



## TRC to receive 264 cargo rail wagons early next month

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A CONSIGNMENT of 264 cargo wagons procured by the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) from China will be delivered early next month.

The wagons are being awaited to boost the corporation's services and revenue prospects, following the introduction of electric passenger trains, where a total of 18bn/- has been earned since its launch on July 1.

Fred Mwanjala, the TRC head of communications, confirmed yesterday that the shipment departed from China on November 12, consisting of 200 container carrier wagons and 64 loose cargo wagons.

This shipment is part of a larger order of 1,480 wagons of which 264 have now been delivered, as two years ago, TRC signed a contract with the Chinese state-run CRRC International, the world's largest supplier of rail transit equipment.

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Yanga finally part ways with coach Miguel Gamondi

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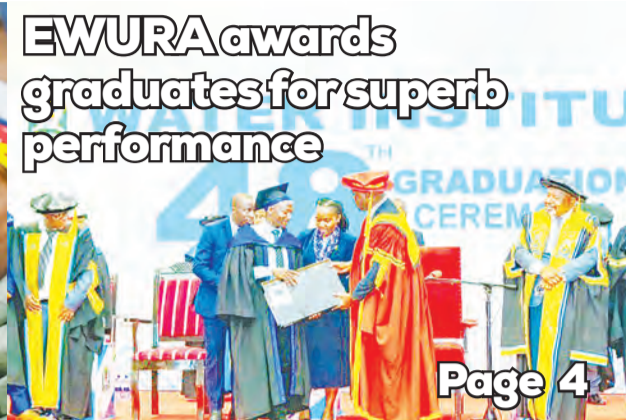


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# TCRA ready to license Elon Musk's internet subsidiary



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with Hassan Saleh on arrival at Maungani kwa Hafidh Ali Mosque in Zanzibar's West 'B' District yesterday for Friday prayers. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Key issues, such as the allocation of spectrum rights—essential for satellite internet services—have required extensive negotiation. Additionally, Starlink has had to ensure compliance with strict data protection and privacy regulations,

By Guardian Reporter

INTERNET services in the country are set to improve after three international companies officially applied for a license from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), one of them linked to the world's richest person, Elon Musk.

In a public notice issued yesterday, TCRA stated that Starlink Satellite (T) Ltd, GX Technologies Co. Ltd and the Mauritian firm Paratus (T) Ltd have submitted applications for national network facilities and national application services licenses.

Starlink parent company main shareholder Elon Musk, a member of the inner circle of incoming president Donald Trump, has previously expressed frustration with delays in Starlink's international rollout, particularly in countries where regulatory approval processes have been slow, the report said.

In the notice, TCRA set a 14-day public comment window regarding those applications, with a decision on approval expected as the consultation window closes.

It stressed the importance of ensuring that Starlink operations align with local regulations on data security and internet governance, noting that by improving internet access, the new companies could help unlock new economic opportunities.

They would help to enhance educational access and spur innovation, particularly in rural areas where reliable connectivity has often been a challenge, it said, affirming that the entry of Starlink into the market has

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## TEC appeals for transparent civic polls, urges big turnout

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) has called for the establishment of a fair and transparent system to manage local government elections, one that ensures the participation of every citizen in the democratic process.

Rt. Rev. Wolfgang Pisa, the TEC president, said in a statement issued yesterday that a fair election must be based on the principles of

Real development belongs to the people and is driven by the people. The people must be both the source and the goal of development. They are the ones with the authority to make decisions for their own future

freedom, justice, transparency, neutrality, and respect for the supremacy of the people's will over their elected leaders.

The Catholic episcopacy

expressed appreciation for the solidarity of Tanzanians and their desire to govern themselves through active participation in the voter registration process.

"As we approach the election, we, your spiritual leaders in the Catholic Church, stand with Tanzanians in their quest to elect local government leaders through free and fair elections," the statement affirmed.

Bishop Pisa, who is Lindi Diocese bishop since May 2022 and TEC president since June 2024 reminded the public that governments

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## UNICEF: 90pc of ten-year-olds in southern Africa mostly 'illiterate'

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## TCRA set to license Elon Musk's internet subsidiary

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been long anticipated. The company has faced a number of regulatory hurdles, including negotiations over spectrum rights and compliance with Tanzania's data protection laws, the regulator specified, hinting that this application marks a milestone in Starlink's ongoing efforts to expand its global footprint.

It will bring high-speed satellite internet to underserved areas of Tanzania, as its efforts to establish a presence in Tanzania have been complicated by protracted discussions with the government.

"Key issues, such as the allocation of spectrum rights—essential for satellite internet services—have required extensive negotiation. Additionally, Starlink has had to ensure compliance with strict data protection and privacy regulations," the notice intimated.

Despite the challenges, the company remains optimistic about its ability to deliver high-speed internet to underserved regions across Tanzania, analysts noted, asserting that Starlink's satellite technology is known for providing fast, reliable internet in areas that lack traditional broadband infrastructure such as fiber-optic networks or wireless coverage.

In Tanzania, where large swathes of the population live in rural and remote regions with limited internet access, Starlink's service could fill a crucial gap.

The Tanzanian market presents a significant opportunity for Starlink, which aims to bridge the digital divide by offering affordable, high-speed internet to millions of Tanzanians, particularly those in areas that have long struggled with connectivity issues, they added.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (in jungle hat) congratulates Ikona Wildlife Management Area community chairman Elias Chama yesterday shortly after inaugurating a 22-kilometre road within the conservation area – in Serengeti District's Ikona ward. Photo courtesy of NR&T ministry

## UNICEF: 90pc of ten-year-olds in southern Africa mostly 'illiterate'

By Guardian Reporter

NINE out of ten children aged 10 are unable to read a simple text or solve basic math problems across eastern and southern Africa

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) made this observation in a statement issued yesterday, citing results of a new survey it has conducted across the region, in collaboration with national governments and partners.

This lack of foundational skills not only threatens the futures of individual children but also poses a significant obstacle to the broader development of the region, it said in a statement issued as World Children's Day approaches.

UNICEF is urging governments across the region to prioritize education in their national budgets, advocating for at least 20 percent of public spending to be devoted to education.

The goal is to ensure that all children have access to quality, inclusive and relevant education, it says, in a report that indicates both encouraging levels of awareness and pressing challenges faced by children.

The survey, which gathered data of over 5,471 children in multiple countries, underscores significant barriers to education that persist, "even as children become increasingly aware of their rights," the UN agency affirmed.

It emphasized the urgent need for

policies and support to address these obstacles and improve access to education across the region, where children in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in U-report surveys.

An online entry says that a U-report is a social messaging tool and data collection system developed to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders and foster positive change. The programme sends SMS polls and alerts to its participants, collecting real-time responses and subsequently publishes gathered data.

Issues polled include health, education, gender, climate change, water, sanitation and hygiene, youth un-

employment, HIV/AIDS and disease outbreaks, thus UNICEF used this method in the surveys, basically on-line polls and face-to-face consultations, the statement affirmed.

The results show that over 87 percent of children are aware of their rights, with 50 percent identifying the right to education as one of their most important. Despite this awareness, substantial challenges remain, it says.

The survey identifies key barriers to education as including the lack of learning materials, school fees, long distances to schools and overworked teachers. Encouragingly, 62 percent of children expressed a desire to play an active role in improving the quality of education.

In Tanzania, more than 14,000 children took part in a survey focused on the country's Vision 2050. The results revealed that 40 percent of respondents believe education should be the nation's top priority by 2050, while 30 percent prioritised infrastructure development. Among education reforms, digital literacy emerged as the leading focus, followed by entrepreneurship and vocational training, the report indicated.

In Somalia, UNICEF conducted consultations with 321 children across five states to inform its new country program strategy. The interviews revealed that many children, particularly those who are internally displaced or from minority com-

munities (representing 50 percent of the sample), do not attend school in a safe, clean or accessible environment. Girls, who made up 52 percent of the sample, and children with disabilities, face particular challenges. Somalia's overall primary school enrolment rate stands at just 34 percent, and many children reported a lack of basic learning materials such as desks and chairs. Many girls also expressed concerns about safety in and around schools, as well as a lack of access to menstrual hygiene products, which calls for improved support for menstrual health and hygiene in schools.

"The challenges of education across Sub-Saharan Africa are stark," the statement intoned.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) pictured in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Thursday speaking at a high-level ministerial meeting focused on mobilising funds to combat climate change. It was on the sidelines of the ongoing 29th Conference of the Parties (COP-29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Photo: Finance ministry.

## TRC to receive 264 cargo rail wagons by next month

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It envisaged the procurement of a total of 1,430 wagons to be used on the standard gauge railway (SGR) valued at \$127.26m, signed in Dar es Salaam.

TRC director general Masanja Kadogosa and CRRC International assistant general manager Tang Yunpeng signed the agreement, where delivery of the wagons after design and production was set to be done within 12 months.

The TRC CEO said that the new wagons would enhance SGR project efficiency and help meet increasing demand for cargo transportation, while the CRRC executive stated in assurance that the company was committed to delivering high-quality wagons on schedule.

Tanzania is currently constructing a 1,637 km SGR line connecting the port city of Dar es Salaam to Mwanza in the north, with accords already signed to extend the line to Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The rail extension is expected to be crucial in easing transit trade, now largely dependent on expensive road haulage, further boosting regional trade and economic growth, officials assert.

## TEC appeals for transparent civic polls, urges big turnout

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are formed primarily to foster development and improve the lives of the people, "ensuring that every group's dignity is respected, protected and nurtured."

He cited Article 21 of the 1977 Constitution which affirms that every citizen has both the right and the duty to participate in public affairs, including elections.

"Real development belongs to the

people and is driven by the people. The people must be both the source and the goal of development. They are the ones with the authority to make decisions for their own future," the prelate declared.

The statement reiterated that for the local government elections to be successful, there must be a clear, fair, and accountable system in place to manage the election process.

TEC expressed concern over the mismanagement of the election process so far, noting widespread complaints about the fairness of the proceedings, pointing at "the careless handling of the 2024 voter registration exercise, including the failure to issue voter identification cards and the blatant favouritism shown by officials."

They moved to exclude large numbers of voters especially from

opposition parties. This has marred the integrity of the electoral process, the council asserted, it said, urging the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) to ensure that the voting process adheres to democratic principles.

Only those who win legally are announced as victors, it underlined, stressing that election supervisors must conduct the process impar-

tially, ensuring that no party is favoured. "Disregarding the people's will leads to electing leaders who do not represent the true choice of the people," it said, hinting on the importance of integrity.

"Let us not build a society of fraud. Let us build a nation founded on truth and justice," the prelate intoned, asserting that divinity has place for deception, desiring that we live according to principles of

justice and truth.

TEC appealed to eligible voters to turn out in large numbers on November 27, demanding that the President's Office (PO-RALG) facilitate a smooth polls run to ensure that democracy flourishes.

That would send a message to the world that the country remains an island of peace, the statement added.



National Bank of Commerce officials Gaspar Kimaro (R) and Johnson Kato (2nd-R) escorted by a police officer shortly after being charged with money laundering, fraud and forgery at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## US pledges \$500,000 to strengthen Tanzania's defence against Marburg

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States has committed \$500,000 in immediate financial assistance to support Tanzania's prevention and preparation for potential outbreaks of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD).

"The United States supports Tanzania's quick actions to prepare for Marburg should cases cross the border into Tanzania," said US Ambassador Michael Battle in a statement yesterday.

"We are proud to support efforts to protect health and security of all Tanzanians through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. government agency leading international development and humanitarian aid."

Building on past US-funded health systems investments in Tanzania and the lessons learned from the 2023 MVD outbreak, USAID will support the government through WHO and UNICEF to strengthen Tanzanian labs to safely test for the disease, train healthcare workers to iden-

tify and provide care to potential patients and educate communities about what the disease is and how to prevent spreading it to others.

The funding will also be used to prepare emergency operations centers and to conduct simulations to ensure a rapid response if cases are identified in Tanzania.

"The United States is honoured to partner with the government of Tanzania to support the country's outbreak readiness and ensure health and safety of all Tanzanians."



**We are proud to support efforts to protect health and security of all Tanzanians through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. government agency leading international**

## Traditional leaders want Usangu Ranch allocated to herders to end land conflict

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

TRADITIONAL leaders in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region, have called on the government to allocate plots at Usangu Ranch for herders to resolve the growing conflict over livestock grazing within the boundaries of Ruaha National Park.

The ranch is under the Tanzania National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO).

The leaders—representatives of the Maasai, Sangu and Sukuma communities—explained that local herders are forced to take their livestock to the park in search of water and pasture.

During the meeting with officials from Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) here recently, the leaders said the situation has led to ongoing tensions with the park authorities as grazing within the park is illegal and threatens the park's ecology.

Discussions focused on how to prevent livestock from entering Ihefu Basin, an area that is part of Ruaha National Park and crucial to the park's environmental sustainability.

Makresia Pawa, former chairman of Mbarali District Pastoralists' Association, said that the conflict between herders and park

authorities is not a new issue. He noted that clashes have sometimes escalated into violence, with fatalities reported.

According to Pawa, while NARCO farm is the only designated grazing land available for herders, it has not been allocated to the local communities. Instead, much of the land has been taken by individuals from outside the district, with some transforming the land into rice farms instead of using it for grazing.

"There are no designated grazing areas for herders, not even within the villages. The few spaces that were set aside have been re-

purposed by village leaders, leaving us without land to graze our livestock," Pawa said.

Barick Julius, Mbarali Pastoralists' Association secretary highlighted the severe shortage of grazing land in the district.

He noted that the land currently allocated for livestock in Mbarali can only support 60,000 animals while there are more than 220,000 livestock in the area.

"This shortfall in available grazing land has led to growing competition for resources, pushing herders to graze their animals within the protected boundaries of the national park," he said.

Julius explained that despite their efforts to engage the government on the issue, local herders have not received any response regarding the allocation of NARCO land. "We urge the government to assist us. The NARCO land is the only viable solution that can help reduce the conflicts and prevent further environmental damage to the park. We understand the importance of the park and we do not want our livestock to invade it," Julius said.

Godwell Ole Meing'ataki, Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner at Ruaha National Park issued a warning to herders who

continue to graze their livestock in the Ihefu Basin.

He stated that legal action will be taken against those who violate park regulations.

Ole Meing'ataki emphasized that the park's ongoing operations to curb livestock incursions are crucial to protecting both the park's ecosystem and the Ruaha River which is vital for the region's water supply.

Frank Sichalwe, Mbarali District Administrative Secretary appealed to herders to reduce their livestock numbers in order to ease the strain on grazing land and minimize the potential for further conflicts.



Dr Doreen Gasper (L) from the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute in Dar es Salaam attends to Fausta Mbuya at a medical camp for non-communicable diseases organised by the Health ministry in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Tanzania for clean cooking energy boost across Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

MINISTER for Finance Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has called on the private sector and development partners to support efforts to promote use of clean cooking energy for the benefit of people's health and the environment across Africa.

Dr Nchemba made the call yesterday during a meeting on the importance of clean cooking energy where he spoke on behalf of Vice President Dr Philip Mpango on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP-29) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He emphasised the need for African countries to implement policies that accelerate adoption of clean cooking technologies and allocate sufficient funding to support communities, particularly those most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change.

"It is essential to build partnerships aimed at enhancing skills and expertise to ensure that the challenges related to the limited use of clean cooking technologies are addressed with long-term solutions," he said.

Dr Nchemba also highlighted the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders to create enabling environment for clean cooking energy programmes which contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future for the entire continent.

The clean cooking energy meeting was organised by Tanzania in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the African Energy Commission (AFREC) on the sidelines of COP29.

Over 50,000 delegates, including diplomats from more than 200 UN member states, gathered in Baku to discuss strategies for tackling the impacts of climate change, including securing reliable funding sources to implement key projects such as promotion of clean cooking energy.

## Health experts urged to intensify efforts to limit premature deaths

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

HEALTH experts have been urged to intensify efforts, leverage technology to save the lives of premature babies as part of Tanzania's commitment to reducing infant mortality rates.

The goal is to bring the infant mortality rate below 12 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030.

Prof. Mohamed Janabi, Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) Ex-

ecutive Director said this yesterday during an event to mark World Prematurity Day at the hospital in Dar es Salaam.

The event also saw the launch of the Lactation Management Unit, a key initiative aimed at improving care for premature infants.

In his address, Prof. Janabi explained that approximately 24 out of every 1,000 infants in Tanzania die within the first 28 days of life.

He emphasized that strategies to

reduce the deaths must be sustainable and involve active cooperation of all health sector stakeholders. A crucial component of the effort is improving the skills and capacity of health workers to care for newborns, especially preterm infants.

"The government through the Ministry of Health has been coordinating several programmes aimed at reducing infant and under-five mortality rates. The initiatives in-

clude efforts to assist newborns with breathing after birth, expanding neonatal services by constructing units in regional and district hospitals and providing essential newborn care training for healthcare workers," he said.

On the new the lactation management unit, Prof. Janabi explained that the initiative also supports the government's goal of encouraging exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life

which is essential for healthy development of infants, particularly those born prematurely.

"The ability to store breast milk ensures that even if mothers are unable to be with their babies at all times, their infants can still receive the nourishment they need," he said.

Dr Martha Mkony, a paediatric specialist at MNH, highlighted that nearly one in 10 children born in Africa are premature. Premature babies face numerous challenges,

including respiratory issues, infections, feeding difficulties and long-term growth risks.

"Despite the challenges, there is hope. The government has made significant strides in improving the care of premature infants. There have been notable advancements in upgrading health centres and hospitals as well as in training health professionals to provide better care for the vulnerable babies," she said.

## MUHAS inks agreement for construction of new campus

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MUHIMBILI University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) has signed a 50bn/- agreement with two companies to construct a new medical campus at its Mloganzila site in Dar es Salaam.

The signing ceremony which took place yesterday was attended by MUHAS Vice Chancellor Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa and the representatives of Mohamed Builders and Hainan International Co Ltd—the two companies—with MUHAS Board Chairman Dr Harrison Mwakyembe witnessing the event.

Providing an overview of the project, Prof. Erasto Mbughi, Coordinator of Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project at MUHAS said that the construction will span 18 months.

He said the project is divided into two major lots: the first, valued at 23.4bn/- will involve construction of an administration building, a library, ICT facilities and additional infrastructure such as a football field and pedestrian walkways. The second lot, worth over 26.7bn/-,

will focus on building lecture halls, laboratories, hostels and a cafeteria.

Prof Mbughi emphasized that the completion of the new medical campus will play a crucial role in addressing shortage of health-care professionals by increasing the capacity of MUHAS.

He also noted that the project is part of the HEET initiative which has been funded by the World Bank.

The project officially began in July 2021 and is expected to be completed by July 2026.

Prof. Kamuhabwa urged the contractors to ensure that the project delivers value for money, noting that the contractors were selected based on their merits.

He emphasized the importance of timely completion in line with the agreed contract terms and pledged his full support for the project.

Ubungu District Commissioner Hassan Bombo also called on the contractors to prioritize both timely completion and value for money.

He highlighted that the government's investment in the project underscores its commit-



Jacqueline Felix of Longido town in Arusha Region pictured at the weekend placing eggs in a hatchery for later sale of chicks to poultry dealers who, like her, are members of the Maasai community. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ment to strengthening the health sector in Tanzania.

The HEET project is aligned with Tan-

zania's National Five-Year Development Plan III (2021/22-2025/26) and the National Development Vision 2025 with

the aim of improving the quality of education and contributing to the country's long-term development goals.

## Appeal for increased help to people with disabilities

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has appealed to institutions, stakeholders and individuals to support people with disabilities in the country, saying they also deserve opportunities for development.

Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) Prof Jamal Katundu has

said while the government is doing a lot to support the group, a lot more needs to be done to uplift them. He made the remarks as he received equipment worth over 13.5m/- donated by ASA Microfinance Ltd, a local organization operating in different parts of the country.

As part of its annual activity, the microfinance organization handed over to the PS walking sticks,

wheel chairs and lotion for those with albinism.

The organization that provides small financial assistance to traders launched the programme to support people with disabilities last year, promising to make it sustainable annual event.

Speaking after receiving the donation, Prof Katundu noted that enabling the disabled to move ahead in life is a good act that eve-

ry Tanzanian with ability should practice. "It is the government's desire to fully support people with disability in the country but it is not possible to do it at once, thus we greatly welcome support from other stakeholders" said the PS.

He thanked ASA Microfinance for the continued support that it started last year, ensuring that part of the profit it makes goes to help the needy in the society.

"It is good that you have kept the promise you made last year as we receive the donation today and I humbly request others to follow suit in the efforts to make those with disabilities smile too" added Prof Katundu.

Abu Sayed, ASA Microfinance Tanzania Ltd's acting director noted that support to the disabled is part of his organization's programmes and they will continue

with the practice.

He said part of the profit accrued from small loans to the SMEs is what it takes back to the society, specifically targeting those with special needs such as people with disabilities.

Speaking after receiving a wheel chair, one of the beneficiaries, Mary Masambuli, said through the support, she will be able to carry out her activities with ease.



Zanzibar Commissioner of Police Hamad Khamis Hamad presents an honorary baton to Corporal Violet Temba (R) for excelling in her leadership training at the sergeant rank level held at a pass-out ceremony held at the Zanzibar Police Academy on Thursday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## EWURA awards Water Institute graduates for top performance

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has awarded the top two diploma graduates from the Water Institute laptops and 6m/- cash prize in recognition of their academic excellence.

They are Florence Theonist, a graduate of Diploma in Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Engineering, and Emmanuel Nyaki who earned a Diploma in Water Quality Laboratory Technology. Each got one laptop and 3m/-.

The awards were presented by Minister for Water Jumaa Aweso during the 48th graduation ceremony of the Water Institute in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

In his speech, Aweso emphasized the importance of such incentives in motivating students to excel and take on leadership roles in the sector. "Support like this fuels the drive and ambition of students, encouraging them to pursue excellence in their studies and contribute meaningfully to the nation's development," he said.

Speaking on behalf of EWURA Director-General, David Linda, senior water and environmental engineer, explained that the awards are part of a broader strategy to promote development of skilled professionals within water sector.

He said the gesture also aimed at celebrating their achievements and inspiring other young people to pursue careers in water technology.

Linda noted that water sector in Tanzania faces major challenges, including inequitable access to clean and safe water across the country.

To overcome them, he said, there is a critical need for well-trained profession-

als capable of implementing and maintaining sustainable water systems.

"The impact of these awards goes beyond individual recognition. By encouraging more students to enrol in water-related courses, we are strengthening the pool of qualified professionals who will help address the growing demand for clean water, improve water management practices and enhance the overall quality of service delivery," Linda said.

As Tanzania works towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6 which aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, EWURA's partnership with Water Institute is vital.

"As regulator of the water sector, we understand that without sufficient number of experts, it will be impossible to meet the goal of providing safe and clean water to all Tanzanians. That's why we are committed to working closely with educational institutions like Water Institute to produce a new generation of water experts," he said.

Theonist expressed her gratitude to EWURA for the recognition and support.

"The laptop I received will be vital for my technical work, especially as water engineering heavily relies on digital tools and software for designing, analysing and managing water systems. The award will help me develop further in my career and contribute to improving water services in our communities," she said. Nyaki urged continuing students to remain committed to their studies, emphasizing that professional skills and dedication are crucial for improving Tanzania's water sector and advancing the country's sustainable development goals.

## Govt for collaborations to boost health services

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to further collaborating with various stakeholders to strengthen the country's health system.

Health Minister Jenista Mhagama highlighted this priority at the official opening of the 4th Tanzania Digital Health and Innovation Forum & Exhibition held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The event, organised

by the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) was themed 'Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Advancing Tanzania's Digital Health Transformation' and attracted representatives from over ten countries.

Mhagama emphasized that the government has made substantial investments in infrastructure development and diagnostics, recognizing digital technologies as essential tools for ensuring timely access to high-quality health

information.

"As government we will continue working with development partners, the private sector and research institutions to strengthen health system through public-private partnerships, embracing digital transformation and evidence-based interventions," she stated.

The efforts, she explained, aimed at achieving universal health coverage and providing quality healthcare for all Tanzanians.

She underscored the gov-

ernment's focus on health sector investment as both a matter of national security and a development priority.

Mhagama commended exhibitors for presenting innovative, portable technologies such as devices that allow healthcare workers to conduct breast cancer screenings at primary health facilities.

She noted that such technologies enable diagnostic information to be quickly transmitted to regional referral or national hospital for further analysis, thus expanding ac-

cess to vital health services.

Ambassador of Sweden to Tanzania Charlotta Marcias echoed the importance of public-private collaboration in improving health system.

MUHAS Vice Chancellor Prof Appolinary Kamuhabwa stated that the forum was an opportunity for participants from across Africa and beyond to share experiences and collaboratively identify solutions for health challenges.

Since the launch of Tanzania's first formal policy on

digital health: the National eHealth Strategy in 2013, the government has remained dedicated to advancing digital health technologies.

The commitment was demonstrated through the National eHealth Strategy 2013-2018, designed to accelerate health system transformation by improving timely information access and supporting health-care administration, finance and clinical operations for better decision-making.

Key outcomes from the strategy's implementation in-

clude notable improvements in healthcare delivery, revenue collection and management, human resources management, supply chain management and health information management.

The advancements have contributed to more effective planning and decision-making across various levels of the health system, marking significant progress in Tanzania's journey towards a robust, digitally-enabled healthcare landscape.



Corporal Aman Ndagano, an instructor with the Road Safety Training Desk under the Police Technical Unit, sensitises Seventh-day Adventist Church faithful based in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis suburb on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## DC wants transparency, inclusivity in allocation of 10 pc council loans

By Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson, Babati

BABATI District Commissioner Emanuela Kaganda has called for transparency and inclusivity in distribution of the 10 percent loans allocated for special groups, ensuring that all eligible individuals have equal access to the funds.

Kaganda made the remarks yesterday during a meeting with councillors from Babati Town Council, where she shared the government's guidelines on the loan distribution process.

"The loan distribution process must be transparent and inclusive so that all eligible individuals can participate. I do not expect any complaints regarding the funds," she said.

She further emphasised that past mistakes must not be repeated, and there should be no favouritism or unfair treatment. She stressed that every eligible citizen has the right to access the loans, provided they meet the necessary criteria.

"Only those who genuinely deserve the loans should receive the same. We must prioritise those in need, not just our relatives," she added.

The DC instructed leaders at all levels, from the grassroots to the district level, to resolve land conflicts rather than exacerbating them, as such disputes hinder professionals from performing their duties effectively.

Kaganda highlighted that when addressing land disputes, she would rely on the law and regulations to ensure fair resolutions, regardless of an individual's status.

"There are situations where professionals cannot perform their duties due to hostility and even threats. We cannot allow governance within governance," she remarked.

Shaaban Mpendu, Babati Town Council Executive Director, reported that over 500m/- had been allocated, with 211m/- already disbursed. An additional 80m/- is pending repayment, which he described as a manageable debt. Special Seats councillor Zainab Sige requested that councillors be provided with the loan guidelines to better educate citizens about the process.

Abdulrahman Kololi, Babati Town Council Chairman, confirmed that all government directives had been received and would be implemented accordingly.

## Authorities in Mbeya dangle 1,000,000/- Bounty in search of water system vandals

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of Mbeya City face significant disruptions to their water supply due to theft of water meters and damage to infrastructure.

In response to the escalating issue, Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya-WSSA) has taken action, offering a reward of 1,000,000/- for any information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the acts in an effort to restore reliable water access to affected communities.

Gilbert Kayange, Executive Director of

Mbeya-WSSA, made the announcement during a recent inspection tour of the city's water infrastructure where he listened to residents' concerns regarding water services. He visited areas such as Sae, Iyunga, Forest, Isyesye Nzovwe and Iyela, all of which have been experiencing frequent thefts and vandalism.

Kayange confirmed that some culprits had already been apprehended through collaboration between the authorities and security agencies and were facing legal action.

He emphasized that individuals who provide information leading to the identification

of the thieves would not only receive a reward but are also guaranteed confidentiality to prevent potential community conflicts.

"We are aware of this problem and have already started taking action. Some perpetrators have been brought to court and charged with economic sabotage due to the significant losses caused by their actions," he said.

He explained that in some areas, residents had been illegally connecting to the water system or redirecting water flow away from meters to steal water. Kayange urged the public to report any

suspicious activity to help address the issue which causes shortages for those who pay for water services.

Residents previously reported that the thieves usually stole water meters at night, making it difficult to catch them in the act, leading to widespread loss of water access.

Sophia Mwamburuma, a resident of Sae, shared that many people have begun moving their water meters inside their fences to prevent further thefts.

"There was a time when they were stealing pipes but now the main problem is the meters. They come at night, open

them, and leave with them; so, in the morning, we find that the water is gone," she said.

Safari Mbilinyi urged Mbeya-WSSA officials to investigate the use of the stolen meters, suggesting that understanding their purpose could help curb the theft.

"While the thieves used to sell stolen pipes as scrap metal which was easier to track, they now steal meters and it's unclear what they do with them," he said.

The theft of water meters and the destruction of infrastructure contribute to significant water loss, resulting in substantial financial losses for Mbeya-WSSA.



Motorists stuck in a traffic jam yesterday along the Kawe-Bondeni stretch of Dar es Salaam's Bagamoyo Road, a common sight for several weeks now linked to the ongoing implementation of the city's rapid transit road infrastructure project by a Chinese construction firm. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Fishermen in Lake Zone urged to utilise govt support to see growth

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

FISHERMEN in the Lake Zone have been urged to take full advantage of various opportunities created by the government to benefit from the fisheries sector.

The call was made yesterday by Abubakar Rutabanzibwa, Lake Zone Fisheries Officer In-Charge, during an interview with The Guardian.

Rutabanzibwa emphasized that the government makes significant efforts to support fishermen and it is crucial for them to make the most of the opportunities to enhance their activities and generate more income. He cited recent government initiatives, including provision of interest-free loans for purchasing fishing fiber boats, engines, and fish cages. The modern boats, he noted, help fishermen avoid the need to cut down trees to make traditional boats, thus protecting the environment. Additionally, the boats are more stable and safer for use on the lake.

"The government's move is aimed at enabling fishermen to benefit fully from their activities, generating more income for their families and contributing to the development of the nation," he said.

He also mentioned that the government encourages fishermen to form groups to facilitate support and address the issue of illegal fishing which negatively impacts aquatic species and the overall health of the lake environment.

Rutabanzibwa clarified that the government's goal is not to arrest fishermen engaged in illegal practices but to help them improve their operations for the betterment of the country's development.

He added that the government's promotion of cage fishing demonstrates that it is possible to earn a living without solely relying on the lake's resources.

"People should continue forming groups with assistance from district councils as the government is committed to supporting them with interest-free loans," he said.

## COP29: Clean energy a catalyst for stability, recovery in conflict zones

BAKU

AS the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference progresses in Baku, Azerbaijan, attention turns to the ways in which clean energy can transform post-conflict recovery efforts, bringing both environmental resilience and social stability to regions affected by war.

This year's discussions have highlighted how renewable energy offers more than environmental benefits, having the potential to catalyse economic recovery, improve living standards and build long-term resilience in areas most vulnerable to conflict.

Experts have highlighted how sustainable infrastructure can reduce dependence on foreign energy imports and fuel local economies in war-torn areas.

Hafed Al-Ghwell, a North African geopolitics expert, said in an interview with Arab News that "clean energy isn't just about generating power; it's about autonomy and resilience." For regions dependent on volatile foreign fuel supplies, renewables offer a more stable power source that strengthens local autonomy.

Gilles Carbonnier, vice president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, highlighted the critical role of renewable energy in supporting communities severely affected by both conflict and climate change.

"The people who are most affected by climate change risks are those who live in zones of armed conflict and have the least capability to adapt and face these risks," Carbonnier said.

He described how the ICRC is using solar power to help protect communities from droughts, floods and extreme weather

across the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

"What we need is to scale these efforts, which means directing much more climate funding to conflict zones," Carbonnier added.

This local approach provides immediate aid while laying the foundation for sustainable recovery in areas struggling with limited resources and infrastructure damage.

The war and occupation in Gaza represents a severe environmental and humanitarian crisis.

Crown Prince Hussein of Jordan addressed COP29. In calling for global solidarity with Gaza, he said: "Saving our planet must start from the premise that all lives are worth saving." He described how the war is "compounding environmental challenges for Gaza and beyond."

A recent UN Environment Program re-

port highlighted severe contamination of Gaza's land, water and air due to the destruction of critical infrastructure, including sewage and waste systems, leaving communities surrounded by hazardous debris.

Carbonnier said that Gaza is emblematic of the dual crisis faced by many conflict zones, where war intensifies environmental damage and deepens humanitarian challenges.

"In Gaza, conflict has degraded critical infrastructure to the point where basic resources like clean water and electricity are scarce," he said.

"Renewable energy solutions, such as solar micro-grids, could offer essential relief by providing stable power to hospitals, schools and homes," he added.

In Gaza, solar micro-grids deployed by NGOs are already providing essential power for hospitals and emergency shel-

ters, offering a sustainable alternative to fuel imports which have been blocked by Israeli forces since the conflict began.

Renewable energy infrastructure, particularly solar and wind power, is highly adaptable to conflict and post-conflict settings due to its low maintenance requirements and modular design.

Solar panels and wind turbines require minimal upkeep and their modular nature allows for incremental infrastructure development as security improves.

The approach has proved effective in Syria, where solar-powered micro-grids are supplying power to refugee camps, providing consistent electricity for vital services like sanitation and healthcare.

According to Carbonnier, these micro-grids "reduce dependence on often costly and dangerous fuel deliveries and stabilize power supplies for communities under stress."

## Land survey in Busokelo to resolve disputes with Kitulo National Park

By Guardian Correspondent, Busokelo

THE National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) has commenced re-surveying the boundaries of 14 villages across four wards in Busokelo District, Mbeya Region, as part of efforts to resolve ongoing land disputes between local residents and the Kitulo National Park.

Speaking recently during a meeting with residents, NLUPC manager-Southern Zone, Pili Msati, explained that the land survey is part of the Land Use Improvement and Security Project which aims to assist residents in effectively managing their land.

She further outlined that the project, which also includes Rungwe District, will help residents plan the use of their land and demarcate boundaries, thereby resolving existing conflicts between them and the park as well as disputes among residents themselves.

"We survey the land through this project with the primary goal of helping them plan their land use. Once the surveys are completed, we believe that land disputes between residents and the park as well as conflicts among residents will be resolved," she said.

Officials from Mwela and Kilasi villages located in Kandete and Luteba wards expressed optimism about the survey's potential benefits for the residents. They noted that once the survey is complete, it will enable residents to utilise their land according to their economic activities.

Pendo Mwasajile, Mwela Village Executive Officer, said that the project will help residents clearly identify areas designated for agriculture, livestock grazing and businesses, thereby reducing conflicts and improving land use efficiency.



Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigaha (2nd-R) presents an award to an official with one of the winners feted at the Presidential Manufacturer of the Year Awards organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries and held in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## African leaders back Decade of Education in bold 2035 vision to end learning poverty

KIGALI

IN a landmark decision, African education leaders have united behind an ambitious vision to eliminate learning poverty in Africa by 2035.

At the 2024 Africa Foundational Learning Exchange (FLEX 2024), held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 11th to 13th November 2024, 22 ministers of education and 12 heads of ministerial delegations from 34 countries in Africa endorsed the African Union's call to declare a 'Decade of Education', aimed at tackling the continent's learning crisis.

The World Bank projects that success could unlock Africa's con-

tribution to the global economy to the tune of \$6.5 trillion in economic potential by 2030. Conversely, failure to act threatens catastrophic consequences - an estimated \$17 trillion in lifetime learning losses across low and middle-income countries globally. This stark contrast underscores the critical importance of immediate, decisive action to transform Africa's educational landscape.

These considerations followed the passionate appeal by the guest of honour Jeanette Kagame, the First Lady of Rwanda, during her keynote address that officially launched the convening of leaders. The First Lady clearly articulated the challenge the continent

faces.

"Reading and comprehension of simple texts is still an issue for 9 out of 10 children aged 10 and below, in the majority of African countries. What a loud alarm bell this statistic rings! Should we fail to strengthen foundational learning and critical thinking, increase primary education completion rates, and allocate more resources to education, specifically to the more vulnerable learners, what is to be the long-term cost to the youth of this continent, their skills development, employability, and social welfare?" she said.

The First Lady's passionate appeal was echoed by President of Zambia and Africa Champion of

Foundational Learning Hakainde Hichilema who said in his address:

"We need to start thinking more strategically about innovative models of funding education and to use our resources more effectively. We need to implement evidence-based approaches and scale what works to improve foundational learning on the continent and we need robust accountability mechanisms at national, regional, and continental levels for both partners and governments."

The summit, attended by over 540 global education leaders and featuring 25 technical sessions, culminated in a five-point declaration that will transform the landscape of African education. The

five core commitments are:

Set and achieve a continental target of zero learning poverty by 2035 through concentrated investment in foundational skills and systematic measurement of progress across all participating nations.

Full endorsement and implementation of the African Union's Decade of Education initiative, mobilizing resources and political will for sustained educational transformation.

Establish robust inter-country collaboration frameworks to facilitate knowledge exchange, share best practices, and create synergistic learning opportunities across African nations.

Scale evidence-based interventions through efficient resource allocation, focusing on proven methodologies that demonstrably improve foundational learning outcomes at the country level.

Implement comprehensive data and accountability mechanisms to track progress, ensure quality assessment, and coordinate partner initiatives for maximum impact across the continent.

The unprecedented collaboration between governments, and development partners including the World Bank, ADEA, UNICEF, USAID, FCDO, Hempel Foundation, New Globe and UNESCO, marks a turning point in Africa's educational journey.

## African executives urge for investments in small grids to address energy poverty

By Special Correspondent

SUSTAINED investments in mini-grids are crucial to expanding access to clean energy for off-grid communities in Africa, officials said at a virtual forum on Wednesday.

John Ouko, Chief Operating Officer at the African Mini-grid Developers Association, an industry lobby, said the continent should explore innovative financing models for implementing community-based projects that promise access to cheaper, reliable, and cleaner electricity.

"Mini-grids should be considered the most cost-effective way to achieve universal energy access in Africa while offering solutions to the climate crisis," Ouko said at the forum titled 'Financing renewable microgrids in Africa', adding that pension funds and microcredits should be harnessed to set up small-scale power projects in remote areas of the continent.

According to Ouko, African countries should address funding, technical, and regulatory gaps that have undermined the large-scale mini-grid development, which has negatively impacted rural development and climate action.

He observed that micro-grid developers in the continent require long-term and low-cost debt, friendly regulations, and reskilling of their workforce to establish resilient clean energy systems.

Joshua Amponsem, founder of the Green Africa Youth Organization, an environmental sustainability lobby based in Ghana, said that both the public and private sectors should unlock capital towards the development of mini-grids and help connect 600 million people in Africa who lack access to electricity.

Amponsem acknowledged Africa's huge renewable energy potential, including hydro, solar, and wind that should be harnessed to set up micro-grids in rural areas to support irrigated farming, agro-processing, and light industries.



This is a specially made container for depositing plastic bottles, installed at Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus station recently reportedly by the Ubungu Municipal Council to minimise littering. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Call for calm, restraint as Senegal's legislative poll campaigns near end

DAKAR

JUST days before the end of the campaign for the November 17 legislative elections in Senegal, authorities, political actors and leaders of civil society organizations are stepping up their calls for calm and restraint.

The calls follow incidents in Kounghueul in central Senegal, the national capital of Dakar and in Saint-Louis in northern Senegal where clashes between security guards of a political caravan and street vendors led to the arrests of 81 people Monday.

In response, Al Hassan Sall,

the governor of the Saint-Louis region, called on "the population in general and political actors, in particular, to banish violence and carry out their activities in peace, serenity and respect for laws and regulations."

He also urged the police and gendarmerie to pay more

attention to the security of people and property as political caravans pass through the region.

Senegal's Minister of the Interior and Public Security Jean-Baptiste Tine warned against any acts of violence and sabotage, stressing that the perpetrators of such acts will be pun-

ished according to the law.

In a press release Tuesday, Amadou Ba, former Senegalese prime minister and leader of the "Jamm ak Njerin" coalition, called for the campaign to end in "peace, serenity and mutual respect, so that every citizen can express himself freely."

"The Senegalese people expect more concrete solutions than speeches that incite violence that could have dramatic consequences," he said.

The Women's Watch Platform for Peace and Security, which brings together more than 60 women's civil society organizations, denounced acts

of violence during the electoral campaign and urged political actors to work toward "calm in discourse, calm in behaviour and attitudes."

Amsatou Sow Sidibe, the president of Senegal's National Human Rights Commission, also called for "serenity and a return to the debate of ideas."

## Nearly 3 million people in Sudan require humanitarian aid: Official

### PORT SUDAN

THE Sudanese government has said that 28.9 million people in the country need humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing civil war.

In October, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance rose to 28.9 million, an increase of 13.1 million after the outbreak of the war last April, said Salwa Adam Benya, Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, when addressing a conference for humanitarian response held in Port Sudan, the capital city of the eastern Red Sea State.

Of the 28.9 million, 16.9 million are in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance, requiring about 840,000 metric tons of assistance in the next two months, Benya said.

Ibrahim Jabir of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council called on the international community to commit to its pledges to provide the necessary support to the Sudanese people.

He reiterated the Sudanese government's commitment to facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflict, saying the government has opened seven crossings, "including the Adre crossing, which we know the militia (the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces) has misused."

Earlier on Wednesday, the Sudanese government decided to extend the opening of the Adre border crossing with Chad for another three months to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The Sudanese government closed the Adre land border crossing in February, accusing the RSF of using it to transport weapons.

Sudan has been gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary forces since mid-April 2023.



Muheza District Medical Officer Dr Fani Mussa (C, facing camera) pictured on Thursday chairing a preparatory meeting for the district-level commemoration of '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Media practitioners condemn video showing two girls recorded, abused

### By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Media Experts Committee (ZAMECO) has condemned a video circulating on social media that shows two young girls being recorded and subjected to inappropriate questions which "violate their dignity and human rights."

The committee comprises of the Tanzania Media Women's Association Zanzibar (TAMWA Zanzibar), Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Zanzibar Development Journalists Association (WAHAMAZA), Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coal-

ition (THRDC Zanzibar), Zanzibar Press Club (ZPC) and Pemba Press Club (PPC).

A statement released yesterday and signed by Abdalla Mfaume, ZPC chairman and Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA Zanzibar director stated: "This incident has stirred strong emotions among media stakeholders, human rights advocates, and the community, raising serious concerns among journalists regarding ethics, human rights and the principles of media freedom."

The committee stressed that such acts are violations of human rights, journalistic eth-

ics and limits of freedom of expression which should aim to provide accurate information and foster constructive public discourse.

Referring to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR 1996), Article 19, ZAMECO emphasised: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression without infringing on the rights of others or national peace."

"This means that media freedom carries a responsibility to respect everyone's dignity, particularly women and youth and vulnerable individuals."

ZAMECO has urged Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission to ensure that media outlets and social media platforms comply with ethical standards, ensuring accountability and protecting the public from harmful content, including material that violates human rights, incites violence, or promotes hatred.

The committee also called on the Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports in Zanzibar to expedite the enactment of a new media services law. This proposed law, long request-

ed by journalists, editors, and the public, aims to clearly define the role, qualifications and responsibilities of journalists.

The committee also highlighted the importance of empowering girls to recognise their value, set personal goals, and make decisions that benefit their lives and society. By being self-aware, girls are better equipped to make sound decisions, build confidence and avoid exploitation.

ZAMECO further urged parents and guardians to educate their daughters about their rights and value in society, stat-

ing: "Educating a girl is equivalent to educating society." They also encouraged the education of young men to foster an environment of respect towards girls.



**This means that media freedom carries a responsibility to respect everyone's dignity, particularly women and youth and vulnerable individuals**



Ndimolwo Laizer, a senior cooperatives development officer with the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission, addresses Simanjiro District community leaders in the course of capacity building training held in Orkesumet township on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Residents register their homes to accommodate eager tourists

### By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE West Kilimanjaro cluster which includes Machame (Hai) and Sanya Juu (Siha) has capitalised on economic opportunities in tourism by registering homes to accommodate the growing number of both domestic and international visitors.

Currently, the Home Stay Programme (HSP), managed by the Kilimanjaro Cultural Festival (KCF), has registered 40 homes across four clusters. During the launch of the 2024 KCF preparations in Moshi yesterday, KCF Chairperson Ansi Mmasi announced plans to register an additional 60 homes, aiming for a total of 100 homes in the programme.

The HSP allows Kilimanjaro residents to register their homes as guest accommodations for visitors exploring the region's tourism sites and cultural heritage.

"The 40 homes are spread across four clusters," Mmasi explained. "The West Cluster, covering Machame and Siha leads in registrations and interest. Other clusters are the Central Cluster (Kibosho, Uru, and Old Moshi), the East Cluster (Marangu, Mwika and Rombo) and South Cluster (Mwanga and Same districts)."

The 2023 festival which was launched by then-Minister for

Natural Resources and Tourism Angellah Kairuki attracted 1,000 participants. This year, KCF hopes to increase attendance to over 2,000.

"The response has been overwhelming with 322 applications received. We decided to start with 40 homes and as demand grows, we plan to add another 60 homes," Mmasi noted. "As a non-profit, our mission at KCF is to empower locals to recognize untapped economic opportunities. Many have invested millions in properties that aren't yet generating income."

This year's festival will be held on December 27, with Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu expected to welcome Tanzanians and visitors from around the world.

Under the KCF HSP, locals receive 60 percent of the revenue, service providers (housekeeping) earn 25 percent and KCF retain 15 percent to cover operational costs.

KCF Board Chairman Raymond Mushi encouraged Tanzanians to attend in large numbers to experience and learn about Kilimanjaro's rich cultural heritage.

"Without deliberate efforts to revive, preserve and promote cultural values and heritage, these aspects risk disappearing," he said.

## PCR: Africa CDC recommends continent's first test for mpox

### By Special Correspondent

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has recommended the first locally manufactured real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for mpox developed by Morocco.

In a statement, the Africa CDC said the approval underscored the test's reliability and efficacy, potentially

boosting Morocco's role in global health initiatives.

"This major milestone is in line with the African Union (AU)'s continental effort to strengthen the self-sufficiency of African public health systems toward enhancing the continent's efficiency in preparedness and response to disease threats," it said.

As part of its continental efforts in the fight against

the ongoing mpox outbreak, the Africa CDC procured and delivered PCR and genome sequencing test kits to AU members.

The AU's specialized healthcare agency, which offers guidance and recommendations to specific real-time PCR tests for procurement and use, said the third edition of the recommended list, which was published Tues-

day, includes one locally manufactured PCR detection kit, manufactured by Moldiag, a Morocco company specialized in developing and commercializing molecular diagnostic tests tailored to the needs of both Morocco and the African continent.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said the Africa CDC is leading an ambitious and very critical continental

agenda on local manufacturing of medical countermeasures, a critical element for the health security of the continent.

Congratulating Morocco for the "outstanding achievement," the Africa CDC chief encouraged other African countries to consider the use of this testing solution as they continue responding to the mpox outbreak.

In mid-August, the Africa CDC declared the ongoing mpox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of continental security. Soon after, the World Health Organization also declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, activating its highest level of global alert for mpox for the second time in two years.

According to the latest data

from the Africa CDC, the number of mpox cases reported so far this year in Africa has surpassed the 50,000 mark. Noting that the African continent is still in the acute phase of the mpox outbreak, the Africa CDC said the outbreak has so far affected 19 African countries as the death toll reached 1,083 since the start of this year.

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## DIT outward reach in enrolment likely to ensure quality standards

AN East Africa skills for transformation and regional integration project (EASTRIP) has reportedly enabled the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) to nearly doubling its student enrolment from 800 to 1,500.

A DIT project coordinator highlighted the progress during a visit by representatives from the World Bank and the parent ministry at midweek.

The official noted that, under EASTRIP, four flagship centres of excellence are being established at major several technical institutions in collaboration with industry advisory committees. Thus, it isn't just about expansion of intake but harmonising regional standards.

Selected excellence centres are Arusha Technical College (ATC) focusing on renewable energy; the National Institute of Transport (NIT) in aircraft and space technology, plus its traditional role in transport and logistics management.

DIT is taking up information and communication technology in a big way, even laying out a schedule for managing a national satellite launch in the course of next year.

DIT Mwanza campus meanwhile has a rather new specialisation in leather technology, while there is a series of additional facilities to formal teaching.

There is an inter-country agreement to invest in technical education through centres of excellence, as strengthening technical education is essential for economies aiming to increase industrial production.

Changes at the college involve not just the doubling of its intake but also introducing 20 new training programmes along with updates to existing courses to align with more relevant market-related skills.

It is obvious that colleges can't promise the moon in what they do, but the public will appreciate it when it is evident that there are improve-

ments with graduates moving into a more pleasant environment.

Noticeably, the wider intake is mostly local, unless there are more students studying here than those going outside or those listed as studying in nearby countries are just seconded by DIT.

The latter scenario would not exclude the fact that students from neighbouring regions could choose colleges just across the border.

While student exchanges, specialisation and sharing of centres of excellence aren't the same thing as unification of curriculum or examination facets, they contain elements of the same - namely, in the peer review tied up with consultations and collaboration work.

Not much can be said on partnerships with industries having led to the setting up of three laboratories for practical, hands-on training, providing students and tutors with valuable industry experience.

It is unclear what level of exposure this proximity to industry is likely to be, even the kind of skills being envisaged.

In the final analysis, this theme about employability as related to being familiar with machines could be deemed misplaced as the proper problem is the lack of industries.

Yet this sphere of issues does not belong to the directorate of technical education in the Education, Science and Technology ministry that oversees the collaboration.

About all that could be done is to set a vision consistent with what stakeholders say is industrial proximity or skills.

How far this can result in greater hiring opportunities compared with rudimentary mechanics trained in lower-level vocational centres or garages is one thing.

Administrators may perhaps have to done well and could diminish the labours and anguish of graduates, but that is fairly hypothetical.



@Msamba

# Africa's Demands: continent's COP29 irreducible minimums amid release of first draft text

## BAKU

AS expected, climate finance has taken center stage in Baku COP29 in a bid to renew the global focus on finance as a means to transform climate ambitions into tangible, sustainable action.

African countries are losing up to 5 per cent of their GDP, with many diverting as much as 9 per cent of their budgets to respond to climate impacts.

More than USD 2.5 trillion annually in conditional and unconditional financing between 2020 and 2030 will be needed to implement Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the climate change impacts. Towards this goal, the continent has defined its COP29 irreducible minimums.

"On climate finance, for Africa, success at COP29 rests on achieving an ambitious, transparent, and time-bound finance goal, aligned with the assessed needs of developing countries.

Central to this goal is public international finance that is provided as grants, based on a burden-sharing agreement among developed countries, in line with their obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement," says Ambassador Ali Mohamed, Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Chair of the African Group of Negotiators.

On Africa's position and expectations at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Mohamed said, "The NCQG Text shared by the co-chairs was completely imbalanced. It was trying to redefine the agreed articles of the Paris Agreement.

The matters of climate finance are properly stipulated under Article 9; and we, as people from the developing world, were not comfortable with that, so it had to be completely set aside following our submissions."

Speaking in the context of Africa's significant climate-related challenges such as severe droughts in the whole of the southern region, devastating flooding episodes in the Horn after a terrible five seasons of drought and more than a million people in West Africa displaced by climatic vagaries, he stated that Africa is pushing for a commensurate goal on climate finance to deal with these challenges.

"We did commit during the Dubai conference last year that the world will be transitioning towards a low carbon- and climate-resilient environment that requires investments and adequate and reliable financing.

So that is what we are pushing for. Now, a funding figure in the range of trillions



**Cheikh Fadel Wade from the Waterkeeper Alliance movement in Senegal spoke about growing impatience with slow progress in delivering loss and damage funds to Africa. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS**

of dollars has been given by many groups. And that is the discussion that is currently going on. There is no contention about the magnitude of the amounts required for the global community to transition. And that is what Africa and other developing countries are pushing for here," he stressed.

"I am participating as a representative of the communities. We are suffering severely from climate change and we are impatient to see progress towards delivering funds to African countries through the loss and damage Fund. We have been discussing

losses and damages for some town now but we need to see the money. We must define clear goals for adaptation and follow through with finances for its implementation," Cheikh Fadel Wade from the Waterkeeper Alliance movement in Senegal told IPS.

Wade says the financial needs are no longer in the billions but trillions as the loss and damage is everywhere you look. Those who come to Bargny, a coastal town just outside the capital Dakar see the climate destruction, cracked and collapsed walls, damaged and leaking roofs, and even sunken buildings are common due to

rising sea levels caused by rising temperatures.

Africa may need as much as USD 580 billion annually by 2030 and USD 1.7 trillion annually by 2050 for loss and damage alone. Greenpeace Africa top demands for COP29 includes the "implementation of a Climate Damages Tax on fossil fuel companies to fund loss and damage repair. Significant increase in public climate finance through the NCQG, prioritizing African nations' adaptation and mitigation needs."

Other key demands from Greenpeace include establishment of strong safeguards against false solutions such as carbon offsets that threaten Africa's carbon-dense ecosystems. Concrete commitments for a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels Recognition and elevation of African voices, including youth activists, indigenous communities, and civil society organisations in addressing the climate crisis.

Overall, Mohamed stressed that the agreed financial commitment should "address the adaptation, loss and damage, and mitigation needs of developing countries, including just transitions. The decisions from this COP should send a strong signal to the international finance architecture, underscoring the need for reform and addressing debt sustainability challenges for developing countries, particularly the high cost of capital."

IPS



**Severe climatic conditions have created hostile ecosystems for Africa's food systems, heightening the need to build climate resilience. Photo Joyce Chimbi/IPS**

## Samia's emotional eulogy for Mafuru has vital lesson

COUNTRIES around the world understandably differ in the way and extent in which political sentiments are expressed in funeral orations or eulogies.

The key issue is that each country has its slate of issues where public figures, and especially at higher levels of government, tilt the balance one way or another. For common people this situation is largely expressed at the family level.

The use of funerals as venues for political eulogies can't be avoided, as whatever is distinctly and genuinely said about the person also indicates some outlook.

It may not be a political but administrative outlook, and the sort of praise given will add colour to an image of what the praise is all about, including how the person who has died helped an organisation or even the country.

It could not have been different for the late Planning Commission executive secretary Lawrence Mafuru, who died while undergoing treatment in India a week ago.

There was little surprise that the highly rated technocrat had long been called upon as a leader to take up and advise on some of the country's most pressing challenges. That is part of what executives are hired to do - assisting elected leaders to make the most balanced decisions depending on the situation.

While the president's eulogy was profoundly a technical appreciation of that the technocrat and all-round expert on the national economy, there was a visible indication

that he was one of those whom the president relied upon for clear and workable ideas.

That too is not altogether surprising until one milks an additional implication from the remarks, which is there for all to see.

In other words, Mafuru was for a long time a leader to be reckoned with in resolving various challenges, helping the government to yield immediate answers or changes with a bearing on what public agencies do.

The eulogy pointed to the extent to which the economic administrator was a reliable associate in setting out policies clearly and moving to implement them with the faith and conviction.

This can't be said of everyone in the government simply because he or she is there. Rather, the words that come to the mind and the image depicted in a public eulogy have a way of indicating the strength of the sentiments expressed, and thus an element of reality.

It is the loss of a trusted lieutenant. That is why a considerable portion of those in the government will be grieving at this loss with some intensity, other than emotion tied to personal familiarity or intimacy.

It is a thinning of numbers and perhaps altering the balance of ideas between a set of policy initiatives and another, where pivotal elucidation that could be expected from a certain line of thinking exits the stage.

Unavoidably, that school of thought is weakened, at times having to struggle to find its balance again.



By Telesphor Magobe

# Critics wary of 'simulated sympathy' for disqualified opposition candidates



added salt to injury. Dr Nchimbi said President of the United Republic of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan and CCM National Chairperson had heard of the complaints about civic electoral processes. He said she had directed to disregard minor errors that caused candidates, especially from opposition parties, to be disqualified from vying various civic positions upon appeal. "In Tanzania we still have a fledgling democracy and disregarding such minor errors would be broadening democratic space in the country."

Accordingly, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Mohamed Mchengherwa (pictured) announced the extension of vetting time for two more days until November 15 to accommodate the concerns aired by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and CCM Chairperson through Dr Nchimbi. While some people have thanked the CCM leadership for sympathy and consideration to allow more candidates to participate in the forthcoming civic elections, critics are wary of what could be behind it.

They see it as disgrace in a country which respects the rule of law and democratic principles. They say what was supposed to have been used to amend the regulations on civic elections to accommodate those concerns, but not the way it has been done.

On various occasions ruling party leaders were heard saying flaws experienced in the 2019 and 2020 elections wouldn't be repeated, but as things are critics think there won't be any difference in the results for 2024 and 2025. In 2019 and 2020 almost all opposition candidates who vied for various positions were disqualified and those belonging to the ruling party were voted

for, some passed unopposed and the ruling party was announced to have won overwhelmingly.

Although in 1992 Tanzania reintroduced multiparty politics in practice it has remained monolithic politics in many aspects. Opposition parties too instead of uniting together and forming strong bargaining power when competing with the ruling party they often turn against each other and this weakens their strength.

In the circumstances, where an opposition party has no candidate at a certain polling station its members are likely to vote for ruling party candidates, instead of voting for fellow opposition candidates from other parties. The logic is that 'unity is strength, but disunity is infirmity'.

The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (as amended until 2005) provides that for 'building a society founded on the principles of freedom, justice, fraternity and concord the government adheres to the principles of democracy' but in practice this is yet to be realised.

H.W.R. Wade & C.F. Forsyth in their book Administrative Law (Eight Edition, Oxford University, 2000) say that "Every act of government power - in other words - every act which affects the legal rights, duties or liberties of any person, must be shown to have a strictly legal pedigree."

**Today's quote: "An improper motive, or a false step in procedure, makes an administrative act just as illegal as does a flagrant excess of power."**

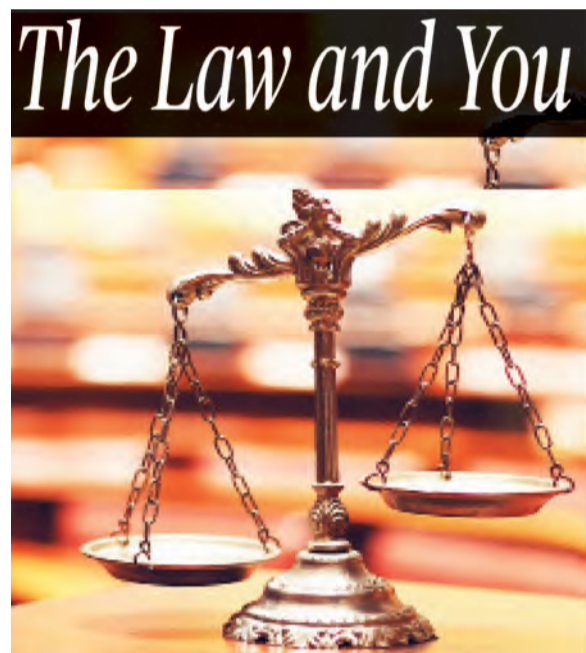
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YESTERDAY, I listened to a debate on Maria Spaces, an online platform through which participants share their viewpoints on what is going on in the country and across the world and learn from multiple examples to inform decision-making. The theme was "Election 2024: Do we repeat the same things and expect different results?"

During debate some contributors recalled German-born physicist Albert Einstein's famous aphorism "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results" and decried what happened in the 2019 and 2020 elections. They said although they expected to see different things this year and next year, they were afraid the same things would recur. The majority of participants felt that the disqualification of candidates from opposition parties in various parts of the country was not a coincidence; it must have been a directive from above.

Yes, Tanzanians prepare themselves for civic Elections later this month, ahead of the General election next year. The intention of having periodic elections is to give Tanzanians a chance to vote for capable leaders in free and fair elections, meaning that voters are given equal opportunities to participate in periodic elections and candidates from various political parties vying for various positions too are given equal opportunities to be voted for. Yet, as things are there is no fair play.

There have been complaints about the civic electoral process and critics point an accusing finger at returning officers for favouring candidates from the rul-



ing party and disqualifying opposition party candidates. They say that since what is complained of is happening in many parts of the country it could have been planned.

Some Chadema and ACT-Wazalendo party leaders and members have been complaining that the majority of their members who registered to vie for civic

positions have been disqualified at various levels of the civic electoral process for flimsy grounds. It means that a capable leader may be disqualified for flimsy grounds and voters may end up having limited choices of the candidates, which may impact negatively on them.

A recent statement from CCM Secretary General, Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi,

# COP29 in Baku: Global leaders urged to act decisively on climate finance, action

By Adonis Byemelwa

THE 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) has commenced in Baku, Azerbaijan, gathering global leaders for what could be a decisive moment in the fight against climate change.

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Simon Stiell, opened the event with a powerful call for unity, emphasizing the urgent need for nations to align on an ambitious global climate finance target.

With climate change impacts intensifying, Stiell stressed that time is running out, and decisive collaboration is required. "Agreeing to a new global climate finance goal is imperative," he stated. He warned that if cooperation lags, up to two-thirds of countries may be unable to curb emissions at the necessary pace to prevent catastrophic impacts on ecosystems, economies, and communities.

Central to this year's discussions is the challenge of bridging the gap between developed and developing nations in their responsibilities and capacities for tackling climate change. Industrialized nations bear the historical burden of contributing the most to global greenhouse gas emissions.

For instance, developed countries contribute about 80% of the world's carbon emissions, primarily due to a long legacy of industrialization, while developing nations produce far less, even as they disproportionately suffer from the impacts.

As a result, climate finance and equitable responsibility remain contentious topics, especially as developed countries have yet to fulfill their promise of delivering \$100 billion annually to help vulnerable countries adapt to climate change.

Among the countries making strides in climate action is Tanzania, a nation that has prioritized environmental conservation under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership. Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango, representing Tanzania at COP29, is expected to present ambitious proposals that highlight the country's dedication to sustainability and climate resilience.

Since taking office, President Hassan has shown a firm commitment to tackling environmental issues, with numerous initiatives promoting clean energy, public transportation, and integrated waste management. Her government has invested heavily in educating Tanzanians about the importance of protecting natural resources and has actively encouraged the public to plant trees and conserve forests.

One of Tanzania's flagship projects at COP29 is its clean cooking initiative, an effort to address not only environmental concerns but also public health. Many Tanzanian women, like millions across Africa, rely on traditional energy sources such as charcoal and wood for cooking.

This practice contributes to deforestation and exposes users to harmful pollutants, increasing the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which was the third leading cause of death globally



in 2019.

To tackle this issue, President Hassan launched the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme, a continent-wide initiative aimed at promoting clean energy for cooking. The project has garnered international attention for its dual benefits of reducing carbon emissions and improving health outcomes.

In addition, Tanzania's COP29 agenda includes proposals for an expansion of Dar es Salaam's rapid bus transit system, designed to reduce urban air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The country is also promoting flood-resilience projects to protect vulnerable areas and an integrated waste management program to lower emissions from waste decomposition.

These projects reflect Tanzania's dedication to sustainable development and align with President Hassan's inclusive approach, which emphasizes the involvement of all age groups in environmental initiatives, particularly through tree-planting campaigns.

Simon Stiell's keynote address underscored the need for comprehensive reform in the global financial system to address climate change effectively. He argued that climate finance must be viewed not as a charitable endeavor but

as a necessary investment in global stability.

"An ambitious new climate finance goal is in the self-interest of every nation, including the wealthiest," Stiell said, stressing that no country is immune from the economic disruptions that unchecked climate change could bring.

He pointed to the need for fiscal space for developing nations, which are often constrained by debt and limited access to affordable financing options. For these countries, financial assistance is critical to building the infrastructure necessary for climate resilience and transitioning to low-carbon energy sources.

A central theme of COP29 is the finalization of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which aims to operationalize international carbon markets. These markets are intended to provide financial incentives for countries to reduce emissions and support sustainable practices by allowing nations to trade emission reductions.

The successful implementation of Article 6 could unlock billions in funding for climate action, yet disagreements over its details have stalled progress. Stiell emphasized that resolving these issues is essential if the world hopes to limit global warming

to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, a threshold scientists believe is crucial for avoiding the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol, established in 1997, was the first legally binding international climate treaty, requiring developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. However, it faced challenges, particularly with major emitters like the U.S. opting out due to concerns over economic competitiveness and the lack of commitments from developing nations.

This led to criticisms of the protocol's effectiveness and shifted focus to the Paris Agreement, which allows more voluntary contributions from countries. Under the Paris Agreement, nations submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to cut emissions and adapt to climate change, but developed nations have been slow to meet their financial commitments, frustrating developing countries.

U.S. politics, especially under President Trump, has significantly impacted the global climate response. Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and focus on fossil fuels caused setbacks in global emission reduction efforts. Despite this, public support for climate action remains strong,

particularly among younger Americans, who are increasingly concerned about the severity of climate change.

Despite Trump's stance, the global momentum toward clean energy continued. Investment in renewables has surged, with clean energy investments reaching an estimated \$2 trillion in 2024, nearly double the investment in fossil fuels.

The trend reflects an ongoing shift driven by market forces, technological advancements, and public demand for sustainable solutions. This transition is expected to persist regardless of U.S. leadership, as other nations, particularly in Europe and Asia, continue to prioritize clean energy.

At COP29, Stiell emphasized that the global economy's resilience is tied to climate action, stating that "if nations cannot build resilience into their supply chains, the global economy will be at risk."

To that end, the UNFCCC will launch a Climate Plan Campaign in 2025 to assist countries in developing and submitting the third generation of NDCs. The initiative will align with other UN efforts and is expected to support developing nations in setting and tracking adaptation targets—a key area of focus as climate impacts intensify.

Stiell also highlighted the importance of transparency in climate action, pointing to Biennial Transparency Reports, which will provide insights into global progress and identify areas where additional support is needed.

"You can't manage what you don't measure," he noted, underlining the need for accurate data to guide effective climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The Executive Secretary stressed that adaptation is as critical as mitigation, with the upcoming reports expected to shed light on whether countries are on track to improve their resilience.

Despite the challenges, there is a sense of cautious optimism as COP29 unfolds. The shift toward clean energy and resilience has gained unstoppable momentum, as evidenced by record-breaking investments and growing public awareness. This trend suggests that climate action is increasingly viewed as essential to both environmental sustainability and economic stability.

Stiell concluded his address with a powerful message: "COP29 must not conclude without a substantial outcome. We need all parties to demonstrate determination and push for agreements from day one." He urged leaders to rise to the occasion, showing that global cooperation remains robust and capable of addressing the climate crisis.

As the conference progresses, the world will be watching closely to see whether countries can overcome long-standing divisions and make meaningful commitments. COP29 represents not only an opportunity to advance climate justice but also a crucial moment to secure a sustainable future for generations to come. The stakes have never been higher, and the need for immediate, collaborative action has never been clearer.

By Dorian Geiger

# 'Dante's inferno': Wildfires scorch New York amid historic drought

An incinerated, rusty microwave, the charred skeleton of a lawn chair, a pile of melted clothes, and singed scraps of the Holy Bible sat ominously on the forest floor, alongside a smattering of scorched pinecones.

Under a canopy of blackened tree trunks, in a small clearing in the northwest section of Brooklyn's Prospect Park on Thursday, the apocalyptic aftermath of a fire that engulfed a homeless encampment in the park's woods was still on display. A fire truck slowly circled the perimeter of the park while a squirrel scampered amongst fallen autumn leaves and parched earth.

Nearly a week after the brush fire, 26-year-old Brooklyn media arts teacher Jake Catalanotto could be seen curiously combing the site of the fire - roughly the size of two football fields - documenting the destruction on his camera. The lifelong Brooklyn resident was unnerved by what he saw.

"There are burned-out husks of electronics and cans and spray cans, mattresses," Catalanotto, 26, said as he described the seared hellscape. "A little one of those things that you put over a fire to cook over it. Pots and pans."

## 'Praying for rain'

October was the driest month on record in New York City, according to city officials - and between October 29 and November 12, a record-breaking 229 brush fires broke out across the city's five boroughs. Extraordinarily dry conditions - caused by one of the longest droughts in history - have turned much of the sprawling city's parks and the state's forested areas into a huge tinderbox, putting communities, politicians, and fire crews on alert.

On Wednesday, a two-alarm brush fire in the north Manhattan neighbourhood of In wood Hill Park caused smoke plumes to envelope the George Washington Bridge. A day earlier, Long Island volunteer fire fighter Jonathan Quiles was arrested on arson charges for allegedly intentionally starting a brush fire in Medford, New York. Upstate, along Greenwood Lake, which borders both New York and New Jersey, a 5,000-acre blaze killed a parks worker, threatened the evacuation of multiple homes, displaced wildlife, obliterated air quality, and stirred widespread panic.

In response to the spate of fires, officials have mandated a state wide burn ban until November 30.

"Now is not the right time to be burning outdoors and I urge everyone to heed our warnings as we continue to take the necessary precautions to keep all New Yorkers safe," Governor Kathy Hochul said of state wide precautions.

New York City has also banned outdoor grilling across the Big Apple amid the bone-dry conditions.

"We're praying for rain," embattled Mayor Eric Adams told reporters huddled at the site of the brush fire last Friday. "We really need rain with all of these leaves, and dry ground, and trees."

"There will never be another you"

No one was injured in the Brooklyn blaze. Officials, who have been tight-lipped, are still probing the fire's cause.

More than 100 city fire fighters had descended on Prospect Park to combat the fire, which tore through a hectare (two acres) of the park's Nethermead meadow area. Steep terrain and unusually windy conditions initially hampered the "labour-intensive" efforts of fire fighters, officials on-scene said. Viral images of the city park fire shortly after it erupted showed enormous clouds of smoke rising above a tree line illuminated by the orange, eerie glow of the fire's flames. Soon after, smoke could be smelled for miles away.

Monaco declined to comment on reports that vagrants living in the wooded homeless encampment were possibly to blame for the brush fire.

Days later, however, park-goers had returned to Prospect Park. Runners, cyclists, and stroller-pushing dads populated Prospect Park's roads and trails on Thursday. Some new sights and smells greeted them. Barbecues in the park had since been covered with plastic rubbish bags in adherence with the city's grill ban. A campfire odour still lingered.

Along a fence by the ridge where the fire burned, a number of New Yorkers had attached whimsical notes in solidarity praising both the park and the firefighters who fought the blaze.

"Prospect Park we will fight for better climate policy so generations ahead can know your beauty!" read one anonymous note.

"Dear park, who knew such peace and beauty was



The burnt-out shells of electronics, pots, pans, and other scorched junk from a wooded homeless encampment in Brooklyn's Prospect Park that went up in flames last week amid a historic drought

at such risk. There will never be another you."

## Fire 'in your back yard'

For many New Yorkers, who are more accustomed to weathering hurricanes this time of year, the threat of wildfires was something novel.

"This is the last forest in Brooklyn and it's being threatened by forest fires," explained Catalanotto, the Brooklyn teacher, after exploring the Prospect Park burn site. "I didn't expect that one. The climate crisis is nearby."

Other Brooklynites echoed the sentiment.

"It was shocking and surprising," Flatbush kitchen supervisor, Kat Teague, 43, said. "I never thought there would be a forest fire in Prospect Park - in the concrete jungle, right? It's super crazy."

The brush fire, which unfolded in the most populous borough in New York, where roughly 2.7 million people live, has left others feeling understandably "anxious" about the insidious effect of climate change.

"It's strange because whenever there's been any kind of smoke or warnings of fires before, it's always been pretty far away from New York or in the metropolises," said Noah, a 24-year-old student living in Brooklyn. "It feels like it's getting closer, like climate change is more of a

problem. It's literally in your back yard."

'Mountains covered with fire'

Along the border of New York and New Jersey, the huge Jennings Creek wildfire, which has been burning for days, has inflicted a more sinister scar on the surrounding communities and their habitat.

The blaze has left at least one dead and residents on edge, many keeping go-bags and living under the threat of evacuation. Last Saturday, 18-year-old New York State Parks worker Dariel Velasquez lost his life "battling" the wildfire when a tree collapsed on him. No other deaths, serious injuries, or structure losses have been reported.

As of Thursday, the fire was 75 percent contained, according to the New Jersey Forest Service. Blackhawk and Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters, which are dumping thousands of litres of water on the smouldering territory, have slowed the fire's spread.

At night time in recent days - when the sun sinks over Greenwood Lake - residents have been forced to absorb the most dramatic, even terrifying, views of the Jennings Creek wildfire and the true scale of its devastation. At the wildfire's peak over the weekend, miles upon miles of brush and surrounding lake were illuminated by dancing flames.

"It was so red, the mountains covered with fire," Randal Rodriguez, 39, the own-

er of lakeside hotdog diner, Paul's Place, said. "I was in shock - in my life I've never seen something like that."

Rodriguez, who said the wildfires had also burned up business at his diner in recent days, admitted that he has had trouble adjusting to the constantly smoky conditions.

"There's been a lot of smoke for a few days already," Rodriguez said. "It's a little hard to breathe. You feel like you can't breathe. Really strong smoke. If you stay for a few minutes it will affect you, your eyes, your nose."

Medical experts caution that wildfire smoke, which contains several pollutants, including particulate matter and carbon monoxide, can have a range of both short- and long-term effects on one's health and respiratory system, including nose and throat irritation, wheezing, coughing, and trouble breathing. It can also exacerbate pre-existing medical or respiratory conditions such as asthma and COPD.

Greenwood Lake resident, Dave Kozuha, 44, who lives a few kilometres from the wildfire, likened it to "Dante's Inferno".

"Greenwood Lake is nestled between mountains on either side of the lake and the one whole ridge was just ablaze, it was literally just fire leaping across the top, the very length of the ridge was all

lit," Kozuha said. "It was unreal to see something like that."

Kozuha, who operates a local coffee roastery, said he knew multiple people who had voluntarily evacuated their homes. The lake's surrounding communities, he said, were living in constant fear of evacuation or worse, potential displacement, if the fire encroached on their homes.

"Right now it's just plumes of smoke going up," Kozuha added. "If the winds change, it could come this way. It's a danger, no doubt about that."

Kozuha said he has been trying to remain calm and claimed he has not yet lost any sleep over the days-long wildfire - there was no time anyway, he noted. The local Java purveyor's company, Greenwood Lake Roasters Craft Coffee, has been caffeinating the firefighters battling the blaze around the clock with free coffee.

"We're doing everything we can to contain this threat to our community," Kozuha said. "We're trying to be strong but [we] feel the pain of the loss of life and potential harm. Fire is a powerful powerful force - and we have to stand strong against it. Together we'll defeat it."

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## Farmers urged to preserve native seeds for food security, income

By Getrude Mbagi

FARMERS across the country have been urged to cultivate the practice of preserving indigenous crop seeds as a way to prevent their extinction, enhance food security, and protect the environment.

Experts and stakeholders assert that promoting traditional seeds will not only boost food production but also contribute to sustainable farming practices in the face of climate change.

This was emphasized during the 2024 Agro-ecological Forum, Seed Fair, and Organic Food Festival held in Morogoro recently, where Janet Maro, executive director of Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), highlighted the importance of traditional seeds in ensuring food security.

According to Maro, indigenous seeds are not only resilient but also drought-resistant, making them ideal for sustainable and profitable farming.

Maro emphasized the need for intensified efforts from both the government and stakeholders to help farmers preserve indigenous seed varieties. She pointed out that these seeds are naturally resistant to diseases and adverse climate conditions, a crucial factor in combating the challenges posed by climate change.

"Seeds are the foundation of farming. We must safeguard indigenous seeds to ensure sustainable food production. It's time we focus on organic foods, which will not only keep us healthy but also help

us adapt to the challenges of climate change," she said.

She explained that efforts to preserve indigenous seeds would help protect the environment by promoting diverse, eco-friendly farming methods. Moreover, she noted that the SAT has already made significant strides in encouraging organic farming and the adoption of indigenous seeds in many regions, including Morogoro.

She said the 2024 Agro-ecological Forum and Seed Fair served as an important platform for sharing knowledge about seed diversity and its role in achieving food security. The event provided farmers with a valuable opportunity to learn about different varieties of crops and the benefits of embracing multiple crop species.

Maro also shared that SAT has heavily invested in agro-ecological technologies, promoting both organic farming and smart livestock practices that are cost-effective and environmentally sustainable.

"We have been working to instill organic farming knowledge and skills among farming groups across the country. This has helped improve their incomes and the quality of their products," she added.

Through various cooperative unions, thousands of farmers in rural areas have come together to produce and sell a wide range of crops, including indigenous species. Maro said these efforts were helping to reduce the over-reliance on a single crop variety and increase agricultural diversity, which is vital for food security.

In addition to its fieldwork, SAT



Varieties of traditional crop seeds showcased during agro-ecological Forum.

has partnered with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to conduct participatory research that engages farmers and pastoralists from start to finish.

Maro noted that this collaborative approach ensures that research directly addresses the real needs of the farming communities.

One notable study in Mayanga Village explored the use of cow urine in sunflower production, which showed promising results in boosting crop yields.

Farmers were encouraged to use between one and three litres of cow urine per plant, diluted with one to two litres of water, to improve growth.

In addition, SAT has been researching the use of Moringa and Neem trees to deter pests in livestock, offering organic alternatives

to chemical pest control methods. The findings are part of SAT's commitment to advancing sustainable farming techniques and helping farmers adopt practices that are both environmentally friendly and cost-effective.

"Every year, SAT organizes workshops that bring together young researchers, research supervisors, farmers, and pastoralists to work on solving existing challenges, particularly those related to sustainable land management, crop and livestock production, and nutrition," she said.

Farmers at the forum shared their experiences of how the adoption of indigenous seeds and agro-ecological practices has transformed their farming practices.

Makoye Ntwale, a farmer from Kilosa village in Morogoro, said the

seed fairs had been instrumental in exposing farmers to a wide range of crops, allowing them to diversify and improve their yields.

"Before the seed fairs, I only grew maize and sunflower. Now, with the support of SAT and the knowledge we've gained from these fairs, I have started growing other crops and vegetables. Interacting with other farmers has been a great learning experience," Ntwale said.

He added: "This is a big step toward food security. We now grow a variety of crops, and the knowledge shared has made a huge difference in our farming practices."

Julia Samson Laton, a farmer from Mangae Village in Mvomero District, expressed gratitude to SAT for its role in empowering farmers and providing them with

much-needed knowledge.

"SAT has helped us in ways we never imagined. Many of us were stuck in poor farming practices, but SAT came to our aid, helping us improve our techniques and enhance our livelihoods," Laton said.

Evanca Gambishi, Morogoro's regional agriculture specialist, also commended SAT for its efforts in promoting organic farming and agro-ecological practices, which have helped farmers and pastoralists cope with the escalating impacts of climate change.

He noted that the regional authorities were working diligently to support sustainable farming initiatives that prioritize environmental conservation.

"Organic farming protects the soil and land, and it's cost-effective. It also promotes a healthier society. We encourage farmers to adopt agro-ecological practices, which will help them produce enough food while protecting the environment," Gambishi said.

He further noted that last year, the government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, launched a national strategy to promote ecological farming, which aligns with SAT's on-the-ground initiatives.

The forum also featured exhibits of a wide range of indigenous seed varieties, including pumpkins, soybeans, sunflowers, pawpaws, okra, cowpeas, chickpeas and sesame. The exhibits highlighted the rich diversity of traditional seeds and the potential they hold for improving food security and supporting sustainable farming practices.

The forum underscored the importance of preserving indigenous seeds and promoting organic farming as essential strategies for addressing food security, climate change and environmental protection.

## Policy improvements driving economic empowerment for women in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S efforts to economically empower women are yielding tangible results, thanks to progressive policies and concerted action on the ground.

While full gender equality remains an aspirational goal, significant strides have been made toward empowering women to access, inherit, and control productive resources, including land, finances, and the labour market.

The progress aligns with the nation's pledge to achieve gender equality and women's economic empowerment by 2030.

One key milestone in this journey has been the creation of targeted policies and initiatives across both Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania.

Among the most notable is the National Strategy for Gender Development (NSGD), launched in 2006, which prioritises economic empowerment, poverty eradication, and women's access to education, employment, and training. The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III), which runs from 2021 to 2026, further reinforce the commitment to women's economic empowerment.

The policies have led to the establishment of women's economic empowerment forums at local, regional, and national levels. The forums serve as platforms for women to connect, share experiences, and access information on markets, technology, value chains, and business opportunities. With the creation of Women's Economic Empowerment Forums in all 26 regions and the National Women's Economic Forum launched in May 2023, women across the country are gaining access to critical resources and networks.

Elieshi Shoo, a member of a women's empowerment forum in Baraa ward, Arusha region, is a passionate advocate for the power of group savings and investment.

Shoo regularly organises training sessions on financial management and business operations to



help women in her community prepare to access loans.

"We link women in savings and investment groups to training programs that focus on managing finances and business operations. I am confident that most of them will qualify for loans," she says.

At the grassroots level, women are forming savings and investment groups, where they can either run individual businesses or collaborate on group ventures.

The groups help women build financial discipline and access credit, setting the foundation for greater financial independence.

Shoo's efforts have been instrumental in organising 20 savings groups between May and August 2024, each consisting of five members.

Economic empowerment is also playing a key role in reducing other forms of gender discrimination. In communities like Baraa, women are often the primary providers for their families, but financial hardships can leave them vulnerable to physical abuse from spouses. Shoo highlights that when food is scarce, women are often blamed and subjected to mistreatment. "When there is no food in the house, women face physical abuse from their husbands," she explains.

Many women in Baraa engage in small-scale trading, buying vegetables from surrounding suburbs and reselling them in Arusha town's market. With a small initial investment of 5,000 Tanzanian shillings, an entrepreneur can buy vegetables, recover her costs by midday, and make a modest profit.

However, many women are motivated by social

challenges—such as medical or funeral expenses—to join economic empowerment groups, where peer discipline and collective savings help them manage their finances more effectively.

Over time, the discipline instilled through these empowerment groups helps women transform their financial practices. Shoo mentors one such group, which began with an initial capital of just 30,000/-, contributed by its five members.

The group agreed to grow their savings, and through consistent contributions and interest from loans, their capital has now grown to 500,000/-. The group recently opened a bank account and plans to apply for a loan to further expand their business ventures.

Shoo's work reflects the wider impact of financial discipline in empowering women. She draws from her own experience of building financial independence. As a nurse, she started a small kiosk in 2003 with a modest inventory: a bar of soap, a litre of kerosene, some cooking oil, and basic staples like rice, sugar, and flour. By the time she retired in 2013, her kiosk had grown into a full-fledged shop, enabling her to buy goods in bulk and generate greater income.

Her story serves as a living testament to the power of economic empowerment policies, demonstrating that with persistence, financial discipline, and community support, women can transform their lives and communities.

Her shop stands as a symbol of what's possible when women embrace financial independence and empowerment, with the support of policies designed to uplift them.

The progress Tanzania has made toward women's economic empowerment is visible in both individual success stories and broader policy frameworks.

Through the establishment of economic forums, the promotion of savings and investment groups, and the implementation of policies like the National Strategy for Gender Development, women are gaining greater control over their economic destinies.

## Participants of education forum vow to end 'learning poverty' in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

AFRICA'S education ministers and development partners have reiterated their commitment to ending "learning poverty" and doubling efforts in funding foundational learning as a three-day education forum concluded Wednesday in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

"Learning poverty" refers to the inability of children to

meet basic literacy and numeracy milestones.

The forum, which gathered about 500 delegates, including ministers of education, development partners, and experts from across sub-Saharan Africa, called for urgent action to address the challenges slowing foundational learning to improve the quality of education on the continent.

"We have shared invaluable insights, strategies, and visions to tackle foundational

learning challenges across Africa. I call upon my fellow ministers to join me in ending learning poverty in the coming decade," Rwandan Minister of Education Joseph Nsengimana said in his closing remarks. "Let us make this our shared priority, working together and learning from one another to achieve this goal."

"Together, we are laying the foundation for a future in which every African child has

access to quality education," he said.

Victoria Kwakwa, vice president for Eastern and Southern Africa of the World Bank, urged governments to invest in foundational learning, starting with universalizing early childhood education, focusing on proficiency in literacy and numeracy, and keeping vulnerable populations, in particular adolescent girls, in school.

Noting that Africa's work-

ing-age population is expected to double by 2050, Kwakwa said stronger foundational learning is indispensable for a more prosperous and inclusive future.

"The World Bank is committed to partnering with governments and stakeholders to drive swift and impactful change," she said.

According to the latest UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, learning poverty rates in sub-Saharan

Africa stand at around 90 percent.

Data from the World Bank indicate that addressing the challenge could unlock an estimated 6.5 trillion U.S. dollars in economic opportunities. Failure to act, however, could result in economic losses of up to 17 trillion dollars across the continent.

The World Bank estimates a 97 billion dollar funding gap in education for sub-Saharan Africa.

Officials have called for committed and collaborative action among African nations and development partners to improve the situation.

Eteleva Kadilli, regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa of the United Nations Children's Fund or UNICEF, said ensuring prosperity across Africa requires greater political commitments and investment that are turned into concrete action.

# Mobile outreach clinics transform healthcare for people with disabilities and the underserved

By Guardian Reporter

**I**N Tanzania, as in many African countries, access to healthcare in rural areas remains limited due to resource shortages and insufficient healthcare personnel. This gap leaves much of the rural population, including people with disabilities (PWDs), without reliable healthcare services.

Recently, Kisesa Member of Parliament (MP) Lu-haga Mpina highlighted this issue, stating in the National Assembly that nearly 6,000 villages in Tanzania lack health centers, creating a significant public health challenge.

According to the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey 2022 (TDHS), with a population nearing 70 million, Tanzania has only 676 hospitals, 1,466 health centers, and roughly 7,965 dispensaries, most of which are concentrated in urban areas. These figures reflect a considerable shortfall in services for the majority rural population.

To bridge this gap, the Tanzanian government has partnered with the private sector to extend healthcare services through mobile outreach programmes.

One such partnership is between the Ministry of Health and Marie Stopes Tanzania, which has been actively providing healthcare services via mobile clinics to remote areas.

Known as 'huduma za mkoba' (mobile services) in Kiswahili, this programme aims to reach underserved rural populations, including PWDs. The mobile clinics provide a range of essential services, such as contraception, family planning, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) support, and cancer screenings.

PWDs may have additional logistical needs, such as special equipment or caregivers, that make it difficult to access care in distant or centralized locations. Mobile services reduce the travel burden and allow for convenient, regular check-ups and treatments at home or nearby.

Many PWDs require on-going and specialized medical care. Mobile health services provide a way to maintain continuity in their care, as providers can visit regularly, monitor changes, and adjust treatment plans as needed without disrupting the patients' routines.

Mobile outreach teams often have specialized training for working with individuals with dis-



abilities, allowing them to deliver more tailored and sensitive care. This includes mental health support and rehabilitation, which may be essential for maintaining or improving the quality of life for PWDs.

Enos Moshi, a visually impaired resident from Shinyanga Region, expresses gratitude for the mobile outreach clinics, which have made healthcare more accessible for him and his family.

"In the past, if a person with

a disability fell sick, it was challenging for them to reach health centers due to the distance and lack of assistance. Now, with these mobile clinics, healthcare services are brought closer to our homes," he shares.

Zawadi Lubuga, Outreach Lead at Marie Stopes Tanzania, explains that each mobile outreach team includes a blend of medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses (who lead the team), and drivers (who assist the team).

"Marie Stopes Tanzania has been training outreach groups to better serve rural communities, including people with disabilities," she says, adding, currently, 40 outreach teams operate across the country year-round, providing vital health services.

Allan Shayo, an outreach assistant, says the on-going training from Marie Stopes Tanzania, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has made it easier to serve PWDs.

"These training programmes have deepened our understanding of the needs of people with disabilities and improved our approach to care. Previously, we lacked the skills to effectively assist them," he

says. Shayo also notes that the training has dispelled misconceptions and reduced discrimination against PWDs among healthcare providers.

Disability inclusion expert, Francis Gugu highlights the long-standing challenge of providing accessible healthcare for people with disabilities.

"We are now training outreach teams in basic sign language to improve communication with patients who are hearing-impaired, which is a vital step toward inclusivity in healthcare," he explains, emphasizing the need for more government-private sector partnerships to promote disability awareness in health centers.

According to Novath Rukwago, a senior advocacy officer at CCBRT Hospital, empowering PWDs to participate and demand their healthcare rights is essential.

"Many healthcare workers think hearing-impaired patients require sign language interpreters, but some patients can read lips or benefit from written communication. A lack of understanding leaves many PWDs without proper care," he notes.

Reports indicate that extending healthcare services to underserved rural populations has a substantial impact on reducing maternal mortality rates, benefiting both national and global health initiatives. By reaching marginalized communities and PWDs through mobile clinics, Tanzania is making strides toward a more inclusive and accessible healthcare system.

# Show me the money' – Grenada PM calls for climate justice

By Aishwarya Bajpai

"THOUGH I come from a 'no worries' island, climate change is deeply worrisome for us," Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell told IPS in an exclusive interview at COP29 currently underway in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Asked how his country was recovering from Hurricane Beryl, Mitchell said the island in the last 24 hours "experienced flash flooding and landslides... So, apart from Hurricane Beryl, we are also dealing with other climate catastrophes."

However, despite the challenges, the people of Grenada remain hardy.

"We (the people of Grenada) are resilient people. But we will shift the mindset of the people to a long-term perspective, to adapt to protection and sustainability," Mitchell says. "We (SIDS) are at the frontline of the climatic crisis. It is not easy—we face disruption, loss of livelihoods, damage to property, and loss of lives."

His country Grenada—a tiny island nation in the Caribbean Sea—faces heightened vulnerability to climate change, and has seen increased frequency of cyclones, heavy rainfall, landslides, forest fires, crop losses, and water shortages.

"It is my first COP, and I have come here to show the world that we need

to be serious about transforming the world and protecting the climate."

Mitchell determination to ensure the best deal for his island country is evident when asked about the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) which has been touted as a game-changing tool expected to save up to USD 250 billion, he responded saying "In the Caribbean Islands, carbon emissions are nonexistent. We have held our end of the bargain—all Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have."

However, there was more to climate change than emissions, which Mitchell believes are central to the negotiations. He would like to see more benefits to ordinary people affected by climate change.

"Financing should be direct and transparent and should be to the farmers and fishing communities that are suffering the most."

He said it was disheartening to tell 16- to 17-year-olds the global average temperature increases by 1.5 degrees.

He sighed then continued, "We need to acknowledge that we are falling short of the required standards. To address this, we must focus on climate financing to support mitigation, adaptation, and resource stability. Our goal is sustainable, renewable, and secure energy for the future.



Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell superimposed on a dramatic poster displayed at the CARICOM pavilion at COP 29.



We're prepared to make this transition, but it requires financial backing and strong partnerships to make it possible."

When asked about his expectations of COP29? He asserted, "It is one planet, one globe. While our carbon emissions are none, we are the most

vulnerable."

He then threw down the gauntlet to the rich countries.

"At COP 29, if the developed world is serious about tackling the climate crisis, they have to take steps to curb carbon emissions and they can finance it. There is no justification for

carbon subsidies. There is no justification for not transitioning to renewable energy nor for not financing us to ensure adaptation to the climate crisis."

Mitchell demands that at COP29 climate finances are rationalized.

"At COP29, we must streamline the

climate finances for SIDS, especially by making the processes easier and simpler, without their control. For example, Loss and Damage Funds should go to SIDS for actual loss and damage experienced by these islands," he says.

The Prime Minister is adamant—the unnecessary bureaucracy in accessing funds is unacceptable.

"We shouldn't need to create 'projects' to secure funding to rebuild schools washed away by floods or to compensate farmers whose crops are destroyed. We are already doing a lot in building financial resilience—we can only go so far!"

Again, referring to his country and the current crisis with flooding and landslides, he says, "we are asking for very concrete steps at COP 29."

His message is straightforward.

"I will use the famous American saying, 'Show me the money!'... Put simply, when you have a climate calamity of 'X' magnitude, you get it billed. And that bill should be allowed to respond to the direct needs of the citizens without having to pay it back, without charging the interest on it, and without being able to go to the (global institutions) to access it. That's the kind of manuscript of simple financing we need."

## 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
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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One**

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# BUSINESS



## Investment schemes' assets value rises well past record

NAIROBI

The value of combined assets of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS), such as Money Market Funds and fixed income funds, has crossed the 300 billion mark for the first time in the period ended September 2024.

The CIC Unit Trust Scheme remained a leader by assets in the overall Unit Trust fund, taking up 22.3 percent of overall market share with assets totaling KSh 70.3 billion - a 5.3% increase from KSh 66.8 billion in the 2nd quarter of 2024. Sanlam Unit Trust was the second largest collective investment scheme, with assets growing 25.4 percent to KSh 46.8 billion, maintaining a 14.8% market share.

Jubilee Unit Trust Recorded the highest growth in Assets Under Management, increasing 90.7% to KSh 5.1 billion in the 3 months to September 2024 from KSh 2.7 billion in June 2024.

MyXeno Unit Trust saw the largest decline in Assets Under Management to KSh 13.0 billion in September 2024 from KSh 16.1 billion in March 2024. NCBA Unit Trust, British American Unit Trust, Zimele Unit Trust similarly experienced mild declines in assets under management by 0.3%, 2.6% and 6.5% respectively.

During the 3rd quarter of 2024, 4 new Unit Trust Schemes joined the pact, bringing the total number of active funds to 35 out of the total 54 approved collective investment schemes.

Mansa x by Standard Investment Bank had its funds converted to Mansa x special CIS funds from Mansa x funds. Other new entrants include Stanbic Unit Trust Scheme, Arvopac Unit Trust and Taifa Unit Trust, each pooling KSh 338.2 million, KSh 170.3 million and KSh 11.8 million in assets under management.

In the period under review, the largest chunk of assets under management was invested in government securities at 41.4% with fixed deposits taking up 31.1%. The rest was invested in cash and demand deposits (14.7%), Listed securities (1.9%), Unlisted securities (3.1%), Immovable property (0.9%), other CIS (0.6%) and Off-shore investments (6.2%).

Off-shore investments saw the sharpest increase of 4282% to KSh 19.6 billion invested in the period owing to Mansa x special funds which has a total of KSh 19 billion offshore investments.

A Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) is an investment vehicle where money is pooled together from investors and invested in a wide range of assets and the portfolio collectively managed by a professional fund manager.

# Technology advancements allow for easy tax payment

By Guardian Correspondent

The advent and manifestation of technology has led to a myriad of positive disruptions to various socio-economic sectors across the globe.

In the face of a global surge in illicit trade and tax evasion, governments are turning to technological innovations to address the challenges.

The revenue collection bodies in different countries have been resilient to technological disruption to curb illicit products which highly attract evasion of excise duties that consequently undermines economic development and deprives governments of much-needed revenue.

It goes without saying that illicit trade is a global problem, whereas in Tanzania, it presents a peculiarly significant challenge.

Products such as tobacco, alcohol, and soft drinks are key commodities subject to excise duties and are often targeted by illicit traders seeking to evade taxes through smuggling, counterfeiting, and under-reporting of production or sales.

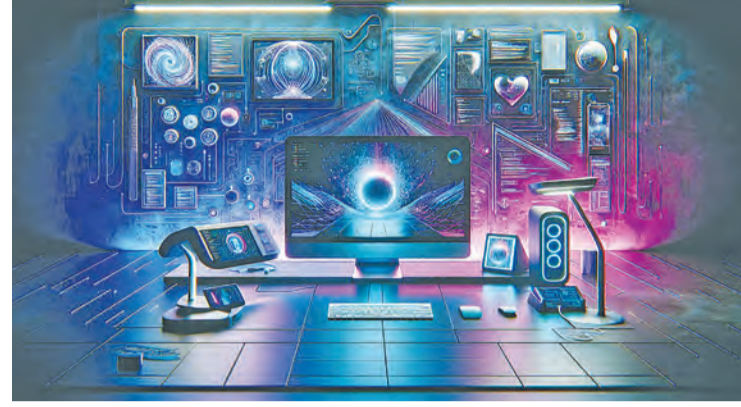
In doing so, they not only rob the Tanzanian government of revenue but also create unfair competition for legitimate businesses.

These practices also put the health and safety of consumers at risk, as they are exposed to unregulated, potentially harmful products.

Currently, according to National Tax Statistics by the Tanzania Revenue Authority, excises duty collected in the Financial Year 2023/24 from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar constitutes 12.9 percent and 8 percent of the gross revenue collection respectively, marking it the third high earning component just behind corporate tax at 13.2 percent and Value Added Tax for both domestic products and imports which tops all categories with 28 percent.

With excises duty being on the top tiers of revenue collection, the Tanzania Revenue Authority, therefore, needed a robust, technology-driven solution to detect, prevent, and monitor such illicit practices, hence the decision to partner with SICPA in launching the Electronic Tax Management System (ETS).

This exemplary initiative led the TRA to partner with SICPA, a leading global provider of secured identification, traceability, and authentication solutions, to introduce its Electronic Tax Management System (ETS) to Tanzania in



2019. The implementation of the ETS system, which began in 2019, has led to widespread improvements in tax collection compared to the pre-ETS era. Overall, excise collections have increased by 81.6 percent, amassing an additional 2.6trn/-.

The alcoholic beverages sector, particularly beer and spirits - with help of ETS, has been a standout performer, with excise revenues increasing by 82.9 percent and 97 percent, respectively.

This growth exhibits how the ETS system has not only ensured compliance but also created a broader tax base for excise duty collection, ensuring substantial contributions from various industries.

For instance, effectiveness of the ETS in revenue collection in Tanzania is evidenced in the financial year 2023/24 where a substantial increase in tax revenue collection, with excise taxes contributing a significant portion whereby from a total of 1.4trn/- collected from ETS-marked products, 1.0trn/- came from excise duty alone, reflecting an impressive growth of 18.1 percent compared to the previous fiscal year.

Industries, like soft drinks, saw particularly remarkable increases, with excise collection soaring by 43.9 percent compared to the previous fiscal year.

This surge highlights the effectiveness of the ETS system in maximizing excise duty revenue, a key contributor to the national budget.

The SICPA designed-system tracks the production and all movement of goods subject to excise duties, ensuring that all taxable products are accurately reported and levied. In Tanzania, this system is deployed to monitor the production and sale of products such as tobacco, alcohol, soft drinks, and multimedia products, which are prone to tax evasion.

ETS digital tracking technology integrates manufacturing and distribution processes of goods

by issuing secure digital stamps with encrypted data that can be scanned and verified, providing a tamper-proof.

Thus, SICPA's ETS enables the TRA to track these products at every stage of the supply chain, from production to point of sale to ensure that excise duties have been paid.

Apparently, the system as implemented by SICPA, has revolutionized tax collection and enhanced compliance by effectively combating the sale of illicit products and securing revenue streams by providing real-time data and insights to TRA.

Beyond excise duty, VAT collection on ETS-marked products has also experienced strong growth. The total additional VAT collected since ETS implementation stands at 644bn/-, a 35.4 percent increase from previous levels.

Beer and cigarettes were two key contributors, with VAT collections on these products rising by 39.2 percent and 26.3 percent, respectively.

This trend indicates that the ETS system has enhanced overall transparency and accountability, significantly boosting the government's revenue from excise duty and VAT across a wide array of consumer goods.

The spillover effect of ETS could be as attached to other tax categories such as increase on corporate tax and PAYE as these tax bands are a function of stable industrial driven economy.

Since its launch, ETS has proven highly effective in Tanzania, increasing tax collection by over 81.6 percent on excise duty products compared to the pre-ETS period. On the other hand, the most critical role of ETS is combating the pervasive issue of illicit, smuggling and counterfeit goods in Tanzania.

These practices distort market prices, harm legitimate businesses, and expose consumers to unregulated and often dangerous products.

Therefore, ETS addresses these problems head-on by creating an

unbreakable link between legitimate products and the taxes they are subject to.

By leveraging SICPA's technology, the use of unique, digitally-encrypted tax stamps for each product makes counterfeiting virtually impossible. Any attempt to replicate or tamper with the stamps can be detected instantly by the system, prompting immediate action from the authorities.

Furthermore, the system has provided consumers with greater transparency regarding the origins and authenticity of the products they buy.

By simply scanning the secure code on a product, consumers can verify its legitimacy and trace its journey from manufacturer to retailer.

Looking ahead, the success of ETS in Tanzania sets a good roadmap for the future of tax compliance and economic governance by harnessing the power of technology that will not only increase its revenue collection but also positioned itself well as a regional leader in the fight against illicit trade.

The SICPA's ETS has proven that digital solutions can play a crucial role in solving some of the most pressing challenges faced by governments in the 21st century, particularly Tanzania which serves as an epicenter of about eight landlocked countries in the SADC region.

The major takeaway from Tanzania's experience is clear: technology, when deployed strategically, has the potential to transform the way governments operate, enforce laws, and interact with businesses.

As the global economy becomes increasingly complex, the ability to track, trace, and verify products through digital systems will only grow in importance. Governments that embrace these technologies today will be better equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

The ETS implemented by SICPA in partnership with TRA has proven to be a useful tool in combating illicit trade and enhancing tax compliance in Tanzania.

By leveraging cutting-edge technology, the Tanzanian government has not only increased its revenue but also improved consumer safety and set a benchmark for other nations to follow.

With continued investment in technology and a commitment to good governance, Tanzania can build on this success and continue leading the way in the fight against illicit trade.

# Nigeria's COP29 delegation costs N866m

LAGOS

The Federal Government has incurred N866 million in flight costs for its delegation to the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, BusinessDay's findings have revealed.

In 2023, President Bola Tinubu participated in COP 28 in Dubai with 1,411 delegates, making him the leader in Africa with the highest entourage and the third largest representation among global countries attending the conference.

This year, Nigeria's delegation to the ongoing COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, reduced by 55 percent to 634 delegates but it still retains Africa's highest delegation title. Uganda has the second-highest delegation with 412 delegates.

Of the 634 delegates, 214 were sponsored to attend the conference by the Nigerian government.

The return flight tickets for the 214 delegates for COP 29 is estimated at N866 million, indicating a 1.59 percent decline

from last year's cost of N880m for COP28.

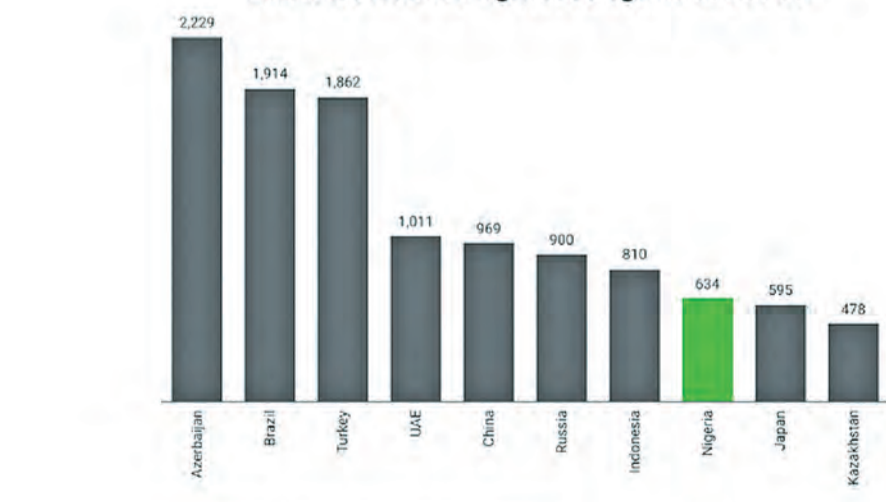
BusinessDay arrived at the cost using flight rates from international airline operators. According to sources within the aviation industry, the federal government rarely charters local carriers for international conferences.

Instead, it opts for international airlines, paying them in foreign currency for charter services, even though local operators have the necessary approvals to fly directly to some of the destinations.

The President often uses one of the 10 presidential planes, while the rest of the delegation charter an international flight. The maintenance costs for each presidential aircraft increased by 99.6 percent, reaching N7,297 billion in 2019.

A check on the average international flight operator showed that a two-way flight ticket from Nigeria to Baku costs N4.1 million.

Data sourced by BusinessDay showed the estacode or daily allowance each traveller receives is based on their position.



Ministers receive \$900 per day, totalling \$11,700 for the 13-day conference. Permanent secretaries are allocated \$600 per day, amounting to \$7,800 for the same period.

Officers on levels 15-17 get \$425 daily, totalling \$5,525, while those on levels 7-14 receive \$381 per day, amounting to \$4,953.

Finally, officers on levels 1-6 receive \$206 daily, totalling \$2,678 for the entire conference duration.

Overall, the interim attendance figures for COP29 reveal

that 66,778 delegates are attending in person, with about 3,975 participating virtually, totalling 70,753.

As is common at COP summits, the largest delegation at COP29 represents the host country. Azerbaijan has registered a delegation - including party overflow badges - of 2,229.

This is a far cry from Azerbaijan's tiny delegations of the past. Before COP28 in Dubai, Azerbaijan's delegation amounted to an average of six people.

The second-largest delegation this year comes from Brazil with 1,914 participants. Brazil typically brings one of the largest delegations and this year is no exception. A substantial delegation from Brazil was also likely considering they will be hosting COP30 next year.

The third-largest delegation comes from Turkey (1,892), followed by UAE (1,011) and China (969). The rest of the top 10 comprises Russia (900), Indonesia (810), Nigeria (634), Japan (595) and Kazakhstan (478).

Just outside the top 10 is the UK in 11th (470), as well as the US (405) in 16th and Australia (394) in 19th.

Azerbaijan has seen the biggest increase in delegation size since COP28, increasing by 995 people. This is followed by Turkey (966 more) and Russia (448).

The smallest delegations belong to Niger and San Marino (two), Nicaragua (three), and Andorra and North Korea (five).

Unsurprisingly, the largest decrease in delegation size is for the United Arab Emirates (dropping by 3,148). Next is India (909) and France (649), while the US delegation has shrunk by 434.

On the other hand, a group of 10 multilateral banks, including the World Bank, European Investment Bank and Asian Development Bank, has pledged \$120 billion annually by 2030 to boost climate finance to low and middle income countries, including Nigeria.

This took place on Tuesday at the ongoing COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, where the banks also committed \$42 billion for

adaptation to the effects of extreme weather.

The banks however cautioned that their capacity to do more would depend on the commitment of shareholders from developed and developing nations.

According to Nadia Calvino, president of the European Investment Bank, the private sector is becoming more involved in climate financing, having realised that the costs associated with climate change are unsustainable.

"We can spend time just discussing issues, but I think it's better to get on with it and work as best as possible, together to mobilize green finance, public and private finance, and have maximum impact on the ground," Calvino said.

The gap for annual adaptation financing ranges from \$187 billion to \$359 billion, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

António Guterres, UN secretary-general, has called for global action to curb deforestation and dramatically expand renewable energy efforts by 2030

# UN tax convention tighten efforts against global illicit financial flows

NEW YORK

This month, the world could witness a radical shift in the international political landscape. A new United Nations convention for tax cooperation would fix the broken rules-based system of international governance.

Africa loses billions of US dollars to tax avoidance that could pay for climate transition, infrastructure education and health urgent needs. If the continent fails to broaden its tax base and increase the resources it collects at home, it will be even more difficult to tackle the simultaneous crises of climate change, food insecurity, conflicts, and external.

The African Union estimates that the continent loses some \$90 billion a year in illicit financial flows. It also loses a further \$220 billion a year through tax breaks that disproportionately benefit the super-rich. Taken together, these are equivalent to a staggering \$390 billion a year, Pat-

rick Olomo, policy adviser to the Nigerian-led group, told at the IMF/World Bank meetings in Washington in October.

Africa is a remarkably diverse continent, with countries ranging from low-income to high-income. However, 33 of the 45 countries on the UN's list of Least Developed Countries for 2023 are African. And 20 of African low-income countries are facing bankruptcy or struggling with high levels of debt. Some recent examples of how these countries share the same challenges include: Angola's finance minister, Vera Daves de Sousa, said that all of the country's tax revenue was only enough to pay salaries and service debt. Nigeria's Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, said that the country loses an average of \$18 billion a year to illicit financial flows. Between 2009 and 2018, South Africa will have lost \$20 billion a year due to tax avoidance and evasion by the super-rich. So, development financing



is in desperate demand in Africa while its money is literally on the run.

There is a way out of the existential dilemma of how to raise the money needed to build infrastructure and decent public services and deal with climate change. That way is to improve "fiscal space" by fairly taxing multinationals operating on the continent, cross-border services and the richest, a small but growing segment of the population that is largely undertaxed.

Capitalism in Africa has allowed an immense accumulation of wealth in the hands

of few oligarchs. According to Henly & Partners 2024 Africa Wealth Report, "the continent is home to 135,200 millionaires, 342 centimillionaires and 21 billionaires, with a combined investable wealth of \$2.5 trillion". Five countries account for 90% of the continent's billionaires: South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria and Morocco.

These individuals easily delocalise their wealth, spreading it across different assets in different jurisdictions, under layers of companies, trusts and other legal arrangements. Much of it ends up in the lux-

ury real estate market of big cities of the Global North. They exploit the loopholes of the system to feed the voracious machine of wealth accumulation abroad.

The extreme concentration of wealth and of impunity burst out in numerous financial scandals, forcing the OECD to examine how to correct global distortions after the 2008 global crisis. Nevertheless, ten years of the so-called Inclusive G20/OECD Framework process have ended in disappointment for the emerging countries that were at the very origin of the process. Populist extremism is waiting to capitalise on unfulfilled promises and to exploit the discontent that arises from such disillusionment.

In Africa, effective and fair taxation of corporations and the rich is essential. Multinational corporations and the wealthy elite often exploit tax loopholes, exacerbating income inequality. Illicit financial flows and tax evasion drain resources needed

to enhance the resilience of African economies, making them vulnerable to economic shocks.

That's why the African Union and other developing countries dissatisfied with the outcome of the "Two Pillar Solution" joined forces to move international tax negotiations to the UN.

The UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, which is about to be approved, is the appropriate instrument to address tax evasion and avoidance, capital flight and to achieve effective taxation of corporations and high net worth individuals. Several G20 countries that host the headquarters of most multinationals tried to block the initiative. Twice they have failed to twist the UN General Assembly vote.

So, things have gone well for the tax justice league so far.

This year, for the first time in the history of the G20, finance ministers agreed to cooperate to ensure that the

super-rich are taxed. The G7 also agreed at least that under-taxation of the super-rich is a problem to fix. The UK government presented a budget that includes fair taxation of millionaires and corporations, and the conservative government of France agreed on the need for those at the very top to contribute what they should.

International tax cooperation is essential for African countries to be able to tax multinational corporations and their richest individuals without fear that they will simply move to other countries to avoid being taxed. Anti-tax evasion and avoidance measures agreed in a global scale are some of the means to address Illicit Financial Flows, as the same mechanisms are used for money laundering.

The OECD's efforts to address tax avoidance by the rich and multinationals have been incremental but limited. The UN convention offers a critical opportunity to build on this progress and establish a more comprehensive and equitable global tax framework that fosters efficient mobilization of financing for development.



## 'Ghana greatly needs concise national innovation strategy'

ACCRA

Professor Kwaku Atuahene-Gima, the President and Founder, Nobel International Business School (NiBS), says Ghana must have a concise national innovation strategy to promote national cohesion.

He said to engage in meaningful discussions about innovation on a national scale, it was essential that such efforts were guided by a clear, strategic framework that defined and drove a cohesive national innovation strategy.

The President of NiBS said the strategy must outline the scope and objectives of innovation, specify the role of various sectors in driving innovation, and establish frameworks for measuring outcomes and results.

Prof. Atuahene-Gima added that Government organisations worldwide had developed policies to foster innovation, however, in countries where innovation was a national priority, the government typically implemented a comprehensive strategy.

The Founder and President of NiBS was speaking at the Certified Innovation Professionals Association's Innovation Forum in Accra, under the theme, "Exploring the Future through Innovation."

The forum brought together industry leaders, experts, innovators, and other stakeholders to discuss ways to address societal and governmental issues with innovation at the center.

Prof. Atuahene-Gima said innovation was increasingly being recognised not only within organisations and individual offices, but also at the national level.

He said Ghana would benefit from a national innovation strategy that offered clear guidance to private businesses, helping entrepreneurs align their activities with national goals, identify growth opportunities, and access government support to enhance innovation capacity.

Prof. Atuahene-Gima said additionally, it would outline the resources available to help businesses build their innovation potential and achieve measurable outcomes.

"Now this is what we need, and I think that if we carry the conversation along these lines, we will be far better at implementing innovation, not only at the national level, but at company level, at the individual level and at the community level," he stressed.

He said in the future, organisations would be required to demonstrate their innovation capability.

The Professor said in that regard, the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) recently published a new standard, which was released in September, outlining the criteria organisations must meet to be recognised as innovators.

He said in Ghana, many innovation awards lacked concrete evidence, proposing that organisations adopt the ISO 56001 standard to provide measurable proof of their innovation capabilities.

Dr. Richard Ampofo Boadu, the President of Certified Innovation Professionals Association (CIPA), said the Association was actively working to engage with young people by introducing innovation challenges in secondary schools.

He said this initiative was part of their ongoing efforts to foster creativity and innovative thinking among the youth, and that it was a key part of their future.

The President of CIPA said they were also exploring the creation of innovation hubs as part of their strategic initiatives.

He said as a young association, while they aimed to launch these efforts soon, it served as an introduction to the Ghanaian public of what the Association could achieve.

Dr. Boadu said most Ghanaians possessed strong creative thinking skills; however, creativity alone does not always translate into innovation.

"Our role as an association is to channel these creative ideas into tangible innovations. By promoting best practices in innovation, we aim to help individuals and organisations develop their innovative capabilities, fostering a more innovation-driven culture," he added.

## That cabinet resolution by Ruto: Kenya's economy is doing good

NAIROBI

In 2022, the Kenyan people turned to William Ruto to lead the country through a severe economic crisis triggered by a heavy debt burden, COVID-19, rising inflation, increasing poverty, widespread unemployment, and a challenging election period.

His North Star was to make the economy work for the "hustlers," lower middle class and for those fighting to join in. Now, although the improvement is more visible in figures than in daily life, the government reports a surprisingly resilient economic recovery, attributed to the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto:

During a cabinet meeting chaired by President William Ruto at State House, Nairobi, on Thursday, the Cabinet Secretaries were briefed that the Kenyan economy continues to recover strongly from past global and domestic challenges, achieving robust growth.

Members were informed that inflation, reflecting the increase in prices over time, had declined substantially to 2.7 per cent last month, down from a high of 9.6 per cent in September 2022.

"This is the lowest inflation rate since 2007, during President Mwai Kibaki's tenure, and aligns with the target set in the Kenya Kwanza Manifesto," President Ruto said.

Following that, it was further noted that the prices of various types of food, particularly maize, beans, and peas, have decreased over the past year. A 2kg packet of maize, which retail at Ksh176 a year ago, now sells for Ksh124.

"As a result, most households can access basic food requirements. Currently, the country has 95.2 million 50kg bags of maize, 8.8 million bags of beans, 10.4 million bags of wheat, and 2.1 million bags of rice in stock."

The stable food situation, the Cabinet was informed, is credited to the government's subsidised fertiliser program and other support measures provided to farmers.

During this period, Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for inflation, grew at a rate of 5.6 per cent in 2023. The real GDP expanded by 4.6 per cent in the second quarter of 2024, with projections suggesting a 5 per cent growth rate by year-end and an improvement to 5.6 per cent next year.

In terms of revenue, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) reported a double-digit increase in tax collections, with a tax revenue growth of 11.5 per cent in the year to June 2024.

Regarding the exchange rate, the Cabinet noted the stability of the Kenyan Shilling against the US Dollar at Ksh129 from Ksh162, following an appreciation of nearly 20% earlier this year, which has reduced external debt service obligations.

Additionally, foreign exchange reserves at the Central Bank reached an all-time high of \$9.5 billion, marking an increase of \$2.4 billion, or 4.4 months of export cover.

Interest rates are beginning to decline, which will lower domestic interest costs, creating fiscal space.

On employment, especially labour migration, the Ministry of Labour reported that 105,367 Kenyans have secured jobs abroad since July 2023, with an additional 16,943 cleared for opportunities since January this year. This surge in employment overseas is credited to bilateral labour agreements with Germany and Austria and growing job opportunities for Kenyan citizens in Qatar, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, the United Kingdom, Kuwait, and Northern Ireland.

At the meeting, the Ministry of Labour also announced plans for recruitment drives in every county over the coming weeks, focusing on professional, skilled, and unskilled jobs, with positions available for nurses, aged-care workers, and teachers.

That was long after President Ruto had welcomed Deputy President Kithure Kindiki to his first Cabinet meeting as Deputy President and congratulated him on his nomination and appointment.

The country has made significant political and economic reforms that have contributed to sustained economic growth, social development, and political stability gains over the past decade.

However, its key development challenges still include poverty, inequality, youth unemployment, transparency and accountability, climate change, continued



weak private sector investment, and the vulnerability of the economy to internal and external shocks.

Furthermore, Kenya's robust growth before the COVID-19 pandemic was largely driven by the public sector, resulting in debt vulnerabilities which have exacerbated amid tightening global financing conditions.

Kenya's growth performance over the

past two decades has been strong. The economy achieved broad-based growth, averaging 4.8 per cent per year between 2015 and 2019, similar to the Lower Middle-Income Country average of 4.8 and above the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 2.4 per cent.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shock hit the economy hard, disrupting international trade and transport, tourism, and urban services activity. Fortunately, the agricultural sector, a cornerstone of the economy, remained resilient, helping to limit the contraction in GDP to only 0.3 per cent.

The pandemic also reversed Kenya's hard-earned gains in poverty reduction. In 2021, the economy staged a strong recovery, growing at 7.5 per cent, although some sectors, such as tourism, remained under pressure.

Kenya's economy continues to show considerable resilience in the face of recent shocks, including the lasting economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global impacts of the war in Ukraine, two consecutive years of droughts, tight monetary policy, and depreciation of the currency.

Kenya's real GDP expanded at an estimated 5.4 per cent in 2023 from 4.8 per cent in 2022. The agricultural sector experienced a stronger than expected rebound after two years of drought. The onset of the rains led to improved crop yields and livestock health, which supported the resumption of a downward trajectory for poverty rates. The poverty rate (\$2.15 international poverty rate) is projected to have declined from 35.8 per cent in 2022 to 35.1 per cent in 2023.

Kenya's growth is projected to reach 5.2 per cent on average during 2024-2026, mainly driven by the private sector as business confidence strengthens and the public sector continues to scale back.

Kenya's growth is also expected to benefit from the implementation of the recently signed trade agreements under the European Union Economic Partnership Agreement, African Continental Free Trade Area.

Although the economic outlook is broadly positive, it is subject to elevated uncertainty. The failure to achieve fiscal consolidation targets could exacerbate Kenya's debt vulnerabilities, especially due to the high-debt service repayments.

Climate hazards could resume inflationary pressures and food insecurity, affecting growth. Lower than anticipated growth in developed countries could undercut ongoing recovery in tourism, exports, and remittances. Elevated commodity prices would further tighten financial conditions, weaken external balances, and impact inflation.

World Bank support to Kenya includes budget support to help close the fiscal financing gap while supporting reforms that help advance the government's inclusive growth agenda.



# WORLD

## Britain eyes pension 'megafunds' to super-charge economy

LONDON

BRITAIN wants to build a slew of "megafunds" with up to 80 billion pounds (\$102 billion) in fresh investment firepower, under plans for the biggest shake-up in UK pensions seen in decades, finance minister Rachel Reeves said on Wednesday.

Reeves is under pressure to address massive under-investment by UK pension funds in domestic assets, with a recent collapse in allocations cited among the reasons for Britain's lacklustre economic growth.

Speaking on the eve of her first Mansion House address to the UK financial industry, Reeves said she would consolidate about 60 defined contribution pension schemes and 86 Local Government Pension Schemes, to make them more cost-efficient and large enough to bankroll ambitious projects.

"Last month's budget fixed the foundations to restore economic stability and put our public services on a firmer footing. Now we're going for growth," Reeves said in a statement.

"That starts with the biggest set of reforms to the pensions market in decades to unlock tens of billions of

pounds of investment in business and infrastructure, boost people's savings in retirement and drive economic growth so we can make every part of Britain better off," she said.

Local Government Pension Schemes and defined contribution pension pots in the UK are expected to collectively manage 1.3 trillion pounds in assets by the end of the decade, but many funds lack scale individually to pursue big-ticket investments like roads, rail and airports.

According to government analysis which will be published in the interim report of the Pensions Investment Review, pension funds are better placed to invest in a wider range of assets once their assets under management reach 25-50 billion pounds.

Funds holding more than 50 billion in assets can harness even greater benefits, the analysis continued, including investing directly in large scale projects at lower cost.

The government said it would consult on measures to facilitate pension fund consolidation via a new Pension Schemes Bill next year, which would also seek to empower fund managers to more easily move savers between



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, holds up the traditional red ministerial box containing her budget speech, as she poses for the media outside No 11 Downing Street, before departing to the House of Commons to deliver the budget in London, Oct 30, 2024. AP

schemes.

These so-called "megafunds" resemble pension schemes in place in Canada and Australia, where infrastructure investment volumes are respectively four times and three times greater than those managed by UK Defined Contribution schemes.

"They (Canada and Australia) probably have the best pension funds anywhere in the world," Reeves told the BBC. "Our pension funds in Britain are too small to be making the investments that get a good return for people saving for retirement and to help our economy to grow."

The government said the funds would be authorised by the Finan-

cial Conduct Authority and subject to heavy scrutiny to ensure performance for savers, including delivering value for money in investment decisions.

Tom Frost, head of UK institutional clients at abrdn, said the public was largely in favor of using pension savings to power UK businesses, housing and infrastructure but over-consolidation would usher in different risks.

"If the number of schemes is reduced to too low a number, this could limit innovation and lead to decreased competition, thereby resulting in poorer outcomes for current and future pensioners," he said.

**Agencies**

## Russian forces liberate Voznesenka community in Donbass region over past day

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN forces liberated the community of Voznesenka in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) over the past 24 hours in the special military operation in Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry reported on Thursday.

"Battlegroup Center units kept advancing deep into the enemy's defenses and liberated the settlement of Voznesenka in the Donetsk People's Republic," the ministry said in a statement.



**Russia's Battlegroup North inflicts 80 casualties on Ukrainian army in Kharkov area**

Russia's Battlegroup North inflicted roughly 80 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed two enemy armored vehicles in its area of responsibility in the Kharkov Region over the past 24 hours, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup North units inflicted losses in the Kharkov direction on formations of the Ukrainian army's 71st jaeger, 113th and 120th territorial defense brigades in areas near the settlements of Volchansk and Lipty in the Kharkov Region," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army's losses in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to 80 personnel, two armored combat vehicles and seven motor vehicles, it specified.

**Russia's Battlegroup West inflicts 570 casualties on Ukrainian army over past day**

Russia's Battlegroup West inflicted roughly 570 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed three enemy ammunition depots in its area of responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup West units improved their tactical position and struck manpower

and equipment of the Ukrainian army's 14th, 60th and 116th mechanized, 25th air assault, 119th and 241st territorial defense and 1st National Guard brigades near Terny in the Donetsk People's Republic, Zagryzovo, Lozovaya, Boguslavka, Kovsharovka and Petropavlovka in the Kharkov Region and in the area of the Serebryanka forestry. They repelled two counterattacks by formations of the Ukrainian army's 14th and 28th mechanized brigades," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army's losses in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to 570 personnel, an infantry fighting vehicle, a US-made M113 armored personnel carrier, seven motor vehicles, two 122mm D-30 howitzers, four Anklav-N and Kvertus electronic warfare stations and a Plastun radio-electronic surveillance station, it specified. In addition, Russian forces destroyed three field ammunition depots of the Ukrainian army, it said.

**Russia's Battlegroup South inflicts 655 casualties on Ukrainian troops over past day**

Russia's Battlegroup South in-

flicted roughly 655 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed three enemy tanks in its area of responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup South units improved their frontline positions and inflicted casualties on formations of the Ukrainian army's 30th, 33rd, 56th and 81st mechanized, 56th motorized infantry, 46th air mobile, 79th air assault and 116th territorial defense brigades near the settlements of Zaliznyanskoye, Druzhkovka, Dyleyevka, Orehkovo-Vasilevka, Reznikovo, Kurakhovo, Annovka and Seversk in the Donetsk People's Republic," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army lost 655 personnel, three tanks, an infantry fighting vehicle, an armored personnel carrier, 13 motor vehicles, a British-made 155mm Braveheart self-propelled artillery system, a Polish-manufactured 155mm Krab self-propelled artillery system, a 155mm M777 howitzer and a 105mm M119 artillery gun of US manufacture, two 122mm D-30 howitzers and a Croatian-made RAK-SA-12 multiple rocket launcher, it specified.

In addition, Russian forces destroyed two Anklav-N electronic warfare stations, a Plastun radio-electronic surveillance station and two ammunition depots of the Ukrainian army, it said.

**Russia's Battlegroup Center inflicts over 485 casualties on Ukrainian army in past day**

Russia's Battlegroup Center inflicted more than 485 casualties on Ukrainian troops and destroyed a German-made combat vehicle in its area of responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

Battlegroup Center units "inflicted losses on manpower and equipment of the Ukrainian army's 33rd, 53rd, 100th and 109th mechanized, 95th air assault, 5th mountain assault, 142nd infantry and 101st territorial defense brigades near the settlements of Zelyonoye Pole,

Leonidovka, Druzhba, Dzerzhinsk, Sukhaya Balka and Dimitrov in the Donetsk People's Republic. They repelled 11 counterattacks by formations of the Ukrainian army's 53rd and 117th mechanized and 152nd jaeger brigades, 49th and 425th assault battalions, 35th and 38th marine infantry brigades," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian army's losses in that frontline area over the past 24 hours amounted to more than 485 personnel, a German-made Marder infantry fighting vehicle, five Kozak armored combat vehicles, a Turkish-made Kirpi armored fighting vehicle, five motor vehicles, a US-made 155mm M777 howitzer, a 152mm D-20 howitzer, two 152mm Msta-B howitzers, a 122mm Gvozhdika motorized artillery system and two 122mm D-30 howitzers, it specified.

**Russia's Battlegroup East inflicts 145 casualties on Ukrainian army over past day**

Russia's Battlegroup East repulsed two Ukrainian army counterattacks and inflicted roughly 145 casualties on enemy troops in its area of responsibility over the past day, the ministry reported.

"Battlegroup East units improved their frontline positions and inflicted casualties on formations of the Ukrainian army's 128th mountain assault, 127th and 128th territorial defense brigades near the settlements of Velikaya Novosyolka and Oktyabr in the Donetsk People's Republic and Temirovka in the Zaporozhye Region.

**Agencies**

## China plays vital role in APEC's sustainable development, shared prosperity, says Thai top business advisor

BANGKOK

AS the second-largest economy globally, China has played a vital role in promoting sustainable development and shared prosperity among Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies and beyond, said Kasemsit Pathomsak, vice chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Thailand.

Navigating a difficult global landscape, China has remained committed to its regional development goals, focusing on the integration of sustainable technologies and digital advancements, Kasemsit, a member of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), said in a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua.

"China has been a very dedicated and consistent player in whatever they said they would do, and they have been on track," he said.

From electric vehicles to renewable energy solutions, Kasemsit noted that China's production and export capacity have enabled cost-effective access to technology, especially in sustainable sectors, essential for emerging economies striving to achieve their environmental targets.

Underscoring the importance of collaborative platforms in addressing common challenges ranging from digital transformation to food security and climate change, Kasemsit praised China's vision for an Asia-Pacific Community with a Shared Future and highlighted the need for deeper cooperation among the 21 APEC member economies.

"China's vision of a shared future is more pertinent than ever. We need more platforms to bring people together and discuss different issues that everyone is facing at the same time, so there is no point closing doors and trying to do away with organizations or groupings like APEC," Kasemsit said.

As APEC heads into the 2024 summit hosted by Peru, Kasemsit expressed optimism about the continuation of inclusive and sustainable themes introduced in previous years while calling for a renewed focus on long-term collaboration, particularly in areas such as climate change, digital transformation and sustainable agriculture.

With steady commitment and collaboration, APEC will continue to advance economic integration, technological adoption and sustainable growth, he said. **Xinhua**

## UN organisation urges safe passage for food aid to Sudanese states

PORT SUDAN

THE World Food Programme (WFP), an international organization within the UN that provides food assistance worldwide, on Thursday urged safe passage for food aid to Sudan's North Darfur and South Kordofan states.

"For the first time in months there are multiple WFP convoys of food aid heading to Zamzam in North Darfur, where famine was confirmed, and Kadugli in South Kordofan," the WFP said on social media platform X. "We have the food, we have the trucks, and we have the staff on board to ensure this aid gets there," it said, adding,

"Now, we need all warring parties and armed groups to allow this vital food and nutrition to arrive safely." On Wednesday, the Sudanese government decided to extend the opening of the Adre border crossing with Chad for three months to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the war-affected population in the country.

The government said later on Wednesday that 28.9 million people in Sudan need humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing civil war, among whom 16.9 million are in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance, requiring about 840,000 metric tons of assistance in the next two months.

The government closed the Adre land border crossing in February, accusing the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of using it to transport weapons. Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council on Aug. 15 announced the decision to reopen the Adre crossing for three months.

Sudan has been gripped by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF since mid-April 2023. According to UN estimates, about 25.6 million people -- more than half of Sudan's population -- face acute hunger amid the ongoing conflict, including over 755,000 on the brink of famine.

THE 2024 Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Guangzhou Open tennis tournament concluded on Oct. 27 in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province. This event, which enjoys a history of 20 years, once again swept China with a "tennis fever."

"Breakthrough" is what defines China's tennis in 2024.

This year, Chinese tennis players have constantly made breakthroughs in their personal performance and world ranking. At the Paris Olympics, Zheng Qinwen claimed the women's singles gold, and the Chinese duo Zhang Zhizhen and Wang Xinyu won a silver in the

mixed doubles. Their success made China's tennis a trending topic.

Besides, ticket sales of tennis tournaments in China soared. The Chinese people are having an increasingly higher passion for watching tennis games and joining the sport.

Unlike in table tennis and badminton, tennis has not been a traditional area of strength for China. The sport is demanding in skills, court conditions and training cost, which once hindered its development in China and made it difficult for the sport to get close to the public.

It was in 2004 when Chinese tennis players won a

## China swept by 'tennis fever'

gold medal in the women's doubles at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens that the sport embarked on a development path with Chinese characteristics in China.

Medals won by Chinese athletes at the Paris Olympics brought a tennis boom in China.

Since the conclusion of the Paris Olympics, tennis has embraced explosive development in China, as proved by the non-stop inquiries received by tennis training agencies and the surge in the sales of tennis apparels and

equipment.

The tennis tournaments being hosted across the country pushed the "tennis fever" to new highs. They provided opportunities to tennis fans to watch top-notch games and cheer for players around the courts.

Bai Xilin, director of the tennis administration center under the General Administration of Sport of China, believes that the prospering development of the sport of tennis is an epitome of China growing from a major sports country into a sporting pow-

erhouse.

On the evening of Oct. 13, the women's singles final match of the WTA Wuhan Open tennis tournament was staged at the Optics Valley International Tennis Center in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province. The spectators stand was fully-seated, immersed in the cheers for Chinese player Zheng Qinwen.

According to statistics, both the single-day and total ticket sales of the WTA Wuhan Open made historical highs this time. A total of over 180,000 tennis fan visits

were recorded watching the games, up 80 percent from the same period in 2019.

The China Open and Shanghai Masters tennis tournaments, which were held during China's National Day holiday in the beginning of October, delivered even more impressive results. The ticket revenue of the 2024 China Open surpassed 80 million yuan (\$11.21 million), a 60 percent increase from last year, setting a new record in the tournament's history. The Shanghai Masters also broke event records for both

attendance number and ticket sales, with over 220,000 spectator visits in person.

The sport of tennis mirrors drastic changes in Chinese people's lifestyles and will release huge consumption potential. Studies show that the sports industry soars when per capita GDP exceeds \$8,000. As the living standard and ability of consumption of Chinese residents keep growing, the foundation for the popularization of tennis will be further cemented.

Expanded tennis population and sufficient tennis courts also contributed to the rapid development of the sport in China.

**People's Daily**



# China's Belt and Road Initiative catalyses global development

BY KIN PHEA

As one of the most ambitious global projects of our time, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has transformed not only the physical landscape of participating countries but also their economic and diplomatic relationships.

Introduced in 2013, the BRI seeks to enhance global connectivity and cooperation through infrastructure development, trade and investment. It offers a path toward inclusive development and shared prosperity amid rising global challenges, such as trade protectionism and political instability.

BRI's flagship infrastructure projects such as the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone, the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway and the Siem Reap Angkor International Airport in Cambodia, the China-Laos Railway, the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the China-Europe Railway Express, and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, have been a key driver of trade and economic growth in the region and world.

For Cambodia, the BRI has unlocked significant opportunities for growth, partnership and modernization. It provides a chance to fast-track development, especially through infrastructure improvement, economic diversification, and stronger ties with China.

Infrastructure development has been at the heart of Cambodia's participation in the BRI.

In recent years, significant projects have been completed, reshaping our economic landscape. The Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Ex-



An aerial drone photo taken on Sept. 25, 2024 shows a section of the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway in Kampong Speu province, Cambodia. (Cambodian PPSHV Expressway Co., Ltd./Handout via Xinhua)

pressway, for example, has boosted transportation efficiency, reducing travel times and improving trade routes.

The new Siem Reap Angkor International Airport has made Cambodia a more accessible destination for tourists and investors.

The Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone highlights how the BRI has driven industrialization in Cambodia. With nearly 200 enterprises and over 30,000 jobs created, it has made a significant contribution to the country's economic

growth.

Such projects have helped Cambodia reduce logistics costs, improve competitiveness, and move up the value chain in global trade, aligning with Cambodia's economic aspirations of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.

Alongside the BRI, trade agreements like the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership have opened new op-

portunities for trade and investment, fueling growth in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and technology.

This diversification of trade has created new opportunities for Cambodian businesses and boosted foreign direct investment in critical sectors, helping us reach our long-term economic goals.

An essential aspect of the BRI is its commitment to sustainable development. Through high-quality infrastructure projects, green technology, and initiatives such as the

Digital Silk Road, the BRI is not only building bridges and roads, but also driving technological innovation and green growth.

The Digital Silk Road, launched in 2015, focuses on fostering partnerships in telecommunications, 5G and artificial intelligence.

Cambodia has the opportunity to leverage these technological advancements to enhance its digital infrastructure, improving access to education, healthcare and financial services.

With increased digital connectiv-

ity, Cambodia can better integrate into the global economy, making our businesses more competitive and our society more connected.

The BRI also aligns with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting projects that are environmentally friendly and socially inclusive.

By embracing green technologies and practices, Cambodia can pursue a development that balances economic growth with environmental sustainability.

The BRI has proven to be a transformative force for Cambodia. It has reshaped our economy, strengthened our economy, and deepened our comprehensive strategic partnership with China.

But the BRI is more than just a development program, it is a blueprint for global cooperation, sustainability and modernization.

As Cambodia looks to the future, our engagement with the BRI will be crucial in achieving our national development goals.

Together, through infrastructure, trade, technological innovation and intellectual collaboration, we can build a more connected and prosperous world.

All in all, the BRI has become a new engine of global economic growth, injecting vigorous impetus into building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Editor's note: Kin Phea is director general of the International Relations Institute of Cambodia, a think tank under the Royal Academy of Cambodia.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Xinhua News Agency. **Xinhua**

## Russia to collaborate with Arab nations for Middle East de-escalation – diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will coordinate with Arab and Muslim partners to de-escalate the situation in the Middle East, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in her commentary regarding the recent joint summit of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), focused on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"We are ready for further close coordina-

tion with our Arab and Muslim partners, as well as other like-minded nations, in the interest of reducing tensions in the conflict zone and transitioning toward a comprehensive political-diplomatic settlement based on universally recognized principles," the diplomat emphasized.

She pointed out that, following the forum, which took place on Saudi Arabia's initiative on November 11, a statement was adopted, which includes, among other things, "a call for an immediate ceasefire in



the Gaza Strip and in Lebanon, the implementation of relevant UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, and the provision of humanitarian aid to those in need."

"This document underscores the need for the general stabilization of the situation through the implementation of the Palestinian people's right to establish their own state, based on international legal principles for the Palestinian-Israeli settlement," Zakharova pointed out. "A call was made to

the international community to contribute to the achievement of this goal."

The position, negotiated in Riyadh, aligns with Russia's core approaches, the spokeswoman said.

"We praise the intent of regional states to play a central role in advancing the goal of putting an end to the violence in the Middle East and normalizing the situation across this vast region," she concluded.

The first such meeting took place in Riyadh in November 2023.

## Xizang keeps enhancing efforts in ecological conservation, restoration

TO the southwest of Geladaindong Peak in northwest China's Qinghai province, stands Jianguodir Glacier, which rises up to 6,542 meters above the sea level. It is one of the sources of the Yangtze River, the longest river in China.

At the foot of the glacier, lies Maqu township, Amdo county, Xizang autonomous region. To protect the glacier and the meadows surrounding it, Maqu township has reduced the number of livestock by nearly 40 percent in the recent decade.

"To chase short-term interests is something we'll never do," said Tsewang Drolma, Party head of Maqu township. According to her, the township has banned development in all forms within the key protection area of the glacier.

Protecting the ecological environment of Xizang benefits future generations and serves the whole world. In recent years, Xizang has kept enhancing ecological protection and restoration efforts to reinforce the shields for ecological security.

It has comprehensively implemented a law on ecological protection of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, and carried out large-scale land greening initiatives and urban space greening projects. It is also actively advancing the establishment of a protected areas framework with a focus on national parks.

Committed to optimizing the development of territorial space, Xizang is working to protect every blade of grass and every mountain and river on the plateau.

With the priority given to eco-environmental conservation, Xizang adheres to integrated conservation and restoration of mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands, deserts, and glaciers.

The autonomous region has implemented regulations on building itself into a pacesetter of ecological civilization, enforced protective measures to restrict access to important snow-capped mountains and glaciers, and promoted the inclusion of key areas such as Changtang, Mount Qomolangma, and Mount Kailash into a layout plan of national parks. Currently, nature reserves in Xizang account for 36 percent of the autonomous region's total land area.

As of the end of 2023, Xizang was home to 1,072 species of wild terrestrial vertebrates. It ranked among the top nationally in the number of large and medium-sized wildlife. In particular, the population of Tibetan antelope exceeded 300,000 in the autonomous region, while the number of Tibetan red deer, once believed to be extinct, had grown to over 800.

To improve the systematic governance mechanism, efforts have been strengthened for the ecological protection and restoration of important river basins.



Photo shows a solar farm in Qonggyai county, Shannan city, southwest China's Xizang autonomous region. (People's Daily Online/Yang Dong)

In the middle reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo River, a lush "green ecological corridor" that is around 1,800 meters wide stretches approximately 160 kilometers long.

From a high vantage point in Luodui village, Chaqi township, Chanang county, one can see endless trees.

"Forty years ago, there wasn't a single tree here. Now, greenery is increasing," said villager Paljor, who manages a nursery spanning over 450 mu, or 30 hectares.

In recent years, he has taken on a number of greening projects. "We've improved the environment, earned money, and lifted our living standards - all in one go," he said.

Xizang is accelerating key ecological projects, including afforestation in the mountains to the north and south of Lhasa and around Gonggar Airport in the middle reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo River, and greening projects for the basins of the Yarlung Tsangpo, Nujiang, Lhasa, Nyangqu, Yalong and Shiquan rivers.

The region is also establishing an ecological compensa-

tion mechanism that covers forests, wetlands, grasslands, and water ecosystems.

In 2023, Xizang completed 1.2 million mu of afforestation, restored and rehabilitated 6.14 million mu of degraded grasslands. Its forest coverage rate was lifted to 12.31 percent, and fractional vegetation coverage on grasslands to 48.02 percent.

Nyingchi has been recognized as a national forest city, while 11 counties, county-level cities and districts, including Bome, Qonggyai and Jomda, have been awarded the title of national demonstration zones for eco-environmental progress.

In the 2023 report on Xizang's ecological environment, all ecological quality indicators were rated as excellent. The health rating for rivers and lakes across the autonomous region stood at 100 percent, and 99.96 percent of key rivers and lakes met standards regarding ecological flow. The report said Xizang is one of the regions with the best ecological

quality in the world.

With continuous improvement in ecological quality, a green development pattern has been initially established in Xizang. The clean energy and low-carbon industries are growing steadily, with clean energy accounting for over 90 percent of the installed power capacity in the autonomous region. More than 2.2 million farmers and herders benefit from subsidies for grassland ecological protection.

Wang Junzheng, secretary of the Communist Party of China Xizang Autonomous Regional Committee, said that Xizang will continuously enhance its sense of responsibility and mission in ecological and environmental protection.

The region will make every effort to safeguard the ecology of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau according to law, and strive to build a beautiful Xizang where human and nature coexist harmoniously, Wang added.



Cricketers making Team Kariakoo celebrate with silverware following their triumph in the Women's Criio Cricket Festival which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

## Team Kariakoo cricketers shine in 2024 Women's Criio Cricket Festival

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

EXCITEMENT was once again on display as ladies from all backgrounds and ages in Dar es Salaam came together for an inspiring day of cricket last Sunday.

The celebration dubbed the Women's Criio Cricket Festival, was hosted at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC), which had also been the venue for the first two cricket festivals.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)- organized festivals are seeking to get a bigger number of domestic women engaged in the game.

Team Kariakoo, made up of experienced female cricketers, emerged as the festival's champions, while Team Tandika took the runner-up spot.

The seasoned cricketers' presence in the festivals and the participation of other women served as a timely inspiration to the up-and-coming female cricketers.

Each of the participating cricketers was presented with a gift and the winning team proudly ended up lifting the trophy.

The festival celebrated not just the players but also their families, as husbands and kids turned out in support - a unique and beautiful sight, adding to the event's joy.

In a special moment, the TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar, on behalf of the association, presented tokens of appreciation to Amna Rafiq, ICC Women's Cricket Officer, and Justin Ligyalangi, ICC Regional Manager Africa, honouring their dedication to the festival and to growing the sport.

The festival also took a moment to recognize the dedicated efforts of the medical staff, tournament officials, umpires, scorers, ground staff, and the Local Organizing Committee.

They were invited on stage in appre-

ciation of their support and hard work.

The Women's Criio Cricket Festival, the association revealed, is a testament to the power of cricket in bringing communities together.

From teamwork to joy, the association pointed out, cricket is for everyone, and it is heartening to see more women stepping onto the field, embracing the spirit of the game.

The association added that it is out to empower more women in sports and inspire the next generation of players.

The last Sunday celebration follows in the footsteps of two festivals which took place at the DGC ground.

The festival's opening day brought together school youngsters and culminated in a triumph by Team Yombo.

On the following day, university students gathered for a memorable day of cricketing, with Team Mbezi ultimately emerging as the champion.

Criio cricket program, operating under the International Cricket Council (ICC), is a celebration of the many ways cricket is played around the world.

A cricket fanatic can play in a park, on the streets, on a beach, or in a hall, using any type of bat and ball to play.

Criio is played in any person's way. Traditional cricket is played with a hardball, bringing together teams of eleven-a-side.

Criio celebrates all of the creative and adaptive ways that cricket is played around the world.

The council pointed out that Criio can be played anywhere, noting the cricketers ought to bring bats and balls and make sure the playing area is safe.

The Criio cricket program facilitator training- offered by ICC - is an online workshop designed to support new cricket facilitators with the tools and knowledge they need to deliver exciting and engaging cricket sessions to new participants of the game.

## Who starts for Taifa Stars against Ethiopia?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA are in need of three points when they take on Ethiopia in their penultimate 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers group fixture this evening.

A glance down the squad list announced by coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman for the crucial game reveals selection conundrum given the fresh additions to the list.

Restored to the group are Iraq-based Simon Msuva, Turkey-based midfielder Novatus Dismas and Iddy 'Nado' Selemani of Azam.

Also, returning to the squad are the Simba duo of Shomari Kapombe and Aishi Manula. Then there is striker Ismail Mgunda of Mashujaa and Nassoro Saadun of Azam who have been called up for the first time.

They join the likes of Mbwana Samatta (pictured), Clement Mzize, Kibu Denis, Ibrahim Bacca, Feisal Salum, Mohamed Hussein who all featured in last month's losses against DR Congo.

So, what combination of those players should coach Morocco thrust together for the games in Kinshasa today?

Morocco and his assistants have to work out how they fit all the talent into the team to obtain positive results.

Here's the team Morocco could pick to face the Walia Ibex at Stade des Martyrs de la Pentecôte in Kinshasa, DR Congo.

**GK: Aishi Manula**

The Simba goalkeeper has



barely played this year but rarely lets his country down. He'll likely start today despite the lack of playing time at Simba given the lack of serious competition.

**RB: Shomari Kapombe**

The veteran full-back earned the most recent of his international caps when he featured for Taifa Stars against Uganda in an AFCON qualifier back in March 2023.

A combination of injury problems and fluctuating form has seen Kapombe left out ever since by the suspended Adel Amrouche and his successor Morocco, but a return to form for Simba this season has now been recognised.

While Lusajo Mwaikenda has played well for both club and country, coach Morocco may opt for Kapombe's experience today.

**CB: Ibrahim Hamad**

The Young Africans defender was one of the standout Tanzania players at AFCON 2024 finals and remains the Taifa Stars' best centre-back when in full flight.

**CB: Dickson Job**

Another Young Africans defender who keeps his spot - there's no question about that. He'll also benefit from having a familiar face playing beside him on the pitch.

**LB: Mohamed Hussein**

The Simba full-back is one of the experienced players in the squad and is a shoo-in to remain in the starting XI.

**CM: Novatus Dismas**

Tanzania are certainly more porous with Novatus in midfield but the Turkey-based utility player is such a natural in possession.

He offers routes of progression and plenty of youthful guile. His energy in the middle of the park will be critical to disrupting the Ethiopia' rhythm, too.

**CM: Mudathir Yahya**

His industry and athleticism may be required in Kinshasa.

**CM: Feisal Salum**

Feitoto is capable in a deeper position, but he's performed at his best for the past two seasons in an advanced role. The Azam midfielder scored against Guinea and coach Morocco will hope he can repeat his magic in front of goal.

**RW: Mbwana Samatta**

Tanzania's skipper faced his fair share of criticism in recent years but remains integral for his country.

**LW: Simon Msuva**

Even in his sunset years, Tanzanian fans will always harbour hope that their Msuva can produce the big moment.

No one has scored more goals for Taifa Stars in the last five years than the former Wydad and Young Africans forward.

**ST: Clement Mzize**

It has been a hit-and-miss (mainly miss) display for Mzize in his short Taifa Stars career so far. An own goal away to DR Congo was followed by a much-improved performance in the reverse fixture but much more is expected this time.

With Taifa Stars needing pace and energy which Msuva and Samatta lack, coach Morocco may be tempted to stick with Mzize against Ethiopia.



People with disabilities' basketball team players pictured yesterday during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Azam FC plan friendly match to maintain momentum during FIFA break

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC head coach Rachid Taoussi is set to organize a friendly match during the ongoing FIFA international break.

The goal is to keep his players match-fit and test new tactical approaches as the team prepares to resume their league campaign.

The Ice-Cream Makers are enjoying a solid run of form, highlighted by their recent 1-0 victory over reigning champions Young Africans.

Djibril Sillah's decisive solo goal

secured the win and demonstrated Azam's potential to compete at the top.

When league action resumes later this month, Azam FC will host Kagera Sugar and Singida Black Stars before traveling to face Tabora United and Dodoma Jiji.

Currently, the team sits in fourth place on the Premier League table with 21 points from 10 matches.

Azam boasts one of the league's best defensive records, having conceded only three goals, matching league leaders Simba SC. Of-

fensively, they have scored 13 goals, tying them for fourth place in goals scored.

The team's balanced approach - featuring a strong defense paired with creative attacking play - has been instrumental in maintaining their top-four position.

This defensive stability will be crucial as they aim for a strong finish and a return to continental competition.

Several Azam players have been called up for international duty, but Taoussi is determined to keep the remaining squad members

sharp.

Club spokesperson Hashim Ibwe revealed plans for a friendly match to maintain fitness levels and ensure the entire squad stays ready.

"Our players have resumed training with intensive drills to prepare for the upcoming matches. Eight of our players are on international duty, and we hope they return in good condition," said Ibwe.

"To keep the rest of the team match-ready, the coach is organizing a friendly match during the

break. This will help us balance the squad and maintain our momentum heading into our next league match against Kagera Sugar," he added.

Azam resume their league campaign on November 23 with a home match against Kagera Sugar.

They aim to replicate or surpass their achievements from last season, where they finished as runners-up and qualified for the CAF Champions League preliminary round, ultimately falling to APR.

With a top-four spot secured at the moment, Azam are targeting

another strong season that will see them return to continental competition.

Their disciplined defense, creative midfield, and dynamic attack have laid a solid foundation for a successful campaign.

As Azam prepare for their upcoming matches, the friendly match during the break will serve as a crucial opportunity to refine tactics, integrate players, and maintain the fitness levels necessary for a strong finish to the season.

## Strated Argentina suffer shock 2-1 defeat at Paraguay

ASUNCION

A STUNNING bicycle kick from Antonio Sanabria and a second-half header from Omar Alderete gave Paraguay a well earned 2-1 home win over Argentina in the South American World Cup qualifiers on Thursday.

Argentina took the lead 11 minutes into the game when Enzo Fernandez's deep pass found Lautaro Martinez, whose thunderous shot was initially ruled out for offside, but was eventually awarded after a VAR review.

Paraguay went close moments later when Gustavo Gomez's header from a corner hit the crossbar. The home side quickly tried again with Gustavo Velazquez's cross finding Sanabria, who unleashed a superb overhead kick that left goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez helpless.

The shocked visitors struggled to find their feet, with captain Lionel Messi largely absent from the action for much of the first half and only managing one shot that went wide.

However, he was twice fouled by Alderete, but referee Anderson Daroco didn't show him a second yellow card before the break.

Two minutes into the second half, Paraguay defender Alderete headed in from a free kick following a foul by substitute Leonardo Balerdi on Julio Enciso.

Rodrigo de Paul had the best chance to equalise 20 minutes before the end but he failed to control the ball after a breakaway and his shot went wide as Argentina's errors continued to mount with Paraguay holding firm in defence.

"I think, overall, we played a great game. We controlled the ball. Their goals came from two of our mistakes. We need to fix our lapses on set pieces," striker Martinez said after the match to TyC sports.

"The (goal) at the start of the second half made everything more difficult. We have to congratulate the opponent, who defended very well," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni told a press conference.

World Cup holders Argentina top the standings with 22 points from 11 games and will host ninth-placed Peru on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Brazil had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Venezuela after a quick-fire second-half strike by substitute Telasco Segovia canceled out Raphinha's opener for the dominant visitors in the South American World Cup qualifiers on Thursday.

Vinicius Jr missed a chance to win the game with a penalty against a Venezuelan side who played the last minutes of the game down to 10-man after substitute Alexander Gonzalez was sent off for hitting both Gabriel Martinelli and Vinicius in the face in successive plays in the 89th minute.

REUTERS

## Liverpool star Alexis entangled in scandal as lawsuit filed against him

Caughtoffside Articles

LIVERPOOL midfielder Alexis Mac Allister is facing a legal situation that has captured significant attention off-the-pitch.

The 25-year-old Argentine international, who plays a key role for both Liverpool and the Argentina national team, is reportedly facing a lawsuit filed by Mayan over unresolved financial matters from their past relationship, according to The Mirror.

Mayan, a model and social media influencer, has filed for financial compensation related to the five years they spent together.

The legal action comes two years after their split, which was reportedly triggered by Mac Allister leaving Mayan for her friend, Ailén Cova, who is now his current girlfriend.

Ahead of Argentina's match against Paraguay during the ongoing international break, Mac Allister spoke about the ongoing situation. He acknowledged that their relationship had reached a clear conclusion and emphasised that the case is now being addressed through appropriate legal avenues.

The former Brighton midfielder mentioned that the choice to pursue legal action was hers, which she is entitled to, and pointed out that their differences had been discussed at the time of their breakup. He reiterated his commitment to handling the matter through the legal process. He said:

"There was no more relationship. She took her path, I took mine, and that's it."

"As for the other thing (lawsuit), everything is in court, where it should be, and we are waiting. At the time we discussed what we needed to discuss, but it was clearly her decision. Everything is fine, and she is within her rights."

Since joining Liverpool in June last year, Mac Allister's time at Anfield has been marked by both incredible performances. He was signed on a five-year deal for a bargain fee of £35 million, which could rise to £55 million with add-ons, and quickly became a key part of the squad.

# Five more countries book places at Cup of Nations finals

By Mark Gleeson, CAPE TOWN

GABON, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda all booked spots at the next Africa Cup of Nations finals on Thursday, some without even playing in the latest qualifiers.

Tunisia snatched a stoppage time goal from Ali El Abdi's diving header to edge Madagascar 3-2 in neutral Pretoria and make sure they will finish in the top two places in Group A.

That extended to 18 their record run of successive appearances at the finals, to be hosted in Morocco next year.

A 1-0 win for Libya away in Rwanda meant Nigeria were guaranteed a top two finish in Group D one hour before they kicked off their own match against Benin in Abidjan, but the Super Eagles were then held to a 1-1 draw.

Defender Mohamed Tijani's 16th minute goal put Benin on course to qualify but they will now have to wait after a late equaliser from Victor Osimhen spared Nigeria's blushes.

Gabon qualified from Group B when their closest challengers, the Central African Republic, went down



File: Gabon players pose for a team group photo before their match against Burkina Faso during the Africa Cup of Nations Round of 16 at Limbe Omnisport Stadium, Limbe, Cameroon on January 23, 2022. REUTERS

1-0 to Lesotho. The result confirmed a top two finish for Gabon with two games still to play.

South Africa and Uganda also advanced without kicking a ball and are assured the top two places in Group K after Congo lost 3-2 in South Sudan.

It was the first points of the campaign for Africa's newest country, who scored a late winner in Juba from Data

Elly.

### SLIM HOPES

Also on Thursday, Ghana's slim hopes of extending their run of 10 successive finals appearances were handed a lifeline when Sudan were subjected to a 4-0 drubbing by Niger.

Sudan needed only a draw to eliminate Ghana from the running in Group F but suffered stage fright in Lome and

were 3-0 down by halftime, two of the goals coming from Ghana-born Daniel Sosah.

Ghana, however, must still win their last two fixtures, away in Angola on Friday and at home to Niger on Monday. Even then, if Sudan take a point from their last game against already-qualified Angola on Monday, Ghana will be out.

Algeria dropped their first points of the campaign as they were held to a goalless draw away by Equatorial Guinea in stifling heat in Malabo. Both teams were already sure of their place at the tournament in Morocco, which is from Dec. 21, 2025 to Jan. 18, 2026.

Two sides advance to the finals from each of the 12 qualifying groups with Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Morocco and Senegal having booked their berths before Thursday's matches.

Senegal beat Burkina Faso 1-0 away in their top of the table clash in Group L.

On Friday, the qualifiers continue with 10 matches around the continent. Home success will see Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe join the list of finalists.

REUTERS

## 'He could be one of world's best' - what next for Kelleher?

By Emlyn Begley

ALISSON Becker's imminent return from injury means Caoimhin Kelleher's latest run in the Liverpool first team could be over.

The 25-year-old has been excellent for the Reds in the past few weeks - and put in a man-of-the-match performance as the Republic of Ireland beat Finland 1-0 on Thursday.

He saved Joel Pohjanpalo's penalty and kept out Robin Lod's follow-up in the Nations League win at Aviva Stadium.

Afterwards, former Republic of Ireland striker Kevin Doyle said on RTE: "I think in five or six years he is going to be the top one or two goalkeepers in the world."

"He's that good at everything he does. He has got everything in the locker. He ticks every box. If he can get himself playing I feel he's going to be the top man."

Kelleher is often called the best back-up keeper in the world - and nearly always performs when he gets his chance.

He has only conceded five goals in his eight games for Arne Slot's Liverpool side this season.

But if Alisson stays injury-free for the rest of the season, Kelleher is likely to have just a handful of Carabao Cup and FA Cup games.

And with Valencia's Giorgi Mamardashvili joining next summer, Kelleher might not even be second choice if he stays.

BBC Sport looks at what Kelleher's future holds, whether he needs to move and just how good he is.

"Does Kelleher have a chance of keeping his Liverpool place?"

Alisson suffered a hamstring injury during Liverpool's win over Crystal Palace on 5 October and has not played since.

The Brazilian, 32, has been Liverpool's number one since his £66.8m move from Roma in 2018 - playing 271 times and winning the Champions League and Premier League.

At another club, against another goalkeeper, Kelleher may well have hoped four clean sheets in eight games may have been enough to keep his place.

But Liverpool boss Slot has made it perfectly clear that is not an option.

"Alisson is, and will be, our first goalkeeper if he is fit," Slot said after Liverpool's win over Aston Villa - in which Kelleher made some fantastic saves.

"Caoimhin has done outstanding last season and this season again as well. But the moment Alisson will be fit he will be our first goalkeeper."

Liverpool legend John Aldridge, writing in a Liverpool Echo column, does not think it should be such a straightforward decision though.

"Caoimhin Kelleher has been magnificent and I actually think Arne Slot has got a really big decision to make in the next few weeks. Once Alisson is fit, I don't think it's fair if Kelleher gets demoted to the bench," said the former Republic of Ireland striker.

"I think he's been absolutely first-class. He's been faultless with everything he has done in the games, and I think Ali will be looking at it and be embarrassed if he went back in because he's done such a good job."

But Slot's quotes tell us that decision has already been made.

"Does Kelleher have to leave Liverpool?"

It has always felt like Kelleher would eventually have to move on - unless he kept waiting for Alisson, who is seven years older than him, to decline or leave.

But the Irishman's hand effectively seemed to be forced in August when Liverpool agreed to sign Valencia and Georgia goalkeeper Mamardashvili, now 24, in a deal worth up to £29m next summer.

That could drop Kelleher, who joined the club aged 16 from Cork side Ringmahon Rangers, to third choice.



Caoimhin Kelleher has yet to play first-team football for any other club than Liverpool [Getty Images]

"I've made it clear in the last few years that I want to go and be a number one and play week in, week out," said Kelleher in September.

"The club's made that decision to get another goalkeeper and from the outside looking in, it looks like they've made a decision to go in a different direction."

Even if Liverpool surprisingly sold Alisson, who has 18 months left on his deal with the option for another year, Kelleher would likely remain second choice, this time to a younger goalkeeper.

Liverpool have turned down bids from Nottingham Forest in the past year, while Celtic have also been strongly linked.

Last month former Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given told BBC Radio 5 Live: "He isn't getting any younger."

"Each game that goes by where he doesn't play, he will never get back."

"He has only got one

career, one life and one opportunity at being a top goalkeeper."

Kelleher's recent run in the team seems to have proved he is good enough - but he will now face another spell on the sidelines with Alisson's return.

In October, former Liverpool goalkeeper Sander Westerveld told BBC Radio Merseyside: "Alisson is the best in the world."

"I think this is a moment for Kelleher to show the world what he's capable of. He will probably leave at the end of the season."

"How much football has Kelleher played?"

Goalkeepers bloom later than outfield players - but Kelleher, who did not go in goal until he was 14, has not played nearly as much football as he ideally would have.

Not having any loan spells has not helped matters.

He has played 20 league games and 55 matches in total for Liverpool - plus 19 times for the Republic of Ireland.

He only became the Republic of Ireland number one after an injury to Southampton's 22-year-old Gavin Bazunu, who has played 162 matches for four different clubs.

Kelleher is older than incoming Reds keeper Mamardashvili, who has played 178 club matches, and even Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma - who has played 402 times for AC Milan and Paris St-Germain.

Kelleher turns 26 before Liverpool's next game. By that age Joe Hart had played 194 times in the Premier League, with David de Gea, Ian Walker and Aaron Ramsdale all playing more than 150 times.

"How good is Kelleher?"

When Kelleher plays, he usually plays well. His is a proactive goalkeeper, quick off his line, good with the ball at his feet and a fine shot-stopper too.

Some 32% of his touches in the Premier League

have been outside the box (286/897) compared with 25% of Alisson's.

Kelleher has the club record for penalty shoot-out saves as well - stopping six kicks in four Carabao Cup shootouts.

Kelleher did not save a penalty in the 2022 final victory over Chelsea, but scored Liverpool's 11th kick before opposite number Kepa missed his.

And his Premier League stats are favourable too - when he does play.

Including goalkeepers to play at least 1,000 minutes since Kelleher's Premier League debut in December 2020, he has the sixth-best save percentage (73%) and seventh-most successful passes (28) per 90 minutes.

For what Opta defines as goals prevented, which is goals conceded against expected goals on target, since his debut he ranks third among Premier League goalkeepers (0.17 per 90 minutes), even above Alisson (0.15).

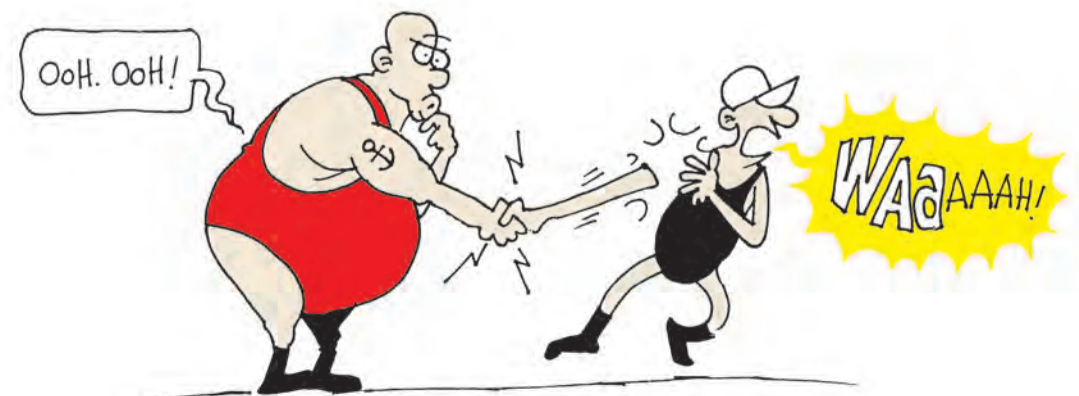
He has not made any errors leading to goals.

Westerveld, who won the FA Cup, League Cup and Uefa Cup with the Reds in 2001, told the BBC: "It's amazing. He steps in and I can't remember him having a bad game. It's not just he steps in and does OK, but he wins matches for us."

"On the ball, his reflexes, he's agile, he comes for crosses, his distribution - everything a goalkeeper at Liverpool should have, he's got."

BBC

## Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Five more countries book places at Cup of Nations finals

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## Yanga finally part ways with coach Miguel Gamondi

feat to Tabora United saw Young Africans slip to second place, one point behind arch-rivals Simba SC.

The recent slump marks a sharp decline for a team that had been dominant for most of the season.

The club released a statement confirming the decision:

"The management of Young Africans Sports Club wishes to inform the public that it has terminated the contract of the head coach of the first team, Angel Miguel Gamondi. Similarly, the management has terminated the contract of the assistant coach, Moussa Ndaw."

The club also announced that the process to find replacements was already underway, with former KMC coach Abdihamid Moallin rumoured to be joining the reshuffled technical bench.

"The urgent process of finding new coaches for our first team has already begun and is expected to be completed soon," the statement, signed by the club's chief executive officer, added.

Despite the abrupt end to his tenure, Gamondi leaves behind a notable legacy. Appointed in July 2023 to replace Nasreddine Nabi, the 57-year-old Argentine achieved significant success:

- NBC Premier League Champion: Guided Young Africans to a third consecutive league title.
- CAF Champions League Breakthrough: Led the club to the group stage for the first time in 25 years and subsequently to the quarter-finals, making history with a dominant 4-0 victory over CR Belouizdad.
- Federation Cup Success: Secured

back-to-back Federation Cup titles.

Community Shield Glory: Started the current campaign with a Community Shield win.

Historic Win Over Simba SC: Oversaw a 5-1 thrashing of Simba SC in November 2023, Young Africans' biggest win over their rivals since 1968.

In total, Gamondi led Young Africans in 40 Premier League matches, recording 34 wins, 4 draws, and just 4 losses. His teams scored 85 goals, conceded only 18, and amassed 104 points during his tenure.

This season, Gamondi managed 16 matches in all competitions, winning 14 and losing two.

Young Africans are gearing up for a challenging CAF Champions League campaign. Drawn in Group A, the team will face African giants Al Ahly (Egypt), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), and MC Alger (Algeria). The club now faces the dual challenge of ensuring a smooth transition and competing ef-

fectively on the continental stage.

The decision to part ways with Gamondi followed an emergency meeting held after the Tabora United defeat, where the team's recent performance was reviewed.

As Young Africans prepare to unveil their new technical bench, the focus will be on stability and continuity. With tough fixtures ahead in both the domestic and continental arenas, the incoming coach will have little time to settle.

Gamondi's dismissal has sparked debate among fans and pundits. While some argue that recent losses justified the decision, others believe his achievements warranted more time.

For Young Africans, the immediate task is clear: restore confidence, maintain domestic dominance, and perform on the continental stage.

The Jangwani faithful will be hoping for a seamless transition as the club enters a critical phase of the season.

By Correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapii

**M**IGUEL Gamondi, along with his assistant Moussa Ndaw, has been dismissed as the head coach of Young Africans SC.

The Argentine tactician (pictured), who spent one and a half years at the helm, was officially informed of the club's decision yesterday morning. His final game in charge was a stunning 3-1 defeat to Tabora United in the NBC Premier League last week.

Gamondi's dismissal comes in the wake of Young Africans' first consecutive league defeats since February 2020.

The defending champions began the 2024/25 season in spectacular form, winning their opening eight league matches and amassing 24 points.

However, a 1-0 loss to Azam FC followed by the shocking 3-1 de-

## Yanga close to replacing Miguel Gamondi with Madoui or Ramovic

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans Sports Club (Yanga) are intensifying their search for a new head coach following the dismissal of Miguel Gamondi and his assistant Moussa N'Daw.

The club is reportedly in advanced discussions with Algerian coach Kheireddine Madoui and German tactician Saed Ramovic as potential replacements.

Ramovic, who recently stepped down as head coach of South Africa's TS Galaxy, has emerged as a prime candidate for the Young Africans job.

The 45-year-old coach announced his resignation on national television after a 1-1 draw against Stellenbosch FC, citing personal reasons and his ambition for new challenges.

Ramovic enjoyed a three-year stint at TS Galaxy, where he achieved notable success despite working with a squad that underwent frequent player changes. Under his guidance, the club developed a reputation for nurturing talent, with several players moving to top-tier teams.

Having faced Young Africans in a pre-season friendly earlier this season - a match TS Galaxy narrowly lost 1-0 - Ramovic is familiar with the Tanzanian giants.

Sources suggest negotiations are in their final stages, and his impressive track record at TS Galaxy has made him a sought-after candidate for both domestic and international roles.

Madoui, currently managing CS Constantine in Algeria, is also under serious consideration.

A decorated coach with extensive experience in African club competitions, Madoui is best known for leading ES Sétif to victory in the CAF Champions League (2014) and the CAF Super Cup (2015).

**Madoui's résumé includes:**

- CAF Champions League Winner: 2013-2014 with ES Sétif.
- CAF Super Cup Winner: 2014-2015.
- Algerian League Titles: Two-time champion with ES Sétif.
- Algerian Super Cup Titles: Two-time winner.

His current team, CS Constantine, leads the Algerian Ligue 1 with 15 points from eight matches (four wins, three draws, and one loss). They are also competing in Group A of the CAF Confederation Cup alongside Tanzania's Simba SC.

Madoui's experience in high-pressure African competitions aligns with Young Africans' ambitions, par-



ticularly as the club seeks to make a strong impact in the CAF Champions League.

Young Africans' management is evaluating the tactical philosophies of both candidates. Ramovic is known for his disciplined defensive setups and adaptability, while Madoui's attacking 4-2-3-1 system aligns closely with Young Africans' preferred style under previous coaches.

Madoui's success in African competitions and his ability to build competitive squads make him an appealing choice. If appointed, his expertise could provide Young Africans with the edge needed to navigate a challenging CAF Champions League group that includes Al Hilal (Sudan), MC Alger (Algeria), and TP Mazembe (DR Congo).

A source close to the club stated: "Gamondi's situation has been resolved, and we're in the final stages of appointing a new coach. The decision was made for the good of

the club, and we thank him for his contributions. The new coach's announcement will be made soon."

Young Africans are looking for a coach capable of balancing domestic success with continental ambitions. Madoui's experience in African competitions and Ramovic's adaptability to challenging environments position both candidates as strong contenders for the job.

With a CAF Champions League campaign looming and the club eager to bounce back from recent losses to Azam FC and Tabora United, the next coach's mandate will be clear: restore confidence, maintain domestic dominance, and deliver on the continental stage.

As negotiations progress, the announcement of Young Africans' new head coach is expected soon. Fans and analysts alike will be eager to see who takes up the reins at Jangwani Street and whether they can lead the club to new heights.

**5 EATV MONDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**5Sports**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zole Kuntu  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dondao Za Michzo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 AKILI & Me  
15:55 Dondao Za Michzo  
16:00 Zole Kuntu  
16:55 Dondao Za Michzo  
17:00 SLEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 5SPORTS  
22:00 Zole Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

**5Sports**

The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

**eastAfrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## AFCON qualification on the line as Taifa Stars take on Ethiopia

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA suffered back-to-back bruising defeats to DR Congo in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers last month and will be aiming for redemption against hosts Ethiopia in the evening.

Owing to the Confederation of African Football ruling Ethiopia's facilities as inadequate to host AFCON qualifier matches, this encounter will take place at Stade des Martyrs de la Pentecote in Kinshasa, DR Congo.

A trip to Kinshasa offers Tanzania the chance to get back on track in their AFCON campaign. They drew and won their opening two matches, one of which came against Ethiopia at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, but have now fallen behind Guinea in the standings as they search for a fourth AFCON finals qualification.

Prior to October's losses, Taifa Stars boasted a decent five-game unbeaten record with three wins and two draws. Coach Hemed Morocco Suleiman will be hoping that his side can rediscover that form to help them reach the AFCON finals.

Taifa Stars must pick up a first-ever win against Ethiopia while hoping that Congo DR picks up a win against Guinea, which could leave coach Morocco's side in pole position heading into their final game on Tuesday.

Defeat against Ethiopia coupled with a Guinea win against DR Congo will mark the end of Taifa Stars qualification hopes, while a win will see the second-place battle go down to the final match of the group with Guinea.

Tanzania won four matches and drew one on the road prior to losing their last two away matches against DR Congo and Sudan, a run they must now end to improve their chances of making it to AFCON finals in Morocco next year.

With the return of Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta, Taifa Stars should have enough to win this one against an Ethiopia side that is 36 places below in the FIFA Rankings.

On the other side, Ethiopia have endured a poor run of results in their qualifying campaign and look set to miss out on consecutive AFCON competitions as they sit rock-bottom in Group H with just one point from four matches.

The Walia Ibex were beaten 3-0 by Guinea last time out, conceding all three goals in a seven-minute spell in the first half before failing to muster any response despite an improved display in the second half.

Further trends show Ethiopia are on a three-game losing streak and are winless in their last six games across all competitions.

They head into the game knowing their fate is out of their hands, although failure to win will ultimately rule them out of contention to advance.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

