



National Pg 3 TTB partners with Turkish Airlines for tourism



National Pg 4 Call for fishermen registration to curb illegal fishing



National Pg 7 Dispensing of medicines at MNH now improving



Govt sets sights on Northern Zone railway line upgrading

By Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi, Arusha

THE government is set to upgrade the northern zone railway system to ease the heavy congestion caused by cargo trucks plying the Arusha-Tanga highway and often taking goods to neighbouring countries.

Prof. Makame Mbarawa, the Transportation minister, unveiled this intention at an airport press briefing here yesterday focused on the 73rd African Airports Council (ACI) meeting, set for April 24 to 30 in the safari capital.

The congestion has become a significant inconvenience for road users, he said, noting that expected improvements include building inland container depots (ICDs) to store goods transported by rail to various East African Community (EAC) countries.

This would reduce reliance on cargo trucks and ease road congestion, he said, pointing at substantial strides in the transport sector, with the allocation of 420bn/- for upgrading facilities at the port of Tanga. This investment has boosted port efficiency, eclipsing Mtwara port, while occasioning cargo truck traffic inland, often passing through Arusha to EAC destinations, he said.

In the upcoming ACI meeting, over 300

“Hosting this meeting is a testament to the strategic achievements of our airports.”

participants from 54 countries are expected, including representatives from 59 businesses managing 265 airports globally, he said.

The meeting, themed “Toward a Better Green Future: Promoting Sustainable Air Transport and Tourism for Economic Prosperity,” the meeting will examine sustainability, safety and efficiency in air transport, with a strong emphasis on environmental concerns, the minister noted.

“The aviation sector is currently under pressure to reduce carbon emissions. ACI Africa, through its members, will adopt strategic measures to achieve this, including implementing green technologies that contribute to sustainable economic growth,” he stated.

He commended the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) for earning first place in the safety excellence awards for 2024 from the African Airports Council, which recognized the Julius Nyerere International Airport for the mention among African airports handling over 50,000 flight movements annually.

“Hosting this meeting is a testament to the strategic achievements of our airports,” he said, affirming that the award showers prestige within Africa and globally, as it testifies to high safety standards maintained across the country’s airports.

The seven-day meeting will also feature a designated day for participants to visit the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and other tourist sites to highlight Tanzania’s rich tourism assets, he said.

He mentioned that the government has allocated 11bn/- to install runway lighting at

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks to Misufini Secondary School pupils in Bumbwini, Zanzibar, shortly after inaugurating the school yesterday as part of the celebrations for the 61st anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: State House

Z’bar builds 35 multi-storey schools, works on 28 others

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has in the past few years built 35 multi-storey schools with 28 others under construction, top ministerial officials say.

Abdallah Khamis Said, the principal secretary in the Zanzibar Education ministry, profiled this effort at an event to inaugurate Bubwini Misufini secondary school in Unguja North Region, as part of commemorating 61 years of the Zanzibar Revolution.

Additionally, all dilapidated schools are being renovated and classrooms built with local community initiative are being com-

“The goal of the revolution was to improve the living standards of the people, including in education and health

pleted to improve learning conditions, he said.

The new format schools have been built during the current phase of leadership under President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi as part of government efforts to reduce classroom overcrowding, he said. The new schools project began in September 2023, he stated.

The inaugurated school, valued at 6.1bn/-, is a three-storey building designed to feature 40 classrooms, a library, laboratories, student dormitories, teachers’ housing, accommodate 1,841 students, he said.

Zahro Mattar, the regional commissioner, said that before the revolution, North Un-

TURN TO PAGE 2

‘Importing food directly to Pemba will help cut prices’

The warehouse has the capacity to store a variety of goods without damage from environmental factors

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IMPORTING food directly to ports in Pemba will help reduce the cost of food in the island, President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi has declared.

Inaugurating a food storage warehouse in Gando, Wete District, North Pemba Region operated by Yasser Pro-

vision Co., the president stated that the Zanzibar authorities are seeking to find ways of reducing the cost of food on the islands.

the government is committed to bringing down the prices of essential food supplies.

He envisaged that one such strategy is widening food storage space by building

more warehouses, encouraging the private sector to build such facilities.

The company operating the warehouse had engaged in a commendable initiative, he said, underlining the government’s wish to ease the financial burden of imports and resulting higher prices.

When traders obtain food import to the island instead of relaying such goods from Unguja, chances increase of lower prices for consumers, he said.

The president highlighted the need to set favourable tariffs on goods transport-

TURN TO PAGE 2

Ministry setting up data track on ‘students at risk’

By Guardian Reporter

AN electronic modality is being developed to track students at risk of dropping out of secondary school due to various challenges, a responsible official has affirmed.

Dr. Nicholas Gati, the ministerial coordinator for the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Program (SEQUIP) made this observation at the opening of training for teachers of science, mathematics and computer subjects in Simiyu and Mara regions taking place in Tarime town.

This initiative is part of government’s efforts under SEQUIP to improve the secondary education environment, expanding access to secondary education by ensuring that learning environments are safe and equitable.

SEQUIP focuses on girls as a particular group, while supporting all students to complete secondary education with quality learning outcomes, he stated.

He said the ministry has successfully implemented various critical activities, including re-enrolling students who dropped out of school for various reasons.

A total of 10,239 students who left school due to pregnancy have been reintegrated into the alternative education pathway (AEP), he said.

Up to 4,706 students who dropped out for other reasons have returned to the formal education system to complete their secondary education, he stated.

The project has enabled 18,833 students to sit for their final form four examinations, while 338 students have joined form five.

“The policy ensures that students receive quality education that meets current and future needs for scientific and technological development and innovation

Another 213 have enrolled in vocational training colleges, he further noted.

He pointed at the introduction of the ‘safe schools’ initiative in 2,262 secondary schools, aimed at equipping students with the skills to tackle challenges and risks that might cause them to drop out.

Caren Grown, director of the gender unit at the World Bank, had at a past event described the safe schools design as striving to create a new generation of education programs that emphasize safe school environments for girls and boys.

This includes measures that reduce gender-based violence, corporal punishment, bullying and other forms of violence in and around schools. It thus gives girls better quality choices and opportunities for completing their secondary education, she stated.

To improve teaching, the SEQUIP programme provides in-service training for teachers, where so far, 29,000 science and mathematics teachers have benefited from the training.

Lawrence Sanga, a planning department official in the ministry, said that the 2014 Education Policy (2023 edition) focuses on improving education quality, enabling teachers to use technology in teaching, enhancing the curriculum, strengthening inclusive education, along with aligning education with societal and economic needs.

“The policy ensures that students re-

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009 >

'Importing food directly to Pemba will help cut prices'

FROM PAGE 1

warehouse, underscoring its importance in not only storing food but also in reducing product prices.

He reaffirmed the government's determination to economically empower Pemba by ensuring that prices in the island aren't higher than elsewhere, which is now the case for essential goods. That will improve the quality of life for most people, he said.

Upcoming construction of ports at Mkoani, Shumba Urban and Wete would enable traders to ship goods directly to Pemba, thus diminishing transportation costs, he said.

Dr. Mwyni applauded Yasser Provision Co., for constructing the

warehouse, underscoring its importance in not only storing food but also in reducing product prices.

The government will offer needed support to ensure smooth operations for the trader, he said in assurance, while warehouse owner Adil Yakoub Sadik, disclosed that the facility took up 3.5bn/- to build.

The warehouse has the capacity to store a variety of goods without damage from environmental factors, he said.

Apart from contributing to government revenue, the facility provides direct employment opportunities for a number of local residents, he added.

Govt sets sights on Northern Zone railway line upgrading

FROM PAGE 1

Arusha Airport, enabling 24-hour operations, with the move intended

to reduce landing demand at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) while boosting direct flights for tourism or business.

Ministry setting up data track on 'students at risk'

FROM PAGE 1

curriculum and government-issued guidelines.

The policy outlines key aspects directly affecting students, the communities around them and teachers, especially the connection between education policy, training,

curriculum and government-issued guidelines.

Hadija Mcheka, an assistant director for secondary education at the Regional Administration and Local Governments wing of the President's Office (PO-RALG), stated that the training would help enhance teaching and lead to better student outcomes.

Dr Tulia promises to cover school costs for orphaned boy in Mbeya

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa,

Mbeya

MBEYA Urban MP, Dr. Tulia Ackson, has pledged to sponsor education for 14-year-old boy who has been working in a quarry to pay for his educational needs after losing both parents.

Dr. Tulia, who is also the Speaker of the National Assembly, made the promise yesterday when she visited the Yohana Japhet at Ituha Street, Ilomba Ward in Mbeya City where the boy lives with his foster grandmother since the death of his parents.

She announced plans to move Yohana to her home so he can

study under her care. She further promised to sponsor his education from Form One to university level if he passes primary school exams.

"This child is among those who demonstrate determination to make a living despite their young age. Sometimes he even misses school due to his situation," Dr. Tulia said.

"We will transfer him to a new school, and he will live with me under the Tulia Trust Foundation. We will ensure he completes his education up to university."

Dr. Tulia also provided Yohana's foster grandmother with food and clothes, including 40 kilograms of rice and a blanket.

Land survey starts to untangle conflict between villages, Kitulo National Park

By Guardian Correspondent, Tukuyu

THE National Land Use Planning Commission has begun resurveying boundaries of 14 villages in four wards of Busokelo council in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region, with the aim of resolving land conflicts between the villagers and the Kitulo National Park.

Pili Msati, manager of the Southern Zone for the National Land Use Planning Commission, said the land surveying work in the villages is being carried out through the Land Tenure Improvement and Security Project, which aims to assist residents in managing their land more effectively.

Msati added that residents who benefit from the project in Rungwe District will be helped in the process of demarcating the boundaries to resolve existing land disputes.

"The main goal is to assist the people in planning the use of their land. Once we complete the surveying, we believe land conflicts between the residents and the park, and even conflicts among the villagers themselves, will be resolved," Msati said.

Village executive officers from Mwela and Kilasi, located in Kandete and Luteba Wards, said that the project will have great benefits for the residents, who will now be able to use their land according to

their economic activities.

Pendo Mwasajile, Mwela Village Executive Officer, said that once the project is completed, it will help the residents to know which areas are designated for agriculture, livestock grazing and business activities, a situation that will eliminate conflicts among them.

She explained that currently, residents carry out their economic activities without any land-use plans which results in overlapping of activities and leads to conflicts.

"For instance, a farmer may have a land in one area, and the same area is used by a livestock keeper for grazing. When livestock cross into the farmer's field, a conflict arises between them. However, once the project is completed, we believe conflicts of this nature will no longer occur," said Mwasajile.

Haimis Gasper, Kilasi Village Executive Officer, said the project will help the residents engage in their economic activities with confidence, as they will no longer have worries about their land ownership.

"The main goal is to assist the people in planning the use of their land. Once we complete the surveying, we believe land conflicts between the residents and the park, and even conflicts among the villagers themselves, will be resolved"



An aerial view of Misufini Secondary School located in Bumbwini, Zanzibar, after being inaugurated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday. Photo: State House

Z'bar builds 35 multi-storey schools, works on 28 others

FROM PAGE 1

grade fours.

Among the major goals of the revolution was to push development for the people, as its founders laid a strong foundation in that quest, aligned with religious values, prioritizing education and ensuring access to free education, she stated.

Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan named the school after the late Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi, erstwhile second vice president in the past government of national unity in Zanzibar.

In her remarks, the president stressed the need to improve schooling outcomes, pointing at government efforts to enhance education infrastructure by building modern schools.

She however acknowledged that Zanzibar results in national examinations are unsatisfactory, stressing her antipathy for zero grades or

grade fours.

Among the major goals of the revolution was to push development for the people, as its founders laid a strong foundation in that quest, aligned with religious values, prioritizing education and ensuring access to free education, she stated.

Sharing her personal educational experience, she recalled starting school in 1965 at Kitogani primary school, built with palm leaves and popularly known as 'goat sheds' by the local people.

In the decades that followed, successive governments worked to improve educational foundations by building better schools.

For decades Zanzibar lagged behind in academic performance due

to a lack of equipped laboratories, she said, noting that students must now study hard to meet the high standards set by the government.

Up to the revolution Zanzibar had 92 schools, including five secondary schools and one kindergarten school, and now has 1,308 schools, she stated.

"The goal of the revolution was to improve the living standards of the people, including in education and health," she stated, stressing the government's vision is to produce skilled professionals who will contribute to the nation's development.

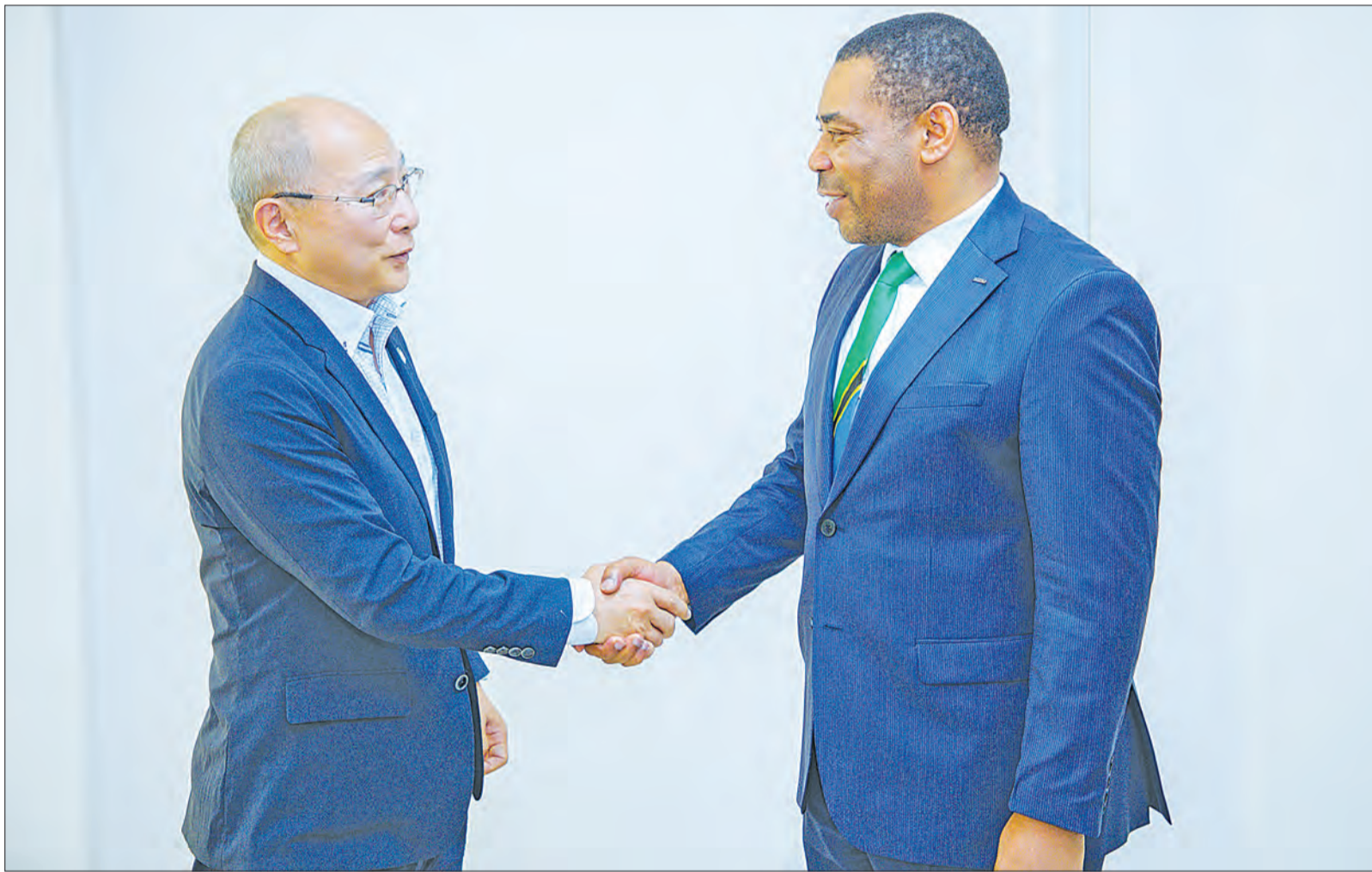
More work is needed to train skilled professionals in the tourism sector, a field that has lagged behind due to the perception that

such jobs lack dignity. This is why few Zanzibaris work in this field, she asserted.

She urged parents to ensure their children study diligently, even though the government provides free education as parents need to offer additional support when necessary.

She called on contractors and construction consultants to observe integrity to ensure that ongoing school construction meets high standards, for the buildings to last for many years.

Lela Muhammed Mussa, the Education and Vocational Training minister, said that significant investments have been directed at improving infrastructure, teachers' welfare and teaching materials.



Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) bidding farewell to the outgoing Japanese Ambassador, Yasushi Misawa, after concluding their discussions at the Treasury Square offices in Dodoma yesterday. During the meeting the minister assured the envoy that Tanzania seeks to strengthen mutual economic and social relations. Ambassador Misawa emphasized the shared historical relations which Japan is pursuing by taking up various development projects and regularly funds. Photo: Ministry of Finance

UN decries impact of communal violence on civilians in S. Sudan

JUBA

THE United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has expressed concern about the impacts of communal violence on civilians, following the killings of 299 people between July and September 2024.

UNMISS said in its latest quarterly report released in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, that communal violence remains the key driver of conflict affecting civilians, resulting in a heavy toll on people across the country.

The UN Peacekeeping Mission's Human Rights Division documented 206 incidents affecting 792 civilians, of which 299 were killed, 310 injured, 151 abducted, and 32 were subjected to conflict-related sexual

violence between July and September 2024, according to the report.

It said that despite a 4 per cent fall in violent incidents, from 215 cases to 206, compared to the same period in 2023, the total number of victims rose 24 per cent to 792 cases from 641.

UNMISS said the number of civilians killed went down 7 per cent, from 321 to 299, while the tally of people injured surged 34 percent, from 231 to 310, during the same period.

Nicholas Haysom, the special representative of the UN secretary-general for South Sudan and head of UNMISS, called for accountability, noting the trend of increasing violence against women and abductions is alarming.

"While UNMISS continues to proactively protect civilians, I call for concerted efforts by national, state and local authorities, as well as community leaders, to resolve longstanding grievances and find locally sustainable solutions to conflict drivers," he said.

Haysom urged the government to swiftly investigate human rights violations and abuses and hold all perpetrators to account.

The report said that there has also been a steep increase in abduction and conflict-related sexual violence, from 65 cases to 151 in the same period, while noting a 35 per cent reduction in violent incidents, from 317 to 206, and a 25 per cent fall in civilian casualties, from 1,062 to 792, as compared with the previous three months (April to June 2024).

UNMISS said the highest number of victims killed were documented in Warrap State, accounting for 60 per cent of the total number of civilian deaths, whereas the majority of abductions took place in Central Equatoria State, constituting 69 per cent of all documented abductions in the country, and most of these victims were men.

It said tensions between government security forces and the National Salvation Front, a rebel splinter group, continue to threaten the security and protection of civilians across the Greater Equatoria region, countering the terms of the Cessation of Hostilities signed by both parties.

Zanzibar 2nd VP commends TIRA for grant towards revolution fete

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has commended Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) for its significant contribution to the celebrations of the 61st Anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution.

Speaking at his office in Vuga yesterday, Hemed acknowledged the 321m/- donation presented by TIRA for the celebrations. He said the funds would play a significant role in supporting the Revolution festivities scheduled for January 12 at Gombani Stadium in Pemba.

Hemed noted that various companies continue to invest in Zanzibar, offering TIRA opportunities to collaborate with them to ensure proper insurance coverage for assets protection based on company needs.

The Vice President expressed his gratitude to insurance companies for supporting national leaders' efforts to bring development to citizens.

He assured TIRA that the government would continue to prioritise private sector involvement in investment initiatives and ensure that local companies are given priorities in government projects to promote sustainable development.

Hemed invited Tanzanian insurance companies to participate in Revolution Day celebrations, including inaugurating development projects, laying foundation stones and showcasing their services.

While presenting the dummy cheque, Deputy Commissioner of TIRA in Zanzibar, Khadija Issa Said, expressed satisfaction after fulfilling their pledge to support revolution celebrations. She affirmed TIRA's commitment to collaborating with the government in advancing economic and social development activities.

She also thanked the Union and Zanzibar governments for their cooperation, which motivates TIRA to deliver quality services to citizens.

Nelson Mnzava who represented Tanzania Insurance Companies Association, praised TIRA for fulfilling its promise to Zanzibar government. He pledged continued participation in revolution celebrations annually.

Mnzava urged the government to promote insurance culture among public and private institutions to safeguard their assets.



Msuguru Street residents in Muheza District, Tanga Region, wait for their turn to fetch water due to water shortage in the area yesterday. The demand has increased due to growing population. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Ministry instructs regions to identify, display investment areas on websites

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Ministry of Industry and Trade has instructed regional authorities to identify areas suitable for investment and display them on their officials websites to simplify selection process for investors.

Dr. Suleiman Selela, the ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, made the announcement yesterday during a sports bonanza held at Bombadia grounds in Singida Municipality. The event brought together participants from the ministry and Singida Regional Commissioner's Office.

Dr. Selela highlighted improvements in business systems, noting that previously, foreign investors had to visit Tanzania to access information. However, with e-government systems, investors can now obtain information about potential investment areas online.

"We emphasise that regions should list suitable investment areas on their websites so they can be visible to potential investors. Our role as a ministry is policy-making and creating an enabling environment," he said.

He acknowledged that while challenges remain, the government aims to attract industries that address local challenges and foster growth.

"We don't just want any industry. The focus of the president and the government is to attract industries that address challenges facing Tanzanians," said Dr. Selela.

Exaud Kigahe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, explained that Singida was chosen as the host for the bonanza due to its strategic central location and growth in small and large industries.

Kigahe also commended Singida regional leadership for fostering business-friendly environment and facilitating establishment of industries.

Singida Regional Commissioner's representative, Moses Machali, invited ministry staff and Tanzanians to visit the region to explore its attractions and opportunities.

"We don't just want any industry. The focus of the president and the government is to attract industries that address challenges facing Tanzanians"

Over 200 cholera cases reported in Mbeya City

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

A TOTAL of 260 cases of cholera outbreak were reported in Mbeya City as of January 6, authorities have confirmed.

Mbeya City Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Yesaya Mwasubila, shared this information yesterday during a working meeting aimed at discussing strategies to combat infectious diseases.

The meeting brought together councillors, health officers, community development officers, political party leaders, and ward and mtaa officials.

Dr. Mwasubila stated that out of the 36 wards in the city, only 10 are currently free of cholera cases. Ileni Ward has the highest number of patients. He attributed the outbreak to contaminated water.

He noted that of the 261 patients treated at cholera treatment centers, 193 were men, and 12 were children under the age of five. Three treatment centres have been designated for cholera patients: Igawilo District hospital, Iganzo Health centre, and Ndanyela

Health centre.

"Despite the number of patients we have identified and treated, there are still cases in the community where patients hide for fear of the quarantine. The individuals perpetuate the problem. We urge everyone to help us create public awareness," said Dr. Mwasubila.

Jumapili Mwasenga, Sisimba Ward Executive Officer, pointed out that one of the causes of the outbreak is defective sewer covers, leading to contaminated water spreading in the streets.

He called on the Mbeya Water and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya UWSA) to establish a system for managing manholes, including treating wastewater with disinfectants to kill disease-causing pathogens.

Mwasenga blamed the authority for addressing manholes issue only in affected areas, warning that this kind of approach could allow the outbreak to persist.

"We urge those responsible for managing the manholes to work around the clock, applying disinfectants to control the disease," he said.

Mbeya District Commissioner, Beno Malisa, directed each ward in the city to form teams involving residents, religious leaders, and traditional leaders to educate the public.

He called on all health and environmental stakeholders within the city to join the fight against cholera to control the outbreak in order to save lives.

Cholera outbreak in Mbeya City began in mid-December last year. So far, only 10 out of 36 wards in the city remain unaffected.

Dr. Salvatory Mhando, member of CCM Mbeya Urban Political Committee, urged ward and mtaa officials to monitor hygiene of local traditional alcohol brewing establishments, which he identified as potential cholera hotspots.

He explained that preparation of alcoholic beverages is often unhygienic, and foods sold in such areas pose health risks to the public.

Dr. Mhando further suggested that the government should engage students at colleges and universities in the city to educate the community on controlling the outbreak.



Cross section of health stakeholders from Mbeya City, including councillors, political party leaders and community development officers participate in a working to discuss strategies for controlling cholera on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

TTB signs agreement with Turkish Airlines to promote tourism hotspots

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) has entered into an agreement with Turkish Airlines to promote Tanzania's tourism hotspots globally through the airline's extensive flight network.

The agreement, signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday, aims to increase the number of tourists and investors in the sector within the country.

Ephraim Mafuru, Director General of the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB), explained that Turkish Airlines was chosen due to its impressive network of over 490 flights, reaching more than 350 cities worldwide, including over 61 cities in Africa. This vast coverage will enable Tanzania to be effectively promoted across the globe.

Mafuru mentioned that the agreement covers several areas, including advertising tourist attractions and investment opportunities on the airline's planes, websites, and offices worldwide. It will also offer discounted fares to Tanzanian passengers, especially for trips aimed at investing in or promoting tourism in Tanzania.

Additionally, Mafuru expressed gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts in opening up the country, particularly the tourism sector, to the world.

Kadir Karaman, CEO of Turkish Airlines in Tanzania, stated that the agreement will strengthen the shared goal of expanding Tanzania's presence in international tourism markets, creating growth and benefits for all parties involved.

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
in association with
Swarnanga Tanzania

VISHWA HINDI DIWAS 2025

Performance of Folk Music by
PADMA SHREE MRS. MALINI AWASTHI

11 JANUARY 2025
06:00 TO 09:00 PM

VENUE: NATIONAL MUSEUM AUDITORIUM

ENTRY FREE
PLEASE BE SEATED BY 06:15 PM

Zanzibar now set to end outsourcing printing jobs

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals, Shaibu Hassan Kaduara, has emphasised the importance of the government printing its own sensitive documents.

He made the remarks at Tunguu during the ceremony of laying foundation stone for Zanzibar Government Press Office as part of celebrations to mark 61 years of Zanzibar Revolution.

The new office is expected to streamline operations, generate government revenue and address challenges such as outsourcing printing to private companies.

Kaduara urged journalists to adhere to professional ethics and demonstrate patriotism by using their platforms to educate the public on the importance of peace and stability.

He also encouraged journalists to focus on rural communities, highlighting their challenges for the government to address the same.

Unguja South Regional Commissioner Ayoub Mohamed Mahmoud noted the region's development progress, with 17 projects worth inaugurated during the 61st revolution anniversary celebrations.

Fatma Hamad Rajab, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, stated that the project is 50 percent and is expected to be completed by September this year.

Construction of Zanzibar Government Press Office is expected to cost over 8bn/- and will include a newspaper printing press and other essential services.

He also encouraged journalists to focus on rural communities, highlighting their challenges for the government to address the same

Villages to register all fishers to end rampant illegal fishing

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida



A Dar es Salaam resident patches potholes at Mbezi Mwisho bus terminal in the city yesterday to address inconvenience to commuter bus drivers. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

SINGIDA District Council has directed village and ward chairpersons as well as executive officers to register all individuals engaged in fishing activities to curb illegal fishing.

Elia Digha, Singida District Council Chairman, issued the directive yesterday during a stakeholders' meeting on fishery, which brought together councillors, fishermen, village chairpersons and executive officers from wards and villages, along with officials from the Fisheries Department and the council's revenue team.

Digha emphasised that village and ward leaders must identify and register fishers' leaders and monitor visitors who enter the villages for fishing purposes to make it easier to control illegal activities.

"There are roaming fishermen who move from one place to another; we must ensure we identify your leaders and all the fishermen and maintain proper registration records.

"Some individuals with ill intentions engage in criminal activities and then hide in our fishing villages. When a visitor arrives, let's identify them and ensure proper records to avoid illegal entry."

During the meeting, fishermen and their leaders from villages shared their challenges and received responses aimed at improving their fishing activities and revenue collection from fish sales.

Additionally, participants were urged to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure increased revenue collection.

One of the resolutions made during the meeting was that fishermen must wear life jackets to ensure their safety while fishing.

BoT issues another notice against forex use in domestic transactions

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has issued another warning against use of foreign currency for transactions within the country, saying such actions are illegal and undermine national economy.

Emmanuel Tutuba, BoT Governor issued the warning in a statement released in Dar es Salaam yesterday, clarifying that all domestic transactions must be conducted in Tanzanian shillings.

He emphasised that using foreign currencies for local economic activities harm Tanzania's economy.

Meanwhile, BoT has decided to maintain the Central Bank Rate (CBR) at 6 percent for the first quarter of 2025. A central bank rate is the interest rate that a central bank sets to influence other interest rates and the monetary stance of the economy.

The decision to keep the CBR at 6 percent aims to ensure adequate liquidity, keep inflation below the 5 percent target, and support economic growth, which is projected to accelerate to 5.7 percent in the first quarter of 2025.

The policy also seeks to stabilise the value of the shilling and discourage the use of foreign currencies in domestic transactions.

Tutuba discussed global economic trends, noting reports from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank reporting strong global growth in 2024. The fourth quarter saw improvements in the global economy, with increased growth, lower inflation, and better access to finance at favourable rates.

He mentioned that Tanzania's economy remained strong in 2024. Tanzania Mainland grew by 5.4 percent in the first half of the year, with expected growth of 5.6 percent in the third quarter and 5.7 percent in the fourth quarter.

Zanzibar saw growth of 6.8 percent in the first quarter and 7.2 percent in the second quarter of 2024, with a forecasted growth rate of 7.2 percent for the year.

Tutuba said the strong performance was driven by growth in agriculture, construction, transport, and trade. He added that both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar are expected to continue solid growth in 2025, with growth rates around 6 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.

Credit growth to the private sector remained healthy in 2024, and foreign currency liquidity significantly increased in the fourth quarter due to improved global conditions and higher foreign exchange earnings from tourism, gold, cashewnuts, and tobacco.

Tutuba stated that Tanzanian shilling is expected to remain stable in 2025, supported by adequate foreign currency reserves, which currently exceed \$5.5 billion.

BoT will continue to enforce Section 26 of the Bank of Tanzania Act, which encourages the use of Tanzanian shillings for domestic transactions to reduce unnecessary demand for foreign currency, he said.

Zanzibar saw growth of 6.8 percent in the first quarter and 7.2 percent in the second quarter of 2024, with a forecasted growth rate of 7.2 percent for the year

DTB

DIAMOND TRUST BANK

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF CHARGES AND TARIFFS Q-1 2025

CASH WITHDRAWALS (TZS)	
Savings Accounts - (Up to USD 10,000)	TZS 5,000
Current Account	
Up to 10 million	5,000
>10 million ->20 million	7,500
>20 million	10,000

REMITTANCES	
INWARD	
Incoming Funds Transfer (TSS)	FREE
OUTWARD	
Outgoing Funds Transfer (TSS)	Amount in TZS Fee (TZS)
1 to 10,000,000	2,000
10,000,001 - 50,000,000	5,000
50,000,001 - 100,000,000	10,000
EFT local	TZS 5,000
Telegraphic transfers (TT)	USD 55
Funds recall	TZS 10,000 USD 10

TRANSFERS	
Internal transfers	FREE
Inter-branch transfers	FREE

REQUIRED MINIMUM OPENING BALANCE	
Current Account	TZS 50,000 USD 100
Savings Account	FREE

ACCOUNT CLOSURE	
Current Account	TZS 30,000 USD 30
Savings Account	USD 15
Smart Saver	FREE

STANDING ORDER	
Set-up	FREE
Internal Processing	FREE
External Processing	TZS 10,000

STATEMENTS	
Periodic Scheduled Statement	FREE
E - Statement	FREE
Interim Statement - Current Year	USD 5 TZS 10,000
Interim Statement - Previous Year	USD 5 TZS 10,000

MASTERCARD / VISA DEBIT CARDS	
Annual Charges	TZS 3,000
Card Replacement	TZS 10,000
Cards Uncollected and Destroyed (TZS/USD)	TZS 10,000
Capture Card fee - in DTB ATM's	TZS 1,000
Cash Withdrawal - DTB ATM per withdrawal	TZS 1,200
Other bank ATM withdrawal - in Tanzania	TZS 3,000
Other bank ATM withdrawal - Outside Tanzania	TZS 5,000
Kisumu Zaidi Account - DTB ATM withdrawal fees	TZS 150

AVERAGE MONTHLY MINIMUM BALANCE (AMB)	
Savings Account - DTB Super Value	TZS 100,000
Current Account - Standard	TZS 50,000
Current Account Standard	USD 100
Current Account - Premium	TZS 1,000,000
Current Account - Prime FCY	USD 250
Savings Account - DTB Value	TZS 15,000
Savings Account - DTB Super Salary	NIL
Kisumu Zaidi Account	TZS 5,000
Savings Account - Prime FCY	USD 25

USD DEBIT CARD FEES	
Annual Card Fee	USD 10
1 st Card Issuance	FREE
Card Replacement	USD 15
Cash Withdrawal - DTB ATM's	USD 1
Other bank ATM withdrawal - in Tanzania	USD 3
Other bank ATM withdrawal - Outside Tanzania	USD 5

CASH HANDLING - FOREIGN CURRENCY	
Deposits on Denominations less than USD/EUR/GBP 50	5%
Foreign Currency Cash Deposit (USD/EUR/GBP) above 10,000	0.50% of the amount

ATM	
ATM Mini Statement	FREE

CASH WITHDRAWALS (USD)	
Savings Accounts - (Up to USD 10,000)	FREE
Savings Accounts - (Above USD 10,000)	0.5%
Current Account - (Up to USD 10,000)	0.5%
Current Account - (Above USD 10,000)	1%

ELECTRONIC BANKING	
SOFT TOKEN	
Internet Banking Monthly Charge	FREE
Registration Fee	FREE
PIN Re - Generator	FREE
TISS Transfer	Amount in TSH Fee (TSH)
1 to 10,000,000	1,000
10,000,001 - 50,000,000	2,500
50,000,001 - 100,000,000	5,000
TT Transfer	TZS 60,000
Local EFT	TZS 2,500 + TZS 100 per fee
Standing Instructions set up	FREE

TRANSACTION FEE - PER ENTRY	
Savings Account	FREE
Current Account - Standard (Debit/Credit)	USD 0.10 TZS 300
Salary Processing Fee	USD 0.10 TZS 100

MONTHLY LEDGER FEE	
Savings Accounts - Value / Super Value / Super Salary	FREE
Smart Saver, Kisumu Zaidi, Amani, Faraja	FREE
Prime Savings (EUR, GBP, USD)	EUR/GBP/USD 2
Current Account - Standard	TZS 15,000
Current Account - Premium Current Account	TZS 20,000

GUARANTEES (LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL)	
Bonds & Guarantees with 100% Cash Cover	0.60% Per Quarter Min. TZS 60,000 / USD 25 (Per Quarter or part thereof)
Bonds & Guarantees (Per Quarter)	1.38% - Min. TZS 60,000 / USD 25

BASE LENDING RATES (BLR)	
TZS	20% P.A
USD	10% P.A

FIXED DEPOSIT RATES - FOREIGN CURRENCY				
TENOR	USD > 50,000	USD up to 50,000	GBP	EUR
1 Month	0.25%	0.25%	NIL	NIL
2 Months	0.25%	0.25%	NIL	NIL
3 Months	0.50%	0.50%	NIL	NIL
6 Months	0.75%	0.75%	0.25%	NIL
1 Year	3.00%	2.25%	0.50%	NIL
2 Years	3.25%	2.50%	0.75%	NIL

FIXED DEPOSIT RATES - LOCAL CURRENCY							
Amount (In TZS Millions)	Call Deposits	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months	24 Months	36 Months
<100	0.00%	1.00%	1.50%	3.00%	5.75%	6.25%	6.75%
>100 - 500	0.00%	1.25%	1.75%	3.25%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%
>500 - 1000	1.00%	1.25%	1.75%	3.25%	6.00%	6.50%	7.00%

For rates above TZS 1 Billion, please contact Branch Manager of nearest DTB Branch

Fees on USD Transfers to be collected in TZS equivalent as per the prevailing exchange rates

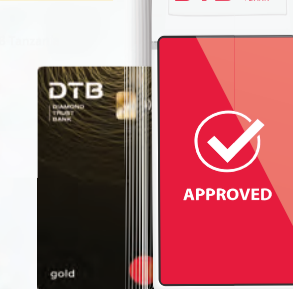
NB: The Tariffs are VAT exclusive

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS REDRESSAL MECHANISM	
1	Meet the Branch Manager and lodge your complaint orally or in writing.
2	Drop your complaint in the Suggestion Box provided at the branch.
3	Email: customercare@diamondtrust.co.tz
4	You can also email directly to the following senior officers:
	Chief Executive Officer at ceo@diamondtrust.co.tz
	Chief Operating Officer at coo@diamondtrust.co.tz
	Head-Operations at headoperations@diamondtrust.co.tz
	Head-Compliance at headcompliance@diamondtrust.co.tz
5	Call Number +255 22 211 48912 or 0800 110 110

We will resolve your Complaint as soon as we receive and action taken will be advised to you.

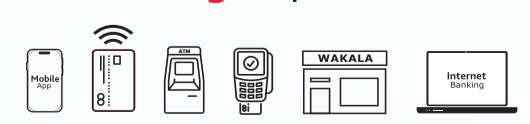
In case you are still not satisfied with the action taken by the bank, you can address your complaint, by filling a prescribed form (Form No. 1) available at the branch and submit it by either email, hand, post or fax, at the Complaints Resolution Desk of the Bank of Tanzania bearing the following address:

Complaints Resolution Desk,
Office of the Secretary to the Bank, Bank of Tanzania,
2 Mirambo Street,
P.O. Box, 11884
Dar es Salaam.



Elevate

your banking experience today!



Bank with us. Bank on us.

218517701

Govt hands ambulance to Mtera Health Centre

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

OVER 14,000 residents of Mtera Ward, Mpwapwa District in Dodoma Region can now access emergency health services after the government delivered an ambulance to Mtera Health Centre. The gesture is part of the government's efforts to provide emergency vehicles to different health facilities in the country to improve provision of health services across the country.

Speaking during a brief handover ceremony at Mtera Health Centre yesterday, Minister of State, in the President's Office

(Public Service Management and Good Governance) George Simbachawene said the government is committed to providing timely referral services, especially for pregnant women.

The minister warned that the ambulance should be used for the intended purpose only, noting that the government would not tolerate any deviance.

Simbachawene who is also the Member of Parliament for Kibakwe Constituency made the statement during a public meeting that preceded the official handover of the ambulance, noting that the vehicle belongs to the government.

"Let me emphasise that the vehicle is only intended for patients and other health related matters in efforts to provide quality services to people" said the minister, adding that once the vehicle is on the road, it should be carrying patients only.

Chairman of Mpwapwa District Council George Fuime said he will closely monitor the use of the vehicle so that it can be of help to all residents of Mtera Ward and the entire Mpwapwa District.

The handover of the vehicle brings the total number of ambulances in Mpwapwa District Council to seven.



Physics teachers John Samwel (R) from Imlaseko Secondary School in Simiyu Region and Yohana Maduhu (L) from Bukundi Secondary School, demonstrate an experiment on heat transfer via convection using liquid and gas conducted yesterday during a training session for teachers of Science, Mathematics, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Tarime District, Mara Region. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

PPPC to tour Ilemela for joint project dialogue

By Guardian Reporter

THE Public-Private Partnership Centre (PPPC) is set to send experts to Ilemela Municipality in Mwanza Region by the end of this month to assess key areas for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects.

The decision follows a visit by Ilemela Municipality councilors to PPPC to learn how it operates and how they can leverage their land resources for PPP projects.

David Kafulila, PPPC Director General, shared this information yesterday while speaking to the visitors, including Ilemela MP Angelina Mabula, Ilemela Mayor Renatus Mulunga and Ilemela CCM chairman Yusuph Bujiku.

He praised the municipality's decision, stating that it would use public capital through PPP to carry out projects.

"You made the right decision to visit us and learn by seeing our DDC project implemented through PPP. We also have 82 other projects at various stages and there many areas you can develop using public capital," he said.

Kafulila clarified that PPP is a

partnership, not privatisation, as some may believe. While the private sector contributes capital and develops the projects, they were owned by the government before.

He explained the benefits of PPP, including leveraging private sector capital to fund government projects instead of borrowing. The government can then use its funds for other projects in areas the private sector cannot explore.

"The private sector might not be interested in building hospitals or roads in rural areas due to lower populations, but it can invest in urban areas where there is a higher return. Ilemela is a good place for PPP investment," Kafulila said.

He also emphasised that the private sector hires high-paying directors focused on efficiency. Through PPP, the private sector can bring in skilled experts for effective project implementation.

Kafulila highlighted that human needs are increasing beyond the capacity of any government to meet, and since government revenue comes from taxes and loans, it cannot meet the needs

without PPP.

"Experience shows that the government can't meet expectations as it depends on taxes and loans. Global debt is now \$300 trillion while the economy is \$110 trillion—three times the economy's size," he said.

"This debt involves governments, private sector and households, proving that we must collaborate with the private sector to implement projects. People in rural Kigoma for instance, want the same life as those in the city and once they achieve it, they'll want more. Human needs grow every day."

Mulunga expressed readiness, stating the municipality has many areas suitable for PPP projects.

Mabula said the municipality has allocated land but has yet to find an investor. They recognised that PPP is the right approach.

"We have the Mahombolo area where we can build a stadium, especially for AFCON. We need a bus terminal and a modern market but we cannot do this with the municipality's budget alone; we need PPP," she said.

Aid distribution starts for 80,000 people in uneasy region of Sudan

KHARTOUM

HUMANITARIAN aid started distribution on Monday in the southern part of Sudanese capital Khartoum, aiming to support over 80,000 war-affected people who have been grappling with dire humanitarian conditions amid the current civil war, a local volunteer group said.

"Eight centres have been set up to distribute aid to thousands of residents in Al-Azhari, Al-Ingaz, Ed Hussein, and Mayo neighborhoods, south of Khartoum," Mohamed Kandasha, spokesperson for the South Khartoum Emergency Room, told Xinhua.

"This is the first time such aid has been distributed since the war broke out" in April 2023, Kandasha said, noting the aid distribution would last for three days.

For the first time since the conflict erupted, the World Food Program has managed to deliver a convoy of 28 trucks carrying food aid, including five trucks containing vital medicines, to the southern Khartoum area, the UN agency has said.

The South Khartoum Emergency Room has made significant efforts to facilitate the arrival of humanitarian aid trucks to the area.

"Following close coordination

with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), international organizations and United Nations agencies, we managed to deliver humanitarian aid in late December," Kandasha said.

According to official statistics, 28.9 million people in the country need humanitarian assistance due to an ongoing conflict between the SAF and the RSF since mid-April 2023.

The deadly conflict has claimed around 30,000 lives and displaced over 14 million people, either inside or outside Sudan, according to estimates by international organizations.

DAR RAPID TRANSIT AGENCY



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

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

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

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



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SOS Children's Villages in Tanzania is a local non-government and non-denominational organization affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care organization that work to protect and care for children who have lost parental care, or who stand at risk of losing the care. Established 74 years ago, SOS Children's Villages, currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs two major programs i.e., SOS family like care and family strengthening program supporting families in local communities. SOS Children's Villages has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991. Our programs are in Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Iringa. To achieve our mission and Strategy, we focus on ensuring the best care of children, innovation, and effective collaboration with partners. Our Core Values guiding who we are, and what we do include courage to take action, commitment to keep our promises, trust to believe in each other, and accountability to be reliable partners.

SOS Children's Villages in Tanzania seeks to recruit suitably qualified candidates to fill the following vacant positions.

Job Title: Head of ICT
Duty station: National Office- Dar es Salaam
Reporting to: National Director

Job Summary

The Head of ICT is responsible for ensuring the effective operation of ICT infrastructure and services across SOS Children's Villages in Tanzania. The role involves implementing global and regional ICT policies, maintaining ICT services' security and reliability, and supporting the organization's strategic goals. As a member of the Senior Management Team, the Head of ICT provides strategic and technical advice to enhance operational efficiency and innovation.

Major Responsibilities

- Design, implement, and manage the ICT infrastructure for the National Office and programme locations, including LANs, WANs, Wi-Fi networks, and computing devices.
- Ensure internet bandwidth planning, design, and execution in alignment with global and regional guidelines and business needs.
- Implement approved global and regional ICT minimum standards for hardware and software across all locations.
- Ensure all ICT systems, software, and hardware are licensed, up-to-date, and meet security requirements.
- Implement global and regional IT security measures to safeguard systems, cloud services, and user data from threats.
- Execute disaster recovery and business continuity protocols to minimize operational downtime.
- Apply technical measures such as content filtering to ensure secure and appropriate use of internet resources.
- Provide timely onsite and remote support for daily technical issues, ensuring effective resolutions.
- Identify ICT training needs and support capacity-building initiatives in collaboration with the HR department.
- Develop and enforce ICT usage policies to ensure adherence to organizational IT security standards and the code of conduct.
- Administer MA email accounts while upholding privacy and organizational guidelines.
- Develop, execute, and monitor the ICT budget for the National Office and programme locations.
- Oversee procurement processes for ICT equipment and services, ensuring compliance with global and regional standards.
- Conduct regular audits of ICT systems across programme locations and provide reports to the National Director.
- Maintain up-to-date documentation of all ICT infrastructure, hardware, licenses, and contracts.
- Track and report on operational tasks and projects as requested by the Regional ICT Director/Advisor.
- Develop and maintain a three-year national ICT plan for the MA.
- Evaluate technology use and recommend improvements for hardware and software upgrades.
- Support the integration of ICT for Development (ICT4D) into new and existing programmes to enhance beneficiary services.
- Collaborate on the development of business requirements for customized business applications under regional guidelines.
- Participate in regional ICT activities and serve as an active member of the regional ICT network.
- Organize and support high-level strategic and management training in ICT areas that align with global policies.
- Conduct quarterly stocktaking and maintain inventory records of ICT assets across the MA.
- Lead vendor assessments, product selection, and ICT services contract reviews, ensuring alignment with standards.
- Endorse and recommend adjustments to ICT service contracts to the management.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, and Behavioral Competences:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or a related field. A postgraduate qualification would be an added advantage.
- At least 5 years of experience in providing technical support to local and remote users. NGO experience is an added advantage.
- Proficiency in repairing and maintaining ICT equipment.
- Relevant experience in IT project management.
- Hands-on experience with LAN, databases, email systems, and telecommunications infrastructure.
- Expertise in Microsoft Server and virtual server administration.
- Proven experience in managing and implementing information systems and supporting technologies.
- Strong analytical, problem-solving, and project management skills.
- Ability to prioritize tasks effectively and manage resources efficiently.
- Excellent training and communication skills.
- Proficient in using Microsoft Office applications, including Word, Excel, and other relevant software.
- Demonstrates creativity, self-drive, and resilience in addressing challenges.

Job Title: Child Safeguarding and Protection Coordinator
Duty station: National Office- Dar es Salaam
Reporting to: National Director

Job Summary

The Child Safeguarding and Protection Coordinator serves as a focal point at the national level for initiatives and activities aimed at facilitating the implementation and enhancement of the Child Safeguarding Policy. This involves ensuring the presence of policies, procedures, systems, structures, resources, and personnel dedicated to promoting the welfare and protection of children. The Child Safeguarding and Protection Coordinator is responsible for supporting and coordinating activities that contribute to the development of greater proficiency throughout the member association and within child protection systems and processes. The Child Safeguarding and Protection Coordinator collaborates closely with and receives support from the National Director, who holds ultimate responsibility for the implementation of child safeguarding measures.

Major Responsibilities

- Annually develop a national action plan based on status quo analysis together with the National Director, including a training strategy, to support child protection implementation in line with the 'Implementation Guide' of SOS-Kinderschutz International and tailored to the needs of SOS Children's Villages Tanzania; ensure child protection is integrated into national and local planning.
- Develop and implement a regular national monitoring system to document progress and challenges related to safeguarding issues.
- Provide training to staff and stakeholders, offering diverse activities to enhance knowledge, practices, and skills in child safeguarding.
- Support Human Resources (HR) in incorporating child safeguarding into existing processes and procedures (e.g., recruitment, screening, selection, induction, performance management).
- Monitor and review the implementation of relevant policies, documentation, and procedures, ensuring compliance, currency, and alignment with government laws and international child safeguarding standards.
- Conduct ongoing training and protection activities to sustain awareness and address specific training needs across various SOS locations.
- Work as a local resource on child safeguarding, providing guidance and advice on related matters.
- Offer coordination across the Member Association (MA) for consistent, efficient, and effective child safeguarding initiatives and knowledge sharing.
- Establish connections with other networks and National Family Programs (NFPs) within SOS Children's Villages (at regional, continental, and international levels) to foster consistent implementation and the exchange of experiences, learning, and best practices.
- Facilitate communication on child safeguarding through various means, sharing good practices, and developing child-friendly protection materials, especially for children.
- Participate in external Child Rights and Child safeguarding events, contributing to advocacy efforts.
- Liaise with Regional/International Child Safeguarding Managers/Advisors to enhance technical competence and safeguarding systems.
- Support the National Director in responding effectively to child safeguarding concerns.
- Centrally organize reports, referrals, and secure and confidential documentation of concerns.
- Assist the National Director in implementing quality assurance mechanisms to evaluate child protection arrangements.
- Support the National Director in obtaining an overall view of the national child protection status.
- Develop learning needs assessments and capacity-building plans for staff and stakeholders based on allocated plans and budgets.
- Shape broader child protection sector strategies through influence and leadership within inter-agency coordination forums, ensuring children's specific needs are addressed.
- Proactively identify advocacy opportunities, case studies, and research possibilities aligned with organizational and sectoral objectives.
- Play a leadership role in shaping communications and media priorities according to Child Safeguarding thematic preferences.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, and Behavioral Competences:

- Bachelor's degree in social work, sociology, development studies, community development, community economic development or relevant field of study. A postgraduate qualification would be an added advantage.
- 6 working years in a relevant field, with experience in child protection, and safeguarding.
- In-depth understanding of national and international child protection laws, policies, and standards.
- Knowledge of child development, trauma-informed care, and psychosocial support for children.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills related to child protection issues.
- Familiarity with child safeguarding risk assessments and mitigation strategies.
- Ability to lead and coordinate child protection programs, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and standards.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.
- Ability to assess and respond to child protection cases with sensitivity and empathy.
- Attentive to detail and confidentiality, with the ability to multitask.
- Proven ability to manage and supervise a team, providing guidance and support.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines while maintaining a high level of attention to detail.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, particularly in the functional use of Excel, PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word.

Job Title: Gender and Youth Coordinator
Duty station: National Office- Dar es Salaam
Reporting to: Head of Programs

Job Summary

The Youth and Gender Coordinator will be responsible for supporting and monitoring the implementation of youth development initiatives within the National Association, under the supervision of the Head of Programs. This includes analyzing trends in youth care, development, employability, and SOS-internal youth data. The role involves networking with key stakeholders to improve the situation of young people in and leaving care, those from vulnerable families, as well as those in community program outreach.

The Youth and Gender Coordinator will also ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are integrated into all youth programs, promoting gender equality, addressing barriers faced by girls, young women, and gender minorities, and advocating for gender-responsive policies.

Major Responsibilities

- Defining and developing SOS youth care options based on past and current assessments, using a results-based management approach, and ensuring the active involvement of young people, including gender-sensitive assessments and addressing gender-specific needs.
- Ensuring regular individual youth development and career planning, with particular attention to gender-specific challenges and opportunities, including leaving care planning that addresses gender disparities.
- Promoting autonomy and independence as the ultimate goal in plans, programmes, and activities, with strategies that consider the specific needs and barriers faced by young women and young men.
- Ensuring that young people in SOS programmes, both male and female, have access to relevant trainings (provided by SOS or partners) that promote youth development and gender equality, according to their needs.
- Ensuring that support mechanisms are in place for young people who are leaving or have left care, with targeted strategies that consider the different needs of young women and men in the transition process.
- Leading the planning and formulation of active and productive programmes for youth development, ensuring gender equity in the design and implementation of annual plans, and facilitating regular (quarterly and annual) reviews of such plans and programmes, ensuring gender-sensitive approaches.
- Monitoring implementation through project visits, holding regular meetings, and involving individual members in specific areas of assignment, ensuring that gender concerns are consistently addressed.
- Facilitating feedback to questions, requests, and proposals from the SOS projects on matters of youth, ensuring that gender perspectives are integrated and also taking key responsibility for liaising with external bodies on gender-related matters.
- Leading the development of a dynamic career guidance and development package, with a clear understanding of youth skills, abilities, prospects, and aspirations, ensuring that the programme is inclusive and considers gender-specific aspirations and barriers for both school-going and post-school youth.
- Supporting the Youth Empowerment Officers in implementing planned trainings and programmes, ensuring that gender-sensitive approaches are integrated into training content and delivery.
- Actively supporting the search and placement of educational and training opportunities for post-secondary school youth, in conjunction with Youth Empowerment Officers and the Education department, ensuring gender equality in the opportunities provided, and that youth participate in choosing their areas of study.
- Supporting application processes for foreign universities and tertiary institutions, ensuring that gender disparities are addressed, and supporting female and male youth in their aspirations equally, in liaison with the children's village education committee.
- Keeping the National Director informed and maintaining a good level of knowledge about each youth living and studying abroad, ensuring consistent support that considers gender-specific needs and challenges in their journey.
- Supporting the development and circulation of up-to-date information on a wide range of opportunities for advanced education, vocational training, and apprenticeships, ensuring equal access for all genders in the opportunities provided.
- Ensuring that young people, both female and male, can actively participate in decisions and choices that directly impact their personal journey to self-reliance, integrating gender equality in programme decisions and design.
- Ensuring gender-responsive youth involvement in programme design, recruitment of youth workers, and advocacy activities, ensuring that both genders have equal opportunities for leadership and participation.
- Promoting the establishment of networks of young people, including those who have already left SOS care, and ensuring that both young women and men have equal representation and voice within these networks.
- Developing and implementing programmes and activities that foster participation, including youth-led networks and initiatives, with attention to ensuring that young women are encouraged and supported to take leadership roles in these networks.
- Analyzing the local job markets, identifying potential employer branches, and ensuring that the analysis considers gender-specific employment challenges and opportunities for young people.
- Preparing the setup of youth employability programmes, including employability and life skills training, internships, mentorship programmes, with special focus on addressing barriers to employment that may disproportionately affect young women, and promoting equal access for young men and women.
- Promoting the development of digital skills among young people, ensuring gender-equitable access to digital training and encouraging equal participation of young women in the digital skills programme.
- Being involved in fundraising by identifying and approaching potential corporate and social partners, ensuring that fundraising efforts support gender-sensitive programmes, and attracting new donors committed to promoting gender equality in youth development.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, and Behavioural Competences:

- Bachelor's degree in social work, Community Development, Youth Development, or related technical fields. A postgraduate qualification would be an added advantage.
- At least 5 years of experience in youth care or related technical roles, demonstrating expertise in developing and managing programs focused on the specific needs of young people, with a gender-sensitive approach.
- Technical experience in education, social work, community development, or child/youth care with a solid understanding of both the technical and gender aspects involved in such programs.
- Experience in working with adolescents, with a demonstrated ability to recognize and address gender-specific needs and challenges, ensuring equal access to opportunities for young women and men.
- Strong understanding of national and international childcare and child rights legislation, with a focus on gender equality and ensuring that policies reflect the specific needs and rights of both young women and men.
- Proficiency in developing and implementing technical solutions for youth development, including those that promote gender equity in education, vocational training, and career guidance.
- Demonstrates technical expertise in areas such as sexual health, HIV/AIDS, and relationships, with a gender-sensitive approach to addressing these issues among young people, including the promotion of gender-specific health and wellbeing programs.
- Knowledge and experience in designing and implementing gender-responsive technical interventions in youth development, ensuring that both male and female youth have equal opportunities to access services and participate in activities.
- Ability to utilize data and technology effectively, including monitoring and evaluation tools, to track progress, with a focus on gender disaggregated data to measure outcomes for both young men and women.
- Strong communication skills with the ability to communicate technical information in a clear and accessible way to both young people and stakeholders, while considering gender differences in communication needs and learning styles.
- Experience working in multi-disciplinary teams, with the ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues across different sectors and integrate a gender perspective into technical projects and initiatives.

Job Title: Gender and SRHR Project Officer
Duty station: Iringa
Reporting to: Project Officer

Job Summary

To lead and manage the implementation and monitoring of gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) interventions. The officer will collaborate with local partners to ensure adolescents girls, boys, and mothers access essential SRHR services and information while addressing gender equality and preventing gender-based violence.

Major Responsibilities

- Lead the execution of SRHR interventions in the project area, ensuring alignment with project goals and objectives.
- Work closely with local government authorities, healthcare workers, and community-based distributors to provide comprehensive SRHR services to adolescent girls, boys, and mothers.
- Oversee gender-sensitive training and capacity-building activities for peer educators and community stakeholders.
- Ensure inclusion and active participation of vulnerable groups, including girls with disabilities, in SRHR activities.
- Provide technical support in the implementation of the community and facility components of the project, ensuring that they align with national and global ASRH best practices.
- Participate in capacity-building activities of health workers and community health volunteers.
- Contribute to the development of annual work plans and budgets, training plans, quarterly reports, and other reports as needed.
- Together with the project manager and other team members, ensure the project goals and milestones are met efficiently and effectively, in accordance with project budgets and work plans.
- Lead efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV) and ensure gender equality is mainstreamed in all project activities.
- Conduct awareness-raising campaigns on gender equality and SRHR, targeting key stakeholders including community leaders and local authorities.
- Monitor and report on the progress of gender-related project objectives, ensuring the project fosters an environment of gender inclusivity.
- Coordinate advocacy initiatives focusing on improving policies and practices related to SRHR and gender equality.
- Facilitate training programs for community leaders, healthcare providers, and adolescents on gender equality, SRHR, and GBV.
- Build partnerships with local NGOs, community organizations, and healthcare providers to enhance gender-sensitive SRHR service delivery.
- Collaborate with the M&E team to develop gender-specific indicators and tools for tracking SRHR outcomes.
- Conduct data collection and analysis to monitor the gender impact of the project and produce timely reports to the Project Manager.
- Contribute to the development of project reports, highlighting gender-focused achievements and challenges.
- Prepare and submit reports on project activities, outcomes, and lessons learned.
- Document best practices in gender equality and SRHR programming for use in future projects.
- Build and strengthen partnerships with local NGOs, CBOs, and government authorities to ensure the sustainability of project interventions.
- Participate in community forums and networks to enhance collaboration and share best practices on community development.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, and behavioural Competences:

- Bachelor's degree in Gender, Nursing, Public Health, Sociology, or a related field.
- At least 3 years of relevant experience in the field of gender, sexual and reproductive health projects, with knowledge of GBV prevention and response.
- Strong expertise in gender equality, SRHR, and community engagement.
- Experience in capacity building, advocacy, and stakeholder coordination.
- Practical experience in organizing and leading discussions on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR) in community settings.
- Familiarity with relevant work experience with evidence-based ASRH interventions and best practices, specifically for youth is strongly preferred.
- Knowledge of Youth Friendly Health Services and experience in delivering or coordinating services that target adolescents and young people.
- Practical knowledge of proposal writing research methodologies and engagement. A track record of successfully applying results-based management (RBM) and M&E frameworks to ensure effective on time implementation of complex donor funded projects.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to work effectively in multi-disciplinary teams and coordinate with project finance and administration teams.
- Proficient in data collection and analysis tools, including Excel and reporting software.
- Good Communication skills - fluent in Swahili and English, both verbal and written. This

position involves working with a wide range of people within the organization, local communities, and local & international partners, including technical and non-technical colleagues.

- Ability to work under pressure, tight deadlines and less supervision, self-motivated person, team player, reporting and presentation skills.

Job Title: Project Manager- Children in Street Situation Project
Duty station: Dodoma
Reporting to: Head of Programs

Job Summary

The Project Manager will be responsible for leading the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the 'Children Living and Working on the Street' project activities, in accordance with organizational standards and strategies.

Major Responsibilities

- Lead the planning and implementation of CLWS Project activities with partners according to the objectives, actions and time frames outlined in the annual plan and joint action plan.
- Build and manage a strong Project team, work in close cooperation with other key support co-workers within the integrated approach.
- Identify key stakeholders including the local government, community-based partners and Project stakeholders and ensure their active participation in the Project design and implementation putting a particular emphasis on child participation.
- Draw-up an initial action plan based on the findings from the feasibility study, followed by annual plans with concrete Project activities based on the analysis findings and in line with the organization's mission, policies, strategic priorities and available resources.
- Ensure that the proper Project intake process for children and their families is implemented through an initial assessment process and the systematic prioritization of cases in collaboration with key stakeholders involved in the management/coordination of the Project.
- Ensure the capacity-building of all participating families towards self-reliance through the implementation of a family development planning process.
- Support capacity-building of Project implementation partners (can be community-based organizations or structures, self-help groups, local NGOs or local authorities) to ensure the long-term sustainability of service delivery and ongoing development of the Project in future.
- Build a strong network of partner organizations. Where appropriate formalize these partnerships through initiating Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) to be signed by the National Director.
- Build strong relationships with local government authorities, recognized community leadership, like-minded groups, organizations and/or institutions operating with the local community, who share the organization's vision, as well as those who provide complementary services.
- Build good relations with the local media (e.g. community radio), so child rights issues in general as well as the organization's mission and objectives can be promoted on a regular basis.
- Participate in local, national and regional processes, meetings and structures within the organization as required and agreed with the direct superior.
- Document and share good practices and lessons learned with colleagues to support organizational learning.
- Prepare Project information as required for public relations and fund development purposes.
- Keep track of child rights issues in general as well as current social development issues and trends relevant to the organization's mission.
- Put in place effective monitoring and evaluation plans and systems, on the basis of the international standards requirements, as a basis for ongoing monitoring, self-evaluation and external impact evaluation.
- Provide direct superior with regular up-dates on Project activities and results, including regular written reports on a monthly/quarterly basis as required.
- Implement financial and administrative procedures, in line with policies/guidelines of the national association and in consultation with financial support staff.
- Ensure all Project expenditure/resource usage is in line with the annual plan and budget
- Responsible to raise awareness of the SOS Child Protection Policy principles and to prevent and protect children from all forms of abuse, abandonment, exploitation, violence and discrimination.
- Prevent and mitigate all possible risks in the area of child protection and Safeguarding in your area.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, and behavioural Competences:

- Master's degree or equivalent qualification in Social Sciences, Development Studies, Community Development or any relevant field of study
- Minimum of 7 years relevant work experience in the field of social services or community development. Management experience will be an added advantage.
- Experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation.
- Positive and professional approach; highly organized, able to work independently, using initiative and keeping commitments, leading a team;
- Understanding of child rights issues; knowledge in the area of child rights, child protection, child development and family & community development; knowledge of relevant local and national laws, regulations and protocols.
- People development: facilitation skills to build the capacities of families, children and partner organizations.
- Leadership: able to build effective teams, motivate high performance, and generate commitment to the programme goals.
- Communication and networking skills: ability to foster effective relationships with the key stakeholders of the programme including the local authorities, community leadership, partner organizations and participating families. Ability to represent the organization externally.
- Collaboration: driven to work with others, able to build partnerships and networks internally and externally.
- Functional skills: financial management, HR management, project cycle management.

Job Title: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (2 Posts)
Duty station: Mwanza (1 post) and Dodoma (1 post)
Reporting to: Program Manager

Job Summary

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will be responsible for implementing SOS Children's Villages Monitoring and Evaluation strategy, policy, and practice in collaboration with the M&E Coordinator. This includes developing and improving M&E methodologies, contributing to programme quality and innovation through capacity building, technical support, and knowledge sharing. The officer will integrate programme learning, research evidence, and impact monitoring into organizational learning. The role reports to the Program Manager, with a dotted line to the M&E Coordinator at the National Office.

Major Responsibilities

- Supporting all M&E initiatives for assigned grants/projects, including monitoring data quality, tracking progress, and contributing to staff capacity-building efforts.
- Ensuring Result-Based Management (RBM) is effectively implemented at the location by facilitating and updating the M&E plan, performance questions, indicators, methods, and timely reporting for each project component and objective level.
- Supporting the Program Data Base (PDB) by assisting program staff with data entry, reviewing existing data quality, strengthening data collection methods, and ensuring reliable baseline information.
- Conducting regular field visits to support M&E implementation and identify areas for adaptation.
- Designing M&E tools for SOS Children's Villages Tanzania and its partners, analyzing field data, and assisting the M&E Coordinator with report writing.
- Supporting project/program staff in documenting, organizing, and capturing program progress.
- Building staff capacity on M&E, framework development, impact assessment, learning, and knowledge management.
- Supporting and participating in program evaluations, writing evaluation reports with recommendations.
- Ensuring adherence to SOS Children's Villages Tanzania's Family-Based Care and Family Strengthening approaches, integrating Child Rights Monitoring and Evaluation principles.
- Reviewing existing M&E and management information systems and identifying areas for support.
- Documenting and presenting lessons learned and best practices, ensuring they are integrated into daily implementation.
- Actively engaging with stakeholders to understand problems and unexpected impacts, collaborating with Facility Heads and senior management.
- Developing a capacity-building plan for M&E and computer-based systems, and conducting quality circle checks to identify areas for improvement.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, and behavioural Competences:

- Bachelor's degree in project management, Statistics, Economics, Development Studies, or a related field.
- 3 years of solid experience in Monitoring and Evaluation with a Non-Governmental Organization.
- Experience in strategic planning, with a strong background in report writing for donors, sponsors, and other key stakeholders.
- Strong communication skills, with fluency in both written and spoken English.
- Ability to present information in a clear and convincing manner, with strong engagement and negotiation skills.
- Computer literacy, especially proficiency in MS Excel and statistical database software.

Job Title: Alternative Care Coordinator
Duty station: Zanzibar
Reporting to: Program Director

Job Summary

Alternative Care Coordinator leads the Alternative Care (AC) unit in the programme location. His/her primary role is to be a guardian to each SOS child/youth and family and take an active part in the growth and development of each child/youth, coordinates education activities in collaboration with relevant social workers to ensure the adequate care of all children and youth in family like care are in accordance with the organizational policies and guidelines.

Major Responsibilities

- Oversee and takes lead regularly in the programme activities, being an active part of education of children and youth.
- Develop and oversee child admission committees at the village while ensuring the adherence of the policies and standards including the legislative law of the country.
- Upholds the AC monitoring and evaluation system to ensure consistent quality of services are provided to the children/youth as per standard by the responsible people.
- Take lead in the budgeting and planning for the AC unit with consultation of the Program Director and Senior Alternative Care Coordinator.
- Produces regular and ad-hoc reports as requested by the Program Director.
- Develop a strong network with the other programme units in the location such as FS, schools, health and advocacy to guarantee high quality of programme services.
- Accountable on the resource/assets of the Alternative Care facility.
- Leads, manages, supports, and develops all core care co-workers with support from HR Officer at the programme level.
- Promotes strong collaboration, effective communication, and teamwork among Mothers/Aunts and Youth Empowerment officers for effective delivery of services.
- Provides technical support, guidance, and leadership to all care co-workers, motivating them to work as a united family.
- Support and implement appropriate training programmes for all core care co-workers with support from HRD department from National Office.

- Spends quality time with core care co-workers in order to encourage their long-term commitment to the children and youth and ensure Quality services delivered to the SOS Children and Youth.
- Provide psychosocial support to core care co-workers and helps them meet the demands with a view of creating stable and safe family environment.
- Makes time to interact with children and youth on a regular basis, to get to know and understand them as individuals.
- Creates a framework that facilitates high quality childcare within the SOS family and the youth facilities.
- Ensures compliance and high quality of procedures for family-based care in accordance with the country's legal laws.
- Enforces SOS Children's Villages standards, procedures, and mechanisms in the field of child protection and child rights.
- Impulses innovative approaches for the successful socio professional integration of youth based on the local context.
- Aligns and reviews the work within SOS families to the child and youth care quality standards.
- Takes an active interest in and at least annually reviews the child and youth development plans to assure the developmental and education needs are met within the unit or within other programme units.
- Supports the youth through their various transition processes or/and the re-integration processes.
- Strengthens the links between SOS families and biological families and relatives if available and creates opportunities for reunions and visits.
- Maintains existing and develop potential sponsors to maximize all sponsorship opportunities and to maintain good relationships.
- Ensure timely reporting to sponsors of the children at the Villages.
- Supports the Sponsorship coordinator on getting all necessary correspondences from the donors.
- Establishes and maintains partnerships and networking with relevant government departments, local community groups, CBOs, NGO and officials to establish and maintain good relationships/partnerships.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, And behavioural Competences

- Degree in Social work or Sociology.
- 4-5 years of relevant professional experience at management level.
- Experience in working with children/youth environment to be added advantage.
- Ability to work independently, self-organize, use initiative, keeps commitments and meets deadlines.
- The candidate should possess the emotional stability to lead and guide the large community of children and youth, by maintaining the required high standards.
- Mature personality (male or female), stable socially and emotionally.
- Strong interpersonal and team skills.
- Fluent in English and Swahili.
- Computer literacy

Note: The position requires the Alternative Care Coordinator to live within the SOS Children's Village.

Job Title: Office Assistant
Duty station: Dodoma
Reporting to: Finance and Admin Officer

Job Summary

The Office Assistant will be responsible for ensuring the cleanliness, orderliness, and hygiene of the Dodoma office and other assigned areas. This includes performing routine cleaning tasks, managing supplies and inventory, assisting in office logistics for meetings and events, and supporting waste management efforts. The role also includes coordinating the receipt and storage of office sundries and materials, ensuring that the office environment remains efficient and welcoming for staff and visitors. The Office Assistant will play a key role in maintaining a smooth and organized office environment.

Major Responsibilities

- Oversee daily cleaning tasks, including vacuuming, dusting, mopping, and sanitizing common areas and workstations to maintain a clean and hygienic office environment. Ensure that the Dodoma Office and all other offices within the premises, as well as all assigned areas, are kept neat, tidy, and hygienically clean at all times.
- Monitor and refill supplies such as cleaning products, toiletries, and refreshments to ensure availability for staff and visitors.
- Assist in the dispatch and collection of official documents as directed by the Administrator. Items, and accurately entering them into inventory.
- Assist in waste management and recycling efforts by emptying trash bins, sorting recyclable materials, and coordinating with waste disposal services as needed.
- Assist with office logistics for meetings, events, and appointments, including setting up conference rooms, arranging catering, and ensuring all necessary equipment and materials are available.
- Maintain a clean and organized reception area, greet and direct visitors, and handle incoming calls professionally.
- Manage and distribute incoming and outgoing mail and packages.
- Maintain office equipment by ensuring it is in good working condition and facilitating repairs when needed.
- Support staff with administrative tasks, such as photocopying, filing, and organizing documents.
- Ensure all office areas are adequately stocked with necessary materials, and reorder supplies as needed.
- Provide general support to management and staff as required, including handling special projects and assisting in the smooth operation of daily office activities.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, And behavioural Competences:

- Diploma in Office Administration, Management, or a related field.
- A minimum of two years of proven working experience as an Office Assistant or in a similar administrative role.
- Experience in office cleaning, inventory management, and organizing office logistics.
- Highly organized and detail-oriented, with a strong ability to prioritize tasks.
- Familiarity with waste management practices and coordinating office supplies and materials.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.
- Proficient in basic office software and technology.
- Attention to detail with a high level of accuracy.
- Knowledge of office management systems and procedures.
- Ability to handle multiple tasks and prioritize effectively.
- Strong problem-solving skills and proactive attitude.

Job Title: Driver (2 Posts)
Duty station: National Office- Dar es Salaam
Reporting to: Procurement and Logistics Officer

Job Summary

The Driver at SOS Children's Villages is responsible for safely transporting staff and others, ensuring that all vehicles are properly maintained and comply with relevant regulations. Key duties include managing vehicle logistics, performing routine maintenance checks, ensuring fuel levels and cleanliness, and providing excellent customer service to staff. The Driver must adhere to traffic regulations, respond promptly in case of accidents, and follow proper procedures for vehicle servicing and repairs. Additionally, the Driver assists with the delivery and collection of official documents and communicates any vehicle-related issues to the Administrator, while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism in all tasks.

Major Responsibilities

- Fullfill transportation needs for SOS Children's staff and others as directed by the supervisor.
- Record all trips in the vehicle logbook, noting odometer readings, fuel quantities, and any other relevant details.
- Ensure the safety of the vehicle, staff, and their property during transportation.
- Adhere to traffic regulations, displaying good road manners at all times.
- Follow proper procedures in the event of an accident, notifying the Administrator and relevant authorities promptly and providing assistance as needed.
- Perform regular pre-trip, during-trip, and post-trip checks (e.g., lights, tires, oil, brakes, etc.) to ensure the vehicle is in good working condition.
- Report any vehicle defects or issues to the Administrator immediately.
- Follow the scheduled maintenance plan, ensuring vehicles are serviced on time and in line with manufacturer recommendations.
- Ensure all vehicles meet insurance and registration requirements.
- Maintain the cleanliness of the vehicle's interior and exterior.
- Ensure vehicles are fueled adequately and maintain records of fuel consumption.
- Assist in the dispatch and collection of official documents as directed by the Administrator.
- Provide excellent customer service to staff, ensuring comfort and safety during transportation.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information encountered during transportation duties.
- Assist with the loading and unloading of goods or equipment as needed.
- Monitor vehicle-related expenses and submit related documentation to the appropriate authority.
- Communicate any vehicle issues or concerns effectively with the Administrator.
- Serve as a liaison with external parties, such as during vehicle inspections or repairs, as necessary.

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications, Abilities, And behavioural Competences:

- CSEE and Certificate from VETA, National Institute of Transport (NIT) or any recognized colleges / institutions.
- Must possess VIP driving Certificate
- Have valid driving license at all the time
- At least 2 years working experience, preferably NGOs.
- Basic knowledge on Child rights and Child protection
- Ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Strong interpersonal and team skills.
- Fluent in English and Swahili.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates for any of the above positions should submit an application letter via email, along with a detailed and updated CV that includes telephone contacts, email address, and details of at least 3 referees. The candidate MUST clearly indicate the title of the position applied for. Only candidates contacted for the interview will be required to submit copies of academic and professional certificates. The closing date is 21st January 2025. To apply, please send your application to:

The National Director, SOS Children's Villages.
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org

Please Note: SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and committed to keeping children safe from abuse and harm, prevent all forms of exploitations, harassment and abuse among staff, program participant, donors and community members. Therefore, candidates applying for this post will be subject to child safeguarding recruitment procedures and checks.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted



Arri residents get clean, safe water after 2bn/- investment

By Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson, Babati

OVER 3,000 residents of Arri Ward in Babati District, Manyara Region now have access to clean and safe water after completion of a major water project constructed at the cost of over 2bn/-.

The project was funded by the Karim Foundation in collaboration with the local community.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment) launched the project here yesterday, commending donor partners for their commitment to community development, highlighting the transformative impact of the initiative.

Prof. Mkumbo stated that the government aims to ease the burden on women who have long been forced to carry heavy water containers. He emphasised that such projects are pivotal in advancing the objective.

Shau Erro, Director of Karim Foundation Tanzania, revealed that the project cost over 2.482bn/-, with local residents contributing 128m/- through labour, including digging trenches and other construction activities.

"Currently, no resident has to travel more than 400 meters to fetch water; the change that has significantly improved the quality of life at Arri," Erro said.

James Kionaumela, manager

of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Manyara Region, explained that the project has increased access to clean and safe water in Babati District by 83 percent.

Member of Parliament for Babati Rural, who is also the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Daniel Sillo, expressed gratitude to the donors and the government for ensuring the community receives quality water services. He described the project as a significant milestone for the people of Arri.

One resident, Betrida Sanka, noted that the consistent availability of water would improve their economic activities.



Farmers and experts from the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) at Tubugwe Juu Irrigation Scheme in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region, during a visit to the infrastructure as part of training for Food Systems Resilience Project in Tanzania (TFSRP - P4R). Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

Availability of medicines at MNH increases to 98pc

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has improved drug dispensing services, with availability of medicines now at 98 percent, up from the previous 70 percent.

This was revealed yesterday by the hospital's management in Dar es Salaam during a visit by Zanzibar House of Representatives' Social Welfare Committee, aimed at learning about healthcare services provided.

Speaking to reporters after the visit, the Committee's chairman for Laws and Regulations, Mihayo Juma Nungu, said MNH is a model for healthcare in Tanzania and East Africa.

"The services provided by

MNH have significantly improved compared to 10 years ago. We came here to gain experience," said Nungu.

He added that while Zanzibar has health insurance scheme for one year now, Tanzania Mainland has implemented the system for about 25 years, making MNH's experience invaluable.

Chairman of Zanzibar Health Insurance Fund (ZHSF), Mbarouk Omar Mohammed, emphasised the visit's purpose of learning from MNH's modern service delivery.

"We can learn a lot from MNH, particularly their implementation of advanced services. Our visit aims to strengthen collaboration," he said.

Dr. Rachel Mhavile, Acting Executive Director of MNH and

Director of Surgical Services, highlighted the hospital's significant improvements in service delivery, including investment in infrastructure, specialist doctors and medicine availability.

"MNH prides itself on delivering quality services, modern buildings, advanced medical equipment, and local specialist doctors. In the coming years, we envision transformation of Muhimbili due to ongoing renovations," she said.

Dr. Aifena Mramba, Ilala Regional Manager for the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), stated that the fund is ready to collaborate with ZHSF to achieve health service delivery through the insurance scheme.

By Guardian Reporter, Kagera

COPRA out to engage farmers at village level

THE Crop and Mixed Produce Regulatory Authority (COPRA) has expressed commitment to collaborating with agriculture experts at both village and regional levels to provide services to farmers and traders.

Irene Mlola, Director General of COPRA, made the remarks here yesterday during her visit to the office of Kagera Regional Commissioner, where she held discussion with the Regional Administrative Secretary, Stephen Ndaki.

Mlola explained that COPRA has developed strategies to work alongside regional governments and local authorities to ensure that citizens benefit from the harvests of their crops, particularly cereals and other mixed produce to improve their economic well-being.

"COPRA is well-structured to ensure that farmers and traders

benefit from the strategies we have put in place to help them progress. We request the cooperation of regional offices in this effort," said Mlola.

She also highlighted that COPRA has set up regional offices, including one in the Lake Zone, to streamline the authority's services for citizens and stakeholders involved in the value chains of various crops across the country.

She assured that COPRA officials will continue working closely with agriculture experts from the regional level to the village level to serve citizens and ensure they benefit from the authority's support.

Mlola further encouraged farmers and traders of various crops to take

full advantage of COPRA's presence in the region and urged them to cooperate with its officers when needed.

Ndaki, commended Mlola and emphasised the importance of continued cooperation to achieve the government's goals of economically empowering farmers and traders.

"We will continue to provide our full support to COPRA. Our aim is to ensure that the strategies set by the government to uplift farmers and traders are successfully implemented," said Ndaki.

Ndaki further confirmed the region's commitment to supporting COPRA, including offering cooperation to officers in their efforts to assist farmers.

TREES FOR THE FUTURE TANZANIA



09 January, 2025

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES

TENDER NO. THQ/001/2025/PQ/ 01-17

- TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC during the financial year 2025 is intended to establish and manage a prequalification supplier list that will be suitable to supply materials or services to organization, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for which this Request for information is issued. You are asked to formally apply for the pre-qualification along with profiles and references. It is intending part of the funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply of goods and provision of services for financial year 2025 starting in January 2025.
- TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC invites applications for Pre-Qualifications from the eligible, highly competent and experienced Suppliers and Service Providers under the listed categories.
- The Selection and final short listing of suppliers and service providers will be conducted through the Competitive and open Tendering Procedures as specified in the TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC Procurement Policy and Procedures. Shortlisted suppliers and service providers will be invited to quote under competitive procedures each time when TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC will be in need of the specified services and goods.
- The selection Criteria shall involve Legal registration/compliance and Capabilities.

a. Company/ Business Legal Registration/Compliance

- Possession of business registration certificates.
- Submission of business license, company certificate of incorporation, (if any) Tax Identification Number (TIN) and TRA Clearance,
- Current physical location which will be inspected for verification.
- Proof of EFD receipts.
- Company/business profile.

b. Company/Firm/ business Capabilities

- The business must have not less than three years' experience in the relevant field. (provide evidence like 3 years business licenses).
- Ability to carry out the assignment.
- Financial Capability (submit the latest Five months bank statements)
- Demonstrate capability in terms of tools & equipment, skills and technology as per requirement in respective categories if applicable.

Please note that in assessing the submissions, consideration will be given to the firm with ability to meet above (b) requirements and including Legal Registration/Compliance and Business Capabilities, signed Tanzania Revenue Clearance and TIN.). Eligible and qualified Bidders with demonstrated experience and excellent track record in similar assignments will be considered for prequalification.

- In case of any further clarification required, the interested qualified firm may obtain information from the office from 09: 00A.M to 4: 00P.M hours Monday to Friday except on public holidays. TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC will respond to the request for clarifications received within Five (5) days prior to the deadline for submission of application.
- The pre-qualification is of (17) lots and each lot are independent and independent application is required, Suppliers and service providers may apply for a single lot, multiple lots or all (17) lots and pre-qualification will be on lot basis as follows:

S/N	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/01	Provision of Design and Printing Services (T-shirts, Banners, Caps & Brochures).
2	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/02	Supply of ICT Equipment (Photocopier, Printers, Computers & Accessories)
3	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/03	Provision of Security Services
4	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/04	Provision of Motorcycle & vehicles Services.
5	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/05	Provision of Internet Services
6	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/06	Supply of Safety & protective gears (gumboots, safety boots, Hemet, Motorcycle gloves, raincoats, Jackets)
7	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/07	Supply of General Office Stationery & Printing farmers work book.
8	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/08	Supply of Office Furniture & Fitting
9	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/09	Supply of Polythene tubes
10	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/10	Supply of Motorcycle Spare parts TVS & BOXER
11	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/11	Supply of Tools (Spades, Rakes, Wheelbarrow, Pruning shears, watering cane, empty plastic drums
12	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/12	Supply of Motorcycles (TVS & BOXER)
13	THQ - TTF/001/2025/PQ/13	Supply of Computer Software and Licenses
14	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/14	Supply of Fruits seeds (Papaya seeds & Citrus seeds & passion seeds.
15	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/15	Supply of Vegetable seeds (Tomato, Onion, Chinese, Amaranthus, Beetroot, Cabbage, Swisschard, Carrot, Sweet pepper & cucumber
16	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/16	Supply of fuel in Magu, Busega, Bariadi, Tabora & Mwanza
17	THO - TTF/001/2025/PQ/17	Provision of air ticketing services.

- The deadline for submission of the applications will be at 10:00 hours on Wednesday 29th January, 2025 and applications received will be opened promptly thereafter and in the presence of tenderers' representatives who may opt to attend the opening ceremony at TREES FOR THE FUTURE Office.
- The applications must be written in English, in a sealed envelope containing 3 copies 1 original and 2 copies and delivered by hand to the Country Finance and Operations, TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC Singidani Complex Building 2nd floor P.O. Box 1624 Singida. The outer cover shall be clearly marked: Pre- qualification for supply of Goods and Provision of Services for the financial year 2025 and the inside documents should clearly indicate the Lot/Lots Number applied for.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- The submitted proposals must be delivered in sealed envelopes not later than 29th January 2025 to the following address.

Finance and Operation Manager
TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC
NHC Singidani Complex building 2nd floor,
P.O. Box 1624
Singida Tanzania.


COUNTRY FINANCE & OPERATIONS.
TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC.

Samia, Mwinyi can solve investor woes on 15 leased islets' projects

RARELY do the Union and Zanzibar presidents share a platform to address a question that is basically within the context of Zanzibar non-union matters, for instance as regards investing in tourism facilities. Ordinarily, the union authorities are unlikely to be involved in such issues, but it doesn't seem to have been simply an accident that the two topmost authorities shared that platform, to jointly appeal for prompt take up of projects already applied for and licenses obtained. Some saw in that appeal a sort of ultimatum but it looked more like an ongoing dialogue.

Zanzibar president Dr Hussein Mwinyi set a three-month preliminary observation schedule, so to speak, for already licensed plans to begin implementing their projects in 15 small islands. The forum was an event to launch a hotel on Bawe islet, one of the leased small islands in the Zanzibar Urban West Region. Yes, the projects need to be implemented within the specified period for the good of the Zanzibar economy, but it is possible there are hidden things that are worth talking about while projects start.

For one thing, private sector representatives did not apparently use that forum to say anything with regard to those investments, which in at least one regard involve construction of a 70 plus storey building, a complex multipurpose centre taking up models from the Gulf Zone.

Zanzibar has often expressed the wish to become a trade hub, a tourist hub and even a health tourism capital, a fairly ambitious vision tied to the blue economy agenda. All of this is strictly

speaking within its own province in terms of economic initiative, policy as well as regulatory functions, etc.

While the union president may not indeed have been there to stress the risk of losing the license if projects are not rapidly taken up, it is possible there was another view to that occasion, where the presence of Union authorities becomes vital, in the sense of sorting out investment guarantees. This need is also related to the legal framework of resolving disputes if they arise, as usual.

To be sure, there is an applicable framework existing on investment guarantees, but it wasn't addressed at the meeting. Instead, the concern of the Zanzibar leader was disappointment with project delays, as this has an impact on expectations, especially for those living close to the small islands. This issue could have been the trees that hide the forest, whereas the hotel investor must have received clear reassurances.

The scene was back in 2014 at the wrapping up of the fairly inconclusive constitutional conference though it achieved notable changes that those who seek 'regime change' hardly remember to recount. It was a resolution that when the Zanzibar government reaches an agreement for loan or investment that is deemed to be in the national interest, the signature or formal approval of the Union authorities will be obtained automatically. The reason obviously is that the Zanzibar government comes into being in an integral electoral structure involving the Union authorities and thus any pivotal decision automatically binds the Union government as well.

As accidents are on the rise, the police won't tolerate motorcycle overloading

THERE is no doubt that police force has largely been tolerant or lenient on things like youths packing up on a single motorcycle, where there is a rider and up to three, some say even four, passengers. A similar scene is noticed not with the back seat but front part of a tricycle, where the rider often has a passenger, and at times two, which is gross overloading. Everyone understands the need to make an extra buck and that is why the police are tolerant, but times may be changing.

Instead of thinking of a situation where arbitrary decisions are made to stop the open arms policy, where they seek to place few impediments to the youthful motorcycle riders eking out a lawful living that way, it is more helpful to think of instances or incidents where the police may find it has few choices but to tighten regulatory curbs. It is normal in legal practice or habits that changes do not arise from someone getting a new idea but when confronting a new situation even with regard to old issues.

That is what comes to mind when we hear that police in Mbeya Region have warned riders on exceeding capacity on motorcycles and three-wheelers. A top police official said such passengers would be removed from the vehicles and handed over to authorities for legal action like fines or any other. The officer was on a routine operation to check various traffic violations, coming after the end of the hectic end of year holidays. It is possible such excesses were overly visible during the period, thus igniting a sense of concern that things were

going too far, with accidents.

An accident involving a rider with a passenger is already bad enough, and not many people want to hear of accidents where three or four youths were riding on one motorcycle. There is a benign feeling of tolerance when the police look aside and such youths zoom past, but if an accident were to happen the police would be blamed for failing to prevent such calamities. When they stop them, they appear harsh, that they stop the youths from making a living, or poor youths paying little sums for a trip.

The tricycles are permitted to carry three passengers, but often there is another passenger in the rather wide ride's seat, and badly enough, at times a second passenger on his right. If the ride is smooth and nothing is the matter, that situation looks normal, but with such vehicles already blaring funk music noisily, and at times after some cheap hard liquors, police may have to assist parents to avoid the worst, for they will not always be there. The grieving is private but the responsibility is public.

A senior traffic police officer said that police are often blamed when accidents occur, in which case they need to take some preventive action when scenarios are hatched that all too glaringly appear to be inviting an accident. In that case the youths need to learn to save up daily earnings to pay regular fares or use hired transport in a clearly responsible manner. As they say, a stitch in time saves nine, so a fine in time prevents accidents later that leads to grieving - and despairing on law enforcement.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts	Newsdesk	Advertising
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA feedback@guardian.co.tz	News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz	Mobile: 0677020701 E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz Website: www.ippmedia.com epaper.ippmedia.com



Different dangerous: Something 50 times potent than heroine is in town

By Lydia K. Igarabuza

IN November last year, the Tanzania Drug Control Enforcement Authority seized 10 bottles of fentanyl, amongst other drugs. The first time I heard about fentanyl and seen its impact (there are plenty of videos about it on Tik Tok), I thought to myself that when this drug reaches Tanzania, it would be a disaster! But 10 bottles only, you may ask? Well, let me share some basic facts: it's about 50 times stronger than heroin. A single bottle can serve large number of users as it can be mixed with other drugs to intensify the high (Cloud 9). And perhaps more alarmingly, it is the leading cause of drug overdose deaths in the United States.

Just think about, how much pain (mental, physical, emotional) would someone be experiencing to consume a pain numbing substance more powerful than morphine and heroin! The 10 bottles of this lethal drug were found in a mobile money shop somewhere in Dar es Salaam. How it found its way is none of my business but the fact is that there is undeniable need as supply always follows demand. This column however is not about judging who is using what. I have already stated that addiction is not about the substance. So, NO! We are not meddling in anyone's private choices or pleasures. We are merely, red-flagging an issue that remains largely unaddressed yet it is silently claiming many lives.

What is addiction?

Addiction is a word that carries weight. For some, it's a far-off concept, a problem that happens to others maybe those far away like in the US! In Tanzania, addiction is seen through a complex lens shadowed by cultural, social and economic factors viewed with a sense of stigma. It is regarded as a personal weakness, a misfortune, a lack of discipline and vision or even a problem of supernatural influences, 'atakuwa amerogwa'.

The Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) by the World Health Organization includes in Chapter V a detailed classification of over 300 mental and behavioral disorders that can be referred to as addiction. Its publication follows extensive field-testing



by more than 100 clinical and research centers in 40 countries. WHO describes addiction as first, a mental disorder. I agree, because it doesn't make sense to repeatedly consume something that alters your mood, in a way that subjects you to multiple near death experiences, but you keep doing it, ignoring the severe consequences. Something has affected the mind's ability to control pain, self regulate.

Second, a behavioural disorder because there is interference with how an individual functions that develops as a result of repetitive rewarding behavior other than use of alcohol or drugs so take for example gambling, gaming, compulsive sex, pornography to mention but a few. The WHO classification goes on to group addiction disorders caused by substance use (21 categories) and those due to behaviour (4 categories). By this 'diagnosis' let us just agree that everybody knows somebody with addiction so why not talk about it and address it with the needed, weight and optimism.

The Alcohol, Drug and Addictive behaviours Unit at WHO has designed a manual on prevention and management of this health condition that each country must adhere to as a show of commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, target 3-5 (Strengthen Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.)

Transformation begins with awareness

As highlighted in last week's article, the priority areas sited by the Tanzania Health Sector Strategic Plan (2021-2026) is to strengthen prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services for victims of substance addiction by first, integrating substance

addiction into mental health services. Second, supporting the establishment and maintenance of treatment and rehabilitation centers for mental health and substance addiction in each region and third, by improving education and, where needed, control of addictive substances.

On the aspect of improving education, I believe its not just improvement that is needed but rather providing the education on a massive scale, consistently making it an integral part of public life rather than something just highlighted during specific events such as a successful drug raid or on the 26th June of each year which is the international day against illicit drug use and trafficking. The 'silent treatment' only perpetuates its dangerous effects preventing individuals from seeking help and keeping society from understanding the true scope of the problem.

Did you know?

Addiction is not about alcohol or drug abuse par se. It is a medical condition deeply connected to an emotional, psychological or physical trauma. It often sneaks in during an individual's vulnerable period. Common symptoms begin with a sudden mood or personality change. Emotions can shift rapidly swinging from happiness to sudden irritability in an instant, which affects social interactions.

Furthermore, an individual suffering from substance addiction will tend to have unexplained anxiety or depression often accompanied by an overwhelming drive for perfectionism or excessive worry, sadness and self-loath. The individual will forgo their physical appearance. Poor grooming habits are typical. Then withdraws. Who wants to socialize with stinking Jo/anna? So we've got to make new friends, the ones

with the same problems as ours-scattered thoughts, resistant, highly reactive, hostile, prone to lying, procrastinating, narcissistic tendencies and many more. What follows is the erratic behavior while making numerous impulsive bad-decisions that affect every human relationship the individual has with family, work, spouse and children. This is where the police get involved from time to time and domestic violence sets in too. A moody, depressed, stinking, bruised loner, isolated from friends and family cannot function in society at this point.

Schedules and daily routines become opposite to everybody else's. Morning become nights, nights become mornings until the individual loses track of time entirely. The body now welcomes high blood pressure, heart attacks or stroke because of the lack of sleep, poor diet, dehydration and strain on the body. At this point, the cravings are still on demand. The now dysfunctional brain reward system 'dopamine' wants more and more but 'stuff' costs money so something needs to be done. This is the moment where the master manipulator takes center stage, weaving lies, exploiting weaknesses, deceit, force or outright intimidation to achieve their goal, which is to get money for their next fix, to settle the cravings. This cycle would go on until, death do-us apart as addiction is a chronic progressive disease.

In many regions, young populations are especially at risk, although addiction does not discriminate. Intervention starts with the willingness to see addiction for what it is, to challenge stigma and to invest in solutions.

The author can be reached at newinfluencinitiative@gmail.com

Teaching: A profession that requires parental consent, trust

THE modern world has ushered in a heightened awareness across nearly all aspects of human life. Increased understanding enables the society to make decisions with greater confidence compared to the past. This confidence stems from enhanced knowledge of the economy, human rights, and safety.

Financial resources play a vital role in the teaching and learning process. Teachers need to be paid accordingly to enable them to teach effectively. However, the teaching and learning materials require financial resources to purchase, hence the need for parents to make sure they select schools depending on financial capabilities to pay school fees.

Before the parent sends their children to a school they must know the fee structure to see if they can afford. Even additional teaching outside the school setting demands financial planning to make the exercise fruitful. Even additional teaching outside formal schooling requires careful financial planning to yield meaningful results.

Understanding the various factors that influence learning has further empowered the human rights movement. It is now recognized that punishment does not always lead to positive outcomes.

For example, forcing a student with learning disorders to meet the same standards as others might be considered a violation of human rights. Instead, such students can be supported to achieve their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

It is unnecessary for every student to excel in all subjects to be valuable. For instance, learners proficient in languages but weak in mathematics and sciences can still be crucial contributors, such as interpreters and translators.

Parents who understand the diverse abilities of learners are more comfortable collaborating with teachers to set realistic goals that benefit all parties in



the learning process.

For some parents, enabling their child to read and perform basic arithmetic is sufficient as the teacher works to provide further assistance. Since human brains develop at different rates, it is unwise to force every student to meet uniform standards within the same timeframe.

Child safety has become a

top priority due to increased threats. Accidents and rights violations have made parents more vigilant. For example, some parents hesitate to send their children to school during December holidays because of heightened road traffic and reckless driving.

Effective communication between teachers and parents is crucial for mutual understand-

ing. This ensures that no principles are perceived as being violated or any personal gain sought outside the formal system.

Clear communication ensures that both teachers and parents are aligned in their goals and expectations for the child and prevents misunderstandings and creates a supportive environment for learn-

ing. When teachers keep parents informed about their child's progress, challenges and achievements, it strengthens the parents' trust in the teacher's abilities and intentions. Effective communication allows parents and teachers to work as a team to address the unique needs of the student, creating tailored strategies for academic and personal development.

Open lines of communication help to quickly identify and resolve issues such as behavioural challenges, learning difficulties, or misunderstandings about school policies.

Collaboration between parents and teachers ensures that messages about behaviour, discipline, and academic goals are consistent at home and school, creating a stable and effective learning environment for the child.

Courses like educational psychology, sociology of education, and philosophy of education provide teachers with the skills to engage with parents effectively, fostering academic success for society at large. Thus, success in teaching requires the consent and trust of parents for several reasons.

During the teaching and learning process, measures to correct or enhance behaviour are sometimes necessary to promote academic excellence. These measures can appear as human rights violations if not properly communicated.

Teachers and schools must inform parents of any disciplinary actions and consider their feedback. This approach

reveals parents' preferences and concerns, paving the way for agreed-upon standards that benefit everyone involved.

Academic assessments may reveal that a student is not ready to advance to the next class or lesson. Repeating a class often incurs additional financial costs, which parents must understand and support.

Teachers need to provide detailed explanations for such decisions. Similarly, when extra tuition is necessary, parents must consent to the slower pace of learning required for their child's success, even if it increases expenses.

Teachers guide the teaching and learning process and may suggest arrangements such as purchasing academic materials or scheduling extra classes. These proposals often require financial investment, making parental consent essential for their implementation and the attainment of academic goals.

Teaching aims to develop personalities, making trust in teachers indispensable. This trust eliminates doubts that teachers act out of self-interest. Teaching is not merely a profession but a vocation.

Parental approval ensures smooth academic operations and supports the collaborative nature of education. Parents—who fund schools through fees that cover expenses such as food, accommodation, and salaries—are integral to the effective functioning of educational institutions. Thus, agreement between teachers and parents is indispensable for a successful teaching and learning process.

Sudan's humanitarian crisis expected to worsen in 2025

UNITED NATIONS

As the Civil War rages on in Sudan, the nationwide humanitarian crisis continues to worsen. Armed conflict has caused an escalation in civilian casualties and displacement in the past few months. Additionally, famine looms in the nation's most conflict-impacted areas, which is exacerbated by tightened restrictions that impede humanitarian aid deliveries. Despite numerous calls for a cessation of hostilities by the international community, relief efforts are severely underfunded.

In 2025, humanitarian organizations seek to assist approximately 21 million people in Sudan, which is roughly half of the country's population. However, this number is projected to increase following the escalation of armed hostilities recorded in December of 2024. According to a report from the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), the ongoing siege in El Fasher, the capital city of Sudan, left at least 782 dead and 1,143 injured from May 2024 to December 2024.

According to Edem Wosornu, the Director of Operations and Advocacy for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Zamzam refugee camp, the nation's largest refuge for internally displaced persons, has faced severe shelling in the final weeks of 2024. Approximately 80 people were killed and 400 were injured as a result of artillery shelling in western Darfur. Civilians and humanitarian aid groups, including Doctors Without Borders (MSF), have attributed these casualties to hostilities perpetrated by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Nathaniel Raymond, the executive director of Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab, described the current situation in the Zamzam camp as a "kill box". The escalation of warfare has forced Sudanese refugees to move toward dangerous RSF territories or toward the barren deserts where they face the risk of starvation. "We can see from space people camping under trees, on the side of the road. They're going out of the frying pan and into the fire," said Raymond, adding that many of these people have been severely



The United Nations Security Council meets on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in Sudan. Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elias

injured or immunocompromised. On January 6 2025, the United Nations (UN) Security Council warned that famine conditions are projected to spread throughout Sudan if humanitarian organizations do not effectively intervene soon. According to Wosornu, famine is present in five areas, including the Zamzam, Al Salam, and Abu Shouk camps, as well as regions in the western Nuba Mountains.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) states that five additional regions, including Um Kadada

and El Fasher, as well as 17 other high-risk areas, could face severe famine-like conditions by mid-2025. Women, children, and the elderly are predicted to be disproportionately affected.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Deputy Director Beth Bechdol, the vast scale of famine is a direct result of extended warfare, displacement, and restricted humanitarian access. Additionally, the IPC report states that "only an immediate cessation of hostilities can prevent the

crisis from worsening."

It is crucial for humanitarian organizations to have unimpeded access to critically endangered areas in Sudan. The Adre border crossing, which provides direct passage from Chad to some of Sudan's most affected areas, has seen numerous delays and blockages of aid. According to Wosornu, "key areas in South Kordofan are effectively cut off from external assistance," while "visas for humanitarian personnel are not being granted

swiftly enough".

The start of 2025 is a major tipping point for the Sudan crisis as action must be taken now to ensure stability for millions of Sudanese people. Bechdol states that "immediate and unimpeded" humanitarian access is urgent at this time for humanitarian organizations to be able to deliver "multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance".

The 2025 Humanitarian Needs Response Plan seeks approximately 4.2 billion dollars to provide life-saving assistance to 21 million Suda-

nese civilians that are struggling to stay alive. The funding from this plan would help to restore basic services such as access to food, water, and shelter, as well as protection services. "The risk of famine and its spread has been on our collective conscience since August, and now it is here, not only with people dying from hunger, but also with a breakdown of health systems, livelihoods and social structures," warns Bechdol.

Even much lauded Nordic prisons are facing overcrowding and understaffing

By Kaigan Carrie

PRISON reform advocates often point to the Nordic countries as examples of “how to do prison right”. The low rates of imprisonment and more humane approach to incarceration in these countries have long been considered exceptional by researchers.

In Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland, life in prison resembles the outside world as much as possible.

However, like any prison system, they aren't perfect. Criminal policies in these countries are more punitive than they were 40 years ago. There are a myriad of reasons for this, such as stronger support for conservative political parties and tougher approaches to crime and less reliance on experts in criminal policy.

As a result, Nordic prisons are facing some of the same challenges as prisons in the UK, including overcrowding and understaffing.

Join our readers who subscribe to free evidence-based news

Norway

Norwegian prisoners have the right to vote, and their education and medical needs are taken care of by the same teachers and doctors used in the surrounding community. In many prisons, they're entitled to conjugal visits with their spouse.

Norway's prison system is praised for its low recidivism rates (only 20% after two years), though it should be noted that many Norwegian prisoners are foreign nationals, half of whom are deported after serving their sentence.

By and large, criminals in Nordic countries are punished through loss of liberty, while retaining other rights. Time in prison is spent trying to help prisoners prepare to live a crime-free life.

In an annual report on a visit to one Norwegian prison, the Norwegian Parliamentary Ombud raised concerns about rising self-harm incidents, understaffing and extensive use of solitary confinement. There were 20 times as many self-harm incidents in 2022 than four years prior.



Even the highest security prisons in Norway are designed with prisoner wellbeing in mind.

Finland

In the 1960s and 70s, Finland had the highest rate of imprisonment in western Europe. Reforms were brought in to address this and by the 1990s they had some of the lowest rates, which they've largely maintained. But the trend may be reversing, partly due to tougher criminal policies, with stricter sentences for sexual offences and gun crimes.

Finnish prisons, like those in Norway, are considered innovative. Prisons are designed to be as nice as possible, with prisoners encouraged to govern their own lives and stay connected to their community. The aim is to help them reintegrate into society upon

release.

Last year, Finland's prison service said that the country's prisons are full. They raised concerns that due to the capacity, prisoners are not getting enough time out of their cell, nor enough access to meaningful activity.

As well as prisons being overcrowded, they are understaffed. Due to budget cuts between 2006 and 2016, where around 17% of staff had to be cut, there is a shortage of officers across the service who have undertaken the 16-month training programme. Since unqualified officers cannot carry out certain tasks, this puts more pressure on the understaffed, qualified officers.

Denmark

For the last few years, Denmark has also faced challenges of overcrowded prisons. The occupancy level of Danish prisons in 2023 was 101.2% (as in, 1.2% over capacity), the highest in around 80 years. This is the result of changes such as longer prison sentences for rape and violent assaults.

I recently interviewed Danish criminologist Anne Okkels Birk, who said that politicians want prisons to be tougher and harsher.

The current Danish minister of justice, when talking about criminal gangs last year, said harsh punishments are necessary when dealing with seri-

ous violence - even if the perpetrator committed the crime at a young age. This stands in contrast to the beliefs often held internationally about Nordic penal policies.

The punitive landscape in Denmark is seeing more infractions inside the prison, punishable by time in disciplinary solitary confinement. In 2019, four times as many people spent time in solitary confinement than in 2001. As a result, prison officers have highlighted concerns about their ability to build positive relations with prisoners.

This makes dynamic security - a technique whereby prison staff assess risks by engaging with prisoners and

spending time with them, rather than relying solely on cameras, locks and gates - more difficult. Dynamic security is a regular feature of Nordic prisons, though it is implemented in other prison systems too.

While prisoner numbers have increased, the amount of prison staff has decreased for the 11th consecutive year. In 2023, there were 27% fewer prison officers than a decade prior, due to difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff.

In prisons like Nyborg in Denmark, work foremen - who help improve prisoners' skills and employability - have had to help prison officers with their duties instead, meaning many workshops are often closed.

Danish prison officers are facing their own personal challenges. A 2020 study into current and former prison officers found that 11% have a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, while their sickness levels are over 50% higher than other state employees. An assault on a prison officer occurs, on average, every day.

The number of people in pre-trial detention in Denmark has increased since 2017, with latest figures stating they make up around 38.8% of the prison population. They are often in their cells alone for up to 23 hours a day, despite being presumed innocent until found guilty.

Denmark is at risk of being short of a thousand prison places this year. In response, the country has agreed to rent 300 prison places in Kosovo. Experts have expressed concerns about human rights issues this agreement may cause, including the difficulty prisoners will have in receiving visits from loved ones. The Committee for the Prevention of Torture expressed concerns on a 2021 visit to Kosovo about the prevalence of corruption among prison officers and physical abuse towards prisoners.

The Nordic countries still provide a source of inspiration regarding their smaller prison populations and more humane approaches to imprisonment. But as political views on crime and punishment evolve, they are clearly not immune from the problems that many countries, including the UK, face.

By Special Correspondents

Spiders 'smell' with their legs, new research finds

SPIDERS have always lived alongside humans, so it's surprising how much we still don't know about them. One long-standing mystery was related to how spiders detect smells. Now, our latest research has finally uncovered the secret.

In a study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, we demonstrated that male spiders use olfactory hairs called wall-pore sensilla on their legs as a “nose” to detect the sex pheromones released by female spiders.

Our discovery puts an end to a decade-long search for these elusive sensilla, which have now been both identified and mapped. It also opens up opportunities for in-depth studies on the mechanism underlying spiders' olfaction.

Although spiders - which have been evolving for about 400m years - are renowned for their vibration sense and some, like jumping spiders, for excellent vision, surprisingly little is known about their sense of smell. There has been plenty of evidence showing that spiders can detect odours such as sex pheromones, but two big questions remained unanswered.

First, as spiders do not have antennae as insects, what is their primary olfactory organ? Second, previous studies suggested that spiders lack wall-pore sensilla, the specialised structures that insects rely on for smell. Without these, how do spiders detect odours at all? Our study has solved these



Male garden spider, *Araneus diadematus*

long-standing questions. We discovered previously overlooked wall-pore sensilla on the walking legs of male wasp spiders (*Argiope bruennichi*) and demonstrated that they can use them to detect airborne sex pheromones with high sensitivity.

We showed that the wall-pore sensilla are not unique to wasp spiders but are prevalent across the spider tree of life.

Under the microscope we examined male and female *A. bruennichi* spiders by high-resolution scanning electron microscopy. We discov-

ered thousands of wall-pore sensilla on all walking legs of male spiders and revealed specific features of these sensilla. In fact, they are different from those found in insects and other arthropods.

The wall-pore sensilla are located on the upper part of the male's legs (close to the body), areas that hardly come in contact with the surface when spiders walk, capture preys or mate. This is complementary with the distribution of “putative gustatory sensilla” (the tip-pore sensilla) found in the lower part of legs, which frequently

make contact with the surface.

This distribution pattern already suggested the role of wall-pore sensilla in detecting airborne odours (olfaction). Interestingly, wall-pore sensilla were found exclusively in adult male spiders, not in juvenile males or females, which strongly indicates their function in mate searching and recognition.

Evidence of neuronal activities

A. bruennichi is one of the few spider species in which the chemical structure of the sex pheromone has actually been

identified. Female spiders release gaseous pheromones that attract males from a distance.

We decided to test whether the wall-pore sensilla respond to the pheromone compound. In these experiments, we carefully mounted live male spiders under a microscope and poked a recording electrode into the base of single wall-pore sensilla.

We then exposed each sensillum to a puff containing the pheromone compound. We found that even a tiny amount of the pheromone compound - just 20 nanograms - was sufficient to elicit a clear response

as a burst of activity in neuronal cells from a wall-pore sensillum, and the response became stronger as the dose increased. We consistently observed the response of wall-pore sensilla to the pheromone compound, regardless of which leg pair was tested.

Our results show that spiders' olfactory sensilla are incredibly sensitive, comparable to the most sensitive sex pheromone communication systems in insects. The thousands of sensilla on all walking legs will enable male spiders to detect even the faintest traces of sex pheromones in the air.

Other species To explore the broader presence of wall-pore sensilla, we examined 19 additional species spanning 16 families across the spider tree of life. We found that wall-pore sensilla occur in most species, and were also specific to males.

However, the sensilla are absent in basally branching spider groups such as the basal trapdoor spiders found in Asia. The pattern we found suggests that wall-pore sensilla evolved independently multiple times within spiders and were lost in some lineages.

Our study paves the way for exciting future discoveries about how spiders perceive the world through olfaction. Many intriguing questions await further investigation.

How do female spiders smell without wall-pore sensilla? And beyond sex pheromones, what other chemicals can spiders detect and how are these relevant to their behaviour and ecology? Also, what is the molecular and neural basis of spiders' olfaction? Finally, how has the sense of smell evolved across the vast diversity of spider species?

These questions set the stage for an exciting new chapter in our understanding of spider biology.

China-Africa cooperation boosts global south growth

NAIROBI

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi is visiting Namibia, the Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Nigeria from January 5 to 11, marking the 35th consecutive year that China's foreign minister has chosen Africa for the first overseas trip of the year.

Wang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, emphasized that this long-standing tradition highlights the enduring friendship between China and Africa.

China-Africa cooperation has made significant strides, driving development across trade, industrialization, agricultural modernization, and capacity building. These efforts have benefited billions of people in both regions.

As the world's largest developing country and Africa's most populous continent, China and Africa are collaborating to fuel the modernization of the Global South, contributing to global prosperity.

Herman Uwizeyimana, general manager of Fisher Global, a Rwandan agriculture company specializing in chili export, recently visited chili crops near Mulindi Market in Kigali. Rwanda began exporting dried chili to China in 2021, making it a key export. Uwizeyimana said, "When people talk about chili, they often think of China. Our main market is China, and many farmers are involved."

Fisher Global has exported 200-300 tonnes of dried chili annually to China. Thanks to China's zero-tariff policy, Uwizeyimana plans to increase exports to 1,500 tonnes per year.

Since December 1, China has granted zero-tariff treatment to all least-developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations, including 33 African nations, marking China as the first major



Local farmers harvest rice at the china national hybrid rice research and development center's Africa sub-center in Mahitsy, Madagascar

developing country to adopt this policy.

Beyond zero-tariff measures, China has opened green channels for African agricultural products, expanded participation in major trade exhibitions, and signed long-term economic agreements to support Africa's economic growth.

African exports like Rwandan chili and coffee, Kenyan avocados, Beninese pineapples, Malagasy lamb, Malawian peanuts, and Mozambican cashews are now reaching Chinese consumers.

According to China's General Administration of Customs, China imported 28.47 billion yuan (about \$4 billion) worth of African agricultural products in the first eight months of 2024, an increase of 4.8% over the previous year.

This robust trade is strengthening Africa's industrial chains and

adding value to its products. Michel Anondraka, Madagascar's Director General of Agriculture, reported that Madagascar began exporting frozen lamb products to China in 2024, a shift from live animals to meat, retaining more value locally.

"Thanks to this export, Madagascar's livestock farmers have a secure market, boosting production and income," Anondraka said. China's demand for Madagascar's mutton and goat meat will accelerate agricultural modernization.

In November 2024, a delegation of 20 Africans from the agricultural sector visited Manluanzhan village in Yunnan Province to explore China's rural revitalization

successes. The group saw how old structures were transformed into cafes and guesthouses.

Nabirye Sarah from the Busoga Consortium for Development plans to bring similar innovations to her country. "These hands-on activities highlight the value of local culture and are very appealing to youth," she said.

Sarah is part of a young rural entrepreneurs' initiative launched in 2024 by China Agricultural University and Tencent. Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, called it an innovative model for knowledge-sharing and collaboration between developing

countries.

"This initiative will empower you to transform your communities and drive sustainable development across Africa," she said.

As China works toward high-quality development, Africa is also advancing the goals outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063. China's experience offers new opportunities for Africa's development.

From Madagascar's hybrid rice to Sao Tome and Principe's agricultural poverty reduction projects, Ethiopia's industrial zones to China-Egypt's economic cooperation zones, Chinese solutions are helping Africa modernize.

"Africa and China stand together, lifting each other for a better life," said Omar Mjenga, President and CEO of the Center for International Policy-Africa.

In December, Aloui Safaa, a student at Morocco's Yiwu Business School, completed her first live-streaming session in a cross-border e-commerce class. "Live-streaming is so much fun! Now I'm actively participating and generating income," she said.

Her instructor, Xiong Aisha, is from Yiwu Industrial and Commercial College, which partnered with Morocco's Mundiapolis University to establish Morocco Yiwu Business School. This collaboration tailors China's vocational expertise to local needs.

"I see that China has a lot to offer Africa in terms of knowledge and development," said Olusola Oyewole, Secretary-General of the Association of African Universities. He noted that partnerships with Chinese universities will help African researchers address challenges.

With Africa's young population, the focus now is on empowering youth to drive development. Oyewole added that China's support in fields like digitalization and AI will help shape Africa's future.

China-Africa cooperation has empowered African youth through initiatives like Luban Workshops and the China-Africa Universities 100 Cooperation Plan.

In the coming years, China plans to further advance vocational education, establish engineering colleges, and expand Luban Workshops to more African countries.

The collaboration between China and Africa will continue to support African youth, particularly in emerging fields like digitalization and AI, shaping the continent's future.



Zesco cautious on increasing generation despite rising water levels in Lake Kariba

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S state-owned power company Zesco Limited said Tuesday that it would not rush to increase electricity generation following steady water levels in Lake Kariba.

Acknowledging that the water level at Lake Kariba which supplies water to the Kariba North Bank Power Plant has shown a slight increase, Zesco Limited pledged to maintain current reduced generation levels to ensure long-term sustainability and prevent further depletion.

Zesco spokesperson Matongo

Maumbi said increasing power generation prematurely could exhaust the reservoir further, leaving the country vulnerable if the rains do not continue.

"Zesco recognizes the challenges that power rationing has posed to households, businesses, and the economy. However, our primary responsibility is to safeguard the long-term functionality of Lake Kariba as a critical electricity resource," he said in a statement.

According to him, the water level at Lake Kariba has risen to 475.87 meters from the minimal operational level of 475.50 meters but remains below last year's level of

477.28 meters. The reservoir's usable storage was still critically low at 2.61 percent compared to 12.32 percent at the same time last year.

The spokesperson said the amount of water available for hydropower generation remains insufficient for sustainable operations, especially given the unpredictable nature of regional rainfall patterns. He added that the power utility was actively working on long-term strategies to diversify the country's electricity mix, including significant investments in solar electricity to reduce reliance on hydropower generation.

Zambia is currently experiencing

a critical electricity deficit following poor rains in the 2023/2024 season as the country depends on hydro-generated electricity. Consumers are being subjected to only seven hours of electricity in a day on a rotational basis.

Lake Kariba, located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, is a crucial source of hydroelectric power generation for both countries. It is home to the Kariba Dam, one of the largest dams in Africa. The dam was built in the 1950s and serves as the centerpiece of Zambia's power generation system.

The Kariba Dam generates a significant portion of Zambia's elec-

tricity. The Kariba North Bank Power Station, located on the Zambian side of the lake, plays a key role in the country's energy supply. The plant has an installed capacity of 1,080 megawatts (MW), which represents a substantial share of Zambia's total electricity capacity.

This power station is essential not only for domestic consumption but also for supporting economic activities in Zambia, including mining, industry, and agriculture, which are key sectors in the country. Moreover, the electricity generated from Lake Kariba is also shared with Zimbabwe, which depends on it for much of its own power needs.

Egypt discovers 4,000-year-old tomb near Cairo

CAIRO

A Joint French-Swiss archaeological mission has discovered an over 4,000-year-old mastaba at the Saqqara archaeological site, south of the capital Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said in a statement on Monday.

Mastaba, the standard type of tomb in pre-dynastic and early dynastic Egypt, has a rectangular base, a flat roof, and sloping side walls made of stone or mud bricks.

The newly-found mastaba was for a royal doctor who lived during the reign of Pepy II (c.2278-2184 BC), the last king of the Sixth Dynasty in Egypt's Old Kingdom.

Mohamed Ismail Khaled, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), said the discovery is an important addition to the history of the archaeological area, as the texts and drawings on the tomb's walls unveil new aspects of the daily life of the Old Kingdom, according to the statement.

It added that preliminary studies indicate that the mastaba was probably looted in early times, but the walls bearing carved and painted inscriptions are well-preserved.

The mission also found a sarcophagus (stone coffin). Inscriptions on the tomb's ceiling and inside the sarcophagus revealed the name and title of the tomb's owner, according to the statement.

Tanzania's journey in 2024: A year of progress, challenges, moments of loss

By Correspondent Gaudensia Mngumi

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan continues to shine as a transformative leader in Tanzania, Africa, and the global stage. As a champion of clean energy, the Head of State leads initiatives to combat climate change and uplift the lives of women and girls.

In May 2024, she launched a 10-year National Clean Cooking Strategy, aiming for 80 percent of Tanzanians to adopt clean cooking by 2034.

A 10-year comprehensive plan aims to transform how Tanzanians prepare their meals by promoting the widespread adoption of clean and sustainable cooking solutions. The strategy addresses multiple issues, including public health, environmental sustainability, gender equity, and economic development.

It seeks to reduce reliance on traditional biomass fuels such as firewood and charcoal, which are widely used in households by promoting clean cooking technologies like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), electricity, improved biomass stoves and other modern alternatives.

At UNESCO headquarters in Paris, President Samia co-chaired the International Energy Agency Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa alongside Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group; Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway; and Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency.

The strategy positions Tanzania as a leader in clean energy innovation in Africa, aligning the country with global sustainability goals such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Civic polls

On November 27th, 2024 Tanzanians voted for their leaders at local govern-



President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched a 10-year National Clean Cooking Strategy in May last year aiming to promote the adoption of clean and sustainable cooking solutions.

ment level whereas posts being vied for included 12,280 village chairpersons, 4,264 street chairpersons, 63,886 hamlet chairpersons, 230,834 village council members and 21,320 street committee members

The election saw the ruling party—Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), securing 98 percent of the seats. However, opposition parties claimed the elections were fraught with intimidation and irregularities.

Dorothy Semu, leader of ACT-Wazalendo, described the elections as neither free nor fair, citing harassment of opposition agents and other grievances.

A vision for the future

Tanzania has embarked on preparing the National Development Vision 2050, a blueprint for a prosperous, just, and self-reliant nation. Built on five pillars—high-quality livelihoods, peace, stability,

unity, good governance and economic progress—the initiative seeks to involve citizens nationwide.

The vision aims to improve the overall quality of life for Tanzanians by ensuring access to essential services such as education, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and affordable housing. It focuses on transforming Tanzania into a middle-income, self-reliant economy driven by industrialization, innovation, and technology.

Through the vision, the government strives to position Tanzania as a regional and global economic player by enhancing trade, infrastructure, and diplomatic relationships. This includes investments in modern transportation networks like the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), ports, and energy projects.

Milestone in transportation sector

The year 2024 saw the Tanzania Rail-

ways Corporation (TRC) inaugurating its electric train service between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma in June.

This accomplishment signifies more than a leap in passenger numbers; it embodies a transformative shift toward modern, sustainable infrastructure, setting a powerful example of eco-friendly development in action.

The significance of this accomplishment extends beyond transportation statistics, weaving a narrative of economic progress, environmental responsibility, and an improved quality of life for Tanzanians.

Under the old diesel system, Tanzania's railway struggled with inefficiency, delays, and a capacity far below the demands of its growing population.

The transition to electric trains marked a bold and transformative leap for the nation, addressing longstanding challenges of inefficiency, delays, and

limited capacity.

Moments of loss

The nation mourned the loss of two iconic leaders in 2024. Former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who was famously known as 'Mzee Rukhsa' passed away aged 99 years from lung cancer.

His tenure (1985-1995) marked a pivotal shift from socialism to a liberal economy and multiparty democracy.

Former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa also passed away at 70 due to heart complications. Remembered for his ambition to lead the country, Lowassa played a significant role during President Jakaya Kikwete's administration but was unable to achieve his presidential aspirations.

Tax protests by traders

IN June 2024, the country witnessed a nationwide strike when traders refused to open their businesses demanding for the government to adhere to their needs.

The strike began at Kariakoo market in Dar es Salaam before it spread to other regions, including Mbeya, Morogoro, Mwanza, and Ruvuma.

Their major complaint was the unbearable taxes and unfair treatment by tax officers. But this is not an unfamiliar sight. In May 2023, businessmen in Tanzania went on a boycott opposing the introduction of new regulations by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and of course the unfair treatment that they encountered from the authority.

In Dar es Salaam, traders called off the strike after Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila urged them to refrain from such strikes and instead seek to sit down and rethink about it. Chalamila said the issue of demonstration should not be considered as collective matter, but all sides to sit and arrive at a decision.

He said: "Let's all unite to build Dar es Salaam, strikes are not a solution. We should not support them, because the strikes will also affect innocent people."

By Shola Lawal

RUMOUR has it that some Ivoirians can eat attiéke morning, afternoon and night.

The fermented cassava meal has long been a marker of national identity in Ivory Coast, beloved across all levels of society in the West African nation. And now, the United Nations has secured attiéke's status as one of the region's most important servings.

In December, UNESCO (the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation) recognised attiéke's icon status by listing the dish as an intangible cultural heritage. That move elevates the tangy meal to the status of other globally renowned culinary favourites like South Korean kimchi and Mexican tacos.

For Ivorian women who've prepared the dish in vast amounts for sale, and who have passed down the intensive cooking skill over generations, attiéke is also a way to bond and a path to financial freedom.

Pronounced "at-chie-kay", the meal is sometimes called Ivorian couscous and has been marketed by some as a gluten-free alternative to regular couscous.

Now, with the UNESCO recognition, its branding could receive a new boost. But what are the origins of attiéke, why do Ivoirians love it so much, and how does one prepare the dish?

Why was attiéke recognised?

A UNESCO panel added tangy attiéke to the organisation's list of intangible cultural heritage on December 5 at the body's 19th session on safeguarding non-physical heritage in Asunción, Paraguay. The list highlights culturally significant practices, knowledge, or expressions that are particular to a region or country.

Alongside the Ivorian dish, UNESCO recognised 10 other cultural meals or drinks, including Japanese sake, a traditional rice wine; and Caribbean cassava bread eaten by Indigenous communities.

In considering attiéke, UNESCO noted the skills related to its production. "The knowledge and skills are passed down orally and through observation within families ... The related knowledge and skills play an important role in the social

Ivory Coast's national dish attiéke is now a global icon and timeless culinary treasure



Some Ivoirians eat attiéke for breakfast, lunch and dinner

life of communities," it said.

Attiéke's intense, multiple-day preparation methods have been passed down over generations in Ivory Coast as women often organise themselves into local production businesses and produce it in big batches.

Ramata Ly-Bakayoko, Ivory Coast's delegate to UNESCO, said at the session in Paraguay that the meal was based on "precise gestures and traditional techniques that have lasted for centuries" and that it is "deeply rooted" in life and culture.

What's attiéke's origin and its traditional significance?

Attiéke is an accessible and affordable dish that has become a staple in family meals, UNESCO noted. It is also often served at weddings, birthdays, or other events, with a side of spicy pepper sauce, grilled or fried tilapia fish, and

chopped onions.

The dish is typically prepared by women in the southern lagoon parts of the Ivory Coast, especially from the Adiokrou, Avikam and Ebrié groups. In fact, the name stemmed from the Ebrié term for the meal: "adjeke".

In more recent decades, production has spread across the country, and demand for attiéke is growing in neighbouring countries like Burkina Faso, Ghana and in African diasporas across Europe and North America.

Producers are increasingly exporting a pre-cooked form of the meal that can be easily prepared at home. Countries like Burkina Faso are also seeing attiéke producers.

How is attiéke made?

The steaming fermented cassava pulp often takes three to five days to make from scratch.

Usually, groups of women

gather to make the meal in huge batches and then portion and sell it to market vendors in small plastic bags.

Magnan, a days-long fermentation process, gives attiéke its distinctive twinge. Here's how the meal is made traditionally (plus easy alternatives for single-home cooking):

First, slightly boiled or braised cassava roots are soaked for one to three days to ferment and act as yeast in the final product.

Then, more fresh roots are peeled, cut, and washed. Together with the fermented roots, some overheated palm oil, and some water, the mixture is then crushed in a grinder. The ice crush option on a home-use blender would achieve similar results.

Afterwards, the pulp is portioned into plastic bags and left for about 12 to 15 hours to ferment further.

Next, the fermented paste

is thoroughly squeezed to get the water out. Typically, Ivorian women prepare the meal in batches using an industrial press. For home use, placing the paste in a sieve cloth or bag, putting a flat board on it, and then placing heavy objects like stones on it for hours could achieve similar results.

Then, the drying paste is sieved, usually with a 5mm sieve to get out the chaff. Ivorian women then use their hands to fluff up the paste so granules form better.

The dried paste is thereafter spread out in thin layers on tarps and laid out in the sun to dry. That process takes about half an hour or more, depending on the weather. At home, an oven would do the job. Again, the now fully-dried granules are sieved and fluffed to remove any fibres or other material.

Next, the granules are steamed - rather than cooked - in traditional pots designed to hold hot water beneath the dried attiéke. At home, a metal sieve lined with some cloth and placed inside a pot with hot water could do. Steaming takes 30 to 40 minutes.

Finally, the finished product, soft and fluffy in consistency, is typically packed into small plastic bags for sale in markets.

What are the controversies surrounding attiéke?

Many Ivoirians are passionately territorial about attiéke. Some see increasing levels of production in neighbouring countries as a threat to national identity.

In 2019, there was outrage

on Ivorian social media platforms after a Burkinabe chef and entrepreneur, Florence Bassono, founder of Faso Attiéke, won an award at an agricultural and animal resources fair in Abidjan. Many Ivoirians were angered that a non-Ivorian national won the competition over local entrepreneurs.

In December, following UNESCO's recognition of the meal, locals told a Radio France International (RFI) reporter that the global recognition was important and would help Ivorian attiéke stand out.

"We often hear that Burkina Faso is first or China is first in attiéke production, and we who created attiéke are last," one local in Abidjan's Anono suburb told the reporter.

In 2019, the Ivorian government began a bid to trademark the name, "Attiéke des Lagunes" or "Attiéke of the Lagoons", and its intensive preparation methods, in order to protect its authenticity.

In mid-2023, the African Intellectual Property Organisation (OAPI), which includes 17 French-speaking African nations, certified Ivorian attiéke and its production methods by granting it PGI or "Protected Geographical Indication" status. That label highlights attiéke's special cultural link to Ivory Coast and distinguishes it from products made in other countries.

What other African dishes have UNESCO heritage status?

With its new status, attiéke joins the Senegalese rice dish, thiebou dieune - the only other sub-Saharan African dish recognised with the UNESCO honour.

Originating from the northern city of Saint Louis, the meal, pronounced chee-buu-jen, is prepared with fish and vegetables and is often eaten for lunch or dinner. In the dominant Wolof language, it literally means "rice and fish".

UNESCO recognised the dish in 2021, along with the rumba dance from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Kenya's Isikuti dance was also inscribed on the list in 2021.



Thursday 9 January, 2025

BoT holds policy rate at 6pc for a third consecutive meeting

By Francis Kajubi

THE Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has decided to maintain the Central Bank Rate (CBR) at six percent for the first quarter of this year, with an aim of keeping inflation below its target.

Emmanuel Tutuba, BoT's governor, told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the decision made on January 7, 2025 is based on the projection that inflation will remain low and within the national target of five percent, as global and domestic economic conditions continue to improve.

Tutuba said that the MPC also projects a stable growth outlook, supported by improving financial conditions worldwide.

When it launched the rate in January 2024, the bank set it at 5.50 percent. The bank targets inflation of 5 percent and consumer inflation has stayed comfortably below that figure.

The governor asserted that the MPC learned that economic growth in the first quarter of 2024 reached 5.6 percent, driv-

en primarily by key sectors such as agriculture, construction, transportation, and financial services.

"High-frequency data suggest that growth in the second and third quarters of 2025 will be 5.8 percent and 5.6 percent respectively. The MPC expects this growth to continue into the fourth quarter, driven by reforms and improvements in business environments, supported by development partners," said Tutuba.

He said the agricultural sector, in particular, is expected to experience significant growth due to increased use of inputs such as fertilizers, high-quality seeds, and pesticides, as well as investments in irrigation infrastructure.

According to him Zanzibar's economy saw strong performance as well, with a 6.4 percent growth in the first quarter of 2024, supported by the transportation, financial services, and construction sectors.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), global economic growth in 2024 is expected to be recorded at 3.2 percent, while the World Bank



Emmanuel Tutuba, BoT's governor

estimates a 2.6 percent growth.

Tutuba acknowledged that this global expansion is expected to contribute to Tanzania's domestic economic activities and reduce inflationary pressures.

Speaking of the banking sector and fiscal performance, he said the private sector's credit growth re-

mained robust, averaging 17.1 percent from July to September 2024, matching the growth recorded in the previous quarter.

"Banks continued to improve their asset quality, with the ratio of non-performing loans decreasing to 3.9 percent in August 2024, compared to 5.1 percent in the same pe-

riod last year. As the domestic and global economies continue to recover, credit growth is expected to remain strong," said Tutuba.

On the fiscal side, he said, the national debt reached USD377.2 billion, equivalent to 46.9 percent of GDP, remaining well within the 60 percent debt ceiling set by SADC. In terms of net present value (NPV), Tanzania's debt was 36.4 percent of GDP, below the 50 percent ceiling set by the EAC.

The central bank's governor said inflation has remained stable within the national and regional targets, standing at 3 percent in July and 3.1 percent in August 2024.

He said the MPC projects inflation to be around 3.2 percent by the end of the year, aided by stable commodity prices, adequate food supply, and steady electricity generation.

Inflation in Zanzibar also eased to 5.1 percent in the same period, largely due to lower food and non-food prices.

On the other hand, Tutuba said the country's external sector continued to improve, with the current account deficit narrowing to 3.2 percent of GDP in the year ending September 2024, down from 4.4 percent in the same period in 2023.

"This improvement was driven by increased exports of gold, tourism, tobacco, and cashew nuts. In Zanzibar, the current account surplus grew to USD507 million from USD363.7 million, supported by rising tourism revenues and decreased imports," said Tutuba.

On stability of currency, the Tanzanian shilling depreciated at a slower rate of 10.1 percent year-on-year in September 2024, down from 12.5 percent in June 2024.

He said foreign exchange reserves grew to USD5.4 billion by the end of September 2024, up from USD5.35 billion in June 2024, sufficient to cover more than four months of imports.

Looking ahead, foreign exchange inflows are expected to increase, bolstered by high gold prices, a strong tourism sector, and agricultural exports such as cashew nuts, tobacco, coffee, and cotton.

At the same time, lower fertilizer imports and stable petroleum prices are expected to reduce demand for foreign exchange.

"The requirement for quoting and making payments in Tanzanian shillings is expected to reduce foreign exchange pressures and enhance the effectiveness of monetary policy," said Tutuba.

Islamic finance market size to hit \$8bn in 2024

By Guardian Reporter

The Islamic finance market size is projected to grow from \$7.16 billion in 2023 to \$7.99 billion in 2024 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.6 percent.

According to "Islamic Finance Market Report 2024" published yesterday on Research and Market, the growth observed in the historical period can be attributed to several factors such as the increasing demand for Sharia-compliant products and practices, the stimulation of fresh interest due to substantial oil wealth, the emphasis on risk-sharing in financing, strong investments in halal sectors, and the expansion of Islamic banking services.

According to the report, the Islamic finance market size is expected to see rapid growth in the next few years. It will grow to \$12.45 billion in 2028 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.7

percent.

The growth anticipated for the forecast period can be attributed to several factors such as the expansion of the Islamic finance industry, the increasing Muslim population, a focus on ethical and socially responsible investing, government support and regulation, and the globalization of Islamic finance.

Key trends expected during this period include the adoption of electronic modes for all products and services, innovation in financial products, the launch of new Islamic exchange-traded funds (ETFs), growing popularity of ESG-related financial assets, and the integration of financial technology.

The growth of the Muslim population is expected to drive the expansion of the Islamic finance market. This increase in population is largely due to high fertility rates and a relatively young demographic.

Muslims turn to Islamic finance to manage their financial needs in accordance with shariah law, which prohibits interest and promotes ethical, risk-sharing financial practices.

This ensures that their financial activities align with their religious beliefs and values. Growing Muslim population is contributing to the growth of the Islamic finance market.

Prominent companies in the Islamic finance sector are focusing on innovation in financial products, such as digital banking platforms, to gain a competitive edge.

These platforms enable customers to manage accounts, conduct transactions, and access financial products online or via mobile applications.

Middle East and Africa was the largest region in the Islamic finance market in 2023. Asia-Pacific is expected to be the fastest-growing region in

the market.

The countries covered in the Islamic finance market report are Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, South Korea, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Spain.

The assets of the world's Islamic banks expanded rapidly to reach USD 3.24 trillion by end of 2022 up from USD 1.3 trillion by 2012. The number of full-fledged Islamic banks rose by 36% to 336 in 2022 while conventional banks with Islamic windows or services increased by 84% to 274 in 2022. The highest growth in Islamic banking in the past decade was in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Iran that capitalised on improvement of its local currency in the early years.

Islamic finance has been growing consistently, with the total value of Islamic financial assets projected to surpass \$4 trillion by 2030.

Key markets in the Middle



East, Southeast Asia (especially Malaysia and Indonesia), and Africa will continue driving this growth. New markets, such as Central Asia and Europe, are also showing interest in adopting Islamic finance principles.

Sukuk (Islamic bonds) are gaining traction as a preferred

financing tool for infrastructure projects and green initiatives. Governments and corporations are issuing sukuk to tap into both Islamic and conventional investors seeking ethical and sustainable investment opportunities.

The adoption of technology, including blockchain, artificial intelligence, and digital banking, is transforming Islamic finance.

Fintech solutions are making Islamic financial services more accessible, especially to underserved populations in emerging markets.

Africa is emerging as a significant market for Islamic finance, driven by a growing Muslim population, infrastructure development needs, and supportive government policies.

Countries like Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya are positioning themselves as regional Islamic finance hubs.

Global Islamic finance is poised for a bright future, driven by its ethical foundation, alignment with sustainable development goals, and increasing adoption of digital technologies.

As the industry continues to innovate and expand into new markets, it has the potential to become a cornerstone of the global financial system.

Top US banks quit net zero alliance before Donald Trump inauguration



By Damien Gayle

The six biggest banks in the US have all quit the global banking industry's net zero target-setting group, with the imminent inauguration of Donald Trump as president expected to bring political backlash against climate action.

JP Morgan is the latest to withdraw from the UN-sponsored net zero banking alliance (NZBA), following Citigroup, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs. All six have left since the start of December.

Analysts have said the withdrawals are an attempt to head off "anti-woke" attacks from rightwing US politicians, which are expected to escalate when Trump is sworn in as the country's 47th president in just under a fortnight.

Trump's vows to deregulate the energy sector, dismantle environmental rules and "drill, baby, drill", were a big part of his campaign platform and are expected to form a key part of his blueprint for governing the US, the world's biggest oil and gas producer.

Paddy McCully, a senior analyst at the campaign group Reclaim Finance, said:

"The sudden exodus of these big US banks out of the NZBA is a lily-livered effort to avoid criticism from Trump and his climate denialist cronies.

"A few years ago, when climate change was at the front of the political agenda, the banks were keen to boast of their commitments to act on climate. Now that the political pendulum has swung in the other direction, suddenly acting on climate does not seem so important for the Wall Street lenders."

Convened by the UN Environment Programme finance initiative but led by banks, the NZBA commits members to align their lending, investment and capital markets activities with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or earlier.

Citigroup was one of NZBA's founding members. A spokesperson for the bank said Citigroup's decision to quit would allow it to "focus on addressing barriers to mobilising capital to emerging markets in support of the low-carbon transition".

"We remain committed to reaching net zero and continue to be transparent about our progress," the bank said.

Addressing its withdrawal, JP Morgan said it would "work independently to ad-

vance the interests of our firm" and its customers and shareholders, while remaining "focused on pragmatic solutions to help further low-carbon technologies while advancing energy security".

A spokesperson for Goldman Sachs said the bank was "very focused" on increasingly stringent standards and reporting requirements imposed by regulators, and insisted the bank had "made significant progress ... on the firm's net zero goals".

Wells Fargo commented only to confirm its withdrawal from the alliance, while Bank of America and Morgan Stanley did not respond to requests for comment.

Toby Kwan, a senior manager at the Carbon Trust, said the banks' withdrawals from NZBA could give them more flexibility over which sectors they decided to include in their targets and which pathway to align with, and less stringent timeframes to work to.

Financial institutions' membership of net zero alliances has come under attack from politicians on the country's right.

In 2022 a potential anti-trust legal action led by attorneys general in Republican states had led some US banks to threaten to leave the NZBA, with withdrawals

avoided after the group made changes to guidelines that could be construed as requirements to take action on fossil fuels.

Then in November, a group of states led by Texas sued BlackRock, Vanguard and State Street, all large asset management firms, for adopting pro-climate policies to reduce reliance on coal that the claimants alleged had pushed up energy prices.

Most recently, in December, the Republican-led judiciary committee of the House of Representatives, the US Congress's lower house, accused "a cartel" of financial firms and climate activists of colluding to "impose radical ESG-goals" on US companies.

From Tuesday, after the US banks' exodus, the NZBA still counted 141 banks among its members, including all the largest European banks. McCully said the departure of the US banks would give those remaining the opportunity to go further. He said: "By strengthening their commitments, NZBA banks can demonstrate that they have not simply used US obstructionism as an excuse to maintain the NZBA's weak position."

The NZBA did not comment.

WHY MOST BANKS ARE RELUCTANT TO LEND TO AGRICULTURE

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

Agriculture plays a vital role in Tanzania's economy. According to Statista, it contributed approximately 33.3trn/- around US\$13.13 billion to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. In the 2023/24 budget, the agricultural sector accounted for 16.1 percent of the national income, with plans in the 2024/25 budget to increase this contribution to 20 percent. About 68% of Tanzania's workforce is engaged in agricultural activities, encompassing both rural and urban areas.

Notably, 83 percent of these individuals are small-scale farmers, who dominate the sector and contribute around 75 percent of total agricultural output. Given its significance, agriculture demands robust support from all economic stakeholders, particularly banks, which can play a pivotal role in addressing the sector's challenges, fostering growth, and ensuring sustainability.

For a sector that employs 68 percent of the workforce in Tanzania, one might expect financial institutions, particularly banks, to actively support the sector. Yet, the reality

tells a different story: credit flow by banks to the agricultural sector remains alarmingly low. Despite substantial growth in Tanzania's banking sector in recent years, banks are not playing an effective role in supporting agriculture. As intermediaries between depositors and borrowers, banks play a crucial role in driving economic progress by channeling resources toward productive activities and eliminating financial inefficiencies. This intermediary role positions banks as essential drivers of economic progress. However, despite its economic importance, the agricultural sector—which is in desperate need of funding—continues to face significant challenges in securing credit. Banks have been notably hesitant to engage in agricultural financing, and in this article, I will explore some key reasons behind this reluctance.

• **High Degree of Informality** - One of the primary challenges banks face in lending to the agricultural sector is the high degree of informality. The majority of small farmers and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in this sector are not formally registered, which creates a multitude of barriers to accessing fi-



Kelvin Mkwawa,

financial services. These challenges are compounded by low levels of education and financial literacy among farmers, making it difficult for them to navigate financial systems and meet the requirements for loans. Most small farmers do not maintain accounting records, nor can they produce essential financial documents like cash flow statements or balance sheets. This lack of documentation makes it difficult for banks to assess

the creditworthiness of these potential borrowers. Additionally, small-scale farmers often lack tangible assets to pledge as collateral, removing a crucial fallback option for banks in case of loan default. As a result, the high degree of informality has led to widespread financial exclusion for small farmers and agricultural MSEs, preventing them from accessing the capital needed to grow their businesses.

• **Political Risks** - Agriculture is often considered a strategic sector by governments because it provides employment, sustains livelihoods for a large portion of the population, and serves as a major contributor to GDP through both local consumption and exports. However, its strategic importance also makes it highly susceptible to political risks that deter financial institutions from lending to the sector. Political risks in agriculture typically stem from government intervention and interference. Most countries have experienced some type of political intervention in the agriculture sector and Tanzania is no different. Also, unpredictable government policies—such as sudden bans on certain crop exports, and changes to subsidies add another layer of uncertainty. These political interventions create unstable pricing of the crops thereby affecting the revenues/cash flow of the farmers. For banks, the combination of cash flow inconsistency, and policy unpredictability makes lending to farmers in politically sen-

sitive sectors a high-risk proposition. This dynamic reduces the availability of much-needed financial assistance to the agricultural sector.

• **Price Risks** - Agricultural commodities are notoriously subject to price volatility, creating significant uncertainty for farmers. Unlike other sectors, where pricing might be more predictable, farmers typically cannot determine the price of their harvest at the time of planting, when they make key production decisions. One of the primary causes of this volatility is the elastic demand for agricultural products. Even small increases in production can lead to significant price reductions, as supply outpaces demand. Conversely, a drop in production may cause prices to spike. Such price swings make it challenging for farmers to project their earnings accurately, which in turn affects their ability to plan for loan repayments. For financial institutions, this uncertainty translates into unpredictable sales proceeds for farmers, making them appear as high-risk

borrowers. Banks often prefer clients with stable and predictable income streams to mitigate risks, and the inherent variability in agricultural income undermines the sector's attractiveness for lending.

In conclusion, agriculture stands as the cornerstone of Tanzania's economy, significantly contributing to employment, GDP, and national income. Despite its critical importance, the sector remains largely underserved by banks, which have been hesitant to engage actively in agricultural financing.

This reluctance stems from several factors, including the sector's high degree of informality, exposure to political risks, and price volatility. Overcoming these barriers calls for a collaborative effort to transform the agricultural ecosystem. With a more structured, transparent, and stable environment, banks will have greater confidence to extend financial support, unlocking the sector's full potential.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA (pictured) is the Seasoned Banker based in Dar es Salaam. He can be contacted through Email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

Outlook 2025: Crucial 'bridge year' for Africa to lead on the global stage

By Udaibir Das

For decades, external voices have often narrated Africa's economic story through a narrow lens of challenges: uneven growth, energy deficits, food insecurity, extreme poverty, mounting debt and stalled reforms. While these obstacles are undeniable, they overshadow a more compelling narrative of resilience, innovation and cautious hope.

In 2024, Africa's economic and political importance grew significantly, laying a strong foundation for 2025 to be a transformative year for the continent. With headline economic growth reaching approximately 3.2 percent, Africa ranked among the fastest-growing regions globally. The continent has been addressing critical issues such as climate change, supply chain disruptions and energy transitions by embracing localised and innovative solutions. At the same time, Africa is proactively reshaping its economic identity, positioning itself as a key player in global trade, finance and sustainability efforts.

Africa's vast renewable energy potential, including solar and wind resources, mineral wealth such as lithium and cobalt, and untapped markets in agriculture and technology, make it indispensable to global efforts towards climate resilience and economic growth. Africa's demographic advantage is also unmatched. By 2050, the continent will house the world's largest working-age population, thus instilling a sense of optimism about Africa's future.

Private sector interest

Africa's increasing economic appeal is evident in the private sector's growing interest in the continent. Multinational corporations, financial institutions and venture capital firms recognise the vast opportunities presented by Africa's resource wealth, expanding markets and consumer demand. This private sector momentum can be expected to accelerate in 2025.

Key sectors, such as renewable

energy, technology and financial services, attract healthy investor interest. Companies like TotalEnergies and Enel Green Power are scaling up green energy projects, while global financial giants like JP Morgan Chase and Mastercard are establishing a more substantial presence. Africa's fintech ecosystem, now valued at over \$3bn, has emerged as a hub for innovation, with startups successfully drawing funding from continental and international investors. These trends reflect growing confidence in Africa's capacity to deliver returns on investment.

Unlocking growth potential amid challenges

To realise its potential in 2025, Africa must tackle entrenched structural constraints, including fragmented regulatory frameworks, an underdeveloped financial sector, inadequate infrastructure and the burden of unsustainable debt levels.

Operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area is poised to be a game-changer. By establishing the world's largest free trade area by member countries, AfCFTA promises a unified market for goods and services, unlocking regional integration and paving the way for financial harmonisation. The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System, a critical enabler under AfCFTA, is maturing rapidly. It is already facilitating cross-border transactions in local currencies, reducing reliance on foreign exchange reserves and lowering transaction costs. This innovation is particularly impactful in the growing fintech and sustainable finance sectors, where cost efficiency and accessibility are paramount.

Africa's capital markets are also witnessing notable progress. Egypt and Nigeria have successfully issued green bonds, attracting billions in investments from global investors prioritising sustainability. These efforts signal the continent's growing ability to align with international trends in sustainable finance. Meanwhile, initiatives to integrate stock exchanges in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa are improving market liquidity, reducing invest-

ment barriers and fostering regional co-operation.

Banks are equally instrumental in driving growth and resilience. Institutions such as Access Bank Group and Standard Bank are scaling operations across the continent, providing much-needed credit to small- and medium-sized enterprises. Since SMEs account for up to 90% of businesses and contribute significantly to African employment, this support is crucial for job creation and economic diversification. These developments reflect Africa's increasing capacity to navigate challenges and build a robust financial ecosystem.

Africa's digital transformation

Collaborative ecosystems will be crucial in 2025, and the digitalisation of financial systems is instrumental in fostering these ecosystems. Platforms such as Flutterwave, M-Pesa and Chipper Cash are driving the fintech revolution. These platforms facilitate seamless payments, expand credit access and enable financial inclusion, especially in underserved rural areas.

Collaborative public-private partnerships are also addressing infrastructure and connectivity gaps. For example, US-backed programmes aim to connect millions of farmers and SMEs to the digital economy, highlighting the importance of integrated solutions over siloed approaches.

G20 leadership and global partnerships

In 2024, Africa solidified its position at the forefront of global climate efforts, becoming a pivotal voice in shaping the sustainability agenda. South Africa's G20 presidency in 2025 now provides an opportunity to amplify Africa's influence on the international stage. Among its key priorities is establishing a Global Cost-of-Living Commission to address the skyrocketing food and energy prices - issues disproportionately affecting vulnerable economies. This initiative could provide a much-needed lifeline to nations grappling with external shocks, including inflation, supply chain disruptions and

the economic fallout of climate change. The presidency also underscores Africa's call for more equitable financial governance in institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to increase voting rights and representation for African countries.

Partnerships with developed nations are evolving from aid dependency towards investment-driven collaborations. The replenishment of multilateral funds such as the International Development Association and the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust offers critical support for Africa's development trajectory. These mechanisms are set to finance vital infrastructure projects, bolster climate resilience initiatives and underpin social development programmes, ensuring the continent is better equipped to navigate persistent challenges while capitalising on emerging opportunities.

Strategic initiatives like Italy's Mattei Plan - which advocates for equitable and sustainable partnerships between Europe and Africa - highlight the growing recognition of Africa's global importance. This plan emphasises energy, sustainability and development investments rather than resource extraction, signalling a shift towards mutual benefit and long-term co-operation.

Furthermore, commitments from key partners, including China's Belt and Road Initiative, South Korea's technology transfer programmes and the European Union's Global Gateway strategy, emphasise Africa's rising geopolitical and economic significance. Brics nations have also demonstrated their support for Africa's growth through enhanced trade agreements, capacity-building programmes and the establishment of the New Development Bank, which increasingly focuses on funding African development priorities.

With strategic leadership and well-aligned partnerships, Africa's role in global economic and governance frameworks is poised for significant advancement in 2025. This is an opportunity for the continent to address its immediate challenges and a



moment to shape a more equitable and sustainable global order.

Action points for Africa's financial leadership

To solidify its position in global finance, Africa must prioritise actionable strategies across three key domains: strengthening its financial sector, fostering continent-wide partnerships, and advancing systemic reforms at the regional and global levels. These efforts will build resilience and position Africa as a proactive agent in shaping its economic future.

First, enhancing the efficiency and inclusivity of Africa's financial sector is critical. The continent's financial industry benefits from increased competition by encouraging diverse service providers, such as fintech startups and non-bank financial institutions, to challenge traditional banking models. Expanding access to digital financial services - such as mobile banking, e-wallets and digital payment platforms - can empower underserved populations, especially in rural areas, while stimulating grassroots economic activity. Notably, mobile money services like M-Pesa have already demonstrated their transformative potential. Complementing these efforts with financial literacy campaigns and consumer protection frameworks will build trust, safeguard users and reinforce the system's resilience against shocks.

Second, partnerships must transition into strategic, outcome-driven collaborations. Public-private partnerships should focus on bridging critical infrastructure and digital connectivity gaps, emphasising integrating rural and underserved areas into the broader economy. For example, initiatives like the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy 2030 can be blueprints for leveraging connectivity to unlock economic growth. At the same time, intra-conti-

mental mechanisms like the AfCFTA and the PAPSS must be fully operationalised to harmonise markets, reduce trade barriers and facilitate seamless cross-border commerce. Partnerships with global stakeholders can further catalyse funding for transformative infrastructure projects, renewable energy initiatives and digital inclusion programmes.

Finally, systemic reforms are essential to address the continent's structural challenges. Regional coordination on key issues, such as debt sustainability and financial governance, is crucial. Many African nations grapple with unsustainable debt levels, requiring innovative debt restructuring mechanisms and sound fiscal and monetary policies to alleviate financial strain. On the global stage, Africa must intensify its push for equitable representation in international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank. Securing greater voting rights and influencing global policy decisions will ensure that Africa's specific priorities - such as climate finance and development funding - are adequately addressed.

By uniting around these priorities, Africa can become a cornerstone of international economic and climate strategies. Bold, coordinated action will turn aspirations into tangible achievements, positioning 2025 as a year of transformation and leadership. The narrative is shifting, and Africa's time to lead has arrived.

Udaibir Das (pictured) is a visiting professor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, senior non-resident adviser at the Bank of England, senior adviser of the International Forum for Sovereign Wealth Funds, and distinguished fellow at the Observer Research Foundation America. He was previously at the Bank for International Settlements and the International Monetary Fund.

What roles can cybersecurity play to support conservation efforts

As conservation efforts get more complicated and rely more on data and technology as a result of field improvements, cybersecurity continues to be one of the most crucial aspects of this sector. The conservation sector is currently a major concern for businesses and the economy. Cybersecurity in conservation extend far beyond the safeguarding digital data; it also addresses conservation challenges by protecting species and habitats. In order to ensure the security of their sensitive ecological data and protect ecosystems, conservation organizations have the challenge of incorporating cybersecurity into their everyday operations.

Cybercrime specifically

targets organizations that focus on conservation, resulting in data manipulation, illegal access, or even the collapse of vital ecological systems for illegal wildlife and poaching operations. As technology develops to aid in conservation efforts, such as tracking the movement of animals and visualizing, analyzing, and interpreting geographic data, cybercrime is also developing more sophisticated and creative hacking techniques to steal crucial ecological data. For example, to find out if poaching or illegal wildlife farming is possible in a given area, poachers can use drones to investigate national parks and conservation areas, take photos, record locations, and more. Additionally, drones can be used to spread poison at



By Ibrahim Sultan

Cyber Security Consultant.

specific locations and infect wildlife with diseases. Recognizing unlicensed drones in national parks and conservation areas is essential for safety.

Conflicts between people and wildlife, anti-poaching efforts, and resource preservation incidents These illustrations show how direct or indi-

rect harm to conservation initiatives can result from cybersecurity failures. It will be extremely difficult for the conservation sector to preserve sensitive ecological data without a solid cybersecurity plan. Due to the fact that hackers and poachers are always searching for new vulnerabilities and

sophisticated hacking methods to attack

Since different systems and technologies in the conservation industry have varied security features, a lack of standardization might result in serious vulnerabilities. Using the same communication protocols or making firmware or software updates

simple are just two examples of how standardizing security practices in the conservation business may increase efficacy and lower the chance of mistakes.

In conservation areas, we are increasingly reliant on digital technologies and networked systems, therefore we need to fix vulnerabilities and make sure our ecological data is secure from cyberattacks. Implementing cybersecurity safeguards can protect conservation organizations from cyberattacks and improve their ability to address issues pertaining to ecosystem protection, conservation, successful conservation programs, and ensuring the survival of natural heritage.

Since technology are evolving rapidly and

new vulnerabilities and exploits are emerging, sensitive ecological data cannot be protected using outdated preventive methods. Once a year or more, our cybersecurity professionals in conservation organizations must attend short courses at the best training facilities, where they are well regarded, to stay current on the latest cybersecurity preventive tactics.

Finally, Cybersecurity measures must be incorporated into conservation planning and policy frameworks to manage potential threats and improve resilience. Cybersecurity standards and regulations should embrace conservation concepts to lessen the environmental impact of digital technology. Effective cybersecurity conservation strategies

and frameworks that can preserve our natural ecosystems while embracing the benefits of technology require cooperation between cybersecurity experts, conservators, legislators, and conservation organizations. To provide adequate protection of their sensitive ecological data against anti-poaching actions, conservation organizations should take the necessary cybersecurity measures and keep regular readiness. These outline the foundation for safeguarding delicate ecological data and ecosystems and describe the use of cybersecurity in the conservation field.

Ibrahim Sultan is Cyber Security Consultant. These are his personal views. He can be reached through email address: sultibra@gmail.com

EA banks seek to prioritise SMEs in digital investment



By Guardian Reporter

Almost two-thirds of East African banks have said that digital transformation was their most important priority, which is understandable given that it is perhaps the most innovative region for financial services on the continent.

With the highest mobile money penetration rates in the world, it is no surprise that Kenya and other East African banks have been among the first to roll out retail and SME platforms for their customers.

According to African Digital transformation report 2024 published by Amsterdam headquartered Backbase this week, only one out of ten banks do not regard it as one of their three biggest priorities and some say could have already invested heavily in their mobile and online infrastructure and are now focusing on other areas.

The 10 percent is close to the 8 percent figure of East African banks that have transformed less than a quarter of their operations to date, a figure that reflects the level of technological adoption in East African financial services.

"A third of our respondents in the region had transformed more than 75 percent of their operations, as more banks move towards completing the process, at least with regard to first generation transformation," Backbase report reads.

"Even once digital structures are in place, there will be plenty of scope to upgrade, expand and improve existing platforms. There is a fair range of budgets on display in East Africa, which may reflect the widely varying size of the region's banks."

While 27 percent spend more than US\$3m a year, indicating a strong focus on mobile and

online platforms, 17 percent spend less than US\$300,000 a year.

Almost a third of the region's banks work exclusively with third-party developers to build their platforms, highlighting a growing pool of experts that is emerging with specialist knowledge of the region.

As in West Africa, regulatory and security concerns are the most significant challenges East African banks face when integrating new digital solutions with existing legacy systems.

This may be because the East African Community (EAC) is seeking to harmonise cross-border digital payment and banking regulations.

Although progress has been limited to date, all banks based in the region will be required to comply with EAC regulations but the details of the new rules have not been finalised, even as they develop their own digital infrastructures.

At the same time, however, legacy mindset is not regarded as a major obstacle within the region, reflecting the generally innovative and forward looking nature of East Africa's financial services industry as a whole.

A massive 39 percent of East African banks are prioritising the SME sector in their digital investment over the coming year, with just 15 percent focusing on retail banking.

This is not because they do not consider the retail sector important, nor that it generates a lower proportion of their revenues, but is likely to be because many banks have already built their retail platforms and are now expanding into SME provision.

Once the benefits become apparent from the retail segment, it makes sense to roll services out in other forms of

banking, with SMEs the obvious next step.

East African banks regard the ease of integration with other core and recordkeeping solutions as the most important parameter when selecting a customer engagement solution.

As digital channels play a pivotal role in customer engagement, having the right operating model will increasingly determine a bank's ability to thrive in a dynamic and competitive market.

Interestingly, the region's banks regard adopting a proven solution as being of relatively little importance, placing far more value on whether or not it comes from a trusted vendor.

While 30 percent of East African banks exclusively deploy their customer engagement solutions on their own premises, most locate at least a proportion of them elsewhere, including in private and public cloud storage or a mix of all the available options.

Almost half of them are incorporating AI into their digital transformation strategies, with another 30 percent investing in big data, so it is clear that digital storage capacity is becoming increasingly crucial to banks in the region.

Banks therefore face some big decisions over the next few years on whether to build up their own data capacity or opt for remote data centres.

Large new data centres are already being set up in Nairobi, including iXAfrica, which is the region's largest hyperscale carrier-neutral data centre, and NBOI Nairobi Data Centre in Sameer Industrial Park, which offers long-distance fibre routes to Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and even Somalia.

By Arunima Sharan

The business case for diversity in leadership in financial institutions has been well-documented: diverse leadership improves financial outcomes, reduces groupthink and is a better reflection of the society the institutions serve. However, translating this understanding into meaningful action is easier said than done.

OMFIF's 2024 Gender Balance Index revealed a concerning pattern of missed opportunities. Of the 63 institutions with leadership transitions in 2023, only nine appointed women to top positions. While qualifications and merit are crucial considerations in these cases, the share of women in leadership - 14 percent - was the same as the share in the previous year, highlighting the glacial pace of change.

Building the pipeline

Throughout 2024, OMFIF events consistently emphasised the need to develop the talent pipeline in order to increase representation of female leaders. The rationale for this is straightforward: cultivating talent at lower levels creates a robust pool of qualified women candidates when leadership positions become available.

The 2024 GBI report shows some progress, with the share of women across all senior staff roles in the index increasing to 31 percent from 29 percent in 2022 - marking the first time this figure has exceeded 30 percent. But representation continues to thin at higher levels, dropping to 26 percent for deputy governor and C-suite positions, and falling to 16 percent in top leadership roles.

In a conversation with OMFIF, Jenny Johnson, president and chief executive officer at Franklin Templeton, noted "it all starts with building a strong pipeline of strong female talent". She added that it is "important for us to foster an inclusive environment to ensure female employees are empowered and enabled to be promoted into management positions based on their skills and potential". The dual focus - recruitment and retention - reflects a growing recognition that getting women through the door is only the first step.

Organisations have responded by implementing various initiatives, from mentorship programmes and recruitment quotas to inclusive leadership training. These efforts are increasingly complemented by national policies aimed at boosting female representation in leadership.

From policy to practice

Several jurisdictions have introduced policies mandating minimum levels of female representation, yet results remain mixed. Last year saw new



2025 to become an uphill battle for gender parity in financial leadership

initiatives in Japan, Australia and Hong Kong aimed at improving board representation in listed companies. These efforts were a positive step forward, particularly as Asia Pacific has historically had the lowest regional GBI score. Elsewhere, the European Commission and the Financial Conduct Authority in the UK both introduced measures to improve gender balance at the board level in companies in 2022.

However, the effectiveness of these policies remains to be fully seen and evaluated. In May 2024 the FCA paused its efforts on diversity and inclusion proposals set out in its 2023 consultation, citing process complexity.

Even in countries traditionally considered leaders in gender equality, meeting targets has proved challenging. In Norway, a law was introduced in 2023 to mandate no more than 60% of one gender on the board of directors for large companies. While many companies are rushing to comply, there have been some unexpected consequences, with some companies reducing board sizes to meet quotas rather than expanding female representation.

Finding the right balance between organisational and regulatory approaches remains complex, particularly in politically and economically turbulent times.

Navigating political headwinds

The path towards gender parity faces mounting obstacles. A tougher macroeconomic climate has pushed diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives down the priority list, as institutions focus on navigating economic instability. Additionally, policy

uncertainty stemming from the number of leadership changes globally in the past year have contributed to the slowdown.

While political representation of women does not directly correlate with gender diversity in financial leadership, the political climate influences regulatory frameworks and policy implementation. Without sustained political will, even well-intentioned initiatives risk stalling.

This is perhaps most evident in the US where companies, including those in the financial sector, are witnessing a DEI retreat. While this rollback of diversity measures is not a new phenomenon, it has become increasingly visible in the lead up to and following the results of the November 2024 presidential election. Last year, several companies reduced diversity programmes, downsized inclusion teams and softened language in corporate reports. In December 2024, an attempt by Nasdaq's US exchange to improve diversity of directors on the boards of companies was struck down by a federal appeals court, marking a further setback.

The financial sector now stands at a crossroads. 2025 could either solidify progress towards parity or witness a regression in representation. Success hinges on whether organisations can maintain a focus on gender equality amid competing priorities and external challenges.

The stakes are high, but the opportunity to foster meaningful change remains within reach - if the commitment to gender diversity endures.

Arunima Sharan (pictured) is Senior Economist, Economic and Monetary Policy Institute, OMFIF.

WORLD

Chinese foreign minister vows to enhance cooperation with Africa



President of the Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso (right) meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, in Brazzaville, the Republic of the Congo on Tuesday. XINHUA

BRAZZAVILLE

CHINA is ready to work with African countries to elevate the reputation of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when he was interviewed by journalists on Tuesday after meeting with Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo.

When asked about the plans for China and the Republic of the Congo, co-chairs of the FOCAC, to implement the outcomes of the Beijing Summit, Wang said that the FOCAC has played an important role in promoting Africa's development and improving the livelihood of African people.

It has become a symbol of China-Africa solidarity and cooperation, a banner of South-South cooperation, and a model for leading international cooperation with Africa, Wang said.

Over the 25 years since the forum's establishment, China has helped Africa build 100,000 km of roads, more than 10,000 km of railways, nearly 1,000 bridges, and almost 100 ports. In the past three years, China has created more than 1 million jobs in Africa, he said.

The forum has also launched numerous livelihood projects in Africa, including ini-

tiatives focused on food, water supply, and education, benefiting people across the continent. This visit aims to collaborate with the Congolese side to build consensus on enhancing and upgrading cooperation within the forum.

Wang outlined three key considerations for implementing the outcomes of the Beijing Summit after extensive consultations:

Firstly, follow the direction of advancing modernization in six aspects proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, strengthen the alignment of development strategies and the exchange of governance experience, cultivate deeper resonance of ideas and shared values to broaden the scope of China-Africa relations and inject inexhaustible momentum for their development.

Secondly, continuously enrich the "spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation", blaze the right path for state-to-state relations, set an example for international cooperation with Africa to ensure that China and Africa continue to lead in building a new type of international relations and a community of shared future for mankind.

Thirdly, focus on the implementation of the ten partnership actions for modernization, identify priority directions and key projects, apply zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines, build a comprehensive China-Africa connectivity network spanning land and sea, implement 1,000 "small and beautiful" livelihood projects, and improve the China-Africa investment

and trade cooperation mechanism to provide Africa with a broader market, practical technology, and stable investment for its modernization.

Wang said that both China and the Republic of the Congo have formulated a "timetable" and "roadmap" for the development of the forum over the next three years.

This year, the focus will be on holding a ministerial-level meeting to coordinate and accelerate the implementation of the forum's outcomes to deliver more "early harvests". Next year, the two sides will jointly mark the 70th anniversary of China-Africa diplomatic relations and "the China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges" through joint events. The 18th senior officials' meeting will accelerate the mid-term implementation of summit outcomes. In 2027, preparations for the 10th ministerial conference will serve as a driving force to ensure the comprehensive implementation and conclusion of summit outcomes.

The diplomat also said China will work with African countries to build the "Africa Solar Belt" program and help Africa truly embark on the path of green and low-carbon development. When asked about how China and Africa jointly address climate change, Wang said that President

Sassou's high attention to the issue of climate change reflects the foresight of African leaders, adding that China has always supported Africa in achieving green development as the installed capacity of photovoltaic power plants built jointly has exceeded 1.5 GW, lighting up thousands of homes across the continent.

Chinese President Xi has proposed that China and Africa should jointly advance modernization that is eco-friendly, which is the common goal of both sides and one of the key tasks of this visit, Wang said.

He said that China will implement the Partnership Action for Green Development, and work with African countries to carry out clean energy projects proposed at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

China will join hands with Africa to promote international climate governance, Wang said.

Noting that fair and common but differentiated responsibilities should be adhered to, Wang called on developed countries to face up to their historical responsibilities, earnestly fulfill their obligations, and provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries, especially African countries.

Xinhua

China's lithium reserves jump to second in the world

BEIJING

CHINA has made significant strides in lithium exploration, emerging as the world's second-largest holder of lithium reserves.

The China Geological Survey under the Ministry of Natural Resources said Wednesday that the country's lithium re-

serves have increased from 6 percent to 16.5 percent of the global total, propelling it from sixth to second place in the world rankings.

A world-class spodumene-type lithium belt spanning 2,800 kilometers in west China has been discovered. The lithium resources found in the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau's salt lakes have also seen substantial

growth, positioning China as the third-largest salt lake lithium resource base globally.

Moreover, Chinese researchers have overcome significant technical challenges in extracting lithium from lepidolite, a mineral with high lithium content that has been difficult and costly to process.

Lithium is a critical element for a wide

range of emerging industries, including electric vehicles (EV), energy storage systems, mobile communications, medical treatments, and nuclear reactor fuel.

China's increased domestic lithium exploration is expected to reduce its reliance on foreign supplies and contribute to a more balanced global lithium market, experts said.

Xinhua

India's diaspora key to globalisation, says EAM Jaishankar

BHUBANESHWAR

AT the Joint Business Session held on the sidelines of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted the significant economic potential of Odisha and its role in India's global growth.

In his address, Jaishankar referred to the concept of a "double engine" driving development, positioning Odisha as a key player in the nation's progress, an official press release by the Ministry of External Affairs stated.

He expressed the importance of India's diaspora, calling it a "living bridge" that connects India to the world, saying, "India will be unique in terms of a major power rising which has actually used, is using, and will continue to use its diaspora as a very important pathway of its globalisation and for its rise in the international order."

Jaishankar (pictured) focused on the three pillars of economic growth that he

termed the "3Ts": Trade, Technology, and Tourism, urging Odisha to leverage its resources, talent, and strategic location for future development. The first of the 3Ts, Trade, was underscored as a critical sector. He noted that Odisha is rich in resources but that these need investments, infrastructure, and connectivity to unlock their full potential.

"Resources need investments, resources need facility, resources need connectivity," he remarked, highlighting the importance of adding value to raw materials and utilising Odisha's prime location along India's eastern seaboard to strengthen trade ties, especially with Southeast Asia.

On the topic of Technology, Jaishankar pointed out Odisha's growing young population and its robust educational system as assets in developing a tech-driven economy. In the digital era, he emphasised the importance of trust in technology and its link to skilled talent. "Technology is increasingly associated



with trusted talent," he said, calling for Odisha to tap into its local talent pool to foster collaborations in the tech sector, the press release stated.

Tourism, the third "T", was described as a transformative sector that can drive job creation and inclusive growth in Odisha. Jaishankar recognised the state's rich cultural and natural heritage, urging investment in tourism as a means to promote sustainable economic development.

"Tourism is the biggest employer generator and multiplier in the world," he asserted, noting that investments in tourism not only contribute to the economy

but also create long-term development opportunities for local communities.

Jaishankar also highlighted the Modi Government's commitment to the "Purvodaya" initiative, which focuses on the revitalisation of Eastern India, with Odisha serving as a focal point. He stressed that the government is dedicated to making practical decisions that will enable this renaissance, ensuring that Odisha's growth is supported by both policy and infrastructure development.

In his concluding remarks, Jaishankar reflected on the factors that influence business investment decisions, including ease of doing business, political stability, and infrastructure. He emphasised that leadership plays a crucial role in inspiring investor confidence.

"Today you have Team Odisha's leadership in front of you. I am confident that it inspires as much confidence in you as it does in me," he said, concluding with a strong message of optimism for the state's future.

ANI

Putin congratulates Russians with Orthodox Christmas holiday

MOSCOW



RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has extended his congratulations to all Russian people on Orthodox Christmas holiday, pointing out to the Russian Orthodox Church's "tremendous creative role in uniting the people and in preserving our historical memory," the Kremlin's press office the president as saying in a statement on Tuesday.

"This bright, much-awaited holiday is dear to millions of people all over the world," the message from President Putin reads. "It gives believers joy and hope and inspires good thoughts, deeds and actions."

"During the Christmas season we clearly feel with all our heart how important for us are parental, family traditions that are being handed down from generation to generation," he said.

"I should say that the Russian Orthodox Church and other Christian denominations in Russia play a tremendous creative role in uniting the people and in preserving our historical memory and unique cultural and spiritual heritage," the Russian president pointed out.

"Religious organizations make a meaningful contribution to strengthening the institution of the family, to educating young people and to affirming in society such intransigent moral ideals and values as caring for one's neighbor, mercy and compassion, and support for those in need of help and attention," he continued. "This multifaceted and much needed work deserves most profound recognition."

"I wish Orthodox Christians and all Russian citizens celebrating Christmas good health and wellbeing," President Putin added.

On January 7, Orthodox Christians around the world celebrate one of the most important holidays: the Nativity of Jesus. On this day, Christmas is celebrated by the Russian, Georgian, Jerusalemite, Polish and Serbian Orthodox churches, the Athos monasteries in Greece, as well as the Eastern Catholic Church and the Old Believers.

The Roman Catholic, Protestant and ten Orthodox churches (including the Church of Antioch, the Church of Alexandria, the Church of Cyprus, the Bulgarian Church, and others) mark the date earlier, on December 25. The reason is different denominations adhere to different calendars: Julian or Gregorian.

Agencies

World Economic Forum report calls for strengthening global cooperation

GENEVA

THE escalation of geopolitical conflicts and regional instability have brought the level of global cooperation to a low point, according to a report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Tuesday.

The Global Cooperation Barometer 2025 report called on the international community to actively explore cooperation paths and strengthen cooperation to meet common challenges.

It uses statistical data from 2012 to 2023 to evaluate global cooperation trends in five areas, including trade and capital, innovation and technology, climate and natural capital, health and wellness, peace and security.

The report believes that after a decade of positive momentum, international cooperation around various areas has stalled.

Affected by the intensification of geopolitical competition and conflict, the level of global cooperation in peace and security has dropped sharply in the past few years, the report said. In 2023, affected by crises in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan, geopolitical conflicts and the resulting humanitarian crises have reached unprecedented severity, it added.

Political and geopolitical turbulence has the potential to degrade global cooperative efforts, the report said.

But in areas such as trade, innovation and climate, global cooperation is still in a positive trend. Thanks to the digitalization of the global economy, global technology and innovation cooperation continued to advance in 2023, but emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are reshaping the global landscape, increasing the possibility of new frontiers of geostrategic competition, the report said.

China, US should inject more certainty, positive energy into world

"EITHER way, China and America are compelled to work together if there is going to be a stable 21st century. If competition and collaboration give way entirely to confrontation, a disorderly 21st century awaits us both."

This was written by American opinion columnist Thomas L. Friedman in an article after wrapping up a recent trip to China. He believes that America and China are the only two powers that together can offer any hope, as the world today faces runaway artificial intelligence and climate change.

Friedman's opinion represents insightful Americans' clear understanding and rational thinking on how major countries like China and the US should fulfill their responsi-

bilities.

Humanity is faced with unprecedented challenges in this turbulent world suffering from frequent conflicts. Against this backdrop, major-country competition should not be the underlying logic of the times; only solidarity and cooperation can help humanity overcome current difficulties.

Both China and the US must recognize that under the current circumstances, common interests between the two countries are expanding rather than shrinking. Their cooperation is crucial not only for the economy, trade, agriculture, counterterrorism, law enforcement and public health, but also for handling global challenges of climate change and artificial intelligence as well as

addressing international hotspot issues.

Many in the US believe that "with great power comes great responsibility." China also holds that the international status of a country is measured by its openness of mind, breadth of vision, and sense of responsibility.

As the world's two largest economies and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China and the US should always keep in mind humanity's future and their responsibilities for world peace, provide public good for the world, and play an active role in addressing global challenges.

In today's world, humanity is a closely entwined community with a shared future. Countries are not

riding separately in some 190 small boats, but are rather all in a giant ship on which their shared destiny hinges.

As such, they should see each other's development as opportunities rather than challenges, and treat each other as partners rather than rivals. Global solidarity, cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win should become the defining theme of the times. This is how China views the world and its relationship with the US.

As China believes that humanity is a community with a shared future, it has always handled China-US relations with a sense of responsibility for history, for the people and for the world and based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful

coexistence and win-win cooperation. China always holds that the two countries should be partners, not rivals. The Thucydides's Trap is not a historical inevitability, and a new Cold War should not be fought and cannot be won.

China is committed to promoting stable, healthy, and sustainable development of China-US relations, and exploring the right way for two major countries to get along well with each other. This in itself reflects China's responsible attitude that puts the future of humanity front and center.

Major-country competition does not represent the trend of the times, still less can it solve America's own problems or the challenges facing the world. China and the US should

jointly shoulder responsibilities as major countries and set an example in addressing global challenges.

In the past, China and the US pulled the world economy out of the quagmire of the international financial crisis together with other G20 members, and jointly pushed to reach the Paris Agreement on climate change, bringing new hope for fighting global warming.

As the world economic recovery remains sluggish and global challenges keep emerging, it is even more imperative for China and the US to take the lead in shouldering responsibilities as major countries, refrain from mutual attrition that drags down the world, and avoid coercing other countries into taking sides.

People's Daily

China-Africa cooperation energises Global South growth

NAIROBI

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi is on a visit to four African countries – Namibia, the Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Nigeria – from Jan. 5 to 11, marking the 35th consecutive year that China's foreign minister has chosen Africa as the destination for the first overseas trip of the year.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, has hailed it as a longstanding tradition and a distinctive hallmark of China's diplomacy that stems from the deep and enduring friendship between China and Africa. Over the years, China-Africa cooperation has been forging ahead towards all-round, multi-level, and high-quality development, delivering results across multiple fields, notably in areas of trade, industrialization, agricultural modernization, and capacity building, benefiting billions of people in both China and Africa.

As the world's largest developing country and the continent with the highest number of developing countries, China and Africa are charting the course for shared progress and revitalization, facilitating the modernization of the Global South and injecting "Southern" power into global prosperity and development.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Herman Uwizeyimana, a general manager of Fisher Global, a Rwandan agriculture company specializing in chili cultivation and export, made a field trip to examine the vibrant red chili crops near Mulindi Market in Kigali, the country's capital.

In 2021, Rwanda began to export dried chili to China, making chili cultivation a key export industry. "When people talk about chili, they often think of China. Everyone knows that our main market is China, and we have many farmers involved," he said. Over the past three years, Fisher Global has exported 200-300 tonnes of dried chili to China annually. Bolstered by China's recent zero-tariff policy, Uwizeyimana's goal is to expand exports to 1,500 tonnes per year.

Since Dec. 1, China has granted at least developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations, including 33 African countries, zero-tariff treatment on 100 percent of their product categories, becoming the first major developing country and leading economy to adopt such a policy.

On top of the zero-tariff policy, China has introduced measures to turn its vast consumption market into a key opportunity for Africa, not least



Herman Uwizeyimana, a pioneering Rwandan chili farmer with a PhD in ecology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, checks the growth of chili peppers in a field in Kigali, Rwanda, Dec. 4, 2024. Xinhua

by expanding green channels for African agricultural products. It has also facilitated Africa's participation in major exhibitions like the China International Import Expo, helped connect African products to global markets, and signed economic partnership agreements for long-term, stable institutional support.

Driven by these measures, Rwandan dried chili and coffee, Kenyan avocados, Beninese pineapples, Malagasy lamb, Malawian peanuts, and Mozambican macadamia nuts and cashews are now gracing Chinese consumers' tables.

According to the General Administration of Customs of China, in the first eight months of 2024, China imported African agricultural products worth 28.47 billion yuan (about 4 billion U.S. dollars), up by 4.8 percent from a year earlier.

With two-way trade booming, China's vast market has also strengthened Africa's industrial chains and added value to its products. Michel Anondraka, director general of agriculture and livestock at Madagascar's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, said Madagascar exported frozen lamb products to China for the first time in 2024 and the transition to exporting meat instead of live animals will retain more added value in the country.

"Thanks to this export, (Madagascar's) livestock farmers will have a secure market, which will boost their production, increase their income, and earn more foreign currency," he said, adding that China's growing demand for Madagascar's mutton and goat meat will boost production for local livestock farmers and speed up the African country's agricultural modernization.

ADVANCING TOWARD MODERNIZATION

In November 2024, a group of 20 Africans from the

agricultural sector visited the Manluanzhan village in southwest China's Yunnan Province to dig into the country's achievements in rural revitalization.

During their stay, they saw how structures like disused water towers had been transformed into cafes, and traditional homes converted into modern guesthouses. Participants also engaged in cultural activities such as traditional pottery-making and local martial arts. Nabirye Sarah from the Busoga Consortium for Development tried making a pottery vase.

"These hands-on activities showcase the value of local ethnic culture and are very appealing to urban youth and children," she said, unveiling her plan to introduce such easily accessible and innovative business projects to young people upon returning to her country.

Sarah is among the first cohort under a young rural entrepreneurs' initiative for African countries jointly launched by China Agricultural University and Chinese tech giant Tencent in 2024.

Dima Al-Khatib, director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, depicted the initiative as an innovative South-South cooperation model that facilitates knowledge and skills sharing and fosters collaborative innovation between developing countries.

"This will enable you to transform your communities, to create lasting change, and drive sustainable development across Africa," she said. As China is working for high-quality development and Chinese modernization, Africa is also pursuing the modernization goals outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063. China's experience offers fresh opportunities for Africa's development.

Xinhua

Trump hits slew of topics in first presser since election win certified

WASHINGTON

INCOMING US President Donald Trump discussed a slew of topics in an unbridled press conference on Tuesday – the first since his election win was officially certified by US Congress.

In wide-ranging remarks, Trump blasted opponents and outlined a laundry list of pro-MAGA – "Make America Great Again" – initiatives he pledged to push through after taking office later this month.

Trump railed against what he and his supporters call "lawfare" – the misuse of courts for political purposes.

"They're playing with the courts, as you know, they've been playing with the courts for four years...we had a great election, so I guess it didn't work. But even to this day, they're playing with the courts and they're friendly judges that like to try and make everybody happy... It's called lawfare, it's called weaponization of justice," Trump said at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

Joining Trump at the presser was Steven Witkoff, his pick as the special envoy to the Middle East.

When they were asked about attempts to secure the release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas, the president-elect said: "If they're not back by the time I get into office, all hell will break out in the Middle East."

"And it will not be good for Hamas," he said.

The incoming president also announced plans to pardon some of the defendants in the case of the Jan 6 riots, during which some rioters stormed the Capitol building four years ago. Trump and others have said many were unjustly persecuted simply for being there.

"People that didn't even walk into the building are in jail right now. So we'll be looking at the whole thing but I'll be making major pardons," Trump said.

House Democrats, who spearheaded the effort to impeach Trump over the Jan 6 events and led a comprehensive investigation into the attack, cautioned that granting pardons could have significant implications. Even some Republicans have reservations.

Trump also ramped up rhetoric about the possibility of taking control of the Panama Canal and the island of Greenland, both of which he said are important for US national security.

When asked whether he would rule out the possibility of using military force to seize control of the Panama Canal and Greenland, the president-elect did not dismiss it as an option.

Since his win in November, Trump has repeatedly mentioned the possibility of gaining control of the Panama Canal – a major shipping route dug through Panama – and purchasing Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark.

However, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Tuesday that Greenland is not for sale, stating that "Greenland belongs to the Greenlanders."

In other comments, Trump pushed NATO members to increase their defense spending to 5 percent of their GDP from the current 2 percent.

Trump has repeatedly blasted NATO allies for what he labels as not paying their fair share, claiming the United States is unfairly footing the bill for their defense.

"They can all afford it, but they should be at 5 percent, not 2 percent," Trump told reporters.

Last month the president-elect reiterated a threat to withdraw from NATO if members did not increase their financial contributions to the organization.

At the press conference, Trump said that he plans to "immediately" reverse outgoing President Joe Biden's newly announced ban on offshore drilling.

He also announced that \$20 billion from Emirati billionaire Hussain Sajwani, chairman of DAMAC Properties, will be invested to build data centers across the United States.

But experts said many issues Trump mentioned at the press conference are unlikely to come to fruition.

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua: "In World War II, planes would confuse radar by dropping lots of aluminum strips, called 'chaff'. Trump's press conference language is like that – it's chaff."

"He lays down a heavy cloud so that you're not certain of his direction of travel. He does this when he knows his direction, but also when he doesn't know it ... His strong supporters in his base understand this perfectly well. If the press doesn't learn, they will spend all their time chasing down every false trail ... That's the plan," Ramsay said.

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua: "Trump has raised a lot of issues that are not likely to go anywhere such as Greenland joining America, and the US taking control of the Panama Canal."

Trudeau rejects Trump's idea of forcing Canada to become a US state

OTTAWA

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Tuesday dismissed a suggestion by US President-elect Donald Trump that he might use "economic force" to make Canada the 51st US state.

"There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States," he said in a post on X.

"Workers and communities in both our countries benefit from being each other's biggest trading and security partner."

Trump, speaking in Mar-a-Lago, was asked if he was considering using military force to acquire Canada.

"No, economic force," he responded. "Because Canada and the United



States, that would really be something,"

Trump, who has long complained

about Canada's trade surplus with the US, had earlier told reporters the border was an "artificially drawn

line".

Trump has threatened to impose a 25 percent tariff on imports from Canada, which sends 75 percent of all goods and services exports south of the border.

Earlier on Tuesday, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said Trump's comments "show a complete lack of understanding of what makes Canada a strong country ... We will never back down in the face of threats."

Trudeau announced on Monday that he would step down in the coming months, bowing to pressure from lawmakers alarmed by his Liberal Party's unpopularity. The next election must be held by Oct 20 and polls predict a crushing win for the official opposition Conservatives.

Xinhua

China steps up efforts to protect its traditional Shui script

THE Shui script is the unique traditional writing system used by the people of the Shui ethnic group in China to keep records of their astronomy, calendar, meteorology, folklore, and religion, just like ancient China's bronze and oracle bone inscriptions.

It serves as an encyclopedia for the Shui people and is hailed as a "living fossil" of pictographic writing. Even today, this traditional writing system still plays an important role in the Shui people's social life. In 2006, it was listed as China's national intangible cultural heritage.

The Shui script has been passed down for thousands of years and is primarily preserved in handwritten manuscripts. Due to the limited number of characters, it is common for characters to have multiple pronunciations and meanings, which require specialized scholars to interpret these polyphonic and polysemic words based on the context.

The scholars must be well-versed in Shui customs and uphold Shui moral principles

to effectively preside over local customs activities and provide guidance for important events such as weddings and funerals.

Yang Shengzhao is a 70-year-old Shui script scholar. He started studying Shui writing with the help of his elders when he was 14. Now, he has become a representative inheritor of China's provincial-level intangible cultural heritage.

According to Yang, the customs associated with the Shui script consist of two parts. The first part is the handwritten copies that have been passed down through generations, which he refers to as the "hardware." The second part involves the contents such as essentials, rituals, and blessings that have been orally transmitted over time, which he calls the "software."

"The second part represents a significant 70 percent of the Shui script customs," Yang said.

The Duan Festival is the most important event of China's Shui ethnic group, much like the Spring Festival is for the Han Chinese. The celebration typically occurs from late



Students practice Shui writing at a school in Rongjiang county, southwest China's Guizhou province. (Photo by Li Changhua /People's Daily Online)

August to early October of the Chinese lunar calendar, with the precise timing determined by the Shui calendar.

The ancestral worship ceremony is an important ritual during the Duan Festival, during which a Shui script scholar often recites a passage to pray for blessings from ancestors.

"This oral passage is not

recorded in the handwritten copies of the Shui script, but it follows a predetermined procedure and rhythm and must not be improvised," Yang said. He believes that these orally transmitted contents are crucial in the customs of the Shui script, yet they are facing the risk of being lost.

After retiring from his po-

sition as a primary school teacher in 2015, Yang devoted himself wholeheartedly to the inheritance and preservation of the Shui script. He initiated Shui script courses at local schools, welcoming anyone interested in the Shui script to join. So far, the number of students has exceeded 100.

"Studying the Shui script

might not bring immediate economic benefits, but currently, there are few successors to carry on the tradition. Without creative ways of inheritance, it would soon vanish," said Yang.

Yang also joins the protection and utilization programs initiated by the local government. In November 2022, "Shui Character Documents, Guizhou Province" was included in the UNESCO's Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific Regional Register, marking a historic achievement as the first of its kind for the province.

During the application process, Yang recorded the oral contents of the Shui script and recited and translated its texts, contributing to the improvement of the application documents.

Because there are few written texts and the Shui script does not directly align with the everyday spoken language of the Shui people, teaching Shui writing cannot follow the same methods used for teaching Chinese.

"To save the Shui writing

system, it requires a certain amount of financial support to annotate the script with international phonetic symbols, translate orally transmitted materials into Chinese, and record them into videos and audio," Yang noted. He believes that transforming the "software" of the Shui script into a tangible "hardware" is crucial for ensuring its continuity.

Promoting the Shui writing system to the world is also an aspiration of the Shui people. In 2014, at the 63rd meeting of the International Organization for Standardization, the Chinese delegation submitted a proposal on the international coding of the Chinese Shui script. Over the years, a local expert group has been continuously improving the application documents.

"If the application is approved, the Shui script will gain an 'identity card' globally, allowing the written manuscripts to be disseminated electronically across different parts of the world, thereby promoting our culture even further," said Yang.

People's Daily



Singida Black Stars now close chapter on Rooney Onyango transfer saga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Mainland Premier League envoys Singida Black Stars have issued a statement regarding the botched transfer of Gor Mahia defender Rooney Onyango.

While the club said they were left disappointed by the events surrounding the transfer, they have nonetheless moved on and closed the chapter.

"We followed all the legal protocols to try and get the player. After the initial interest, the two clubs negotiated and everything was agreed on," said Hussein Massanza, the club's head of communication.

He explained that after the two clubs had agreed, Singida made an initial payment to Gor Mahia as they went ahead with other preparations to welcome the player to Tanzania.

He said: "We were actually working on his work permit to enable him to join us, but now we understand he doesn't want to play for us and we have no issues with that."

"We understand that a player is not a slave and they go where they are happy, and for that reason, we have given up on him. He is no longer part of our plan. We shall ask Gor Mahia to

refund what we paid and close that chapter."

"We don't have a problem with the player or Gor Mahia and understand that sometimes these things happen," he added.

Onyango (pictured) has stated that he is no longer interested in joining the Tanzanian club despite Gor Mahia revealing that they had agreed with Singida on the transfer of the player.

The club's secretary general Sam Ocholla revealed on Saturday that an agreement between the two clubs had been reached and the player was set to leave this month.

"The player informed us a few weeks ago that he had agreed terms with Singida, and we have been talking to them and indicated that we don't have a problem letting him go. He will leave this month and join the Tanzanian side," said Ocholla last Saturday.

But one day later, Onyango dismissed the statement, insisting he had not agreed to move.

It is believed that Onyango has received an offer from an unnamed European club even as his contract at Gor Mahia comes to an end in six months.

Rushed schedule sparks concern for player welfare and league quality

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TO accommodate a busy national schedule featuring the Mapinduzi Cup, CHAN preparations, and the CHAN tournament, the Tanzania Mainland Premier League has been paused until March 1, 2025.

This break allows for the Mapinduzi Cup to be played and for the Tanzania national team to train and compete in the CHAN tournament.

The Mapinduzi Cup will conclude on January 13, and three days later, on January 16, the national team's training camp for CHAN will begin.

February is then dedicated to the CHAN tournament. Therefore, the Premier League season will resume on March 1.

The season typically ends in May or early June. This means we will have three months to ensure the season is completed. These months are March, April, and May.

Now, consider this: there's the Mainland Premier League, which is currently in progress with over 250 matches still to be played.

There's the Federation Cup, where only the first round has been completed.

There is also the Tanzania Union Cup, which this time will feature eight teams.

There are international matches, the FIFA calendar, and World Cup qualifiers.

Finally, there are CAF interclub competitions, assuming Simba and Young Africans progress into the latter stages.

Can all of this be done within these three months? This is the basis of my argument that our league will become like the Egyptian league, which continues until August.

By the time the league was suspended, the entire first round had been completed, while some teams had already started the second round.

On March 17 and 24, there will be World Cup qualifiers. Tanzania will have two matches: against the Republic of Congo on March 17 and against Morocco on March 24.

Typically, we need at least a week-long training camp before these matches. Therefore, we can expect the Stars to enter camp from March 10. This



means that only two rounds may have been played since the league resumed.

In the same month, there are bound to be matches for the second round of the Federation Cup, which will come after the national team matches. By then, the third month will be over. In the fourth month, we expect the league to resume, a month that will also see the Union Cup.

Preliminary information suggests that this time there will be four teams from the Mainland and four from Zanzibar, meaning there will be eight teams in total.

Even if the matches are played in a knockout format, this competition cannot be completed in less than two weeks, especially if there are eight teams. Also, the Federation Cup will continue in the same month.

This means that in the four weeks of April, only one week might be dedicated to the Premier League. And if that's the case, it means the league won't even have reached round 20 by the end of April.

We'll be left with only May, with over 200 matches still

waiting to be played. It's impossible for all these matches to be played within May, or even June, no matter how much we rush.

We should also remember that the Federation Cup will still not have reached the semi-final stage by then. And there are still the CAF interclub competitions if Simba and Young Africans progress far.

According to the League Board's position, as stated by its chief executive, Kasongo Almasi (pictured), the league will end in May.

This means that when the schedule is released, it will have very tightly packed matches, possibly even three per week.

This will help the board maintain their schedule, but it will kill the players' performance levels.

There won't be time for the players to rest their bodies and recover. This is not a beneficial situation for football or for our players.

We all understand the circumstances that have caused this disruption. We don't directly blame the League Board. Therefore, there's no need for

the board to go to extreme measures, to the point of causing hardship for the players, just to maintain the schedule.

Let the league continue, even if it extends to October; we'll figure out what to do then, but let's not make the players suffer.

Our country is geographically very large, and teams are spread across various regions. Scheduling matches every three days is a great hardship for players of teams that cannot afford to travel by air.

The League Board should calm down and create a schedule that allows players time to rest and recover after matches.

This year, there will be AFCON in Morocco, and our national team relies on players who play in this league to participate in that tournament.

If we subject them to a punishing schedule, we will exhaust them, and they won't be able to help us at AFCON. The loss will be our own.

We should prepare to accept and acknowledge the possibility of the league finishing late, in order to reduce the pressure of creating a rushed and frantic schedule.

Singida Black Stars begin intensive training camp in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent

SINGIDA Black Stars have kicked off a month-long training camp in Arusha to capitalize on the Mainland Premier League's break during the African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament.

The camp is set to include several friendly matches as the team prepares for the resumption of competitions, including the Mainland Premier League and the Federation Cup, both scheduled to resume on March 1.

The initiative, led by head coach Hamdi Miloud, aims to refine the squad and regain their early-season form.

Miloud, who joined the team mid-season, is using the break to get familiar with the players and implement his vision for the team.

New signing Jonathan Sowah is expected to join the squad during the camp, alongside Ernest Malonga, who has returned to the team following his loan spell at Coastal Union.

Singida Black Stars' Information Officer, Hussein Massanza, explained the rationale behind the early camp:

"It's true it's very early to start a training camp given the long league break, but the coach requested it so he can build his squad during this time while other teams are resting."

"As a result, the team has already started training and will begin their journey to Arusha today (yesterday), for the camp."

He further elaborated: "In addition to the team entering the training camp, striker Sowah will also be joining the team in Arusha, ready to start playing."

"He will be joined by Ernest Malonga, who was on loan at Coastal Union and has now returned to the squad. Malonga will be part of the traveling players."

Coach Miloud highlighted the importance of the camp in developing the team and strengthening their performance: "I've only been here a few days, but I can see this is a team of leaders who really want what's best. The players are fantastic, they've got great skill and they work hard. I've watched some games and seen where we can improve."

"These training sessions

will help me get to know everyone, and most importantly, I'll find ways to help them improve as players and achieve great things together."

Miloud has also requested three to four friendly matches during the camp, which are currently being organized.

The team's recent form has been inconsistent, with five wins, two draws, and three losses in their last 10 matches.

After a promising start to the season, with seven wins and one draw in their first eight games, Singida Black Stars suffered a 1-0 defeat to Young Africans.

This loss marked the beginning of a challenging period, with three losses, two draws, and three wins in their subsequent eight matches.

Currently sitting fourth in the Tanzania Mainland Premier League standings, Singida Black Stars have amassed 33 points from 16 matches.

Coach Miloud's primary objective during the training camp is to restore the optimism and momentum the team displayed at the start of the season.



Barefooted youths pictured recently during a soccer training session at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Neymar hints at reunion with Messi and Suarez, says 2026 World Cup will be his last

LONDON

BRAZILIAN forward Neymar said reuniting with his former Barcelona teammates Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez at Inter Miami is an interesting prospect and did not rule out a move to the United States as his Al-Hilal contract winds down.

Once one of football's most feared forwards, Neymar struck up a lethal partnership with Messi and Suarez to lead Barcelona to a historic treble before his record-breaking 222 million euros (\$230.39 million) move to Paris St Germain in 2017.

"Obviously, playing again with Messi and Suarez would be incredible. They are my friends, we still speak to each other," Neymar told CNN.

"It would be interesting to revive this trio. I'm happy at Al-Hilal, I'm happy in Saudi Arabia, but who knows. Football is full of surprises."

Neymar has played only seven times for Al-Hilal since moving from PSG for a reported fee of 90 million euros in 2023, with injuries keeping the Brazilian sidelined for long periods. His contract is up in June.

He spent six seasons at PSG where he scored 118 goals but despite immense success on the domestic front, he failed to win the Champions League again with the French club before making the switch to the Saudi Pro League.

"When the news came out that I was leaving Paris St Germain, the transfer window was closed in the United States, so I didn't have this option (of moving to Miami in 2023)," Neymar added.

"The project they offered me (in Saudi Arabia) was very good, not just for me but also for my family, so going to Saudi Arabia was the best option."

Neymar is Brazil's all-time top scorer with 79 goals and the 32-year-old said he would have one last shot at World Cup glory in 2026.

With six rounds left in the South American qualifiers where the top six automatically qualify, Brazil are fifth in the standings.

"I will try, I want to be there. I will do everything I can to be part of the national team," said Neymar, who has not played since rupturing the anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus in his left knee during a qualifier in October 2023.

"I know this be my last World Cup, my last shot, my last chance and I will do everything I can to play in it."

(\$1 = 0.9636 euros)

REUTERS

Nuno urges Forest players to keep feet on the ground

WOLVERHAMPTON, England

MANAGER Nuno Espirito Santo is not getting carried away by Nottingham Forest's eye-catching form that has seen them enter the Premier League title race following a sixth victory in a row, away at Wolverhampton Wanderers on Monday.

Forest's 3-0 success was not without alarm but their joint-biggest win of the season, which included a ninth clean sheet, leaves them six points behind league leaders Liverpool, whom they host next week.

The visitors had goalkeeper Matz Sels to thank in the first half and the clinical nature of their performance saw them score with each of their three shots on target.

"It feels good. We work very hard to achieve what we have," Nuno told SkySports. "Today was a tough game. Wolves had chances and Matz Sels was amazing to keep us in the game. I'm really proud of the work ethic of the players and the desire to go in front and score."

"It's a very tough competition. We are always going to face tough opponents. We need to stay humble. We haven't achieved anything yet, we need to work until the end and this can lead us to good moments."

The Portuguese coach said he was keeping his feet firmly on the ground despite his side's form that has seen them claim 40 points from 20 games, matching Leicester City's haul at the same stage of the 2015/16 season when they became shock Premier League winners.

"My ambition is always the same," he said. "As coaching staff we have this natural ambition of improving the players, this is what we are obsessed with."

"If we improve the players than the team will improve and if the team improves than the club will improve and the city will be happy."

Nuno believes the confidence of his players will be high going into their home clash with Liverpool in the Premier League on Jan. 14.

"The performance and the results help with confidence -- you saw Callum Hudson-Odoi and Anthony Elanga today, they were confident and creating many problems (for Wolves)," he said.

"This is what we want to see from our players, to feel good on the pitch and to work hard. But before Liverpool we have Luton Town (on Saturday) and we have to think about the FA Cup."

REUTERS

Tie still alive, says Howe, despite Newcastle win at Arsenal

LONDON

NEWCASTLE United manager Eddie Howe urged caution despite a 2-0 victory at Arsenal on Tuesday, putting his in-form side within touching distance of a place in the League Cup final.

Goals by Alexander Isak and Anthony Gordon either side of half-time in north London gave Newcastle a seventh successive win in all competitions and put them in the driving seat for the second leg at St James' Park in February.

On all eight occasions since 1987-88 that an away team held a two-goal lead from the first leg, that team went on to reach the final and Arsenal have a mountain to climb if they are to keep alive their hopes of a third League Cup triumph.

Howe also took Newcastle to the League Cup final in 2023 but they fell short of a first trophy since 1955 as they were beaten by Manchester United at Wembley.

The delirious Toon Army celebrated at the final whistle but Howe said there was still plenty of work left to set up



Newcastle United's Alexander Isak shoots at goal during their Carabao Cup semi-final first leg match against Arsenal at Emirates Stadium, in London, Britain on January 7, 2025. Agencies

a final against Liverpool or Tottenham Hotspur.

"Today is another big step forward when you look at the recent run we've had away from home," Howe told Sky Sports after his side's seventh successive win in all competitions.

"We played with real confidence and belief but in terms of the tie it's still very much alive and finely balanced and we have a really tough

home leg to come."

Howe admitted his side were creaking in the second half as Arsenal desperately sought a way back, but said he was proud of the way his team defended.

"There was a lot of fatigue in the second half," he said. "We started off on the front foot but then we fatigued and then it was about our mentality to defend. We knew what was at

stake and the players put their bodies on the line."

Meanwhile, Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou said his team are struggling to such an extent that even in-form Liverpool winger Mohamed Salah would fail to make much of an impression as part of the side.

Spurs, who were to face the Premier League leaders in the first leg of

their League Cup semi-final later yesterday, have dropped to 12th in the league and lost three of their last four games.

While Salah has scored 21 goals and provided 17 assists in all competitions, Postecoglou said the 32-year-old Egyptian would have his work cut out delivering similar figures for the London side this season.

"Mo is a world-class player but if you put him in our team now I'm not sure he'll have that same level of performance because of the situation we're in as a group," he told reporters.

"You need a team that's in good form, creating opportunities, playing on the front foot, having a really solid foundation of a defence that is cohesive. None of these things exist at the moment (at Spurs)."

"We're relying on individual moments."

On the flip side, Postecoglou said Spurs captain Son Heung-min, who has scored just seven goals in all competitions this season, would thrive in the current Liverpool side.

"I'd hazard to say that if you put Sonny in Liverpool's team, I reckon his goalscoring return would be decent," Postecoglou said. "But when we're at our best, I still think you'll see Sonny's return."

Spurs activated a one-year extension in the 32-year-old South Korean forward's contract on Tuesday.

REUTERS

France manager Didier Deschamps who will leave role in 2026

PARIS

FACTBOX on Didier Deschamps, who the French soccer federation said on Tuesday would leave his role as France manager after his contract ends in 2026.

Born: Oct. 15, 1968, in Bayonne, France.

PLAYING CAREER

* Deschamps, a midfielder, made his league debut for Nantes in September 1985 before leaving to join Olympique de Marseille four years later.

* Won the first of his 103 caps for France in 1989 when he came on as a substitute in a 0-0 World Cup qualifier at home to Yugoslavia.

* After a brief stint at Girondins de Bordeaux he returned to Marseille where he helped to clinch the league championship in 1991 and 1992 before achieving Champions League glory in 1993.

MOVE TO ITALY

* Moved to Italian side Juventus in 1994 and won three Serie A titles and the Champions League again in 1996.

WORLD CUP

* Captained France to World Cup victory on home soil in 1998 and followed that with victory at Euro 2000 before retiring from international football.

* In between the World Cup and Euro 2000 triumphs he moved to English side Chelsea but left after one disappointing season and moved to Valencia, where he also played a single cam-



paign before retirement in 2001.

MANAGEMENT

* In 2001 he became manager of Monaco and won the 2003 French League Cup before leading them to the 2004 Champions League final which they lost 3-0 to Porto.

* Resigned in September 2005 after a bad start to the season.

* Returned to Italy and was appointed Juventus coach in July 2006 following their demotion from Serie A due to a match-fixing scandal. After persuading several top players to stay, led the team straight back to the top flight despite a nine-point deduction.

* Resigned a week after Juve secured promotion amid disagreements with club officials over the way forward in Serie A.

MARSEILLE RETURN

* Appointed successor to Eric Gerets as manager of Marseille for the 2009/10 season.

* Won French title in

the final which they lost to Portugal after extra time.

* Won the 2018 World Cup in Russia, defeating Croatia 4-2 in the final.

* Deschamps became only the third man after Mario Zagallo and Franz Beckenbauer to win the World Cup as both player and manager.

* France won the 2020-21 Nations League, defeating Spain 2-1 in the final.

* Led France to a second successive World Cup Final in Qatar in 2022, losing on penalties to Argentina after a 3-3 draw.

* At Euro 2024, France finished second in their group, behind Austria and went out in the quarter-finals after a penalty shootout defeat to Portugal following a 0-0 draw.

* France topped their group in the 2024-25 Nations League, ahead of Italy and Belgium, where they will face Croatia in March.

* On Tuesday, the French soccer federation told Reuters that Deschamps, France's longest serving national team coach, will not seek to renew his contract which expires in 2026.

REUTERS

Nigeria appoint ex-Mali boss Chelle as new national team head coach

LAGOS

NIGERIA have named Eric Chelle as their new head coach and tasked him with reviving the West African nation's hopes of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

The 47-year-old's most recent international job was in charge of Mali for two years and he took them to the quarter-finals of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, where they lost on penalties to hosts Ivory Coast.

The former centre back was born in Abidjan but won five caps for Mali. He spent his club career in France, most notably with Lens.

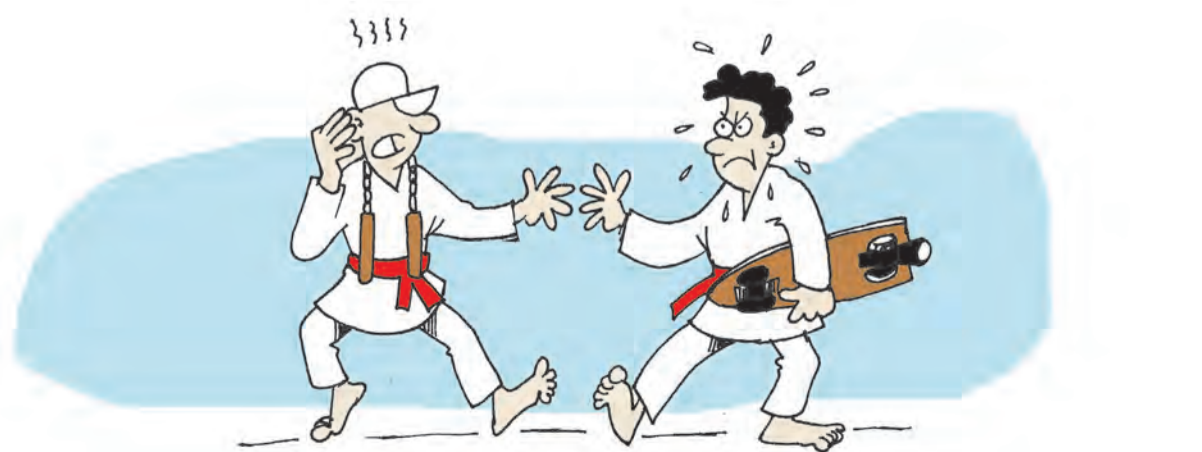
Nigeria resume their World Cup qualifying campaign in March when they travel to face Rwanda before hosting Zimbabwe.

The Super Eagles have taken only three points from their opening four matches in Group C and trail Rwanda, South Africa and Benin, who each have seven points.

The top side in each of the nine groups advance automatically to the 2026 finals in North America, while the four best runners-up enter continental play-offs with the potential for one extra place.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Tie still alive, says Howe, despite Newcastle win at Arsenal

PAGE 19



CAF boosts CHAN 2024 rewards: Total prize pool hits \$10.4m

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has announced a significant increase in prize money for the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN), which will be co-hosted by Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania from Saturday, February 1, to Friday, February 28, 2025.

In a statement released by Africa's football governing body, CAF revealed that the winner of the tournament will now take home USD 3.5 million (approximately Tsh. 8.68 billion), marking a 75% increase from the previously allocated USD 2 million (approximately Tsh. 4.96 billion).

CAF has consistently increased prize money for winners in recent CHAN editions, with the 2020 champions, Cameroon, receiving USD 1.25 million (approximately Tsh. 2.88 billion).

The total prize money for the 2024 tournament has also been raised to a record USD 10.4 million (approximately Tsh. 25.79 billion), a 32% increase from the previous edition.

"We are excited about the upcoming TotalEnergies CAF African Nations Championship (CHAN) Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda 2024 and have significantly increased the prize money for the winners to USD 3.5 million, which is a 75% increase," said CAF President Patrice Motsepe.

"We have also increased the total prize money of the CHAN Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda 2024 to USD 10.4 million, which is a 32% increase," he added.

Motsepe (pictured) emphasized the importance of CHAN as a platform for developing African football and nurturing local talent.

"The CHAN is an important competition for the development and growth of Africa-based football players and talented young athletes. It will contribute significantly to the global competitiveness of African football and CAF competitions," he stated.

"This tournament is part of our strategy to invest in African football and make it appealing and attractive to football fans, TV viewers, sponsors, partners, and other stakeholders in Africa and worldwide," Motsepe added.

The 2024 CHAN will feature 19 participating nations, with 17 teams already qualified and two more set to join after the conclusion of their qualifying matches.

The countries that have secured their spots in the tournament include host nations Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, along with Morocco, Guinea, Senegal, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Sudan, Zambia, Angola, and Madagascar.

Ahmad Ally reflects on K'njaro Stars' struggles after second straight defeat



Kilimanjaro Stars and Kenya players battle for the ball during their 2025 Mapinduzi Cup group stage match at Gombani Stadium, in Pemba Island, on Tuesday. Kenya won 2-0. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

KILIMANJARO Stars head coach Ahmad Ally expressed disappointment in his team's performance after their second consecutive defeat in the 2025 Mapinduzi Cup.

Speaking after a 2-0 loss to Kenya on Tuesday at Gombani Stadium, Pemba Island, Ally attributed the defeat to lapses in concentration.

"Lack of focus is what caused us to concede two goals today. It is true that mistakes were made, and that's why it cost us," said Ally. "Sometimes, it happens, you can have all the best players and still lose. Today is a bad day for us."

The loss leaves Kilimanjaro Stars at the bottom of the tournament table, with no goals or points after two matches. They opened their campaign with a narrow 1-0 defeat to Zanzibar Heroes, compounding their struggles in this year's competition, which features national teams for the first time.

In the match against Kenya, both teams went into halftime locked in a goalless draw, each vying for a victory that would boost their chances of reaching the final. However, the second half saw Kilimanjaro Stars falter under pressure.

Kenya broke the deadlock in the 56th minute when a cross from the left wing created confusion in Kilimanjaro Stars' defense. Boniface Muchiri capitalized on the miscommunication to give Kenya the lead. Reacting swiftly, Ally

made a double substitution in the 59th minute, introducing Hija Shamte and William Edgar in place of Semfuko Charles and Ofen Chikola.

Despite the changes, Kilimanjaro Stars struggled to mount a meaningful attack on Kenya's goal, leaving goalkeeper Farouk Shikhalo largely untroubled.

Kenya doubled their advantage in the 68th minute after a defensive error by Edson Katanga. His misplaced back pass left goalkeeper Metacha Mnata

scrambling, allowing Ryan Ogam to slot the ball into an empty net.

More substitutions followed as Sabri Kondo and Joshua Ibrahim replaced Ayoub Lyanga and Idd Selemman, but the Tanzanian side could not find a way past Kenya's defense. The match ended with a 2-0 victory for Kenya.

Kenya's head coach, Francis Kimanzi, was delighted with his team's performance.

"I think it's a good night for us. We prepared well

for the next stage, and this is a very good result for us," Kimanzi said.

Looking ahead, he added: "All that's left now is to do better in the next game against Zanzibar Heroes to achieve our goal of playing in the final and becoming champions."

The loss eliminated Kilimanjaro Stars from contention for the final, even with one group match remaining against Burkina Faso today. A win would earn them three points, which will not be enough to secure a top-two finish in the four-team tournament.

Kenya currently tops the standings with four points, tied with Burkina Faso but leading on goal difference. Zanzibar Heroes are third with three points, while Kilimanjaro Stars remain winless and goalless at the bottom of the table.

The 2025 Mapinduzi Cup continues today when Kilimanjaro Stars face Burkina Faso in their final group match. The final group-stage clash between Zanzibar Heroes and Kenya is scheduled for tomorrow.

The two teams with the highest points will advance to the final, set to take place on Monday January 13.

For Kilimanjaro Stars, their campaign has been one of missed opportunities and defensive frailties.

Kamwe vows Yanga will fight until the end against Al Hilal

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans' Information and Communications Manager, Ali Kamwe, has described their upcoming clash against Sudanese giants Al Hilal as a battlefield encounter that requires a unique approach.

The match, set for January 12, 2025, at the Cheikha Ouldi Boidiya Stadium in Nouakchott, Mauritania, is a critical CAF Champions League Group A fixture for both teams.

"This match has many aspects and does not require words. This is a war, and our plans are different from the plans for other matches. We are going to the battlefield," Kamwe (pictured) emphasized as he highlighted the intensity and significance of the game.

Young Africans' squad departed yesterday for Mauritania via Turkey, fully aware of the stakes. A victory in the match would elevate Young Africans to seven points, significantly boosting their chances of advancing to the tournament's quarter-finals.

The competition in the



group is heating up as Al Hilal currently lead the table with 10 points from four matches, having won three and drawn one. They have scored six goals while conceding just two, showcasing their defensive solidity and attacking efficiency.

Second in the group are Algeria's MC Alger with five points from one win, two draws, and one loss. Young Africans sit third with four points after one win, one draw, and two defeats.

DR Congo's TP Mazembe

are at the bottom of the group with two points.

For Young Africans, victory against Al Hilal is not just about revenge for the 2-0 loss they suffered at home on November 14 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. It is also a crucial step toward securing a place in the knockout stages of the competition.

A win in Nouakchott, followed by a victory in their final group-stage match against MC Alger at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, would

see Yanga amass 10 points.

Such a tally could be enough to secure qualification for the quarter-finals, depending on the outcomes of other group matches.

Kamwe highlighted the team's commitment to ensuring a strong performance in Mauritania. While specifics of their tactical approach remain under wraps, the team's focus is clear: to fight for all three points against the group leaders.

"This is not just another match; it's a decisive battle. Our preparation reflects the importance of this game," Kamwe reiterated.

Al Hilal have been formidable in the group stage, showcasing consistency and resilience. Their defensive record, with only two goals conceded in four matches, will be a significant challenge for Young Africans' attacking players. However, the Jangwani-based side's coaching staff is likely to devise strategies to exploit any weaknesses in Al Hilal's setup.

Young Africans' journey in this year's CAF Champions League has been marked by ups and downs. After open-

ing the campaign with a loss and a draw, the Tanzanian champions managed to secure a crucial victory in their third match. With four points from four games, the pressure is now on to deliver in the final two group fixtures.

A strong finish would not only ensure progression in the tournament but also restore pride for the team and their supporters. The Young Africans faithful will undoubtedly be watching closely, hoping for a historic turnaround in the group.

After the clash with Al Hilal, Young Africans will shift their focus to their final group-stage match against MC Alger at home. The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium is expected to be packed with fans, creating an electrifying atmosphere as Young Africans aim to capitalize on home advantage.

For now, all eyes are on Nouakchott, where Young Africans must overcome the odds against a well-drilled Al Hilal side.

With Kamwe's rallying call and the team's determination, Young Africans are poised to give their all in this crucial encounter.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

