



### AWARD



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### TRANSPORT



MINISTER SAYS ALL PORTS TO GET FACELIFT PAGES

### TRADE



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## 'Lake Victoria port services to normalise by early 2025'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

BY early next year, all transportation services on Lake Victoria will resume as they were before, the government has stated.

Said Mtanda, Mwanza regional commissioner, made this affirmation during an interview here yesterday, urging Lake Zone residents to be patient during this period of port infrastructure improvement.

As they will benefit more in terms of transport and business once the work is complete, investing in major port projects along Lake Victoria is designed to position Mwanza as an economic gateway for the Lake Zone regions and for neighbouring countries.

Current investments encompass refurbishing port facilities at Mwanza North, Kemono and Bukoba, build the new MV Mwanza ship, which is said to be at 96 percent completion, costing and will cost 123bn/-.

With these improvements, Mwanza is expected to become the main economic gateway in the lake basin area, he said, pointing at easier trading with lakeside towns and cities in Kenya and Uganda with better port facilities and good vessels plying port routes.

The government has invested 18.6bn/- for Mwanza North port now at 40 percent completion level, he said.

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# Disappearances: Veteran leaders canvassing for dialogue, solution



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi bids farewell to Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, a member of the British royal family. It was shortly after talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

*"We initiated the centre during challenging times and struggled to find common ground, which is why TCD was established"*

By Guardian Reporter

VETERAN political leaders yesterday called for dialogue to mend the nation's ways and find solutions to on-going tension in the political environment as it threatens peace and national unity.

Judge (rt'd) Joseph Warioba said at a conference organised by the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) to examine the state of democracy in the country that it is important for all stakeholders to come together to find solutions lifting the nation out of confusion.

He said that democracy is about the people, and for it to be effective it must resonate with them, while in the past decade people feel less inclined to vote compared to the era of single-party rule.

He affirmed that the government's role in overseeing local government elections is not new as elections have historically been managed by the government while opposition parties have regularly secured various positions.

He commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for establishing the Criminal Justice Commission which did excellent work in addressing fundamental issues related to crimi-

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## NEMC wants separating waste at household level

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

WASTE separation at household level and insufficient infrastructure for effective waste management plagues the city of Dar es Salaam, the environment regulator has stated.

Hamad Taimur, acting director of compliance and enforcement at the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), made this assertion at a media training session on city environmental conservation lately.

The city has installed capacity for recycling 65 percent of 4.5 tonnes of solid waste generated per day but it faces challenges including lack of public awareness in waste separation, he said.

This contributes to increased landfill waste despite that much of which could be recycled, he said, pointing at inadequate infrastructure for waste storage, separation, removal, transportation, and disposal.

There is also poor urban planning compliance that hampers the collection of recyclable materials, he elaborated, lamenting the limited adoption of composting, linked to the low availability of organic fertilizers.

Tembeke District leads in waste generation, producing 1,494 tonnes daily, followed by

Ilala District with 1,320 tonnes, Kinondoni District delivering 982 tonnes, Ubungo District 828 tonnes, and Kigamboni District still at 228 tonnes, he said.

Types of waste being recycled include plastics, paper, scrap metal, aluminium cans, glass and organic waste, with upwards of 8.9 tonnes of organic waste recycled each month.

Upwards of 3,800 tonnes of such waste is processed at the Bonyokwa center, 3,200 tonnes at Vingunguti and 1,500 tonnes at Mabwepande facility, he said, remarking that the government is developing guidelines for solid waste management based on reducing, reusing and recycling potential wastes.

In collaboration with stakeholders, NEMC has established material recovery facilities, while it works on reviewing recently adopted solid waste management and control regulations, he stated.

Efforts are underway to enhance the capacity of officials at the ministerial, regional and district levels to see how to improve solid waste management systems, he said, stressing government commitment to uplift solid waste management capacities.

This has to do with rising waste production driven by urban population growth and economic generating activities, he said.

Environmental responsibility should not rest solely on a few individuals, he said, citing reports demanding that the city's waste management system be placed on a complete overhaul.

With a population put at 7.4m, the metropolitan city's urban population is growing rapidly, in tandem with rising waste generation, with nearly 70 per cent of the city's population residing in informal settlements. This increases the demand for urban services in-

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## Communications: Work on 636 new towers starting next month

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

CONSTRUCTION work for 636 communication towers planned as part of government commitment to enhance internet connectivity nationwide is set to begin next month.

Jerry Silaa, the Information, Communication and Information Technology minister said at the opening of the Connect 2 Connect forum here yesterday that the initiative is meant to ensure that all regions have access to mobile networks, the internet, radio and television.

In the meeting bringing together local and international communications sector stakeholders, he emphasized that these efforts are crucial in fostering economic and social improvements countrywide.

Earlier the government adopted a strat-

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday swearing in Nenelwa Joyce Mwiambi, until earlier this week Clerk of the National Assembly, as a Judge of the High Court of Tanzania. Photo: State House





## NEMC wants separating waste at household level

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cluding waste management, he said. All the waste collected eventually ends up in the Pugu dumpsite located nearly 35 km from the city

centre. Collection service schedules in the city are not regular and inefficient, owing to an insufficient number of collection vehicles, traffic hold ups and under-planned infrastructure, he added.

## L. Victoria port services to normalise early 2025

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commending the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for effectively managing ongoing projects.

TPA has also secured additional funding to ensure timely completion of the projects, he said, while Erasto Lugenge, the Lake Victoria ports manager said that the zone includes several major ports listed as Mwanza North, Mwanza South, Bukoba, Nansio, Kemondo and Musoma.

Smaller ports include Mwigobelo, Kyamkwikwi, Magarini, Lushamba and Mtama, in Kagera, Mwanza, Gei-

ta, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions, he said, pointing at major port projects at Mwanza North, Kemondo, and Bukoba.

The projects are government-funded at a cost of 60bn/- and will be completed by late next year, he said, noting that the construction includes passenger terminals, fences, roads, a cargo terminal and berths.

This will provide sufficient space for the bigger ships like MV Mwanza to easily dock at the ports, he said, highlighting 75 percent completion at Kemondo port and 73 percent at Bukoba port.

## Disappearances: Veteran leaders canvassing for dialogue, solution

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nal justice procedure and conduct of state organs.

Civic United Front (CUF) chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba appealed to political leadership as a whole to sit down and discuss ways to stop planned protests.

Sitting together and seeking consensus will be beneficial for all Tanzanians, he said, while Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe told participants that the party has been in mourning for a month owing to kidnappings and even murder of a senior cadre.

Mbowe, also the current chairperson of the centre, said that the growing trend of abductions of party officials will not make the party back down in defending justice in the country.

"If we want to move forward, we must be courageous enough to

stand up and speak the truth," he passionately asserted, urging the creation of independent bodies to investigate these alarming incidents.

John Cheyo, chairman of the United Democratic Party (UDP), said that the country has a problem with democracy. "We initiated the centre during challenging times and struggled to find common ground, which is why TCD was established," he stated.

"The country should not allow criminals to disrupt the peace. People must unite and protect themselves. While it is not wrong for people to demand their rights, it should be done wisely. The table for dialogue is essential, which is why TCD was created," he pointed out.

The government should investigate the killings and make its findings public as such incidents will undermine the peace, he added.

## Gates Foundation appeals for funding to shield children from risk of hunger

By Special Correspondent

THE Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has warned that climate change will put millions more children at risk of hunger, malnutrition and disease by 2050 unless immediate action is taken.

On Tuesday, the foundation released its eighth annual Goalkeepers report, "A Race to Nourish a Warming World." The publication urges world leaders to increase global health spending to improve childhood nutrition and boost economic growth.

The report says that without intervention, from this year until 2050, climate change will cause 40 million more children to suffer from stunting, a condition that slows physical and mental growth, and 28 million more from wasting, a condition that leaves children emaciated and weak. The World Health Organization estimated that 148 million children experienced stunting in 2023 and that 45 million experienced wasting.

Billionaire and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said malnutrition affects more children than people think.

"When most people hear the word 'malnutrition,' they'll think of situations where there's a food shortage, an extreme food shortage like a famine. And although that does happen and it's tragic, that's not the main case for malnutrition," Gates said, emphasizing that an inadequate diet also can lead to malnutrition.

Children in African countries are

particularly at risk of hunger-related conditions, and the overall decline in foreign aid to the continent is worsening the problem. Only 25 percent of foreign aid is now going to Africa, down from 40 percent in 2010, the report said.

"The focus on helping the [African] continent, where there's the youngest people and the most growth and therefore the most potential, I'd say that's quite a bit down from where we were before the [COVID-19] pandemic," Gates said.

The report also points to the economic costs of malnutrition, which lessens physical and cognitive performance. Low-income countries lose between 3 percent and 16 percent of gross domestic product because of under nutrition, according to the World Bank, and finding solutions to malnutrition will not only save millions of children but will stimulate economic growth.

Investing in nutrition is the best way to fight the effects of climate change, Gates wrote in the report.

"Given that resources are so limited, what are the things that should be done to help these children? That's the human lens that we need to apply to: 'If I care about climate change, what am I doing to help?'" Gates said.

The report emphasizes tools that have been successful in helping to solve malnutrition, build people's resistance to climate change, and reduce childhood deaths. These include adopting new agricultural technologies, fortifying staple food items, and providing prenatal vitamins for pregnant women.



Dr Jim Yonazi (2nd-L), Permanent Secretary in Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), presents a dummy key to Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) director general Mohamed Salum in Dar es Salaam yesterday when gracing the handing over to the agency of a patrol boat meant to strengthen its maritime safety and security activities. Witnessing the event are Transport ministry deputy permanent secretary Ludovick Nduhiye (L) and TASAC board of directors chairman Capt Musa Mandia. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Communications: Work on 636 new towers starting next month

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egy to build 758 towers using the Universal Communication Services Access Fund (UCSAF) to connect underserved areas, with the 636 planned towers being an addition to that number, he stated.

"These initiatives reflect our dedication to improving digital connectivity for all," he said, noting that the country has over 75m mobile phone lines in use, where 35m lines are connected to internet services.

Government initiatives have re-

sulted in overwhelming internet coverage, with 89 per cent of inhabited areas having access to 3G data flow level, 83 percent having 4G access, and just 15 percent of the zone, densely populated urban areas, have functioning 5G networks.

"In today's digital age, the internet is essential for various sectors, including agriculture and trade," he said, pointing at rising levels of reliable connectivity.

In addition to expanding infrastructure, robust controls are needed to maintain high levels of cyber-

security, he said, asserting that the government is making substantial investments in this area.

There is a dedicated unit within the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) tasked with monitoring communications and coordinating cyber-security efforts, he stated.

"The government is committed to ensuring that members of the public can safely conduct economic and social activities online, supported by strong cyber-security systems," he declared.

Gwakisa Stadi, the Helios Towers chief executive officer, said that the company operates over 400 towers serving more than 10,000 customers in various regions.

The towers facilitate communication services for telecommunications companies, internet service providers and television networks. "Our mission is to connect, build and manage towers, and we are sponsoring this forum to support our vision of connecting Tanzanians with other nations across Africa and the Middle East," he added.



Helios Towers Tanzania managing director and East Africa Region director Gwakisa Stadi (3rd-L) welcomes Information, Communications and Information Technology minister Jerry Silaa (L) to the firm's booth at an exhibition held in Arusha city up to yesterday in tandem with a Connect 2 Connect Africa conference. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

AN Independent telecommunications infrastructure provider Helios Towers has been announced as the headline sponsor for the 8th edition of the Connect 2 Connect (C2C) Africa Summit 2024.

Scheduled to take place in Tanzania, the summit is being organized by Extensia Limited in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology.

Gwakisa Stadi, Managing Director of Helios Towers Tanzania, expressed the company's pride in supporting the event, which aims to shape the future of connectivity

## Local firm to sponsor this year's C2C Africa summit

across Africa.

"We believe that robust, sustainable, and scalable telecom infrastructure is essential for unlocking the region's digital potential. I look forward to collaborating with fellow industry leaders as we work to drive digital transformation and create a lasting impact for Sub-Saharan Africa," said Stadi.

The C2C Africa Summit is a premier event for the telecom industry, bringing together top executives, thought leaders, and government representatives to discuss trends, opportunities, and challenges within Africa's ICT sector.

The 2024 summit will focus on key themes such as the future of network infrastructure, digital resilience, sustainable ecosystems,

and the expansion of broadband networks—all crucial elements for Africa's growing digital economy.

Over 300 participants are expected to attend, including representatives from mobile network operators (MNOs), fiber network operators (FNOs), infrastructure companies, regulators, and other key stakeholders in Africa's ICT ecosystem.





Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2023 chief judge Halima Shariff briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on those who have made it as finalists for last year's edition of the awards. Right is Media Council of Tanzania executive secretary Ernest Sungura. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) has announced 72 nominees for the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), with seven journalists from IPP media making it to the list.

The journalists Sanula Athanas, Abdallah Nassoro, Marco Maduhu, Halfan Chusi, and Christina Mwakangale (Nipashe newspaper) and ITV's Rodgers Simon and Benjamin Mzinga.

Speaking while announcing the nominees yesterday, Chairman of EJAT Organizing Committee Ernest Sungura said winners in 20 categories as well as the overall winner and Lifetime Achievement in Journalism (LAJA) recipient will be unveiled on September 28.

The guest of honour at the awards ceremony, which will be held for the 15th consecutive year, is expected to be Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson. Sungura noted that out of the

## Seven IPP media journos shortlisted for EJAT 2023

72 journalists nominated for the competition, 45 are men and 27 are women.

The nominees include 25 from print media, 14 from television, 13 from online media and 20 from radio.

For the first time, the number of journalism submissions for EJAT 2023 increased to 1,135, up from 893 in 2022, 606 in 2021 and 396 in 2020.

Sungura said journalists from Dar es Salaam led this time with 290 entries, followed by Arusha with 81, Mwanza with 74, Iringa with 72 and Mtwara with 49.

From Zanzibar, entries were submitted from North Pemba (36), South Pemba (43) and Urban West (29).

Sungura mentioned that one unique aspect of this year's awards ceremony will be hearing from the judges about the quality of journalism across print, radio, television and online media, with topics covering DP World's investment in Tanzania's ports, stories about Ngorongoro and the Maasai, and the Hanang landslides.

On the day of the awards ceremony, Minister for Information, Communication, and Information Technology Jerry Silaa is scheduled to launch the Awards Magazines meant to promote excellence in various sectors in Tanzania and beyond.

"To start with, the magazines—one in Kiswahili and the other in English—will focus on the content

of Tanzania journalism excellence awards," he said.

"One of the key sections in both magazines will be the life stories of all the nominees and the process of writing those stories. So, all nominees should be contacted by the magazine's writers. Other content will focus on the awards' sponsors and their contributions to changing people's lives, including enhancing and building the media industry."

The panel of judges who reviewed the submitted works was led by Chairperson Halima Shariff and Secretary Dr Egbert Mkoko. Other judges are Mkumbwa Ally, Eshu Muhiddin, Jeniffer Sumi, Halima Msellemu and Absalom Kibanda.

## Women with disabilities want more slots in elective, appointment places

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WOMEN and girls with disabilities have asked to be granted more opportunities in elective and appointed leadership positions so that they make a bigger contribution to the country's development.

Speaking during a dialogue held in Dodoma yesterday, representatives of 18 district councils across the country called on leaders at different levels to provide equal opportunities to the disabled girls and women, just like other members of the society.

They argued that the process of registration of voters is not friendly to people with disabilities and the cost of election is a hindrance, especially to women and girls with disabilities.

They also appealed to the government to ensure the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) members comprise of some people with disabilities who can take care of their issues during elections.

The dialogue was organized by the Movement of Women with Disabilities (MOWADITA), a group of women with disabilities in the country, supported by Action on Disability and Development (ADD) through a project funded by Finland and implemented by UN-Women.

It is a 4-year project on strengthening women's and girls' meaningful participation, leadership and economic rights (WLER) at local levels.

The organization's Project Analyst, Deogratias Mamiro said the project is implemented in 18 districts in five regions in the country, namely, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara and Singida.

He noted that the project seeks to increase the number of women, including young women and women with disabilities in leadership and decision-making positions at local levels.

"This is done through promoting gender-responsive norms, behaviours and practices, women's

economic rights, and piloting gender and disability transformative and innovative measures such as care services in line with the government's guidelines," he said.

In her recommendations to the government, Dorice Kwanga, from MOWADITA, said that the government has been doing a lot to improve conditions of the two groups, but a lot more needs to be done.

"To date, there are still cultures which do not respect women at all. And there are also communities which regard disability as a curse. Therefore, being a disabled woman in such an environment means facing stigmatization and all sorts of humiliations," she said.

In his remarks to officially launch the project, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) Patrobas Katambi said despite progress that has been made, more women are needed in local government decision-making to achieve the country's aspirations for gender equality.

"This requires consolidated efforts, measures and actions combined with capacity building to broaden the pool of women who are able to access leadership at local levels and to enhance effectiveness of those that are already occupying leadership roles," he said.



**To date, there are still cultures which do not respect women at all. And there are also communities which regard disability as a curse**

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Belgian development agency  
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## LOCAL PUBLICATION OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Young people especially young women are empowered to thrive in a protective and gender-equal environment, to acquire education and skills, and to pursue decent work opportunities in Kigoma Region.**

**TZA22003-10066**

Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency is launching a Call for Proposals titled - Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Wezesha Binti Project Partners in Kigoma. This Call for proposal is issued under Wezesha Binti Project with the objective that Girls and young women (14 to 29 years), in targeted districts of Kigoma, are empowered through multiple conducive learning pathways to enjoy decent, greener employment and an increased access to entrepreneurship. The full text of the guidelines for applicants may be consulted on the following website:

[https://www.enabel.be/grants/?in\\_country=1383&is\\_status=all#grants](https://www.enabel.be/grants/?in_country=1383&is_status=all#grants)

The deadline for submission of proposals is set at 21/10/2024 at 12:00 pm at the latest.

**An information session on this Call for Proposals will be hosted online through TEAMS on 3/10/2024 at 10:00 am-11:30 am.**



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## PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GOODS FOR A URANIUM PLANT IN LIKUYU WARD, NAMTUMBO DISTRICT, RUVUMA REGION

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One Group, Joint Stock Company, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra invites eligible suppliers and service providers to express their interest (EOI) for the below.

0371_M067	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) - SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HOISTS AND CRANES
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**Interested Companies and business entities are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:**

- Detailed Company Information with an Organization Structure, list of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar types of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
  - Brief scope of work
  - Value of work in USD
  - Contractual Duration
  - Clients name
  - Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the Client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services.
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any.
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to the Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate from the relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

Interested bidders for one or more of the packages are required to submit their EOI documents separately indicating the Title and Number of the Tender Package as per Package Number provided in the table above and submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; [mantra@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantra@uranium1.co.tz) and [mantraprourement@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:mantraprourement@uranium1.co.tz) and the hard copy to the below address latest **07<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 16.00 hours.**

**Managing Director**  
**Mantra Tanzania Ltd**  
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P. O. Box 23451  
Dar es Salaam.  
Tel +255764700440



By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

THREE people have died and 84 others hospitalised for cholera in Tanganyika District, Katavi Region, a health official has confirmed.

According to acting Katavi Regional Medical Officer Dr Ramadhani Karume, many patients come from villages along the shores of Lake Tanganyika in the region.

He said this here yesterday during a working meeting involving officials at all levels, focused on assessing the region's health performance in the previous financial year.

"As of yesterday, a total of 87 cholera cases were reported, with 65 individuals successfully treated. However, 19 patients remain hospitalized in local health facilities," he said.

Dr Karume who also serves as the disease monitoring officer for Katavi, attributed the outbreak primarily to poor sanitation practices and a lack of adherence

## Cholera outbreak: Three die, 84 in hospital in Tanganyika

to health regulations.

He said that many residents use contaminated water from Lake Tanganyika for drinking and other domestic purposes while some villages lack proper sanitation facilities.

"In areas like Ikola Stoo, Mparamawe and Isije, seven households do not have toilets and the latrines are not in use," he said.

In response to the crisis, health authorities work to educate residents and distribute water purification tablets.

Additionally, 14 unsafe wells have been closed to prevent further contamination and water authorities have been directed to waive fees to improve access to clean water.

Katavi Regional Commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko called on district commissioners to enforce

strict hygiene standards and health regulations.

"Our areas are filthy with waste disposed of carelessly. We must ensure that all health guidelines are observed, close dangerous wells and utilise sanitation days for community clean-up initiatives."

Cholera is a deadly diarrhoeal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated. Results from water quality surveys show that the source of outbreaks is contaminated water, usually borne out of poor hygienic practices and lack of sanitation facilities.

Caused by the *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria, it can lead to severe dehydration through symptoms such as diarrhea and vomiting. The region is on high alert as health officials work to contain the outbreak and promote sanitation practices.



Construction of Pangani River bridge is well under way, as found yesterday, the contractor being China's road and bridge infrastructure firm Shandong Luqiao Group Co. Ltd. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

## Nchimbi stresses role of economic diplomacy in meeting with envoys

By Henry Mwangonde

CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi has said that the government will continue to prioritise strengthening international relations and diplomacy to boost the economy and enhance development.

He expressed the sentiments yesterday during separate meetings with ambassadors from Brazil and India, as well as the Head of Foreign Affairs Department of Mozambique's ruling party FRELIMO and Resident Director of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in Tanzania.

Dr Nchimbi said that friendship and diplomatic relations should serve as key means of enhancing bilateral cooperation globally between countries and through various international platforms.

He stated that one of the key priorities in the CCM manifesto is to enhance international relations, particularly through economic diplomacy.

"This aims to strengthen the economy, improve development and facilitate exchanges in leadership and democracy," he said.

During talks with Brazilian envoy Gustavo Martins Nogueira, both leaders expressed their commitment to improving relations between Tanzania and Brazil for mutual benefit, particularly in health, agriculture and sports.

In discussions with Indian High Commissioner Bishwadip Dey, Dr Nchimbi highlighted the importance of maintaining strategic cooperation between the two nations in technology, trade and education, noting India's

significant advancements in these areas.

During a meeting with Alcinda Antonio de Abreu, Head of the International Relations Department of FRELIMO, both sides agreed to honour and maintain the long-standing friendship and solidarity between Tanzania and Mozambique, a tradition rooted in their shared struggle for political liberation in Southern Africa.

The current focus, they noted, is on economic liberation and improving the livelihoods of their people.

During a courtesy call by Christian Denzin, Resident Director of FES in Tanzania, both parties agreed to continue their long-standing cooperation, particularly in strengthening leadership and democracy through various training programmes.



## INVITATION TO BID

Serengeti Breweries Limited, herein referred to as SBL, is a subsidiary of EABL/Diageo PLC, the fast-growing manufacturer and supplier of beer and imperial brand of spirits with three premium plants in Tanzania.

SBL wishes to dispose by selling the below listed used vehicles and invites interested individuals to submit their bids for consideration.

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T784 DJH	Nissan HardBody - Pick Up,	2488	2016	Mwanza
T770 DJH	Nissan HardBody - Double Cabin	2488	2016	Dar es Salaam
T760 DJH	Nissan HardBody - Pick Up,	2488	2016	Dar es Salaam
T379 DDS	Toyota Hilux - Single Cabin	2494	2015	Mtwara
T433 DCW	Toyota Hilux - Pick Up,	2494	2014	Moshi
T276 DCY	Toyota Hilux - Double Cabin	2494	2014	Dar es Salaam



<https://forms.office.com/e/jqVyH9mwFG>

The above link contains more details including contact details for viewing purposes and reserve prices which will be the acceptable minimum bid.

You shall have to input your contact details to access the details on the link. Bidding will be done ONLINE only.

All vehicles will be sold on an "is where is" basis.

Success bidders will be notified and required to make full payment before collecting the vehicle and transfer of ownership.

This call for bids does not amount to a commitment on the part of SBL either financially or otherwise. SBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the ground for the acceptance or rejection.

### For queries contact:

- Celestine Omolo [celestine.omolo@eabl.com](mailto:celestine.omolo@eabl.com)
- Aneth Harrison [aneth.harrison@diageo.com](mailto:aneth.harrison@diageo.com)

**Bidding closes on 27th September 2024 at 5pm**

Serengeti Breweries Ltd | Plot 117/2 Access Road, Nelson Mandela Expressway, Chang'ombe Industrial area | P.O.Box 41080, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | Email: [info.SBL@diageo.com](mailto:info.SBL@diageo.com) Telephone: 0699 114 343



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Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is expanding its network to meet the strategic business needs which focus on sustaining the recorded achievements and remain an airline of choice that meets and exceeds customers' expectations in line of its mission of provision of reliable, safe, and high-quality services. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified experts to fill the position of Captain as detailed below: -

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#### 1.1. MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE:

- Must have flown with more than 3500 flying hours with an Airline Transport Pilot License, Multi Engine and Instrument Rating.
- Must have 1000 hours as a Pilot in Command and an experience of handling a minimum of 20 tons' equipment or above with a good performance.
- Must be rated on one of the following aircraft type; B787, B737MAX and Q400 or Q300
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- Accept and sign for diplomatic mail, precious cargo and supervise stowage aboard the aircraft and handover to destinations.
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

### 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

One (1) year contract with attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Salary Structure and Incentive Scheme.

### 3. GENERAL CONDITION FOR FOREIGN APPLICANTS:

- All applications must be sent through ATCL Recruitment Portal by using the following address: <https://recruitment.atcl.co.tz> and NOT otherwise. This address can also be found at Air Tanzania website.
- Interested applicants must upload a dully signed letter for consideration of the application. The letter should be addressed to Managing Director & CEO, Air Tanzania Company Limited, P.O. Box 543, Dar es Salaam.
- An updated curriculum vitae (CV),
- Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be informed on a date for interview
- Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other information on application shall warrant legal consequences.
- Applicants should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of this announcement.



By Guardian Correspondent, Mbamba Bay

## Minister says all key ports to get facelift, equipment

TRANSPORT Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has expressed the government's commitment to installing modern infrastructure and equipment at all major ports across the country to promote economic growth and create job opportunities for Tanzanians.

Prof Mbarawa made the remarks yesterday here during his visit to the new Mbamba Bay port on the shores of Lake Nyasa in Ruvuma Region, commending Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for initiating construction of the new port which is projected to cost 75.8bn/-.

He said that the facility will significantly enhance transportation of goods such as industrial products, agricultural produce and fishery products to neighbouring countries such as Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia via Lake Nyasa.

"This project is unique for Lake Nyasa and will not only create jobs but also stimulate the economy for Tanzania and its neighbours that depend on this port for trade," he said.

He urged TPA to effectively oversee

the construction process, ensuring close collaboration between the contractor and project consultants to attain completion as planned.

Juma Kijavara, TPA's deputy director general, outlined the port's ambitious design, which includes two berths, each 103 meters long with capacity to accommodate large vessels, an upgrade from the current port which primarily serves small boats.

The new infrastructure will also feature warehouses, staff housing, an administration building, a passenger terminal, a workshop, a water tank tower and a health facility. A 105-meter-long bridge will facilitate cargo vehicle access along with a designated area for storing up to 3,000 cargo containers.

John Paul, TPA project engineer, said that the project is currently at 6 percent, with ongoing work on engineering designs and site preparations.

He informed the minister that TPA has already made an advance payment of over 3.2bn/- to the

contractor and has compensated the consultant for the initial contract.

Recent TPA reports indicate that the new port will greatly enhance operational efficiency, leading to increased cargo and passenger traffic on Lake Nyasa.

Over the past three years, performance of Lake Nyasa ports has improved significantly, with total cargo volumes reaching 19,380.96 tonnes and 87,803 passengers.

The benefits of the new port extend beyond transportation; local youth will have access to job opportunities and businesses, especially in catering services which are expected to flourish to support contractors and workers. Additionally, the port will promote regional and international economic growth, encouraging investment in Tanzania's industrial sector.

Managed by Xiamen Ongoing Construction Group Limited and supervised by consultant Anova Consult, the construction is expected to be completed by January 2026.



Gaspur Mgemiloko, a researcher with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, pictured imparting information to farmers and agricultural officers in Singida District on Wednesday on ways to improve productivity. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

## Respite as company resumes purchasing cane at new price

S M A L L - S C A L E sugarcane growers in Missenyi District, Kagera Region can breathe a sigh of relief after Kagera Sugar Limited (KSL) agreed to resume purchasing their produce at a newly negotiated price.

This was announced here recently at a meeting led by Missenyi District Commissioner Col. (rtd) Hamis Maiga and attended by KSL management team, led by chief executive officer Sanjeev Mishra, representatives from Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS), Missenyi District Council Chairperson Projestus Tegamaisho, Missenyi Executive Director John Wanga and other officials.

Farmers had expressed concerns over potential financial losses due to KSL's suspension of buying their sugarcane. Initially, KSL offered to purchase sugarcane at 65,000/- per tonne while the growers demanded 80,000/-.

After government intervention, which set an indicative price of 75,000/- per tonne, KSL contended that the price would threaten its sustainability due to market volatility, leading prompting the firm to stop purchases.

As tensions increased among farmers, local leaders stepped in. Nkenge legislator Florent Kyombo was set to meet with Agriculture Minister Hussein Bashe and the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) to address the challenges faced by small-scale growers.

Meanwhile, councillors tasked Missenyi District Council Chairperson to travel to Dar es Salaam to engage with factory owner Nassoro Seif and CEO Mishra. The dialogue focused on the challenges

both sides faced and potential solutions.

The recent meeting led by the DC resulted in positive outcomes of the discussions where an agreement was reached to resume purchase of sugarcane from farmers.

It is estimated that 191,000 tonnes of sugarcane are ready for sale, with farmers expected to harvest about 1,200 tonnes daily, equals to 36,000 tonnes monthly. However, the canes must be delivered to the factory within 24 to 36 hours to meet processing goals, necessitating reliable transport support.

KSL also committed to providing 200 labourers to assist with harvesting, addressing the challenge of workforce shortages among farmers.

However, farmers are encouraged to continue organizing their own labour. Quality control remains a priority; farmers

have been warned against wildfires that can damage sugarcane quality. Testing of sugarcane quality, particularly for fire-affected crops, will involve farmer participation to ensure transparency.

Regarding seed quality, farmers will be allowed to finish using old seeds before transitioning to new, higher-yielding varieties. Educational support will be provided on cultivating the new seeds to enhance productivity and sugar output.

Another meeting is planned for individual growers to discuss strategies for improving services for both parties.

Tanzania currently produces around 342,000 tonnes of sugar annually, while national demand stands at approximately 630,000 tonnes, covering both domestic and industrial consumption. The government continues to address the deficit through imports.

सत्यमेव जयते

**High Commission of India  
Dar es Salaam**

**in Association with Shree Hindu Mandal, Tanga  
will be organizing  
CONSULAR CAMP  
on  
Saturday, 21st September 2024  
in Tanga**

**Venue: Geeta Mandir Community Hall,  
School Street, Tanga**

**Time: 09.30 - 16.00 hours**

**Desirous applicants are welcome  
for OCI, Visa, Passport and other consular services**

**For online forms please visit  
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## ADVERTISEMENT

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is expanding its network to meet the strategic business needs which focus on sustaining the recorded achievements and remain an airline of choice that meets and exceeds customers' expectations in line of its mission of provision of reliable, safe, and high-quality services. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following positions: -

### 1. POSITION: CAPTAIN - (30 POSTS)

#### 1.1. MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE:

- Must have flown with more than 3500 flying hours with an Airline Transport Pilot License, Multi Engine and Instrument Rating.
- Must have 1000 hours as a Pilot in Command and an experience of handling a minimum of 20 tons' equipment or above with a good performance.

#### 1.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for safety of the aircraft, its occupants and cargo pre, during and post flight.
- Maintain a high standard of discipline, appearance, uniformity and promptness of Co-pilots and Cabin Crew.
- Determine the achievement of commercial aspects of flights safety is not impaired to obtain additional revenue load for the Company.
- Ascertain that Flight Plans, Notam, Fleet Notices, Weather and any pertinent documentation and service items that flight may require are briefed.
- Verify that the loading of aircraft being performed in accordance with laid down procedures.
- Report all incidents and accidents.
- Verify that all documents/certificates required being on board the aircraft are available and valid.
- Report any Flight delays of flights.
- Accept and sign for diplomatic mail, precious cargo and supervise stowage aboard the aircraft and handover to destinations.
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

### 2. POSITION: FIRST OFFICER - (4 POSTS)

#### 2.1. MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE:

- Must have flown with more than 250 flying hours or above with Commercial Pilot License, Multi Engine with Instrument Rating.
- Must be with an experience of handling a minimum of 10 tons' equipment with good performance.

#### 2.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To participate in the Pilot-in-Command's crew briefing, and make himself aware of all relevant aeronautical and meteorological information as well as relevant papers documenting the aircraft technical status and its anticipated load.
- To prepare the OFP and when necessary, file the ATS Flight Plan with the appropriate Authority. If stored plans are used then he should ensure that the correct plan has been activated
- To carry out such duties concerning the flight in accordance with the SOP, including procedures, limitations and performance related to the specific aircraft type, as allocated to him by the Pilot-in-Command;
- To confirm the safe navigation of the aircraft, maintaining a continuous and independent check upon both the geographical position of the aircraft and its safe terrain clearance
- To safely and properly conduct the flight in compliance with the current flight plan and the Pilot-in-Command's instructions when the Pilot-in-Command is not at the controls. Any change to the current flight plan has to be notified to the Pilot-in Command.
- To provide advice, information and assistance to the Pilot-in-Command, as may contribute favorably towards the safe and efficient conduct of the flight.
- To assist the Pilot-in-Command in administration duties related to the flight and
- To seek and receive information and/or explanation from the Pilot-in Command, as may be necessary to enable fulfilment of functions.
- To assist the Flight Safety Department for all Technical related matters
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

### 3. POSITION: PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER II (1 POST)

#### 3.1. MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE:

- Applicants must hold a Bachelor's Degree in one of the following fields: Public Relations and Advertising, Mass Communication, Journalism, Business Communication or an equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.

#### 3.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- i. Assist in the routine public relations activities such as the writing of news and feature articles.
- ii. Monitor media coverage related to Air Tanzania and provide daily reports.
- iii. Capture high-quality photographs for use and maintain records of major events.
- iv. Develop visually engaging graphic content, including digital banners, social media posts, infographics and promotional materials.
- v. Develop, manage and update content for digital platforms, TV, Radio and the ATCL website.
- vi. Draft press releases and organize press conferences.
- vii. Assist in organizing and facilitating exhibitions, conferences, seminars and corporate events.
- viii. Support the planning and execution of public relations campaigns.
- ix. Support crisis communication efforts by ensuring prompt and effective messaging x. Perform any other official duty as may be assigned by your supervisor

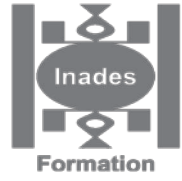
### 4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Ten (10) years contract for Tanzanian and with attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Salary Structure and Incentive Scheme.

### 5. GENERAL CONDITION FOR APPLICANTS:

- i. All applications must be sent through ATCL Recruitment Portal by using the following address: <https://recruitment.atcl.co.tz> and NOT otherwise. This address can also be found at Air Tanzania website.
- ii. Interested applicants must upload a dully signed letter for consideration of the application. The letter should be addressed to Managing Director & CEO, **Air Tanzania Company Limited, P.O. Box 543, Dar es Salaam.**
- iii. An updated curriculum vitae (CV),
- iv. Certified copies of all certificates (including secondary school, birth certificates), other relevant certificates, Applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) or National Examination Council- NECTA)
- v. Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- vi. Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.
- vii. Only shortlisted candidates will be informed on a date for interview viii. Women are encouraged to apply.
- ix. Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other information on application shall warrant legal consequences.
- x. Applicants should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of this announcement.





## Inades-Formation Tanzania

Serving the common good - Utumishi kwa ustawi wa wote

African Institute for Economic and Social Development

### Expression of Interest to undertake the Endline Evaluation of the "Adaptation to Climate Change for Improved Livelihoods in Semi-Arid Chemba and Kondoa Districts of Dodoma Region, Phase 2" project implemented by Inades-Formation Tanzania – July 2022-June 2024

**Date Posted:** Friday, 20 September 2024  
**Due Date:** Thursday, 3rd October 2024, (23:59 Hours).  
**Project contacts:** Managing Director  
**Evaluation Sponsors:** BftW and IFTz

#### 1. BACKGROUND

##### 1.1. About Inades-Formation Tanzania

Inades-Formation Tanzania (IFTz) was established in Dodoma in 1989 as a branch of Inades-Formation Kenya. It became an autonomous National Office in 1992 and acquired full legal status in 1994. In January 2009, it was awarded a 'Certificate of Compliance', No. 0851 after complying with the terms and conditions of the NGO Policy and NGO Act No. 24 of 2002 as reviewed in 2005. IFTz is now operating under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups having been awarded a certificate of registration number 0448 of 08 February 2022 which is valid till 2032. The vision of IFTz is "A prosperous and influential rural Tanzanian society." Our mission statement is "to contribute to social, and economic advancement of the people with specific emphasis on the free and responsible participation of the people in the transformation of their societies.

##### 1.2. Description of the project

IFTz has been implementing a 3-year (July 2022-June 2025), phase II project on adaptation to climate change for improved livelihoods in semi-arid Kondoa and Chemba districts covering 10 villages. This project is a follow-up intervention after the successful implementation of Phase One (July 2019 and June 2022) in 6 villages. The first 6 villages are Mauno, Keikei, Salare, Isini, Gwandi and Waida and the additional 4 villages are Sambwa, Potea, Pongai and Daki. Key project components are: i) advocacy and networking, ii) environment, iii) agriculture, iv) livestock (including beekeeping), v) marketing (on-farm and off-farm products) and village savings and lending (VSL), vi) cross cutting (gender, HIV/ AIDS and infection diseases), vii) correspondence course, viii) monitoring, reflection and backstopping activities and ix) programmatic development.

##### 1.3. Project Objectives, Expected Outcome and Impact

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities for improved livelihoods of rural communities in Kondoa and Chemba Districts.

##### 1.3.1. Project Objective 1

Civic engagement for environmental protection - is enhanced in the project area

- Indicators
- Inclusive and gender-sensitive environmental protection guidelines and bylaws (as per districts' environmental action plans) are adopted and implemented in at least 8 project villages.
  - At end of the project, at least 80% (40,000) of 50,000 planted trees in the 10 villages by SHF, schools and institutions survived.
  - A study after two years of project implementation proves positive impacts on the use of rainwater and application of rainwater harvesting techniques (rainwater harvesting and usage at HH and community level, on-farm micro catchments, micro-irrigation, simple drip irrigation; local gutters).

##### 1.3.2. Project Objective 2

The resilience of the community in the project area to the effect of climate change has increased

- Indicators
- At least 1,800 SHF (78% of 2,300 SHF reached through direct interventions and through CC) apply at least 4 agroecological practices in their agricultural activities (e.g. minimum soil disturbance, farmyard manure and composting, residues and mulches, diversified crop rotation and combinations, cover crops, post-harvest loss techniques, kitchen garden) 60% of new SHF in old and new villages (660), 99% of old SHF (890), 70% of CC subscribers in the project area (310).
  - At least 70% of 2000 participating SHF (1,400) use drought-resistant seed varieties (QDS seeds or quality indigenous seeds) produced by project-based seed producers.
  - At least 70% of SHF (1,400) in old and new villages (50% being women) diversified their sources of income (e.g., small livestock - goat, chicken - production and beekeeping, value addition of project promoted livestock's and/or crops, microbusinesses like food café, small retail shops, VSL, local transportation activities, etc. at least 2 new IGA to old SHFs and 3 new IGAs with new SHFs).

##### 1.3.3. Project Objective 3

Increased active participation of women in decision making and uptake of social-economic opportunities.

- Indicators
- At least a 20% increase in the number of women representations in key decision-making positions at groups (VSL groups, village councils, and other SHFs groups) and community level in the project villages.
  - At least 1,270 SHF (50% new SHF, 80% old SHF) report through FGD and/reflection meetings how project interventions (training, gender dialogues, correspondence courses, documentary, public campaigns, etc.) resulted in joint decision making at HH level regarding important household assets and budgeting (50% of new participating SHF (275 males, 275 females) in the four new and six old project villages, 80% of old participating SHF (320 men, 320 women) in old project villages).

#### 2. The aim of the evaluation

The endline evaluation aims to assess the achievements, challenges, lessons and recommend areas of future improvement to bring about lasting results. Specifically, the purpose of endline evaluation is to:

- Analyses the quality and relevancy of the design.
- Evaluate the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project.
- Document key lessons learned from the implementation of the project and how these can be used to improve the future project.
- Assess the lasting changes in behaviour, attitudes, and socio-economic conditions attributable to the project in the villages engaged in Phase 1 and 2
- Make recommendations based on the findings of the evaluation for improvement of future projects (design and implementation).

- Identify any unintended outcomes (both positive and negative) arising out of implementing the project.

#### 3. Methodology and Approach

The consultant will develop a mixed-method approach that combines qualitative and quantitative techniques. A purposive framework will be used to select individuals and groups for interviews, ensuring representation from diverse stakeholders, including community members, local government officials, and IFTz management, and staff. The evaluation will involve a sample of 300 beneficiaries, ensuring diversity in gender, age, and socio-economic status.

The evaluation will begin with an Inception Meeting to align on the evaluation framework, objectives, and methodologies. This will guide the development of the evaluation tools and approach. A comprehensive Document Review will follow, covering all relevant project documents, including proposals, monitoring frameworks, research reports (baseline, PACDR reports), Phase I evaluations, progress reports, the Theory of Change, and relevant government policies. Field visits in 10 project villages

#### 4. Coverage and Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation will cover both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project, with a comprehensive assessment of the impact in the original villages where the project was first implemented. Provide actionable recommendations to inform future project designs and implementations, particularly focusing on scalability and sustainability in new and existing project locations. The evaluation will be based on the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

#### 5. Expected deliverables

##### 5.1. Evaluation design and inception report

The Consultants will prepare an inception report with approx. 5 pages describing his/ her understanding of the ToR and how the assignment will be executed. A detailed ToR will be shared with the selected consultants.

##### 5.2. Final evaluation report

The final report must be written in English and shall have the following contents.:

- Cover sheet with: Project title, project number, implementing organization, evaluator (author), report date, region/country, project period, report type (draft evaluation report or final evaluation report).
- Table of contents
- List of abbreviations
- A 5-page summary of the findings
- Short description of the subject matter (idea, target group, formulated objectives), implementing organization, ToR, donors.
- Framework conditions (political, economic, ecological, societal and socio-cultural factors, risks to project success, assumptions/prerequisites, relevant activities of other organizations/private-sector companies, role of government actors.
- Description of the evaluation and the methodology used
- Results (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability).
- Recommendations
- General conclusions (lessons learned)
- Appendixes

#### 6. Qualifications of the evaluators

The external evaluation will be conducted by 2 consultants preferably one female. The following should be clearly demonstrated/submitted to the client:

- Personal CV, including educational background/professional qualification and proficiency in project/programmes designing and impact assessment.
- Must have extensive experience on rural livelihoods and well versed with agriculture sector and development in rural settings of Tanzania.
- Have proven expertise in programme evaluation, using Participatory Assessment of Climate and Disaster Risks (PACDR)/ community climate change vulnerability assessment tools and participatory approaches and institutional development of farmer organizations and NGOs.
- Experience in documenting processes and establish lessons learned.
- Committed to work and meet the deadline as agreed by project management.
- Experience in working with smallholder farmers.
- Fluency in English and Kiswahili, excellent writing skills with good analytical knowledge and communication skills.
- Financial proposal that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of cost.
- Technical proposal containing explanation and justification of the methods to be deployed on how this impact assessment will be done including a specific paragraph that sets out how relevant cross cutting issues need to be taken into consideration.
- Total number of days for assignment will be as projected in 5.0 above. Note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

#### 7. Mode and Terms of Payment

All payments will be made by cheque through the designated account of the Consultants where the contractor will be paid 40% advance payment upon submission of the Inception Report including the data collection and analysis tools. The remaining 60% will be paid after completion of the fieldwork and approval of the final report by BftW. On the other hand, the client will deduct 5% of the total amount as withholding tax according to government regulations.

#### 8. Application and Deadline

Interested and qualified consultants are invited to send in their expression of interest (EOI) with a technical and financial proposal (include number of days, rate per day and other resources required for the consulting team), and detailed CV by Thursday, 03.10.2024, (23:59 Hours). The technical proposal should include a concrete guideline, with questions designed in view of achieving the above objectives. EOI shall be submitted to:

**Managing Director**

**Email addresses:**

**inadesformation.tanzania@inadesfo.net**

**cc: inadestz@gmail.com**

# Govt cautions against use of 'anointed salt'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Health has issued a stern warning regarding the use of "anointed salt" and similar remedies, highlighting their potential dangers amidst escalating prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country.

Dr Omari Ubuguyu, assistant director of NCDs in the Ministry of Health, gave the warning y in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a training session for religious leaders on NCDs organised by the Tanzania Diabetes Association (TDA).

He said that misuse of such products contribute to serious health issues, urging religious leaders to exercise caution when distributing the so-called anointed salt, water and many other consumables.

"Anything entering the body must be processed by kidneys and liver; excessive or incorrect use of these substances can lead to significant health problems," he said.

He recounted a case of a 23-year-old woman currently undergoing dialysis at Temeke Referral Hospital.

"Despite having no history of diabetes or high blood pressure, she developed kidney failure after misusing medication, including paracetamol, to treat frequent headaches. Her condition deteriorated due to careless medication practices, compounded by the misguided belief that anointed salt could offer healing," he said.

Dr Ubuguyu warned that religious leaders must ensure their congregants understand the risks associated with unregulated health remedies.

"Some individuals might think that using more 'anointed salt' can hasten their recovery but this can actually worsen their health," he noted.

He stressed the importance of regular health screenings, particularly for those with pre-existing conditions to monitor their wellbeing effectively.

The financial implications of untreated NCDs are severe, with dialysis costs ranging from 200,000/- to 250,000/- per session.

"Patients may require treatment every other day, resulting in expenses of up to 3m/- per month," he said.

He further urged religious leaders to promote a balanced approach, encouraging congregants to seek medical advice alongside any spiritual practices.

"It is important to pray and provide spiritual support but health checks must also be prioritized," he said.

John Kamoyo, information officer at the Christian Council of Tanzania reiterated the responsibility of religious leaders to guide their communities towards healthier lifestyles, emphasizing that religious teachings advocate for good health.

Sheikh Hamisi Mataka, chairman of the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA), reminded attendees that Islamic principles hold individuals accountable for treatment decisions made without proper knowledge of the illness.

Rev. Thomas Muya, Executive Director of Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT) expressed commitment to disseminating this vital information through places of worship.

Participants at the training, including diabetes advocate Gaudencia Nyeupe and sickle cell disease patient Samwel Maingu, shared their personal experiences, underscoring the importance of awareness and education in managing health conditions.

## Zungu urges MSMEs to embrace digital trade to grow businesses

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Speaker of the National Assembly Mussa Azzan Zungu has urged Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to embrace digital transformation to remain competitive in the global economy.

Speaking at Kariakoo Festival in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Zungu emphasized the vital role of innovation and digital transformation in Tanzania's economic future.

"In today's rapidly evolving global environment, adopting digitization and digitalization is essential for unlocking business potential. One doesn't need to visit Kariakoo market physically to make a purchase; this can now be done online hassle-free. The Kariakoo business community must embrace new digital tools to enhance efficiency and productivity," he said.

"When ride-hailing business first entered the Tanzanian market years ago, there were fears it would kill the taxi industry but that has not been the case."

During the festival which was sponsored by NMB Bank, Zungu encouraged MSMEs to focus on providing quality goods and services, stating that this would give them a competitive edge.

Seka Urrio, the bank's Dar es Salaam Zonal Manager, reiterated the commitment to enhancing financial inclusion and bridging the gap for the unbanked.

"Apart from sponsoring this festival, we are here to offer seamless digital services to MSMEs and provide financial literacy for effective financial management," he said.

Urrio noted that the bank will continue to lead the country's transition to a cashless society by introducing innovative digital products and solutions.

"Our digital payment systems, including QR codes, have simplified payment processes between buyers and sellers while providing secure payment options. I encourage MSMEs to adopt digital payment solutions as they significantly enhance operational efficiency," he said.



## PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS/SERVICES TO M&P EXPLORATION PRODUCTION TANZANIA LIMITED



### (Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/013)

- M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following below services.
- Vendors and Suppliers situated physically in Mtwara are encouraged to apply as well as vendors who can provide multiple services.

#### AIR Charter/Transportation Services

- Aircraft Charter provision for less than 15 pax
  - Passenger transportation
  - Provision of periodic flights between Dar es Salaam and Mtwara
  - Quality assurance and Quality Control Practices
- This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and competitive tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.
  - Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
    - Experience with Service Provision to Oil and Gas Operations or similar scope
    - Summary of service provision of similar type of service in the last 2 years
    - Audited Financial Statement for the past 3 years
    - Proof of Registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a Company Profile, Certificate of Registration with BRELA, Tax Authority Clearance Certificates for Tax Identification Number and VRN Certificate, Valid Business Licenses, EWURA and PURA Registration References and Certificates, Relevant Aviation Certifications and Tax Clearance Certificate.
    - International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
  - All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to [contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz) and [costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz) not later than 04th October 2024.

### (Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/015)

- M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following below services.
- Vendors and Suppliers situated physically in Mtwara are encouraged to apply as well as vendors who can provide multiple services.

#### DURABASE Access Mats Provision

- They should provide ground support in all soils especially close to the beach
  - They should provide a safe work platform for personnel and heavy equipment (Forklifts and Cranes)
  - Availability of Test results showing high tolerance for extreme deflection
  - Should be enough to handle loads of maximum 60 tons
  - Reusability
  - Rapid installation
- This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and competitive tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.
  - Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
    - Experience with Service Provision to Oil and Gas Operations or similar scope
    - Summary of service provision of similar type of service in the last 2 years
    - Audited Financial Statement for the past 3 years
    - Proof of Registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a Company Profile, Certificate of Registration with BRELA, Tax Authority Clearance Certificates for Tax Identification Number and VRN Certificate, ERB, CRB, Valid Business Licenses, EWURA and PURA Registration References and Certificates, and Tax Clearance Certificate.
    - International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
  - All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to [contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz) and [costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz) not later than 04th October 2024.

### (Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/014)

- M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following below services.
- Vendors and Suppliers situated physically in Mtwara are encouraged to apply as well as vendors who can provide multiple services.

#### Land Lease/Rental for Personnel Camp Site

- Area required – 6,000 To 10,000 Square Meters
  - Willingness to lease land for the duration of project
  - Close Proximity to Mnazi Bay Gas Plant
  - Ease way of road access
  - Willingness for area modification as per usage and requirements
  - Fenced area
  - Availability of National Power Grid (Electricity)
- This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and competitive tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.
  - Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
    - Proof of Ownership and Title Deeds
    - Audited Financial Statement
    - Proof of Registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a Company Profile, Certificate of Registration with BRELA, Tax Authority Clearance Certificates for Tax Identification Number and VRN Certificate, Valid Business Licenses, EWURA and PURA Registration References and Certificates and Tax Clearance Certificate.
    - International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
  - All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to [contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz) and [costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz) not later than 04th October 2024.

### (Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/016)

- M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following below services.
- Vendors and Suppliers situated physically in Mtwara are encouraged to apply as well as vendors who can provide multiple services.

#### Water table Measurement

- The task will be done in Mtwara around Mnazi-Bay Area +/- 10km from Msimbati ward
  - 4 x areas of interest/sites
  - Purpose is to have a baseline depth for fresh ground water level
  - Determine the estimate baselines of top and bottom bases of the aquifers
  - Testing should also include the verification on salinity vs fresh water estimate depth/level
  - Proper resistivity analysis to ensure the reference range that ensures presence of water
- This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and competitive tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.
  - Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
    - Experience with Service Provision to Oil and Gas Operations or similar scope
    - Summary of service provision of similar type of service in the last 2 years
    - Audited Financial Statement for the past 3 years
    - Proof of Registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a Company Profile, Certificate of Registration with BRELA, Tax Authority Clearance Certificates for Tax Identification Number and VRN Certificate, ERB, CRB, Valid Business Licenses, EWURA and PURA Registration References and Certificates, and Tax Clearance Certificate.
    - International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
  - All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to [contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz) and [costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz](mailto:costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz) not later than 04th October 2024.



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA  
feedback@guardian.co.tz

## Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## UNESCO could assist media councils with ideas on vision

IT looks like the way media networking in our region is aiming could prove cumbersome in how media councils the region conduct their work in the coming few years.

For one thing, there is a systematic problem between the 'narrative' about media roles in relation to furthering democratic discourse and the reality on the ground.

The problem here is that a certain level of frustration is likely to set in when things that appear to have been accepted in the mid-1990s with the systematic shift to multiparty democracy keep resurfacing.

In that sense, the supposition that African media institutions and practitioners have a vital role to play in shaping public opinion, fostering democratic dialogue and advancing human rights for the region to achieve rapid development has two uneven endings.

One is the routine implication that basically affirms the status quo, as evidently imbued with the values or principles that the global civil servant, based in UNESCO, was declaring. Yet, to a certain extent, that interpretation would clearly be seen as disappointing.

Being aware that top representatives and communication experts from media councils were setting out a strategic meeting as a network of independent media councils in Africa, with UNESCO closely involved, this is more than repeating the normal run of things.

It is a situation where many people believe that change can come about if the media truly play their role, which unavoidably leads to frustrations. One would wish that the media environment changes and the political environment improves.

The gathering of experts involving a technical team and board members sought to establish an operational framework for the network, to draw up basic terms of association, and to set the ground for a highly anticipated 2025 conference

scheduled to be held in Dar es Salaam.

The organisers were realistic enough on the role the media play in reflecting the diversity of the societies, where the various experts are seeking to prioritise gender and disability inclusion within media institutions.

The idea that the media are a catalyst for social transformation is not evenly shared, as no one has a monopoly of such agency.

It is also worrying whether it is actually the media that ought or need to ensure that women, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups are not only represented but actively involved in shaping 'narratives' that uphold equality, dignity, and respect.

The media don't necessarily have to set actual goals in that direction, if they really have ears and eyes on what is happening in society, as to an extent this sort of thing is already being done all over.

If such efforts have stakeholders and indeed they do, it is likely that there are moments they will seek out the media, and a few of those coming forward, out of interest or excitement, will maintain durable links with such entities.

The point is that, while UNESCO can share practical manuals and master class videos on disability equality in the media as valuable resources for the network of media councils, the media will reflect society rather than otherwise.

For UNESCO to set out at transforming media institutions to also embrace inclusivity and representation may be to bite more than they can chew, as broad media goals and diminishing job openings hardly concur with such objectives.

Many of these visions were set out in the days of full employment, whereas at the moment UNESCO needs to find actors to ensure things to move along in all manner of circumstances - that is, whatever the odds.

## When local youths are making usable drones, digital gap data not a problem

A NEW report by the United Nations that was being discussed alongside the ongoing sessions of the United Nations General Assembly reportedly 'warns' of uneven progress in digital transformation worldwide.

Strictly speaking, that is far from surprising as nothing in economic or social development is even but in a regulated world with a breadth of multilateral agencies, anything actually unsavoury will be noticed and something will be done about it.

The UN system is itself circumspect and not a night sentry waiting to be alerted that there is this or that emergency.

UN officials are quoted as having affirmed that the digital world is transforming the world but developing regions are at risk of being left behind.

This would imply that progress here is quite limited, whereas not so long ago parts of East Africa saw mass protests by the younger adult generation organised essentially in WhatsApp groups and other forms of networking.

Going by the local media, there are many instances where a young entrepreneur outlines achievements made and, courtesy of social media posting of products, obtaining orders on that basis.

Rather surprisingly, the UN agency looking at economic development generally saw hope and reassurance in digital government advances.

Apparently, these ought to include the mobile money transaction platform, which is economic or social advancement rather than e-government as such.

Here there are numerous imperfections as it is a public sector-based activity where the private interests of those in business often collide with public interests. Building fool-proof e-government systems is tricky since all systems will be controlled from outside, thus with a 'fraud button'.

While UN officials bemoan low levels of digital exposure among developing countries along with substantial disparities between regions and within specific zones, many in these parts of the world have other worries.

They are akin to sentiments in developed countries nearly a century ago as mechanisation and eventual automation were taking hold, brushing aside a lot of traditional farming, industry, respected teaching or medical professions, etc.

Globalisation also moves in tandem with another sphere of making money by dollar agency, spawning classes.

Not just in digital government but in wider innovation digital inclusion and grassroots application are being more in evidence as days go by.

Just like youths can build biogas machines rapidly but face various regulatory checks and stoppages when trying to land a market for the generated power or install other devices in a house, much the same applies to drones.

With sclerotic lending levels to agriculture and a vast sphere of traditional farming, livestock rearing and fishing, where the use of technology is irrelevant, the problem is more of the backward market structures, not digital access.



## The basket of HIV prevention options needs to be filled

By Yvette Raphael

WE stand at a thrilling precipice in the fight against HIV/AIDS. For the first time in history, the end of this devastating epidemic is within our grasp.

This isn't just hopeful thinking - it's a real possibility, thanks to an expanding basket of options that are revolutionising approaches to HIV prevention.

In recent years, we've seen remarkable advancements such as oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which has proven highly effective when taken consistently.

Long-acting injectable PrEP, like cabotegravir, offers protection for months at a time and addresses some of the challenges that daily regimens present.

Promising research is under way for PrEP implants and antibody infusions, which could provide even longer-lasting protection.

But there is a ground-breaking addition that is discreet and doesn't require women to ask for permission from their partners to use it: the dapivirine ring. The ring symbolises a shift towards truly empowering women in HIV prevention. It is the first long-acting, non-systemic, women-controlled HIV prevention method. Women in six African countries, through 30 pilot projects,

can now tap into this new product.

A major obstacle remains: the women and girls in the region who urgently need the products, particularly the dapivirine ring, cannot actually access them.

One young woman from Malawi wrote to me saying: "I do not have access to the ring, but it would help me have control of my health by giving me protection against HIV - and it would give me peace of mind."

Another young woman wrote: "I have tried to access the ring for over a year now since I heard about it but, sadly, I could not have access to it because it's not yet approved for use in my country."

The problem is that the only way to access this product is through one of these pilot research projects. Women hear about the ring and ask their healthcare providers about it, but then they can't obtain the product to safeguard their health.

We need to do better because HIV/AIDS is a serious problem for women in sub-Saharan Africa. The UN reports that 82 per cent of all adolescent girls and young women (ages 15-24) globally who acquired HIV in 2022 live in the region.

Yet, in the 19 countries with a high burden of HIV infections, it is less than half of all locations with a high HIV incidence that have dedicated HIV prevention programmes that serve adolescent girls and young

women.

I strongly believe that the ring can be a critical component of these services. Made of flexible silicone, the ring slowly releases the antiretroviral drug dapivirine over one month.

The ring was developed to provide long-acting prevention for women so that they could choose a method that best suited their lifestyles. A dapivirine ring that would work for three months is also undergoing the final stages of research.

Recent research has confirmed the importance of choice. After using both the ring and oral PrEP for six months each, 67 per cent of the participants chose the ring, 31 per cent went for oral PrEP and only 2 per cent chose to use neither.

In Eswatini, access will be scaled up once the pilot projects there have concluded and we expect that the other five countries with pilot projects - Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe - will follow suit.

It is encouraging seeing that Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Rwanda have provided regulatory approvals for the ring, or authorisation for its use, through import permits.

We need more commitments to rapid and widespread implementation of the dapivirine ring beyond the pilot projects, from policymakers, governments and

global health organisations.

The success of these pilots should trigger automatic scale-up plans in each country now especially that funding is available.

Health ministries would be doing much good working closely with NGOs and community organisations to develop comprehensive rollout strategies reaching beyond urban centres and into rural and underserved areas.

But the ring is just one piece of the puzzle. Advocates for the Prevention of HIV in Africa (APHA) has launched the Choice Manifesto to challenge and hold policymakers and governments accountable on this score.

Equity must be at the forefront of these efforts. It is unacceptable that African women and girls, who have contributed their bodies and time to research studies, often face the greatest barriers in accessing the very interventions they helped develop. Instead, they should receive preferential access and pricing.

The time for half-measures and pilot projects is over. We need bold, comprehensive action to make the full range of HIV prevention options available to every woman and girl who needs them. Their lives and futures depend on the actions we take today.

\* Yvette Raphael is a co-founder and Executive Director of APHA in South Africa.

## New research finds cancer-fighting DNA in common foods

By Mary West

NEW research shows that the nucleic acids found in many plant and animal foods may help prevent cancer and that, accordingly, eating a balanced diet - rich in a variety of whole foods - may be a key to reducing the risk of cancer.

The study was conducted at Osaka Metropolitan University (OMU), a Japanese public university established on April 1, 2022 through the integration of Osaka City University and Osaka Prefecture University.

It found that digestion of nucleic acids, specifically DNA and RNA, produced compounds that may prevent the proliferation of cancerous tumour cells.

The results suggest that dietary intake of these nucleic acids could potentially reduce cancer risk, though research on this effect is in its infancy.

"Our research provides a new perspective on the physiological functions of nucleic acids derived from food. We hold hope that this will be a crucial step toward cancer prevention," Akiko Kojima-Yuasa, a professor at Osaka City University's Graduate School of Human Life Science and a co-author of the study, said in a press release.

Given that very little research has explored the anticancer properties of nucleic acids, the OMU study undertook a two-phase investigation.

One phase involved testing the effects of dietary DNA and RNA on mice that had been administered Ehrlich ascites tumor (EAT) cells, which grow rapidly.

The other phase consisted of examining the effects of these nucleic acids on EAT cells in test tubes. The DNA utilised in the study was sourced from salmon milt, while the RNA was obtained from torula yeast.

Results showed that RNA had an antiproliferative effect on both the cancer cells in mice, as well as those in the test tube cultures. DNA had an antiproliferative effect only in mice.

Another finding was that the nucleoside compounds generated during digestion of RNA and DNA acted as a key to the antiproliferative effect.

The nucleosides, guanosine and 2'-deoxyguanosine - the building blocks of DNA and RNA - impeded the progression of cancer from the G1 to the S phase of the cell cycle.

"In the life of a cell, the G1 phase is like the growth phase - this is when the cell is just living its life, growing, and getting ready to possibly divide," Dr Sam Hilton, a holistic and integrative medicine physician, said.

"The S phase is where the cell

starts copying its DNA in preparation for splitting into two new cells," he said, adding that stopping cancer cells from moving from the G1 phase to the S phase means that the cells can't replicate, which helps slow the spread of cancer.

Preventing the transition of G1 to the S phase was accomplished through activation of a substance called C/EBPbeta.

"This is a transcription factor that regulates gene expression," Kojima-Yuasa noted, adding: "It plays a role in influencing the growth and survival of cancer cells by activating or suppressing certain genes. In simple terms, C/EBPbeta acts like a 'switch' that controls how cells grow and acquire specific functions."

The OMU study shows that deficiencies of dietary nucleic acids are linked to decreased function of T lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell essential for disease and germ protection.

Other animal research indicates that nucleic acids may help alleviate alcohol-induced liver damage and improve glucose tolerance associated with eating a high-fat diet.

Collectively, these findings suggest that nucleic acids may have therapeutic effects on both immune function and metabolic health.

Nucleic acids are present in both animal and plant foods. A specific

recommended daily intake of these acids has not been established for cancer prevention, according to Dr Hilton. However, doctors recommend eating a balanced diet rich in a variety of whole foods.

"While meats are high in nucleic acids, red and processed meats have been linked to increased cancer risk," he said.

"Therefore, I would advocate focusing on plant-based sources like legumes, vegetables and grains, which offer nucleic acids without the same cancer-associated risks," he added.

These plant sources also contain additional cancer-fighting nutrients like antioxidants and fibre, but experts call for caution.

Integrative medicine physician Dr Ralph Waldo put the OMU study in perspective, thus: "It highlights potential benefits, but more research is needed before recommending high supplement doses... An optimal approach for cancer prevention encompasses a healthy lifestyle that includes nutritious eating, exercise and stress management."

"Health comes from the cumulative effect of many small positive choices, not a single solution. The keys are staying informed and making daily choices that promote wellness," he noted.

\* the epoch times



# Finnish Language Training Centre to open in Tanzania, giving Tanzanians pathway to free education in Finland

By Adonis Byemelwa

Tanzanian students are on the brink of an exciting educational revolution, thanks to Peter Vesterbacka, the Finnish visionary known for creating Angry Birds and a strong advocate of global education. Through his organization, Finest Future, Vesterbacka has launched an initiative that could significantly enhance access to Finland's world-renowned free education system.

His latest venture: establishing a Finnish language training center in Tanzania, an ambitious plan that promises to unlock educational and economic opportunities for Tanzanian students in Finland, a country famous for its high-quality education and innovative approach to learning.

This project aligns perfectly with the Tanzanian Ministry of Education's efforts to enhance the quality of education and opportunities for its students. Under the leadership of Professor Adolf Mkenda, the Ministry has been working on a comprehensive plan to revolutionize the education system.

The Ministry's new curriculum aims to address the mismatch between education and the demands of the labor market, integrating practical skills into academic learning. The introduction of a Finnish language training center not only complements these reforms but also provides a pathway for students to tap into Finland's cutting-edge educational system, which emphasizes innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

In a recent announcement that has captured international attention, Peter Vesterbacka shared his vision: "I hope to see at least 1,000 Tanzanians take advantage of the opportunity to study in Finland through this free education program. Research shows that over 3,000 Tanzanians are currently studying abroad; why not Finland?" His ambition is to break down barriers that have traditionally limited access for Tanzanian students to one of the best education systems in the world.

The proposed Finnish language training center is a key element in this initiative. By equipping Tanzanians with the skills to master the Finnish language, the center aims to remove one of the major obstacles for those interested in studying in Finland. Vesterbacka confirmed that "discussions are still ongoing," but expressed his confidence that this project will soon be a reality. The initiative reflects his unwavering commitment to global education and cross-cultural collaboration.



Former Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology, Dr. Jim Yonazi, recently met with Peter Vesterbacka in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy

Vesterbacka's vision, however, is not just about education—it extends into creating economic opportunities for Tanzanian students. As Rodgers Mbagwa, CEO of ExamNet Tanzania, pointed out, "Finland, with a population of just over 5.5 million, faces a critical shortage of workers.

The services funded by taxes require a larger workforce to sustain them." This shortage presents a unique opportunity for Tanzanians not only to receive a world-class education but also to secure employment in Finland's growing job market.

Finland's demand for new workers is expected to rise by 30,000 annually, driven by its expanding economy and aging population. This means that Tanzanian students, particularly those with specialized skills from fields like information technology, healthcare, and engineering, can fill critical labor gaps in Finland.

For example, students from the Sokoine University of Agriculture could play a vital role in supporting Finland's agricultural sector, which requires skilled labor and innovation to sustain its growth. The opportunities for such collaborations are boundless and could have lasting benefits for both Tanzanian students and the Finnish economy.

Vesterbacka's project comes at an opportune time as Tanzania's education system is undergoing significant changes. The Ministry of Education has introduced a new curriculum that emphasizes competency-based learning, equipping students with practical skills that meet the demands of the

21st-century job market.

Finland's educational model, renowned for its student-centered approach and emphasis on critical thinking, perfectly aligns with the goals of the Tanzanian education reforms. The Finnish education system, which has been celebrated worldwide, provides an excellent complement to Tanzania's newly adopted strategies, offering Tanzanians a global perspective on education while maintaining a focus on innovation and problem-solving.

Countries such as Vietnam and Estonia have already benefited from Vesterbacka's educational initiatives, demonstrating the transformative power of his programs. Vietnam, for instance, has seen hundreds of its students successfully integrate into Finland's educational system, learning both English and Finnish and benefiting from Finland's entrepreneurial culture.

Estonia, another success story, has leveraged its participation in Finland's education system to boost innovation and digital literacy among its young population. Tanzanian students are poised to be the next beneficiaries of Vesterbacka's vision, especially with the support of the Tanzanian government and academic institutions.

One of the notable features of Finland's education system is its adaptability to students' individual needs and its capacity to tailor learning experiences based on student backgrounds. This approach fits well with many African education systems, particularly Tanzania's, where diverse

learning environments and varying levels of access to education are prominent issues.

Finnish education offers solutions through localized learning approaches and flexible curriculums. Vesterbacka emphasizes that "the best school in Finland is the one closest to where you live," underlining the importance of accessible education. This aligns perfectly with Tanzania's goal of improving education accessibility and quality across all regions.

Beyond education, this initiative is inspiring future generations of Tanzanian students to dream big. Aspiring students such as Kisha Katanga, Irene Mushi, and Alen Ngatunga, all based in Sinza, Dar es Salaam, have expressed excitement about this opportunity. "It feels like the door to an entirely new world is opening," said Kisha, who dreams of pursuing a degree in digital engineering in Finland.

Irene, who is keen on entering the healthcare field, stated, "This initiative gives students like me a chance to excel and contribute to society in a meaningful way." Similarly, Ngatunga, who is passionate about agricultural studies, noted, "The combination of Finnish technology and Tanzanian expertise could be a game-changer in sustainable farming practices."

The impact is being felt at the grassroots level as well. Deogratias Mchunguzi, a primary school teacher from Chamazi, Dar es Salaam, highlighted the potential of this project for young learners: "If we can expose our children to global opportunities like these at an early age, it could change

their futures. The Finnish education system is something to aspire to, especially with its focus on creativity and innovation."

Vesterbacka's initiative also reinforces the growing relationship between Tanzania and Finland. Recent high-level discussions between Finnish and Tanzanian officials, including a meeting in Dar es Salaam between Vesterbacka and Dr. Jim Yonazi, former Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology, explored ways to exchange expertise and develop Tanzania's ICT sector. Dr. Nkundwe Moses Mwasaga, Director General of the Tanzania ICT Commission, also participated in these discussions, underscoring the importance of international cooperation in both education and technology.

Finest Future, supported by the Finnish and Vietnamese governments, continues to break new ground in connecting students worldwide to Finland's esteemed educational institutions. Vesterbacka's mission of "nurturing generations" through education reflects a profound commitment to empowering students from different cultural and economic backgrounds, ensuring that they have the tools and opportunities necessary to succeed in their academic and professional endeavors.

For Tanzanian students, the path to success is clearer than ever. With the launch of the Finnish language training center and the introduction of tailored programs, students are now closer to benefiting from Finland's world-class education. As the ties between Tanzania and Finland grow stronger, it's evident that this partnership will not only empower individual students but also have far-reaching impacts on Tanzania's future workforce, economy, and technological landscape.

This initiative represents a rare opportunity to merge two distinct educational systems, paving the way for a future where Tanzanian students thrive in a globalized world. As Peter Vesterbacka's commitment to education and innovation continues to flourish, Tanzanian students stand at the threshold of a new era—one where international collaboration unlocks endless possibilities for academic and professional growth. The efforts of aspiring students like Kisha, Irene, and Ngatunga, alongside the support from educators like Deogratias, serve as proof that the future of Tanzanian education is indeed bright.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

LIVESTOCK keeping is one of the significant economic activities in the country, but leather processing remains underdeveloped. In the 1960s and 1970s, the government established a few state-owned leather processing plants and tanneries, but these factories struggled with inefficiency, lack of investment, and outdated technology, limiting their contribution to the economy.

With increasing focus on industrialization, the government has introduced strategies like the Tanzania Livestock Master Plan (TLMP) to address issues in the leather sector.

The master plan aims to enhance processing capacity, modernize production, and create a stronger value chain, aligning with Tanzania's vision of becoming a middle-income industrial economy by 2025.

Anna Malongo, 25, a well-known leather and shoes product's processor from Nkunhundu few kilometres from the country's capital—Dodoma, began her journey in 2013 with shoe design and manufacturing training from the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

Basing on this foundation, Malongo furthered her skills with training from the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF) in 2014. ANSAF plays an important role in addressing the challenges facing Tanzania's leather industry and helping it grow as part of the broader agricultural value chain.

It supports Tanzania's leather industry by focusing on advocacy, ca-

## Anna Malongo: From shoe designing trainee to factory owner



Malongo runs a small shoe-making factory at Nananane grounds in Dodoma

capacity building, and facilitating collaboration between stakeholders. ANSAF provides technical training and skills development to leather processors and manufacturers, helping them improve the quality of leather products and adopt better techniques.

It works to create a collaborative environment by linking farmers, leather producers, and industry players. This helps ensure that raw materials (like hides and skins) are efficiently utilized and processed within the country,

reducing reliance on raw exports.

Today, Malongo runs a small shoe-making factory at Nananane grounds, supporting her family and contributing to the nation's economy with her handmade products.

"I'm currently managing a small shoe workshop, employing three workers. My products reach customers in Singida and Dar es Salaam," she told The Guardian.

Her efforts align with the fifth-phase government's goal of transforming Tan-

zania into an industrial economy and a middle-income country by 2025.

Malongo advocates for a reduction in taxes on imported tanning and leather processing machines to lower the cost of raw materials.

"The high cost of these machines is a significant challenge, and lowering taxes would help us produce more efficiently and affordably," she argues.

Her ambition is to expand business into a modern shoe factory that can employ many people and produce a variety of leather products. She faces hurdles due to the high cost of imported machinery, which she estimates at 80 m/-.

Malongo calls on both the government and private sector for support.

Challenges in the leather sector Despite Tanzania's large livestock population—second in Africa and accounting for 11 percent of the continent's cattle—the leather sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remains minimal.

This is attributed to inadequate public financing and investment in the sector. Traditional practices, outdated technologies, and insufficient slaughtering facilities hinder the sector's growth.

The recently launched Tanzania Livestock Master Plan (TLMP) aims to address the challenges and support the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) by 2025.

The plan envisions a commercially

driven, modern, and sustainable livestock sector that enhances food security and income while conserving the environment.

The TLMP will receive 64 percent of its 1.4trn/- funding from the private sector, with the government contributing 36 percent. The plan focuses on improving livestock genetics, feed and water resources, health services, and investments in industry and factories.

Call for support, policy review Stakeholders in the sector emphasize the need for a policy review to create a more conducive environment for stakeholders and the private sector suggest updating of the livestock policy to enhance efficiency, link production with industry, and open new employment opportunities.

With Tanzania accounting for approximately 1.4 percent of the global cattle population and 11 percent of Africa's, the livestock sector is crucial.

It supports around 50 percent of the population, which translates to 4.6 million households dependent on livestock.

Malongo's story underscores the potential within Tanzania's leather industry and highlights the broader challenges facing the sector. Addressing these challenges through supportive policies and increased investment can unlock significant economic benefits and contribute to achieving the nation's development goals.



# In a historic move, Colombia bypasses patent to access HIV drug

By Austin Landis

IT was pitch black when Ariel Villan awoke one night last December, startled by noises at the door of the home he shares with his husband on the coast of Santa Marta, Colombia.

He held his breath and froze, thinking someone had broken in to rob them. But the sound was not real. It was yet another hallucination.

Villan, 45, was taking efavirenz, an HIV treatment linked to side effects like abnormal dreams, suicidal ideation and insomnia. His anxiety and paranoia had become so severe that he regularly had panic attacks and lucid dreams.

In an interview, he said the symptoms plunged him into a deep depression.

"I told my doctor, 'Look, I'm not going to continue with a treatment that's making me feel bad,'" he said. "I'm depressed. I have suicidal thoughts."

All of that changed after January when he switched to taking the antiretroviral drug dolutegravir to treat his HIV infection.

"I started to recuperate everything I had lost, which was my will," Villan said. "The will to brush my teeth, to go out and buy a pastry ... Now I go jogging to the beach every day at 6am."

The World Health Organization considers dolutegravir a preferred first-line treatment for HIV, given its limited side effects and rapid efficacy. Patients reach a low enough level of virus in their system that they won't transmit HIV during sex.

But there's a problem: The active ingredient in the medication is currently under patent.

In April, however, the Colombian government took a historic step. It issued its first-ever compulsory licence, a legal mechanism that allows it to co-opt the drugmaker's patent in the name of public interest.

That decision is expected to clear the way for Colombia's health programmes to buy generic doses of the drug at a much lower cost.

But bypassing the patent has enmeshed Colombia in an ongoing lawsuit with the pharmaceutical company ViiV Healthcare, which has openly protested the compulsory licence.

The company argues that Colombia's new policy "weakens the intellectual property system" that finances the "costly research and development necessary to drive advances in HIV treatment and care".

"A little bit of risk" Colombia is "a shining example of a country that has taken a little bit of risk", said Brook Baker, a health policy analyst and law professor emeritus at Northeastern University.

He pointed out that governments that move to issue compulsory licences can risk retaliation from drug companies or the countries where those businesses are based.

That is what happened when Colombia pushed to cut the price of a key leukaemia drug in 2016.

The government ultimately backed down under pressure from lobbyists in the United States, where the drug's patent-holder was located.

Officials feared the fight for a lower-cost drug might cause the US to rescind the \$450m in funding it offered to support Co-



Ariel Villan of Santa Marta, Colombia, shares the medications he uses to treat his HIV diagnosis

lombia's historic peace deal with the FARC, an armed rebel group.

But advocates have argued that the need for affordable, effective HIV treatment in Colombia is dire. The country has the third highest number of people living with HIV in Latin America, with about 230,000 cases as of 2023.

In Latin America as a whole, HIV cases have been on the rise, increasing by 8 percent from 2010 to 2022, according to a United Nations report.

Ordinarily, the price of medications like dolutegravir is high. The brand-name version, Tivicay, costs about \$1,150 in Colombia for a one-year supply, versus approximately \$45 for the generic.

In other words, with the generic medication, Colombia can treat nearly 26 people for the price of one.

"One of the strongest tools" There is also evidence that access to generic HIV medication can help stem new infections.

Sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, has the world's highest levels of HIV infection, but rates of infection have decreased by nearly 50 percent from 2010 to 2022 in part because of international investment and accessible medications.

Generics are accessible there because drugmakers often grant voluntary licences to countries in the region, allowing them to make or purchase off-brand versions of the medicines.

But drugmakers do not typically grant licences for top treatments like dolutegravir in countries like Colombia and Brazil, which both have high HIV rates but are considered upper-

middle-income.

And agreements forged under the World Trade Organization require all member states to respect copyright patents, even when it comes to life-saving treatments.

Issuing a compulsory licence to circumvent patent restrictions is "relatively unusual", said Suerie Moon, global health expert and professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

But, she added, Colombia's move is not unprecedented.

The World Trade Organization's agreements include carve-outs for efforts to protect public health, including the right to announce compulsory licences for necessary medications.

Several nations, including the US, used that flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic to distribute vaccines.

When pushing for a lower-priced option, compulsory licences are "one of the strongest tools that a government has in a negotiation with a [drug] company", Moon explained.

She believes those licences are unlikely to threaten the business model for pharmaceutical companies, given how rarely the licences are used and how profitable the industry is.

"You have seen constant and rapid innovation in the HIV field. Why? Because there's still plenty of money to be made," Moon explained.

"Precedent for the region" When the Colombian government announced the compulsory licence for dolutegravir in April, many health-care nonprofits cheered the move.

For instance, Doctors Without Borders – also known as Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF – called it a "pre-

cedent for the region".

In a press release, the nonprofit explained that dolutegravir is one of its first-choice treatments for all of its HIV/AIDS programmes. But Carmenza Galvez, the coordinator for MSF's Colombia programme, said her team had been unable to use the medication because of "prohibitive costs".

Now that the compulsory licence is in place, Galvez said the programme planned to incorporate the drug into its treatment for sexual violence survivors.

Experts also point to its benefits for other vulnerable populations in Colombia, such as the country's large Venezuelan migrant and refugee population, estimated at more than 2.8 million people.

Heriberto Mejia Mercado, an advocate with the LGBTQ rights group Caribe Afirmativo in Barranquilla, works to donate medicines to Venezuelans who do not have legal status in Colombia and therefore can't access healthcare.

Venezuelans accounted for one in four people living with HIV in Colombia last year. The Colombian government cited the group as a motivation to issue the dolutegravir licence.

Mejia Mercado explained that dolutegravir is especially critical for people who haven't taken medication consistently, perhaps because they were on the move.

Generally, migrants "have gone a long time without receiving medication", Mejia Mercado said.

Dolutegravir, he added, "would replace the regimen they were receiving five months or two years ago in their home country".

'Living again'

Of course, dolutegravir is not a silver bullet to treat HIV, cautioned Gustavo Campillo, president of the RASA Foundation, which helps people in Medellin access treatment and health insurance.

The treatment doesn't work for everyone, Campillo explained, and each patient's drug regimen is a unique "medical judgment" offered by their doctor.

Dr Juan Carlos Catano, an infectious disease specialist who treats HIV in Medellin, told Al Jazeera that patients also cannot take dolutegravir on its own.

It is typically part of a regimen that includes four other pills.

Still, he has seen a marked improvement among patients who switched to regimens that include dolutegravir.

"When someone switches from one of those old regimens to dolutegravir, they say, 'I started living again,'" Catano explained. "All the side effects from the old regimen went away."

He added that the steep cost of the drug, even when covered by insurance, can mean dolutegravir isn't prescribed as often as older regimens.

"If dolutegravir could match the price of those old treatments, they could be given dolutegravir instead of the others, which are more toxic," Catano said.

A short timeline

Yet, the introduction of dolutegravir into more health programmes depends on two things: how many generic doses the Colombian government buys – and how quickly.

"It takes some time for generics to be registered," said Luz Marina Umbasia, director of the Global Humanitarian Progress Corporation in Colombia.

Umbasia explained that the purchasing process typically takes at least six months, although her organisation has encouraged the Colombian government to buy doses "as soon as possible".

That will allow patients access over the near term, while the drug is still under patent. The rights that ViiV Healthcare holds for dolutegravir in Colombia are set to expire in 2026.

Some advocates, however, doubt Colombia's ability to coordinate a quick and efficient dolutegravir purchase. They cited a shortage of hepatitis C medicine last year that resulted from delays in price negotiations and supply acquisition.

"We don't have a good experience with the Colombian government," said Nestor Alvarez Lara, a pharmacist and president of the advocacy group High Cost Patients.

He called on the Colombian government to undertake a "very well-planned" rollout of the generic dolutegravir to avoid the same dilemmas.

"You have to buy in large quantities," he said. "There's a great deal of distrust that, at some point, you might have three months' supply and then run out of medication."

In a statement to Al Jazeera, the Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection said the government is finalising a negotiation to buy a "continuous supply" of dolutegravir through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

They expect it to become available in the last three months of 2024. Officials plan to start by purchasing more than 800,000 bottles, guaranteeing a year of treatment for about 67,000 people.

Villan considers himself lucky to have switched over to dolutegravir. He only learned it was an option because his husband switched his medications last year, and Villan saw his mental state transform.

"I met my husband again," Villan said.

Villan added that he has helped friends get dolutegravir when their health insurance ran out. He hopes the new licence will broaden access and eliminate the uncertainty they face.

"You have to be on continuous treatment for it to be effective," he said. "Having that confidence, that consistency ... we can live a completely undetectable life."

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# 'Govts using billions in public funds to subsidise climate-damaging industries in the Global South'

By Special Correspondent

**A** REPORT examining corporate capture of public finance is accusing industries fueling the climate crisis, including fossil fuel ones, of draining public funds in the Global South, singling them out for squeezing out of governments \$700 billion in public subsidies each year.

The report, *How the Finance Flows: Corporate capture of public finance fuelling the climate crisis in the Global South*, released on 17 September says that the climate-destructive sectors are benefiting from money that could go to paying for schooling for all Sub-Saharan African children 3.5 times over, even as Global South renewable energy projects remain starved of cash, receiving 40 times less public finance than the fossil fuels sector.

While urging governments in the developing world to allocate more of their limited resources in ways that "truly serve their people's needs" through climate solutions for food and energy, the analysis of financial flows by ActionAid reveals that the fossil fuel sector in the region received a staggering annual average of \$438.6 billion a year in subsidies, between 2016 (when the Paris Agreement was signed) and 2023.

The industrial agriculture sector alone benefited from the government subsidies equivalent to a whopping \$238 billion a year on average between 2016 and 2021, even as it continued to contribute to the worsening of nature, it reveals.

It further reveals that the industries causing the climate crisis are also draining the lion's share of public funds, including in "climate-hit countries," in places like Sub-Saharan Africa, even as initiatives providing climate solutions remain severely underfunded.

The report points to corporate capture of public finance, combined with a lack of international climate finance, as some of the factors holding back climate action in some of the "countries and communities that need it most".

While also finding that climate finance grants from the Global North for climate-hit countries are still grossly insufficient to support climate action and the necessary transitions in the southern hemisphere, it gives examples of several countries in Africa where policies in place were in conflict with actual reality actions.

These include the fossil fuel-rich African countries of South Africa and Nigeria, which have been found to be heavily subsidizing the discredited sector.

The countries, including Bangladesh in South Asia, Action Aid says were providing fuel subsidies up to between 22 and 33 times the "per capita level of annual public investment in renewable energy" flow, for example.

As a result, in the hemisphere, renewable energy initiatives are receiving 40 times less public finance than the fossils sector, while climate finance grants amount to just a 20th of the Global South's public finance going to fossils and industrial agriculture.

"While trillions of dollars in climate finance from the Global North to the Global South are necessary to adequately address the climate and development crises, Global South governments must allocate their limited resources in ways that truly serve their people's needs through climate solutions for food and energy," it says.

"Meanwhile, the failure of Global North countries to provide adequate climate finance for climate transitions means that Global South countries are locked into harmful development path-



**Joseph Loree, who lives in the oil-rich Lokichar area of Turkana in northern Kenya, keeps a few goats due to frequent droughts. Governments in the Global South are spending billions of dollars subsidising industries harming the climate, such as the one in Lokichar.**

ways that destroy ecosystems, grab lands and compound the injustice of climate change," it adds.

Citing the example of Southern Africa's Zambia, it says that the industrial agriculture sector in the country gobbled up 80 percent of the national agriculture budget in 2023, through subsidies for "climate-harming synthetic fertiliser's and commercial seeds."

"Meanwhile, only 6 percent of the Agriculture Ministry's Agricultural Development and Productivity Programme was spent on supporting farmers to adopt agroecological, nature-friendly farming approaches, that naturally strengthen soil fertility and reduce dependency on agrochemical inputs," it explains the contradiction.

Zambia's neighbor Zimbabwe has made public policy statements in support of a shift towards agroecology, a shift evidenced by 34 percent of the country's agriculture budget this year supporting farmers to adopt practices to move from climate-destructive agrochemicals.

Despite that, Zimbabwe is still using approximately 50 percent of its entire national agriculture budget towards subsidizing industrial agribusiness inputs such as fertilizers and hybrid seeds," signaling the industry's continued control over the sector and budget, as well as the potential to free up more public finances for public good".

Two west African countries, the Gambia and Senegal, and South America's Brazil were equally found to be engaging in contradictory practices, making public investments in

renewable energy, on a scale that is almost comparable to the per capita public subsidy provision for fossil fuels.

In the Gambia, the scale of public investment in renewable energy is more than four-fifths that of public finance provided to fossil fuels; while in Brazil and Senegal, the scale of renewables investment was found to be two-thirds that of fossil fuel subsidies.

"Kenya's ambition to be a global leader in renewable energy is borne out by the finding that per capita investment in renewables in the country is outspending public subsidy provision to fossil fuels. However, recent protests in Kenya against the government's reduction of fossil fuel subsidies underline the importance of feminist Just Transition principles," the investigation found.

"Shifts in public financing must be carefully sequenced to protect the rights of people—especially women—living in poverty. Any reductions in fossil fuel subsidies should target the wealthy corporations first. Only once accessible and democratic alternatives and comprehensive social protections are available to people on low incomes, should progressive policies be shifted," the analysis concluded.

The report further found that governments in the North continue to disproportionately fuel the climate crisis, and even though the developed world has just a quarter of the world's population, their annual average fossil fuel subsidies amounted to USD 239.7 billion.

Action Aid laments that renewable energy public investment in the

Global South comes to an annual average of \$10.3 billion each year, noting that even worse, renewable energy investment in the South has been on a downward trend, more than halving from \$15 billion in 2016 to \$7 billion in 2021.

It calls on governments to speed up the transition to green, resilient, democratic and people-led climate solutions for food and energy, such as renewable energy and agroecology. "For Global South countries already experiencing the devastating consequences of climate change, the need for global transition is all the more urgent".

According to Arthur Larok, Secretary General of ActionAid International, the report further helps expose wealthy corporations' 'parasitic' behavior.

"They are draining the life out of the Global South by siphoning public funds and fueling the climate crisis. Sadly, the promises of climate finance by the Global North are as hollow as the empty rhetoric they have been uttering for decades. It is time for this circus to end; we need genuine commitments to ending the climate crisis," he said.

The report also debunks the "false narrative" that fossil fuel and industrial agriculture expansion in the Global South is necessary to address food insecurity and energy poverty and to provide livelihoods and public revenue, said Teresa Anderson, Global Lead on Climate Justice at ActionAid International and one of the report's authors.

"It seems that money is the root of all climate upheaval. Climate-destructive

industries are bleeding the Global South of the public funds they should be using to deal with the climate crisis. "The lack of public and climate finance for solutions means that in climate-vulnerable countries, renewable energy is receiving 40 times less public finance than the fossil fuel sector," she added.

The time had come for the poor to stand up to industries that are draining their finances and wrecking the climate.

Public resources, the report recommends, should be directed toward supporting just transition away from climate-destructive fossil fuels and industrial agriculture and in favor of "people-led climate solutions that safeguard people's rights to food, energy and livelihoods."

It should also go to scaling up decentralized renewable energy systems to provide energy access, and gender-responsive agricultural extension services that offer training in agro-ecology and adaptation.

It appeals to wealthy countries to provide "trillions of dollars in grant-based climate finance each year to Global South countries on the front lines of the climate crisis," including by agreeing to an ambitious new climate finance goal at COP29.

Further, it calls for regulation of the banking and finance sectors to end destructive financing, including setting minimum standards for human rights, social and environmental frameworks, and transformation of the international financial institutions that are pushing climate-vulnerable countries into "spiraling debt."

## UNICEF: African children deserve safe, healthy and joyful growth environment

BLANTYRE

"I Hope children in Africa can enjoy good health and nutrition, have equal educational opportunities, and receive full protection. They deserve to grow up free from violence, poverty, and disease in a safe, healthy, and joyful environment," United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Ambassador Wang Yuan said.

As the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the International Day for South-South Cooperation approach, Wang, who is also a Chinese musician and actor, travelled to Malawi in late August to observe aid pro-

jects funded by the Chinese government during the emergency response to tropical cyclone Idai. They visited two beneficiary households in the villages of There're and Kaleso, Nsanje District in southern Malawi, and witnessed firsthand the long-term impact of China's support on their lives.

"I'm deeply impressed by the positive impact of the collaborative projects between China and UNICEF on cyclone-affected communities," said Wang during his visits to beneficiary families in Nsanje.

"The assistance provided by the Chinese government has delivered timely aid to children and families affected by climate disasters, significantly

improving sanitation and environmental conditions as well as enhancing child nutrition."

Malawi, recognized by the United Nations as one of the world's least developed countries, has long been plagued by natural disasters such as droughts and floods.

In March 2019, cyclone Idai struck southern Africa, killing hundreds of people. In Malawi, it affected about 1 million people, with around half of them being children and approximately 125,000 displaced, according to UNICEF.

To support these affected children and families, the Chinese government pro-

vided 1 million U.S. dollars through the South-South Cooperation framework to UNICEF Malawi. The grant, spanning from October 2019 to May 2021, offered comprehensive aid in water, health, nutrition, sanitation, education, and other critical fields.

According to UNICEF China, the Chinese-funded support achieved several significant outcomes: water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions were implemented across 12 targeted areas; community-based acute malnutrition management was provided for 4,106 children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition, and acute malnutrition

screening was conducted for 390,104 children under five; educational assistance, including textbooks and learning materials, was provided to 85,572 children; and basic health services were supplied to 172,079 people, including disease prevention and treatment supplies for children and women.

The support also included training for affected mothers to enhance their knowledge of child nutrition, health, and sanitation. "During the visit, I observed that mothers who received training now pay more attention to their children's nutrition and hygiene, which has had a profound and positive impact on their lives,"

Wang said.

Wang also highlighted ongoing challenges, saying, "These areas still face issues such as inadequate sanitation facilities, water shortages, malnutrition, and unequal educational opportunities. Climate change also poses severe challenges to families in these regions, especially children."

To address these challenges, Wang called for enhanced international cooperation. "International cooperation is crucial for improving the survival and development of children in Africa. For instance, during the emergency response to cyclone Idai, China provided funding through South-South Cooperation to UNICEF, offer-

ing substantial and comprehensive support to local families and children," he said.

As UNICEF ambassador, Wang said the field visit gave him a deeper understanding of the health and educational conditions of African children. "I will continue to use my influence to raise public awareness about children's rights, health, and education issues."

"In the future, I hope to participate in more international cooperation projects and actively advocate for the sustainable development of child health and education through educational and awareness-raising activities," Wang added.



By Emma Black

## Sierra Leone group helps farmers adapt to changing climate and protect forest



A group of young people taking part in an environmental education programme in the forest in Kenema district, Sierra Leone.

FOR two years, a volunteer organization in eastern Sierra Leone worked to encourage residents of Kenema district to plant trees and switch to more climate-resilient crops. Sierra Leone Environment Matter's 50 members aimed to protect both residents' farming livelihoods, faltering in the face of changing weather, and the Kambui Hills Forest Reserve which has been degraded by illicit logging and mining.

In a phone interview, SLEM's founder, John Kamara, told Mongabay that biodiversity and natural resources that residents depend on in the Kambui Hills reserve have been damaged by deforestation and illegal mining. The hills are vital for local agriculture, forestry, tourism, water conservation and climate regulation, and they also hold cultural significance for local communities.

Kambui Hills is a commercial timber reserve that also serves as a buffer zone protecting the nearby Gola reserve. The landscape around the forest reserve is mature secondary rainforest, a mixture of evergreen and semi-deciduous trees at higher elevations, giving way to bush and thickets – and farms – on the lower plains. The reserve proper consists of the 20,000-hectare (49,000-acre) Kambui North and a smaller 880-hectare (2,175-acre) Kambui South portion, with the main road running between them to the town of Kenema, 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) east of the reserve.

People from surrounding areas make various use of the forest, gathering firewood and producing charcoal, illicit mining for gold and diamonds, and hunting. Many species have been documented in this region of Sierra Leone – colobus monkeys and critically endangered western chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*), western crowned cranes (*Balearica pavonina*), melan-choly woodpeckers (*Dendropicos lugubris*), numerous hornbill species and an array of insects, reptiles and amphibians. Local residents sell charcoal and bushmeat including bats, monkeys, birds and cane rats in the Kenema market and beyond.

In an interview in the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown, Abdulai Dauda, project manager for another organization also working to protect ecosystems in the district, the Conservation Society Si-

erra Leone (CSSL), said the main threat to the forest reserve is illegal logging by members of local communities that rely on the forest for firewood, charcoal and timber.

Combined with farmers using fire to clear new land to plant, Kenema district's forests are suffering significant degradation and erosion.

According to Dauda, the district is also experiencing shifts in rainfall patterns.

This has affected farmers' harvests. SLEM's Kamara, who grew up in the area, said that in recent years, heavy rains have caused severe soil erosion.

"We are experiencing unpredictable rainfall patterns, with intense downpours occurring in short bursts, rather than being evenly distributed throughout," he said in a phone interview.

"From our community engagement with the local people, they share their experiences and concerns with us that rainfall patterns have become increasingly erratic, with prolonged dry spells and heavy downpours occurring

more frequently," he said, and this unpredictability makes it difficult for farmers to plan during the planting season and harvesting seasons, which is leading to crop failures and reduced yields."

In October 2023, at the height of the rainy season, Kenema experienced one of the worst floods in its history, destroying many crops and displacing thousands of people.

The floods also washed away many roads, making it impossible for farmers to bring crops that survived the deluge to Kenema to sell.

Kamara said the dry season that followed has been the longest and hottest in 30 years. Farmers in the district, who grow rice, cassava, sweet potato and maize, have told SLEM they are struggling to find water to irrigate their livestock and dry season crops. "From our conversations with smallholder farmers in communities like Bafawahun, Combema, Konabu and the other villages, they all agree that droughts, high and irregular

temperatures and irregular rainfall are the three major extreme weather events that are contributing to a substantial loss in the yields of the major

crop that they grow, in response to the negative effects of adverse weather events."

SLEM, founded in 2019, had 50 volunteer members. They are dedicated to raising awareness and fostering community engagement to protect this

essential ecological area, Kamara said. "Our environmental education program in rural communities in Kenema is helping to empower smallholder farmers with skills and knowledge to adapt to changing climatic conditions," he said. "This includes understanding climate change impacts, and working with them to identify climate-resilient crops that can grow in their communities, and implementing sustainable farming practices."

Kamara said SLEM's community gardening program served to demonstrate practical adaptations to the changing climate. He said farmers are facing declining harvests of their primary crop, rice. SLEM's program steered farmers towards alternative, more climate-resistant options such as sweet potato, cassava and yams, and encouraged them to plant fruit trees like mango and papaya.

The environmental education program included information about crop diversification, producing and using organic fertilizers, and agroforestry practices, to enhance soil fertility and conserve water, and about drought-tolerant crops that help farmers adapt to changing rainfall patterns.

SLEM also set up a tree nursery at one of the villages in the district, Bafawahun. The plan

was to enlist residents of Kenema's villages to begin restoring forest cover to slow soil erosion, improve water quality, and restore wildlife habitat that has been lost.

"In return, these restored ecosystems will play a vital role in mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring sustainable food production in the region," he said. "By incorporating these climate-smart agricultural practices into our programs, we believe we are helping rural farming communities in Kenema adapt to climate change, improve their livelihoods and enhance the sustainability of their agricultural systems."

CSSL's Dauda said SLEM's work has had an impact in the district. "The local communities, especially small-scale farmers, were the ones who benefited the most from SLEM's work, particularly through the climate-smart agriculture programs."

Kamara explained that until recently, SLEM's work has been self-funded, with members paying monthly dues and Kamara paying more for many expenses out of his own pocket. The model has proved difficult to sustain and the organization was forced to close its office in Kenema. But Kamara said the organization has recently reached a partnership agreement with the Global Landscape Forum, allowing

them to begin to resume activities in Kenema this month.

Fairness and sustainability: acting to restore African landscapes The network SLEM has just joined, GLFX, is a network of independent, community-oriented initiatives advocating for policy change and working to transform their landscapes. The network, a project of the Global Landscapes Forum, is aimed at strengthening local actors by connecting them with knowledge, tools and connections that can enable them to achieve sustainable results.

Read more about the work other members of the network are doing: In Cameroon, forest and water source restoration offers sustainable solutions.

Dauda: "SLEM made progress in raising awareness about climate change and tree-planting in 2019 and 2020, but the long break in their operations has reduced the overall impact. They need to come back with more consistent efforts and community education to make their initiatives last."

SLEM's work has contributed to raising awareness about environmental protection in Kenema, attracting increased community participation in initiatives such as tree planting and the adoption of more sustainable farming practices. By incorporating climate education into school curricula and community activities, SLEM has enabled students and local farmers to better understand the impacts of climate change and to take practical actions.

By Andy Hirschfeld

## What housing strategies do US presidential candidates Trump and Harris have to offer?

ONE of the first remarks United States Democrat presidential nominee Kamala Harris made in last week's presidential debate at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia was about housing.

"We know that we have a shortage of homes and housing. And the cost of housing is too expensive for far too many people," Harris said.

That focus should not come as a surprise, seeing it is the second most common economic concern for American families in the lead-up to the presidential elections, only trailing inflation, according to a recent Gallup poll.

A key part of Harris's plan to ease that burden is a \$25,000 down payment assistance for 4 million first-time homebuyers over the course of four years. As long as prospective homebuyers paid their rent on time for the previous two years, they would qualify for the programme.

When Harris first announced the plan, pundits like business icon Kevin O'Leary said it would cause inflation.

"If you give everyone free money, it will just cause inflation," O'Leary said in an interview with FoxHowever, Harris's plan is not free money. It is down-payment assistance paid for through increased taxes on the ultra-wealthy.

Among other proposals, Harris's tax plan includes a 25 percent unrealised gains tax - which will only affect roughly 11,000 Americans with more than \$100m in wealth - a demographic O'Leary is a part of. That proposal alone is expected to bring in roughly \$503bn in revenue over the course of a decade.

But the question is whether \$25,000 would make a difference to homebuyers due to the huge gap between the growth in home prices in the last few years versus wages.

"I think that she should focus more on the fact that incomes haven't kept up with mortgage rates or the escalating home prices,"



Housing has been one of the most common economic concerns for American families in the lead-up to the US presidential elections

housing expert Kelly Patterson, an associate professor of social work at the University at Buffalo, said.

Since the start of 2020, home prices have surged by roughly 50 percent, according to the S&P Case Shiller Home Price Index - a monthly report that shows the average US home price. While real wages had the second-fastest increase in any other economic recession in the last four decades, they have not kept up with the cost of housing. Average hourly wages grew by roughly 23 percent over the same period, according to data from the US Labor Department.

"Housing for working people and essential workers, people working

to serve the economy, and for less advantaged people is certainly unaffordable. There's the housing part of the problem and an income part of the problem. And both of those two things have to go together," Richard Florida, a professor of economic analysis and policy at the University of Toronto, said.

At a campaign event in Pennsylvania on Friday, the Vice President said her administration would "work with the private sector to build 3 million new homes by the end of my first term."

She would do that by providing tax initiatives for builders to create starter homes including a \$40bn innovation fund

that incentivises developers to build more affordable housing options.

"These tax incentives to build starter homes and smaller homes are important because if developers don't have that kind of tax incentive, they really lose money in building affordable small homes. It is a lose-lose situation for developers," Patterson added.

In the more immediate term, to curb the cost of housing, the White House has called on Congress to pass what is called the Stop Predatory Investing Act. The legislation, if passed, would end tax breaks for large institutional investors.

The administration of President Joe Biden also

recently called on Congress to pass legislation that would put more pressure on corporate landlords to keep costs low by capping rent increases at 5 percent annually or lose certain tax benefits.

Institutional investors have continued to buy a bigger share of the housing market, driving up prices in the process and undercutting first-time homebuyers.

"Right now, first-time homebuyers are definitely disadvantaged versus, you know, more affluent buyers who can more or less pay cash - people who can buy a home out of their savings accounts or private equity firms," Janneke Ratcliffe, the vice president of housing finance policy at the Urban Institute, said.

In the first quarter of this year, institutional investors made up 14.8 percent of single-family home purchases - the highest percentage since 2001 when Realtor.com started compiling the data.

Institutional investors have decreased available housing stock for homeowners across the US by as much as 30 percent, according to a recent study from the New York University Stern School of Business.

"I think when you have institutional investors, it takes a huge amount of supply off the market and makes an investment good. I think the most

important thing we can do is probably shift from housing as an investment to housing as a utility," University of Toronto's Florida added.

But without intervention, that may not happen. MetLife Investment Management forecasts that if trends continue at this pace, institutional investors could control 40 percent of all single-family rental homes in the US by the end of this decade - a move that drives up costs for renters and limits available real estate for prospective owners.

Rhetorically, that is something that, at least, Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance agreed - well before he joined the campaign of Republican nominee Donald Trump - was a problem. "When these hedge funds take special government privileges and go and buy up all the single-family homes, what they're doing is destroying wealth in this country," he said in a speech in July 2021.

Policy-wise, that is a different story. The Trump-Vance campaign has not come out against (nor have they endorsed) institutional investors' buying up single-family homes.

Both Trump and Harris want to open up more housing supply on federal land. Several US cities have already begun implementing comparable plans on the local level. Last month, New York City

announced a task force to find city-owned properties that it could turn.

Ban mortgages for undocumented immigrants

So far, Trump has offered few specifics on how he would increase affordable housing. While he has said he would "promote homeownership through Tax Incentives and support for first-time buyers", he has not offered any specifics about what that means.

What he has said is that he will "stop illegal immigration" and reverse "Democrats Open Borders Policies" despite the fact that no such policy exists nor was ever proposed. As per recent data, the Biden administration deported more undocumented migrants than Trump, but Trump's team argues that the shortage of housing is exacerbated by undocumented migrants taking up homes that could otherwise be used for citizens, "legal" migrants and permanent residents.

In a speech to the New York Economic Club, Trump said he would ban mortgages for undocumented migrants.

However, it is not clear that this is a significant issue. It is generally difficult for migrants to qualify for a mortgage as documentation is required for the application process. Migrants can use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) which is given to US residents who are not eligible for a Social Security number. It is considered a valid form of identification for banks.



# NEW GENETICALLY ENGINEERED WOODS TO TRANSFORM CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

By Guardian Reporter

**R**esearchers have made a major breakthrough regarding genetically engineered wood, and it could revolutionize the push for green construction practices.

According to Innovation News Network, scientists at the University of Maryland, led by Professors Yiping Qi and Liangbing Hu, have created a form of poplar wood that is as strong as chemically treated wood and on par with aluminum in terms of tensile strength.

They accomplished this by using base editing to affect a key genome in poplar trees that deals with the production of lignin.

The scientists reduced the amount of lignin in their poplar trees by almost 13 percent. Lignin is a polymer that helps stabilize the structure of cell walls in plants and also aids in the transport of water and nutrients.

Typically, when you engineer wood to be stronger and more durable, you do that by chemically reducing the amount of lignin in the wood. The process is energy-intensive and involves the use of a plethora of chemicals that could harm the environment.

By genetically removing that lignin from the wood before the trees have grown, scientists can reduce our reliance on harmful chemicals and further reduce the



carbon footprint of construction.

Professor Qi believes that this result is just the beginning.

"This research we just published is really just a proof of concept," Qi said in an interview with Science Friday. "And ultimately what we want to do is, we would actually expand this approach, this concept, to trees that are more relevant for us to use for building material, like pine, for example. So, if we can do that, then I think, economically, that could be a lot of potential there."

Wood is becoming an increasingly popular building material

due to its ability to trap planet-warming carbon dioxide.

There have been significant developments in cross-laminated timber, and the first wooden blades were recently installed on a wind turbine.

"This is just one major step for us to really have this result, and we are excited to explore the other trees by applying similar technologies," Qi said in the Science Friday interview.

The use of timber in construction is gaining traction worldwide.

Notable projects such as a 5,000-seat football stadium in the UK, a replacement terminal

at Zurich airport, the Naples central underground station, and the aquatic centre for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games all feature timber as the primary construction material.

Mass timber products, including cross-laminated timber (CLT), glulam, and laminated veneer lumber, are becoming popular due to their benefits in strength, flexibility, and sustainability.

The need to decarbonise cities is a significant driving force behind the adoption of timber in construction.

The built environment sector is responsible for 37 percent of

global emissions, largely due to the use of high-emission materials like concrete and steel.

Studies indicate that replacing these materials with mass timber could reduce global CO2 emissions by 14-31 percent and fossil fuel use by 12-19 percent.

According to Built by Nature (BbN), mass timber products are combustible but behave predictably in fires, and various fire prevention measures can be applied.

The UK, following the Grenfell fire disaster in 2017, has stringent fire regulations that limit the use of combustible materials in buildings over 18 metres tall.

This has reduced the residential market for mass timber in the UK, although it remains popular for sports facilities and schools.

Sustainability concerns also play a role in the adoption of mass timber.

While proponents argue that timber is a renewable resource, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) warns that the CO2 reduction potential of timber has been overestimated.

The sustainability of timber depends on responsible harvesting and replanting practices, which vary globally.

In the UK, most engineered wood products are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

The future of timber in construction looks promising as awareness of its environmental benefits grows.

Policymakers and industry stakeholders are increasingly recognising the potential of timber to reduce the construction sector's environmental footprint.

Andrew Lawrence, global timber specialist at Arup, emphasised the need for consensus on fire safety and water damage solutions to build confidence in timber construction.

As cities worldwide strive to reduce their carbon footprints, timber offers a viable alternative to traditional materials like concrete and steel.

However, the adoption of timber is not without its challenges.

Fire safety concerns, sustainability issues, and the need for industry-wide knowledge and acceptance are significant hurdles that must be addressed.

Innovations such as hybrid wood products and research into biomass-based glues show promise in overcoming some of these challenges.

Moreover, policies at both city and national levels are crucial in promoting the use of timber.

Mandates, subsidies, and legislative measures are driving the adoption of mass timber, particularly in regions where awareness and expertise are already established.

## Global composite manufacturer enters Tanzanian market

By Guardian Reporter

The global composite manufacturer BGF International has launched its state-of-the-art showroom in Tanzania, being its second home in African continent after South Africa.

The official launching ceremony was held on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam and attended by the minister, President Office, Planning and Investment Prof Kitila Mkumbo, representing the minister of Industry and Trade Dr Suleiman Jafo.

BGF International is a global leader in the composites industry, with extensive capabilities across various sectors, including industrial, construction, architecture, and transportation sectors (trains, boats, buses and automotive).

Speaking during the event, Prof Mkumbo said the company entrance into Tanzanian market will complement the country's industrialization agenda, as well as consolidating the historical economic and social relationship between Tanzania and South Africa.

Prof Mkumbo said, when the country started economic liberalization way back in 1990s, South Africa was the leading and largest source foreign investments to Tanzania, but was later overtaken by other countries.

The company brings world-lead-

ing cross-functional knowledge and expertise in design methodology, materials composition and manufacturing processes.

He said the opening of BGF Africa office in Tanzania is considered as the revival of long term investments relationship between Tanzania and South Africa, as apart from supplementing industrialization agenda, it has created job opportunities among Tanzanians.

BGF Africa is majority black-owned, with 51 percent acquired in June 2018 by the South African company, Mergence Group.

The facility showcases BGF Africa's innovative, leading-edge capabilities in the fast-growing global composites and sheet moulding materials and compounds manufacturing market.

BGF Africa is also able to leverage the group's world-class precision sheet metal and plate engineering capabilities and has access to the most advanced process-oriented operations in the Southern Hemisphere at the BGF plant in South Africa.

With this landmark investment, BGF Africa hopes to strengthen Tanzania's position as key regional hub for industrial growth and manufacturing excellence.

The company aims to significantly reduce the East African market's reliance on imports, while creating

a diverse range of job opportunities across the Tanzanian labour market.

"As BFG, we want to be active participants in new Africa and open up those opportunities to de-insurgency of the challenges, in my opinion, that we're encountering," said Dr Samer Aljishi, President, BGF international.

He said BGF International specializes in materials that deserve solutions to the demand and problem statements that facing the continent.

"In South Africa, just like we are in Nicaragua, we set up a world-class manufacturing facility. This is in 2019, which is regarded as one of the most iconic phylogenetic factories in the world today. We've put people in a path by acquiring and developing a metal business which complements our phylogenetic business," he said.

"And in total, the square meter of the facility is over 30,000 square feet, employing more than 500 workers. When we started up the phylogenetic facility, we took 15 African employees to Bahrain for a learnership program. Today, our factories have scientists, doctors, mathematicians, chemical engineers, mechanical engineers, and it's a proud moment as Africans to see our people grow."

He added: "We, as Africans, both black and white, got together and delivered and successfully manufactured 248 trains. And we are yet to build another 1,000 trains for South Africa. Each train carries approximately 1,100 people. We multiply that by 240,000, almost 300,000 or 400,000. That tells me we are taking an engine of the economy to work for that and save that".

Bongani Khoza, managing director BGF Africa stated: "We categorize our products with GPT-3 categories. If you look at the transportation space, we do add a lot of weights, mainly in the range that some of you can see the screen, to keep an eye out for different types of freight. We have to understand why and who we need to meet, what changes need to be made".



## Barrick now targeting 30pc production boost, CEO says

TORONTO

Canada-headquartered mining major Barrick has laid out a promising production forecast, with plans to increase gold-equivalent ounces from its existing assets by 30 percent by the end of this decade.

Addressing the Gold Forum Americas audience in Colorado Springs, on Tuesday, CEO Mark Bristow (pictured) highlighted the strength of Barrick's asset base, which positions it for future organic growth while keeping an eye on industry consolidation opportunities.

"Chronic underinvestment in exploration, which I have often flagged at this forum, has led to a dearth of new projects, forcing companies into M&A," Bristow said. "While Barrick is very alert to value-accretive opportunities which the growing pressure for consolidation may create - and we continue to look for any that will meet our stringent investment criteria - we have the luxury of doing so from an asset base that will support organic growth

well into the future."

Reflecting on the company's transformation that began five years ago with the Barrick-Randgold merger, he said: "We set out to build a sustainably profitable gold and copper business focused on world-class assets. We did not have to buy them at a premium; they were embedded in the merged portfolio of Barrick and Randgold and we just had to unlock their value."

Barrick now operates six tier one gold mines with more in the making, underpinned by quality orebodies with industry-leading grades that drive improving cost profiles.

Alongside its gold portfolio, Barrick is also building a substantial copper business to meet rising demand for this strategic metal, enhancing growth optionality to include copper/gold porphyries.

Bristow outlined three major gold opportunities in Nevada, which he believes is "the world's premier mining jurisdiction".

The recently commissioned Goldrush mine is ramping up to a

targeted 400 000 oz/y by 2028.

Adjacent to Goldrush is the 100 percent Barrick-owned Fourmile, with grades double those of Goldrush, positioning it as another tier one mine in the making.

Meanwhile, the 14-million-ounce Leeville project is developing into a significant growth driver, potentially doubling or tripling Carlin's reserves and extending its life beyond 2045.

On the copper side of the business, two transformative projects are on track for first production in 2028.

The Reko Diq copper/gold project, in Pakistan, is designed to produce 400 000 t/y of copper and 500 000 oz/y of gold in the second phase of its development. The Lumwana Super Pit project, in Zambia, will double the mine's production over a 30-plus-year life.

"Mining is a consumptive industry which requires constant replacement of the ounces it depletes. Barrick leads the industry in orebody expansion and has more than replaced the gold reserves it has mined over the past five years. Even more significantly, the ounces that have been added are at the same or better grade than the reserves that were mined," Bristow said.

He noted that since 2019, Barrick had also built an industry-leading balance sheet, reducing net debt by \$3.5-billion, investing \$11.2-billion in ten-year life-of-mine plans for its key mines and returning more than \$5-billion to shareholders.

Its strong operating cash flows would provide the financial flexibility to fund its growth projects.

Bristow expressed astonishment at how undervalued Barrick's shares remain, considering the company's asset portfolio.

"Based on analysts' consensus net asset value calculations, the value of just our interest in Nevada Gold Mines and our copper portfolio almost exceeds our current market capitalisation. This means that the rest of our business is only valued at \$3.3-billion, and that includes our interest in three tier one gold mines outside Nevada, the world-class Fourmile project, and the development projects in the pipeline. It also does not take into account our exploration teams' unparalleled success in discovering new ounces. At our current share price, the case for investing in Barrick should be compelling," he said.



Pro Kitila Mkumbo, minister of State in the president's office (planning and investments), speaks during the opening of the BGF Africa showroom in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## NEW DELHI

The global Construction software market was valued at US\$2,016.6 million in 2023 and is projected to reach US\$4,133.1 million by 2032 at a CAGR of 8.3 percent during the forecast period 2024-2032.

According to the new report by Astute Analytica the construction software market is poised for significant growth as industry increasingly recognizes the benefits of digital transformation.

This growth is driven by the industry's urgent need to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance collaboration across projects.

With over 30,000 construction firms globally adopting digital tools, the demand for software solutions that facilitate real-time collaboration and streamline project management is on the rise.

The number of software vendors has also increased, with more than 200 new players entering the market in the last year alone, offering innovative solutions tailored to various construction needs. Despite the promising growth, the market faces significant challenges that could impact its trajectory. One of the primary hurdles is the complexity of software implementation, which has been a bottleneck for many companies.

The average construction firm reports a delay of 10 to 15 weeks in project timelines due to software integration issues. Moreover, the skills gap in the construction industry is becoming more pronounced, with over 50,000 IT-related positions currently unfilled.

This shortage of skilled professionals hampers the efficient adoption and utilization of advanced software solutions.

Additionally, the rapid pace of technological advancements creates a need for continuous upgrades, with firms typically investing over \$100,000 annually in software updates and training to remain competitive and leverage the latest features.

Looking ahead, the construc-

## CONSTRUCTION TECH SOFTWARE MARKET TO HIT \$4.1BN IN 2032



tion software market is expected to evolve with the integration of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT).

The market has already seen a 25% increase in AI-driven applications designed to optimize resource allocation and predictive maintenance.

Furthermore, IoT adoption is projected to grow, with an estimated 1.2 million IoT devices expected to be deployed across construction sites by 2025. These technologies promise to further enhance data-driven decision-making and operational efficiency.

As the industry continues to embrace digital transformation, the construction software market is set to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of construction, driving innovation, and improving project outcomes across the globe.

### Top Drivers

Increasing demand for real-

time collaboration boosts construction software adoption among firms.

Advanced technology integration enhances project management efficiency and cost-effectiveness across industry.

Rising focus on sustainable building practices drives need for innovative software solutions.

### Top Trends

Growing adoption of cloud-based solutions facilitates seamless access and data sharing.

Integration of AI and machine learning revolutionizes predictive analytics in construction.

Mobile technology usage increases, enabling on-site data access and management efficiency.

The contract management segment of the construction software market is anticipated to experience significant growth, presenting substantial future opportunities. The global construction industry is a massive market, with expenditures

surpassing \$10 trillion annually in recent years.

This immense scale involves complex projects that often engage hundreds of subcontractors and suppliers, highlighting the necessity for sophisticated contract management solutions.

In the United States alone, there are over 700,000 construction companies, many of which are increasingly adopting digital tools to streamline operations.

Mismanaged contracts have led to substantial financial losses, with the construction industry facing an average dispute value of approximately \$30 million. These challenges underscore the critical need for effective contract management software to mitigate risks and enhance efficiency.

Technological advancements in the construction software market are also driving growth in this segment. The global contract management software market was valued at around

\$1.5 billion in 2019 and is projected to expand significantly in the coming years.

Cloud computing adoption in construction is on the rise, with forecasts indicating it will become a \$16 billion market by 2025. Venture capital investment in construction technology has surged, exceeding \$25 billion globally in recent years, much of which is directed toward contract management solutions.

Mobile technology plays a vital role, with over 80% of construction professionals using smartphones on-site, increasing the demand for mobile-accessible contract management platforms.

Additionally, government infrastructure initiatives, such as the \$1 trillion infrastructure plan in the United States, are expected to boost demand for advanced contract management tools.

The integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning into these platforms offers features like automated compliance checks and predictive analytics. Collectively, these factors indicate a robust future outlook for the contract management segment within the market, presenting ample opportunities for innovation and investment.

Contractors to Remain the Most Potential End Users in Construction Software Market, to Contribute over 17% Revenue

The contractor segment is poised for substantial growth, driven by the increasing need for efficiency, collaboration, and advanced project management tools.

As construction projects become more complex, contractors are turning to software solutions to enhance productivity

and competitiveness.

The global construction software market has seen significant investments from contractors, with the adoption of Building Information Modeling (BIM) becoming widespread.

In 2023, the valuation of the market attributed to contractors is estimated to be around \$2.5 billion, reflecting their significant contribution to the industry's expansion.

The integration of emerging technologies presents new opportunities for contractors. There are over 1,500 AI-powered construction software applications available to contractors, offering predictive analytics and automation capabilities.

Mobile technology has also gained prominence; approximately 200,000 contractors are utilizing mobile apps for on-site project management and communication in 2023.

Cloud-based solutions are increasingly popular, with contractors investing heavily in cloud infrastructure to enable real-time data access and collaboration. Investments in cloud-based construction software by contractors have surpassed \$1 billion this year.

Sustainability efforts have led to the adoption of software tools aimed at reducing environmental impact; over 120,000 contractors have implemented green construction software solutions.

Cybersecurity remains a critical focus, and contractors have collectively invested over \$350 million in secure software platforms to protect sensitive project information.

The use of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and drones integrated with software platforms has been adopted by more than 80,000 contractors to enhance site monitoring and data collection.

Furthermore, contractors have allocated over \$500 million towards software that improves compliance with building regulations and standards.

These trends underscore a positive future outlook for the contractor segment, highlighting substantial opportunities for growth and innovation in the construction software market.

## Common crypto scams: How to secure your assets

### BY PECULIAR IBEABUCHI

There has been a rise in the number of online scams in recent times. It is important to note that cyber fraud prevails in different sectors such as banking, credit cards, mobile money, crypto, etc but for the purpose of this article, we will be focussing on the digital asset space.

There is a reason why the space is targeted, and it is simple: more people are getting interested in this industry and trying to learn more about its vast potential as an alternative means of investing and saving.

A Chainalysis report from January showed that crypto fraudsters are predicted to have taken 4,600,000,000 dollars (\$4.6 Billion) from investors and users of cryptocurrencies in 2023 alone. This amounts to approximately 0.013 percent of all cryptocurrency transactions in 2023.

It is common knowledge that when something has a high potential for success and is popular, malicious schemes will begin to mimic the real thing, rob unsuspecting people of their hard-earned money, and bring a bad rep to legitimate platforms and businesses.

Another reason these scams have become prevalent is the lack of regulation in the industry. Crypto transactions are done over a decentralised network, which allows for anonymity, so it is hard and nearly impossible to trace the source of each transaction. Without a defined regulatory framework, scammers can get away without any consequences.

Speaking on how better regulations can help protect against these security threats, Uzoma James, the Regional Operations Manager in

West Africa, shared her perspective on what is to come. She said, "Regulatory frameworks in the crypto industry are expected to evolve significantly over the next few years as governments and financial institutions work to address the challenges and risks associated with digital assets. I envision Sandbox environments becoming more common, allowing for controlled testing of new technologies while ensuring compliance. Therefore, fostering a stronger legal recourse for crypto scam victims, improved dispute resolution frameworks and recovery of lost assets can offer better protection and support for affected individuals."

Different types of online scams

As you transact online using various apps and platforms, there are a few schemes that you should be aware of, and they include; phishing, fake apps, customer support or account manager impersonators, pump and dump, etc.

Phishing: What is phishing? Phishing attacks are often fraudulent activities in which scammers pose as trustworthy entities in order to obtain private data. These attacks can seem very convincing and go as far as creating websites and social media pages that look legitimate. Phishing scams in the digital asset industry use falsified websites, emails, or messages to imitate trustworthy platforms. This scheme is one of the most popular ones, so you must learn to question everything and look closely at the web address or email address that you receive suspicious messages from.

Pump and Dump Schemes: In the digital assets market, pump and dump schemes are not uncommon, especially for low-cap or un-



popular coins. In this fraud, a group of people use rumours or misleading information to artificially boost the price of a certain coin. When they sell off their assets after the price has increased sharply, the market crashes and other investors suffer large losses.

Fake Apps/Wallets: Just as the name suggests, a fake wallet scam happens when users are tricked into thinking they are storing their valuables in a genuine digital wallet but are actually storing them in a fake wallet. Scammers utilise the private keys that users provide to

access the wallet in order to steal their cryptocurrency holdings. Private keys are confidential information that should never be disclosed.

Customer Support/Account Manager Impersonators: This is a type of phishing scam where scammers pretend to work as agents or account managers of popular platforms like Yellow Card.

They usually do this by tracking down customers who have left complaints on the company's social media posts and telling them that they will assist them. They mimic the tone of voice of the sup-

port team and use social engineering tricks to convince customers to trust them and let them handle their accounts by asking for information such as their account username and password, which no legitimate company will ever request.

### How to protect yourself against scams

Now that you know what some of the common scams are, here are some steps that you can take to keep your account and information safe from scammers.

Conduct Extensive Research: To ensure that your judgements are well-informed, evaluate cryptocurrency investments in-depth, use dependable sources, avoid unfounded hype, and consider both independent reviews and community input.

**Protect Your Financial Assets:** Use cold storage options or hardware wallets to safeguard your valuable cryptocurrency assets, and turn on multi-factor authentication to further strengthen protection against unwanted access.

**Be Careful with Personal Information:** Take great care to protect your memory words and secret keys. Reject unwanted offers and messages requesting private information.

**Stay Up to Date and Alert:** Since cryptocurrency scams are always changing, it is important to stay informed and vigilant. Join trustworthy crypto networks and commit to lifelong learning about the newest tricks and safety precautions.

**Invest in Trusted Assets:** Until you gain a deeper comprehension

of the ecosystem, it may be a smart idea for novice cryptocurrency investors to stick to well-known cryptocurrencies. You can visit the Yellow Card Academy to learn the basics of crypto.

We can never overemphasise the importance of staying informed as you navigate the world of digital assets and their vast potential.

"Staying ahead of crypto threats requires a proactive approach from both individuals and platforms," said Uzo. "Individuals should focus on self-education about phishing and ransomware, use strong, unique passwords, secure private keys, avoid public Wi-Fi, and remain cautious of phishing attempts. On the platform side, it's crucial to implement robust security protocols, conduct regular audits, utilise multi-signature wallets, and educate users. Platforms should also develop incident response plans, ensure compliance with regulations, use bug bounty programs, and secure API integrations. Combining these efforts can significantly enhance security in the cryptocurrency space."

With this understanding, all stakeholders in the blockchain ecosystem, in collaboration with governments, must continue to put in efforts to ensure that regulatory frameworks for the industry are put in place and continuous education becomes a priority to protect the interests of those who are seeking opportunities in crypto as an alternative way of investing and saving.

**Peculiar Ibeabuchi (pictured) is Brand Communications Marketing Assistant, with Yellow Card Financial based in Abuja, Nigeria.**



## CONSTRUCTION

By Terence Corrigan, Johannesburg

Fuelled by political corruption, extortion networks are undermining the South African construction industry.

Last year, the World Bank released a report putting the cost of crime in South Africa at the equivalent of some 9.6 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This includes direct losses of 2.6 percent of GDP, 4.2 percent in expenditures such as security and insurance, and 2.8 percent in opportunity costs.

The report says these resources could elevate South Africa's growth rate by at least a percentage point if productively invested.

Part of the data used for this calculation was an estimate of the impact of criminal extortion on business. Based on a 2022 analysis by Jenni Irish-Qhobosheane, the World Bank estimated this at 0.7 percent of South Africa's GDP.

It commented: "The construction sector faces specific extortion problems linked to well-organized mafias, dubbed local "business forums," that invade construction sites and demand a ransom or a stake in development projects, often violently."

The term 'business forum' has been adopted by networks of small, emerging and typically township-based businesses. These sometimes conduct legitimate engagements with the state and others, but in some instances have taken on aggressive rent-seeking roles.

The so-called construction mafia originated in the Durban area in 2015. Local 'business fora' descended on construction sites, threatening violence unless their demands for money or jobs were met. Operations spread to Gauteng and the Western and Eastern Cape.

The term 'business forum' has been adopted by networks of small, emerging and typically township-based businesses.

There have been clear attempts

# CONSTRUCTION MAFIA WEAKENS FOUNDATIONS OF SA'S ECONOMY



Construction activity in SA

to give these activities a political flavour. Early iterations came together in the Federation for Radical Economic Transformation (FFRET), drawing on a concept then being invoked to justify extractive economic policies and attendant corruption.

Greg Ardé argues in an amaBhungane investigation that the criminal economy of the 'business fora' would claim to have the patronage of members of the political establishment - e.g., former eThekweni mayor Zandile Gumede (she denied this) - creating a symbiotic relationship between the two.

Starting with these early attempts to associate themselves with political agendas and power brokers, the 'business fora' have moved to acquire a veneer of societal respectability. The FFRET, for example, rebranded itself the Black Business

Federation in 2020, at an event addressed by KwaZulu-Natal's MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

The mafias have increasingly phrased their demands in reference to state policy.

This is the idea of the '30 percent demand' originally referred to in the 2017 Preferential Procurement Regulations.

These provided that 30 percent of state contracts valued at over R30 million should ('if feasible') be reserved for contractors covered by empowerment policy (typically small firms owned by black people or women).

While inapplicable to private projects, it provided a pretext for extortionate demands on private developers - the pattern being that '30 percent' of the contract value should be made as a cash payment or in subcontracts to specific ben-

eficiaries. Whether there had been contracting to local businesses other than those associated with the mafias was irrelevant.

Firms faced with these demands were inclined to give in. Attempts to seek legal or police protection proved largely fruitless, as interdicts were ignored and police action was ineffective.

South Africa must make a turnaround in its political and administrative culture, which has long tolerated the interface between politics and criminality.

There's evidence that actual instances of violence have declined - although this may show that extortion has become normalised.

Centre for Risk Analysis Head Chris Hattings summed up the drivers behind the construction mafia: "Malign actors recognise there are opportunities for them to exploit governance and policing weakness-

es, along with the decline in capacities, skills, and work on the part of local governments, police and intelligence services.'

This has come with a clear economic cost: extrapolating the 0.7 percent estimate to last year's GDP, it amounted to almost R49 billion. More than this, the threat of violence over construction projects is a constant strain on those who work on them - the fear that they may be physically harmed, or their livelihoods destroyed.

For others, it's an incentive to quit South Africa and offer their talents to countries where engineering and building are safer. For those who can't, with law enforcement ineffective in providing protection, this leaves an unpalatable suite of options: pay extortion fees, engage extensive private security or retaliate.

Meanwhile, mafias' success in extorting from one contract encourages this elsewhere. 'Violence begets violence,' says South African Forum of Civil Engineering Contractors CEO Webster Mfebe. 'When people have seen that extortion methods yield results, they mimic the same tactics and strategies.'

Since construction provides the hard infrastructure on which an economy depends, crime that targets it has adverse multiplier effects. Given that much of South Africa's infrastructure needs upgrading, there are many opportunities for the country's mafias.

What starts on construction sites doesn't end there; its costs are counted in a low-growth economy and forfeited opportunities.

The construction mafia represents a fusion of the worst impulses in South Africa's political economy: acquisitive rent-seeking, using po-

litical connections, bribing governance institutions and employing violence. Dealing with it demands both law enforcement and political will.

The state's failure to exercise its authority is a deep-rooted crisis, and this has fuelled impunity. South Africa needs high-quality crime intelligence, a police service able to enforce interdicts, and a National Prosecuting Authority that can expeditiously bring successful prosecutions.

As an immediate measure, incentives must be offered for companies to hire private security on high-risk sites, and closely coordinate with the police to face off extortion attempts. A joint investigative and prosecuting task team should be established to bring a series of cases, both to disrupt existing mafias and to demonstrate the state's resolve in future.

This will need to be tied to political leadership - mayors, MECs and ministers - that makes itself visible and accountable in confronting extortion. Implicated politicians must not only be prosecuted but ostracised by their colleagues.

South Africa must also make a turnaround in its political and administrative culture, which has long tolerated the interface between politics and criminality.

It's unlikely that the construction mafia would have gained traction had elements of the political elite not provided the implicit or explicit sanction for its demands. Or had individual politicians not collaborated with it, others appeased it, and the wider public tolerated it.

All of society must respond. 'There must be buy-in from local communities to work against these mafias - to make them understand that working with them is not in their interests,' says Hattings.

What starts on construction sites doesn't end there. Its costs are counted in a low-growth economy, forfeited opportunities, and South Africa's enduring developmental malaise.

## Graca Machel Trust's programme to support women entrepreneurs



Anabahati Mlay, Women Creating Worth programme country manager, gives remarks during a one-day workshop for women entrepreneurs on access to finance held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE Graca Machel Trust's Women Creating Worth (WCW) programme in collaboration in Afrishela partnership is set to collect 1bn/-revenue from its members, a strategic target aimed to financially support women entrepreneurs.

Anabahati Mlay, WCW country manager made the affirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday during one-day workshop for women entrepreneurs on access to finance.

She said heading to the target. The session will expose entrepreneurs to available and suitable financing opportunities for women entrepreneurs, bringing together women business network leaders and other stakeholders to inform them on alternative financial models for women entrepreneurs championed by Network of African Business Women (NABW-TZ).

"To ensure women entrepreneurs access to finance. Our target is to collect 1bn/-revenue, engage 10,000 entrepreneurs and create 200,000 jobs particularly to women youth entrepreneurs," said Anabahati.

She said much as the target is considered one question that entrepreneurs need to ask themselves is how ready they as per their businesses are as the aim is to ensure that they are not trapped with the ongoing risk loans.

She added: "At a point, women don't need money, but a fixed process, mindset and records towards financial access and that's why we are here."

Vida Nasari, chairperson of the Network of Africa Business Women in Tanzania underscored the media's informative role particularly on entrepreneurship as its observed men are granted more coverage than women.

"Women should play a part in informing the public on women affairs. Access to finance has to be a media agenda. The coverage is more during women's seasons. Something has to be done to eradicate the gap," said Vida.

Charles Shirima, from Capital Markets and Securities Authorities underlined that entrepreneurs need to have a clear understanding on how an avenue is regulated before venturing into it as many people have entered into scams unknowingly.

"Learn more, information is power." He stressed.

Mary Kiria, Ladies of Value chairperson, said WCW has aided them with powerful knowledge through online courses and networking on the other hand has been easy.

WCW-I Tanzania in partnership with Afrishela, GMT gender lens financing vehicle for women businesses will conduct a one-day workshop for women entrepreneurs on access to finance. The session will expose our entrepreneurs to available and suitable financing opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

The session will also bring together women business network leaders and other stakeholders to inform them on our advocacy agenda on alternative financial models for women entrepreneurs championed by Network of African Business Women (NABW-TZ).

GMT Networks including New Faces New Voices (NFNV) will highlight the work done on access to finance, along with our coaches and WCW alumni. Through our host, Network of Africa Businesswomen (NABW-TZ) who leads our advocacy agenda on alternative financing for women entrepreneurs, we will invite other women business association leaders as well as Capital Market and Security Authorities.

## Health insurance platform secures funds for expansion



Pieter Prickaerts, CEO of CarePay

By Guardian Correspondent

CarePay International, an innovator in next-generation health insurance platforms, has successfully raised €10 million in fresh funding from Reinsurance Group of America (RGA) and the Health Insurance Fund (HIF), a fund supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

The statement issued yesterday, this crucial investment will accelerate the company's international expansion and innovation.

"With a mission to provide healthcare access to more people worldwide, CarePay addresses the fundamental data access and data quality challenges faced by health insurers and their insured members," said a statement.

In an era where AI is disrupting

industries, access to high-quality data is essential.

CarePay addresses these challenges by offering a platform that connects members, payers, and healthcare providers in real-time, managing claim payments and personalized information flows efficiently.

The technology prepares the healthcare sector for an AI-driven future by ensuring transparent, high-quality data insights, intrinsically designed to protect the privacy of its clients and to meet stringent standards such as GDPR.

The new funding saw participation from both existing and new investors.

The Reinsurance Group of America (RGA), a Fortune 500 company and one of the world's largest life and health reinsurance

firms, joins as a new long-term strategic investor.

Additionally, The Health Insurance Fund continues to support CarePay, reflecting its dedication to grow inclusive healthcare markets globally with Dutch technology and innovation.

This investment will enable CarePay to extend its health insurance platform to new regions and markets, enhancing its ability to reduce healthcare costs and facilitate a direct connection with the individual.

Pieter Prickaerts, CEO of CarePay, stated, "Securing this fresh funding is a significant milestone for CarePay. It underscores the growing emphasis on leveraging high-quality data for AI-driven disruptions in healthcare. Our goal is to make healthcare more accessible and efficient for people globally."

In light of the fresh fundraising, Nicole Spieker, CEO HIF states, "Our ongoing investment in CarePay reflects our belief in their vision to drive meaningful change in health markets by expanding patient-centric access to care, including the previously uninsured."

Kenneth Schuit, Vice President, Ventures & Partnerships at RGA, added, "We are excited to support CarePay as they enter this next phase of growth. Their state-of-the-art platform's capability to ensure secure, scalable, and high-quality data makes them a compelling investment for making financial protection accessible to all."

With this new funding, he said, CarePay is well positioned to achieve its strategic goals and continue to be at the forefront of innovation in the health insurance space.



## WORLD

# Over 100 former Republican officials, lawmakers endorse Harris

NEW YORK

MORE than 100 former US Republican officials and lawmakers endorsed Democratic presidential nominee Vice-President Kamala Harris on Wednesday, while calling Republican candidate and former President Donald Trump "unfit to serve again as president".

In a letter shared by the Harris campaign, 111 Republicans, including former officials who served under Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush and Trump, said that despite their disagreements with Harris' policies, "we believe that she possesses the essential qualities to serve as President and Donald Trump does not."

"As president," the letter said, Trump "promoted daily chaos in government, praised our enemies and undermined our allies, politicized the military and disparaged our veterans, prioritized his personal interest above American interests and betrayed our values, democracy and this country's founding documents."

They condemned Trump's incitement of the attack on the Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, saying that "he has violated his oath of office and brought danger to our country."

"Anyone who puts himself over the Constitution should never be President of the United States," the letter quoted former Vice-President Mike Pence as saying.

The signatories included two former de-



Democratic presidential nominee Vice-President Kamala Harris arrives to speak at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) leadership conference, Wednesday, Sept 18, 2024, in Washington. (PHOTO / AP)

fense secretaries, Chuck Hagel and William S. Cohen; two former Central Intelligence Agency directors, Michael V. Hayden and William H. Webster; a former director of national intelligence, John D. Negroponte.

Robert B. Zoellick, former president of the World Bank, and eight

former members of Congress also endorsed in the letter.

The letter came days after former Vice-President Dick Cheney and his daughter Liz Cheney, former Representative and one of Trump's loudest conservative critics, announced they would vote for Harris.

Agencies

## Trudeau set to survive confidence vote next week with opposition support

OTTAWA

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau looks set to survive a confidence vote next week after a rival party said on Wednesday it would not back an attempt to defeat his minority Liberal government.

The official opposition Conservatives, who have a commanding lead in the polls, said they would try to topple Trudeau next Wednesday on the grounds that Canadians cannot afford the promised increase in an existing federal carbon tax.

Trudeau will need support from other legislators to survive a confidence vote in the House of Commons and quickly found it from Yves-

Francois Blanchet, leader of the separatist Bloc Quebecois, which seeks independence for the province of Quebec.

"The Bloc Quebecois serves the people of Quebec. It does not serve the Conservatives," Blanchet told reporters, saying replacing Trudeau with Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre would not suit Quebec's interests.

The Bloc, which like the Liberals are a center-left party, could well insist on pro-Quebec concessions in return for keeping Trudeau in power.

Trudeau, who first took office in November 2015, faces increasing unhappiness from voters over rising prices and a nationwide housing



crisis.

The confidence vote will be his first real test since the smaller New Democratic Party this month tore up a 2022 deal to keep the Liberals in office until an election that must be held by end-October 2025.

Trudeau will have to survive a series of other confidence votes to make it that far.

While working formally with separatists is generally seen as politically toxic in Canada, federal parties have in the past struck one-off deals to gain Bloc support.

In 2009, the Bloc backed the then minority Conservative government on a confidence vote.

Agencies

## India has put itself on world map in last 10 years - Sant Chatwal

NEW YORK

AS the day draws nearer for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the United States, there is a sense of excitement amongst the Indian community in the country. Prominent Indian-American business leader Sant Singh Chatwal has said that India is booming and everyone wants a good relationship with it.

"It's a very important visit because India is booming now and everyone in the world wants a great relationship with it. What India has done in the last 10 years is that it has put itself on the world map... Even when President Trump was in power here, he built a very good relationship with India," Chatwal told ANI in New York.

Chatwal said Kamala Harris has also a relationship with India as her mother was an Indian.

"I just met her recently; she is pro-India. She loves India. America will

always try to maintain a good relationship with India, strategically, to maintain the balance in the world," he said.

Acclaimed African-American singer Mary Millben also voiced her excitement for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US that starts September 21.

With former President Donald Trump stating that he would be meeting PM Modi next week during his visit to the US, Millben hailed the decision.

"It was wonderful to hear President Trump this evening in Flint, Michigan, announce that he'll be meeting with Prime Minister Modi as the Prime Minister travels to the United States for the United Nations week in New York next week. This will be a great opportunity for President Trump and the Prime Minister to reacquaint. Of course, they share a great relationship and had a wonderful relationship while President Trump was in the White House for four years," she said.

She said that both the leaders give priority to their countries and there will be a great discussion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the United States from September 21 to 23 during which he will take part in the Quad Summit and address the 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

PM Modi will take part in the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, which is being hosted by US President Joe Biden on September 21. Following the request of the US side to host the Quad Summit this year, India has agreed to host the next Quad Summit in 2025.

At the Quad Summit, the leaders will review the progress achieved by the Quad over the last one year and set the agenda for the year ahead to assist the countries of the Indo-Pacific region in meeting their development goals and aspirations, a Ministry of External Affairs release said.

PM Modi will address 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 23. The theme of the Summit is 'Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow'. A large number of global leaders are expected to participate in the Summit. On the sidelines of the Summit, the Prime Minister would be holding bilateral meetings with several world leaders and discuss issues of mutual interest.

The Prime Minister will address a gathering of the Indian community on September 22 in New York. The Prime Minister would also be interacting with CEOs of leading US-based companies to foster greater collaborations between the two countries in the cutting-edge areas of AI, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology, the release said. He is also expected to interact with thought leaders and other stakeholders active in the India-US bilateral landscape.

ANI

## Xi calls for deepening reform in Gansu to advance Chinese modernisation

LANZHOU

CHINESE President Xi Jinping urged northwest China's Gansu Province to deepen reform, make innovation, and do solid work to improve the people's well-being and the region's prosperity, to write a Gansu chapter in Chinese modernization.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks during an inspection from Tuesday to Friday.

Gansu should take solid steps in improving ecological conservation and restoration, accelerating green and low-carbon transition, further deepening reform and opening up comprehensively, promoting rural revitalization across the board, better securing people's livelihood and strengthening ethnic unity, Xi said during his inspection tour in Gansu Province.

On Tuesday afternoon, Xi visited the Fuxi Temple in Tianshui City, where he learned about the protection and preservation of cultural heritage. The temple is dedicated to Fuxi, a mythical ancestor of the Chinese nation.

It is imperative to protect and pass on the precious cultural heritage, so that the wisdom and creativity of ancestors will constantly inspire future generations and enhance national pride and confidence, Xi said.

On Wednesday morning, Xi listened to the report of a local water diversion project and urged better maintenance and management of the project so that it would play a greater role in improving people's lives.

While visiting a Huanuu apple production base, he emphasized the importance of optimizing cultivation of this variety and innovating marketing models so that this specialty industry will be expanded and more people will increase their incomes through it.

Xi then visited the Maijishan Grottoes, where he carefully inspected the caves, sculptures and paintings that date back over 1,600 years.

He called on cultural relic workers to make greater contributions to promoting the preservation and innovative development of China's traditional culture and enhancing its influence.

On Wednesday afternoon, Xi came to Lanzhou, the provincial capital. At a local residential community, he emphasized the necessity of focusing on the practical needs of residents, especially the elderly and children, and continuously improving community services.

During his visit to retired Party member Li Zongbiao, Xi said that local authorities have worked hard in providing elderly care, healthcare and community services and the work must continue and improve over time.

When speaking to local residents, Xi said 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people should be more united and make more efforts to create even greater achievements.

He extended his holiday greetings to the residents ahead of this year's Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on Sept. 17.

Xi then inspected a section of the Yellow River near the Zhongshan Bridge in Lanzhou and learned about the ecological protection of the country's "mother river." He called for joint efforts in protecting the river so that it will benefit the people forever.

On Friday morning, Xi listened to the work report from the CPC Gansu Provincial Committee and the provincial government.

Gansu should promote new-type industrialization, accelerate the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, build a significant national manufacturing base for new energy and new-energy-related equipment, and fortify the ecological security in the western part of the country, Xi said. *Xinhua*



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits the Fuxi Temple to learn about the protection and preservation of local cultural heritage in Tianshui, northwest China's Gansu Province, Sept. 10, 2024. *Xinhua*

## 'Visit has bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral aspects'

NEW DELHI

FOREIGN Secretary Vikram Misri yesterday said that the upcoming visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Quad summit emphasizes several important aspects, including bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral, and asserted that the agenda of the summit includes developing Indo-Pacific region, and implementing Sustainable Development Goals.

The remarks by Misri came during a briefing by the Ministry of External Affairs on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States for the upcoming Quad sum-

mit.

Elaborating on the events which will be taking place in the US during PM Modi's visit, Misri said, "PM Modi will be visiting the US from September 21-23. This visit combines very important aspects. It has very important bilateral aspect to it, very important plurilateral aspects to it and equally important multilateral aspect to it. There will be interaction with a variety of foreign partners at the level of the Prime Minister. There will be interaction with the large Indian diaspora in the US. And there will be engagement with a host of business and industry leaders, amongst others."

He added, "PM's first talk will be in Wilmington, Delaware, which is the hometown of President Joe Biden. That is also the venue of this sixth Quad summit..."

Misri further informed that from Wilmington, the PM will travel to New York, to attend the Summit of the Future. He said, "He (PM Modi) will also have a number of engagements throughout these three days. On September 21, there will be Quad summit; the bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Quad summit. A special event on the sidelines of Quad summit will be Cancer Moonshot event. On September 22, PM will have an interaction with the

Indian diaspora. This is being organised by the community in Long Island, New York..."

Speaking on the objective of the Cancer Moonshot initiative, Misri said, "Through the Cancer Moonshot initiative, the Quad aims to implement innovative strategies to prevent, detect, treat, and alleviate the impact of cancer on patients and their families, and to begin with, we intend to collaborate to reduce the burden of cervical cancer in the Indo-Pacific region."

The Foreign Secretary also said that PM Modi will engage with several tech CEOs during his three day visit. "There will be a technol-

ogy roundtable with a number of tech CEOs where we will have the opportunity to discuss the tech investment landscape and the opportunities that are available here," Misri said. "There will be several other meetings with stakeholders and bilateral meetings with head of states," he added.

"On September 23, PM will address the Summit of the Future in the United Nations General Assembly. There are a few more bilateral meetings that are being fixed up on that day," Misri informed.

Elaborating on the agenda of Quad, Misri said that the Quad's constructive agenda continues to

"develop the Indo-Pacific, implementing Sustainable Development Goals, delivering public goods, and having a strong focus on peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region."

He added, "Our agenda includes covering health security, climate change, critical and emerging technology, HADR, connectivity, maritime security, and counter-terrorism."

The Foreign Secretary also noted that the upcoming visit offers the Quad leaders, the opportunity to view progress achieved in the last one year and set the agenda for the next year.

ANI



## Global challenges should be solved through joint effort, says Putin

ST. PETERSBURG

THE problems that humankind is facing should be resolved considering each other's interests, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"Humankind has faced extremely challenging problems, and we can solve them together, taking into account the interests of one another," the president said at the Eurasian Women's Forum.

Putin said that the Eurasian Women's Forum is "one of the more prestigious international venues which showcases the potential and opportunities of modern women and their truly colossal creative role in virtually all areas of life."

"Our forums reflect the crucial issues of present day, promote the ideas of getting united for sustainable development and global security. Nowadays, it is more pressing than ever and is in demand by millions of people on all the continents," the Russian leader emphasized.

Putin pointed out that "the previous forums launched multiple practical initiatives, including the strengthening of cooperation within BRICS, APEC and the Women 20 (W20).

According to Putin, "this is women's adherence to the ideas of cooperation and peace that makes the forum so successful and so popular, as each time it



brings together more and more participants."

"This year, female leaders from 126 countries have come to St. Petersburg, while a multimillion online audience is also joining the discussions on a variety of topics, including pressing and sensitive ones," the president said.

TASS is the general information partner of the 4th Eurasian Women's Forum. The forum is organized by the Federation Council (the upper house of Russia's parliament) and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Nations.

## China launches two BeiDou navigation satellite

XICHANG

CHINA yesterday launched two new satellites for the BeiDou-3 Navigation Satellite System (BDS-3) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The two satellites, the 59th and 60th satellites of the BeiDou family, were launched at 9:14 a.m. (Beijing Time) by a Long March-3B carrier rocket and the Yuanzheng-1 (Expedition-1) upper stage attached to the carrier rocket.

They are the second group of medium Earth orbit (MEO) satellites launched since BDS-3 was formally commissioned to provide satellite navigation services worldwide. After entering orbit and completing in-orbit tests, they will be connected to the BDS system.

Compared with the previous group of MEO satellites, these new satellites feature upgraded onboard atomic clocks and new inter-satellite link terminals.

They will further improve the reliability of the BDS-3 system and the performance of its positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), global short message communications and other services.

The satellites will also be used for new technology tests for the next generation BDS system, according to the China Satellite Navigation Office.

China will accelerate the construction and development of the next-generation BDS system, and increase technical research on a variety of PNT methods that do not rely on satellites, said the office.

The satellites and launch vehicles were respectively developed by the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

This launch was the 535th mission involving Long March series carrier rockets.

Xinhua

## Russia firmly committed to principles of UN Charter unlike West – Lavrov

MOSCOW

MOSCOW reiterates its firm commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, while the West seeks to unbalance the existing international legal system, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated in a video message to the participants of the ninth BRICS Legal Forum.

"It is no secret that the Western countries, led by the United States, are seeking to unbalance the existing international legal system and to replace it with their own West-centered rule-based world order. Russia, for its part, is firmly committed to the principles of the UN Charter in their entirety and interconnectedness.

We proceed from the fact that absolute compliance with the universally recognized norms of international law is an essential element in shaping a fairer multipolar world order that recognizes the cultural and civilizational diversity of nations and their right to decide on their own destiny," the minister emphasized.

In this context, Lavrov noted with

appreciation that the position of Russia enjoys "the broadest support from like-minded BRICS countries and other states of the world majority."

The Russian foreign minister expressed confidence that the BRICS Legal Forum will contribute to improving the effectiveness of legal interaction and developing common approaches to regulating various areas of cooperation within BRICS.

He stated that the event's central theme - Law: Safeguarding a Fair World - meets the needs of the present.

"Over the past years, the forum has established itself as a reputable international platform providing highly professional lawyers with a great opportunity to exchange their experience and applied knowledge of both regulation in various life spheres and interstate interaction, as well as to better understand the specifics of the member states' legal systems in order to meet the interests of strengthening comprehensive legal cooperation between them," Lavrov noted.

Agencies



## California police found to hide misconduct with secret agreements

SACRAMENTO

CALIFORNIA has long used secret legal agreements to hide police misconduct, allowing officers with wrongdoing records to continue working in law enforcement and other sensitive positions, a recent investigation revealed.

An investigation by the San Francisco Chronicle and University of California, Berkeley's Investigative Reporting Program found that at least 163 California police agencies had executed secret legal agreements hiding misconduct allegations against at least 297 officers and deputies.

Known as "clean-record agreements," these deals often promise to destroy disciplinary records or change them to reflect an alternate outcome in exchange for the officer's guarantee to leave an agency without a fight. "It happens in almost every agency, at every level," Sid Smith, a former California police chief and expert on law enforcement background investigations, was cited as saying in the report released on Tuesday.

The investigation obtained hundreds of previously secret agreements, mostly signed between 2012 and 2022. Over half of the officers received lump-sum payments totaling 23.7 million U.S. dollars as part of the deals, with individual cases going as high as 3.1 million dollars.

Police chiefs interviewed said they reluctantly approved clean-record agreements because firing problematic officers was expensive and challenging due to California's public employee protections.

"It's just cheaper to settle, even if you're 100 percent right," said Scott Fairfield, former chief of the Bell Gardens Police Department, in the report. The clean-record agreements not only allow the officers to avoid accountability but, often, to quietly move onto other jobs where they are asked to protect the public.

Twenty-five years ago, Hossep "Joe" Ourjanian's supervisors at the Los Angeles County Office of Public Safety accused him of lying to skip work and pulling his girlfriend's hair during an argument. The county agreed to hide this misconduct in exchange for his resignation.

Ourjanian went on to work for multiple law enforcement agencies. In 2019, the Sierra County Sheriff's Office accused him of embezzling money. Again, a clean-record agreement concealed the allegations. When Eric Apperson, then-sheriff of Del Norte County,



later hired Ourjanian, he was unaware of this history. "Are you kidding me?"

Apperson said when informed by reporters. "If you're asking me if an officer got terminated for embezzlement, would that make a difference to me if I was hiring them? Yeah, of course, that would make a difference," he added.

The investigation found at least 52 officers benefited from clean-record agreements in securing new law enforcement jobs over the past decade. Many faced accusations of misconduct in their new positions.

These agreements also helped officers obtain other sensitive jobs. At least 16 became teachers, including an officer accused of threatening an unarmed woman with his gun who is now teaching fifth grade.

Another, fired after multiple internal affairs investigations, teaches at a law enforcement training academy. In 2016, Jeffrey Lamoureux was hired as a Title IX investigator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to protect students from sexual harassment and assault.

A month earlier, he secured a clean-record agreement with the Burbank Police Department to conceal his sexual harassment misconduct.

While a few states have taken steps to address this issue -- Alaska banned such agreements in 2007, and Colorado and Kansas passed laws invalidating confidentiality promises in these deals -- California has not directly targeted the practice. The Peace Officers Research Association of

California (PORAC), a powerful lobbying group funded by police unions, has advocated using these agreements.

PORAC's legal defense fund, which spends about 20 million dollars annually defending officers, boasts of securing "clean slate" agreements for its members, said the report.

The prospect of facing well-funded PORAC lawyers is one reason departments often resort to clean-record agreements as a practical way to remove problem officers. For some police leaders, the bargain inherent in these agreements proved deeply troubling.

Alex Diaz, former chief of the Banning Police Department, recalled being forced to lie about an officer's history of misconduct due to the clean-record agreement.

The experience left him disillusioned. "I was ... so heartbroken," Diaz said. "How do I protect my citizens? How do I protect the city?" Four months later, he resigned from his 18-year career in law enforcement.

As for Ourjanian, he remained in law enforcement but faced new troubles. After rising to captain in Del Norte County, he suddenly retired last fall amid an investigation into whether he lied during his background check.

He's now working for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Reno, Nevada. Still, he has been suspended from police duties due to "new, previously sealed information about allegations of wrongdoing," according to a Veterans Affairs Department spokesperson.

## Israel's alleged attacks on Hezbollah communication devices spark int'l outcry

CAIRO

ISRAEL'S alleged attacks on communication devices used by Hezbollah in Lebanon have triggered widespread condemnation from regional and international powers, raising fears of an escalating conflict in the Middle East.

Lebanese officials reported that explosions targeting pagers and handheld radios killed at least 26 people, including two children, and injured more than 3,200 others across Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The attacks, which Israel has not claimed responsibility for, came amid rising tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib denounced the incidents as "a blatant assault on Lebanon's sovereignty and security and a clear violation of all international conventions and norms."

He called on the United Nations to exert maximum pressure on Israel to stop its escalation and implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for a full cessation of hostilities between Israel and Lebanon. The attacks coincided with an announcement by Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant of a "new phase" in the conflict with Hezbollah.

Speaking at a military airbase in northern Israel on Wednesday, Gallant stated that Israel is "shifting northward by re-allocating resources, energy, and forces."

This move followed a decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Security Cabinet to expand the war's objectives, aiming to facilitate the return of Israelis displaced by cross-border fighting with Hezbollah. The incidents have drawn sharp



Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli strike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Odaiseh near the border with Israel on Wednesday. AFP

criticism from across the region. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian strongly condemned the attack on Wednesday, describing it as a "disgrace to Western states and especially the Americans."

He called for greater unity among Muslim states to counter what he termed "crimes and cruelty by Israel and its supporters against the oppressed Palestinians and Muslim world."

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warned that Israel's actions were "pushing the entire region toward the abyss." Speaking at a meeting of the Arab-Islamic ministerial committee in Amman, Safadi emphasized the need for immediate de-escalation in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

He urged the international community to take practical steps to hold Israel accountable

for what he described as violations of international and humanitarian law.

The Arab League condemned what it called "treacherous Israeli attacks on communication devices in Lebanon." Syria's Foreign Ministry echoed this sentiment, describing the incidents as a "bloody aggression" and an "act of terrorism" against Lebanese civilians.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty warned of the dangers of sliding into a comprehensive regional war during phone calls with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Foreign Minister Bou Habib.

Abdelatty emphasized that the rapid developments in southern Lebanon indicate the region is on the verge of a dangerous turning point. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova called the explosions

"a monstrous act of terrorism" and "an obvious attempt to ignite a major conflict."

She urged all parties to exercise restraint and refrain from actions that could further destabilize the region. The Houthi group in Yemen, an ally of Hezbollah, also joined the chorus of condemnation, with spokesman Mohammed Abdul-Salam calling the attacks a "heinous crime and a violation of Lebanese sovereignty."

As tensions continue to rise, the Lebanese government has begun preparing a complaint to the UN Security Council. The Council of Ministers stressed that they have contacted concerned countries and the United Nations to hold responsible parties accountable for what they termed an "ongoing crime."





## Sean 'Diddy' Combs will stay in jail after bail is denied for a second time

NEW YORK

SEAN "Diddy" Combs is staying locked up after a judge Wednesday rejected the hip-hop mogul's proposal that he await his sex trafficking trial in the luxury of his Florida mansion instead of a grim Brooklyn federal jail.

U.S. District Judge Andrew L. Carter ruled that Combs' plan – which included a \$50 million bail offer, GPS monitoring and strict limitations on visitors – was "insufficient" to ensure the safety of the community and the integrity of his case.

Carter, agreeing with prosecutors who fought to keep Combs in jail, found that "no condition or set of conditions" governing his release could guard against the risk of him threatening or harming witnesses – a central charge in his case.

Combs' lawyers were making their second attempt in as many days to spring him from the Metropolitan Detention Center, where he has been held since pleading not guilty Tuesday to charges he physically and sexually abused women for years.

Combs (pictured) has been in federal custody since his arrest Monday night at a Manhattan hotel. A federal magistrate on Tuesday rejected Combs' initial bail request. On Wednesday, he and his lawyers struck out with Carter, the judge who will preside over his trial.

Defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo says he will now ask the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn Carter's ruling and release Combs. In the meantime, he wants Combs moved from the Brooklyn lockup, which has been plagued by rampant violence and horrific conditions, to a jail in New Jersey. Carter said decisions on placement are entirely up to the federal Bureau of Prisons.

"I'm not going to let him sit in that jail a day longer than he has to," Agnifilo said to reporters outside the courtroom.

Combs looked at family members and tapped his head several times as Wednesday's hearing began, then sat stoically as he listened to arguments. Afterward, as federal agents led him away, his relatives somberly embraced and exchanged hand slaps.

Combs, 54, is accused in an indictment of using his "power and prestige" to induce female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances dubbed "Freak Offs" that Combs arranged, participated in and often recorded on video. The events would sometimes last days and Combs and victims would often receive IV fluids to recover, the indictment said.

The indictment alleges Combs coerced and abused women for years, with the help of a network of associates and employees, while using blackmail and violent acts including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings to keep victims from speaking out.

Arguing to keep Combs in jail, prosecutor Emily Johnson told Carter that the once-celebrated rapper has a long history of intimidating both accusers

and witnesses to his alleged abuse. She cited text messages from women who said Combs forced them into "Freak Offs" and then threatened to leak videos of them engaging in sex acts.

Johnson said Combs' defense team was "minimizing and horrifically understating" Combs' propensity for violence, taking issue with his lawyer's portrayal of a 2016 assault at a Los Angeles hotel as a lovers' quarrel. Security video of the event, which only came to light in May, showed Combs hitting and kicking his then-girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, in a hotel hallway.

"What's love got to do with that?" an incredulous Carter asked. Johnson also seized on a text message from a woman who said Combs dragged her down a hallway by her hair. According to Johnson, the woman told the rapper: "I'm not a rag doll, I'm someone's child."

"There is a longstanding pattern of abuse here," Johnson said.

Combs' Florida house is on Star Island, a man-made dollop of land in Biscayne Bay near Miami Beach, reachable only by a causeway or boat. It is among the most expensive places to live in the United States. Combs' request echoed that of a long line of wealthy defendants who have offered to post multimillion-dollar bails in exchange for home detention in luxurious surroundings.

If he had been granted bail, Combs would have been confined to his home, with visits restricted to family, property caretakers and friends who are not considered co-conspirators, his lawyers said. After prosecutors said they served a search warrant Tuesday on Combs' private security chief, his lawyers offered to hire a new firm to monitor him and ensure he abided by the proposed agreement.

Carter was unmoved, questioning the plan as an "allegedly fool-proof system."

Many allegations in Combs' indictment parallel accusations in a November lawsuit filed by Cassie, whose legal name is Casandra Ventura. Combs settled the suit the next day, but his allegations have followed him since.

The AP does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Ventura did.

Without naming Ventura but clearly referring to her, Agnifilo argued that the entire criminal case is an outgrowth of one long-term, troubled-but-consensual relationship that faltered amid infidelity. The "Freak Offs," he contended, were an expansion of that relationship, and not coercive.

"The sex and the violence were totally separate and motivated by totally different things," Agnifilo said, contending that Combs and Cassie brought sex workers into their relationship because "that was the way these two adults chose to be intimate."

Prosecutors portrayed the scope as larger. They said they had interviewed more than 50 victims and witnesses.

AP

## Fitness: The hidden foundation behind Yanga's success on the pitch

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

WHEN it comes to football - nicknamed the beautiful game - raw talent and skill are undeniably important.

The elegant dribbling, the precise passing, and the masterful strikes often capture the attention and admiration of the game's supporters.

However, hidden beneath the finesse of the sport is a foundation that is just as crucial but often overlooked by the untrained eye - physical fitness.

Recently, there were some video clips on an Instagram page of a Tanzanian fitness trainer, Denzel, who is based in Dar es Salaam.

The trainer was seen taking charge of workout done by some Young Africans players, Clatous Chama, Pacome Zouzou and Prince Dube.

The training was unique - based on stamina, muscle fitness and breathing tolerance.

The clips had sparked rumours among a section of domestic soccer fans that alleged the training sessions have seen to it Young Africans players are fit irrespective of their difference in quality and work rate.

In a comprehensive guide on fitness, the experts state that robust physical conditioning is the key to success on the soccer field, adding that it can ensure players are always in peak shape.

Not all fitness is created equal, and for soccer players to excel on the field, a balanced approach to their physical preparation is vital.

The guide further outlined the specific components that



Young Africans players pictured recently during a training session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

are essential for a well-rounded player as endurance, strength, agility and flexibility.

The experts said that ability to sustain effort over an extended period is a non-negotiable component of soccer fitness.

"Consider the length of a full match - often 90 minutes of continuous movement, Young Africans players are said to be able to play in high velocity given endurance training is the bedrock that allows players to maintain their high-energy output from the tie's kick-off to the final whistle," Jumaa Mhina, the former Muheza United FC player, said.

He commended the Young Africans trainer for his commitment, saying the training provided to those players has made them gain momentum, which has seen them tirelessly play between 60-90 minutes.

They moreover explained while soccer is a game of fitness, it also requires significant strength.

Robust muscles support speed, agility, and the ability to win physical contests, whether through body positioning or shielding the ball from opponents are vital.

One of the experts stated: "The workout gives them the explosive power because sprinting speed is needed to either chase down opponents or break away with the ball."

Such an efficiency, according to them, is critical in gaining an edge.

"Speed work is more than just being the fastest - it's about effective acceleration and quick changes in direction," Isaya Christopher notes.

The expert pointed out: "The ability to move quickly and easily is fundamental in the complex, changing environment of a soccer match."

He further detailed: "Agile players can evade tackles, make sharp turns, and reposition themselves with precision."

He also mentioned another essential aspect as flexibility, explaining that playing soccer often involves movements that are laterally and rotationally demanding.

Flexibility, according to him, ensures that players' muscles and joints can move through their full range of motion without risk of injury.

Explaining about physical fitness in soccer, the experts said that regardless of the age of a footballer, now is always a good time to take whole-body fitness into account.

They added: "Investing in your players' physical fitness doesn't just mean they will be in better shapes. It directly translates to game performance and mental health in a multitude of ways."

"With enhanced performance

on the field well-conditioned players can push the limits of their speed and endurance, giving them a performance advantage that can be decisive in a match's outcome," Mohamed Njira, a soccer coach based in Tanga, said.

Njira highlighted the benefits players will get through the training, saying they stand to avoid turning prone to regularly sustaining injuries, improved recovery time, mental resilience and focus.

As far as injury prevention is concerned, through fitness training, players can strengthen the muscles and ligaments that support their body, reducing the likelihood of strains and tears. Preventing injuries is as important as winning matches, as sidelined players can't contribute to the team's success.

Improved recovery time will ensure players with a high level of fitness recover more quickly between plays and after games, allowing them to maintain peak form and reducing the risk of fatigue-related mistakes and injuries.

In mental resilience and focus, the benefits of physical fitness extend beyond the body. Aerobic exercise has been linked to improved mental acuity, which is invaluable for quick decision-making and tactical awareness during a game.

## Taifa Stars' impressive AFCON qualifiers performance now boosts FIFA ranking

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's national football team, Taifa Stars, has made notable progress on the international stage following their recent performances in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers. After securing four crucial points in matches against Ethiopia and Guinea, Tanzania has not only edged closer to AFCON qualification but also seen a marked improvement in its standing in the latest FIFA world rankings.

In the latest rankings, released in September 2024, Tanzania has climbed three places, moving from 113th to 110th in the world. This rise highlights the positive impact of the team's performance in the AFCON qualifiers, where they demonstrated resilience and tactical discipline against strong opponents. The upward movement in the rankings also reflects the continued development of Tanzanian football on the global stage.

On the global stage, the top five ranked teams remain unchanged. Argentina, fresh from their 2022 World Cup triumph, continues to lead the rankings, followed closely by France, Spain, England, and Brazil. These teams have consistently dominated the world football scene, thanks to their deep talent pools and strong footballing cultures.

In Africa, Morocco leads the way, followed by Senegal, Egypt, Ivory Coast, and Tunisia. Morocco's leadership in African football has been driven by their impressive performances in both continental and global

tournaments, including a historic semi-final run in the 2022 World Cup.

The Taifa Stars' recent success is a testament to the country's growing football potential. The four points harvested in the qualifiers have not only bolstered Tanzania's chances of securing a spot in the AFCON finals but also underscored their ambition to establish themselves as a footballing force in Africa. The 110th position marks a significant improvement for Tanzania, a nation that has been steadily climbing the ranks in world football over recent years. The success in the qualifiers has been a key factor in this rise, providing the Taifa Stars with the confidence and momentum to continue challenging stronger teams across the continent.

Tanzania's upward trajectory in the rankings comes as a result of a series of disciplined performances, with the team now focused on maintaining their form as they eye a spot in the AFCON finals. The country's football governing body, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), has also been instrumental in implementing strategies aimed at improving the national team's performance on the international stage.

While Tanzania's rise in the rankings is commendable, their neighbours and rivals in the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) region have also seen significant movements. Uganda, another CECAFA member, has moved five places up in the world rankings, from 95th to 90th. This jump makes Uganda

the highest-ranked nation in the CECAFA region, showcasing their continued dominance in East African football.

Uganda's improvement in the rankings is a reflection of their consistent performances in international matches, particularly in their AFCON qualification campaign. The Cranes, as the Ugandan national team is known, have long been a formidable force in the CECAFA region, and their latest rise in the rankings further cements their position as the region's football powerhouse.

Kenya has also made a notable leap in the world rankings, moving six places from 108th to 102nd. The Kenyan national team, the Harambee Stars, have shown improvement in recent international fixtures, and their rise in the rankings reflects their growing competitiveness on the African football scene.

Kenya's ascent can be attributed to a combination of strong performances in the AFCON qualifiers and friendly matches, which have contributed to their steady climb in the rankings. The team's progress has been met with optimism from Kenyan football fans, who are hopeful that their national team will continue to improve and challenge for top honours in the region.

The latest FIFA rankings have brought mixed results for other CECAFA nations. Sudan has inched up one place, moving from 121st to 120th, while Rwanda has risen slightly from 131st to 130th. Burundi, on the other hand, has climbed three places, moving from 139th to 136th.

However, not all CECAFA

nations experienced positive movements. Ethiopia, despite their strong footballing history, dropped two places, falling from 143rd to 145th. South Sudan also faced a setback, dropping three places from 169th to 172nd in the world rankings.

Despite these setbacks, the CECAFA region continues to show promise, with several countries making strides in their football development. The fluctuating rankings highlight the competitive nature of the region's football landscape, where teams are constantly battling to improve their positions on the world stage.

Further down the rankings, Djibouti has shown some improvement, rising from 193rd to 192nd. However, Somalia has remained in the same position, holding onto 202nd place, while Eritrea remains rooted at the bottom of the global rankings.

These nations have faced significant challenges in their football development, often struggling to compete at the highest level due to limited resources and infrastructure. However, their continued participation in international competitions provides hope for future growth and development in the region.

The next FIFA rankings are expected to be released on October 24, 2024, and will likely reflect the outcomes of upcoming international fixtures, including AFCON qualifiers. For Tanzania and other CECAFA nations, the focus will remain on securing qualification for the Afcon finals and continuing their upward trajectory in world football.



## Man City and Inter Milan draw 0-0 in goal-shy Champions League. PSG scores late to beat Girona

GENEVA

WHERE did all the goals go?

The 0-0 draws between Manchester City and Inter Milan in their rematch of the 2023 final, after Bologna and Shakhtar Donetsk also could not find a goal, capped an untypically goal-shy evening for the Champions League on Wednesday.

Just 13 were scored in six games one day after 28 were fired in Tuesday, including nine by Bayern Munich alone.

How unusual was this? Two 0-0 draws after just 12 of 144 games to be played in the new league phase is already halfway to the total of four in 96 games one year ago in the group-stage format that is now abolished. The entire competition averaged three goals per game last season.

Paris Saint-Germain and Girona also were heading for a blank until a horrible 90th-minute error by the Spanish debutant's goalkeeper, Paulo Gazzaniga – spilling a cross by Nuno Mendes through his own legs – gifted a 1-0 win.

"We won't get to where we want to overnight," Girona coach Michel said. "It requires hard work."

Borussia Dortmund needed late goals from substitutes Jamie Gittens, twice, and Serhou Guirassy with a stoppage-time penalty to win 3-0 at Club Brugge.

The new format has welcomed new faces and long-absent friends in European soccer's marquee competition.

Sparta Prague rose to the challenge of its first game for 19 years at this stage of the Champions League by beating Salzburg 3-0.

Bologna waited 60 years to return and deserved more for its attacking ambition against Champions League veteran Shakhtar. The Ukrainian champion had a penalty saved in the fourth minute by Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski.

Slovan Bratislava was overmatched in its first game since 1992-93, the first season of the Champions League rebrand from the old European Cup, and with Georgia defender Guram Kashia making his competition debut at age 37.

They could not keep out Celtic, which won 5-1 in Glasgow. Ireland internationals Liam Scales and Adam Idah, Japan forwards Kyogo Furuhashi and Daizen Maeda, and Arne Engels of Belgium scored for the champion of Scotland.

"The quality of the goals was sensational," Celtic coach Brendan Rodgers said after just a fourth win in 33 Champions League games for the 1967 European Cup winner.

A rare Thursday slate of Champions League games will see Barcelona go to Monaco, Atalanta host Arsenal and Bayer Leverkusen visit Feyenoord.

Six games on each of three straight nights are launching the new format. Now, 36 teams each play eight different opponents through January and are ranked in a single league table to decide which teams advance to the knockout phase.

### \*Man City held in rare home shutout

There was nothing to separate the champions of England and Italy, 15 months after Man City beat Inter 1-0 in Istanbul to lift the European Cup trophy for the first time.

Ilkay Gundogan wasted two late chances for manager Pep Guardiola's team, failing to convert two headed chances.

It was the first time City had failed to score at home in Europe's elite tournament since being held 0-0 by Sporting Lisbon in March 2022, and just the second time at home in all competitions since then. The other was a 0-0 draw with Arsenal in the Premier League in March.

But the result saw City extend its six-year unbeaten home run in European games to 32, dating to a 2-1 loss to Lyon.

"I'm pleased with our performance, I liked everything," Guardiola said.

### Dortmund keeps clean sheet, again, somehow

Dortmund's defense had a Champions League-best six clean sheets last season on its way to the final, where Real Madrid found two late goals to take the title.

Somehow, goalkeeper Gregor Kobel kept out Brugge despite 18 goal attempts including a close-range shot by Hugo Vetlesen that rattled the crossbar in the 12th minute. Vetlesen's effort ended a manic series of four shots in a matter of seconds from a corner including a diving save by Kobel.

The Switzerland 'keeper's five saves meant Dortmund did not pay for its own wastefulness in front of goal until taking the lead in the 76th from a Gittens shot that deflected off two defenders before looping past Simon Mignolet into the Brugge net.

### \*Salzburg's heavy load

Few clubs will play more international games this season than Salzburg, under its new coach Pep Lijnders, the former long-time assistant to Jürgen Klopp at Liverpool.

Salzburg had to advance through two Champions League qualifying rounds in August – because its 10-year title run in Austria was ended by Sturm Graz – and will play at least three more games in June at the Club World Cup in the United States.

Salzburg qualified among 12 European teams going to the relaunched FIFA club event because of its consistent results in the past four Champions League seasons, but was upstaged in Prague.

# Manchester City's stalemate with Inter Milan reveals why Uefa changed the Champions League

By Richard Jolly

IF the revamped Champions League was supposed to inject the competition with more drama, perhaps Uefa could still savour the scoreline in a stalemate. Manchester City scored 18 goals in their pool matches last season but it was more an indictment of the group stages than an advertisement for it as they cruised through. With a new format, Inter Milan instead illustrated why they had run City so close in the 2023 final. As European heavyweights collided again, English and Italian champions proved evenly matched.

That is a credit to Simone Inzaghi: Inter were expertly organised and, even in a draw, theirs was a triumph of intelligent tactics. They did not merely extend Erling Haaland's wait to bring up his century of City goals; they outshot Pep Guardiola's team in the first half and, until a late flurry from the hosts, had more attempts on target. Inzaghi was more animated than Guardiola in the technical areas, too. It symbolised the verve in his side. Quite what it means remains to be seen: these two sides should be assured of a top-24 finish and very probably the top-eight position that will spare them the play-off round.



A frustrated Erling Haaland found himself stuck on 99 goals for Man City (AP)

The new structure was designed with this kind of marquee tie in mind, and not merely in the knockout stages. Inter were nevertheless underdogs, just as they had been in Istanbul. City top the Uefa coefficient. They always tended to top four-team groups, too. They may yet finish first of 36 in the new structure, but it represented an underwhelming start. While City extended their unbeaten run at home to 47 games, this was only the second time in 40 Champions League group matches at the Etihad Stadium that they failed to score. This was not a day when they appeared unstoppable.

Nor after two hat-tricks and a double in three matches,

did Haaland. He had a header held by Yann Sommer and, from the edge of the box, shot narrowly wide but Inter marshalled him well. They prevented him from scoring in Istanbul, too. So Haaland is stranded on 99 for a little longer; a nervous time for many a cricketer, but probably not for a Norwegian striker.

And without Haaland scoring, no one else did. It underlined that Guardiola is yet to settle on his strongest side. He had not needed to name it for City to amass a 100 per cent record in the Premier League. So this selection was notable for a couple of inclusions – with Jack Grealish and Savinho designed to add width, though neither tormented the

Inter wing-backs – and two omissions. Phil Foden is yet to begin a game this season. The Champions League-winning captain Ilkay Gundogan was benched.

Each, however, was introduced after City lacked a threat in the first half, when Savinho and Kevin De Bruyne, who looked injured, were removed. They sparked an improvement and had City's clearest chances. Foden drilling a shot at Yann Sommer, Gundogan directing an 89th-minute header at the goalkeeper and an injury-time attempt over the bar. Sommer also saved well from Josko Gvardiol, but he was scarcely overworked. City may have sensed a repeat of the 2023 final when Rodri, their match-winner then, let fly, but his shot whizzed past the post. Otherwise, the Spaniard looked rusty on his first start of the campaign.

And Inter excelled. In part, that came from a defensive excellence that conformed to Italian stereotypes. But they had a threat, too, and a capacity to find space in possession. They showed ambition on the counter-attack. The elusive frontrunner Marcus Thuram angled two shots just wide of the goal.

There was an intelligence whenever Inter broke. It sometimes involved wing-backs timing their run into the City box and Ederson blocked a shot

from the overlapping Carlos Augusto. On the other flank, Matteo Darmian defied his age with a vibrant display. The former Manchester United defender attempted an audacious effort from an acute angle after Ederson's miscued clearance, with Josko Gvardiol providing a rescue act to head away, and Inter could rue the moment when Darmian, free and the City box, backheeled the ball to Grealish instead of shooting.

Inzaghi had a fine bench, too, and turned to it. When substitutes combined, Denzel Dumfries speeding clear on the right flank, Henrikh Mkhitaryan blazed over. Lautaro Martinez, who had been benched, emerged to test Ederson in the final minutes.

It was still City, with Gundogan's ability to sniff out an opening, who eventually looked more likely to pilfer the points. If it offered Guardiola food for thought for Arsenal's visit on Sunday, with Gundogan's display suggesting he should start such a defining fixture, it also brought something different to the Etihad Stadium. For now, City, the 2023 champions and many people's favourites, stand 12th in the table. They are unlikely to stay there but the Champions League has changed. And as the goals didn't go in, that may have been welcomed in the corridors of power.

THE INDEPENDENT

## How Leipzig became 'perfect' destination for Europe's young stars

By Alex Bysouth

FRESH from a summer projecting himself as one of Europe's finest playmakers, the loss of Dani Olmo may well have sparked concern at RB Leipzig.

Instead, the Bundesliga club celebrated the transfer as confirmation of a philosophy that has seen them emerge as the go-to destination for young talent.

Olmo's departure in a £51m deal for La Liga giants Barcelona followed a victorious Euro 2024 campaign with Spain, in which he finished as joint top-scorer and came on the back of four promising years at club level in Leipzig, having joined the club from Dinamo Zagreb.

He joins a stellar list of names to have been recruited by the club, or the wider Red Bull model, developed and sold on for healthy profit.

It is the fourth time in two years Leipzig have banked more than £50m on a player, with midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai joining Liverpool, forward Christopher Nkunku moving to Chelsea and defender Josko Gvardiol signing for Manchester City – the club's record sale at £77m.

For Marcel Schafer – the RB Leipzig managing director of sport who joined from Wolfsburg in the summer – the sale of Olmo, along with that of 24-year-old defender Mohamed Simakan to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr for £29m, presented an opportunity rather than a setback.

In came highly-touted 19-year-old winger Antonio Nusa, teenage midfielder prospects Assan Ouedraogo and Arthur Vermeeren, initially on

loan, 22-year-old goalkeeper Maarten Vandevoordt and 24-year-old defender Lutsharel Geertruida – all for a combined £30m less than this summer's sales.

"My feeling after the first transfer window was the players definitely want to come to Leipzig because they saw so many examples in the past," explains Schafer.

"It is not only Dani Olmo, it is Josko Gvardiol, it is Szoboszlai, it is Nkunku, and so many more examples.

"They see exactly that this club has a huge potential, it is a perfect club, not only in Germany, but in the whole of Europe for young, top talents."

It is not that Leipzig merely want to develop talented players to then sell them, they believe their methods can be – and have been – successful.

The club have won the German Cup twice, reached the Champions League semi-finals and will kick off their sixth successive campaign in the competition at Atletico Madrid on Thursday.

Quickly scaling the German football pyramid following Red Bull's takeover in 2009, they have only finished outside the top four once in eight Bundesliga seasons and twice ended as runners-up.

"We are confirming it every single summer in every transfer window, we are the perfect club for young players, to help them for a certain time in their career and then to bring them to absolutely top clubs," says Schafer.

"Because we are realistic, we have huge potential, we are all convinced

here that we have the possibility to compete with very, very good teams in all our competitions. But there are maybe 10 more clubs in Europe, we know they are maybe above us.

"But this is exactly our strategy, our philosophy. So, for example, Dani Olmo – everyone here at the club was very happy that Dani made the step because it helps us to get the next young, top, top talents."

Other top sales include Naby Keita, Ibrahim Konate and Dayot Upamecano to Liverpool and Bayern Munich, who like Szoboszlai joined from Red Bull Salzburg.

There is an argument that were Leipzig able to hang on to their top talents they could field an incredibly strong team, but there are no plans to change strategy.

"Sometimes you need to consider the view of a player," adds Schafer. "If you keep a player or block a player when he has a chance to go to Real Madrid or FC Barcelona, is he still the same player in the next year? Does he still have the same mindset?"

"If a player wants to leave, if the economic part is OK for all the parties, you definitely need to consider it as a club like Leipzig because we always want young and hungry players.

"We don't think it's only, 'we need to keep all the players for five to 10 years and we'll win everything' – we don't think like that."

\*Simons and Sesko a signal

### of intent

RB Leipzig did retain two of the most promising 21-year-olds in European football in Netherlands international Xavi Simons and Slovenia forward Benjamin Sesko.

Simons returned on loan for another season from Paris Saint-Germain, with Schafer calling him "one of the best players in Europe" last summer and "an amazing signal for everyone that we as a club achieved the next level".

"He was very clear about his personal career plan, he wants to be a key player, he wants to be a leader, to do for him the next step," adds the 40-year-old. "And afterwards, everything is possible for him.

"He definitely embodies what we as a club are – no limits, we can reach everything.

"About next summer, it is difficult to say. But of course, it is our goal not only to sell all the best players, even to keep our best players."

Sesko, meanwhile, scored 18 goals last season after arriving from Salzburg and signed a new deal in June amid reported interest from Arsenal.

"He is in my opinion a complete striker," says Schafer. "He is tall, he is quick, he has a good header. Left and right foot, he is good in shooting. We need to work with him a little bit on his first touch. That is something there is space for potential.

"He has everything a top striker in the world needs. He has a good mindset but he needs to keep it,

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



AP



# SPORT

Manchester City's stalemate with Inter Milan reveals why Uefa changed the Champions League

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## Pep Guardiola is facing more questions about his Manchester City future

MANCHESTER, England

INTO the final year of his contract at Manchester City, questions are being asked again about Pep Guardiola's future.

The latest came after Wednesday's Champions League game against Inter Milan, with an Italian journalist asking if Guardiola could see himself working in Italy one day.

"I love English football, it is fantastic, really enjoyable. They leave you alone to get on with the job. That doesn't happen anywhere else," the City manager said.

Guardiola has already stayed at City for longer than any of his other managerial jobs - and longer than many expected when he was appointed in 2016.

It will be nine years by the end of the season, compared to four at Barcelona and three at Bayern Munich.

"It's a great club. I really feel good being here," he said.

Guardiola likely knows he will never find another club like City in elite European soccer. Backed by the spectacular riches of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, he has been allowed to build a team in his image, with exorbitant amounts spent to assemble a squad that has enjoyed unprecedented dominance of the Premier League.

He has close relationships with his immediate superiors at the club - CEO Ferran Soriano and sporting director Txiki Begiristain, who he previously worked with at Barcelona - and he is idolised by the supporters.

That's a difficult package to walk away from and whenever the possibility has arisen, Guardiola has been convinced to extend his contract.

It has reached that point once again where he must decide if he has the energy or will to go on for longer.

The outcome of the hearing into more than 100 charges of alleged financial breaches that was due to start this week could also be a factor.

Jürgen Klopp's decision to stand down at Liverpool last season was evidence of the toll soccer can take on managers. For long periods he matched Guardiola stride for stride in the battle for supremacy - and even halted City's rule when winning the title in 2020.

The intensity of their rivalry forced each man to greater heights and in January Klopp made the shock announcement that he needed a break from it all.

"It is not what I want to (do), it is just what I think is 100% right," the German said at the time.

Guardiola did likewise when taking a 12-month sabbatical after his first job at Barcelona. He's now been in continuous employment since taking over at Bayern in 2013 - winning league titles in all but two of those 11 seasons.

Those are the levels he has been operating at and that dominance should not be confused with an easy ride - particularly during his time in England when Klopp's Liverpool and latterly Mikel Arteta's Arsenal have pushed City to the limits of their powers to remain at the summit.

Arteta has added a new dimension to England's top flight by transforming Arsenal's fortunes since leaving his role as Guardiola's assistant to take over at The Emirates Stadium in 2019.

He takes his team to City on Sunday as the man likeliest to seize Guardiola's crown.

City vs. Arsenal, Guardiola vs. Arteta. These are now the biggest rivalries at the top of English soccer.

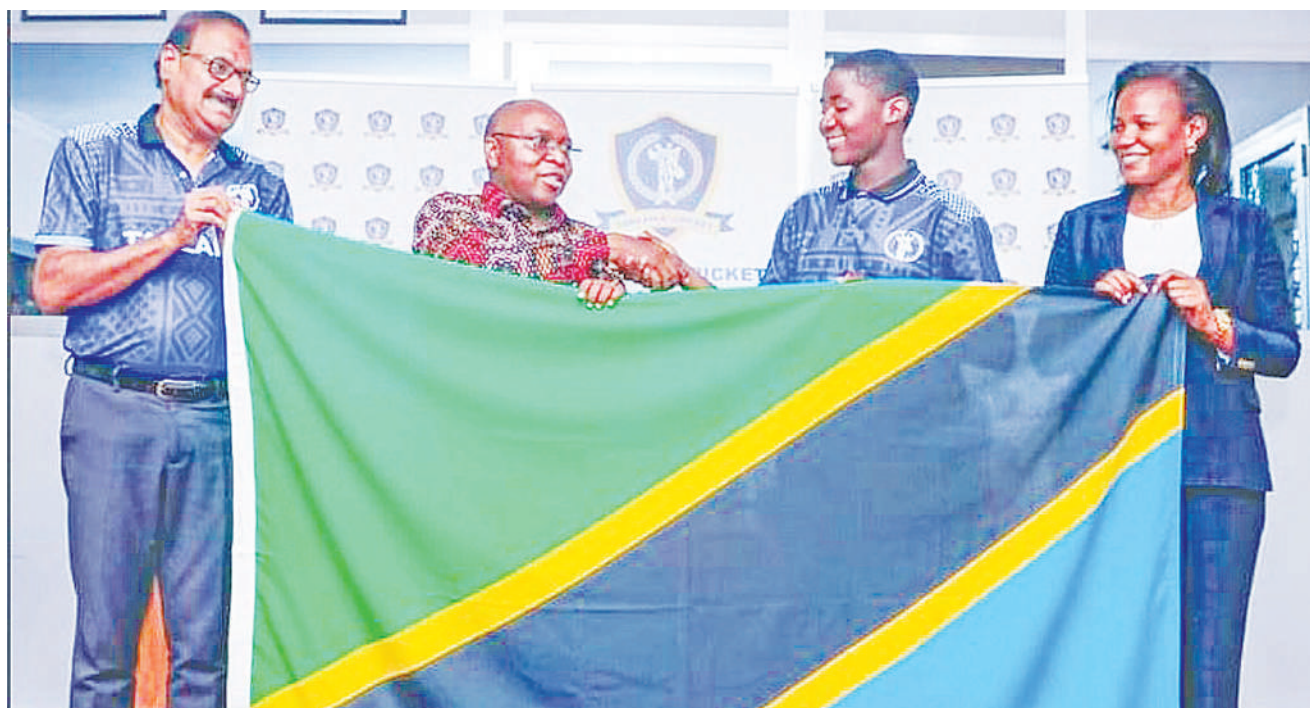
Two seasons ago, Arsenal spent 248 days at the top of the standings, but was eventually beaten to the title by City. No other team had spent so long in first place without being crowned champion.

Last season, Arsenal went even closer when taking the race down to the last day of the campaign, but eventually finished two points behind City.

Arteta has signed a new three-year contract, which is a statement of Arsenal's faith in him to continue to challenge Guardiola.

Over the last two years, however, Arteta - like Klopp before him - has discovered the extraordinary levels required to topple City.

## Tanzania braces for Nigeria test in ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier opener



Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro (2nd L) hands over the national flag to Tanzania's U-19 women's cricket team assistant skipper Agnes Joseph (2nd R), when he bade the squad farewell in Dar es Salaam last week. The team would feature in the ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier from September 22-29 in Kigali, Rwanda. They have been flanked by National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary General Neema Msitha (R) and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar. PHOTO: TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

**T**ANZANIA'S U-19 women's cricket team will get its campaign in the 2025 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier underway on Sunday, facing Nigeria in Kigali, Rwanda.

Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and hosts Rwanda will participate in the regional showpiece, seeking one slot for participation in the ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup.

Tanzania's U-19 women's side, as revealed by the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s Media and Communication Officer, Atif Salim, would jet off to Kigali today for the regional showpiece, slated to conclude on September 29.

Salim exuded confidence, stating the body is optimistic the national U-19 women's cricket side has what it takes to secure progression to the 2025 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup.

He pointed out that the players have had a good time with their coach in training and they went to Uganda for a Bilateral Series recently.

Salim stated: "We are hopeful they are well prepared for the tournament as only one team would get the ticket to go to the

World Cup."

The second match would see the national U-19 women's cricket squad confront Malawi at Gahanga B ground on Monday.

The day would moreover witness the other Group B sides put their virtuosity to show, with Nigeria playing against Zimbabwe on the same ground thereafter.

The national U-19 women's cricket team would wrap up the group stage two days later - locking horns with Zimbabwe at Gahanga B ground.

The semi-finals have been slated for September 28, with the first of which would be played at the Gahanga B ground.

The other semi-final has been scheduled to be played at the Integrated Polytechnic Regional College venue.

The third-place play-off has been scheduled for the following day at the Gahanga B ground, and the final would be played the same day at the same venue.

Cricketers making Tanzania's U-19 women's squad for the coming qualifiers are Agnes Qwele, Mwanaidi Athuman, Saumu Deo, Rebecca Ezekiel, Lightness Elisha, Maria Massawe,

and Joan Elisha.

Adolphina Sylvester, Englid Omurama, Josephine Shirima, Farida Kinyumbi, Rahma Kibwana, Zakia Bewe, and skipper Jenipher Gabriel complete the list.

Arun Yadav is the national U-19 women's cricket team's head coach and Nassib Kelvin is his assistant.

Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro handed over the national flag to the national U-19 women's cricket side at an occasion for bidding the squad farewell, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary General Neema Msitha, TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar, and a section of the association's other officials were also in attendance.

Sreekumar expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the presence of the dignitaries at the occasion.

The TCA boss acknowledged the unwavering support that the government officials have shown towards Tanzania's cricket - a statement of their commitment to the growth of the sport.

The 2025 ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup qualification is a series of

regional qualification tournaments to determine the final four teams for the 2025 U-19 Women's T20 World Cup.

The global showpiece would have the America region lining up the United States, while Samoa is the East-Asia Pacific contender. Europe would enter Scotland.

The Africa Qualifier is divided into two divisions - with Division 2 having taken place in Kigali, Rwanda from August 21-27.

A total of seven women's U-19 teams from the region competed against each other in a single round-robin format.

The top two teams of the Division 2 tournament - Kenya and Malawi - advanced to the main Africa Qualifier.

Kenya and Malawi have joined the U-19 women's teams from Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe in the Division 1 tournament.

The participating teams in the Division 1 tournament have been placed in groups A and B.

Group A teams are Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, and Uganda and squads making Group B are Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

## Gamondi calls for ruthless finishing ahead of Yanga's CAF Champions League return leg

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**Y**OUNG Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi has stressed the need for clinical finishing from his players ahead of the CAF Champions League second preliminary round return leg against Ethiopia's CBE SA.

Despite securing a narrow 1-0 victory in the first leg, Gamondi was frustrated by his team's inability to convert several clear-cut chances.

The first-leg win was courtesy of a goal from Prince Dube, but key players like Max Nzengele, Clatous Chama, Stephanie Aziz Ki, and Dube missed opportunities that could have extended the lead.

Gamondi (pictured) has now called on his squad to be more ruthless in front of goal



to secure their position in the next round.

Speaking about the missed opportunities in Addis Ababa, Gamondi expressed his confidence in the team's ability to improve.

"We had enough chances to make it a bigger win, but that's football. What matters is that the players recognize the need to capitalize on these chances, and we're focused on that for the return leg," he

said.

In the lead-up to the decisive home game, Young Africans intensified their training sessions, focusing particularly on goal-scoring techniques.

The coaching staff has worked closely with attackers and midfielders, providing personalized guidance to improve their finishing ahead of the crucial match slated for tomorrow at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

"We've done a lot of work on scoring. I'm impressed with how our players are responding, and I believe we'll put on a strong performance in front of our fans," Gamondi added.

"Everyone is committed to making up for the missed op-

portunities in Ethiopia."

Young Africans, who are aiming to reach the CAF Champions League group stage for the second consecutive season, are coming off the back of a dominant 10-0 aggregate win over Burundi's Vital'O FC in the first round.

Their confidence has grown after a historic run to the CAF Champions League quarter-finals last season, where they were ultimately eliminated by South African heavyweights Mamelodi Sundowns.

With a motivated squad and a strong home advantage, Young Africans are determined to continue their impressive journey and make an even deeper impact in this year's competition.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

