figure that is predicted to surpass 500 by 2025. The UK's Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) in Greater London is one of the world's largest.

By 2025, 27 cities plan tighter measures, while 35 cities are poised to introduce zero-emission zones by 2030, effectively banning vehicles running on fossil fuels.

These hold weight and cannot happen quickly enough. Yet there is a glaring omission: construction equipment.

Even though it produces significant emissions, construction equipment is consistently overlooked in these zones. Its contribution to global carbon emissions of 1 percent might be overshadowed by transport's 20 percent, but it has an impact - 400 metric tonnes of carbon, in fact.

And emissions from construction equipment will only rise if we don't change. With increasing urbanization and e-commerce, construction is booming. Shifting to the use of more sustainable construction equipment, like electric machines, will make a considerable difference for our planet.

A Volvo 23-tonne battery electric excavator can deliver a 95 percent emissions reduction during the use phase depending on the energy mix used for charging. Over the lifecycle of the machine, this could translate to an 80 percent to 90 percent reduction in carbon footprint compared to using an equivalent diesel-powered machine.

## Carbon isn't the end of the story

While CO<sub>2</sub> is rightly in the spotlight, it is not the only harmful emission we should be concerned about. Nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and Particulate Matter are all major contributors to air pollution in our cities. Transport is one primary source, but construction machines are another.

In London, the construction industry is the fourth largest emitter of NO<sub>x</sub> (7 percent), while across Europe, around 67 percent of the total NO<sub>x</sub> emitted by construction ma-



Tora Leifland

## Cities must rethink construction equipment in low-emission zones

chines comes from compact models. Switching to electric machines can greatly reduce these pollutants.

The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights air pollution as the biggest environmental risk to health, causing an estimated 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide in 2019. The European Commission's Zero Pollution Action Plan aims to reduce these harmful levels and improve air quality, targeting a 55 percent reduction in the number of premature deaths by 2030.

Electric construction machines play a crucial role here, offering a cleaner, quieter alternative for cities that helps them deliver on these ambitions. They are better for people and the environment - a true win-win.

### Leading the charge

While some cities lag behind, others like Copenhagen, Oslo, Helsinki and Stockholm are taking bold

steps to reduce air pollution and improve life for their inhabitants. By pioneering the inclusion of construction equipment in their emission reduction plans, they're setting a powerful example for others to follow.

Since 2019, the City of Oslo has used public procurement as a strategic tool to drive climate solutions forward, mandating fossil-free construction machinery in their tenders. From 2025, electric or biofuel-powered machines will be the standard. Already today, 77 percent of public tenders for groundworks are emission-free.

In Stockholm, Sweden's largest fossil-free worksite, Slakthusområdet, is pioneering sustainable construction, with fossil-free contracts, including the use of electric machines and other equipment, delivering CO<sub>2</sub> emission savings of more than 1,808 tons mid-project.

Helsinki has joined a voluntary Green Deal commit-

ment in Finland for emission-free construction sites. This states that from 2025, fossil-free construction machinery should be used in own public projects, with at least 20 percent emission-free machinery, where available. The emission-free machinery requirement rises to 50 percent from 2030.

The Netherlands, one of the largest greenhouse gas emitters in the EU, has pledged to halve its NO<sub>x</sub>-based emissions by 2030. Of this, transport must cut emissions by 25 percent. And the construction sector has not been forgotten either. Going forward, it must update its equipment and invest in sustainable alternatives, with a subsidy scheme set up to ease the transition.

London is tightening up on emissions from Non-Road Mobile Machinery, with requirements for Stage IV emission standards from 2025 and stage v by 2030. Plans for zero emission machinery

must wait until 2040 though.

### Time for change

Around the world, electric machinery is proving its worth. Projects like the multi-partner Electric Worksite in Gothenburg show that electric machines perform as well, if not better than their diesel counterparts. They offer the same power and reliability, but without the harmful emissions and disturbing noise. These two benefits alone make them the perfect solution for climate-conscious cities.

It's time for cities to set higher standards, not just for vehicles, but for construction equipment too. It's only fair. If residents are being asked to switch to more sustainable transport, and cities are restricting or penalizing highly polluting vehicles, then construction equipment should also play its part. Electric machines can help cities improve air quality and meet emission targets.

## Saudi's King inaugurates Riyadh metro

## RIYADH

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud inaugurated the Riyadh Metro on Wednesday, marking a major milestone in the Kingdom's urban development efforts.

"The Riyadh Public Transport Project, encompassing metro and bus networks, reflects the visionary leadership of King Salman, whose commitment ensured the project's success," said Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City (RCRC).

Riyadh Metro is one of the largest public transport projects globally undertaken in a single phase.

The network, spanning 176 kilometres across six lines and three levels with 85 stations, is a core component of Riyadh's public transport system.

The project was launched after a royal decree approved its implementation, awarding contracts to three global consortia - BACS, FAST, and ANM - comprising of 19 major global companies from 13 countries.

Ibrahim bin Mohammed Al Sultan, Minister of State,

Member of the Council of Ministers, and CEO of RCRC said the project's six lines will operate in phases, beginning with the first three lines Blue Line (Line 1), Yellow Line (Line 4) and Purple Line (Line 6).

This will be followed by the launch on 15 December 2024 of two additional lines, Red Line (Line 2) and Green Line (Line 5) and ending with launching of the Orange Line (Line 3) on 5 January 2025.

The Metro is 39.7 percent underground, 8.9 percent surface level and 49.6 percent elevated.

Riyadh Metro features a maximum capacity of 3.6 million passengers daily and complements the recently launched bus network as well as the public transport network in the city.

The project comprises 183 trains with a total of 448 cars that were manufactured by three of the largest train manufacturers in the world: Siemens (Germany), Bombardier (Canada), and Alstom (France) with a unified design by Avant Premiere (France). The train sets comprise two or four cars divided into three classes (First, Families, Singles) via flexible separators.





## WORLD

## Trump names Keith Kellogg as special envoy for Ukraine, Russia

WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump said Wednesday that he has chosen Keith Kellogg, a retired Army lieutenant general who served in senior national security roles during his first term, as the special envoy for resolving the Ukraine crisis.

"I am very pleased to nominate General Keith Kellogg to serve as Assistant to the President and Special Envoy for Ukraine and Russia," Trump said on his own social media platform Truth Social. "Keith has led a distinguished Military and Business career, including serving in highly sensitive National Security roles in my first Administration," he added.

Kellogg served as the acting national

security advisor for just seven days in February 2017, the very beginning of Trump's first term as president.

Later, Kellogg was the executive secretary and chief of staff of the National Security Council from January to April 2018, before serving during the rest of the first Trump administration as national security advisor to then Vice-President Mike Pence.

According to an exclusive report by Reuters in June, Kellogg drafted a plan for ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict together with Fred Fleitz, who also served as a chief of staff of the National Security Council under Trump.

The plan involves pressing both Kyiv and Moscow to come to the negotiating table. It would make US mil-



President Donald Trump (L) sits with Keith Kellogg at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Feb 20, 2017. AP

itary support to Ukraine contingent upon a guarantee from Kyiv that it will enter peace talks with Moscow.

Meanwhile, under the plan, the United States would also warn Moscow that if it refuses to negotiate, US support for Ukraine will increase.

What's more, the plan envisions a ceasefire where the battle lines are frozen at their prevailing locations, so as to create the condition for peace

talks. Ukraine's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will be left out of the equation for the immediate future.

During the presidential election, Trump tried to sell to voters his commitment to a quick end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, once boasting during a town hall event that he could make peace between the warring sides in a day's time if he would return to the White House as president.

## Moroccan Sahara: Hungary supports autonomy plan as 'most credible basis' to resolve dispute

RABAT

AS part of the international momentum created under the impetus of His Majesty King Mohammed VI in support of Morocco's sovereignty over its Sahara and the Autonomy Plan, Hungary expresses its support for the Kingdom's efforts to resolve the Sahara issue and backs the Autonomy Plan, presented in 2007, as "the most credible basis" to resolve this dispute.

This position was expressed by Hungary in the Joint Statement signed following a meeting, on Wednesday in Rabat, between Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, MFA Nasser Bourita, and his Hungarian peer, Mr. Péter Szijjártó.

In this respect, both ministers "reaffirmed their support to the UN-led political process and to the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to find a solution to the Sahara issue, in line with the Security Council resolutions."

Morocco and Hungary emphasize "their positive and constructive roles in maintaining stability, security and peace in their respective regions" and note "their commitment to these principles, as well as to peaceful resolution of conflicts and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States," according to the joint statement.

Hungary's new, strengthened position reinforces the recently created momentum, which the latest UN Security Council resolution welcomes and urges to build on.

## US companies seeking cooperation, opportunities at Beijing expo

BEIJING

DESPITE the tension in economic ties between China and the United States, the allure of China's vast market endures as demonstrated at an ongoing expo in Beijing, where some well-known American businesses, such as Apple and Tesla, are making a strong presence.

Apple's booth is bustling at the second China International Supply Chain Expo, which runs from Tuesday to Saturday. The tech giant, attending the expo for the second time, brought along four of its Chinese suppliers to showcase innovations in smart and green manufacturing.

"I am so proud that Apple has an exhibit here with our partners," Apple CEO Tim Cook said on Monday when visiting the booth. Cook has paid three visits to the Chinese mainland this year.

China remains a critical market for Apple. In its fiscal fourth quarter of 2024, Apple's Greater China net sales topped 15 billion U.S. dollars, making it the third-largest market globally after the Americas and Europe.

Beyond Apple, chip producers Qualcomm and Micron, fast-food chain McDonald's, and sportswear giant Nike were among prominent U.S. companies present at the expo.

According to the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the organizer of the expo, foreign exhibitors accounted for 32 percent of the total, compared with 26 percent a year earlier, with U.S. companies contributing the largest share.

The high overseas participation underscores the importance of the Chinese market, which is the world's second-largest in consumer goods, and the largest in automobiles and internet. In addition, it also plays a crucial role in sectors from renewable energy to smartphones and chemicals. The Chinese government has recently rolled out new opening-up measures and taken solid steps to provide high-quality services for foreign-invested enterprises.

China will promote high-standard opening up steadfastly, expand market access further, and welcome more foreign enterprises to engage in industrial cooperation in the country, Premier Li Qiang said Monday while attending a symposium with representatives of enterprises and organizations participating in the expo.

Honeywell, a high-tech manufacturer, is attending the expo for the second consecutive year with its display of advanced technologies in areas like smart manufacturing, energy transformation and aviation.

"We've brought 33 percent more physical exhibits this year, including products and solutions that have been locally developed and manufactured to meet the needs of the Chinese market," said Yu Feng, president of Honeywell China. The company will sign a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation with a Chinese firm at the expo to explore the development of sustainable aviation fuel using green methanol.

Xinhua

## Namibian cultural group tackles social issues, creating opportunities with traditional dance

WINDHOEK

ADORNED in animal-hide garments, a score of performers of the Black Melody Cultural Group (BMCG) delivered captivating performances showcasing the rich culture of Namibia's Batswana tribe as the art troupe celebrated its 32nd anniversary with dance and music in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, Friday night.

BMCG, established in 1992 by seven young members in Gobabis, about 200 km east of Windhoek aimed to engage local youth in constructive and educational activities centered around cultural heritage.

"We strive to achieve this through traditional songs, dramas, poetry, and music, particularly our style known as Borankane," said Juliette Mogotsi, president of BMCG, Saturday. Borankane, in the indigenous Setswana language, reflects the essence of wildlife, socialization, and the community's livelihood.

The dance techniques include sliding and stomping of feet, accompanied by various body movements and a cappella singing. Over the years, the group has addressed social issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence through their performances.

Founded soon after Namibia's independence in 1990, the art troupe also sought to promote national unity and cultural diversity. "Namibia faces many social problems, and our group hopes to shift mindsets and habits by intertwining culture with contemporary life," Mogotsi said.

BMCG also works to preserve undocumented traditional knowledge. It has produced two albums in the Setswana language to help with this effort: the debut album "Tautona Pohamba" -- a track that talks about how HIV/AIDS is killing and finishing Namibian nationals, and therefore it was pleading President Pohamba to help -- released in 2009, and the second album "Letsatsi Le Dule," meaning

"The Sun is out Shining," released in 2012, with its DVD launched in 2014.

According to Mogotsi, while BMCG's



Members of the Black Melody Cultural Group perform during a show in Windhoek, Namibia on Nov. 22, 2024. Xinhua

ideology has remained consistent over 32 years, the art troupe, which has grown to have 35 members at present, has also evolved into an income-generating venture.

On average, they charge between 3,000 Namibian dollars (about 166 U.S. dollars) and 15,000 Namibian dollars depending on the event. It also sustains its activities through fundraising events, concerts, and performances at corporate functions. "The funds are reinvested into the group, and members occasionally receive a share of the profits," Mogotsi said.

Over the years, the group has transformed the lives of many young people. Ehrenfriede Katuuu, 25, joined BMCG in 2019 to enhance her knowledge of her culture.

For her, there's limited opportunity to explore cultural history in many modern households. "Long lectures on traditions aren't engaging. However,

joining the cultural group has been a game-changer for me. I've gained a much deeper understanding of my culture and language than I ever could at home," Katuuu said.

"As an introvert, I struggled to socialize, but Black Melody has helped me connect with others more comfortably and genuinely." Like many of her peers, Katuuu has since gained valuable insights from the diverse perspectives within the group.

Manfred Gaeb, the director of National Heritage and Culture Programs in the Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture, said that cultural groups are vital not only for transferring cultural skills across generations but also for nurturing soft skills such as teamwork, management, and discipline.

BMCG has also instilled pride in its members and provided them with opportunities. The group has toured and performed on the global stage in coun-

tries like Rwanda, Cuba, Angola, and Slovakia.

This year, two members served as cultural ambassadors on a two-week cruise ship to Spain. Despite their success, sustaining a cultural group comes with challenges, including limited space to practice and financial resources, according to Mogotsi.

"Our remedy is networking and forming partnerships within the cultural sector," she said. In the interim, looking ahead, the group hopes to expand its operations by maximizing the tourism sector, which is Namibia's most significant economic sector.

"Looking to the future, we aim to strengthen our support base and strengthen international partnerships. We also wish to explore other artistic avenues, such as instrumental music, acting, and poetry, and provide lessons in Setswana dance and language," Mogotsi said.

Xinhua

## Cultural and creative product industry prospers in China

AFTER waiting in line for over two hours, Zhang Jijia finally bought a refrigerator magnet launched by the Beijing Ancient Architecture Museum, which featured caisson ceiling, a Chinese architectural feature typically found in the ceiling of temples and palaces, usually at the center and directly above the main throne, seat, or religious figure.

The refrigerator magnet was inspired by the caisson ceiling in Beijing's Longfu Temple, which is now collected by the Beijing Ancient Architecture Museum. It has five layers that can be either separated or put together. The refrigerator magnet became the top trending product soon after it hit the market in May this year, and is

often out of stock.

Zhang, a culture aficionado, visits museums a couple of times every month, either for exhibitions or to buy cultural and creative products.

"Refrigerator magnets are exquisite. They serve as ornaments and are rich in culture. To some extent, buying them is like taking culture home," Zhang said.

In recent years, cultural and creative products represented by refrigerator magnets have been emerging. These products are not only rich in culture but also fashionable. The rapid growth of related industries is effectively boosting the development of local cultural and tourism sector.

Why have seemingly insignificant refrigerator magnets

become highly sought-after products?

Hao Chunfeng, general manager of a Beijing-based cultural company, a member organization of the National Alliance of Cultural Creative Museum Products, said that limitations such as the number of museums, available spaces, and people's leisure time prevent many from visiting museums frequently. Additionally, the rarity and uniqueness of cultural relics have contributed to the rise of cultural and creative products inspired by these relics.

Cultural and creative products are no longer limited to museums - in recent years, "high recognizability" has increasingly become the design standard for cultural and creative products across

different regions.

Multiple distinctive products launched by north China's Shanxi province are popular among tourists. These include a small temple-shaped refrigerator magnet inspired by the Jin Temple, translucent postcards depicting the Nine Dragon Screen in Shanxi's Datong, ice cream in the shape of the Twin Pagodas in Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi, and mortise-and-tenon structure models.

With its rich cultural and historical resources, Shanxi has long prioritized finding effective ways to promote and showcase its heritage. Today, these cultural and creative products, designed to resonate with young audiences, are gaining market

recognition and opening new doors for the province's cultural tourism efforts.

A gift shop on the Zhonglou Street, also known as Bell Tower Street in Taiyuan sells approximately 2,000 types of Shanxi-themed cultural and creative products. Last year, it achieved sales of nearly 5.9 million yuan (\$814,557), and this year, the number is expected to reach around 8 million yuan.

High-quality cultural and creative products, apart from making impressive sales, are also emerging as a key driver of local economic and social development.

In Huawu village, Xinren Miao township, Qianxi, Bijie, southwest China's Guizhou province, tourists were browsing for their favorite

cultural products in a Miao embroidery workshop. According to the workshop's manager, the workshop blends tradition with fashion, creating items like cushions, keychains, and T-shirts that cater to consumer preferences. This approach not only enhances the economic value of Miao embroidery but also injects fresh vitality into the local cultural and tourism sector.

In recent years, Rongjiang county in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture of Guizhou province has transformed traditional crafts like batik and embroidery into sought-after fashion items by combining intangible cultural heritage with creative design. Photo shows local Miao women

making batik products. (People's Daily Online/Zhou Guangsheng)

Weifang in east China's Shandong province, known for its rich history of kite-making, has made kites a central theme for cultural products. In venues like the Weifang World Kite Museum's creative workshop, kite-themed products such as kite wind chimes, kite-themed table decorations, and embroidered kite sachets are drawing significant interest from tourists. Currently, Weifang is home to over 600 kite-related businesses, which generate an annual revenue of more than 2 billion yuan and export products to over 50 countries and regions worldwide.

People's Daily



# Mexico warns Trump tariffs would kill 400,000 US jobs, threatens retaliation

## MEXICO CITY

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Wednesday Mexico would retaliate if US President-elect Donald Trump followed through with his proposed 25 percent across-the-board tariff, a move her government warned could kill 400,000 US jobs and drive up prices for US consumers.

"If there are US tariffs, Mexico would also raise tariffs," Sheinbaum said during a press conference, in her clearest statement yet that the country was preparing possible retaliatory trade measures against its top trade partner.

Mexican Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard, speaking alongside Sheinbaum, called for more regional cooperation and integration instead of a war of retaliatory import taxes.

"It's a shot in the foot," Ebrard said of Trump's proposed tariffs, which appear to violate the USMCA trade deal between Mexico, Canada and the US.

Ebrard warned the tariffs would lead to massive US job losses, lower growth and hit US companies producing in Mexico by effectively doubling the taxes they paid. "The impact on companies is huge," he said.

The proposed tariffs would hit the automotive sector's top cross-border exporters especially hard, Ebrard added, namely Ford, General Motors and Stellantis.



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum gives a media briefing from the National Palace in Mexico City, Oct 2, 2024, the morning after her inauguration. AP

Ebrard noted that 88 percent of pickup trucks sold in the US are made in Mexico and would see a price increase. These vehicles are popular in rural areas that overwhelmingly voted for Trump.

"Our estimate is that the average price of these vehicles will increase by \$3,000," Ebrard said.

Sheinbaum and Trump spoke by phone later on Wednesday, with the two discussing topics at the top of Trump's agenda.

Trump had said the tariffs would remain in effect until the flow of drugs - particularly fentanyl - and migrants into the US was controlled.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said Sheinbaum "agreed to stop migration through Mexico, and into the United States, effectively closing our Southern Border." He described the conversation as "very

productive."

Sheinbaum later responded on X that she had laid out Mexico's migration strategy, which "attended to" migrants before they arrived at the US-Mexico border, in her call with Trump.

"Mexico's stance is not to close borders, but to build bridges between governments and their peoples," she added.

In after-hours trading on Wednesday, Mexico's peso strengthened by as much as nearly 1 percent against the dollar, reversing losses logged in previous days.

Many analysts regard Trump's tariff threats as more of a negotiating tactic than trade policy.

"The lack of a clear link between this threat and questions related to trade suggests the new president plans to use tariffs as a negotiating strategy to achieve

goals largely unrelated to trade," said David Kohl, chief economist at Julius Baer.

## Profit wiped out

Mexico's automotive industry is the country's most important manufacturing sector, exporting predominantly to the United States. It represents nearly 25 percent of all North American vehicle production.

Analysts at Barclays said they estimate the proposed tariffs "could wipe out effectively all profits" from the Detroit Three automakers.

"While it's generally understood that a blanket 25 percent tariff on any vehicles or content from Mexico or Canada could be disruptive, investors underestimate how disruptive this could be," they wrote in a note on Tuesday.

Brian Hughes, a spokesperson for Trump's transition team, said the tariffs would protect US manufacturers and workers from "unfair practices of foreign companies and foreign markets."

Hughes said Trump would implement policies to make life affordable and more prosperous for his country.

GM and Stellantis declined to comment. Ford did not comment on how the threatened tariffs would affect its business but said it manufactures more vehicles in the United States than most major automakers.

Mexico's automotive industry

group AMIA said it would prepare for any possibility and wait to see what formal actions are taken.

The Institute of International Finance, a trade group for the global financial services industry, warned Mexico-US relations would be challenging going forward. "The imposition of tariffs, eventually leading to increased protectionism, and other policies affecting exchange rates and commodity prices could have significant implications for the region," it said in a note.

## The USMCA is up for review in 2026

READ MORE: Trump threatens a 200% tariff on vehicles imported from Mexico

Katia Goya, director of international economics at Grupo Financiero Banorte, said it was likely the three USMCA countries would seek wholesale renegotiation of the pact rather than just rubber-stamp it to continue in its current form.

"The effect of a trade-conflict situation is that it will mean lower economic growth in the United States, higher unemployment and higher inflation," Goya said.

Ebrard said USMCA trade amounted to \$1.78 trillion in the first nine months of this year.

"We can fragment and divide with tariffs," Ebrard said. "Mexico does not want conflicts and divisions, but to build a stronger region."

# Mideast countries welcome ceasefire in Lebanon, urge broader regional peace

## CAIRO

COUNTRIES in the Middle East on Wednesday welcomed the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, hoping that the deal would facilitate broader de-escalation in the region.

Israel's security cabinet on Tuesday night approved a ceasefire deal with Lebanon, paving the way for an end to a nearly 14-month conflict tied in great part to the ongoing one in the Gaza Strip that has killed 44,282 Palestinians as of Wednesday.

According to Lebanese health authorities, the conflict in Lebanon has killed 3,823 people and wounded 15,859 others as of Tuesday.

Israeli authorities say Hezbollah's rocket strikes have killed 45 civilians over the past year, and at least 73 Israeli soldiers have been killed amid the operations in southern Lebanon. In a televised speech following

a cabinet meeting on the first day of the ceasefire, Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati (pictured) urged Israel to "fully commit to the ceasefire resolution, withdraw from all areas and sites it has occupied, and implement resolution 1701 in total."

Under the ceasefire, which took effect on Wednesday at 4:00 a.m. local time (0200 GMT), the Lebanese army will take control of the territory near its border with Israel over the next 60 days.

Meanwhile, Israel will gradually withdraw its troops from the region, and civilians will be allowed to return to their homes. In response to the ceasefire, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that "the deal will contribute to start a stage of de-escalation in the region by fully implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701, including the deployment of the Lebanese army in southern Lebanon



and extending its control over all Lebanese territories."

It should pave the road for halting the Israeli "aggression" in Gaza, the statement said, urging an immediate ceasefire in the Strip, unimpeded access to humanitarian aid for Palestinians, and an end to unjustified violations in the West Bank. It said that "negotiation and restoring rights rather than the military solution can settle crises in the region." "We welcome the successful conclusion of the nego-

tiations to establish a ceasefire in Lebanon and hope that the ceasefire will be permanent," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement, noting Türkiye's commitment to back efforts that foster stability and its readiness to support "the establishment of internal peace in Lebanon."

"It is imperative for the international community to exert pressure on Israel to fully comply with the ceasefire and to provide reparations for the damages it has caused in Lebanon," it said.

"We take this opportunity to recall that in order to ensure regional peace and stability, a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire must be declared in Gaza as soon as possible, and Israel must cease its aggressive policies," it added.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it hopes the ceasefire will contribute to putting an end to the violence, destruction, and suffering faced

by the Lebanese people, stressing Iraq's continued support for the Lebanese government and people and its keenness to enhance regional stability.

Noting the importance of intensifying global efforts to avoid a new escalation, it said the international community should also take serious and urgent steps to stop the ongoing massacres and attacks against the Palestinians in Gaza.

Welcoming the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire in a statement, the Iranian Foreign Ministry expressed Iran's "decisive" support for the Lebanese government and people and stressed the necessity to immediately stop the war against Gaza and Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said at a press conference that Iran welcomes the ceasefire but vowed that it will definitely respond to Israel's attack late last month on its territory.

# Remains of 43 Chinese martyrs in Korean War returned to homeland from ROK

## SHENYANG

THE remains of 43 Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) soldiers who died during the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-1953) were returned to China on Thursday from the Republic of Korea (ROK).

At 12:07 p.m., a Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force Y-20 transport aircraft, carrying the remains of the fallen soldiers and 495 of their personal effects, landed at Taoxian International Airport in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province.

The plane's touch down was met with a water cannon salute, as soldiers carried the caskets off the plane before a remembrance ceremony was held at the airport.

Nearly 1,000 people, including representatives from central and local authorities, the military, war veterans, and relatives of CPV martyrs, attended the ceremony.

Following the placement of the caskets, which were covered with the Five-star Red Flag, the participants bowed three times in dignified silence to the soldiers' remains.

The remains will be laid to rest in a martyrs' cemetery in Shenyang.

After the ROK handed over the martyrs' remains and belongings to the Chinese side in Incheon on Thursday morning, China held a memorial ceremony at Incheon International Airport. During the ceremony, the Chinese national anthem was played, and each casket was draped with the national flag. Attendees bowed three times to the martyrs before their remains were placed onto the plane.

From 2014 to 2023, China and the ROK, in accordance with international laws and humanitarian principles, successfully completed 10 consecutive handovers involving the remains of 938 CPV martyrs in the ROK, along with related artifacts.

The Korean War broke out in June 1950, eight months after the People's Republic of China was founded. At the request of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Chinese ground forces under the CPV entered the Korean Peninsula on Oct. 19, 1950. A total of 2.9 million CPV soldiers joined the war that lasted almost three years, with more than 360,000 killed or injured.

## WELCOME HOME

The flight from Incheon to Shenyang lasted about an hour and 20 minutes, but for many of the martyrs, this journey home spanned almost seven decades.

In the past a few days the city of Shenyang has been decorated with slogans that read "welcome back, our heroes".

As the Y-20 military transport aircraft prepared to land at Shenyang airport, the air traffic control tower transmitted a heartfelt message: "The mountains and rivers remain intact, our country is prosperous, and our military is strong. With the utmost respect, we welcome the loyal martyrs back home."

In response, captain of the Y-20, Zhou Han, acknowledged the gravity of the moment: "The people's heroes will live on forever, their names eternally etched in history."

It was freezing in Shenyang on Thursday, with temperatures dipping well below zero. Standing among the waiting crowd, retired teacher Lang Qingxia struggled to hold back her tears. In August 1952, her older brother Lang Defu died in the line of duty during the Korean War; she hopes that one day he will be brought back home and laid to rest.

"I have been coming for several years," she said. "Those heroes are my brother's comrade-in-arms, whom I regard as my relatives. On the other hand, I look forward to seeing my brother among these returning home."

# To understand China's reform and opening up via two sets of data

RECENTLY, two sets of data highlight the latest achievements of China's reform and opening up.

The first set of data is about China's new energy vehicles (NEVs). On November 14, China's annual production of new energy vehicles surpassed 10 million units for the first time, making China the world's first country to reach this milestone. In the first 10 months of this year, China's NEV exports exceeded 1 million units, hitting 1.058 million units, a year-on-year growth of 6.3 percent.

The second set of data involves China-Europe freight train operations. On November 15, the China-Europe freight train service hit the milestone of 100,000 trips. Operating at an essentially balanced schedule of seven outbound trips and six return trips every week, the trains have delivered over 11 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of goods, with a total value exceeding \$420 billion.

The two sets of data offer a striking perspective into the country's reform and opening-up efforts. Here are three takeaways from this great process.

## The first takeaway: Economic globalization has always been the general trend.

On October 11, the 3 millionth vehicle produced by Tesla Gigafactory Shanghai rolled off the assembly line, setting a new milestone. Of the 3 million vehicles, one-third have been exported to Europe and Asia-Pacific countries. In the first three quarters of this year, the Shanghai Gigafactory delivered 676,000 vehicles, accounting for more than half of Tesla's global deliveries during the period.

Tesla's development in China demonstrates the fruitful outcomes of economic globalization and stands as a compelling testament to China's efforts to advance the great endeavor of "harmonious coexistence" among all countries.

Apart from Tesla, a good number of foreign carmakers have ramped up investment in the Chinese market, which

underscored that China, with a complete industrial chain, efficient market mechanisms, and a competitive industrial ecosystem, continues to attract global capital to invest and do business.

In April this year, Mercedes-Benz inaugurated a new building in Shanghai as an upgrade to its R&D center in the metropolis to accelerate the innovation efforts in China; Volkswagen committed €2.5 billion to expand its production and innovation hub in Hefei, east China's Anhui province. Since 2010, nearly 100 billion yuan (\$13.8 billion) has been invested in the BMW Shenyang Production Base in northeast China's Liaoning province.

The trend toward economic globalization is deepening and countries are increasingly interdependent. No single country can independently manage the entire lifecycle of industrial and supply chains, which involves an interconnected process from R&D to production, distribution, and consumption. Unilateralism and protectionism offer no viable path forward, and "small yard, high fences" will only

result in self-imposed constraints.

## The second takeaway: Promoting reform through opening up is an inevitable path.

For more than 40 years, China has advanced reform and opening up in a coordinated manner. High-level opening up has become a critical driver for China to promote in-depth reforms and high-quality development.

Since the beginning of this year, China has extended high-level opening-up to broader areas, wider fields and deeper levels.

On November 1, the new edition of China's national negative list for foreign investment officially came into effect, removing all market access restrictions for foreign investors in the manufacturing sector. On the same day, Chinese authorities released revised rules on foreign investors' strategic investment in listed companies in a move to encourage foreign investors to make long-term and value investment in the country.

On November 22, China announced to apply the visa-free

policy to nine more countries on a trial basis. Starting from November 30, ordinary passport holders from 38 countries within its visa-free arrangement, including the newly added nine countries, can enter China visa-free for the purposes of business, tourism, family visits, exchanges and visits and transit, with stays of no more than 30 days. Additionally, China has introduced a negative list for cross-border trade in services at the national level to boost opening up.

At the same time, deepening reform also provides institutional support for further advancing high-level opening up. In March this year, China released a guideline to continue optimizing payment services for foreigners and senior citizens in the country. Thanks to the measures, over 5 million inbound visitors used mobile payment in the first half of this year, marking a fourfold year-on-year increase.

China has also rolled out guidelines to speed up the building of a unified national market, regulations on promoting and standardizing cross-border flows of data,

regulations for fair competition reviews, and guidelines on improving the market access system.

China has made breakthroughs in key areas and crucial sectors in comprehensively deepening reform, with deep-level reform and high-level opening-up mutually reinforcing each other. This has created new opportunities for economic development.

In July, the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China concluded its third plenary session, and adopted a resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. More than 300 important reform measures were introduced at the session, and they will be fully implemented within five years. This will provide not only strong impetus for China's economic and social development, but also more opportunities for global development.

## The third takeaway: China's reform and opening up brings opportunities to the world.

China's reform and opening up is a witness to the common progress of China and the world. As China opens its doors wider to the outside world, it is creating significant opportunities for the world.

For instance, the China-Europe freight train service not only allows

more countries along the routes to share the dividends of the Chinese market, but also creates new logistics activities, industries, commercial centers and industrial parks, generating numerous local jobs and enhancing connectivity across the Eurasian continent.

"The China-Europe freight train service meets the needs of businesses exploring European and Asian markets, bringing brand-new development opportunities," head of a logistics company in the Netherlands said.

The recently concluded seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) saw \$80.01 billion worth of tentative deals reached for one-year purchases of goods and services, an increase of 2 percent over the previous year, demonstrating the vast opportunities of the Chinese market.

Openness is an intrinsic path toward global prosperity and development. In addition to the CIIE, China is also hosting other global trade fairs one after another, including the Canton Fair and the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS).

Through the new development, China is creating fresh opportunities for the world, promoting the building of an open world economy, and writing a new chapter of shared development between China and the world.



## TOC general election postponed to Dec 28

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has postponed its much-anticipated general election, originally scheduled for December 14, to December 28.

The election, set to take place in Dodoma, has attracted 27 contenders vying for 12 positions.

Speaking yesterday, TOC election committee chairperson Ibrahim Mkwawa stated that the decision to delay the election was due to circumstances beyond the committee's control.

"The election, which was slated for December 14 in Dodoma, has been pushed to December 28 in the same region, and all contenders have been informed of the changes. The postponement is due to factors beyond our control. For further details, you can contact TOC," Mkwawa explained.

In a separate interview, TOC secretary general Filbert Bayi revealed that financial constraints were the main reason for the rescheduling.

He noted that the funds required to conduct the election had been exhausted, and the committee has sought assistance from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"The International Olympic Committee, through Olympic Solidarity, has already provided 75% of the required funds. While we do have money for the election, the challenge is that it may not be sufficient.

"December is a busy month with multiple events, which stretch our resources," Bayi explained.

He added that the election delay would allow the TOC to complete other planned activities.

"On December 8, we will hold the Olympic Athletes Commission Meeting. Two days later, there will be an elective meeting for Olympians. On December 12, we have a seminar for National Sports Associations' secretary



*December is a busy month with multiple events, which stretch our resources*

generals - all in Dodoma. On December 21, we will host the Karatu Sports Festival. These events require significant funding," Bayi stated.

Due to the new election date, the screening of candidates will now take place on December 4 in Mainland Tanzania and December 6 in Zanzibar. Campaigning will run from December 8 to December 27.

The TOC election, governed by recent constitutional amendments, will fill 12 positions, with the roles of Secretary General and Treasurer now appointed rather than elected.

The race for the TOC presidency is expected to be highly competitive, with four candidates in the running: Michael Washa, Anthony Mtaka, Henry Tandau, and Nasra Mohammed.

The vice-presidential contest features two contenders, Suleiman Jabir and Jamal Iddi.

The committee will consist of five members each from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, with a requirement for at least two women from each region to ensure gender balance.

Mkwawa previously emphasized the importance of women's representation in the election process.

The TOC election commission is led by chairperson Mkwawa, with Malangwe Ali Mchungahela as vice chair and Halfani Omari as secretary.

## Lions A cricketers bounce back in 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

SHAMIM Ali put on a stellar display with the ball as Lions A bounced back in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League with a seven-wicket demolition of Aga Khan SC last weekend.

The Harsheed Chohan-led Aga Khan SC had the chance to take the crease first when the teams faced off at the Leaders Club venue, posting 131/9 in the allotted 20 overs.

Aga Khan SC's most trusted cricketers battled to exhibit their virtuosity, with Dhrumit Mehta and Abhik Patwa starting the club's quest for a convincing figure solidly.

Mehta scored 25 runs and had Aga Khan SC moving to 55-2 once the youthful cricketer made his way back in the seventh over.

Even though Patwa got out much earlier after he was caught by Aga Khan SC's Karim Kiseto from Shamim Ali's bowling after 21 balls, he ended with 21 runs.

Jumanne Mohamed ensured Aga Khan SC's top-order batsmen proved their worth, nailing 33 runs.

With Aga Khan SC at 55-2 in the seventh over, the hard-hitting Vishal Patel went in and had the club moving to 116-3 in the 16th over following his impressive 36 runs.

The youthful Mohamed had Aga Khan SC reaching 120-5 once he was caught by Lions A's Ejaz Aziz from Ali's delivery in the 17th over.

A batting collapse, which came into view after Patel's exit, though, proved disastrous for Aga Khan SC.

None of the other members of the batting lineup, from the middle-order to the low-order,



Lions A cricket side's Kashif Ahmad (R) gets the Player of the Match prize upon the conclusion of the squad's 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League tie versus Aga Khan SC in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

had made his way back with two digits as the lineup quickly crumbled.

Laksh Snehal made his way back with bat in hand, chipping in with five runs not out, as the remainder of the performers could not withstand Lions A's bowling surge.

Ali confidently orchestrated Lions A's bowling onslaught having posted 3-36 in his four overs.

Umar Shaikh compounded woes for the Aga Khan SC batting lineup as the cricketer notched 2-11 and completed his spell with a 2.75 economy rate.

Needing 132 runs to come out victorious, the Mohamed

Salim-led Lions A confidently got down to a successful pursuit of the target, whilst dropping three wickets.

Lions A went on to notch 136/3 in 18.1 overs, with opener Kashif Ahmad and Shaikh taking control of the quest for a convincing victory.

Ahmad led the chase with an impressive 61 runs and he pushed Lions A to 106-3 once the performer was sent back in the 14th over.

The other opener, Aziz, had two digits in his otherwise brief stay, posting 13 runs.

They were unperturbed by an early exit of skipper Salim, as Shaikh (34 runs not out)

partnered Kiseto (20 runs not out) to win the match.

Lions A's Ahmad duly walked away with the Player of the Match prize for his batting heroics which proved decisive.

Caravans Cricket Club, before November 24 fixtures, enjoyed the driver's seat, boasting an impressive 1.7368 Net Run Rate (NRR) having won four ties and conceded a loss in one.

Second-placed Aces A had taken pride in having the same number of matches won and lost but the squad has posted a 0.6980 NRR.

Lions A was sitting third with a victory in three ties and a loss in two, which have had the side settling for a -0.2463 NRR.

Pak Stars A was positioned fourth with a 0.5336 NRR from a victory in two games and a loss in as many ties.

Although fifth-placed Strikers tied Pak Stars A on the number of wins and losses, they had an inferior -0.9211 NRR.

Delaware Upanga SC A was placed sixth with a -0.6925 NRR following a victory in one clash and a loss in three matches.

Bottom-placed Aga Khan SC had yet to emerge victorious in the five matches it has taken part in, settling for an inferior -1.5357 NRR.

Aga Khan SC, which is seemingly going through a rough patch, had garnered 675 runs and leaked 754 runs in the ties it has honoured.

The TCA-organized tournament, involving Division A clubs, is one of the high-profile club events seeking to efficiently develop cricket locally.

Strikers, Pak Stars A, Delaware Upanga SC A, Aga Khan SC, Caravans, Aces A, and Lions A are the teams battling for the silverware in the 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League.

## Simba players pledge improved performance in next matches

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC began their CAF Confederation Cup group stage campaign with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Angola's Bravos do Maquis at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

While the win secured three vital points for the Tanzanian giants, fans and supporters expressed disappointment over the team's inability to capitalize on multiple scoring opportunities.

The decisive moment came in the 26th minute when Jean Charles Ahoua converted a penalty after Bravos defender Samuel Bengue was penalized for handling the ball in the box.

Libyan referee Mutaz Ibrahim quickly pointed to the spot, and Ahoua calmly slotted the ball past goalkeeper Landu Mavanga, giving Simba the lead.

Despite the early breakthrough, Simba struggled to extend their advantage. Midfielder Ahoua was active in the opening stages, narrowly missing the target with a low drive in the 9th minute and firing over the bar moments later.

Kibu Denis also came close, but his close-range effort was denied by a brilliant save from Mavanga in the 15th minute.

Reflecting on the match, center-back Che Malone Fondoh acknowledged the team's missed opportunities.

"Yes, we scored just one goal, but we made them very tired," Fondoh said. "In the second half, when the sun was down, they had more energy and started pressing us. We needed to push for an early lead, but we only managed one goal before halftime."

Fondoh added: "We didn't concentrate enough on the open

chances we created. We could have led by two or three goals. The first game of the group stage is never easy, but starting with three points is crucial. Our focus remains on reaching the final and winning the tournament."

The second half began with high drama as Bravos do Maquis were awarded a penalty in the 47th minute after Kibu fouled an opposing player inside the box.

Emmanuel Edmond stepped up to take the spot-kick, but Simba goalkeeper Moussa Camara made a spectacular save to preserve his team's lead.

Camara, who played a pivotal role in Simba's victory, reflected on his performance.

"The match was difficult, but we were at home and won, which is a very good thing. I managed to save a penalty, which was important for the team. This achievement gives us confidence moving forward," he said. "The next match will be even tougher, but we are determined to fight and secure a positive result."

Camara's heroics didn't end with the penalty save. He made a series of crucial stops in the 57th minute, denying efforts from Edmond and Domingos Alexandre, as Bravos do Maquis pushed for an equalizer.

Despite their spirited attempts, the Angolan side could not break through Simba's organized defense.

Attacking midfielder Ladack Chasambi also voiced his concerns over missed chances.

"The difficulty of this game was brought on by us. We created many chances but failed to convert them. Even in the second half, we couldn't take our oppor-



Simba midfielder Jean Ahoua scores his side's winning goal against Bravos do Maquis during their CAF Confederation Cup match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

tunities," he said.

While the players acknowledged the need for improvement, the result puts Simba in a strong position in Group A, which also features Algeria's CS Constantine and Tunisia's CS Sfaxien. Following their 1-0 victory over Sfaxien, Constantine currently leads the group, with Simba in second place.

Simba's performance reflects their ambition to build on their domestic and continental success.

Last season, they reached the knockout stages of the CAF Champions League, where they were eliminated by eventual champions Al Ahly.

Coach Fadlu Davids men have started the 2024/25 season with renewed determination, aiming to make a deep run in the CAF Confederation Cup. The narrow victory over Bravos do Maquis underscores the importance of grinding out results in a tough group stage.

Simba's next challenge will be an away match against group leaders CS Constantine. Speaking about the upcoming clash, Camara emphasized the team's resolve.

"The next match will not be easy; it's a very big game. Our goal is to get a good result, and we are ready to fight for it," he said.

As Simba prepare for the high-stakes encounter, fans will hope the team can improve their finishing and capitalize on their attack-

ing potential.

With a strong defensive foundation and the determination to succeed, the Tanzanian giants remain one of the favourites to advance from Group A.

For now, the hard-fought win against Bravos do Maquis provides a crucial platform for Simba to build their campaign, even as the team works to address the shortcomings that left fans longing for a more convincing performance.



## Fifa legacy fund 'shameful', says Amnesty

By Dan Roan

HUMAN rights group Amnesty says it is "shameful" that a new 2022 Qatar World Cup legacy fund does not include compensation for migrant workers harmed during preparations for the tournament.

Two years on from the event, Fifa says £39.4m of the proceeds it generated will be invested in social programmes across various regions, in collaboration with the hosts, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, and the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Key priorities include occupational health, education and football development.

Fifa says the "groundbreaking" fund will support an initiative to safeguard the health and safety of workers from extreme heat in the context of climate change.

However, Amnesty insists it "does absolutely nothing for the families who lost loved ones in Qatar and were plunged into poverty as a result".

"What's the background?"

Controversy over the human cost of building the infrastructure required for the 2022 tournament in the gulf state's extreme summer heat has hung over the event for years.

In 2021 it was revealed that 6,500 migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had died in Qatar since it won its bid to host the World Cup in 2010.

The Qatari government said not all the deaths recorded were of people working on World Cup-related projects, and that many could have died from old age or other natural causes.

Before the tournament, authorities claimed there had only been three 'work-related' deaths on actual stadium construction sites since work began in 2014.

But during the event, organisers said the number of migrant workers who died on World Cup-related projects was "between 400 and 500".

Qatar introduced labour reforms from 2017, with more protection for workers, a minimum wage, and the dismantling of the controversial 'kafala' sponsorship system, but there have been long-standing concerns over the implementation of the changes.

Despite generating a record £6bn from the World Cup, Fifa resisted calls from campaigners, players' unions, fan representative groups and some European football federations for a £350m compensation fund for the families of workers who were injured or who had died, instead committing to a legacy fund.

In late 2022, Fifa said it "welcomed assurances" from the Qatar government in relation to an existing workers' support and insurance fund that it said had provided hundreds of millions of pounds in compensation in cases mainly dealing with late and non-payment of wages.

In March 2023, Fifa also commissioned an independent report to advise on its responsibilities to migrant workers in Qatar, which is yet to be published.

"Fifa burying its head in the sand"

Hailing a "historic initiative", Fifa President Gianni Infantino said the governing body was "taking the concept of a legacy fund to the next level in terms of reach and impact".

Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary-General of the Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, added: "We wanted to enact legacy projects that would address issues critical to the region and to the international community as a whole. We look forward to working with our signatory partners today to utilising the power of football and the World Cup to contribute to improving lives within our region, and beyond."

However, Steve Cockburn, Amnesty's Head of Labour Rights and Sport, said: "It is shameful that Fifa and Qatar have launched their long-awaited legacy fund without any recognition of their clear responsibility towards the vast number of migrant workers who were exploited and, in many cases, died to make the 2022 World Cup possible."

"In failing to provide funding to compensate workers and their families for the severe harms suffered in Qatar, Fifa is blatantly disregarding its own human rights policies and is likely to be ignoring the conclusions of its own commissioned report - which is yet to be published. As long as Fifa continues to bury its head in the sand, workers and their families will continue to suffer the consequences."

"After worldwide demands for compensation coming from fans, players, sponsors and football associations, this legacy fund cannot be the end of the story. Fifa must finally do the right thing and provide meaningful remedy for all whose rights were violated and abused as a result of its flagship tournament."

Fifa declined to comment on Amnesty's claims.

BBC

# Under-confident Mbappe needs time and love, says Real Madrid boss

LIVERPOOL, England

STRIKER Kylian Mbappe had another subdued and disappointing performance for Real Madrid on Wednesday, failing to seriously trouble Liverpool's defence and missing a penalty in their 2-0 Champions League defeat at Anfield.

The Frenchman has had a challenging start to life at Real after joining from Paris St Germain in June, with just one goal in five Champions League games for the Spanish club.

The World Cup winning forward has scored one goal in his last six games in all competitions but manager Carlo Ancelotti defended him after Wednesday's match as an "extraordinary" player who just needed support and patience to thrive in Spain.

"It's a difficult moment for him, we've got to support him and give him our love, he'll soon be fine," Ancelotti said.

"It could be a lack of confidence maybe. Sometimes you have moments when things aren't quite working out for you. But you get through these moments. People miss penalties, it happens a lot. You can't put too much grief on him for that."

"He works hard, he's got to keep working hard and fighting. You



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe looks dejected after the UEFA Champions League match against Liverpool at Anfield, in Liverpool, Britain on November 27, 2024. REUTERS

get through these moments. Things just aren't running for him at the moment. We've got to be patient. He's an extraordinary player."

Ancelotti said Liverpool deserved to win the game.

"I think that to be totally honest with you, it was a fair result," he said. "They have a really good dynamic at the moment, they are switched on, they play with a high intensity."

Even though Real are 24th in the 36-team league, and in danger of missing out on the knockout phase, he was confident their form

would pick up sufficiently.

"I think this game today wasn't a decisive game," he said. "We'll be there, we'll be competing in the knockout phase, like in previous years."

Real midfielder Jude Bellingham echoed his boss' remarks that Liverpool outplayed them.

"They were more up for it than us which is very disappointing. It is a bad result against the best-performing team in Europe," he said.

"We are disappointed at how we have performed and it is important that we win the next

three games and give ourselves a chance to go through."

Bellingham was also supportive of Mbappe.

"He is a wonderful player but the pressure on him because of how good he is is huge. The penalty is not why we lost the game. They performed better than us. I know that he will produce many more moments that will be huge for this club," he said.

Meanwhile, manager Arne Slot expressed relief on Wednesday that Liverpool had finally managed to beat Real Madrid for the first time in 15 years but stressed

he was not getting carried away by his team's perfect start in the Champions League.

Second-half goals from Alexis Mac Allister and Cody Gakpo gave the Reds a deserved win in a dominant performance against the Champions League holders whom they last beat in 2009.

"You know how special it is to play against a team that has won the Champions League so many times. They were a pain for Liverpool for many years too," said a delighted Slot, whose team has now won five out of five in Europe's elite club competition.

"I think it's always good to win a game, and especially a big game like this, because you face so many quality players," he added. "We are only five games in in the new format, we are happy where we are, but we're not getting carried away."

With his team top of both the Champions League and the Premier League, Slot has made an astonishing start since replacing Jurgen Klopp, adding more solidity at the back and control in midfield without sacrificing attacking threat.

"I didn't have a schedule in terms of the amount of points I wanted. You want to implement the playing style as soon as possible. That is not difficult because it wasn't that different to

Juergen's," he said.

MAN CITY UP NEXT

Slot was full of praise for 21-year-old Conor Bradley, who brought the Anfield crowd to their feet with a fantastic first-half tackle against Kylian Mbappe, and of Caoimhin Kelleher who saved a second-half penalty from the Real striker.

Goalscorer Mac Allister echoed his boss' caution against getting overconfident, downplaying talk of Liverpool now being favourites to win the Champions League.

"It is nice but at the same time it means nothing because it is just the first phase," he said, referring to the new 36-team league format before knockout games begin.

"We are happy with our performances, that's the most important thing and we will keep going."

Next up for Liverpool are Manchester City on Sunday in the Premier League and a chance to open up an 11-point gap with their main domestic rivals.

"Man City have not been on the best run at the moment, but what a team," said Kelleher. "So we're going to expect a really tough test again and it's important we keep winning in the (domestic) league as well to keep that gap."

REUTERS

## Motta satisfied with point as 'compact' Juventus draw at Villa

BIRMINGHAM, England

JUVENTUS drew for a second successive game in the Champions League with a 0-0 stalemate away to Aston Villa on Wednesday, but manager Thiago Motta was satisfied to earn another point despite his side lying 19th in the standings.

An injury-hit Juventus, with only 14 outfield players available to Motta, held on bravely at Villa Park and after their scoreless draw at AC Milan at the weekend, the manager conceded that they again failed to create many chances.

"A point secured, the team continues to play compact and with balance," Motta told Amazon Prime Video.

"Aston Villa starts very fast and they look for their striker, we conceded little. It is clear that we have also created little, so as not to give Aston Villa what they were looking for."

Midfielder Teun Koopmeiners has been deployed further forward in recent games, given the absence of striker Dusan Vlahovic, and Motta is happy with how the Dutchman is performing.

"He is playing in a difficult position. Between the lines it was complicated for him. When he comes further back, he sees more of the game and feels more comfortable," Motta said.

"He must also make his contribution in the highest phase of the field, he can do it and in many



Aston Villa's Diego Carlos in action with Juventus' Michele Di Gregorio before Aston Villa's Morgan Rogers scores a goal that was later disallowed during the UEFA Champions League match at Villa Park, in Birmingham, Britain on November 27, 2024. Reuters

games he has also come close to scoring.

"A special player, who can play multiple roles. I'm very happy to have him, he gives me peace of mind and is difficult to replace."

Juventus still have three games left in the competition, and despite their position, currently in the playoff section of the table, Motta's side are only two points off the top eight which would guarantee qualification to the last 16.

"We have great games to play between the league, Coppa Italia and Champions League," Motta said.

"Another good performance, a point, and we will continue to look for qualification. We will go out on the pitch always with our ideas and trying to win."

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich have apologised to Paris St Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi after the German club's fans displayed a banner that personally attacked him during Tuesday's

Champions League game between the two teams at the Allianz Arena.

The banner questioned how Qatari Al-Khelaifi could be a club owner, a UEFA Executive Committee member, the

chairman of the European Club Association and a television rights holder as beIN chairman.

It called him "plutocratic" and used an expletive.

"FC Bayern would like

to apologise when its opponents and their representatives in its stadium feel personally attacked in this manner and tone, and are offended as a result," Bayern said in a statement.

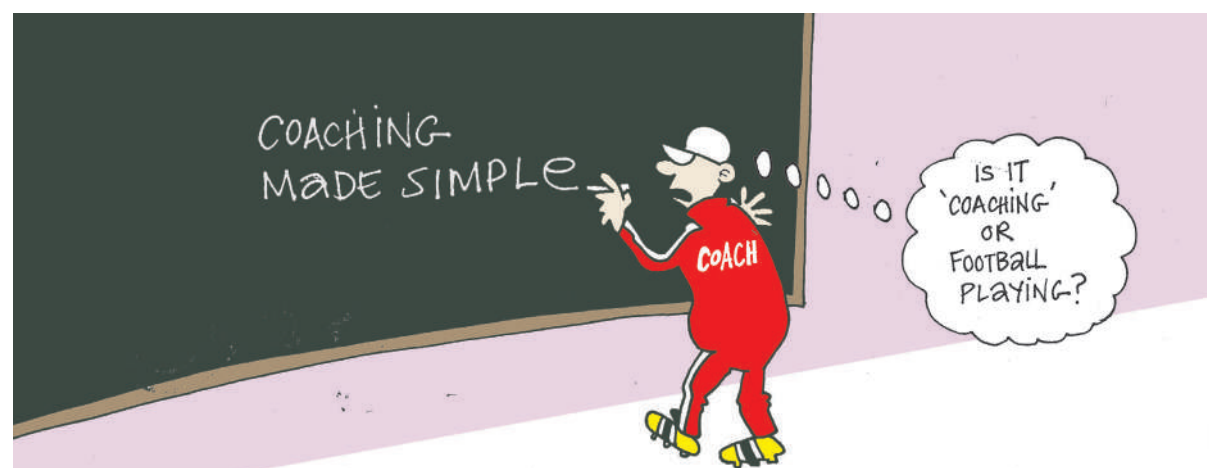
"The club would like to make it clear that these banners were not authorised by FC Bayern and do not reflect its stance. They are not in keeping with the good and long-standing relationship between the two clubs."

"The tone of these banners also goes against the style of FC Bayern and the respectful relationship the club has with its international partners."

Bayern beat PSG 1-0 thanks to Kim Min-jae's goal while the French side were reduced to 10 men when Ousmane Dembele was sent off just before the hour mark.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Under-confident Mbappe needs time and love, says Real Madrid boss**

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## Davids hails Simba's tactical execution in CAF group stage opener



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA SC head coach Fadlu Davids has expressed his satisfaction after his team secured a vital 1-0 victory against Angola's Bravos do Maquis in their opening CAF Confederation Cup Group A match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Wednesday afternoon.

Jean Ahoua's first-half penalty proved decisive in a match where Simba dominated possession and created multiple chances but faced a nervy second half.

The highlight of the latter half came in the 48th minute when goalkeeper Moussa Camara saved a penalty from Emmanuel Edmond, preserving Simba's lead.

Reflecting on the match, Davids (pictured) praised his team's first-half performance, emphasizing their control and execution.

"Fantastic performance in the first half, exactly where we want to play - in the opposition's half. Our rest defense was really good, and our ball possession was excellent. We kept them in their own half and did not allow any transitions," said Davids.

"They hardly entered our defensive zone, so it was a fantastic performance. That's exactly how you want to start the CAF Confederation Cup group stage. It's the performance we envisioned."

Despite the positive result, the South African tactician acknowledged areas for improvement, particularly in capitalizing on scoring opportunities to secure a more comfortable victory.

"Very good performance, but we have to kill off the

game when we are playing so well. In the second half, the game became too transitional - moving from one end to the other. That's something we need to control better.

"Of course, we still created big chances, but if you don't kill off the game, it

always becomes tense and edgy. Nevertheless, I'm very happy with the players - they executed what we wanted. We still have to grow as a team and gain experience, as most of our players are new to this competition."

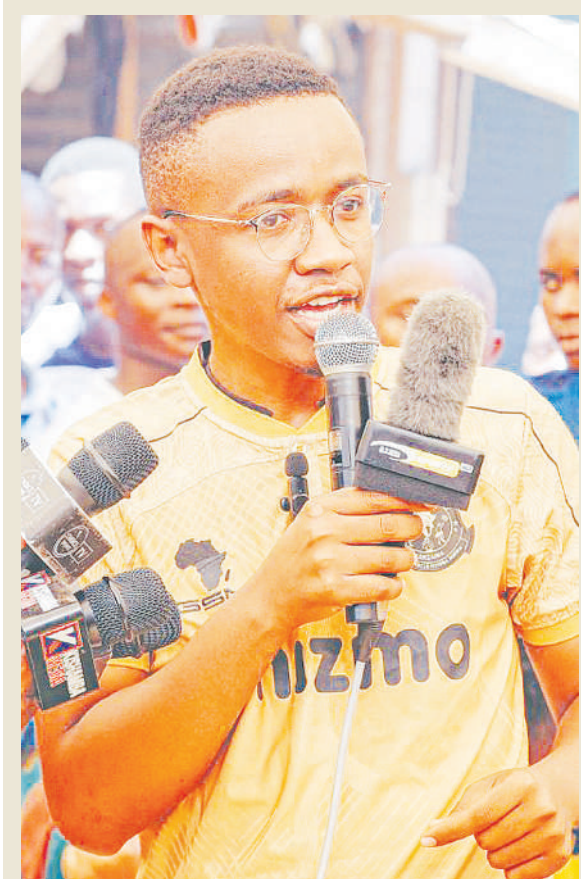
Davids highlighted the

value of this opening victory as a learning experience for his relatively inexperienced squad.

"Three or four players have CAF experience, but the rest do not. These moments help us learn, grow, and improve. We analyze the performance and set

the bar high as we prepare for the next matches."

Simba will face a sterner test in their next CAF Confederation Cup outing against Algerian side CS Constantine. The away fixture is scheduled for Sunday, December 8, with kick-off at 19:00.



## Kamwe rallies Yanga fans to stay united amid tough times

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**Y**OUNG Africans' media officer, Ali Kamwe, has called on fans to remain united and supportive as the club endures a tough period following their recent 2-0 defeat to Al Hilal in the CAF Champions League.

The loss, which came after a goalless first half, saw Al Hilal dominate the second half to claim victory.

This setback leaves Young Africans at the bottom of Group A, compounded by the goalless draw between TP Mazembe and MC Alger, which keeps the Tanzanian champions in a challenging position.

The defeat marked Young Africans' third straight loss across all competitions, following domestic defeats to Azam and Tabora United.

It was also their third meeting with Al Hilal, with the Sudanese side maintaining an unbeaten record against them.

Kamwe (pictured) urged fans to rally behind the team despite the disappointing results, highlighting the importance of unity in overcoming tough times.

Acknowledging the club's struggles in continental openers, he pointed to the need for a strong performance in their next league fixture against Namungo FC to restore morale.

"We're disappointed with the result against Al Hilal. We wanted to start the competition strongly, but unfortunately, it didn't go as planned.

"I urge all fans to remain united and support the team during this challenging period. It's a test of our maturity as a club," said Kamwe.

He emphasized the significance of the match against Namungo FC, which he described as pivotal to regaining confidence ahead of a demanding stretch of games, including an away CAF Champions League clash against MC Alger and a showdown with TP Mazembe.

Kamwe further encouraged fans to turn up in large numbers for the Namungo match, stating: "We need to stick together, especially during challenging times like these. While we've faced a series of losses, it's important to remember that even top clubs like Manchester City experience setbacks. We must stay united and work hard to overcome these difficulties."

Young Africans currently sit third in the Premier League with 24 points, having scored 14 goals and conceded just four.

The club hopes to turn their fortunes around and regain momentum in both domestic and continental competitions.

## Tabora United look to extend unbeaten run vs. KMC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**T**ABORA United will look to extend their unbeaten run in the Premier League when they make the trip to KMC Mwenge Complex to play against hosts KMC this afternoon.

Tabora United came from behind twice to draw 2-2 at home with Singida Black Stars on Monday.

The draw means they are undefeated in all of their four most recent fixtures, all of

which were played in the Premier League.

They claimed an impressive 3-1 victory over Young Africans before the international break, building on back-to-back 1-0 wins against Mashujaa and Pamba Jiji.

It has been an amazing turnaround for Anicet Makiadi's men of late, with the three wins coming after securing just two in their opening eight matches of the campaign.

They had just eight points

from a possible 24, and were in the relegation zone, but now they find themselves just six points off the top four, putting a healthy buffer between themselves and the bottom four.

As a result, Tabora United have climbed to fifth on the table with 18 points from 12 matches. They are only six points from the top four.

Better still, Tabora United have lost just two of their five Premier League away games

this season, defeating Namungo and Young Africans in the process. Yacouba Sogne and Heritier Makambo, who scored in the draw with Singida Black Stars, will be the men to watch out for, with the in-form duo expected to spearhead the attack once again.

On the other side, hosts KMC will look to break a two-match winless streak. They suffered a second successive league defeat when they were beaten 2-1 by Dodoma Jiji last

weekend.

Having lost just one of their previous five home matches in the league, Kally Ongala's side will be confident of picking up another positive result today.

In head-to-head stats, KMC and Tabora United have met in two top-flight league matches since last season.

The Kinondoni Boys boast an unbeaten record, with one win and one draw to their name.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

