



Kijazi lists feats in conservation Page 3

TPA urged to boost performance Page 4

Massive wheat production plan unveiled Page 6

Page 13

'Avoid taking any side in major power rifts'

It is the government's responsibility to create an environment for the private sector to grow

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA need not take sides when engaged in trade and investment matters that involve tensions between major powers, former president Jakaya Kikwete has declared.

Opening an academic conference on business prospects and economic development organized by the College of Business (CBE) in Dodoma yesterday, he said that the current leaders had taken over the country's experience in economic diplomacy.

He said that in discussions on investment issues leaders encounter greater power frictions, underlining that it is good to tell them that Tanzania wishes to have good relations with everyone.

Narrating his experiences, he said he once visited the Toyota factory in Japan, where he saw flags of the United States, Japan and China, apart from other flags. "There is no nation whose flag is not there and these are the countries that have invested," he said, noting that if a Chinese investor sets up such a factory here a problem comes up. Western countries dislike Chinese people investing in our countries, he said.

He recalled that in the United Nations it was Taiwan Island that was representing China, where Tanzania led the combat for restoring the rights of China, and it is the basis of the friendship between China and Tanzania.

"The Chinese are bringing investment, the Americans are there, the British are there," he said, noting that African countries are looking for markets for our products in China and elsewhere.

He said that development is fueled by the correct use of research and professional advice, since a country with little use of research tends to lag behind in development, "which is why Africa is behind."

He reiterated that in order for the country to grow, it is necessary to create a good environment for investment and business so that people are willing to invest.

"No economy can grow without investment," he said, emphasizing that investment thrives in a business environment that is good. "Investment is a product that is ashamed of existing in a place which it is

TURN TO PAGE 2



Public Service Social Security Fund director general Hosea Kashimba (L) pictured yesterday briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the fund's pavilion in the course of the Third Financial Service Week celebrations in progress in Arusha city. Those accompanying the PM included the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), Prof Joyce Ndalichako (R), and Permanent Secretary Cyprian Luhemeja (2nd-L). Story on Page 4. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM: Treasury, PO-RALG start special group loans

Upwards of 35 banks and several telecom companies collaborated in organising this year's exhibition

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the Treasury and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) to ensure that seven weeks from now (15th January

2024) they will have resumed issuance of loans to youth, women and people with disabilities, taking up 10 per cent of district council budgets.

He issued this directive here yesterday when launching the national financial services exhibition, after airing the view

that the government stopped the issuance of the loans as various procedures were violated.

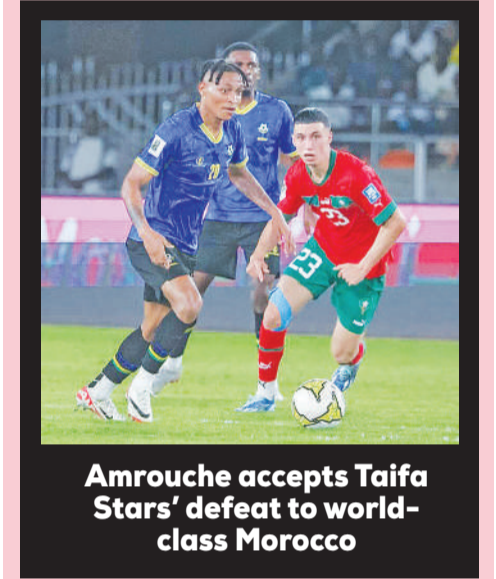
He said the government has come up with a usable modality to guide the issuance of such loans, so it is time for the loans to start being issued.

"The government was disbursing a lot of money to several groups," he said, pointing out that a section of those responsible for that operation sought to benefit from the programme by using

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS

Page 20



Amrouche accepts Taifa Stars' defeat to world-class Morocco

Page 19



Ziyech strikes as Morocco win while Ghana, South Africa crash

Stamico invites venture partners for 487 projects

By Guardian Correspondent, London

THE government is looking for potential investors to enter into joint ventures with holders of licences of 487 exploration and mining projects countrywide.

Ally Samaje, the minerals commissioner, made this affirmation when presenting a paper at the Tanzania-UK Business Forum here on Tuesday, saying that under the business arrangement, "the new investors would develop and ultimately establish the mines."

Scanning over the country's wide array of proved mineral resources, he set out the country's strategies to tap its potential by attracting investments, highlighting that the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) holds licences for exploration of crucial minerals like lithium, graphite, rare earth element (REE) and copper.

The projects are in various stages of development, with investors being invited to work with the corporation to develop the various sites, he said, asserting that developing the critical minerals demands that the government obtains detailed geological information on the minerals.

The method chosen is applying high resolution airborne geophysical survey techniques, with plans laid out to survey close to 50 per cent of the country's surface by 2030, convincing more investors to take part in exploration,

TURN TO PAGE 2

Climate crisis: UNICEF reaching out to children

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS the war against negative effects of climate change rages on, the world is now enlisting the army of youth and children in the environment saving battle.

Elke Wisch, the country representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), affirmed this position at an event to mark the World Children's Day

2023 here yesterday.

Organised by the UN agency with the theme 'Children for Climate Action: Building a Resilient Tomorrow!' the representative affirmed that children have tremendous potential in combating global warming and related changes to climatic expectations.

The global community needs to renew a shared commitment in addressing pol-

lution and climate change creating global disasters, she stated, underlining that this time the youth and children need to be actively involved in order to make the mission long lasting, sustainable and future laden.

In order to realize the goal, the rights of children must be protected for the youth to also be involved in protecting the environment, she said, insisting that their

opinions ought to be respected and their voices heard.

Dr Suleiman Jafu, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office (VPO), declared that Tanzania is in the forefront in protecting the rights of children, while the youth get involved in a number of decision making processes.

"As for the effects of climate change, we

TURN TO PAGE 2



'Avoid taking any side in major power rifts'

FROM PAGE 1

not conducive friend." "If you create an unfriendly business environment, newcomers are afraid to come and the existing ones leave and if they don't leave, they don't expand commercially. They say let's see how it goes because you're not sure what your

tomorrow will be like," he said. It is the government's responsibility to create an environment for the private sector to grow, he said, pointing out that during the Big Results Now (BRN) drive the government looked at the business environment and each time the cabinet of ministers the matter was on the agenda.

PM: Treasury, PO-RALG start special group loans

FROM PAGE 1

loopholes. The Treasury needs to provide financial education to the public especially in the rural areas through various media outlets, he said, noting that the 53.8 percent of members of the public who use financial services was inadequate.

sues, shows scant discipline in using money while many borrow and take the money to things they had not planned earlier. Dr Natu Mwamba, the permanent secretary, said the exhibition aims at raising awareness among the public as to moving out of poverty through the use of financial services. Upwards of 35 banks and several telecom companies collaborated in organising this year's exhibition, she added.



The Treasury needs to strengthen the security of financial systems to protect users from unscrupulous operators who take advantage of financial illiteracy to carry out fraudulent operations

Financial education can help transform the lives of the majority of the people, he stated, insisting that the Treasury abides by guidelines set out in the national development plan.

The Treasury needs to strengthen the security of financial systems to protect users from unscrupulous operators who take advantage of financial illiteracy to carry out fraudulent operations, he said.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said he was impressed with preparations for the exhibitions, as it will offer an opportunity to the general public, remarking that with a proper understanding of financial services the public will refrain from borrowing from unscrupulous lenders "who end up mistreating them."

He said a portion of the public has poor knowledge of financial is-

Stamico invites venture partners for 487 projects

FROM PAGE 1

he explained. So far 16 percent of the country's surface has been covered using this type of survey, he said, specifying that the generalised survey exercise comes under the country's development vision for 2030.

Office (Planning and Investment) working with the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) and the UK High Commission.

Public agencies and institutions taking part in the forum come from both sides of the union, with industry, agriculture, mining, energy, blue economy, finance, investment and trade being the overall ministerial supervisors.

Kheri Mahimbali, the permanent secretary led the technical team, also including Dr Mussa Budeba, the Geology Survey of Tanzania (GST) chief executive officer, Augustine Olal, the policy and planning director, plus economist Aman Ng'oma,

Availability of detailed geological information will provide reliable indicators of specific various minerals, simplifying exploration decision making, he said, remarking that geological information facilitating exploration increases efficiency and productivity.

The UK-Tanzania Business Forum was organized by the President's

Climate crisis: UNICEF reaching out to children

FROM PAGE 1

have started to suffer the consequences including little or excessive rains, floods and other phenomena such as the dangerously rising sea water levels," he stated.

billion children face elevated climate risks, with 4.2bn children projected to be acutely affected in the next three decades.

World Children's Day is a global day of action for raising awareness among children, a day that marks the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During the day, activists enable children to express themselves on critical issues affecting their lives, to emphasise accountability and action, organisers noted.

Participants observed that with 50 percent of the country's population being youngsters under the age of 18, children in Tanzania must be guided to focus on climate change and how its effects are affecting their livelihood expectations.

Experts say that globally, over a



At least 200 people who were travelling by road between Muheza town and Kicheba and Misozwe villages in Amani ward stranded yesterday, with floodwaters having covered the strategic bridge pictured following the ongoing heavy rains. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mozambique tackles tuberculosis in Maputo's prisons

MAPUTO

THREE prisons in Mozambique's capital Maputo are tackling tuberculosis (TB), the world's second deadliest communicable disease after Covid-19.

Overcrowded prisons are a hotbed for TB, which is caused by a bacteria often attacking the lungs.

According to the World Health Organisation, 7.5 million people were diagnosed with the disease in 2022, the highest figure since it began monitoring in 1995.

The three prisons in Maputo are taking part in a pilot project using Artificial Intelligence to detect the disease, a programme which has sparked hope that the disease can be eradicated.

All inmates are being scanned in an effort to diagnose the disease early on in patients, key to saving lives and tackling the spread of the disease.

The programme is being conducted by a local non-profit organisation supported by the Stop TB Partnership, a UN-backed entity.

While a chronic cough is a hallmark of infection, people can also carry TB without showing symptoms. Prisons are a perfect breeding ground due to cramped cells and airborne transmission.

Traditional spit, skin or blood tests for TB involves visits to a lab and the results can take up to three days. The quickest time for reliable results is 24 hours.

The combination of AI and portable X-ray machines is faster and eliminates the need for visits to clinics and radiologists, who can

be scarce in poor rural areas, says Stop TB's deputy head Suvanand Sahu.

Sahu says he hopes that the success of pilot programmes could help get funding to scale up the use of AI in diagnosing tuberculosis.

"Only a few years ago, if I was to say in a meeting that we can bring X-rays to all communities and have them read by an artificial intelligence with no need for radiologists, they would have kicked me out of the room and told me to go write a sci-fi novel," he says.



Members of the Works ministry's Inspection Committee pictured yesterday while on an inspection tour in Mwanza city meant to help them assess the extent to which marine vessels operating in Lake Victoria ought to be rehabilitated. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ethiopian govt promotes recycling to battle plastic pollution

ADDIS ABABA

FROM the Awi zone of the Amhara region of Ethiopia to Addis Ababa, a crew composed of a few men acquire plastic bottles from collectors and prep the items, by separating the bottles from their caps for recycling, actively contributing to end plastic pollution in the east African country.

Early in the morning, city-appointed workers collect garbage in various parts of Addis Ababa.

Despite their best efforts, garbage collection is complex due to various factors, such as residents not sorting and disposing of their garbage correctly.

"We are actively contributing to a cleaner environment and generating income opportunities for col-

lectors. We purchase the plastics they collect and then resell them, sorting them by colour, for anyone who requires them," said Sebdana Workicho, 21, used plastic materials' buyer. Addis Ababa, home to the headquarters of the African Union, and numerous international organisations, has long grappled with waste management issues.

Plastic waste, in particular, has

become a major concern, with parts of the city often marred by garbage, especially plastic bags and bottles.

"Most of the plastic bottles are being properly recycled, but the issue with plastic bags persists. There are regulations in place regarding plastic bags, it is prohibited to produce, sell, or import plastic bags that are below the designated thickness specified by the rules. These days,

when plastic bags are imported, their thickness is inspected by the environmental protection authority. If the thickness falls below the permitted limit, it will not be allowed for entry into the country. Local production of such plastic bags is also prohibited, but there are individuals who attempt to do it covertly. When they are discovered, they face consequences," according

to Seid Abdela, director of climate change and renewable energy department, Addis Ababa Environmental Protection Administration.

Addis Ababa's waste management is in the hands of the Environment Protection Administration.

This administration is dedicated to various aspects of environmental protection, with a mission to make the city cleaner and greener.



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani (C) pictured on Tuesday presenting wheelchairs and various other assistive devices to Pili Musa (2nd-R), secretary of the Tanzania Federation of Organisations of People with Disabilities Organisations in the region. It was assistance from JTI Leaf Services meant to benefit people with disabilities. Third right is the JTI Leaf Services board chairperson, former National Assembly Speaker Anne Makinda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kijazi lists feats in conservation as he retires from public service

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE former Commissioner of Conservation with the Tanzania National Parks, Dr Allan Kijazi has outlined some of the achievements gained during his tenure, including the establishment of the largest National Park in East Africa.

According to Dr Kijazi, when he moved in to head the conservation entity, in 2011, Tanzania had 14 National Parks and the number has shot up considerably.

"We now have a total of 22 National Parks, including Nyerere, which is the biggest in the country and the entire East African Region," said Dr Kijazi, who is retiring from public service.

The park, established in November 2019, after being annexed from the Selous Game Reserve, measures more than

30,000 square kilometers.

The other National Parks established during the time when Kijazi was in charge of the entity include Gombe and Saa-Nane that were gazetted in 2013. Then there is Kigosi, Ugalla River, Burigi-Chato, Ibanda-Kyerwa and Rumanyika-Karagwe that were established in 2019.

Speaking during his farewell party in Arusha, Dr Kijazi said he had served under the tenure of three different heads of state, including President Jakaya Kikwete, who is actually the one who appointed him in 2011 to be the Director General of TANAPA, replacing Gerald Bigurube.

The late John Magufuli, in addition to keeping Kijazi as the Head of all National Parks in the country, the former President also promoted him to be Deputy

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

On the other hand, President Samia Suluhu appointed Dr Kijazi to be the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, the post which he held until his recent retirement from civil service.

The TANAPA Chairperson of Board of Trustees, General (Retired) George Waitara said Dr Kijazi had successfully steered the organization from its former civilian type of management into the current paramilitary mode of conservation.

"And it was all possible due to cooperation accorded to him by his own members of staff, TANAPA management as well as senior government officials," said General Waitara during the ceremony which was held in Arusha.

Joint efforts wanted for Tanzania to feed African continent by 2030

By Guardian Reporter

FARMING stakeholders have suggested the need for joining forces and using proven experience of institutions like Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), and modern agricultural development if Tanzania wants to feed Africa by 2030.

"Few African countries can pride themselves on having 20 millions of arable land awaiting development. Few countries get good rains as we do. Tanzania has 44 million hectares of arable land," said Dr Ferdinand Bayaka, a retired public servant now a small dairy farmer on the environs of Dar es Salaam city.

"Go to Mpwapwa and you will know what I am talking about. I have lived there. I have lived in Kongwa," he said, quipping that what Tanzanians dismiss as arid land, elsewhere on this continent "it is first choice land for farming."

Dr Bayaka said until he retired in 2015, the impression he had was that less than 30 per cent of Tanzania's arable land had been put to good use. "We have to join forces to develop agriculture, shed poverty and, if you like, feed Africa by 2030. Use SAGCOT model because it is there," he said.

The ambition of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), since its inception in 2010, has been to work with partners to have inclusive, sustainable and viable agricultural value chains in southern Tanzania. SAGCOT now has clusters, namely Ithemi, Mbarali and Kilombero, in southern and Morogoro regions respectively. SAGCOT says clusters have sufficient land and conducive climate.

Agricultural stakeholders agree that SAGCOT has accumulated valuable experience

that should be spread country-wide.

SAGCOT centre says: "By 2030, SAGCOT partners seek to bring 350,000 hectares of land into profitable production, transition 100,00 small-scale farmers into commercial farming, create 420,00 new jobs, lift 20 million people out of poverty and generate 1.2 billion dollars in annual farming revenue."

The government wants to push further Tanzania's commitment to commercialized agriculture while creating income opportunities for small farmers in rural land urban Tanzania, hence the slogan: "let's work hard to feed Africa by 2030."

A recent meeting on agricultural development held in Dar es Salaam called for popularising the SAGCOT model "in all districts of Tanzania in order to achieve President Samia's vision to feed Africa by 2030."

"To me this is not an empty slogan. Many African countries would import foodstuffs from Tanzania if we produced a lot of food crops and sold the surplus. And Tanzania can if we choose to be serious," said Dr Bayaka.

Dr Tasco Luambano, Mzumbe University Lecturer, said SAGCOT's approach to agricultural development is an open secret. "Agricultural stakeholders want the SAGCOT model to be adopted countrywide. I think they are right. This is the time to do so in order to change the lives of small farmers," he said.

He said some effort should be made urgently to ensure implementers of the government's build a better tomorrow (BBT) programme work together with the SAGCOT centre so that small farmers countrywide benefit from SAGCOT's experience.

Maria Kayombo said small

farmers have benefited from SAGCOT's initiative in developing crop value chains in the Ithemi cluster. The cluster serves the Iringa and Njombe Regions. "We used to grow Irish potatoes without paying attention to small but important aspects. We used poor implements. Our harvests were small. Now we are harvesting almost three times the amount we used to harvest, she said."

Harvests have jumped from seven tonnes per hectare in the 2013/14 year to between 28-50 tonnes in 2022/2023 fiscal year.

The SAGCOT CEO, Geoffrey Kirenga, contacted for comment, he said the SAGCOT centre is ready to work with every district in Tanzania on the proposal because, he said, SAGCOT's role is to facilitate its partners to deliver on inclusive, sustainable and commercial agricultural value chains in, especially in the southern corridor.

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF DAR ES SALAAM AT KISUTU
CIVIL CASE NO. 235 YA 2023
SARRCHEM INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA LIMITED..... PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
PRINCE AFRICA LIMITED..... DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO FILE WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DEFENCE
TO:
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
PRINCE AFRICA LIMITED,
NYERERE ROAD,
P.O. BOX 5836,
DAR ES SALAAM.
WHEREAS the above mentioned plaintiff has instituted a suit against you at Kisutu Resident Magistrate's court the facts of which may be found on request in the court file. You are required to file a Written Statement of Defence within twenty one (21) days of publication of this notice and further take notice that the case has been fixed for mention on 18th December 2023 at 1:00 pm in the afternoon before Hon. R. KABATE - PRM AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if you default in filing of the written Statement of Defence within the time fixed the court shall proceed with hearing of the suit in absentia and shall pronounce judgment against you.
Given under my Hand and Seal of court this 22nd day of November, 2023

THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA
Plot No P9842 Vijibweni Kigamboni Municipality
P.O. BOX 36246, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
E-mail: hr@uaut.ac.tz.

JOB VACANCIES

THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA (UAUT) is a private Higher Learning Institution founded by the Registered Trustees of Korea Church Mission (KCM), with the objective of alleviating poverty and promoting growth through raising Tanzanian Christian leaders who are equipped with excellence in wisdom, knowledge, and Christian virtues. The responsibility of the day-to-day running of UAUT is vested in the University Council with the Vice-Chancellor as the main link between the Board of Trustees and University Council.

UAUT obtained The Certificate of Full Registration (CFR) from the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) in 2012.

The UAUT is an accredited university.

VACANT POSITIONS

- ACCOUNTS CLERK (1 POSITION)**

(a) Qualifications

 - Holders of Diploma in Accounting and Finance
 - Working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions will be an added advantage
 - At least 3 years of working experience in accounting.

(b) Duties:

 - Receives and keeps in proper custody all incoming bills and claims.
 - Maintains primary books of accounts.
 - Prepares payment requisitions.
 - Performs a variety of accounting tasks including receiving and paying out cash and cheques.
 - Maintaining fuel and accurate accounts records.
 - Preparing trial balances.
 - Custodian of accountable documents
 - Performs any other duties as may be assigned from time to time by his/her senior.
- OFFICE DRIVER (1 POSITION)**

(a) Qualifications

 - Holders of form IV/VI Certificate and a valid driving license class C, D, and E.
 - At least 5 years of working experience as a driver.

(b) Duties:

 - Drives passenger buses and any other institutional vehicles.
 - Keeps records of movement of vehicles.
 - Carries out diagnoses of minor problems requiring immediate repair.
 - Assists in repairing minor defects in the vehicle requiring attention.
 - Performs any other duties as may be assigned from time to time by one's reporting officer.

Send your detailed CV, Cover letter, Certificates (PDF) and Testimonials (if any) to: hr@uaut.ac.tz;
This advertisement is also available on our website www.uaut.ac.tz
Deadline 8th December 2023

PwC Tanzania IPSAS Practical Workshop for NGOs, 2023

Greater transparency and accountability stand out as the main benefit of adopting IPSAS standards. PwC Tanzania welcomes interested participants to our NGOs International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) training on **Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 December**, where the agenda will include:

Day One (full-day):

- Most recent IPSAS changes.
- Are you ready for IPSAS 41 (Financial Instruments)? Getting ready for IPSAS 41 and practical implementation issues.
- IPSAS 43 (Leases) overview and practical application matters.
- IPSAS 9 (Revenue from Exchange Transactions) and IPSAS 23 (Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers)).
- IPSAS 17 (Property, Plant and Equipment).
- IPSAS 31 (Intangible Assets, including borrowing costs).
- IPSAS 1 (Presentation of Financial Statements, including related party disclosures, budget presentation and subsequent events disclosures).
- IPSAS 2 (Cash flow statements).
- Other practical matters - donor reporting (observation and best practice).

Day Two (half day):

- Tax matters relevant to NGOs (direct and indirect taxes).
- Sustainability reporting - Overview and considerations for NGOs.

Date: 13 December 2023 (Full Day) & 14 December 2023 (Half Day)
Time: Day One: 8.00am - 4.00pm
Day Two: 8.00am - 12.30pm
Venue: Dar es Salaam, Serena Hotel
CPD: 10 hours

COST:
TZS 350,000/- (VAT inclusive)

RSVP:
Should you have any questions please contact **Beatrice Hangi** on +255 715 919 686 or info@pwc.co.tz

pwc

© 2023 PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited. All rights reserved. In this document, "PwC" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited which is a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited, each member firm of which is a separate legal entity.

District council officials trained on gender-sensitive, responsible budget

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) has trained district council officials from across the country on gender responsible budget (GRB) to ensure the plans cater for gender issues.

Speaking at the training, Rebecca Kisenha who was the facilitator of the four days' workshop that was organised by (TGNP) with support of COADY International for them to give feedback on whether they have started implementing GRB it in their current budgets after receiving training in 2022.

The workshop that was held at the side line of the 15th TGNP Gender Festival, involved ward councillors, community development officers and head of departments, planning and budgeting officers, gender desk coordinators and ward councillors from Kinondoni, Ubungo, Ilala, Kishapu, and Mbeya district councils.

Kisenha said the main objective of the seminar was to increase their understanding on the importance of preparing budgets, plans and policies that observe gender.

"Communities need to be empowered to inquire about their participation in decision making on budgets related issues," she said, adding that citizens must be involved in all phases of the budget process and implementation.

Government officials and institutions must be provided with adequate GRB knowledge and skills for them to use available democratic systems and structures to empower communities to engage in GRB, she added.

The Tanzanian constitution and laws require the use of GRB to promote gender-balanced and integrated national economic plans.

She noted that since formulation of the national budget starts at the village level where community budgets are identified, it is important to make sure that women are not marginalised.

Kisenha said that GRB is not different from other normal budgets prepared by the councils, but rather it is like a tool that makes a follow up to see if the existing

policies focusing at ensuring there is gender equality, are reflected in the formulated budgets.

Songwa Ward Councillor in Kishapu District Council in Shinyanga Region, Abdul Mohamed Ngoromole commended TGNP for training them in 2022, noting they have now become good ambassadors by convincing fellow councillors and other officials in the district to start allocating a gender responsible budget.

Ngoromole noted that in the 2023/2024 financial year, Kishapu has allocated 240m/- for construction of the Maganzo bus stand. He said the stand will include a special room where mothers will have time to rest and breast feed their babies conveniently.

The room will also be used as a resting place for pregnant women as they wait to board the buses, he added.

Ngoromole said the council has also set aside 600m/- for construction of the Maganzo market which will have necessary facilities needed for women and girls.

He said by allocating a gender responsible budget they are implementing the fifth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals that requires countries to attain gender equality by 2030.

The benefits of GRB among others are to ensure that public expenditures are directed to address lack of gender equality in a society.

International research has shown that gender equality between men and women has led to economic growth and social progress.



Communities need to be empowered to inquire about their participation in decision making on budgets related issues

MSD donates variety of medical items in Madazini health facility

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

THE Medical Stores Department (MSD) has donated modern surgical equipment for pregnant mothers worth more than 100m/- to the Madazini Health Centre in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region.

Robert Rugembe, MSD manager in the Iringa zone, said that the equipment will help many people who are currently suffering from diseases that require surgery, including pregnant mothers.

Rugembe said that they will bring back other modern medical equipment worth more than 100m/- and that MSD will continue to send enough medical equipment until the center is loaded with equipment to continue working.

"I was looking here and I said that in this ongoing distribution there is no generator, but here a generator is very much needed, so MSD will bring a generator that will help in surgical operations," he said.

He mentioned that the equipment includes a special bed for surgery (operating table), a lamp that gives light when the surgery is in progress, diagnostic equipment, a machine for cleaning equipment, equipment for washing poles and equipment for drying dishes, as well as surgical machines sufficient, all worth 100m/-.

Dr Rashid Athuman, doctor in-charge at the Magazini health

facility said that the facility has never provided surgical services since it started working, but now he has demanded medical equipment that will help use the most modern technology that will make the patient return to health faster.

Dr Athuman said that the Magazini Health Center has goals and strategies to ensure that it provides quality services that low-income citizens can access and afford and not otherwise.

"We express our gratitude to the government of the Republic of Tanzania for the cooperation given to us by MSD. We ask that this cooperation continue to be maintained from the point of view that our goal is one, and our responsibility is one to serve the people, especially those who are on the border with the neighboring country of Mozambique," said Dr. Athuman.



I was looking here and I said that in this ongoing distribution there is no generator, but here a generator is very much needed, so MSD will bring a generator that will help in surgical operations



Dr Castro Masanja (back to camera), Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision acting senior advisor with the Henry Jackson Foundation Medical Research International (HJFMRI), explains to the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Battle (R), on the foundation's services. The envoy was taken around the van set aside for the purpose in Mjele ward in Mbeya Rural District on Friday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PSSSF embarks on financial literacy education to the public

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Public Service Social Security Service (PSSSF) has embarked on a plan to provide education on financial literacy and social security to the general public.

Hosea Kashimba, PSSSF Director General said education is given to people who visit the fund's pavilion during the 3rd Finance Service Week, which was officially opened by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Speaking when briefing Majaliwa who visited the fund's pavilion, Kashimba said despite providing social security education to members and citizens who come to the pavilion, also they provide financial education.

"PSSSF injects into the country's economy an amount of 150bn/- every month as pension and lump sum benefits," he said.

He said education was important as those who receive benefits can see the best way to use it for their personal development and the economy of the country as a

whole. In addition to the payment of benefits, Kashimba explained to the Prime Minister that the fund pays benefits within 14 days after a person retires and the goal is that when a person leaves work, he meets his check in the bank, he emphasized.

In response, PM Majaliwa expressed satisfaction with the operations of the PSSSF saying the education offered at the pavilion will help the general public.

PSSSF, which is under the Office of the Prime Minister, is among

the government institutions participating in the celebration with the slogan "Financial Education, the Foundation of Economic Development", aims to provide education to the public and thus promote awareness about the importance of using official financial services.

At the pavilion, the Prime Minister was received by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disability), Professor Joyce Ndalichako, and other officials.



Premium Active Tanzania operations manager Nico Roysos (L) presents a dummy cheque for 47.8m/- to Chunya district commissioner Mayeka Simon Mayeka to support the implementation of development projects in nine tobacco-producing wards in Chunya and Songwe districts. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

TPA to collaborate with its stakeholders to improve performance

By Guardian Reporter

PROF Godius Kahyarara, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport has suggested the need to strengthen the performance of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) by collaborating closely with port stakeholders to simplify the entire transport chain.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the port improvement meeting, Prof Kahyarara said that

by working closely with other port players it will increase the speed of cargo unloading, especially in this period when stakeholders have started using IT systems.

"The information presented here shows that the increase in serving ships has been possible through great efforts that have been made for each stakeholder to do their part perfectly, so calling these meetings if we increase our strength, the ships will increase

more," he said. Prof Kahyarara informed all the stakeholders that the ongoing improvements in the port are expected to increase the burden, so it is the right time for the stakeholders to set effective strategies to ensure that services are done on time and involve all stakeholders.

Dar es Salaam port director, Mrisho Seleman Mrisho, said that for the month of October 2023

the port has been able to serve 100 ships and expects to finish the ships that anchored to enable cargo to reach consumers in the time they expected.

Elius Lukumay, a port stakeholder from the private sector, said that TPA should now focus on promoting the ports of Tanga and Mtwara to enable it to burn the cargo that is going to those regions to be taken to the port of Dar es Salaam.



Works minister Innocent Bashungwa (L) exchanges greetings with the Tanga regional manager of the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads), Eliazary Rweikiza, shortly after the minister arrived in Handeni District earlier this week at the start of a three-day visit that will also take him to Pangani and Lushoto districts. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Journos urged to prioritise public education on agro-ecology issues

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

JOURNALISTS across East African countries have been called upon to actively apply skills and journalistic parameters of educating, communicating and entertaining in reporting agro-ecology stories.

Board Chairperson of the Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum (ESSAFF) from Uganda, Hakim Baliraine made the call yesterday during an introductory on-line agro-ecology workshop for the 3-cohort of journalists from EA countries which is conducted by the Agro-ecology School of Journalism and Communicators in collaboration with ESSAFF-Uganda.

Beliraine said journalists and communicators are the mouthpiece of everyone; hence the need for them to use their skills in reporting agro-ecology and apply the three parameters to save people from various challenges including climate change.

"You should understand in detail how agro-ecology can be the best approach for food systems as well as an initiative in solving climate change challenges. You can report agro-ecology in each way you may choose, educating, informing and or even entertaining as long as the message reaches the targeted audiences," said Beliraine.

He said the media play a vital role in breaching the gap between farmers, consumers and policy makers therefore it is an important component in agro-ecology campaigns. He said through the media everyone can be reached and understand the conveyed message.

According to him, agro-ecology is not a new food system, it has existed long way back and that a lot of organizations are not taking initiatives to embrace it, one of them being the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO).

"Agro-ecology is not a new system, it existed before other

systems. It is upon journalists to spread awareness on agro-ecology as it results in healthy foods and life," he said.

He said that at the end of the two months on-line course, participants will be well equipped with knowledge on agro-ecology and corporate with each their fellow journalists by sharing knowledge and challenges from their specific countries.

ESSAFF-Uganda National Coordinator, Nancy Mugimba said that despite the commitment of small-scale farmers in up-scaling agro-ecology in Uganda, the journalists and communicators haven't been active in shaping the public on agro-ecology.

Mugimba noted that once the public adopts agro-ecology practices, the population would start consuming healthy food and expose the negative impact of industrial or conventional agriculture on the environment and the health of citizens.

She said that the object of the course is to build a network of journalists and communicators around Uganda and Africa to contribute to the national and continental transition to agro-ecology through disseminating the right information.

The two months on-course is being funded by ESSAFF-Uganda, Agro-ecology Fund, Thousand Currents and Humundi.



Agro-ecology is not a new system, it existed before other systems. It is upon journalists to spread awareness on agro-ecology as it results in healthy foods and life

Zambia's move to join central corridor beneficial to Tanzania, says Kahyarara

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Prof Godius Kahyarara has said that allowing Zambia to join the central corridor would boost business at the Port of Dar es Salaam as it will use it to transport its cargo.

The central corridor comprises five countries—Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, Rwanda and

Burundi.

He made the remarks recently at Mwanza south port when launching the MV Umoja—a state-owned ship with the capacity to carry 22 wagons and 1,200 tonnes of cargo.

Prof Kahyarara noted that with Zambia solely depending on the Port of Dar es Salaam to transport its cargo, the volume of cargo at the port will increase and ultimately boost its revenues.

The repairing work on the vessel which will now be christened—New Umoja Kazi lendelee started in November 2021 to September this year under the contractor, S.M. Solution from South Korea at the cost of 21bn/-.

Speaking at the function, Nyamagana District Commissioner, Amina Makilagi said the projects will capacitate Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), thus enabling

it to increase dividends to the government.

She noted that strong infrastructures removes trade challenges and stimulates productive activities.

The DC has appealed to Tanzanians to support government efforts as it implements the projects that aim to increase the revenues that will be directed on improvement of social services.

Online courses by ITA 'charm' more students

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) has started to provide online training, a move that has attracted many Tanzanians to study accounting and taxation.

The revelation was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Rector of the institute, Prof Isaya Jairo, when speaking to journalists at the 16th graduation ceremony scheduled for Friday.

He said the ITA is the only institute in the country and Eastern and Southern Africa with permanent registration and accreditation to provide customs and tax training at the Bachelor and Master's levels.

He said the institute has been providing training in line with changes in science, technology and economy aiming to produce graduates who suit the local and international job market.

He said that based on the existing relationship and cooperation between the institute and African

revenue authorities, ITA has invited heads of various revenue authorities from different countries including Uganda to participate at the event.

He said the 16th graduation takes place at a time when the college implements its 5th master plan which focuses on providing training through modern digital methods.

The institute, which is part of Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) also provides advice and builds capacity to employees from TRA, Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) and other African Revenue authorities, he said.

During the graduation, a total of 508 graduates will be awarded certificates, among them, 293 are male and 215 female.



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (C) appreciates the warm welcome she was accorded during a tour of a clinic in Langai ward on Monday. To her left (holding a Maasai baton) Right is Langai councillor Jackson Sipiteck alias Mugabe. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey




REQUEST FOR TENDER

Diesel Based Powerhouse for North Mara

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following services:

Design, Supply, Install, commission and integrate a 20 MW rated Diesel based powerhouse for North Mara Process plant and Gokona (Underground) Mine.

Tender Ref: NM021/2023
Pre-qualification criteria

- (1) Excellent safety records with relevant standards and procedures.
- (2) At least 10-years' experience of supplying and commissioning Diesel based powerhouse comprising Genset units along with transformer, switchgear, NER, SCADA and control system and their integration to existing powerhouse in plant and new installation at Gokona mine.
- (3) Generator engine should be containerized Cummins/ Caterpillar or Mitsubishi.
- (4) Each Engine capacity should be rated with Prime power 2295 KVA, ESP 2500 KVA. 7 MW COP Capacity required for process plant while 13 MW COP capacity required for Gokona mining.
- (5) Ability to demonstrate track record and evidence/references of at least three actively working large system in heavy industry.
- (6) Experienced and competent key personnel for design, installation, and commissioning of equipment.
- (7) Compliance with the Local Content Regulations.

Expression of interest
 If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an **"Expression of Interest"** shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM.

Key Dates

- Last date to submit EOI 29 November 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

DMG and MSCL sign 48bn/- worth pacts to repair ships in lakes Victoria, Tanganyika

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Merchant Group (DMG) has signed contracts with Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) to repair MV Liemba, formerly Graf Goetzen, passenger and cargo ferry that operates in Lake Tanganyika as well as MV Ukerewe and MT Nyangumi, both in Lake Victoria.

Speaking in Mwanza shortly after signing the three contracts, DMG Managing Director, Rayton Kwembe said the projects will be implemented in collaboration with Croatia-based M/S Brodosplit JSC at a cost of more than 48bn/-.

The MD said that 32bn/- will be spent to repair MV Liemba, 6bn/- to renovate MT Ukerewe while MT Nyangumi will be repaired at a cost of 8bn/-.

Kwembe said: "DMG is thankful to the government under President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan for continuing to believe in our company; we promise to implement all the projects properly."

He said the company has experience in repairing vessels, the work that involves hull, machinery repair, and modifications. He said DMG's priority is to ensure quality and timely implementation of all projects.

"We will do our best to ensure the work is completed within schedule for the ships to continue opening opportunities for employment and reduce transportation costs," he said, noting smooth transport services would increase productivity in business activities.

Kwembe said the company has local experts with experience in similar projects as well as an extensive network and experience with manufacturers and suppliers of materials for projects and

logistics capability to ensure timely availability of materials on site.

He noted: "We also have a strong network of financial institutions who work in collaboration with our company to ensure appropriate finance is available to support our projects."

He said on operation and maintenance, DMG utilizes special tools to monitor projects to ensure the project is executed on time, on scope and budget.

He said DMG established the Marine Division in early 2017 with a motive of conquering the marine sector in Tanzania. The establishment of the division is a conscious response to the challenges that are facing the marine sector in both shipbuilding and fisheries ranging from poor infrastructural development, inadequate human resource, poor technology, poor vessels, and poor fishing gears, disorganized fish market and low technical knowledge of fisheries projects operation.

"Dar es Salaam Merchant Group aspires to transform the Marine sector by integrating shipbuilding and fisheries. We have local experts in both shipbuilding and fisheries, we work with local and international reputable partners," he added.

MSCL Chief Executive Officer, Eric Hamissi said the government decided to repair the ships to save the cost of building new ships.

"The cost of making a new ship is more than 120bn/- but we are going to spend less than 50bn/- to repair the existing ships," said the MSCL boss.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Deputy Minister of Transport, David Kihenzile asked implementers of the ship repairing projects to make sure the job is completed as per signed agreement.



Residents of Lwakabanga village in Msalala District pictured at the weekend attending a one-week malaria eradication campaign organised by Barrick Bulyanhulu mine. All were presented with insecticide-treated bednets. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) is installing modern pre-paid water meters, a move aimed at avoiding accumulation of bills to its customers.

The authority has started to install the meters at water kiosks in Chalinze town, Coast Region before expanding the exercise to other areas.

DAWASA Information and Communication Technology Officer (ICT), Eng Emmanuel Mwanyamaki said yesterday that the exercise is implemented by

DAWASA prepaid meters set to simplify payment of water bills

local experts. He said designing the technology was completed this financial year.

"We started installing pre-paid meters in September this year; the work is going and is expected to increase efficiency," he added, mentioning the areas that have been reached in Chalinze as Maji Mdaula, Chamakweza, Pingo and Mwindu.

"We have 550 water kiosks in Chalinze, we have so far fixed the meters to more than ten kiosks,"

said Eng Mwanyamaki.

According to him, the new technology has a lot of benefits to customers which includes reducing water loss and enabling kiosk managers to properly manage funds.

He asked managers of Chalinze water stations to continue being good ambassadors of the water infrastructures so that they last long.

Chairperson of Mwidu Street, Hassan Mtemvu, thanked

DAWASA for coming up with the innovation saying the pre-paid meters will be a solution to the various challenges that water users face.

"The technology is good and will enable people to get better and reliable services, thus reducing water loss," Mtemvu stated.

Manager of the Majo water station in Mdaula, Ester John said the pre-paid water meters will save them from the burden of accumulated water bills.

Plan in the offing to engage farmers in comprehensive wheat production

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Dodoma

THE government is strategizing to engage farmers in a plan to produce wheat at an extensive scale to save millions of dollars spent on importing the cereal crop.

In the financial year 2022/23 alone, Tanzania spent over \$285 million to import wheat and \$161 million to import edible oil.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Dr Daniel Mushi said yesterday in Dodoma when officially opening the 14th annual Learning Event (ALE) 2023 of the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF).

He said that the ALE deliberated under the theme "Post-African Food System Forum formerly known as African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2023: Leveraging Emerging Opportunities" brought together officials from the government, private sectors, development partners and small and middle-income entrepreneurs.

He said that the government's target is to reduce the unnecessary cost of procuring products that could be produced in the country.

"This is shameful and acceptable. We need to change this by engaging farmers and other stakeholders to produce more in the country. Our country is endowed with all potential and a conducive environment," he said.

He said another plan was to establish a mechanization centre to enable farmers accessing the services merchandising including

tractors adding that farmers can hire tractors during agriculture season and to export more processed animal products to get more revenues.

According to him, when more unprocessed animal products are exported, the numbers of employment are also exported.

Dr Mushi said in the financial year 2022/23, the government earned \$65 million by exporting 14,000 tonnes.

"Cold chain value is very important if we want to maximize our animal products," he said.

He said for instance, Comoro Island is a major importer of cattle from Tanzania but unfortunately, they are transported live.

"Indeed, it is a loss since more could be earned from cattle products such as skins and hides if all animals were processed in the country," he said.

According to him, the plan of the government was to maximize the export of processed animal products such as meat.

Nyasebwa Chimagu, director of crop development in the Ministry of Agriculture said the government has already shown political will to collaborate with other stakeholders to bring more transformation in the sectors.

He said the government has opened block farming to increase utilities.

Honest Mseri, ANSAF Executive Director said that ALE aims to leverage emerging opportunities, learn, and discuss opportunities obtained from the agriculture, fishery and livestock sector.



Michael Masambwa (L), Head of Shipbuilding & Repair Unit at Dar es Salaam Merchant Group Ltd, exchanges greetings with Marine Services Company Limited CEO Eric Hamissi moments after the signing of contracts relating to the repair of three marine vessels - MV Liemba, MT Ukerewe and MT Nyangumi at the Mwanza South port at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Villagers in Msalala come out in large numbers for campaign to tackle malaria

By Guardian Correspondent, Msalala

SCORES of villagers in Msalala district, Shinyanga region have started coming out to get education against malaria in public meetings and get insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs).

The move is part of executing the recently launched campaign to eradicate malaria dubbed: 'Zero Malaria' with the slogan: 'It starts with me, you and all of us.'

Launched by Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine, the campaign is set to reach 17,500 people in the district

and among other issues; it's meant to kill the breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

Dr Martine Mazigwa, acting district medical officer and malaria coordinator unveiled this yesterday when providing education on how to prevent malaria in Busulwangiri and Lwakabanga villages in Bulyanhulu ward, Msalala District Council.

Dr Mazigwa said: "We have done research in our ponds and discovered that there are a lot of mosquitoes, so we thought it would be wise to spray medicine, this

medicine will not have any harm to humans or our animals, so we ask for your cooperation."

One of the Busulwangiri villagers, Katarina Ernest said that the campaign has brought changes to the community as they now understand the right ways to protect themselves from the disease.

Mbogo Wilson Mbogo, Lwakabanga villager said that the campaign will help reduce cases of malaria especially for mothers and children and hailed Barrick for bringing education to the people.

Stella Kuyonga, Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine representative, asked the citizens to use the mosquito nets they are given to protect themselves from mosquitoes and not to use them in inappropriate ways.

Cheick Sangare, Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine general manager said that Barrick will continue to support the government in various efforts to bring development to the people while ensuring they have good health.

Sangare said that through this campaign, Barrick Bulyanhulu will enable about 17,500 households to be reached at their residences to be sprayed with insecticides to kill mosquito breeding at the same time nets will be distributed.

Govt heaps praise on NeST for living up to expectations in role of good governance

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE government has lauded the effectiveness of Tanzania's National e-Procurement System (NeST), emphasizing its role in promoting good governance.

Ridhiwani Kikwete, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Public Service Management, and Good Governance made the remarks yesterday when speaking during his recent visit to the NeST task force camp in Iringa, accompanied by e-Government Authority's Director General, Eng. Benedict Ndomba. During his visit Kikwete got an access to know the overview of the system's functionality.

Kikwete emphasized his office's commitment on supervising and supporting systems and processes that enhance good governance. He asserted that NeST will contribute to ensuring transparency, accountability, and preventing misconduct that hinders the attainment of value for money.

"In the President's Office, Public Service Management, and Good Governance, these are the things that we were sent to supervise. You cannot have good governance if things are not in good order, and this is what this system is meant to achieve," Kikwete said.

Kikwete also highlighted the necessity of integrating more government systems with NeST to facilitate the acquisition of accurate information for monitoring the public procurement sector, which constitutes over 70 percent of the government budget.

"All major spenders with systems containing information essential for public procurement processes in NeST should be integrated, and directives will be provided by the Ministry to those entities," he said.

Currently, NeST has successfully integrated with a total of 16 government systems, providing crucial information for public procurement.

Kikwete further recounted a recent scenario where a procuring entity manipulated evaluation results to favour an unsuccessful bidder. He expressed confidence that NeST would automatically rectify such issues, holding every player accountable.

"Fortunately, all the information was retained. We reviewed the documents and identified the irregularities. Therefore, with this system, unfair awarding will be addressed automatically, and every player will be held accountable," he said.

He reminded the NeST task force team about the system's sensitivity, urging them to maintain their patriotic spirit for the national interest.

"Honestly, PPRA and e-GA, you are doing a great job here. Building systems like NeST requires dedicated and patriotic individuals. I believe in this team, but as a leader, I should keep reminding you that you are dealing with a very sensitive system. The government has put its trust in you, and we expect the best," he said.



Therefore, with this system, unfair awarding will be addressed automatically, and every player will be held accountable



Ivo Umbella, a coordinator with the Disaster Management Department in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), makes a presentation in Lindi municipality yesterday on the concept of disaster. It was at a capacity building session for disaster management committees in Lindi Region. Photo: PMO

Lobby group calls for child rights promotion

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

RIGHTS activists have called for collaborative efforts in the promotion of children rights, which will guarantee a literate future generation beneficial to the country.

They made the call yesterday during a three-day workshop of the Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF) whose theme was "Reflection on the child rights civic space in Tanzania."

TCRF's board Chairman Godwin Mongi said the country must resolve to invest in collective, responsive and inclusive actions that will enhance adherence and

access to child rights for all children irrespective of their backgrounds.

"Investing in children's rights is investing in the prosperity of our nation," he said.

He said promoting the rights of children was the only foundation that can help raising children that are identified by their level of moral standards in conduct, confidence in standing up for their rights and rights of others, hence a productive population.

TCRF's Programme Manager Rogasian Massue applauded the government for its efforts to ensure the rights and welfare of a child in the country is taken seriously.

He said the government has put in place policies, laws and regulations that are meant to oversee the rights of a child.

Joel Mwakapala, community development officer in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups said that the government has put in strategies to promote child rights.

He said that his ministry coordinates the operationalization of child laws and policies, and international treaties to safeguard the rights and welfare of children.

Among others he said the government was also facilitating establishment of child protection

desks within and outside schools in all primary and secondary schools.

"So far we have established 1939 child protection desks in 13 regions in Tanzania Mainland," he said.

According to Mwakapala, the ministry has already facilitated the establishment and empowerment of junior councils and children's clubs, a platform for child participation and protection of their rights.

So far around 659 junior councils have been established in 13 regions in Tanzania Mainland.

The ministry has coordinated national and regional campaigns geared to eradicate violence against children.

South African Airways forced to hold back all flights to Malawi

By Tatenda Karuwa

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) will suspend all flights between South Africa and Malawi from November 30, 2023, citing economic challenges currently faced in the Southern African country.

This comes about eight months after the service was launched. Meanwhile, another South African airline recently announced plans to increase frequencies between the two destinations.

South African Airways resumed flights from Johannesburg OR Tambo (JNB) to Malawi in March 2023, flying to Blantyre (BLZ) and on to Lilongwe (LLW) before returning to its base. Of late, the flag carrier has been closely monitoring its operations in Malawi, where the economic situation has led to the devaluation of the local currency (Malawian Kwacha), increased foreign currency shortages, and the escalation of blocked funds.

The airline considers the suspension a form of risk management in response to Malawi's deteriorating economic situation. SAA does not want to continue operating routes that are not financially sustainable.

Speaking about this decision, SAA Chief Executive Officer John Lamola said: "This move should not be interpreted as a step back from the airline's commitment to serving the people of Malawi and promoting trade links between South Africa and Malawi. As the new leadership of SAA and as a small but growing airline, we cannot commit to routes that are not financially sustainable."

Although SAA did not state how long the suspension would last, it has not ruled out the possibility of resuming its service. It will continue monitoring Malawi's economic situation and may return when flights can be operated sustainably. It has also apologized

to all customers who may have been affected by this decision.

Last week, Freight News reported that the devaluation of the Malawian Kwacha had forced South African Airways to halt ticket sales in Malawi. On November 8, the government devalued the currency by 44% against the US Dollar. SAA continued to sell tickets outside the country - purchased in other currencies, and the airline had reassured passengers that flights would continue uninterrupted.

The Star Alliance member operates two weekly JNB-BLZ-LLW flights with the Airbus A320. The launch of the route on March 16, 2023, marked SAA's return to Malawi after a three-year hiatus following the suspension of all its international flights in March 2020. At the time, SAA joined Malawi Airlines, which has been operating daily Boeing 737 flights between the two countries.

Airlink joined the party in September 2023, offering up to six weekly flights from Johannesburg to Lilongwe and Blantyre with its 37-seat Embraer Regional Jets (ERJ). Unlike SAA and Malawi's triangular services, Airlink introduced three weekly JNB-BLZ and three weekly JNB-LLW flights. From December 16, it will add a fourth flight to Lilongwe in response to popular demand - according to the airline's CEO, Rodger Foster.

With SAA pulling out, Airlink will be the only South African carrier operating flights between the two destinations as we head into the holiday season. Suspending flights to Malawi will bring SAA's African destinations down from eleven to nine as of November 2023. It has been trying to increase its footprint within the continent since coming out of business rescue two years ago. SAA recently launched flights to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (ABJ), operated via Accra, Ghana (ACC) with Airbus A330 and A340 aircraft.



Serengeti Breweries Ltd southern Dar es Salaam zone sales officer Doreen Tagalile (L) presents a dummy cheque for 500,000/- in Dar es Salaam's Buzo suburb at the weekend to Tumaini Ndumbo, who emerged a winner of a raffle under the firm's promotion campaign dubbed "Serengeti Maokoto Ndani ya Kizibo". Photo: Correspondent

Africa fertiliser financing mechanism commits more than US\$2 million to boost farmers' access

By Jack Roscoe

THE Africa fertiliser financing mechanism will provide a US\$2 million partial trade credit guarantee and a US\$219 000 grant funding to Nairobi-based Apollo Agriculture Ltd to support the distribution of over 7000 t of fertilizers to some 100 000 smallholder farmers in Kenya.

Between 2024 and 2026, the project will support Apollo

Agriculture Limited to sell fertilizer through a part of its network, covering around 150 retail agro-dealers and 800 village-based agents using digital platforms.

Most smallholder farmers in Kenya buy fertilizer through informal credit, microfinance institutions and commercial banks, but challenges remain for farmers to access fertilizer financing as some cannot provide tangible collateral. These new funds will be channeled

through the Fertilizer Financing for Sustainable Agriculture Management project.

"The fertilizer financing for Sustainable Agriculture Management project will improve farming productivity by facilitating access and use of fertilizer for smallholder farmers at the last mile, with 50% of women among the beneficiaries," said Marie Claire Kalihangabo, Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism Coordinator.

The fertiliser market's leading players include importers, blenders, and the Kenyan government, which runs a fertilizer subsidy programme. In 2021, Kenya imported 758 000 tonnes of chemical fertilizers. Kenyan farmers pay US\$35 for a 50 kg fertilizer bag.

Benjamin Njenga, co-founder of Apollo Agriculture Limited, said: "Apollo Agriculture is pleased to establish a partnership with the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism to make essential farming inputs accessible and affordable to small-scale farmers, thereby boosting farmer income and Kenya's food security."

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

'Fake goods' is double-edged problem in law and procedure

REGULATORY officials in the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) have recently elaborated on the scope of their operations, with an observation that they have been destroying fake goods with a combined 'street value' standing at upwards of 10bn/- per year.

An FCC competition mobilisation official said this at a meeting with members of the Tanzania Editors' Forum, on the subject of weak and fake goods and how oversight commission controls their presence in the market.

There was considerable explanation on why and how fake goods are bad in that they can cause harm, depending on the kind of goods involved, and how they are used by consumers.

However, what was sort of missing were their points of origin and what those found with them had to say - that is, whether indeed they imitated brands of other companies, and who in the first place found out that to be the case.

The picture that quickly emerges isn't one where the commission receives complaints and works on them, subsequently going out to find weak and fake goods and then destroying them. It is, in a very important way, a lot about the need for proactive law enforcement.

Checking with other sources on the law on fake goods generally, one finds a set of parameters that were not coming up in the remarks by the FCC communications official.

For instance, there is the issue of counterfeiting, which is described as a fraudulent imitation - or forgery - of a trusted brand and product, with the remark that it is a serious crime.

In that context, if there were fake goods in the sense of taking up the brand logos or symbols of proper goods registered and sold in the market, it would be a crime, where it that the goods are destroyed as part of a punitive procedure.

There is also a remark from online sources where it is evident that it is

illegal to purchase counterfeit goods.

Importing such goods might result in civil or criminal penalties, while purchasing such goods knowingly would mean collaboration or association in a criminal enterprise.

The fact that this aspect of combating the presence of fake or counterfeit goods in the market was missing in the FCC official's remarks implies that it isn't a matter of complaint that such importation routinely takes place.

It appears that the goods are routinely imported without legal queries, or at times they are local but they come amidst queries relating to quality and probable impact to consumers, and are thus condemned.

The positive aspect is that it isn't just a matter of a few officials at FCC deciding what are fake goods deserving destruction. Rather, the work involves a host of other agencies.

It is this inter-agency aspect that provides an institutional check on the issue, though it still doesn't cover the specific element of complaint, which prefigures the whole issue of copyright infringement or brand faking. Direct discovery is a bit different.

When it comes to that aspect, there is indeed a range of goods or instances where fake seals and marks of quality ostensibly issued by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) are at times discovered.

There was the case of a fake spirits plant on the outskirts of Namanga on the Kenya-Tanzania border, in relation to which detailed description was given as to how the discovery was made.

Then there is the more recent case of drug-laced biscuits said to have been impounded, reportedly meant largely for export.

Curbing harmful and counterfeit goods is a complicated matter, as consumers suffer weak goods gladly, and at times we seek to protect local weak goods even when destroying foreign weak goods, etc. But isn't any crime just that - crime?

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

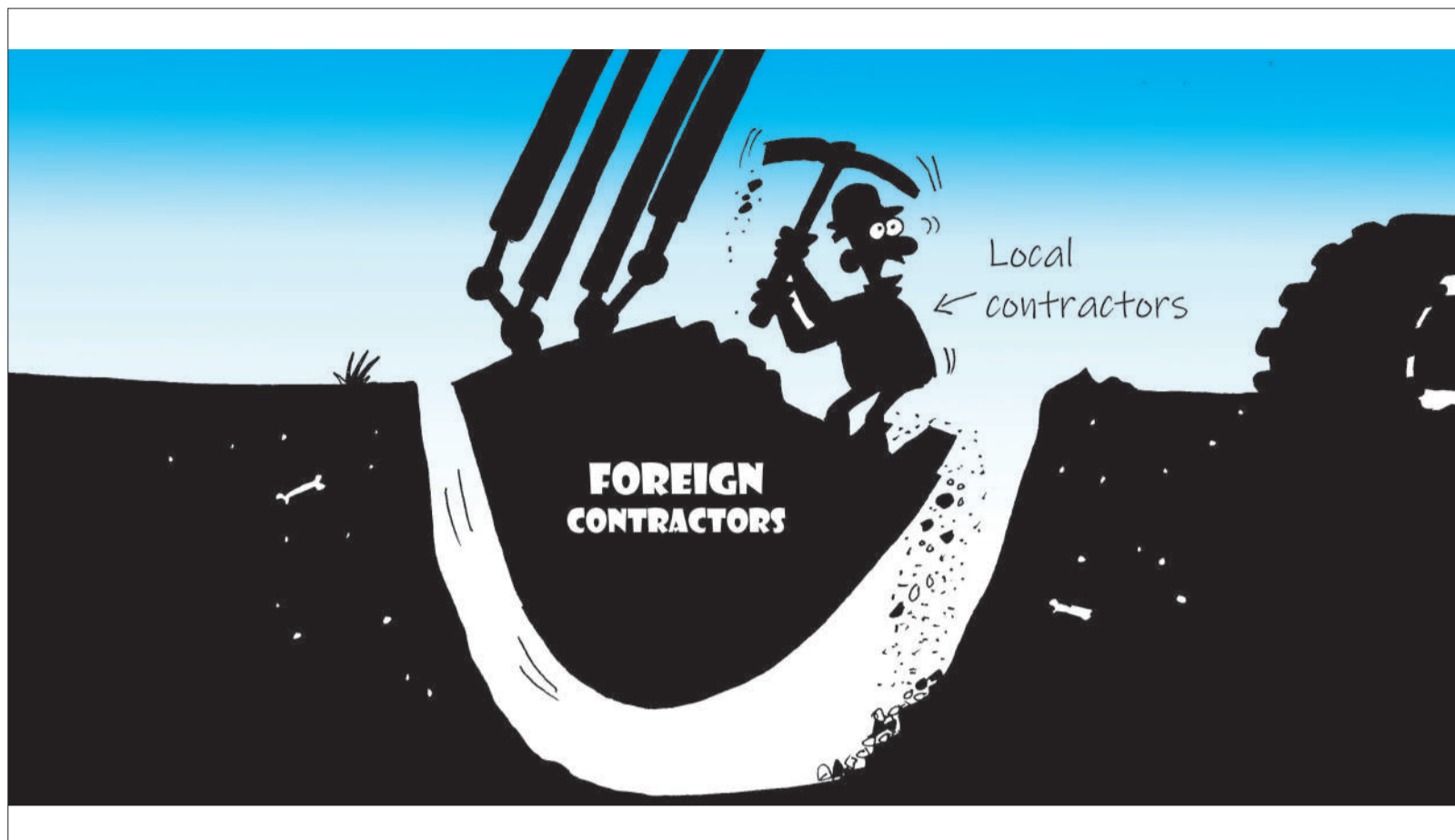
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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



By Special Correspondent

Climate change is a headache for farmers everywhere

FOR five consecutive years, farmers in Aululic, South Sudan, watched their sorghum crops rot after floods inundated their lands.

As this year's harvest approaches, though, the farmers, most of whom are women, expect a bumper harvest - of rice.

Rice is not a crop traditionally grown in this part of South Sudan, but climate change is causing upheaval in the north-eastern African country, just as it is worldwide.

Across the globe, the changed conditions mean that traditional crops are often no longer viable, invasive plants and pests are on the increase, and extreme weather events are more frequent, says the World Bank.

In Aululic, the farmers - 506 households comprising a total of 3,306 people - turned to rice in the 2022 planting season after flooding destroyed their sorghum crop each year between 2018 and 2022.

They harvested 150 bags of rice last year, each weighing 50kg. Fifteen of these bags were not consumed by the farming community and were sold for profit. This year, they anticipate an even bigger rice harvest.

"I have harvested 550kg of rice this season and saved up enough rice seed to start planting next year... My hope is to see more people get involved in agriculture in South Sudan," says Aluel Tong Mawein, who takes part in an agricultural project run by African humanitarian assistance organisation ForAfrica.

Although the switch to rice has been profitable for the Aululic farmers, it required a costly cash outlay, and extra physical work from them.

They raised funds through a cash-for-assets programme to buy seeds, and had to change their fields to paddies, says ForAfrica's Mulugeta Berhanu, food security and livelihood programme manager in South Sudan.

Cash-for-assets programmes allow low-income individuals and households to swap cash for some kind of labour-based activity that improves a community's overall food production ability, such as cultivating new farmlands or developing communal infrastructure such as roads, shallow wells, water ponds and flood-control dykes.

Now scientists say that an El Niño effect, which typically causes dry conditions between July and September - part of South Sudan's second cropping season - started in the second half of this year.

El Niño is expected to worsen global warming, leading to more severe and intense heatwaves, wildfires, floods, droughts and epidemics, according to ACAPS, an independent analysis group



established to help the non-governmental sector make informed decisions.

This new variability in weather patterns makes planning difficult for farmers. Even commercial farmers are finding it tough to deal with the changing climate.

However, emerging farmers often have limited access to climate information and adaptation resources. This can hinder their ability to prepare for and respond to the changing climate conditions.

"Extreme weather changes have significant and often devastating effects on small-scale and subsistence farmers. These farmers typically have limited resources and are highly dependent on the natural environment for their livelihoods," says Fred Muteny, ForAfrica's Uganda programmes manager and an agricultural expert.

"In extreme cases, the impacts of climate change can force small-scale farmers to leave their homes and seek alternative livelihoods in urban areas, contributing to rural-to-urban migration and potential overcrowding in cities as well as conflict over resources," he adds.

Climate change and urbanisation are two major challenges faced by the Horn of Africa, where South Sudan is situated, the Council for Foreign Relations (CFR), an independent American think tank, confirms.

The region is warming more quickly than the global average, the CFR says. This can lead to increasing socio-political insecurity, due to the Horn of Africa's vast drylands, numerous pastoralist communities, multiple border disputes,

unresolved transboundary water-rights issues, and porous land borders, the CFR notes further.

This is not to say that people involved in smallholder, subsistence and pastoral farming are without positive coping mechanisms, says Berhanu.

In the Central African Republic, for example, farmers have formed associations that pool resources and assets and that act as a financial buffer when challenges arise, he says.

Unfortunately, there are other, "negative" coping mechanisms that some turn to, especially as climate change puts increased strain on traditional coping mechanisms.

Individuals have sold livestock, eaten inedible foods such as leaves, and even sold children - sons as servants or girls into child marriage.

To mitigate against this, ForAfrica teaches climate-smart farming practices to farmers in the seven African countries where it operates. These include adaptive strategies, such as planting drought-resistant crops, or, in the Aululic farmers' circumstance, the flood-resistant rice.

In addition, farmers are taught how to preserve vegetables so that they have a longer shelf-life, and ForAfrica makes sure that its training emphasizes the importance of community-level preparedness and collaboration in the face of climate-related risks, Muteny says.

"El Niño-related disruptions can make it difficult for trainers to deliver consistent and effective training programmes to farmers. Often, training needs to be adapted quickly to incorporate changes to

the local situation," he says.

Harsh weather can also cause changes in how crop pests behave, or lead to infestations, and this is another circumstance that all farmers, including subsistence farmers, need to adapt to.

It also affects livestock, reducing their access to water and forage, drowning them in the floods that accompany cyclones and causing them to suffer heat stress, which can harm general livestock health, reduce reproduction rates, and decrease milk and meat production.

Changing climate conditions also mean that farmers are having to deal with livestock diseases that are new to them - for example, a study by the International Livestock Research Institute found that climate change is increasing the risk of Rift Valley fever outbreaks in Africa. This disease is transmitted by mosquitoes and affects both animals and humans.

With climate change worsening, it is difficult, if not impossible, to stop the shocks that emanate from weather events such as droughts from happening, says Berhanu.

What can be done, however, is to work towards strengthening communities such as the farmers of Aululic so that they are better prepared to cope with the stresses climate change is causing.

For these particular farmers, the variability in climate conditions means that, after this year's rice harvest is in, they may well have to use the information they have to decide whether to plant rice, sorghum, or both.

* Agencies

Building more schools to eliminate long walks for pupils laudable idea

EFFORTS continue to build schools near communities, a key component in the Tanzania Secondary Education Quality Improvement (SEQUIP) project.

This is meant to facilitate access to secondary schools in a way that is less hazardous especially for girls walking several kilometers from residential areas to school and back.

This situation arose from rather awkward land allocation policies or rather challenges with local government strategies in respect of land use planning.

This proved a thorn for the learners and, in due course, policy makers and stakeholders took up the matter.

How far the new plan will alter the resource allocation modality that went into the original plan is one thing, but the core issue is that a substantial number of pupils in those schools will leave for schools closer to where they live.

Yet as the previous school building drive goes back anywhere up to ten years ago, plenty of habitation alteration would have taken place. It is unlikely that the older schools will be anywhere near being deserted.

According to top-level ministerial officials, the rebuilding relies to a big extent on the provision of support by the country's development partners, which is likely to have been the case earlier as well.

Earlier disputes on the part of a section of education sector professionals that quality should be foremost rather than number of schools were added to the new project, seen as quality improvement but chiefly of the school-going environment.

In other words, the more equalitarian concern of secondary school access for all eligible pupils has remained

cardinal.

What was also evident from the recent remarks by a President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) deputy permanent secretary inspecting progress in the implementation of the project in a number of areas is that this time the locations chosen for building the schools are much better than obtained previously.

Therefore, it quite likely that the older schools will have more students as habitations expand, while more pupils completing primary schools will find the newer schools more suitable.

There is also a range of boarding facilities that is being taken up in the new wave of school construction where, for instance, girls will have the privileged chance of finding such space, especially if there is no school nearby.

What remains to be seen, though, is whether most such projects will be completed on schedule or tricksters will finish up the money for the government to have to start running in circles to see who misused the money and how - and what next.

The "promotion" of these particular schools to high schools now that fees have been removed is also awaited. Within this work as it takes shape, there is the nerve-tugging issue of changing the format of education to six years, etc.

While scrapping Standard VII exams apparently in preference for assessment tests will likely help in curbing child marriages, leaving the seven-year structure as vocational training colleges are being built now would be more helpful.

Battling with the quality and access will surely be of some utility, with adding value to content and ensuring proper direction to the changes promising enhanced benefits.

Without rules and order, a classroom can be as noisy as a market

Classroom management is among the most important skills that any successful teacher must possess. Every class has learners of different behaviours, abilities, emotions and challenges. If a class is not managed, the teaching and learning processes must be hindered.

It is obvious that any kind of success comes through efforts and in teaching profession; success also comes through efforts in aspects such as classroom management. This is the process teachers use to ensure that classroom lessons run smoothly without disruptive behavior from students compromising the delivery of instruction.

A teacher needs to manage all kinds of learners and make everyone in the class enjoy and benefit accordingly. In a class there must be some rules and order to make it an official place and not noisy like a market. There must be a culture of the class which shapes learners. It is from classes that learned and civilized individuals are expected to come from. This reality makes it a must for a classroom to be a place of order.

A well-managed classroom enhances understanding. The message from a teacher reaches the entire audience if the classroom is well managed. Also, the feedback from learners can reach the teacher effectively if there is good management of class.

What is spoken in the class must be formal and meaningful. Teachers and learners should not embark on stories or chats which are not educative. Understanding is enhanced when the level of silence is high. A teacher should not allow random answering or asking of questions by learners.

Teaching demands teachers to be relaxed so as to avoid unnecessary confusion or obstruction. When a teacher is not relaxed, he or she may fail to deliver the content in a proper way. Learners who talk when a teacher is teaching hinder effective teaching and learning. It is very important for a teacher to make sure that learners are ready to listen before they start to talk. When a teacher stops teaching or explaining something and demands some learners to keep quiet is when the flow of teaching is interfered and the learners who were attentive and capturing the content are discouraged.

When a teacher enters the classroom, they have set objective to be accomplished during the lesson. If there is no effective classroom management, the objectives



may not be realized. This shows that classroom management is a must if a teacher is serious in what they are doing.

A teacher may fail to accomplish their objectives not because of shortage of

time but because of poor classroom management. Therefore, it is necessary to know and practise classroom management skills so as to boost performance of a teacher and learners as well.

One of the methods of classroom management is telling learners or directing them to keep quiet. Phrases like "keep quiet" or "observe silence" are commonly used. Also, a teacher can show a signal

to the learners to remind them to keep quiet. One of the common signals is putting the finger longitudinally across the mouth when learners look at the teacher. This method of managing class is most

effective as it doesn't require a teacher to talk. Sometimes a teacher's voice can be considered as a way of disturbing class and therefore sometimes it becomes more effective to use signals instead of voice.

Another method of classroom management is asking learners some questions. This is a way of capturing learners' attention. When a learner fails to answer a question whose answer has been provided in the class, it becomes a message to them that they were not attentive.

Always, failure calls for attention so as to avoid repeating the failure. Instead of a teacher asking learners if they have understood, it is effective to ask them questions. Learners have a tendency of accepting what they are asked as a way of letting a teacher to finish the lesson and go. They sometimes feel that saying that they haven't understood may discourage the teacher. Learners being able to answer questions properly show that they are attentive and have understood the lesson.

Also, rewarding the learner who has answered a question well is a way of managing the class. Rewards include clapping for the learner or giving

or any sign of appreciation. When other learners observe their fellow being rewarded, they are motivated to increase their level of concentration so that they can also be recognized. When learners concentrate effectively, silence in class is attained and hence more possibility of understanding of what is being taught.

Having classroom rules and their consequences is a way of managing class. A teacher cannot expect learners to behave inappropriately. The presence of classroom rules and their consequences is a message to learners to follow those rules.

Classroom rules and their consequences help teachers to administer corrective punishments which are acceptable. It is well known that a teacher is also a protector of learners and hence any punishment not in line with the rules and consequences approved by the Ministry of Education may mean violence.

For any class to be effective, a high level of concentration and order is of paramount importance. It is a teacher's responsibility to make sure that the classroom is always managed for effective teaching and learning outcomes. Teaching is managing.

Australia: Reconciliation back to square one?

By Inés M. Pousadela

AUSTRALIA had the chance to take a step forward in redressing the exclusion of its Indigenous people - and chose not to. In a referendum held in October, voters rejected a constitutional amendment to establish an institution for Indigenous people to have a say on matters that concern them.

On a 90 per cent turnout under mandatory voting, 60 per cent voted against. Supporters of the referendum were left pointing the finger at disinformation - and those who pushed it for political gain.

A history of exclusion

For a long time, Indigenous Australians - currently 3.8 per cent of the country's population - lacked any recognition. European settlers didn't see any need for a treaty with the people already there. Indigenous Australians only got the vote in 1962 and, following a referendum, were put on the census as late as 1972 - until then, they literally didn't count. They remain unrecognised in the country's constitution.

For most of the 20th century, assimilation laws saw Indigenous children forcibly taken from their families on a mass scale. It's estimated that between 1910 and 1970 10 to 30 per cent of Indigenous children were handed to childless white couples to be raised as white. The horror of the 'stolen generations' only began to be acknowledged in the mid-1990s.

In 1997 the Australian Human Rights Commission issued a report with recommendations for healing and reconciliation. But a belated prime ministerial apology came only in 2008. That same year, the government issued a plan to reduce disadvantage among Indigenous people. After most of its targets expired unmet, a new approach was developed in partnership with an Indigenous coalition in 2020.

But little progress has been made in overcoming exclusion. On almost any indicator, Indigenous people remain two to three times worse off than non-Indigenous Australians. Being dramatically underrepresented in decision-making bodies, they also lack the tools to change it.

The Uluru statement from the heart



On a 90 per cent turnout under mandatory voting, 60 per cent voted against. Supporters of the referendum were left pointing the finger at disinformation - and those who pushed it for political gain. Credit: Jenny Evans/Getty Images

The road towards the referendum started more than a decade ago, when an expert panel found that constitutional recognition was the way to go. But the call for a referendum was delayed. In 2016, a Referendum Council again concluded that constitutional reform should proceed.

In 2017, the First Nations Dialogues issued the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which called for a Voice to Parliament for Indigenous people, a truth commission and a treaty. The Voice was viewed as the first step to open up a conversation and enable further progress.

Then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, of the centre-right Liberal Party, rejected the Uluru Statement. But in 2018 another committee was set up to investigate options for constitutional change - and again, it endorsed a constitutionally enshrined Voice. The Labor opposition promised to put the proposal to a referendum if it won the next election.

Political change: potential and limitations

The Liberal/National coalition lost the May 2022 election, and Labor's incoming prime minister Anthony

Albanese promised progress on long-stalled policies to address Indigenous rights.

The proposed constitutional amendment and text of the ballot question were made public in March 2023 and approved by parliament in June. The government endorsed a set of principles of representation, transparency and accountability that would be used to design the Voice. It was made clear that, as the name implied, this new body would give a voice to Indigenous people but not have decision-making authority or veto power. Any further decision on its composition, functions, powers and procedures would be in the hands of parliament.

Foreshadowing what was to come, the Liberal and National opposition parties submitted dissenting reports, and the Nationals rejected the proposal entirely. By siding with the No campaign, the opposition doomed the referendum. No referendum has ever been carried without bipartisan support.

For and against

Given the legal requirement to distribute an official pamphlet presenting the case for both sides, members of

parliament who'd voted for and against the amendment bill drafted and approved a text containing their side's arguments. This meant that disinformation was inserted into the process from the start: as an independent fact-checking initiative showed, several claims in the No pamphlet were false or misleading.

The Yes campaign focused its messaging on fairness, reconciliation and healing, seeking to sell the idea that Australia would be made better by the recognition of a space for Indigenous people to have a say in national politics.

Indigenous people overwhelmingly supported the proposal, although some opposed it - because they thought it didn't go far enough, saw it as whitewash or hoped not to see relationships they'd painstakingly developed sidelined. The No campaign made a point of foregrounding contrarian Indigenous voices, disproportionately boosted by supportive media.

Different organisations in the No camp appealed to different groups. Advance, a conservative lobby group, went after young progressives with its 'Not Enough' campaign, suggesting that the Voice wasn't what Indigenous

Australians wanted and wouldn't solve their problems. The Blak Sovereign Movement questioned the timing, arguing that a treaty should be negotiated first. Disinformation and racial abuse were rife.

Two much-repeated claims were that the Voice would divide Australians and enshrine privileges for Indigenous people. No campaigners peddled a zero-sum idea: that non-Indigenous people would lose if Indigenous people won. They falsely claimed that people would lose their farms or that Indigenous people would charge them to access beaches.

Another fear-stoking argument was that the Voice was only the beginning - after they secured this, Indigenous people would go for more, until they took everything from the rest. It could, for example, open up a conversation about land rights. That may have been a genuine fear for Australia's powerful extractive industries, explaining why the right-wing think tanks that have consistently opposed climate action also lobbied against the Voice.

Having sowed disinformation and confusion, the No campaign told voters that, in doubt, they should play it safe and vote no. It worked.

What next?

The result could bring even greater backlash. Emboldened, some opposition politicians have since withdrawn their previously stated support for a treaty and suggested rolling back practices they now present as inadmissible concessions to identity politics. This could be a harbinger for the opposition pinning its comeback hopes on a culture war strategy.

But while the referendum defeat has dealt a hard blow to hopes of challenging the exclusion of Indigenous Australians, it isn't quite game over. A specific proposal has been defeated, but there's plenty left to advocate for. Progress on the wider reconciliation agenda, including other forms of recognition and redress, could still be possible, particularly at state and local levels. The Uluru Statement from the Heart remains the compass, and civil society will keep urging politicians and the public to follow its path.

Inés M. Pousadela is CIVICUS Senior Research Specialist, co-director and writer for CIVICUS Lens and co-author of the State of Civil Society Report.

Indigenous voices and food systems lead the way at COP28

By Robert Kibet

IN a groundbreaking development, indigenous farmer communities are poised to bring the spotlight onto food systems at the upcoming UN Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

Recent research revealing that food systems contribute to roughly one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions has spurred a compelling call to action.

Furthermore, as one-third of the world's food goes to waste, an alarming over 700 million people grapple with hunger. At the same time, a staggering 3 billion individuals cannot access a nutritious diet. This issue is poised to worsen due to the adverse effects of extreme weather events and biodiversity loss on global agriculture.

After years of relative neglect in global climate negotiations, food systems have finally taken center stage at COP28.

Estrella Penunia, the Secretary General of the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), said at a conference held ahead of World Food Day that while approximately 4 percent of climate financing is allocated to agriculture, a mere 1.7 percent reaches family farmers.

"We want to play the role of climate stewards in our farms, fisheries, and forests because we know the solutions on how to transition to sustainable, inclusive, just, and healthy food systems to regenerative and agricultural approaches," Penunia told the virtual press conference.

Under the leadership of the COP28 presidency, it is anticipated that world leaders will unite to endorse an unprecedented declaration acknowledging the undeniable connections between food systems, agriculture, and climate change at the World Climate Action Summit on December 1-2.

What's more, the COP28 event will set a precedent by dedicating a thematic day to food systems on December 10. Expectations run high for farmers, businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders to deliver ambitious announcements and rallying calls to further advance the significance of food systems in the current year.

According to Penunia, governments, development partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations must unite to support indigenous farmers. She emphasized the need for favorable policies and programs to expand and enhance their work and for sufficient financing to be directed toward agriculture.

"Direct financing for small-scale family farmers is key to empowering their organizations and cooperatives as effective change agents. The aim is to enable millions of family farmers to directly contribute solutions," said Penunia.

Stakeholders are concerned that the food systems agenda has been inadequately represented in global climate discussions, but there is now a growing recognition of the substantial impact of agricultural emissions, including meth-



Christine Nalienya, a farmer in western Kenya, winnowing beans outside her home. Bean farmers confront various challenges, yet as smallholder farmers, they receive little support. Credit: Robert Kibet/IPS

ane and carbon dioxide, on the climate.

David Nabarro, the strategic director at the 4 SD Foundation, emphasized that while the contribution of agriculture and food to greenhouse gas emissions has been known for some time, there is now widespread recognition that it warrants serious

attention. Moreover, climate change challenges have intensified over the past few years, with increasing reports from farmers about the near impossibility of dealing with its effects.

Nabarro, also a senior advisor to the COP28 Food Systems team, underscored the significance of the up-

coming COP28 in Dubai. "It places the issue squarely on the table despite the difficulties involved and brings together various groups. World leaders understand the imperative of addressing all sources of emissions and working with diverse companies and countries to effect meaningful change."

Gonzalo Munoz, a former high-level champion for COP25 and lead on the COP28 Non-State Actors Agenda for Food Systems on behalf of the UN Climate Champions, stressed the need to demonstrate a sense of urgency and the imperative of scaling up action.

"This call to action endorses the Emirates Declaration and backs its implementation, developed in consultation with non-state actors. Consequently, at COP28, there will be a launch of a non-state actor call to action aimed at transforming food systems for the benefit of people, nature, and climate," said Gonzalo.

This initiative also underscores the critical need to respect and value the traditional knowledge held by indigenous people and the local knowledge possessed by farmers, fishers, and other food producers.

In the local context, respecting and valuing the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local farmers, fishers, ranchers, and pastoralists is vital. It is equally important to engage women and youth in climate negotiations and other processes at all levels, as Rebecca Brooks, a high-level climate champion, emphasized.

"Strengthening the capacity of organizations representing these groups and providing appropriate resources, incentives, and technical support is essential," Brooks, also the pillar lead for the non-state actors pillar of the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda, told the press conference.

Dr Tim Benton, the Research Director of the Environment and Society Program at Chatham House, emphasized the pivotal role of transforming the food system in addressing the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, pollution, human health, and well-being.

He raised the question of how to make it profitable for farmers to adopt more sustainable, resilient practices without the pressures of often stemming from globalized systems to maximize yield at any cost.

Benton also acknowledged the substantial challenges facing smallholder farmers in many parts of the global south, particularly in the middle latitudes.

"The challenges for smallholder farmers in many parts of the global south, and particularly the middle latitudes of the world, are huge," he reiterated.

Regarding potential trade-offs, Benton recognized that there are real trade-offs, such as balancing biodiversity conservation, nutrition, farmer livelihoods, and greenhouse gas emissions. The complex task is to find solutions that address these trade-offs effectively.

IPS UN Bureau Report

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 UMJUUYO 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

Bank funding livestock farmers in Zambia to adapt to climate change

By Special Correspondent, Lusaka

THE Climate Resilient Livestock Management Project, implemented by the African Development Bank in Zambia between 2017 and 2022, has helped to equip small livestock farmers to adapt to climate change. In particular, the percentage of targeted households with enough water for their animals to drink all year round has risen from 48% to 89% over the period, according to the Project Completion Report published on 2 November 2023.

With 96.7% of households adopting new production practices for milk, the nutritional benefits for adults and children have also improved. As a result, 122% of households can make hay by cutting pasture grown from seed in their fields after receiving pasture seeds and learning how to preserve animal feed.

With a \$6.21 million grant funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the Bank, the project has complemented and climate-

proofed the ADF - financed \$18 million Livestock Infrastructure Support Project. It has also enabled communities to undertake various activities to promote investment in livestock and build farmers' capacity to adapt to climate change. These included purchasing additional fodder seeds to develop and restore degraded meadows covering 3,763 hectares in Northern and Muchinga provinces and distributing 5,640 livestock units to farmers through the livestock pass-on-a-gift restocking programme.

In addition, 617 hectares of sustainable pasture for livestock have been created,

112 kilometres of fire-break roads constructed, 258 community village land-use plans developed, and 45 solar-powered boreholes dug to provide livestock farmers with access to water. Consultants have also developed 10 good practice manuals for indigenous livestock management and created a livestock early warning system. The project also equipped six livestock farms with biogas digesters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Capacity-building activities and various awareness campaigns on adapting to climate change were implemented to support the project. Activities included training farm-

ers in building biogas digesters, building capacity for adapting to sustainable land-use management, conserving fodder for livestock during the dry season, and assessing climate risk and adaptation skills for livestock farmers.

Local artisans were also trained in manufacturing equipment related to livestock farming as a source of income diversification. Various knowledge adaptation products were produced, including documentary videos from the National Agricultural Information Services on the livestock pass-on scheme and the effects of climate change on animal produc-

"The project team also participated in various events organized by adaptation practitioners, such as national and annual agricultural and trade shows and study visits by farmers in the Southern province.

The project has strengthened other sub-sectors, such as plant production, which is essential for improving the livelihoods of small farmers, along with integrated farming.

Raubil Durowoju, African Development Bank Country Manager for Zambia, highlighted gender mainstreaming in all project activities.

"Among other things, women's groups benefited

from training and climate-resilient livestock restocking programmes through the pass-on scheme. Women represented over 40% of the target beneficiaries," Durowoju, he said.

Gethings Chisule, the Government Provincial Coordinator for Northern Province, noted that the project had improved the income levels of smallholder livestock farmers through improved livestock production and productivity.

He also underscored the project's contribution to climate resilience and adaptation among farmers. The Project also built the capacity of the Government staff

and smallholder farmers. He thanked the stakeholders, including the Global Environment Facility and the African Development Bank, for their support during the implementation period.

Naboth Zulu, a Musa Dairy Cooperative (Kasama District) member, indicated that he was given two heifer-dairy animals on condition that he should pass on the offspring to the next beneficiaries to increase the number of recipients. The animals produce an average of 18 litres daily, which has helped him earn income to educate his children and provide food for his family, thus improving their livelihoods.



Smallholder livestock farmers in Zambia are now better equipped to adapt to climate change

Industrialised nations urged to up climate adaptation finance

By Elias Ngalame

YOUNG scientists, researchers and civil society activists from across Africa have called on leaders from around the globe to urgently scale up adaptation finance and include young people in adaptation decisions and actions to drive the fight against climate change.

Congregating at the inaugural Youth Forum on Adaptation Finance in Africa, or YOFABA, from 16-18 November in Yaoundé, Cameroon, an estimated 150 young climate change actors from about 30 countries in Africa had a strong message they wanted to share.

"Young scientists, researchers [and] civil society actors want to play an active role in climate adaptation actions, a vision that can only become reality if adaptation finance is doubled by 2025," their Yaoundé message stated at the forum themed 'Empowering Africa: More than doubling adaptation finance for a resilient future'.

Unless the adaptation finance increases, a gap of US\$435 billion in adaptation finance for Africa will open up in the decade ending in 2030, a recent report has shown.

In their declaration at the end of the forum, the youths called on

industrialised countries to accept responsibility, not only to increase adaptation finance, but also to respect their engagements and ensure adaptation finances are directed to the most affected communities.

"We call on industrialised countries to roll out a blueprint to increase climate adaptation finance at COP28. We call on an increased share of climate adaptation finance that is commensurate to the needs of African countries. Ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the climate adaptation finance," the Yaoundé call stated.

The 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP28, will be held from 30 November until 12 December at the Expo City, Dubai.

Urgent action needed

The gathering in Cameroon was organised by the Africa Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access (ACSEA), a network of civil society organisations, private sector actors, and academics working to promote clean energy solutions and climate resilience across the continent. ACSEA organised the forum along with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, or PACJA, a network of over 1,000 civil society organisations in Africa.

Dr Augustine Njamnshi, the CEO of ACSEA, said the impact of climate change in Africa is undeniable, and the urgency to act is paramount.

"These youths [gathered in Yaoundé] now recognise that this [adaptation finance] is a moral imperative and a strategic investment in Africa's future resilience and prosperity," said Njamnshi at the opening of the forum.

The Cameroon government saluted the advocacy drive by African youth to double adaptation finance for Africa countries, noting that it was time the younger generation swung into action.

"Youths have the skills, the energy and are innovative. They have the demographic power. There can't be any sustainable solutions to the climate crisis without the active involvement of the youth," Pierre Hélé, the minister of the environment, protection of nature and sustainable development in Cameroon, said at the close of the forum.

He added his voice to that of the young activists to call for an increase in adaptation finance and for the creation of more spaces for youths to lead innovative solutions to climate change.

"The time for the youth to show what they are capable of doing in the fight against climate change is

now," he pointed out.

Youth's role in agriculture

Professor Chinedum Uzoma Nwajiuba, a Nigerian academic and professor of agricultural economics, says when young people are given negotiating muscle and real influence in the world, they will create a better future for all.

"Young people are forced to bear the brunt of climate change. They should be given the chance to successfully adapt," he told University World News.

Africa, in a context of climate change, he says, needs to train a new generation of agriculture experts in all universities. African agriculture has been very stagnant in terms of technology.

"A new breed of young trainees and experts with a technological mindset is needed to move the continent's agricultural production to a higher level," Nwajiuba said.

According to a 2022 report by the online publication Africa Renewal, African young people need the relevant and suitable resources and opportunities to better enhance farming communities' capacity to adapt to the climate crises.

"Today, the African youth are participating in research, technology development and entrepreneur-

ship, policy, advocacy and social equality related to climate change," the report says. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, PACJA, noted that the Yaoundé call was timely, as COP28 is taking place soon. The alliance enjoined young scientists and researchers to, not only sound the alarm, but multiply innovative actions in the fight against climate change.

"The battle and actions in the fight against climate change has been a long one. 2023 is very important for us to measure how far we have gone and the challenges ahead by 2050.

"By bringing in these youths on board, we are energising our movement, preparing them to take over the relay and multiply actions for the future," said Dr Mithika Mwendu, the executive director of PACJA, in his presentation at the forum.

Adaptation finance projections The youths participating in the forum acknowledged the challenge ahead and thanked the organisers for giving them the opportunity to join in the struggle.

"Climate change impact is disrupting lives and threatening our very existence. While the youths are ready to carry out local and on-the-ground actions to enhance adaptation, this cannot happen without finances," Ulrich Mary Fulai of Sup-

port Humanity Cameroon, a youth-driven NGO in Cameroon, said.

Experts highlighted the need to dramatically increase the amount and efficacy of adaptation financing to Africa, noting the persistent challenges related to adaptation finance flows in the continent, and calling on priority actions for the global finance community to take action to address them.

"The financial need to help Africa enhance its resilience is enormous and, with the youth coming on board very strongly, there's an urgent need to increase financing for adaptation," Njamnshi said.

The recent report by the Climate Policy Initiative and the Global Center on Adaptation shows that an annual average of US\$29.5 billion in climate finance was committed to Africa in the years 2019 and 2020.

The report says that, of this amount, about US\$11.4 billion, or 39%, was for adaptation investments. A further analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs, also indicates that the adaptation finance needs for the continent over the period 2020-30 are close to US\$580 billion.

Unless adaptation finance increases substantially in Africa, a gap of US\$453 billion will accumulate over this decade.

SA votes to cut diplomatic ties with Israel, but it's symbolic until govt acts

By Marianne Merten

WITH a vote of 248 for and 91 against, the amended EFF motion calling on the government to close the Israeli embassy in Pretoria and cut diplomatic ties was carried in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

Crucial to the vote was that the governing ANC got the amendment it had indicted in Thursday's often tense debate as necessary for its support. But it was made clear in the House this was not a binding resolution, but a "politically persuasive" one.

Tabled by ANC Chief Whip Pemmy Majodina, and publicly formally agreed to by EFF leader Julius Malema, this amendment introduced the governing party's wish for conditionalities - a ceasefire and a lasting United Nations-facilitated peace.

The amended resolution of the House on Tuesday called "upon the government to close the Israeli Embassy in South Africa and suspend all diplomatic relations with Israel until a ceasefire is agreed and Israel commits to binding UN-facilitated negotiations whose outcome must be a just, sustainable and lasting peace".

Shouts of "Free Palestine" and "Free Palestine, from the river to the sea" erupted from the ANC and EFF benches following the vote in which the two parties were also supported by the one and two-seaters, al Jama-ah, the National Freedom Party, the African Transformation Movement and the Pan-Africanist Congress.

But, as always, the devil is in the details.

As presiding officer and House chairperson Cedric Frolick put it in explaining the House's competency to deal with this matter, "Such a resolution will be politically persuasive rather than instructive."



Ahmed Munzoor Shaik Emam, a member of NFP, embraces EFF member Nazier Paulsen after the vote calling on the government to close the Israeli embassy in Pretoria and cut diplomatic ties was carried in the National Assembly on Tuesday. (Photo: Ziyanda Duba)

This effectively means the government may well decide to simply note but not act on this National Assembly resolution. Or decide not to even note.

While the parliamentary vote to cut diplomatic ties with Israel and shut its embassy in Pretoria echoes the stance of the ANC's Luthuli House, it contradicts In-

ternational Relations Minister Naledi Pandor's statements in Parliament.

"... (B)reaking off diplomatic relations with Israel will be counterproductive as it will also affect our Representative Office in Ramallah, Palestine, and by implication weaken the meaningful role that South Africa can play

in the Palestinian cause," Pandor said in Monday's parliamentary reply to the IFP.

"The government of South Africa will be considering the various calls made to further downgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel given the flagrant breaches of international law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity

and genocide..."

In a statement to the House on 7 November, Pandor outlined necessary steps, including an "immediate comprehensive ceasefire", the full opening of humanitarian corridors so aid and basic services can reach those in need, the release of all civilian hostages and a United Nations rapid deployment force to monitor the ceasefire and to protect civilians.

In addition, all parties were urged to exercise restraint from fuelling the conflict, help establish a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East zone, and resume a "comprehensive dialogue" between Palestine and Israel.

Such steps were also outlined by President Cyril Ramaphosa who chaired Tuesday's extraordinary BRICS meeting on the Israel-Gaza war, according to a statement from the Presidency.

Pretoria's determined stance on Israel committing war crimes and genocide in Gaza was evident when South Africa joined several countries to refer Israel to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

In a parliamentary reply on Monday to the EFF on South African-Palestine solidarity, Pandor said, "South Africa and Palestine are currently working on formulating practical strategies towards taking up the Palestinian cause to the ICC and ICJ (International Court of Justice) to declare Israel as an apartheid state..."

The flurry of parliamentary questions signals the centrality in South African public life of the Israel-Gaza war following the 7 October killing of around 1,200 civilians by Hamas and the kidnapping of more than 200 people from Israel into Gaza, where they are being held hostage.

Israel's bombardment of Gaza, which has killed more than 13,000 residents - many of them children - alongside orders to evacuate Gaza City to the south and now west, has been condemned internationally, as well as by various United Nations agencies and Secretary-General António Guterres.

As Ramaphosa chaired the BRICS meeting, opposition parties in the House cautioned against isolat-

ing South Africa by cutting diplomatic ties with Israel.

"It will have consequences for the standing of South Africa in the international world," said FF+ chief whip Corné Mulder.

"The ANC has now followed the EFF. We will vote against this motion. You have made a mistake."

DA MP and international relations spokesperson Emma Powell described the motion as "counter-intuitive" to wanting a stake in negotiating a solution to the conflict.

"The ANC is scoring an own goal here. It's a firm no from us. We need to have a stake in negotiating a peace..."

IFP chief whip Narend Singh also emphasised that South Africa "should not exclude ourselves from a peace process".

But the opposition NFP and Al Jama-ah took a different line.

While NFP MP Shaik Emam welcomed the "revolutionary" decision, Al Jama-ah leader Ganië Hendricks said, "There is no place for Israel in South Africa. Every trace of Israel must be wiped off our land."

Should Pretoria decide to heed the National Assembly resolution, the ramifications could include the loss of diplomatic representation in Tel Aviv and Ramallah.

This could affect the 120 South Africans who, since 7 October, have contacted SA missions in Israel and Palestine as "(distressed South African nationals in Gaza... on the United Nations (UN) rescue list and ready to be moved out of Gaza when the opportunity arises", according to another parliamentary reply from Pandor.

The "politically persuasive" National Assembly resolution to cut diplomatic ties with Israel and shut that country's Pretoria embassy is done and dusted.

What happens next will reflect factional battles in the ANC - and how government wants to position itself on this as well as other broader global geopolitical issues.

DM

Crossword puzzle section titled 'THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 29 -'. Includes clues for words like 'chemical element of atomic number 10', 'a growth of hair on a chin', and 'state in Western India'. Also features a 'KEY' grid and a solution grid with words like 'MOSCOW', 'LEMONS', 'BOOM', 'RUB', etc.

Radio One advertisement for 'RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI'. Includes a detailed weekly programme schedule for Monday through Sunday, listing various music, news, and entertainment shows like 'Hali ya Hewa', 'AMKA na BBC', and 'Nipashe'.

Footer banner with the text 'Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One' and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, alongside the Radio One logo.



Thursday 23 November 2023

NMB wins govt praise for its massive social investments in Morogoro



Morogoro regional commissioner Adam Malima (3rd-R) cuts the ribbon to signify the commencement of banking services at NMB Bank's Dumila branch. He is with NMB Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi (2nd R) and other officials. The event was followed by the bank's donation of 53 desks, 30 tables and 30 chairs to Sokoine secondary school and Kwadoli Primary School worth around 11m/-. NMB launches its first ever bank outlet in Dumila, which is its 14th in Morogoro Region and the fourth in Kilosa.

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner Adam Kigoma Malima has lauded the NMB Bank for making impactful social investments in the region, amounting to more than 200m/- this year.

RC Malima made the remarks early this week when gracing the launch newest branch in Dumila area, which is its 14th in Morogoro Region and the fourth in Kilosa District.

He urged banks to improve change transactions and money circulation services.

The RC also commented on the request of Lilian Silaa of the central bank's Dodoma branch, who appealed to NMB to use the new outlet to help deal with the challenge of mutilated notes and defaced coins in the area.

Kilosa DC Shaka Hamidu Shaka said NMB services have helped to

modernise grazing in the district hence contributing to reducing conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers.

Janeth Shango, NMB Central Zone Manager said the 133rd branch in the zone's three regions, which include Dodoma and Singida, will also be used to provide financial education services.

Filbert Mponzi, bank's chief of retail banking described the NMB Dumila Branch is the fifth the bank has opened so far this year as it further deepens physical presence and cements its outreach supremacy in the market.

"We now have 231 branches across the country and more will be opened as we strive to serve more people in line with the government's aspiration of increasing access to financial services," Mponzi noted.

He said before opening of the new branch located along the Morogoro-Dodoma Highway, customers had to travel 70-km to

Turiani, 50-km to Gairo, 69-km to Kilosa or 30-km to Mvomero to access services of the bank.

With the proximity challenge now addressed, he called on Dumila residents to use the fully-fledged branch to grow economically and advance their productive activities.

He said the bank has earmarked 1bn/- for lending retail borrowers and general enterprises (MSMEs) in a year to support realization of those goals.

"Together with the increasing use of alternative service channels and digital platforms, branches are still important operationally," Mponzi stated, noting that currently over 94 per cent of NMB's transactions are made electronically.

The Monday development was marked with corporate giving support of 50 desks and 30 teachers' chairs and tables, which Mponzi said will add value to efforts to improve the quality of education.

LATRA launches training for bus hostesses in effort to give travellers more joy

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has launched special training for passenger bus hostesses in a new move aimed to improve service provision and facilitate comfortable journeys.

The short courses under Competency Based Education and Training (CBET) will start to be provided by various colleges through special courses, involves servants in commuter buses, long-distance buses and school buses.

Speaking during the launch of the training in Dar es Salaam yesterday, LATRA director general, Habibu Suluo said the training commences after the authority completed forming guideline for the colleges to adhere to when preparing curriculum and courses.

He commended owners for bringing the hostesses to the launching training which is very important to improve their customer services.

"These are very important people in the transportation sector, they are the ones who works to ensure that the vehicles are clean and well arranged for the passengers to enjoy smooth travel while supporting passengers in various important services, so it is important to equip them with required skills to facilitate provision of quality services" he said.

He added: "With the training, owners will get efficient workers who will be able to take good care of their vehicles by making them clean as well

as marketing the buses through provision of quality and attractive services."

According to him, before registering the hostesses need to undergo training to have wider understanding of the rules and regulations.

"From January next year, we will officially start registering and certifying bus hostesses. All these efforts are meant to transform transport services making it attractive and productive," he said.

LATRA's director of road transport, Johansen Kahatano said as per the Land Transport Regulatory Authority Act no 3 of 2019, the authority is required to identify and register commercial bus drivers and hostesses/hosts.

He said the authority prepared a special guideline and submitted to colleges for the formation of curriculum and courses to training the buses crews.

"We are also improving guidelines to also enable colleges to prepare courses for hostesses in school buses particularly in the area of taking good care of children."

Secretary General of the Tanzania Bus Owners' Association (TABOA) Priskus Joseph commended LATRA for the measures that they are taking to improve public transport in the country.

He said that the training are important as they are going to greatly add value in the commuter transport services making them smart and efficient.

Tigo launches customer prize-oriented campaign

By Faustine Feliciane



Angelica Peshha, Tigo Tanzania's chief officer for mobile financial services, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday

TIGO Tanzania has invested almost 1trn/- in improvement of its 4G and 5G internet services as the company pledges to continue working with the government in connecting more people to internet services especially those residing in rural areas.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the company's new campaign dubbed 'Magift dabo dabo', Tigo's Marketing Director, Edwardina Mgendi, said the company is eager to see many people in the rural areas are connected to high speed internet services.

"Our 4G and 5G Internet services connection reached 75 percent of rural areas. Our main target is to increase accessibility to internet services by 100 percent," said Mgendi.

Speaking of the end of the year Magift dabo dabo campaign, Mgendi said the company will spend up to 165mn/- with the aim of congratulating their customers but also rewarding them for being with them throughout the year.

"The campaign targets at giving our esteemed customers the opportunity to win various prizes and share with their loved ones a chance to win. We intend to celebrate this year's success achieved so far with our customers," said Mgendi.

In addition, the company's TigoPesa Chief Officer, Angelica Peshha, said the company's customers can win various prizes including electrical appliances such as refrigerators, televisions, holiday trips to Dubai and Zanzibar, cash money up to 30 million shillings as well as a big prize of a brand new car.

"Each customer who wins any prize, will have the chance to choose one of his loved ones and he will win that type of gift, whoever wins a car will choose one of his loved ones and he will win a new car and that is why we have allocated two cars in this campaign," said Peshha.

He said that the campaign will last for a period of three months from yesterday where the final draw will be played in January next year for the winner of the car.

40 pct of African financial institutions want single African currency - survey

By Darren Parker

NEWS publication African Business and the Pan-African Private Sector Trade and Investment Committee (Pafrac) have jointly launched the third yearly Pafrac Africa CEO Trade Survey, which showed that 40.3% of African financial services industry participants want to develop a single African currency akin to the euro.

"This will exponentially increase the speed of transactions, as well as cut down on the difficulties in going from one currency to another while engaging in cross

border trade, both for operators as well as for their financial counterparts," financial services provider Afreximbank policy consultant Patrick Utomi said while presenting the findings at the survey's launch on November 21.

In addition to multiple currencies hindering African economic growth - at least from the financial sector's point of view - a more open pan-African banking system was called for by 42.79% of respondents.

The data shows that business leaders are generally upbeat about Africa's economic prospects, but also wary of the risks posed

by rising inflation and debt burdens on the African Continental Free Trade Area's (AfCFTA's) implementation and the trade climate.

The findings also indicate a need for more cooperation and dialogue between the private sector and policymakers to boost trade facilitation and innovation.

The survey, which serves as a useful private sector barometer on intra-African trade and investment, helps provide a gauge of private-sector sentiment on trade and investment within Africa.

The survey gathers the opinions of more

than 1 000 senior executives from firms operating across the continent. It covers topics such as the effects of the AfCFTA, the current and future trends of African trade flows, and the trade-related ambitions and obstacles of the respondents.

The 2023 edition of the survey was conducted in partnership with the AfCFTA Secretariat, Afreximbank, AUDA-NEPAD, Botho, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation and the International Trade Centre.

In the latest survey, a majority of the respondents were small- to medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs). Most of the companies surveyed had been in operation between one and five years, employing on average of between one and 50 people.

"This speaks to the fact that a majority of businesses across Africa are SMEs - about 80%," Utomi said.

The survey found that rising inflation was rated by respondents as likely to have the most significant impact on Africa's economy, with rising debt levels coming in second, high interest rates coming in third, and global security issues fourth.

Nigeria's rig count drops 13pc as oil output rises to 1.4m bpd



LAGOS

NIGERIA'S rig count, a major index of measuring activities in the upstream sector, dropped month-on-month, MoM by 13.3 percent to 13 in October 2023, from 15 recorded in the preceding month of September 2023.

This showed that there was limited investment and activities during the period, according to the November 2023 Monthly Oil Market Report, MOMR of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, released yesterday.

But, on year-on-year, the report indicated that the nation's rig count rose by 62.5 per cent to 13 in October 2023, from eight recorded in the corresponding period of 2022.

However, the report showed that Algeria is the leading African nation

with 43 rigs while Gabon came last with only two rigs.

It also indicated that the nation's output rose marginally MoM by 1.2 per cent to 1.416 million barrels per day, bpd in October 2023, from 1.399 million bpd in the preceding month of September 2023, according to data obtained from secondary sources.

But based on data collected from official sources, Nigeria's oil output rose marginally MoM by 0.29 per cent to 1.351 million bpd in October 2023, from 1.347 million bpd, recorded in September 2023.

Commenting on the development, the Commission Chief Executive, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC, Engr. Gbenga Komolafe, said the nation has recorded increased activities, mainly because of the positive impact of the

Petroleum Industry Act, PIA, a comprehensive legislation, targeted at increasing investment in the oil and gas industry.

In his presentation - Energy Transition Regime: Leveraging Investment Opportunities in the Nigerian Petroleum Sector - at the just-concluded Africa Oil Week, AOW, in Cape Town, South Africa, obtained by Energy Vanguard, he stated: "The PIA is positively impacting as it provides institutional governance, efficient administration, and attractive fiscal regimes while providing for host communities, thus creating a peaceful atmosphere for investment and operations."

Already, the NUPRC boss disclosed that the Commission is partnering with TGS-Petrodata, a globally renowned organization to provide data, capable of enhancing clarity to investors.

Botswana begins IPv6 migration preparations



GABORONE

BOTSWANA'S government has announced plans to develop rules for internet protocol version 6 (IPv6), as the country prepares to transition from internet protocol version 4 to the next generation.

According to the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), the development will enable fair ac-

cess to services and efficient distribution of mobile network numbering and domain names.

According to BOCRA, the migration will propel the country to reap the full benefits of digitalisation as it strives to become a high-income country with a knowledge-based economy, as outlined in its Vision 2036.

The Botswana Digital Transformation Strategy,

which aims to provide a smart and sustainable society by digitising all sectors, is supporting the digitisation initiative.

"It is critical that the migration process begin immediately," stated BOCRA spokesperson Aaron Nyelesi.

According to Nyelesi, Botswana is trailing behind in the deployment of IPv6, as evidenced by recent regulator's polls.

He stated that a migration strategy has been developed in light of current circumstances, such as the state of infrastructure, the technical skills available for IPv6, and the cost of switching.

Furthermore, the strategy provides goal milestones and dates to various stakeholders during the transition and deployment of IPv6 on various networks and services.

So far, a migration strategy

is being developed to ensure that the economy is fully converted by 2030.

Nyelesi said the government would establish an IPv6 task group to produce the national IPv6 adoption plan, while the regulator's task will include overseeing and facilitating IPv6 deployment through regulatory frameworks to be used.

Internet service providers or other operators, on the

other hand, will be responsible for developing an IPv6 adoption and implementation strategy in accordance with the IPv6 taskforce roadmap and submitting it to the regulator.

According to Nyelesi, the standards will be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that they are in line with technical advancements and national regulations.

Rwf317b Volcanoes national park expansion to be piloted in 2024

KIGALI

The pilot phase of the Volcanoes National Park Expansion project will kick off in 2024, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) CEO, Francis Gatare, has said.

Gatare made the disclosure while appearing before the plenary sitting of the lower chamber of Parliament to provide answers to issues faced by the hospitality and tourism industry.

The issues include poaching in reserves and parks, as well as the damage caused to residents' crops by animals leaving the parks, and unresolved disagreements regarding the expansion of the Volcanoes National Park which have led to frustrations among residents who

own land in the affected area.

Information from RDB shows that the entire project is expected to cost \$255 million (approx. 317 billion at current exchange rates) and it is aimed to ensure a better habitat for the mountain gorillas.

This inflation will expand the park by approximately 23 percent increasing its size by 374 square kilometres (or 3,740 hectares), it added.

Gatare said that a pilot phase for the project implementation is going to be undertaken to help prove the viability of the entire scheme implementation.

This pilot phase concerns 500 households who inhabit more than 450 hectares, adding that the resi-

dents have not yet been expropriated from their land until they get the compensations they are owed.

Overall, the implementation of the whole project will see 3,400 households expropriated and resettled, according to RDB.

The agency says this conservation venture will not only benefit the species but also improve the lives of the communities living around the park and make visiting the gorillas an even more life-changing experience.

Gatare agreed with lawmakers that it is a concern that the residents within the park expansion boundaries have not yet been paid compensations, pointing out "we want that the residents to get fair

compensation so that we are able to expand the park soon."

Meanwhile, he said that residents have the right to carry out activities on their land, such as farming. But he pointed out "it would be recklessness if we allow that they set up long-term buildings while it is known that they will be expropriated in the near future."

"That is why we are expediting the study currently underway, which is expected to be completed in January 2024, and then we will start implementing the park expansion initiative," he said.

He indicated that various studies were conducted and gave a picture of the park expansion area, and the available means in terms of socio-

economic means for the residents in question.

The demarcation of the park was made, factoring in the area to be expanded, and valuation of the residents' property to determine due compensations, he pointed out.

Currently, he said that the budget to cover residents' compensations is being mobilised to pave the way for the project execution.

MPs said that the residents who live within the demarcated park expansion area were being inconvenienced by the fact that they cannot freely use their land, indicating that the delay in executing the project was prolonging this situation.

They called for fast-tracking the

project implementation to help the affected people.

"Though it is said that residents can do farming on their land, they do not have full right to it such as to be able to use it as collateral to get a bank loan, yet we all know that loans are critical for the development of Rwandans," MP Jeanne Henriette Mukabikino, said calling for an urgent solution to the issue.

Meanwhile, gorilla tourism, which drives high-end tourism in Rwanda, generated revenues of \$113 million, which represents a quarter of \$45million tourism revenues that Rwanda registered in 2022 according to data from RDB's 2022 annual report.

AI, BEC top the new list of cyber dangers facing Africa

CAPETOWN

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) initiated attacks, Business Email Compromise (BEC), and talent shortage top the list of cyber security concerns for African business leaders.

According to Nic Rudnick, group deputy executive chairman of Liquid Intelligent Technologies, who delivered a keynote lecture on the second day of the 2023 Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town last week.

Rudnick remarked that the availability of fibre network equipment built across Africa since 2009 has aided attempts to create connectivity. It does, however, serve as a target for cybercriminals.

"It is enabling criminals who target us and our customers... criminals (that

use our infrastructure to create threats like we've never seen before," he went on to say.

According to INTERPOL's review of cyber security across Africa, BEC remains the most prominent danger to cyber security and the most common means for networks to be compromised.

In 2021, business email troubles cost approximately 2.4 billion dollars in the United States alone, a 25% increase over 2020.

"This is becoming more common throughout Africa. Fifty percent of these attacks are directed against South Africa, but they are quickly moving elsewhere."

The investigation also discovered that the MEA accounted for 1.94% of all BEC attempts, with the majority of efforts going unreported.

Acceleration of the BEC

Interpol anticipates that BEC will expand across Africa in sync with the pace of digital transfor-



Nic Rudnick, group deputy executive chairman of Liquid Intelligent Technologies, at Africa Tech Festival in Cape Town.

mation and due to a lack of basic security practises among businesses.

According to the Liquid C2 Cyber Security Report 2022, 68%

of Kenyan firms stated email attacks like phishing and spam are the most dangerous, while 93% of Zambian enterprises concurred.

Illegal access to corporate or

client information was cited as the most serious concern by 66% of South African businesses.

"The cyber threat has

evolved to the point where cybercrime has become a business. Crimeware-as-a-service is now available," Rudnick added. "Criminals no longer need to develop software themselves; they can simply licence it from companies that make it. In addition, in the emerging age of AI is providing the potential to produce deepfakes."

AI-powered threats Rudnick believes that the arrival of the AI is one of the most significant advancements in recent years. "Cyber criminals are using artificial intelligence to research their targets and gather intimate information that lends credibility to these types of attacks. This is the new threat that our sector faces.

He stated that everyone might be a target.

"Previously, celebrities had to be concerned about their image... Is someone going to use their image and place it on a coffee cup to sell as a souvenir? That now affects all of us since any of our faces can be used to create deep-fakes that jeopardise our organisations. Any of us can have our voices hacked."

This will certainly generate new challenges for the industry, including the prospect of needing to copyright images and voices to assist prevent unlawful use, according to Rudnick.

Nonetheless, Rudnick went on to say that Generative AI is being utilised to boost cyber protection systems, with companies like Google and Microsoft offering new solutions to make the defence process easier.

Emirates Group celebrates record-breaking half-year performance

DUBAI

THE Emirates Group marked a historic milestone today with an astounding announcement of its best-ever financial performance for the first half of the fiscal year 2023-24. Boasting a net profit of AED 10.1 billion (US\$ 2.7 billion), a staggering 138% increase from the previous year's record, the conglomerate has set a new benchmark in its illustrious history.

The Group's success story is underlined by its soaring revenue, which surged by an impressive 20% to AED 67.3 billion (US\$ 18.3 billion). This remarkable achievement was propelled by an unprecedented surge in global air travel demand following the relaxation of pandemic-induced travel restrictions.

Chairman and Chief Executive, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, expressed his elation, attributing this remarkable feat to the resilience of the organization, the visionary strategies employed, and the robust policies steering Dubai's aviation sector towards unprecedented

ed success.

"We are witnessing the realization of our vision to emerge stronger from the challenging era of the pandemic," said HH Sheikh Ahmed. "The Group's exceptional performance in the first six months of 2023-24 almost rivals our record full-year profit achieved in 2022-23. This monumental achievement speaks volumes about our organizational talent, our robust business model, and Dubai's visionary policies that have fostered a resilient and progressive aviation landscape."

Emirates, the Group's flagship airline, soared to new heights, reporting a substantial revenue increase of 19% to AED 59.5 billion (US\$ 16.2 billion), accompanied by a profit of AED 9.4 billion (US\$ 2.6 billion), surging by an impressive 134% compared to the same period last year. This outstanding performance reflects the airline's adeptness in meeting soaring market demands, bolstered by ongoing investments in services and products that resonate with customers worldwide.

Meanwhile, dnata, the



Group's ground handling and travel services arm, witnessed a commendable 27% surge in revenue to AED 9.3 billion (US\$ 2.5 billion), coupled with a remarkable 200% increase in profit, touching AED 709 million (US\$ 193 million) compared to the same period last year.

The Emirates airline, in its pursuit to meet escalating global travel demands, expanded its flight operations and connectivity through its Dubai hub. Restoring A380 operations to multiple destinations and inaugurating new routes, including the daily non-stop services to Montreal, exemplified its agility and commitment to meeting customer needs.

Moreover, the airline forged enhanced agreements with eight

airlines and secured a five-year extension for its successful code-share partnership with Qantas until 2027, further consolidating its global presence and customer offerings.

Emirates' impressive performance statistics revealed a 31% surge in passenger numbers, reaching 26.1 million between April and September 2023, alongside a resilient cargo division that uplifted 1,035,000 tonnes, showcasing its versatility in navigating market challenges.

Similarly, dnata's commendable growth across its diverse business segments - from catering and airport services to travel divisions - underscores its resilience and adaptability in serving the burgeoning needs of its global client-

tele. The Group's future outlook remains optimistic, with a focus on maintaining agility amidst potential challenges such as rising fuel prices, currency fluctuations, inflationary pressures, and geopolitical uncertainties.

As the Emirates Group charts its path forward, it continues to invest in its workforce and technological advancements, emphasizing its commitment to remaining at the forefront of an evolving aviation landscape.

With an expanding employee base and ongoing recruitment drives, the Emirates Group is poised to harness its strengths, solidify its market position, and continue its journey towards sustained growth and excellence in the global aviation industry.

Inflation: Comercio Partners calls upon investors to hedge, diversify assets

LAGOS

Comercio Partners, an investment banking firm has called on investors to diversify their portfolios for protection against the risks of rising inflation rate.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS showed that the headline inflation rate rose for the 10th consecutive month to 27.33 per cent in October from 26.72 per cent in September.

In a report analysing the October inflation report and implications, Co-Founder, Comercio Partners, Tosin Osunkoya noted, "Although there is a slowdown in the pace of growth compared to September and August, the double-digit inflation persists, posing significant challenges for Nigeria's population across various socio-economic strata.

He added that, "navigating the current economic landscape in Nigeria requires a cautious approach from investors, considering the multifaceted implications of inflation on various asset classes. "Additionally, policymakers need to maintain a vigilant stance, ensuring that monetary policies are adaptive to the evolving economic conditions."

Consequently, Osunkoya recommended to investors interest rate sensitivity, diversification and hedging as measures to protect their portfolio from inflation risks.

He said: " Investors should consider diversifying their portfolios to mitigate risks associated with inflation. Assets like real estate, commodities, and international investments could provide a hedge against the impact of inflation on domestic assets.

"Given the expected continuation of the high-interest rate environment, investors should be mindful of the interest rate sensitivity of their investments. Sectors such as real estate and bonds may experience challenges, while sectors like utilities and certain commodities may fare better."

Osunkoya further noted that the further rise in the inflation rate implies continued monetary tightening, liquidity mop up by the CBN, as well as a need for clear and transparent communication from the new CBN Governor.

He said: "The persistently high inflation rate suggests that the CBN is likely to maintain its stance of tight monetary policy. This involves keeping interest rates high to curb inflationary pressures.

"The continued effort to mop up excess liquidity in the market is expected to be a key element of the monetary policy. This is aimed at controlling inflation by reducing the money supply.

"The new CBN governor's communication strategy will be crucial. Clear and transparent communication regarding monetary policy intentions and strategies can help manage expectations in the financial markets and among the public."

BANKING & FINANCE

Industry experts call for market-focused regulations, others to revive economy

LAGOS

Key industry experts have called for collaboration, technology, upskilling, financial inclusion, and market-focused regulations to attract foreign direct investments and revive Nigeria's economy.

Speaking at the launch of the Afrinvest 2023 Nigerian Banking Sector Report themed "Getting Nigeria to Work Again!" in Lagos, Chief Executive Officer, Pinnacle Oil and Gas Limited, Robert Dickerman, stressed the importance of converting the Naira into a fully interchangeable currency and called for market-focused regulations to attract foreign direct investment.

He stated: "It's not hard to understand what investors are looking for. The first thing they're looking for is a convertible currency. That's the first thing that we really



need. The Naira needs to be fully interchangeable. The unified Naira is an essential baseline that we absolutely need to have."

Also speaking at the event, Chief Executive Officer at Outsource Global,

Amal Hassan, harped on strategic focus on upskilling the youth, creating remote work hubs, and positioning Nigeria as a global competitive force.

She said: "Nigeria's talent is the biggest asset

we have. We're 200 plus million people, 60% of which are youth. Nigeria graduates one million graduates every year with different skill sets.

"Right now, we have readily available

and talents in Nigeria. It will take very little to actually provide the right skill sets outside the international market. The infrastructure is there. It's not that it's not there."

COP28 Presidency urges visitors to use Dubai Metro for faster, greener trips

DUBAI

THE COP28 Presidency strongly encourages all attendees to use the Dubai Metro throughout the two-week conference, running from November 30 - December 12, for faster and more sustainable travel.

The Dubai Metro's Red Line conveniently connects Dubai International Airport, major hotels, and prominent tourist attractions in the city, extending from the heart of Dubai to the Expo City Dubai entrance, where COP28 will welcome the world.

Dubai Metro's operational hours are from 05:00 until 01:00 the next day. The first train arrives at Expo Metro Station at 05:19 every day. The last train from Expo Metro Station departs at 00:00 every day. Plan your journey: <https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/public-transport/timetable#DubaiMetro>

Metro stations are equipped with tactile paving for the visually impaired. Wheelchair accessibility is facilitated through step-free routes or lifts at all stations, while dedicated seating and wheelchair spaces are available on all carriages for passengers requiring assistance.

For the first three days of COP28, certain roads near Expo City Dubai will be closed due to heightened security protocols. Visitors may also experience last-minute changes or closures during the event, which is why everyone is encouraged to use the Dubai Metro.

For those unable to take public transport, parking is available for delegates and guest of both the Blue and Green Zone. Standard parking shuttles will operate from all car parks ensuring a short walk from your vehicle to the gate. Shuttles will operate on a high-frequency basis while the parking zones are open.

More information about travel for the Blue and Green Zones can be found below:

Blue Zone

Blue Zone delegates will have direct access from the metro station to the Blue Zone.

Blue Zone delegates living in Dubai during the conference can take advantage of an overnight shuttle service that will operate after metro hours. The shuttle will run every 20 minutes from midnight to 5 am and will drop-off delegates at key hotel locations in the city, including Premier Inn Dubai Ibn Battuta, Sofitel Dubai Jumeirah Beach, Media Rotana, Premier Inn Barsha Heights, Courtyard by Marriott Al Barsha, and Sheraton Mall of the Emirates.

Due to the limited car parking spaces in the Blue Zone, delegates are encouraged to use Dubai Metro and the Metro Park Ride, located in Dubai's Metro Stations: Centrepoint, Etisalat and Jabal Ali. COP28 UAE will provide free of charge public transport throughout COP28 UAE for Blue Zone delegates.

Blue Zone Delegates coming from and staying in Abu Dhabi can use complimentary shuttle buses to and from the COP28 site. They will be able to board the bus after presenting their Blue Zone Badge or UN Official Invitation letter for the initial trip. The shuttle service will be operational from 21 November to 13 December.

From 21 to 29 November, the shuttle will operate from Abu Dhabi International Airport to COP28 venue from 6 am to 10 am every 30 minutes and from 10 am to 8 pm every 60 minutes.

During the conference days, from 30 November to 13 December, the buses will run from Abu Dhabi International Airport to COP28 venue from 6 am to 10 am every 30 minutes, and then from 10 am to 11 pm every 60 minutes. From COP28 venue to Abu Dhabi International Airport, the buses will run from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm every 60 minutes, from 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm every 30 minutes, and then from 9:30 pm to 1:30 am every 60 minutes.

From COP28 venue to Abu Dhabi International Airport, the shuttle will operate from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm every 60 minutes and from 4:30 pm to 10 pm every 30 minutes.

Green Zone

The Green Zone will be open to visitors from 3 to 12 December and the Blue Zone will welcome accredited delegates from 30 November to 12 December. There will be free buses to transport delegates from the Expo Metro Station to Green Zones Gates, running from 8am until midnight. **ANI**

Japan prepares for 'unforeseen circumstances' after North Korea announces satellite launch

TOKYO

JAPAN is carrying out precautionary measures after North Korea announced plans to launch a new satellite between November 22 and December 1, with the Pyongyang government disregarding warnings from Tokyo and Seoul not to go ahead with the launch, The Japan Times reported.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's office said it had "strongly demanded" that North Korea halt preparations for the launch, with Kishida later adding that Japan was preparing for "unforeseen circumstances" and cooperating with the United States, South Korea and others.

"Even if the purpose is to launch a satellite, using ballistic missile technology is a violation of a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions," Kishida said.

"This is also a major national security concern," he said.

Attempts in May and August to launch military spy satellites failed, meaning this will be North Korea's third attempt to launch over the far-flung southern Japanese islands.

That missile launch came just ahead of a visit to Russia by leader Kim Jong Un for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, reports The Japan Times.

Pyongyang is prohibited from conducting ballistic missile launches under United Nations Security Council resolutions, but has in the past said these measures do not cover its nominally civilian space program.

Japan, South Korea and the US are not convinced claiming that the launch is a veiled attempt of advancing the reclusive nation's missile programme, as similar missile technology is being employed.

Since 1998, the North has attempted six satellite launches, with just two appearing to have been successfully placed in orbit, the last in 2016, reports The Japan Times.

Tokyo has deployed countermeasures in preparation for a potential shutdown of the proposed satellite. It has sent PAC-3 ground-based missile-defense batteries to Okinawa's Miyako, Ishigaki and Yonaguni islands, while also deploying Maritime Self-Defense Force Aegis destroyers - which are equipped with SM-3 interceptors - to waters around Japan.

South Korea's chief director of its Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lt. Gen. Kang Hopyul said that North Korea could make an attempt to launch the rocket within the week.

If North Korea goes ahead with the military reconnaissance satellite launch despite our warning, our military will come up with necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of our people," Kang said, reports The Japan Times.

The "necessary measures" that South Korea are prepared to take have not been made clear, however, the nuclear-powered USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier arrived at the South Korean naval base in the port city of Busan.

North Korea's state-run media has called the country's spy satellite program an "indispensable" measure to counter U.S. and allied space militarization.

The United States Navy's third Nimitz-class supercarrier, the third aircraft carrier to visit the country this year, demonstrates Washington and Seoul's "firm resolve to respond to advancing North Korean nuclear and missile threats", The Japan Times reports. **ANI**

Pyongyang is prohibited from conducting ballistic missile launches under United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Russia, Arab, Islamic countries agree on need for Gaza ceasefire

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and a joint delegation of foreign ministers from Arab and Islamic countries agreed on the urgent need to establish an immediate and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza following their talks in Moscow on Tuesday.

The delegation was composed of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki and Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Hissein Brahimi Tahar.

All sides recognized a commonality in approaches with regard to ways in which the current crisis can be overcome, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement following the talks.

They expressed "a joint position in favor of an early establishment of a sustainable ceasefire,"



Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud (L) speaks sitting next to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (right) during a meeting about Gaza, with foreign ministers from members of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Moscow, Russia on Tuesday. **AP**

and stressed the importance of ensuring the protection of civilians, the opening of humanitarian corridors, the release of hostages, and continued evacuation efforts.

"While strongly condemning terrorism, the participants of the meeting emphasized the unacceptability of confronting this evil using methods of collective punishment and an indiscriminate use of force against civilian targets," the statement said.

All sides stressed the need to take coordi-

nated measures in the interests of establishing lasting peace between Israel and Palestine, it said.

It was emphasized that "there is no alternative to a comprehensive political solution to the Palestinian problem based on the decisions of the United Nations and the Arab Peace Initiative," said the statement.

"They noted the need to intensify international efforts aimed at creating conditions for establishing negotiations between the

parties," which should result in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, it said.

They further agreed to coordinate joint action in order to support a comprehensive Middle East settlement, according to the statement

Xinhua

Chinese medical aid to Africa benefits local people

THIS year marks the 60th anniversary of China sending the first international medical aid team.

Over the years, members of China's medical aid teams, though facing various difficulties and hardships, have safeguarded the health of local people with compassion and excellent skills, and helped advance local medical conditions. Their dedication and service have earned them widespread praise and admiration.

Wang Zhenchang, vice-president of Beijing Friendship Hospital, was head of the 24th batch of Chinese medical team sent to Guinea from 2014 to 2016 when the country was hit by an Ebola outbreak.

"I was both scared and worried, but it also brought a sense of honor and accomplishment," said Wang.

Faced with the Ebola epidemic, not a single member of the medical team backed down. Upon arrival, they conducted research, analysis, and provided specific assistance in Ebola prevention and control. The Guinean government highly praised the entire medical team and the Chinese Ebola prevention and control group. The Chinese medical team was awarded a Guinean national medal.

Liu Chun, chief physician at the Affiliated Hospital of Changchun University of Chinese Medicine, noted that Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is a distinctive feature of the Chinese medical team in Kuwait. Between 1999 and 2010, she was sent to Kuwait three times for medical aid, during which she treated over 6,000 patients.

"When I first arrived in Kuwait, the locals had little knowledge of acupuncture, and they were skeptical that such small silver needles could treat diseases," said Liu.

Later, the medical team promoted TCM treatment methods such as acupuncture, cupping, and acupoint application, which have traditional Chinese characteristics. Through word of mouth from patients who became friends of Chinese doctors and TCM enthusiasts after their treatment, more and more people started coming to the TCM clinic for medical consultations.

Zhu Huiyang, the head of the nursing department at Huzhou Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Zhejiang province, joined in two medical missions abroad. She has worked for a total of three and a half years at the China-aided Friendship Hospital in Central African Republic and a hospital in Mali. She was affectionately called "Chinese Mom" by African children.

Once, a 16-year-old Malian boy had a car accident on his way to school, resulting in a cervical spine injury with spinal cord damage. The boy loves Chinese martial arts and sports, but he could only lie in bed because of the accident.

Zhu, along with Malian nurses, cleaned the boy's wounds and changed his dressings. Every day, she would spend some extra time by his bedside, encouraging him to regain confidence in recovery. After two and a half months, his condition improved and his mood also got better.

"When the boy came back to the hospital for a follow-up



Doctors of the 18th batch of the Chinese medical team to Chad perform health check-ups for local children. (Photo/Wang Lini)

visit once, he happened to be interviewed by a media outlet. He looked straight into the camera and said, 'This is my Chinese mom.' We are still in touch today, and he has now become a university student in Mali," Zhu told People's Daily.

"When shy African children went from being strangers who were afraid to talk to me to becoming familiar and even snuggling in my arms calling mama, I feel both relieved and a strong sense of responsibility," Zhu said.

Mei Xueqian, deputy chief physician of the cardiothoracic surgery department at the People's Hospital of Anyang City in central China's Henan province, is the son of Mei Gengnian, the head of the first Chinese medical team sent to assist Ethiopia, who sacrificed his life on Aug. 11, 1975 during his mission in the African country and buried there.

"In Africa, my father treated many African patients with his expertise and received praise and recognition from the local government," Mei Xueqian said. This inspired Mei Xueqian himself to become a member of the 10th Chinese medical team to Ethiopia.

"For me, I have the desire to fulfill my father's unfinished mission. As a doctor, I also want to serve the local people in Ethiopia," he remarked.

"To truly improve the local medical level, it is not only about 'providing fish' but also 'teaching people how to fish,'" said Wu Dexi, deputy chief physician

of the cardiology department at the First Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University and a member of the second, third, and fourth Chinese medical teams sent to the Commonwealth of Dominica.

At the Dominica-China Friendship Hospital, Wu has conducted multiple cardiovascular-related lectures, clinical teaching rounds, and multidisciplinary case discussions. He demonstrated and taught new techniques, enabling local doctors to master new technologies, knowledge, and concepts.

Additionally, he has actively promoted the local development of medical disciplines according to the local context, resulting in the establishment of the first cardiovascular department in the country. His efforts have also facilitated the implementation of multiple cooperation projects between China and the Commonwealth of Dominica.

"Many patients and their families have become good friends of mine. Though countries have borders, doctors should know no boundaries. This precious and unforgettable experience has given me a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and mission of being a doctor. I will continue to uphold my original intention and safeguard the health of the people, so as to make new contributions in promoting cooperation and exchange in the healthcare field between China and the Commonwealth of Dominica," said Wu. **People's Daily**

India advocates for sovereign, independent state of Palestine at UN, opposes violence

NEW YORK

INDIA advocates for the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine living within secure and recognised borders side by side at peace with Israel, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj said at the United Nations General Assembly.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly informal discussions on the humanitarian situation in Palestine on Monday, Kamboj said, "India's consistent position of achieving a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine issue."

India has always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine living within secure and recognised borders side by side at peace with Israel."

Kamboj, welcoming the international efforts to ensure further de-escalation of the conflict, also affirmed that India opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and is clearly against violence.

She said, "India welcomes all efforts by the international community that strive towards a de-escalation of the conflict and enables the delivery of urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Palestine."

She added, "The message from our leaders has been clear and consistent - we are firmly opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, clearly against violence and are on the side of adherence to international humanitarian law and ensuring that further escalation is prevented, humanitarian aid delivery continues, all hostages are released unconditionally and all parties work towards an early restoration of peace and stability. Towards this, we also welcome efforts for humanitarian pauses."

Kamboj highlighted that India has already delivered 70 tonnes of disaster relief materials, including medicines and medical supplies, to the people of Palestine.

She stated, "We are also firm in our commitment to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine and have already delivered 70 tonnes of disaster relief materials including 17 tonnes of medicines and medical supplies in two tranches and our humanitarian support continues. Similarly, India continues to play an active role as Member of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)."

Israel announced war against Hamas after it launched attack on Israel on October 7 and killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, with around 240 people taken hostage, according to Israeli officials.

Meanwhile, amid the ongoing situation in Gaza, South African President

Cyril Ramaphosa will host the BRICS groups of nations to convene a virtual BRICS Extraordinary Joint Meeting on Monday, the South African President Office said.

In a major development, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres will also participate in the virtual meeting.

As per the press statement, in the meeting, the South African President will deliver an opening speech, followed by speeches from invited states and members on the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Later in the meeting, a joint statement on the situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Gaza will be adopted.

Leaders of BRICS countries, Brazil, Russia, India and China-will join the virtual Extraordinary Meeting with invited BRICS leaders of Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, said the press statement. **ANI**



Prominent Tanzanian dance musician, Ally Choki.

Choki set to revive Extra Bongo Band

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

POPULAR Tanzanian dance musician, Ally Choki, has officially announced the revival of his band, known as Extra Bongo, and started preparations for the band's comeback show.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam recently, Choki disclosed he already composed new songs, 'Kin-yago Changu', 'Penalti ya Mwisho', 'Pambana na Hali Yako', and 'Tatiana Kumba', to be performed by the troupe.

The vocalist explained that the songs will be heard for the first time at the band's introduction show that will be held at Sinza in Dar es Salaam on December 2.

"Currently we are known as 'Extra Bongo Baba Lao', after discarding '3x3' and 'Next Level' nicknames, I believe that we will be dominant because we are well prepared to flourish in the local dance music market," Choki revealed.

The band was founded in the early

2000s but it did not last long and Choki then revived it and managed the troupe until 2015 when it disbanded.

Choki explained that currently, the band will perform a few new songs and some old ones, also composed by the band, adding Extra Bongo Band's lovers have asked for such a move.

"I have spent a long time without restoring my band because I was gathering advice from various dance music stakeholders, many of whom have indicated that they want the band to return," he said.

He said due to these comments, he decided to try for the last time, while having already composed a song titled 'Penalti ya Mwisho', which is in line with his strategy to restore the band.

However, he did not mention the names of his troupe's musicians, claiming that they will be seen for the first time when he calls a press conference a few days before the band's introduction show.

mundane routines of daily life," he noted.

"As we all know, this is the holiday season whereby families come and spend time together and, with that in mind, we at StarTimes intend to ensure that this holiday season we bring enough entertainment to your homes through our StarTimes decoders and, to fulfill this mission, we have brought you a seasonal offer, whereby we say 'Lipa Tukubusti' (pay and get upgraded)."

"It means when StarTimes decoder users pay for one month for their packages they will, from this month, be upgraded to the highest package and watch programs for a whole month without any additional cost," Malisa noted.

The official said: "For example,

if you pay for 'Nyota', we will upgrade you to 'Mambo', if you pay for 'Mambo', we will upgrade you to 'Uhuru', and if you pay for 'Uhuru', we will add five days for free."

"Likewise for dish decoder users, if you pay for 'Star', we will take you to 'Smart' and, if you pay for 'Smart', you will be upgraded to 'Super' and, if you pay for 'Super', you will get five days free," Malisa revealed.

He further noted that decoder prices have been reduced to 25,000/- for antenna decoders, and while a person pays for the Mambo package (17,000/- per month) he/she will be upgraded with the full set decoder available for 41,000/-, once he/she pays for the Mambo package (17,000/-) he/she will get an upgrade to Uhuru

for a whole month. The official stated: "For those who want to buy a dish decoder, it is now available at 26,000/-, while the customer is required to pay for the 'Smart' package (23,000/-) and we will upgrade him/her to 'Super'."

"The full set decoder is available at 56,000/- while the customer needs to pay for the 'Smart' package of 23,000/- and we will move it to 'Super' the whole month for free," the official revealed.

"Apart from the promotion, StarTimes has brought the best programs that will make you enjoy watching with your family."

"They include Bongo Star Search Season 14 Show which not only brings out new talents but also entertains and motivates young people to use music as a

job, we have not stopped there, we also have Season 5 of Hello Mr Right show which will air soon," the official disclosed.

Malisa noted: "We have not forgotten the sports fans whereby through the StarTimes decoder they can enjoy the NBC Championship League, Saudi Pro League, and Bundesliga."

The official pointed out: "Along with all this, we have added a lot of channels with a variety of contents in all our receivers (antenna and dish), we have added channels such as TLC- a channel about various lifestyles."

"This channel is available at number 165 on dish- 'Smart' package- and number 158 on antenna- 'Mambo' package- as well as added documentary channels, one of

which is Investigation Discovery (ID) found on number 223 on all dish decoders- 'Super' package- and 'Uhuru' package for antenna receivers."

"There is also Discovery Channel Africa available on channel number 224 in all dish decoders- 'Super' package- and in 'Uhuru' package for antenna receivers," Malisa stated.

He further noted that children have not been excluded because this is their season- adding there is the Boing Channel added for children to have fun at home.

The official disclosed the channel is available in all dish receivers- number 301 in the Smart package, and number 354 in the Mambo package for antenna decoders.

Dar opts out of Africa Netball Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national netball team, Taifa Queens, has withdrawn from this year's edition of the Africa Netball Championship slated for the end of this month in Botswana.

The development comes after Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) last Saturday postponed the camp that aimed at preparing the national netball side for the showdown that is expected to be held from November 28 to December 6.

A Chaneta source who opted for anonymity said that the association's leadership has agreed Taifa Queens will not take part in the championship given there is not enough time to prepare for the event and the championship is also not for ranking.

The source said the Chaneta leadership has agreed to focus on next year's tournament slated for February in South Africa.

"Taifa Queens will not compete in this year's Africa Netball Championship slated for the end of this month in Botswana, I have been told the leadership has complained of lack of ample time to prepare and there are also reports that the championship is not ranked," the source noted.

However, Chaneta Secretary-General Rose Mkisi could neither deny nor confirm the reports but said the body is waiting for the National Sports Council (NSC)'s response on the matter today.

She, however, agreed that her association does not have enough time to prepare Taifa Queens for the Africa Netball Championship.

Rose also disclosed the association has not been informed



Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) Secretary-General Rose Mkisi.

by the International Netball Federation (INF) if the championship is ranked or not.

"I cannot say if we are going to compete in Botswana or not, we are waiting for our sponsor, NSC, to give us advice on what to do," Rose noted.

The Chaneta official pointed out: "It is true that we don't have enough time to prepare for the championship, the NSC was to fund five days of the team's camp in Kibaha, such an amount is not enough."

"The time for preparations is not enough and we are also not sure if the championship will be used for ranking," Rose revealed.

"I think the best way is to prepare for next year's tournament to be held in South Africa in February which is for ranking, I'm not sure if we will compete or not, the final decision will be made by NSC tomorrow (today)," she said.

Recently the national netball governing body released the names of 12 players, the head coach, and four officials who were to enter camp at Filbert Bayi Schools in Kibaha, Coast Region last Saturday.

Rose, though, said the camp has been postponed indefi-

nately due to uncertainty on the dates for the continental showdown.

She stated that there are unofficial reports that the Botswana National Sports Council (BNSC) has not allowed the Botswana Netball Association (BONA) to host the championships.

"There is uncertainty on the dates of the championship, this is coming due to unofficial information that BONA has not been permitted to host the showpiece," Rose said.

"We, therefore, thought it wise to call off the camp and wait for the official communication from the organizers, which is expected today, we will know what to do and inform the general public about our next step," she said.

Initially, the championship was slated to be hosted by Uganda but the country was stripped of the hosting rights.

The championship has been slated for November 28-December 6 at the University of Botswana Indoor Stadium.

Burundi, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the host Botswana have lined up for the championships.

Late last October, some Botswana media reported that BNSC had not granted permission to BONA to host the championship.

The media outlets quoted BNSC Director for Sports Development Peaceful Seleka, who said that they were not in a position to host such an event.

Seleka said the budget for this financial year had long been approved and did not include hosting of Africa Netball Cup.

He said when applications to host events were done on time, they budgeted for them, which was not the case with the net-

ball showdown. He said BONA only requested permission to host three months before the event.

"While we don't encourage that, had BONA demonstrated that they had funds to host the event, we would have possibly waived the two-year application requirement," he disclosed.

According to BNSC hosting policy, application for hosting a regional competition has to be done a year before while for continental and world competitions, applications ought to be presented two and four years respectively in advance.

Mokereste Mokereste, the BONA spokesperson, was quoted admitting that Africa Netball made a 'last minute' request for BONA to host the tournament.

He said the onus was on BONA and Africa Netball to make a plan on how to handle the issue since it was an emergency.

The Africa Netball Cup, also known as the African Netball Championship, is a netball competition held every after two years with teams from across Africa battling for the top prize.

However, other Botswana media last week reported that BNSC has reconsidered BONA's request for permission to host the tournament on the basis that BONA, with the BNSC's assistance, obtained sponsorship amounting to 300,000 Pula (about 22,411 U.S. dollars) from Okavango Diamond Company for hosting the events.

Tanzania's national netball team is currently ranked 45th on the International Netball Federation (INF) ranking.

The team, which was inactive for many years, returned to the international scene last year and took part in the last edition of the Africa Netball Cup in South Africa.



Dar es Salaam's junior basketball players take part in drills at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's court recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Technology company launches holiday season campaign

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

STARTTIMES Tanzania yesterday launched a holiday season campaign, dubbed 'Lipa Tukubusti', to give people entertainment, enhance joy, create memorable experiences, and foster a sense of celebration and togetherness.

The company's Director of Marketing and Content, David Malisa, noted that entertainment provides a break from routine, allowing individuals to relax, bond with families and friends, and serve the festive spirit.

"Engaging in entertainment during festival seasons holds profound significance, contributing to the overall well-being and joy of individuals because it is the time for celebration, a break from the

mundane routines of daily life," he noted.

"As we all know, this is the holiday season whereby families come and spend time together and, with that in mind, we at StarTimes intend to ensure that this holiday season we bring enough entertainment to your homes through our StarTimes decoders and, to fulfill this mission, we have brought you a seasonal offer, whereby we say 'Lipa Tukubusti' (pay and get upgraded)."

"It means when StarTimes decoder users pay for one month for their packages they will, from this month, be upgraded to the highest package and watch programs for a whole month without any additional cost," Malisa noted.

The official said: "For example,

Croatia secure Euro 2024 ticket, France now held by Greece

LONDON

CROATIA clinched the final automatic qualifying spot for Euro 2024 on Tuesday as Wales were forced to settle for a play-off place, while France had to come from behind to draw in Greece.

Semi-finalists at the World Cup 12 months ago, Croatia knew they would qualify for next year's European Championship in Germany with a win against Armenia in Zagreb, but any slip-up would have allowed Wales to leapfrog them into second place in Group D.

In the end it was a header two minutes before half-time by Ante Budimir that gave Croatia a 1-0 win to take them through, while Wales could only draw 1-1 with already-qualified Turkey in Cardiff.

Croatia's prospects of automatic qualification had appeared in doubt when they lost to both Turkey and Wales in October, but they became the 21st and final automatic qualifier for the 24-team tournament next June and July.

"We deserve to be at the Euro and we have a lot of time now to prepare for what awaits us there," veteran captain Luka Modric told UEFA.com.

Wales will now go into the play-offs next March to determined whether they qualify for a third consecutive Euro. A draw today will decide whether they face Finland, Ukraine or Iceland in the play-off semi-finals.

A victory in that would set up a final decider against Poland or Estonia, with three qualifying spots in total on offer in the play-offs.

They beat Ukraine in a play-off to qualify for last year's World Cup.

Rob Page's side needed to beat Turkey on Tuesday to stand a chance of overtaking Croatia, and they went ahead through an early Neco Williams goal. However, Yusuf Yazici's 70th-minute penalty earned Turkey a draw.

"That level of performance is what we need to do. If we do that when we come back together in March we'll be ok," insisted Page.

France missed out on finishing with a perfect record in Group B as they drew 2-2 with Greece in Athens.

Randal Kolo Muani's opener put France, with Kylian Mbappe rested from the starting line-up, in front late in the first half.

Captain Tasos Bakasetas equalised for Greece soon after the break and Fotis Ioannidis then put them in front.

However, Youssef Fofana's powerful strike pulled France level again, and they appeared to be denied a certain winner at the death when Kingsley Coman's deflected cutback seemed to cross the goal-line before spinning back onto the post and out.

But it was missed by the on-field officials, who had no goal-line technology to help them.

"This is the international level. There was no qualification at stake obviously but there could have been," French coach Didier Deschamps complained to broadcaster TF1.

AFP

'Not pleasant' comments fired up South Korea's Son for China clash

SHENZHEN, China

SOUTH Korea's two-goal skipper Son Heung-min said "not pleasant" comments from opponents China had fired him up to do the business in their World Cup qualifying clash.

The Tottenham Hotspur forward scored twice and set up the third as Jurgen Klinsmann's side won 3-0 on Tuesday to silence a sell-out home crowd of more than 40,000 in Shenzhen.

South Korea have a perfect six points from their opening two qualifying matches for the 2026 World Cup in North America and have scored eight goals, conceding none.

"Honestly, when I heard they (China team and media) were saying they know how to stop me and they don't care about me, it was not pleasant," Son told South Korean broadcasters afterwards.

"When I play football I respect all players," the 31-year-old added. "So about those comments about me -- as the captain of the team, I think to show what I can do on the pitch was the right way (to respond)."

Son took his international tally to 38 goals in 114 appearances thanks to an 11th-minute penalty and a deft header from a corner just before half time.

After slotting in his penalty, Son pointedly celebrated by putting a finger to his lips.

In a game dominated by the visitors, South Korea wrapped the points up three minutes from the end of normal time when Son's free-kick was headed in by defender Jung Seung-hyun.

World Cup qualifying in the region now takes a pause for the Asian Cup in January-February in Qatar, where South Korea will be among the favourites.

AFP

Ziyech strikes as Morocco win while Ghana, South Africa crash

JOHANNESBURG

HAKIM Ziyech scored from a 40-metre drive as shock 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco beat 10-man Tanzania 2-0 on Tuesday when they began their campaign to qualify for the next finals.

The Galatasaray winger struck 28 minutes into the 2026 qualifier in Dar es Salaam and Tanzania fell further behind when Lusajo Mwaikenda conceded an own goal eight minutes after half-time.

Tanzania, who are ranked 108 places below Morocco, were reduced to 10 men midway through the second half after Novatus Miroshi was red-carded following a second caution.

While Morocco made a winning start in Group E after receiving a first round bye last week when Eritrea withdrew, Zambia suffered a surprise 2-1 loss to Niger in the same section.

It was the first competitive defeat for former Chelsea and West Ham United manager Avram Grant since taking charge of Zambia last December.

A superb solo goal by Myziane Maolida just before half-time gave Comoros a 1-0 victory over Ghana in Moroni and first place in Group I with six points, two more than top seeds Mali.

Maolida took possession close to the centre circle, dribbled past several opponents and beat goalkeeper Richard Ofori with a shot from inside the box.

Comoros also shocked Ghana at the last Africa Cup of Nations by winning 3-2 -- a result that condemned the Black Stars to a first-round exit.

Losing will intensify the pressure on Ghana coach and former Premier League manager Chris Hughton after three defeats in four matches.

Rwanda adapted much better than



Haji Mngwa of Tanzania challenges Noussair Mazraoui of Morocco during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers between Tanzania and Morocco at Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 21 November 2023. Agencies

South Africa to a rain-drenched artificial pitch in Group C in Butare and won 2-0 to end a 12-match unbeaten run by the visitors.

Sloppy defending by Nkosinathi Sibisi and Khuliso Mudau gifted goals to Innocent Nshuti and Gilbert Mugisha within 28 minutes as the home side used a route-one approach to good effect.

South Africa, however, persisted with short passes that often went astray and they seldom threatened to get back into the game.

- Shock frontrunners - Rwanda are the shock frontrunners with four points, South Africa have

three and top seeds Nigeria are among three countries with two.

Cameroon drew in Libya without goalkeeper Andre Onana, who has returned to Manchester United after suffering an unspecified injury in a victory over Mauritius last Friday.

Olivier Ntcham converted a penalty for the Indomitable Lions, whose eight World Cup appearances is an African record, and Abdulmunem Aleiyan levelled as half-time approached in Benghazi.

Cameroon top Group D on goal difference from Cape Verde and Libya with each country collecting four points

Argentina sink Brazil in World Cup qualifier; Uruguay march on

RIO DE JANEIRO

ARGENTINA defeated Brazil 1-0 on Tuesday in an ill-tempered 2026 World Cup qualifying clash marred by pre-match crowd trouble that forced kick-off to be delayed.

A 63rd-minute header from veteran defender Nicolas Otamendi secured victory for Argentina as the world champions bounced back from last week's defeat to Uruguay to beat their bitter South American rivals.

The win at Rio's iconic Maracana Stadium leaves Argentina on top of the South American qualifying standings with 15 points from six games.

Brazil's third defeat of qualifying, meanwhile, leaves the five-time world champions in sixth place with seven points from six games.

"This group continues to achieve historic things," Argentina captain Lionel Messi said afterwards. "Maybe today wasn't the most important thing, but it was a nice win."

Tempers had flared in the stands at the Maracana moments before kick-off, with Brazilian police seen using batons to drive back a block of Argentine fans at one end of the ground.

Several Argentina players went towards the disturbances in an apparent attempt to plead for calm, with goalkeeper Emi Martinez attempting to jump into the seating area at one stage to confront a baton-wielding Brazilian police officer.

Argentina's players led



Argentina defender Nicolas Otamendi salutes the crowd after his winning goal in a 1-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Brazil. Agencies

by Messi then returned to their dressing room as the clashes continued, with Messi appearing to say: "We're not playing, we're leaving."

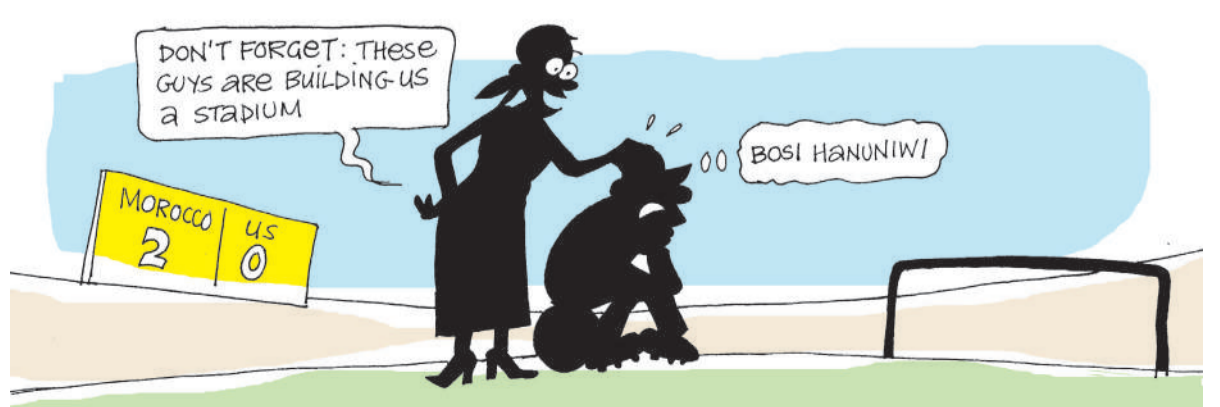
Messi later explained he had taken his teammates off the field in the hope of cooling the atmosphere.

"We went to the locker room because it was a way to calm everything down a little," Messi said. "We went to see how our families and people close to us were doing. And then we came back."

The 2022 World Cup winners re-emerged onto the field shortly before 10pm local time and the match kicked off shortly afterwards, roughly 30 minutes later than the scheduled start time.

The febrile pre-match atmosphere spilled onto the field when play finally got under way, with Brazil's Arsenal striker Gabriel Jesus being given a yellow card after just five minutes after clashing with Argentina's Rodrigo De Paul.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



from two outings.

Senegal regained first place in Group B, but only on goal difference from Sudan after being held 0-0 by Togo in Lome. Both have four points, one more than the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Tunisia were another nation to return to the top as veteran Youssef Msakni scored off a late penalty to snatch a 1-0 Group H win over Malawi in Lilongwe.

The six-time World Cup qualifiers have six points, the same number as Equatorial Guinea, who are expected to pose the biggest threat to the Tunisians.

Burkina Faso rose to second in Group A behind Egypt after a 3-0 win over Ethiopia with Aston Villa forward Bertrand Traore coming off the bench to score the second goal from a penalty.

Serhou Guirassy, who has scored 15 goals for Bundesliga outfit Stuttgart this season, failed to find the net for Guinea, who suffered a shock 1-0 Group G loss to Botswana in Francistown.

The next two rounds of qualifying are scheduled for June 2024 followed by six more the following year.

The nine group winners are guaranteed places at the 2026 finals, which will feature a record 48 teams in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

There is the possibility of a 10th African qualifier as the four best-ranked runners-up enter play-offs and the winners go to an inter-continental tournament with two places up for grabs.

AFP

SPORT

Ziyech strikes as Morocco win while Ghana, South Africa crash

PAGE 19

Amrouche accepts Taifa Stars' defeat to world-class Morocco



Taifa Stars' midfielder, Novatus Dismas (L), dribbles past Morocco's Bilal El Khannous during the Group E clash of the African qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday and ended with Morocco grabbing 2-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars head coach Adel Amrouche paid tribute to Morocco after his team's 2-0 defeat in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier on Tuesday, admitting that the Atlas Lions deserved their triumph and there is a gulf in class between the two sides.

The Atlas Lions were largely dominant against Taifa Stars, who were forced to defend for the majority of the match held in Dar es Salaam.

The visitors could have opened the score in the third minute of play after winning a penalty but Achraf Hakimi shot well over the bar.

However, they continued their attacks, squandering several chances until the 28th minute when Hakim Ziyech fired home a dipping long-range strike past Taifa Stars goalkeeper Kwesi Kawawa.

In the second half, Morocco continued to exert pressure from the kick-off, circulating the ball well.

Their efforts paid off in the 54th minute when Taifa Stars right full-back Lusajo Mwaikenda deflected into his net to make it 2-0 for the visitors.

Tanzania's task was then made harder when defender Novatus Miroshi was given marching orders for a second yellow card midway through the second period for a foul on midfielder Sofyan Amrabat, who also plays for Manchester United.

Thanks to this result, Morocco is at the top of Group E, tied with Niger, Zambia and Tanzania with three points each with one game in hand.

Amrouche accepted defeat by acknowledging that, in Morocco, his team faced a superior team with better players at the peak of their

game. The tactician stated: "Everything was in favour of Morocco. Above all, it means that the Moroccan team wins. I mean, they played a good match. We accept this defeat. Morocco is a world-class team, there is a big gap between us."

Amrouche expressed his dissatisfaction with the scheduling of the game, saying that it took Tanzania twelve hours to come back to Dar after the opening game against Niger which resulted in fatigue to players with no time for recovery.

The Belgo-Algerian stat-

ed: "We had a big travelling problem. Playing two days after a tough match, it was difficult to recover because there was no time. We missed players due to fatigue or injury."

The gaffer added that his goal is to build a team for the future to get close to such teams as Morocco.

Amrouche noted: "Each team has its objectives. We are building a team for a bright future. If everything is played on the pitch, we have to be honest with ourselves as we face a team which reached the World Cup semis."

The gaffer revealed:

"There's a gap between our team and Morocco and we're working to be near those teams or on par with them in the future."

The coach pointed out: "Thank God there is no Arab Cup for Tanzania because we would have to face Morocco again after playing them in AFCON and World Cup qualifiers."

Taifa Stars will now shift focus to the African Cup of Nations finals in Ivory Coast in January, where they get their campaign underway by facing Morocco at Stade Laurent Pokou in Group F on January 17.

Tz Prisons and Coastal Union clash in basement battle

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA Prisons and Coastal Union this afternoon go head-to-head at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya as both teams look to bounce back in the NBC Premier League after posting disappointing results last time out.

It may be early in the season, but this clash could be a highly relevant one come the end of the season when the relegation places are decided.

Hosts Prisons suffered a 2-1 defeat to Kagera Sugar in Kagera last time out, which means that they are now winless in their four previous outings in the top flight while drawing three of those games. As a result, the club's head coach Fred 'Minziro' Felix was relieved of his duty on Tuesday.

Following the exit of Minziro, Prisons have confirmed that assistant coach Shaban Mtupa will take charge on an interim basis. This will be his first game to try and change the fortunes of his squad.

As the league reaches the one-third mark, Prisons will begin the day positioned 14th just two points above bottom-placed Mtibwa Sugar.

The visiting side Coastal Union's poor campaign continued last time out, as the squad suffered a 1-0 home defeat to Young Africans SC, which means that the squad has won only one of the side's nine opening games. They have suffered four defeats and picked up four draws.

To make matters worse, Prisons have a poor recent home record in the league, as they have won just one of their last five matches at the Sokoine Stadium. That run includes failing to win on home soil in their previous two league games.

The underwhelming form has left them positioned 13th in the top-flight table, just two points clear of rock-bottom Mtibwa Sugar, having taken seven points from all their matches this season.

A blunt attack has been one of the main factors in Coastal Union's poor results this season, as they have scored a mere four goals in nine games.

They are the league's worst attacking side. New head coach David Ouma - who has replaced Mwyni Zahera - will have the big task of improving his forwards led by Maabad Maulid.

Coastal Union, alias 'Wagosi wa Kaya', have also struggled on their travels, having failed to win in their last eleven games away from home. This season they have drawn two and lost two in their four games on the road.

All things told Prisons and Coastal Union have crossed swords 18 times in the league since 2010/11.

Coastal Union has triumphed on five occasions, Prisons won four and there have been nine draws.

Simba SC launches 2023/24 CAF Champions League kits

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has launched new kits that the club will use during the 2023/24 CAF Champions League campaign.

The kits were unveiled in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday ahead of the club's CAF Champions League Group B opener against Ivorian side ASEC Mimosas to be held in the city on Saturday.

The Msimbazi Street club has launched the limited red home jerseys, white away jerseys, as well as an alternative purple jersey which will only be used in the competition and will be available for fans to purchase.

The jerseys will be available to fans at a retail price of 45,000/- (approximately 18 USD) and will be available at a wholesale price of 35,000/- (approximately USD 14) for purchases above 36 pieces.

The jerseys are made by the official club kit supplier, Sandaland.

The Tanzanian envoys in the premier continental showdown

have already begun hyping up the game by visiting different suburbs as part of a series of fan engagement activities all through the week leading to the match in a bid to fill the 60,000-seater Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

On Wednesday, the club's Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally was at Vingunguti Ward in Dar es Salaam where he confidently boasted about their home record at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. He rallied the fans to turn up at the stadium in great numbers.

The official stated: "The team is in a good position to win Saturday's game. No team can worry us at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. We are determined to win and we can't do that without passionate fans in the stadium."

"We are suffering and to show real solidarity, we must turn up and help the team win on Saturday," the official noted.

Ally added: "Our rivals are investing a lot of energy in mocking

us so that we lose focus on Saturday's game, but we have matured, we will make sure we win against ASEC Mimosas."

"The players have already promised us to fight for our team. What remains is for us fans to go to the stadium, we have filled the stadium many times and on Saturday we want to do it again," the official pointed out.

Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy FC and Morocco's Wydad AC are the other clubs Simba SC will have to face in CAF Champions League Group B seeking to advance to the knockout round.

After the ASEC Mimosas tie, the next game will be played in Gaborone on December 2 against Jwaneng Galaxy FC. The third game will also be away against Wydad AC on December 9 at 10 pm.

The reverse fixture against Wydad AC will see Simba SC return to Dar es Salaam to host the North Africans on December 19.



We are very grateful for BRELA's assistance, it has come at the right time, the time when we are preparing to compete in various international events spanning this year to next year

Taifa Queens get timely support

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) yesterday donated assorted sports items to the Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) to help it prepare the national team, Taifa Queens, for the coming international tournaments.

Speaking during the handover of the items which took place in Dar es Salaam, BRELA Acting Chief Executive Officer Loy Mhando said her agency has netball and other sporting activities at heart and promised continued support to sports in the country.

The items BRELA donated to Chaneta are track suits and netball balls. Loy said BRELA appreciates that sports play an important role in health, and business and they are also a source of employment to many people, hence her agency is taking part in the SHIMIWI showdown and other games.

"Netball has proven to be a successful sport, but sometimes is not fully supported, we believe that our support will go a long way in assisting netball development in the country, and we hope that others will join in to support Chaneta," the official noted.

"This, to us, is one way of joining efforts done by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in promoting sports in the country," she said.

Chaneta Secretary-General, Rose Mkisi, expressed her association's gratitude for the donation, saying it has come at a good time when Taifa Queens is preparing for international tournaments.

"We are very grateful for BRELA's assistance, it has come at the right time, the time when we are preparing to compete in various international events spanning this year to next year," Rose pointed out.

"It is also our hope that this donation will motivate national team players to work hard, we are appealing to all sports-loving people in the country to support Taifa Queens and netball clubs in the country," she said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

