



**Guardian BUSINESS** **BoT projecting economic growth of 5.6pc in Q3, 2024**

**Korogwe town council allocates 250m/- loans for special group loans**

**FAO: September sees biggest food prices hike in 18 months**

**Students win cash prizes in DSE scholar challenge**

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**BBT beneficiaries start catching fish** Page 3



**Embrace new technology, sugar producers urged** Page 5



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# 'Mineral sales earned 56 pc of forex'



President Samia Suluhu Hassan is briefed on gold sales in Geita town yesterday when gracing the climax of the 7th Geita Mining and Technology Exhibition. Left is Geita regional commissioner Martine Shigella and third left is Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

**A** TOTAL of 56 percent of all foreign currency earnings in 2023 came from the export of minerals, making the sector the dominant foreign exchange earner for the country.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan made this affirmation at the closure of the 7th Mining and Technology Exhibition in Geita yesterday, underlining that the government intends to invest in modern equipment and technology like geospatial equipment to facilitate nationwide surveys to identify mineral-rich areas and their quantities.

She said that the decision was prompted by the fact that only 16 percent of potential minerals-laden areas had been properly surveyed, so this investment will place the government in a better position to elicit more foreign investment in the sector.

It will enable a clearer understanding of the mineral resources within the country.

"We are increasing funding for research to obtain reliable statistics on our mineral wealth," she said, noting that investment in the sector is expected to yield positive results.

The minerals sector contribution to the gross domestic product stands at 9.0 percent, and is projected to reach 10 percent by late 2025, she said, explaining the growth as tied to creating a conducive environment for investment; along with the acquisition of technology.

Through the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO), the government has purchased 15 large rock

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## Govt issues UN-based guidelines for special investment companies

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has launched a national guideline for the establishment and management of project-focused companies with specific development objectives and limited financial risk.

The step is an enhancement of efforts going back to 2021 when the government

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## Fertiliser production up by 87.3 pc within a year

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE national production of fertiliser has increased from 84,696 metric tons in 2022/23 to 158,628 metric tonnes in 2023/24 equivalent to an increase of 87.3 percent, thanks to collaboration between the government and private sector.

Gerald Mweri, the Agriculture permanent secretary,

made this remark at the launch of the first fertilizer symposium here at the weekend, explaining the increase as tied with expansion of manufacturing facilities and new facilities for both blending and manufacturing.

The demand of fertilizer and fertilizer supplements has been increasing, from 698,260 metric tons in 2021/22 to 848,884 metric tons in

2023/24, he said, underlining that the low capacity of local fertilizer production compels importing up to 90 percent of supplies.

Fertilizer imports dependency poses various challenges including affordability to farmers and delayed distribution chiefly for basal dressing fertilizer needed during planting, he stated.

"To address these challenges,

the government has initiated strategies to reduce over dependence on imported fertilizer," he said, noting that this is part of long-term strategies to reduce over dependence on fertilizer importation.

The government is creating a conducive environment while seeking out stakeholder

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## UN-Tourism lauds Tanzania for global tourism bonanza success

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

THE United Nations agency dedicated to tourism (UN-Tourism) has lauded Tanzania for impeccable organization of the World Tourism Day (WTD) fathering, marked annually on September 27th.

The safari capital this year hosted WTD, an initiative by UN-Tourism, with the theme 'Tourism and Peace,' which some analysts say it struck a profound chord with attendees, underscoring tourism's

*The commendation from UN-Tourism fortifies Tanzania's growing reputation as a premier venue for global tourism dialogue and innovation*

crucial role in fostering cultural understanding and promoting global harmony.

Stakeholders said it marked yet another triumph for the country's burgeoning tourism industry, as it was accompa-

nied by an indoor travel fair, attracting over 1,000 participants across three days.

It marked the third year in a row that the government, in collaboration with Rethinking Tourism Africa, organ-

ise that event, officials said.

Dr. Marcel Leijzer, a UN-Tourism official, message to organizers, said in a press conference yesterday that the event was flawless, while choosing Arusha reflected the theme "Tourism and Peace" and reinforced Tanzania's position within UN-Tourism.

"Organizing the conference in Arusha was a strategic decision," the message affirmed, asserting that "the setting was ideal for exploring and celebrating the intricate relation-

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## SPORTS

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**Simba eye redemption in derby as ticket sales begin for October 19 showdown**

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**Azam FC coach aims to strengthen team chemistry ahead of Tanzania Prisons clash**







Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) chairs a meeting attended by senior officials from the ministry and experts from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. It was announced at the event that Tanzania was second only to Madagascar in Africa to benefit the most from the Climate Resilience Partnership Framework, which is aimed at addressing climate change and the adverse effects of environmental degradation. Photo: Finance ministry

## Govt issues UN-based guidelines for special investment companies

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published a national guideline for developing and financing income-generating infrastructure investments as a user guide for local government authorities.

A schematic overview of the 2021 instrument envisaged the institution of municipal bond issuance processes, where the link with the central government as overall guarantor on risk-related matters remained somewhat in abeyance.

Key officials say the guide is now a new reference tool for local government authorities (LGAs) and state-owned enterprises, providing a step-by-step technical guidance on how to establish and manage viable and strategic income-generating infrastructure projects using such companies.

It will address the current LGAs' challenge of managing commercial infrastructure investments in relation to governance, operations and financial

management, the document affirms in its overview.

Top Treasury officials as well as Regional Administration and Local Governments in the President's Office (PO-RALG) accompanies the UNCDF country office for the launch here on Saturday, preceded by a two-day training.

It involved 72 administrators from nine regions and 16 municipal or district authorities, with the training conducted by Treasury experts, where PO-RALG permanent secretary Adolf Ndunguru underlined the need for capacity building.

He said that critical capacity building support is needed by local authorities on how to use the guideline to ensure there is sufficient understanding and that the intended objectives are achieved.

"Since 2017/18, the government has invested a total of 294.96bn/- in 46 strategic projects, 26 of which have been completed," he stated, elaborating that most LGAs find it difficult

to operate existing strategic investments in a financially self-sustainable manner.

The key challenges are limited project management guidelines, delays, political interference, inexperienced personnel, limitations in financial management and other weaknesses, he explained.

The government has introduced the guideline to provide key procedures and standards to be observed by LGAs in setting up and operating project companies at the district level, he specified.

He described the guideline as embracing new government thinking and innovative ways of strengthening local fiscal autonomy, asserting that it should therefore be used by all LGAs, including boards and managements of the companies to be formed.

The government hopes that the guide will enhance LGAs' technical capability to manage strategic income-generating investments and result in in-

creased own-sources revenue and improved service delivery, he stated.

He expressed satisfaction with the UN agency for the collaboration, with technical and financial support in developing the guideline, as well as subsequent training for members of regional secretariats and local authorities on its practical application.

Treasury acting permanent secretary John Natu noted that the government has been funding the construction and implementation of investment infrastructure to enhance revenue by disbursing funds, including those for strategic projects.

"However, experience has shown that LGAs face various challenges in managing these projects, particularly in operational areas and financial management," he said, affirming the need to set up a robust framework for specialized companies to manage and operate projects.

This is among solutions initiated to address these challenges, with a view to enabling effective

project implementation to achieve the desired objectives of the government, he said.

The government hopes that this guideline will strengthen the technical capacity of LGAs in managing investment projects aimed at increasing revenue, improve the own sources of revenues and enhance accountability, he elaborated.

Peter Malika, the UNCDF country director, said that UNCDF has prioritized its support towards attainment of the country's objectives by working with the government to help build national capacities and investing in local development.

The Special Purpose Vehicle guide will set standards and empower cities, state-owned enterprises and local authorities to use appropriate governance arrangements to enhance project operations, quality service delivery, increased private sector engagement and boost local development, he added.

## UN-Tourism lauds Tanzania for global tourism bonanza success

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ships between tourism and peace, symbolizing Tanzania's authentic commitment to the UN-Tourism mission."

Tanzania has since independence been among the most peaceful countries in the world with tourism being a pillar of economic development, he stated, citing the northern tourism circuit in particular.

Presentations made at the WTD event demonstrated how tourism fosters mutual respect and understanding among diverse cultures, creates employment opportunities and contributes to local economic development.

Such contributions are essential for establishing sustainable livelihoods in tourist destinations, which contribute to building the foundation of lasting peace, he stated.

Various case studies presented successful examples from Tanzanian locations, illustrating tourism's crucial role in economic progress and sustainable development, the message indicated.

Complementing the conference was an expo where local tourism companies showcased unique offerings, firms which significantly contribute to job creation and local economic advancement, he said, pointing out that employment reinforces the theme of peace through economic prosperity.

Sirili Akko, a key stakeholder, highlighted the significance of high-profile events in promoting a tourism knowledge economy, asserting that the event provided an ideal platform for exchanging insights and strategies that can propel the industry to new heights.

"The commendation from UN-Tourism fortifies Tanzania's growing reputation as a premier venue for global tourism dialogue and innovation," the organiser noted.

The WTD and indoor travel show drew participants from across the continent and beyond, featuring a series of insightful presentations and interactive workshops, including the latest trends and innovations in the industry.

Experts and industry leaders shared valuable insights on sustainable tourism practices, cultural preservation and inclusive growth, stimulating vibrant discussions and collaborations.

The event's success was clearly demonstrated by the impressive participation levels and the quality of presentations. Attendees commended the organization of the event and appreciated the valuable insights it provided, with strong support from related business interests, observers noted.

## Fertiliser production up by 87.3 pc within a year

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ers in fertiliser production using available raw materials like rock phosphate, coal and natural gas, he further noted.

Fertiliser sector development is vital for immediate and long-term economic and social development goals, he said at the two days' forum bringing together various stakeholders in the fertilizer value chain.

They included policy makers, researchers, fertilizer dealers, regulators, international development agencies, financial institutions, civic organisations and farmers' groups to deliberate on the development of the fertilizer sub-sector.

The symposium was expected to be a platform for sharing experiences on policy frameworks and best practices in the regulation of the fertilizer sub-sector, to sketch recommendations for enhanced agricultural productivity in the various regions, he asserted.

Joel Laurent, the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) executive director, said despite the progress made, the sector faces some distinct challenges, like soil degradation, climate change, limited access to fertilizer financing and vulnerability to fertilizer global market shocks.

"However, these challenges also present us with opportunities to innovate and collaborate," he said, affirming that "by addressing these issues head-on, we can unlock the full potential of the fertilizer subsector and agricultural sector in general."

Fertilizers are a cornerstone of agricultural productivity as they enhance soil fertility, increase crop yields and contribute to the overall economic well-being of farming communities, he said.

In Tanzania, where agriculture is the main economic activity, effective use of fertilizers is crucial for sustainable economic growth and food security, he said, as TFRA organized the symposium on World Fertilizer Day with the theme that 'agriculture is fertiliser'.



RSA managing director Harveer Singh Bhamra (L), whose Moshi municipality firm is reported to assemble special safari vehicles for the tourism industry used in many parts of Africa, briefs Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was at the launch of the Swahili International Tourism Expo (SiTE), where Dr Mwinyi was the chief guest. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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drilling machines, she said, noting further that the government has allocated 200bn/- as loan guarantees to enable buyers of minerals to borrow and conduct their operations effectively.

Similarly, the Bank of Tanzania has set aside 1trn/- for gold purchasing, she affirmed, citing these efforts as intended to enhance minerals extraction while ensuring we retain gold reserves as a stabilising factor for the national currency.

Markets for minerals have been established in most regions with 44 markets across the

## 'Mineral sales earned 56pc of forex'

country and 103 buying centres, helping to create a lively market cycle, she stated.

In the 2023/24 financial year, minerals worth over 2trn/- were sold through these markets, enabling the government to collect 180bn/- from the sales in addition to other revenues collected in the value chain, she said.

The president assured the audience of government support for small-scale and large-scale miners as a priority, after Miner-

als minister Anthony Mavunde had announced that the government had revoked over 2,000 prospecting licenses held for long periods.

They include those held by local investors, at that point monopolising over 13m acres, set for reallocation to small-scale miners, especially for the youth and women, he stated.

A total of 231bn/- has been allocated to the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) to build two

large laboratories, one in Dodoma and a regional laboratory in Geita to assist miners in sample testing, he said. John Bina, the president of the Federation of Miners' Associations in Tanzania (FEMATA), appealed for granting tax exemptions on gold mining equipment purchased by small-scale miners.

In a recent meeting in the capital, small-scale miners and traders agreed to withhold 20 percent of gold destined for the

central bank, demanding that BoT scales up support for minerals refining industries.

Martin Shigela, the Geita regional commissioner, stated that last year the exhibition brought 350 participants from within and outside the country, while this year participation rose to 856, with 3,301 licenses issued for small-scale miners.

"A total of 7bn/- has been allocated by the government to provide electricity to areas where small-scale miners have produced over 16,262 kilogrammes, with sales worth 2.2trn/-," he added.



# Financial inclusion level stands at 78pc, says BoT

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

TANZANIA'S financial inclusion rate stands at 78 percent, according to findings of a recent study by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

Emmanuel Tutuba, BoT Governor, made this observation in the company of Dr Baghayo Saqware, Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) commissioner, at a regional financial flows compatibility meeting in Zanzibar recently.

The meeting brought together members of the Committee of Insurance, Securities and Non-Banking Financial Authorities (CISNA) from 16 member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), seeking to intensify legislative efforts to enhance regional integration by harmonizing operations of financial systems.

During the meeting, CISNA members adopted a model regulatory framework drawn up by BoT experts and the CISNA secretariat, intended to combat financial crime, aided by dubious business practices in the region.

Kenneth Matomola, chief executive officer and registrar of non-bank financial institutions in Namibia and CISNA committee chairman, said that the mechanisms established are intended to combat financial crimes that have become increasingly prevalent, including cross-border money laundering and terrorism financing.

The proposed collaboration aims to expand markets, create jobs, and drive economic growth within the region, facilitating integration with trade partners across the African continent, including countries within the East African Community (EAC).

Matomola said that the harmonization process will enhance cooperation in regulating insurance, capital markets, micro-finance, and non-banking financial services, which currently lack efficiency in the SADC region.

The committee also addressed the challenges posed by climate change to agriculture and trade, noting the rising frequency of extreme weather events affecting countries in Africa and beyond.

CISNA members stressed the need to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their operations, aiming to develop financial products that promote environmental sustainability.

Earlier this year, SADC Finance and Investment Ministers convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they recommended operationalizing compatible financial systems to facilitate smooth transfer of funds between member countries. This compatibility will support effective action against money laundering and terrorism financing as out-

lined in Annex 12 of the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment.

The ministers called for the initiative to be monitored by a select group with members from each country to ensure effective and proportional regional action in line with SADC protocols.

The four-day meeting was inaugurated by Ali Suleiman Ameir, Zanzibar Minister of State in the President's Office, on behalf of Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba. He said that Tanzania's major exports and imports within the SADC region include gold, coffee, cashew nuts and cotton. The most traded products in the market comprise gold, tobacco, wheat flour, and carbonated drinks, alongside ceramic goods, fish, glass, cement, soap, footwear,



Iqbal Ahmed, Vice President of India's Metropolis Laboratories for East Africa, speaks at a meeting for specialist doctors and hospital owners held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# Fish farmers under BBT-YIA drive begin harvesting tilapia

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

EXECUTION of the Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) programme in Mwanza Region has begun to bear fruit as beneficiaries engaged in fish farming commence harvesting.

This was said at the weekend during the first phase of tilapia harvesting attended by Livestock and Fisheries Minister Abdallah Ulega.

The event took place at the TWIHAME Youth Group which operates fish farming through cages at Kisoko area of Luchebele Ward in Nyamagana District.

During the event, Ulega expressed gratitude to the government for providing approximately 2.2bn/-, enabling 11 youth groups to engage in fish farming at Kisoko. The youth have invested in over 100 cages in the area.

"Today, from just one cage, they will harvest about 4,000 fish, generating more than 30m/- . This brings hope and proves that investment in Lake Victoria through cage farming is significant. This initiative will help reduce illegal fishing by providing alternative employment opportunities," he said.

One beneficiary, Omary Mangu, who serves as secretary of the beneficiaries in Nyamagana District, expressed gratitude to the government for the interest-free loan that enabled them to pursue fish farming.


He noted that they have begun to see the benefits of this support.

On September 25, 2024, youth from another group, Nguvu Kazi, harvested 13.37 tonnes from six cages and after selling their catch, earned over 100m/-.


On January 30 this year, during her visit to Mwanza, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched a project involving provision of 222 cages and 160 boats in loan to fishermen nationwide to enable them conduct their activities productively and improve income.



**Today, from just one cage, they will harvest about 4,000 fish, generating more than 30m/- . This brings hope and proves that investment in Lake Victoria through cage farming is significant. This initiative will help reduce illegal fishing by providing alternative employment opportunities**



## ZANZIBAR PORTS CORPORATION (ZPC)



# IN REMEMBRANCE OF MWALIMU JULIUS K. NYERERE

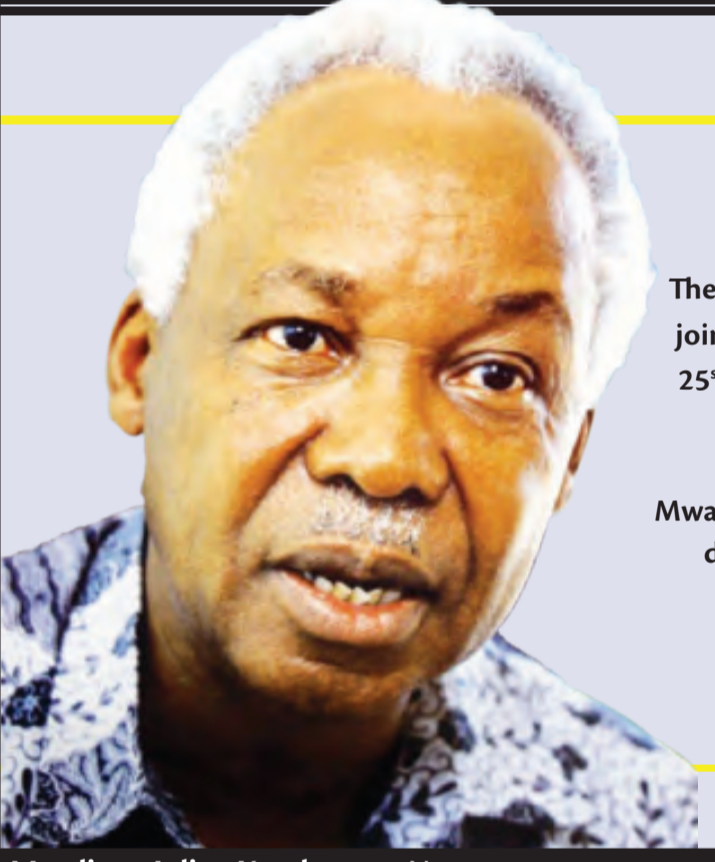
# 25 YEARS OF ANNIVERSARY

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) join Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, and all Tanzanians to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of our beloved Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere who passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1999


Mwalimu was a great statesman who served Tanzania and Africa with unquestionable dedication and humility, His endeavors to maintain peace, unity and justice in Tanzania will be cherished for generations to come.

Also we pray to God to rest his soul in eternal peace.

**"PORT FOR BLUE ECONOMY FOR ZANZIBAR PROGRESS."**





Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere



## THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

President's Office,  
e-GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY






# MWL. NYERERE ANNIVERSARY

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of e-Government Authority wish to join the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

**Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan** and all Tanzanians to Commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere

*Integrity and Innovation for Quality Public Service Delivery*



**Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere**

**1999 - 2024**

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# Over 90 undergo surgery at free eye treatment camp in Chalinze

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

MORE than 90 out of 900 patients who received eye treatment last week in Chalinze, Coast Region, underwent surgeries for various conditions, including cataract.

The free treatments were offered at Chalinze Health Centre through collaboration between Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH)-Mloganzila and Republic of Korea's Vision Care Institute.

Dr Audrey Mwashilemo, an ophthalmologist at MNH-Mloganzila, stated that out of the 900 patients screened, over 90 underwent surgeries for different eye conditions. She mentioned that some patients were diagnosed with various vision problems and were provided with treatment, medication and eyeglasses tailored to their specific needs.

"We commend the people for responding to the call and attending this camp. We've seen people com-

ing from Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Arusha, Iringa, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam regions," she said.

Some attendees expressed their gratitude to MNH and Chalinze MP Ridhiwani Kikwete for facilitating the free medical services, and urged them to continue bringing such services to the people.

The free eye screening and treatment coincided with World Sight Day, which is celebrated annually on the second Wednesday of October. This year's theme was "Love Your Eyes, Encourage Your Child to Love Their Eyes."



**We commend the people for responding to the call and attending this camp. We've seen people coming from Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Arusha, Iringa, Mbeya**



Dr Wilson Mahera, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, addresses pre-school teachers in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the implementation of a national project meant to improve teaching and learning conditions. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

# Indian diagnostics service firm seeking partnerships

**KUPOTEA KWA KADI YA GARI**

**RAINBOW POLYCLINIC LIMITED** INATANGAZA KUPOTELEWA NA KADI YA GARI YENYE NAMBA ZA USAJILI **T.185 DVG.** KWA YEYOTE ATAKAYEIONA ATOE TAARIFA KITUO CHOCHOTE CHA POLISI KWA RB NAMBA **PHQ/MWA/NYA/23764/2024.**

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Kandoya

ONE of India's leading diagnostics service providers has expressed commitment to partnering with the government and private health service providers to address critical gaps in laboratory services.

Dr Rameez Patvegar, clinical pathologist and head of technical operations at Metropolis, made the pledge at the weekend during a meeting with doc-

tors, laboratory experts and hospital owners where he outlined comprehensive services that Metropolis offers.

During the meeting, Dr Patvegar shared insights into the new technologies employed by Metropolis, which enhance their ability to deliver accurate results.

He emphasised the urgent need for the health sector to utilise Metropolis diagnostic laboratories and collaborate to rapidly expand essential services

across various regions.

He noted that Metropolis is the only facility in Tanzania providing over 3,000 specialised tests for patients with cancer, allergies and genetic-related conditions.

"We have made significant investments in quality. It's not just about testing; it's about delivering excellence. Our reports are highly accurate and affordable. We see a substantial gap in healthcare services in Tanzania and we are committed to filling that

void," he said.

He said that in India, Metropolis has invested heavily in the public sector and called on local stakeholders and the Tanzanian government to partner with them to ensure their services meet international quality standards.

"Most of our laboratories worldwide are accredited and comply with the same standards, allowing us to provide superior services compared to other facilities. Many local laboratories struggle due to limited

networks or a lack of expertise but we offer top-tier expertise," he said.

Metropolis Country Head Imtiaz Shaikh emphasised the laboratory's expansive reach, noting that it is currently present in seven countries with over 70 branches and plans to open an additional 50.

Shaikh underscored the importance of enrolling Tanzanians in the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to alleviate the financial burden of out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

"Among those seeking services, very few are enrolled in health insurance. It's crucial that we advocate for our people to register with NHIF to ensure access to necessary healthcare services," he said.

He said through the initiatives, Metropolis aims not only to enhance laboratory services but also to positively contribute to the overall healthcare landscape in Tanzania, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

**25 YEARS OF NYERERE'S COMMEMORATION**

**14 OCTOBER 2024**

**THE LATE MWL. J.K. NYERERE**

The Director General, Management and Staff of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), join hands with President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan and all Tanzanians to commemorate **25 years** of death of the Father of Nation, *The late Mwl. Julius K. Nyerere.*

www.tcra.go.tz

**Pact Tanzania**

**Statement of Funds Committed for Project Implementation in the Fiscal Year 2025**

The Adolescents and Children, HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE) project is a five-year, USAID-funded global project to reach and sustain HIV epidemic control among pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, infants, and children. ACHIEVE is implemented by Pact, in partnership with Palladium, WI-HER, Jhpiego, and No Means No Worldwide.

Pursuant to Regulation 12 of Government Notice 609 on Financial Transparency and Accountability of 2018, Pact Tanzania hereby discloses the funds committed by USAID to finance the fiscal year 2025 (October 01, 2024, to September 30, 2025) budget for the implementation of the ACHIEVE project activities.

In FY 2025, Pact will implement the ACHIEVE project in 44 councils across seven regions of Tanzania Mainland through five (5) Local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Project Name	ACHIEVE
Funding Agency	USAID
Project Purpose	ACHIEVE project goal is to improve access to HIV-inclusive services to improve the health and well-being of OVC. The project has three (3) strategic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SO1: To strengthen the capacity of the national and community-level social services workforce, systems, and structures to ensure quality services for OVC, at-risk AGYW, and PLHIV.</li> <li>• SO2: To strengthen the capacity of local organizations to manage and implement USAID/PEPFAR OVC awards as prime implementing partners.</li> <li>• SO3: Improve the health, well-being, and protection of OVC and youth in high HIV-burden communities.</li> </ul>
Funding Duration	October 01, 2024 - September 30, 2025
Funds Committed for Financial Year 2024/25	\$ 4,885,856
Regions of Implementation	Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Tabora, Kigoma, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Dodoma, and Mbeya.
Local CSOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Service, Health and Development for People Living Positively with HIV/AIDS (SHDEPHA+)</li> <li>2. HUMULIZA</li> <li>3. Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA).</li> <li>4. BAKAID Tanzania</li> <li>5. Inland Development Tanzania (IDT)</li> </ol>

## UN official says protecting insects key to survival of migratory birds

By Special Correspondent

PROTECTION of insects is crucial for the survival of migratory birds facing numerous threats, including pollution, climate change and habitat loss, a senior United Nations official said at the weekend during the World Migratory Bird Day.

Musonda Mumba, secretary general of the Convention on Wetlands, said that insects are a critical food source for migratory birds, helping them endure their long journeys in search of nesting sites.

"Insects are not just source of food, but a lifeline for migratory birds on their long journeys," Mumba said in a video message to mark World Migratory Bird Day, which is marked twice every year on May 14 and October 12.

"Migration birds often synchronize their migration with peak abundance of insects, relying on them for nourishment during stop-overs," she added.

The theme of 2024 World Migratory Bird Day "Protect Insects, Protect Birds" underscores the symbiotic relationship between the two species and the need to raise awareness on threats facing them such as habitat destruction, pollution linked to pesticides and herbicides, urbanization, and mining activities.



## Zungu for modern technology to accelerate sugar production

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilombero

DEPUTY Speaker of the National Assembly Mussa Zungu has urged farmers and stakeholders in sugar industry to invest in modern technology and innovation to boost production.

Officiating the Kilombero sugarcane farmers' day which was held at Kidatu in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region at the weekend, Zungu called upon farmers and stakeholders to invest in acquiring new technology and innovation to improve their yields, work more efficiently and achieve self-sufficiency.

Kilombero sugarcane farmers' day went hand in hand with a three-day exhibition where sugarcane farmers had an opportunity to interact with stakeholders in the subsector to acquire new ideas to help them boost their production.

The exhibitions showcased a wide range of farming equipment, quality seeds, proper fertilizer usage and various methods for disease and pest control in sugarcane.

"I have learned that this year's theme 'Empowering cane farmers through technology and innovation: A path to increase productivity and sugar sufficiency' also insists on farmers and stakeholders to invest heavily in the two areas," he said.

Zungu commended the ongoing Kilombero Sugar factory expansion project, urging the factory management to increase sugar supply for the country to be self-sufficient in sugar.

"I am impressed by the progress made on the expansion project. I urge the company to increase its efforts to cover gaps caused by slow progress during rainy season," he said.

"I am also happy with the good relations that Kilombero Sugar has with farmers, stakeholders and the surrounding community as the best way to live. The surrounding community means a lot to your business."

Speaking about the factory expansion whose construction has reached over 90 percent, Kilombero Sugar Director of Communi-



National Assembly deputy speaker Mussa Hassan Zungu (in sunglasses) interacts with sugarcane farmers and other sugar industry stakeholders at Kidatu in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region, on Saturday when gracing a Sugarcane Farmers' Day event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ties and Public Relations Derick Stanley said once completed, it will double the company's sugar processing capacity by producing an additional 144,000 tonnes of sugar

per year. The new factory will also have more than double the amount of cane sourced from growers.

"Our goal is to support the gov-

ernment's efforts in ensuring self-sufficiency in sugar through locally produced sugar. Apart from strategies for internal efficiency, we are working with various stakeholders

to provide growers with education on best farming practices and other technical and financial support to improve their yield per acre," he said.

## Centre gets supplies to assist parents, children awaiting treatment at MNH

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

IN celebrating eight years of operation, HaloPesa Tanzania has donated various food and household supplies to the Association of

Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus in Tanzania (ASBAHT) based in Dar es Salaam.

Handing over the donation at the weekend, Magesa Wandwi, HaloPesa acting director, said that

the donation was a gesture of caring for their customers, especially children with special needs.

"We decided to offer support to children and parents at the centre as a way of showing apprecia-

tion and giving back to the Tanzanian society," he said, adding that HaloPesa recognized the needs of parents and children residing at the center also known as the House of Hope while they await treatment.

"As HaloPesa, coming to this center is a great opportunity for us. As a society, we ensure that we contribute to the wellbeing of these children in their daily lives," Wandwi said, stressing that HaloPesa believes children with special needs are the future and legacy of Tanzania, and every institution has a responsibility to support them.

"As the name of the center

'House of Hope suggests, parents and children here need comfort and various forms of assistance to restore their hope and help them feel that they are part of the society despite health challenges they face," he added.

Fatuma Ali, one of the parents whose child suffers from hydrocephalus, expressed gratitude to HaloPesa for recognizing and addressing challenges they face in raising their children. She urged stakeholders from different sectors to follow the example.

"Our center is not permanent; we urge stakeholders to help us secure a permanent home. This

would greatly benefit parents, especially those from rural areas seeking hospital services. Travel expenses are a burden as some parents come for treatment only to be asked to return 14 days later," said Ali who serves as Deputy Chairperson of ASBAHT at the national level.

She added that parents from rural areas often struggle to afford travel to Muhimbili National Hospital which is why they established the centre where parents and their children can stay while waiting for treatment. Families from 10 different regions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar use the facility.

## MP wants revised marriage bill to be passed to check child marriage

By Getrude Mbago

SINGIDA Urban legislator Mussa Sima has urged the government to take to the Parliament the revised Marriage Bill for it to be debated and approved to further enhance protection of girls in the country.

The current Marriage Act of 1971 allows girls as young as 15 to get married with parental consent while boys cannot get married before attaining the age of consent, 18. Sima (pictured) specifically wanted the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs along with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups to expedite the exercise as the law's amendment is vital to enabling girls to achieve their full potential.

The lawmaker who also serves as vice chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Culture and Sports made the appeal in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during commemoration of International Day of the Girl Child, organised by Tanzania Education Network (Ten/Met) and attended by girls and stakeholders from various regions.

"There is currently much confusion surrounding the appropriate age for girls to marry. Ten/Met and other stakeholders have shown commitment to drive change and ensure girls achieve their dreams by advocating for their protection against violence and abuse. As legislators, we await the bill to further back the efforts and support development of the girl child,"



he said.

He further acknowledged the government's role in supporting the dreams of both girls and boys through provision of fee-free basic education and implementation of various programmes to promote development.

"The government has provided guidance and policies to enable girls to re-

turn to school after dropping out due to various reasons, including pregnancy," he added.

Martha Makala, Ten/Met national coordinator, stated that as education stakeholders, they are committed to educating the society to ensure children return to school and receive their right to education.

She emphasised that everyone in society, including parents and the government, should create a supportive learning environment for girls, including providing meals at school to boost attendance and academic performance.

Foudhiat Simba, one of the girls, stated that the International Day of the Girl Child is crucial as it provides them with a platform to highlight the challenges they face to the relevant authorities for them to be addressed.

"As young girls, we face many challenges that hinder us from achieving our goals but we are grateful for the efforts of stakeholders who work tirelessly to



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# Call for urgent measures to control mental health crisis

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH stakeholders have highlighted the urgent need for action to combat the rising mental health challenges affecting individuals and communities nationwide.

Dr Gunini Kamba, acting Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer, made the call during a walkathon held at the weekend to honour World Mental Health Day under the theme "Mental Health at Work".

The event organized by the Aga Khan Hospital in collaboration with Lisa Jensen Foundation and Serena Hotel aimed to raise awareness about mental health issues.

Dr Kamba emphasized that safe and healthy working environments can serve as protective factors for mental wellbeing.

He pointed out that regular physical activity can help prevent non-communicable diseases, including mental health conditions, urging at-

tendence to engage in exercise.

"In recent years, we have witnessed a growing awareness of mental health issues; however, they remain misunderstood and neglected, particularly in regions like ours. As a regional medical officer, I have seen how mental health conditions affect not only individuals but also families and entire communities. It is time for us to prioritize mental health with the same urgency as physical health, fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels safe to seek help," Dr. Kamba stated.

Belinda Nyapili from Marcus Mwezi Foundation echoed the critical importance of mental health, calling for open discussions to break the silence surrounding the issues.

"We need to talk openly to break the stigma in workplaces and homes," she said.

Sisawo Konteh, CEO of Aga Khan Health Service Tanzania, commended people's enthusiastic par-

ticipation, which demonstrated a collective commitment to addressing mental health challenges.

"We strive to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health, foster greater awareness and empower people to seek help they need. This walkathon not only engaged the community but also reinforced our commitment to an integrated approach that recognizes mental health as equally important as physical health," he said.

The World Health Organization alongside successive governments and partners continue to demonstrate commitment to health for all.

However, stigma and discrimination often prevent individuals with mental health conditions from seeking help or maintaining employment.

Reducing workplace discrimination through awareness, training and engagement with those living with mental health conditions is essential for creating healthier and more inclu-

sive work environments.

Global statistics show that anxiety affects 284 million people, depression affects 264 million, alcohol use

disorder affects 107 million and drug use disorder affects 71 million individuals worldwide.

The growing mental health crisis

calls for immediate action to foster understanding, support and resources for those in need.



Assistant immigration officer Said Mtunguja (back to camera) pictured at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport at the weekend briefing girls cared for at the Shalom Centre at Kibaha in Coast Region on the Immigration Department's operations at the facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Envoy lauds EACOP progress in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

UGANDAN High Commissioner to Tanzania Col (rtd) Fred Mwesigye, has commended the progress of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The project spans from Hoima, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanzania, covering 1,443 kilometers.

During a visit to Sojo coating yard in Nzeza District, Tabora Region at the weekend, Mwesigye praised the project's potential to enhance the economies of both Uganda and Tanzania by generating jobs and revenues through taxes.

Speaking to journalists, the Ugandan envoy highlighted the project's importance in advancing collaboration between Uganda and Tanzania.

He also underscored the role of the Sojo coating yard, where pipes

are prepared for the underground pipeline that will transport crude oil. Mwesigye noted that the project is making significant progress, having evolved substantially from its early stages two years ago, with production starting in one section of the factory.

Responding to environmental and social concerns raised by critics, Mwesigye dismissed them as propaganda, affirming the project's continued advancement for the benefit of East African citizens. He also suggested that Ugandan and Tanzanian MPs visit the site to observe the progress for themselves.

Ernest Rubondo, Managing Director of Uganda Petroleum Authority, expressed satisfaction with the project's progress and praised the employment of Tanzanians, many of whom will gain valuable skills for

future projects. He emphasized the close cooperation between Uganda and Tanzania, exemplified by the involvement of Tanzania's Energy and Water Regulatory Authority (EWURA), whose representatives were also present during the visit.

Martin Tiffen, the outgoing Managing Director of EACOP, reassured that all international agreements were being followed, including compensation of project affected persons. He explained that once the pipeline is fully laid, efforts will be made to restore vegetation, ensuring minimal long-term disruption to people's daily lives.

The EACOP project is a collaboration between TotalEnergies (62 percent stake), energy authorities of Tanzania and Uganda (15 percent each) and a Chinese company (8 percent).



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#### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

##### BUL-RFQ-24-10-01 – SUPPLY OF NON-FLAMEPROOF HP 300T EXTRACTOR

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), 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 Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

#### Non-flameproof HP 300T Extractor Specifications:

Envelope Dimensions		Remote Control (Transmitter)	
Maximum Length	6943 mm	Housing Style:	Ergonomically designed housing, belly belt style operation
Max Height (Travelling)	2476 mm	Weight:	1.9Kg
Max Height (Seam Mode)	5865 mm	Dimensions:	Height: 165 mm
Min Height (Seam Mode)	2870 mm		Width: 312 mm
Maximum Width	2873 mm		Depth: 170 mm
Ground Clearance (Travelling)	212 mm	Environmental Protection:	IP65
Mass	19500 Kg	Operation Time:	Up to 20 Hrs continuous transmission
Pulling Force	300 Ton	Typical Operating Range:	Approximately 100 m
Operational Pressure (Max)	180 Bar	Response Time:	Less than 100 msec
Cyl Pressure (Max underload)	400 Bar		

#### Capacities

Pulling Capacity (Max) 300 Ton

#### Frame and Body

Chassis FESA Designed Chassis  
Heavy Duty Fabricated  
Beam Construction  
Corrosion Protected  
Central Lubrication Facility

#### Wheels and Hubs

Hubs Buffalo Brake Hub  
Tyres 1400 x 24 Solid Tyres  
Rims H/Duty with Internal Lock Ring

#### Hydraulic Circuit

Pump Two Stage Gear Pump  
Roof Cylinders Telescopic Extension with Swivel Mushroom Head  
Pull Cylinders Double Acting, Single Stage  
Wheel Lift Cylinders Double Acting with Accumulator Back-up for Suspension  
Roof Tilt Cylinders Double Acting with Individual Control  
Operation Radio Remote Control

#### Brakes

Park/Emergency Brake Oil Emersed Spring Applied Hydraulic Release

#### Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotation
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

#### Submission of Quotes

- Please submit your quotes via email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com).
- The reference "BUL-RFQ-24-10-01 – SUPPLY OF NON-FLAMEPROOF HP 300T EXTRACTOR" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement  
If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your bid/quote unsuccessful.

#### Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes: 21st October 2024

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



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### Advertisement

#### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

##### BUL-RFQ-24-10-02 – SUPPLY OF ADEPT CONVEYORS GRAVITY CORE TRAYS ROLLER RACKING

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), 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 Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

#### Adept Conveyors Gravity Core Trays Roller Racking Specifications:

<b>Equipment Schedule</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 Off – 3000mm long sections</li> <li>84 Off – Adjustable height support standard</li> </ul>	Loaded. Roller Pitch: 237mm <b>Orientation Rail</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Folded Sheetmetal Orientation Rail (Camera track)</li> <li>Painted Enamel Finish – Regal Blue Hammertone. Fixed To One Side of All 3000mm x 606mm Conveyors</li> </ul>
<b>Gravity Roller Conveyors Frames (TRAY ROLLER RACKING)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90mm x 30mm x 2.5mm C Channel Side Frames.</li> <li>30mm x 30mm x 5mm Angle Cross Braces – Welded. Butting Plate Connections to join sections.</li> <li>Width: 546mm Inside Frame (606mm Wide Overall).</li> <li>Finish: Painted Enamel Finish – Regal Blue Hammertone.</li> </ul>	<b>Adjustable Height Support Stands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Height: 1000mm Top of Roller (Adjustable for Installation).</li> </ul>
<b>Rollers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50.8mm Diameter x 1.6mm Wall Galv Tube Rollers.</li> <li>ML11High Quality Semi Precision German Bearings (Zinc Plated Pressed Metal Housings with Carbon Chrome Steel Caged Balls)</li> <li>9.5mm Diameter Round &amp; D Bright Mild Steel Shafts Spring</li> </ul>	<b>Construction</b> 50mm x 50mm x 3mm RHS Uprights. 50mm x 50mm x 3mm RHS Cross Braces – Welded.  Unistrut Inserts c/w Spring Nuts for Height Adjustment. Zinc Plated Quadrant Plates.

#### Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotation
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

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#### Key Dates

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Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



## 'Africa losing \$4.2bn annually amid biased coverage by Western media'

By Guardian Reporter

THE negative coverage of African affairs, especially by the Western media entities, is depriving the continent's economies of an estimated \$4.2 billion annually, according to a study launched last Thursday.

Compiled by Africa Practice, a strategic consulting firm, and Africa No Filter, an advocacy lobby, the study blames the stereotypical portrayal of the continent by Western media for eroding investors' confidence and stunting growth.

Titled "The Cost of Media Stereotypes to Africa," the study focuses on electoral processes in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt and the skewed coverage from giant media entities from the Global North.

"African countries receive more media attention during elections, but with a disproportionate focus on negative issues like violence and election fraud," the study says.

It notes that non-African countries with similar risks during the electioneering period receive more favorable coverage from the Western media, adding that the continent could save up to 0.14 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually, subject to positive media sentiment.

According to the study, the \$4.2 billion in losses occasioned by negative media cov-

erage annually could fund the education of 12 million African children, and provide immunization to over 73 million children, higher than the combined populations of Angola and Mozambique.

In addition, the funds could help provide clean drinking water to two-thirds of the entire population of Nigeria, the most populous country on the continent estimated at 220 million people, says the study.

Negativity has dominated the discourse around African elections, with 88 percent of media articles about Kenya during polling being biased and sensational, compared to only 48 percent for Malaysia, the study observes.

Improved media sentiment, according to the study, could reduce borrowing rates on the continent by up to 1 percent, boosting macroeconomic stability and investors' confidence.

Marcus Courage, chief executive officer of Africa Practice, said the study has underscored the urgency to challenge stereotypes about the continent advanced by Western media, rooted in racism and hegemonic attitudes.

Promoting fairer, unbiased and positive reporting about the continent will boost its credit rating and attract foreign direct investments in key sectors like tourism, manufacturing and financial services, Courage said.



Prof Marcellina Chijoriga (R), Principal of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School, pictured at the school's premises at Kibaha in Coast Region at the weekend briefing former President Jakaya Kikwete on a souvenir document she had gifted him shortly after he opened a memorial symposium on: 'Mwalimu Nyerere and the Liberation Movement: Reflecting on Solidarity, Leadership, Pan-Africanism and African Unity'. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

## Nyerere laid strong foundation that benefits Tanzania to date, states JK

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE confidence Tanzania enjoys globally is a result of strong foundation laid under leadership of founding leader Julius Nyerere, retired president Jakaya Kikwete has said.

He made the remarks in Coast Region at the weekend while inaugurating a symposium dubbed 'Mwalimu Nyerere and the Liberation Movement: Reflecting on Solidarity, Leadership, Pan-Africanism and African Unity'.

Kikwete said one of the proper ways to honour the nation's founder is by continuing his development ef-

forts, particularly in good leadership.

"Mwalimu was the kind of a person who lived by his words. He dedicated his life to the lives of others. We cannot talk about freedom and development in this region of Africa without mentioning him as there is still much to learn from him. The only way to honour him is by doing what he taught us during his lifetime," he said.

"Nyerere was a true freedom fighter and African patriot, which is why the first African liberation symposium was held at the University of Dar es Salaam in 1974."

He further noted the symposium that gathered people from various

countries was also a reflection on Mwalimu who proved to the world that people can live with mutual respect and that racism, neocolonialism and all forms of social injustices can only be fought through unity and shared purpose.

He also said that Nyerere remained unwavering in his beliefs and never lost hope in the fight for the country's independence, despite facing challenges like court trials, fines and being mocked by colonialists.

"Nyerere went through a lot while being questioned and asked to choose between his teaching job, which provided him a salary or con-

tinuing his struggle for the country's freedom," he said.

According to him, the goal was to build leadership capacity across six friendly parties: CCM (Tanzania), FRELIMO (Mozambique), ANC (South Africa), ZANU PF (Zimbabwe), SWAPO (Namibia) and MPLA (Angola) in collaboration with the Communist Party of China.

He urged leaders to dispel the notion that the school belongs to a particular party, stressing that it serves all six liberation movement parties.

Moreover, he insisted that those in charge of the school's administration should continue to maintain its infra-

structure and resources. Principal of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School (MJNLS) Prof Marcellina Chijoriga said the dialogue aimed to honour life of the late Nyerere and discuss his contributions to Africa's liberation.

Colonel (rtd) Rungemela Lubinga, former CCM Secretary for Political Affairs and International Relations, emphasized the need to teach the history of Africa's liberation struggles from primary school through to universities.

Lieutenant General Anselem Nhamo Sanyatwe from Zimbabwe praised Mwalimu Nyerere as the 'Fa-

ther of Africa' for uniting Africans through Kiswahili in the fight for independence.

He also mentioned Tanzania's exemplary role in welcoming refugees from countries such as DR Congo, Mozambique, Burundi, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe.

He noted that Zimbabwe has started teaching Kiswahili in schools and higher education institutions, creating opportunities for Tanzanians to teach the language there.

Mwalimu Nyerere was Tanzania's first President from 1961 until 1985 and passed away on October 14, 1999 after leading the country for 24 years.



It's a tricky balancing act for these pupils of Mji Mpya Primary School in Dar es Salaam's Majohe ward as they cross a wooden makeshift bridge at the weekend on their way to school. No one around could recall when the permanent bridge previously in the area was washed away by floodwaters. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## African countries urged to redouble efforts to protect rights of girls in conflict situations

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries have been urged to intensify efforts to protect the rights and welfare of girls affected by conflict across the continent.

The appeal, made by the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts (APCAAC), coincided with the global observance of the International Day of the Girl Child, which is celebrated annually on Oct. 11.

"In regions ravaged by violence and instability, girls often find themselves at the intersection of multiple crises, facing heightened risks of displacement, exploitation, and violence," the APCAAC was quoted by an African Union (AU) statement issued Friday.

Noting that girls endure the devastating impacts of armed conflicts across the continent, the APCAAC said ongoing conflicts disrupt their education and development and undermine their fundamental rights, aspirations, and potential.

"Today, we call on all stakeholders to acknowledge their plight and reaffirm our shared responsibility to ensure that their rights are protected, and their voices are heard," it said.

Launched in September 2021, the APCAAC is an initiative of the AU and its partners, bringing together AU ambassadors and key child protection stakeholders to advocate for the protection of children in humanitarian situations during armed conflicts in Africa.

This year's International Day of the Girl Child was commemorated under the theme "Girls' Vision for the Future." The APCAAC emphasized the importance of addressing the diverse challenges girls face in conflict situations and urged AU members, international organizations, civil society, and community leaders to step up and sustain their efforts.

## Samia to launch Uhuru Torch history book on Nyerere Day

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is today scheduled to lead Tanzanians in celebrations to mark the climax of the 2024 National Uhuru Torch Race and launch of Uhuru Torch history book in Mwanza Region.

The event goes along with the commemoration of the

25th anniversary of the Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere's death.

Following an inspection of the event preparations yesterday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

"I am pleased with the preparations for these cel-

ebrations where our guest of honour will be President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who will guide us through the various activities planned for the day," he said.

He instructed Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Empowerment and People with Disabilities) Ridhiwan Kikwete to collaborate closely

with the organising committee to ensure all final arrangements were completed promptly.

Earlier, minister Kikwete provided an update on the event's preparations, outlining a range of activities that would take place during the celebrations.

Kikwete noted that President Samia would lead a memorial service for the late Mwalimu Nyerere at St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Parish at Nyakahoja, Mwanza, set to start at 7:00am.

Additionally, the President would visit Youth Week exhibitions at Furahisha Grounds, oversee the climax of Uhuru Torch Race and launch the book 'The Philosophy of Uhuru Torch' authored by Job Lusinde and edited by Dr Bashiru Ally.

The climax of the Uhuru Torch Race will feature a children's parade, musical and cultural performances, recitals and speeches addressed to the nation.

"Moreover, the President will present certificates, awards and various prizes for the 2024 Uhuru Torch Race competitions. She will conclude the event by receiving

a report from leader of the 2024 National Uhuru Torch Race and award certificates to winners," Kikwete said.

The event will wrap up with President Samia handing over the National Flag and the Uhuru Torch to the Chief of Defence Forces, signifying the next phase of the torch's journey to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.



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## Reaching 2m tourist arrivals shows destination's fairly rapid trajectory

TOP government officials and ministerial advisers are still basking in the uplifting finding that over US \$3.5 billion was obtained in the tourism sector up to the start of the fourth quarter of this calendar year.

While arriving at two million tourist arrivals with a quarter of the year to run was cause for some celebration, the panache will be mitigated on account of the high-flung expectations earlier in the year.

Well before the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, the news or projection was that the tourism authorities expected five million arrivals by late 2025, now improbable. Much of this scenario and how it has been changing over the past few years came up for discussion at the 8th edition of the Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE 2024), where Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi stood in for Union authorities and profiled the laudable achievements recorded in three and a half years.

It was heartwarming noting that Tanzania had earned the distinction of being the sixth country globally and the leading country in Africa in terms of growth in tourist numbers. That was the data indication for up to last month in the accounts of world tourism agencies.

Analysts may wish to look at the factors behind the rise in the country's profile on the basis of these assertions, especially the recognition of its wider attractiveness hitherto largely confined to the Serengeti National Park and Mount Kilimanjaro as well as adjacent ecosystems and Zanzibar.

There were always hunting parties in the southern circuit like the Ruaha and the vast Selous Game Reserve. There are also game controlled areas where routine economic interaction is wider, and will now be noticed more as more

investments are invited.

There will also likely discussion as to whether revenue performance in tourism shows that the sector is taking a higher profile in the country's economy.

That tourism currently contributing 17.2 per cent to the gross domestic product doesn't seem to be altogether surprising, suggesting that its growth curve is consistent with the wider picture and not an astronomical performance out of nowhere.

Nor is it strange even without handy comparative data that tourism accounts for 25 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings, similar to supporting over 1.5 million jobs similarly tied to this growth and largely showing a normal curve.

What is more significant is that the country's ability to lure and hook visitors is rising, while it is still far from realising its potential fully.

As it is, even just in Africa, Tanzania is indeed a fast-growing destination but as yet not anywhere near the top.

It all shows that we have still quite a while to go so that we tie up the potential and visitations needed for this, which demands greater variety of those linking up with travel agents abroad or rather greater variety in what the agents will see.

This transition to being more clearly noticeable as a travel destination and not just a curiosity attracting anywhere up to a million or so travellers annually at most has the danger of being strategically non-comprehended.

This could mean being absorbed into the marketing perspective of official agencies, those tasked with conservation and those regulating tourism first being attributed to the historic Royal Tour 'phenomenon' and now infrastructure uplift as well as direct flights.

## Poor countries stand to benefit from US\$120 billion in financing by IDA

A LANDMARK agreement was expected as international finance actors, policymakers, representatives from the private sector and civil society were gathering in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, towards the end of last week.

Senior officials of the host country plus those of the various wings of the African Development Bank and consultative agencies linked with the United Nations and the African Union were readying for a series of events aimed at supporting the fundraising campaign effectively intended for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's soft loans window. The event, one of several executive-level global meetings that activist media group together as summits, involves finance ministers and top policy aides including bank governors.

Described as the Assembly for Africa's Economic Development, this is meant to raise US\$120 billion for the development of the world's poorest countries, the vast majority in Africa.

That implies something like US\$2bn on average for each country, meaning that Tanzania might get higher courtesy as it is comparatively bigger - but possibly land less, owing to its lower middle income ranking. What may reduce enthusiasm about the conference is that the total sum isn't even for African countries but for the world's poor countries, which by some definition could as well exclude Tanzania.

With recent reports saying that Tanzania has obtained over US\$3.5bn during the current year

from tourism, the likely funding level from the conference could as well be two-thirds of nine months tourism earnings if it is placed at US\$2bn or so.

That would not make much difference at the budgetary level but would stand as revolving funding for targeted investments to drive change. Doing so would depend both on the local level and on the part of disbursing agencies, whether such financing is already scheduled as budgetary support.

That would apply even if IDAs is more of a soft loan than budgetary aid but still conveys funds in that direction. The other parameter is how far the donating agencies intend the funds to be spent - that is, if it is left to recipients to determine how it is used and thus be converted to budgetary windfall in the second part of the financial year.

Thus, it would never be spent cushioning banks bent on undertaking lending for PPP projects to enhance capacity.

There have been indications from IDA officials that the non-budgetary dimension would be favoured, focusing on the defining of financing priorities and ensuring adequate support to address the challenges facing Africa.

In a clearer manner, one official noted the commitment of international partners and the promotion of private investments as vital to achieving key objectives.

Yet some top officials prefer going for budgetary support, viewing social services funding through the lens of investments. Striking a common understanding here would mean immense good.



## The coming population collapse: Facts, fears...

By Subhash Kak

A generation ago, magazines and journals were full of dire warnings about runaway global population, a future of starvation and famine for millions, and population-induced climate change that would worsen the problem of feeding humanity and lead to chaos and societal breakdown.

The reality has turned out to be different. The population is decreasing in many parts of the world and is expected to begin falling everywhere in the coming decades.

There are scenarios that the world population a hundred years on may only be one-tenth of what it is now. If this were to happen, the world will change in unimaginable ways: whole regions will be depopulated, current political systems will be replaced and, in a world with very few children, the idea of the family will disappear.

There are several reasons this is happening. Technology has made birth control easy and artificial intelligence raises the spectre of machines replacing humans at virtually all jobs so that parents do not want to have children who will have dim prospects in life.

With the breakdown of the extended family, taking care of the child for many working parents has become unaffordable.

There is also a deeper reason. If the same spirit is within each person, all humanity is family and the old idea of extending one's biological lineage does not hold the same power it did for earlier generations.

### Falling fertility rate

The total fertility rate (TFR) - that is, the number of live children the average woman bears in her lifetime - has been falling since the 1970s.

It has dropped under the 2.1 threshold (the "replacement rate", to account for infant mortality and sex imbalances), below which the population will fall in more and more countries. This decline in the fertility is perhaps the most remarkable trend of our times.

The decrease in the TFR below the replacement threshold of 2.1 has proceeded for over half century. In the US, the TFR fell to below 2.0 in 1973 and in the UK in 1974. In South Korea TFR was above 2.0 until 1984; in China until 1991. The current fertility rate in Iran is 1.6 and in India it is 2.0.

It takes a generation after TFR falls below 2.1 for population to start dwindling while, with another generation, the population collapse is in full swing. South Korea's current fertility rate is 0.68. This means that if the rate doesn't change across generations, a cohort or unit of 100 Koreans will have 34 children who in turn will have about 12 and while in yet another generation it will be down to 4.

In three generations - that is 90 years - the survivors will be 48 in number: 34 being 60 years old, 12 being 30 year old,



and four being young.

In another generation, their number will be further down to 16: 12 being 60 years old and four being 30 years old.

Despite incentives to women to have more children, the South Korean fertility rate has kept on decreasing for the past 16 years.

Demographers call this the "low-fertility trap" in which once a country's fertility rate drops below 1.5, it is virtually impossible to turn it around.

Incentives have also been tried by France, Australia, and Russia with similarly disappointing results.

If the South Korean situation is an outlier, let's consider Japan where TFR fell below replacement in 1976 while in 2008 the population began shrinking.

The current Japanese fertility rate of 1.37, which has held steady for some time, is perhaps more representative of where the rest of the world is going.

So, a cohort of 100 Japanese now will have 68 children. In the second generation, this will lead to 48 children, and in three generations to 33 children.

Counting each generation to be about 30 years, the population of Japan that will have babies will approach one-third of the current figure in about 90 years.

The Indian TFR is currently 2.0. In the low scenario, the country's population will shrink by nearly 500 million in the next 75 years.

China could fall to 1.1 billion people in 2050 and 400 million people in 2100, which will be a loss of about a billion people in a mere eight decades. India will shrink by about 400 million people during the present century.

Although sub-Saharan Africa fertility rates remain well above

the replacement rate, even in this region the fertility is expected to fall rapidly in the future. The global TFR, according to the UNPD's medium-variant projection, will fall from 2.3 in 2021 to 1.8 in 2100; the more radical projections estimate the global population to fall to about 4 billion by 2100.

Another longer-term projection by Austria's Wittgenstein Centre for Demography sees global fertility approaching 1.3 by the end of the 21st century, with male and female life expectancy both near 100, and the median age over 60.

The population will fall to 250 million by 2200 and it will be under 100 million by 2300.

### The future of society

Projections of future world population are based on assumptions on future mortality, fertility, migration and a number of other factors.

Demographers leave out of their equation the fundamental changes in society due to the permanent disappearance of jobs caused by robots and AI machines and the impact these will have on the human psyche.

The way we see it, though, the AI factor points to an even more drastic population decline than forecast by demographers.

The fragmentation of the traditional family, pervasive voluntary childlessness, the rise in single-parent homes, and the new normal of co-habitation and unmarried motherhood have made child-rearing very hard.

We live in the age of narcissism where people are not as much thinking about raising children in extended kinship networks as about personal fulfilment and sense-gratification.

In East Asia, more women are choosing to marry later or not

marry at all. Many Japanese youths show no interest in sex.

There is rise in living together outside of marriage, but illegitimacy and single parenthood are severely stigmatised. Only 2 per cent of births occur outside of marriage compared to anything between 30 and 60 per cent of births in Europe and North America.

As populations shrink, the price of housing presumably will fall. In Japan, the average value of real estate is less than half what it was in the 1980s and 1990s. There are more than 8.5 million abandoned homes in rural Japan, while other estimates peg the number closer to 11 million.

Spain has about 4 million empty homes, and the numbers in Italy are similar. This is the future for other countries as well.

One can also see national retirement systems becoming insolvent. Typically, pension systems take a portion of annual tax revenue and distribute it to the retired people.

This works fine when one has three or more working age person for each retiree for one can tax one-fourth of the income and get three-fourths of one person's salary to distribute to the pensioner.

Japan is approaching one working age person for each pensioner while China will soon have one working age person for two pensioners, and clearly these ratios are unsustainable. The rest of the world will face the same problem soon.

The social compact on which modern political and economic arrangements rest is already facing severe pressures. As the population fall becomes extreme, current banking and political systems will be unsustainable.



By Correspondent Constantine Akitanda

## Nyerere dreams live on: Conserving Ngorongoro through bold action, community empowerment

IN the rolling highlands of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), a majestic landscape has witnessed centuries of coexistence between humans and wildlife. Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, in his visionary Arusha Manifesto of 1961, emphasized the significance of protecting Africa's natural resources—not just for wildlife but for humanity itself.

He declared that "the survival of our wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa".

Today, that message rings true as the government takes decisive actions to ensure the Ngorongoro Conservation Area remains one of the world's most cherished and unique UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The recent resettlement program initiated by the government, which resettles the pastoralist's communities from Ngorongoro to areas like Msomera and other selected locations in Monduli, Meatu and Simanjiro districts, is not merely a shift in residence.

It represents a significant step in safeguarding the future of this extraordinary place. Without this bold intervention, Ngorongoro risks losing its irreplaceable identity—transforming from a world-renowned sanctuary of natural beauty into just another "hole," a barren land like countless others across the globe.

This is a call to preserve a global treasure for future generations and ensure the Maasai and Datoga play an active role in shaping a more sustainable and prosperous future. Ngorongoro's uniqueness lies in its unparalleled biodiversity, where lions, elephants, and rhinoceroses roam freely alongside herds of wildebeest.

This rich wildlife attracts visitors from all over the world, fueling Tanzania's tourism industry and providing a source of livelihood for many.

However, over the years, the pressures on this delicate ecosystem have increased, rapid population growth, rising demands for land, and human-wildlife conflict have pushed this natural paradise to a critical tipping point.

The government's resettlement programme is a reflection of a necessary evolution in how we care for both our people and our environment.

It is a proactive measure, not only to ensure the survival of Ngorongoro's wildlife but to create opportunities for the Maasai and Datoga communities to thrive in new, better-equipped environments.

Without this initiative, the very essence of Ngorongoro—its natural beauty, cultural significance, and global heritage—could be lost, leaving behind a void that can never be filled.

For generations, the Maasai and Datoga have lived alongside wildlife, forging a deep connection with the land, and their traditions, anchored in pastoralism, have shaped their identities and livelihoods.

However, the world is changing, and the need to adapt has become increasingly urgent. Resettlement offers these communities a chance to build a future that not only respects their heritage but also equips them with modern resources and opportunities.

In places like Msomera, where new homes are being provided, Maasai and Datoga families are being offered access to better infrastructure, healthcare, education, and opportunities for alternative income generation.



The 'traditional' residences of the pastoral communities within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Photo: Constantine Akitanda

The government has committed to ensuring these communities have the tools to thrive while still retaining their cultural identity. For the Maasai and Datoga, this is not a forced abandonment of their way of life—it is a step toward a brighter, more secure future.

As Mwalimu Nyerere would have advocated, the Maasai and Datoga, by accepting the government's offer of resettlement, are not surrendering their traditions but evolving alongside their environment, embracing change as essential for progress.

They are becoming guardians of both their heritage and the precious wildlife of Ngorongoro, ensuring that future generations will continue to benefit from the treasures of this land. Ngorongoro is more than a physical space; it is a symbol of Tanzania's commitment to conserving its

natural and cultural heritage.

As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it stands as a testament to the global significance of Tanzania's natural beauty. Yet, if we do not act now to restore the balance between human activity and nature, Ngorongoro could become just another ordinary land, its glory lost to overgrazing, land degradation, and dwindling wildlife populations.

By resettling communities to less fragile areas, the Tanzanian government is acting in the spirit of Mwalimu Nyerere's philosophy of responsible stewardship. Nyerere believed that Africa's resources should be preserved not only for the benefit of current generations but for the future as well.

The resettlement program reflects this philosophy, protecting Ngorongoro's ecosystem while ensuring that the people of Tanzania can continue to benefit from its

existence.

For the Maasai and Datoga, this is a chance to contribute to the restoration of one of the world's greatest natural wonders. Moving to new areas, they are not just leaving behind their land; they are playing an essential role in saving it.

Ngorongoro, without the pressure of human activity, can once again flourish as a pristine sanctuary for wildlife, attracting tourists from all over the world and ensuring that Tanzania remains a global leader in conservation.

The government's resettlement program is not about exclusion; it is about inclusion—ensuring that every Tanzanian has a stake in preserving the nation's natural heritage.

The Maasai and Datoga are vital partners in this effort, and their involvement in conservation efforts, eco-tourism ven-

tures, and sustainable land management practices will be crucial to the success of this initiative.

In their new homes, these communities will be equipped with modern resources that can improve their quality of life while allowing them to continue contributing to Tanzania's economic and cultural vitality.

Access to modern healthcare, education, and infrastructure will open up new horizons for the Maasai and Datoga, empowering them to pursue opportunities that were previously out of reach. At the same time, their traditions can be preserved and celebrated in ways that foster mutual understanding between cultures.

Eco-tourism projects, for example, could provide a platform for the Maasai to share their heritage with visitors, turning their cultural knowledge into a source of pride and income.

In the face of these changes, it is natural for communities to feel uncertain about the future. But as Mwalimu Nyerere often reminded us, progress is born from unity and collective action. The resettlement programme is not a sacrifice; it is an opportunity for growth—both for the Maasai and Datoga and for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area itself.

Ngorongoro is a global treasure, and its preservation is a matter of pride not only for Tanzania but for the entire world. By embracing the government's resettlement program, the pastoralist's communities have the power to secure the future of this iconic place, ensuring that it remains a place of wonder and inspiration for generations to come.

In doing so, they are not only protecting the natural world but also forging a path toward a more sustainable, prosperous, and harmonious future for themselves and their children.

The time to act is now—before Ngorongoro becomes just another ordinary land, stripped of its magic. Together, we can restore its beauty, preserve its wildlife, and honour the legacy of Mwalimu Nyerere, who believed that the well-being of people and nature are forever intertwined.

## Commemorating 25 years without Mwalimu: Need to rethink how to protect our freedom

By Thomas Lyimo

AS Tanzania marks 25 years since the passing of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, it is crucial to reflect on how we safeguard the freedom he fought for. Tanzania's independence, unlike many other African nations, was achieved peacefully, largely due to the absence of settlers who viewed the colonies as overseas provinces.

Mwalimu Nyerere's eloquence and persuasive abilities played a pivotal role in securing independence, as he was able of convincing colonizers to relinquish control over resource-rich lands. The European hunger for Africa's resources, including Tanzania's, meant colonial powers were reluctant to leave the continent. Nyerere who is considered to be a sophist had to use all his ability to liberate his land.

### Nyerere's vision for a self-reliant nation

After independence, Mwalimu Nyerere identified three major enemies of the country as ignorance, disease and poverty. His vision was to create a self-reliant Tanzania through socialism, aiming to eliminate class divisions and foster unity amongst citizens. His Ujamaa (familyhood) policy, through which he established collective villages, was intended to bring Tanzanians together, ensuring mutual cooperation for development.

He also instituted a single-party system to strengthen national unity, fearing that multiparty politics could fragment the country. Mwalimu Nyerere's priority was ensuring that Tanzanians work together to free themselves socially, politically, and economically, from the residual impacts of colonialism.

### The Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar

The 1964 Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, a strategic move by Nyerere, sought to strengthen the nation against external threats. Mwalimu Nyerere understood the lingering dangers of colonialism and believed that defending independence was often harder than achieving it. He consistently stressed the importance of national unity and solidarity in maintaining freedom.

### Foreign policy and non-alignment

Tanzania's foreign policy, rooted in non-alignment, was designed to ensure that the country maintained positive relations with others, avoiding entanglements in the Cold War. This allowed Tanzania to focus on national development and avoid inheriting unnecessary conflicts. Nyerere's stance was clear: Tanzania should not adopt other nations' enemies, but rather, focus on



its own goals and development.

### The Arusha declaration

The 1967 Arusha Declaration, with its central focus on nationalization, aimed to place the nation's wealth in the hands of the government, addressing critical issues such as health and education for the majority. Mwalimu

Nyerere recognized that most Tanzanians could not afford essential services, and his policies were designed to uplift the majority, particularly through state control of key industries and resources.

### Defending our independence

To truly honour Mwalimu Nyerere's legacy, we must actively defend our

independence, not merely through words, but through action. Key areas where we can focus include industrialization; Tanzania must reduce its dependence on imports by producing more domestically. Industrialization creates jobs, builds skills, and generates foreign currency. It strengthens the economy, reducing dependency

on foreign nations, and thereby defending our independence.

Agriculture as the backbone of Tanzania's economy employs more than 75 percent of the population. Strengthening this sector by investing in key cash crops like coffee, cotton, and sisal will address unemployment and ensure that citizens are engaged in productive activities that drive the nation forward.

Human resource development, Nyerere understood that human resource is the most critical factor in development. By enhancing our education system, we can equip Tanzanians with the skills needed to manage and utilize our resources effectively, reducing reliance on foreign expertise.

Preventing illegal firearms, ensuring national security is a vital aspect of defending our independence. Allowing the unchecked possession of firearms can lead to civil unrest or violence. Strengthening the country's defense and security forces is essential, both to counter external threats and maintain internal stability.

Mwalimu Nyerere always emphasized the importance of self-reliance and the need to defend our independence. As we commemorate his legacy, our focus should now shift toward achieving economic independence. He believed that political independence without development would leave the nation vulnerable to external control. Our task is to use Tanzania's resources wisely to foster development, which in turn, will solidify our freedom.

True freedom, as Mwalimu once said, is inseparable from development. Therefore, as we reflect on 25 years without Mwalimu, our goal should be to strengthen Tanzania's independence by building a prosperous and self-sufficient nation.

*The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com*



By Dalaly Kafumu

**J**ULIUS Kambarage Nyerere, known as 'Mwalimu' or 'Teacher' in English, was born on the April 13th 1922 at Butiama in Musoma District, Mara Region and died on October 14th, 1999 at the Saint Thomas Hospital in London.

He was the founding Father of Tanzania and a prominent Pan-African leader who played an essential role both within our country and across the African continent.

Mwalimu Nyerere was a strong defender of the African unity, believing that political unity of the African Continent was essential for the growth and development of Africa. He actively participated in the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which aimed at promote solidarity and collective action among African nations.

His support for the African Liberation was exemplary as he provided unwavering support for liberation movements across the continent. Tanzania became a safe haven for many African liberation leaders and organizations, such as the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) of Angola; South and West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia; the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan African Congress (PAC) all of South Africa; Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) of Mozambique; and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) of Zimbabwe. Mwalimu Nyerere's commitment and dedication to the African Liberation and ideals of Pan-Africanism and African unity left a lasting legacy.

At home in Tanzania, Mwalimu Nyerere exhibited empathy, compassion and love to us his people teaching us to love one another and to be united as one nation regardless of our over 120 tribes and language diversity. The unity of Tanzanians was inspired by his visionary words that he proclaimed on October 22nd, 1959, in his speech in LEGICO - the National Assembly at the time; he said: "... We, the people of Tanganyika, would like to light a candle and put it on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro which would shine beyond our borders giving hope where there was despair, love where there was hate and dignity where there was before only humiliation..."

On the eve of Tanganyika independence, Mwalimu Nyerere fulfilled his vision of "lighting a candle and put it on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro" when Captain Nyirenda of the Tanganyika Armed Forces light a Torch and placed it on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro to shine within and beyond the borders.

From that day to date a national Torch (known as Mwenge) began touring the country annually infusing the spirit of freedom, unity, love, peace and hope among the citizens. Our unity as Tanzanian was further solidified by the use of Kiswahili as a national language that Mwalimu promoted it with all his energy.

Mwalimu Nyerere was also opposed to all forms of economic, social, political, racial, tribal and religious segregation. He was an uncompromising leader when in came to corruption. He did not draw wealth to himself to the point that when he retired the Government had to build him a very simple house in Butiama that stands up today.

He was angry to government leaders and other civil servants of his government who seemingly accumulated wealth during their tenure in Government service and in an attempt to tame these leaders in 1971 he drew up a document called "Mwongozo wa TANU wa Mwaka 1971" that decreed codes of conducts for leaders and civil servants to ensure they do not indulge in corruption to accumulate wealth but rather serve the people with dignity.

Mwalimu Nyerere's integrity, modesty, spiritual uprightness and intellectual rigor that guided his style of leadership have inspired the Catholic Church to consider him for canonization.

His integrity and honesty persuaded the Catholic Church to believe that he was a great leader of cherubic proportions; and that is why in 2005 the Tanzania Bish-

# Mwalimu Nyerere: A charismatic leader who deserves to be a saint



ops with consent from the Vatican initiated a beatification process to determine his sanctity and eventual canonization in the future.

Religious leaders as well as scholars believed that Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere was an especially gifted leader that needs to be emulated by other leaders of our time. Africa is today confronted by a leadership crisis because most political leaders are engaged in corruption to accumulate wealth for their personal life. Compared to Mwalimu Nyerere, who is described by Pope Francis in his Encyclical Letter; Evangelii Gaudium 273 as "a politician with a soul" who lived for others while most African leaders live for personal gains and are a disgrace.

Dr Ng'wanza Kamata of the University of Dar es Salaam wrote about the life of Mwalimu Nyerere that showed a balance between political and religious life.

He wrote: "...Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, fought for human-centered development, sought empowerment for the poorest in his country, and maintained a deep respect for human rights and inter-religious peace in an

unstable part of the world. A committed Catholic who regularly mediated on the Scriptures, he translated liturgical texts into popular Swahili, while prophetically advocating for a more socially relevant Church. He led a very simple lifestyle...". The narrative of Kamata indicates that in Mwalimu Nyerere's public life, politics and religions co-existed giving Mwalimu the identity of a good true leader.

In the International Colloquium titled "Mwalimu Julius Nyerere a Politician with a soul and a Servant of God" that was held in Rome on the November 21st, 2023; the link between faith and political career of Julius Nyerere was examined.

In this colloquium Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachuku of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, described Mwalimu Nyerere as a leader who lived according to the Spirit of the New Testament of brotherhood.

He said: "...Mwalimu Julius Nyerere as President his focus was not on how big or how fat was his bank account somewhere in Europe, his focus was on uniting his people... His emphasis was not on how many fleets of cars he owned; His

focus was on Ujamaa - how can we be together as brothers and sisters..."

The consideration for canonization of Mwalimu Nyerere is a testimony that he was an extraordinary leader with compassion and empathy who lived as a true leader. The Catholic Church prays with the whole World a prayer recited hereunder so that God reveals the state of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere in the eschatological life. And here we PRAY: "...Ooh! Almighty God our Father, you created us and set us on this earth so that we can know you, serve you, love you and love our neighbor. Father our Creator; we thank you for the gift of your Servant Julius Kambarage Nyerere the faithful, and Father of a Family, who led your people of the Tanzanian Nation as a true Father and Teacher. Ooh!

Father your servant gave himself up for the service of your people with an unending love, and without tiring; he built Unity and Solidarity among God's children. He cared for the poor, and lifted the weak, he comforted the orphans and all those who were refugees displaced from their homelands because there was no peace; he received

and took care of them. Ooh! God, your servant was faithful to you and you're Church and he became a beacon of a living Faith and true piety.

He was granted true love and great respect to the Mother of your Son Jesus Christ, entrusting the people of his country to the maternal love and care of the Virgin Mary. Ooh! God your Servant Julius Kambarage Nyerere taught all peoples to know and respect you; he fought for justice and was against all forms of intimidation and harassment. His humility in serving the people of God remains an example to be emulated by all peoples of all generations as they journey back to you.

Father Almighty God, we pray that you grant us your virtue through his intercessions, as according to your holy Will, and the holiness of your Servant be openly revealed to all people of God; so that he be counted among your Saints. AMEN...

## CAPITAL RADIO RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Largest study of its kind in Africa finds African men have high risk of prostate cancer, earlier

By Special Correspondent

**R**ESearchers have identified the genetic risk factors that contribute to prostate cancer in a diverse group of African men.

Although research and treatment are scant, this first large-scale African genomics study could signal new treatment possibilities.

"From the literature, men of African descent have a much higher risk of developing prostate cancer during their lifetime. It tends to develop at an earlier age and is more aggressive. But we have only really studied prostate cancer in European populations. By studying genetic risk factors in African men - at a large scale - we can one day refine screening and treatment," says Dr Carl Chen, a researcher at the Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Biosciences (SBIMB) at Wits University and the second author of the paper.

The study, titled Heterogeneous genetic architecture of prostate cancer susceptibility in sub-Saharan Africa, published in the high impact Nature Genetics journal, enrolled almost 8000 African men (half had prostate cancer, and the other comprised a control group) from five African countries across West, East and Southern Africa.

This is the largest study of this kind to date.

Chen says, "We identified three loci, or genetic regions, strongly

associated with increased prostate incidence. The top 'signals' within these three loci are unique to African populations and would not have been found if we didn't study African populations."

Notably, regional differences exist in the strength of the 'signals' between East, West and Southern Africa.

This means that there are different types of risks across Africa.

Professor Michèle Ramsay, Director of the SBIMB, says, "The findings from this study will lay the foundation to develop models for risk prediction using genetic data to improve the treatment of prostate cancer. Prostate cancer screening is virtually non-existent in Africa, allowing for the study of the natural history and genetic associations of prostate cancer in the absence of early detection."

Ramsay says that the paper also aligns with SBIMB's strategic vision for Precision Medicine by working to better understand the molecular risk factors of common African cancers.

"We aim to uncover region-specific genetic mutations and variations, leading to more accurate, culturally relevant treatments that address the unique genetic diversity of African populations, ultimately improving cancer care and outcomes across the continent," says Ramsay.

To address the need for unique genetic diversity in African populations for the African prostate cancer study, the SBIMB Biobank



played a significant role by processing approximately 2,000 biosamples - nearly a quarter of the total study sample.

Currently, the Biobank holds about 30,000 DNA samples from participants of African heritage, gathered from numerous research projects.

Ms Natalie Smyth, SBIMB Biobank and Laboratory Manager, says, "The research infrastructure is crucial for supporting large-scale genetic research in Africa."

The importance of researching African genomics for prostate cancer

Unique genetic variations help

explain why current prostate cancer screening methods are less effective for African men.

Certain prostate cancer variations are not found in European populations, which contributes to higher disease rates in un-screened African groups because European data has thus far guided interventions in Africa.

This study highlights the importance of genetic research in diverse populations. Future research should use ancestry-specific data to address differences in genomic medicine.

The study is a product of the Men of African Descent and Car-

cinoma of the Prostate (MADCaP) network, which includes African and US investigators who have explored prostate cancer causes, risks, screening and clinical management over the past 20 years.

"MADCaP is guided by the development of world-class research that affects African populations. Bio-sampling, genotyping and data management are performed in Africa to build local capacity for cancer research," says Dr Timothy Rebbeck from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard, a leader in the study.

"The MADCaP network ensures that data from different centres,

including both risk factors and clinical data, are consistent. They hold meetings to encourage communication between clinicians and bioinformaticians. The MADCaP network has also developed a new genotyping array specifically designed to identify genetic links to cancer in African populations, in addition to enhancing research capabilities."

Chen says that the findings of the study reveal that prostate cancer is a complex disease and that studying this in diverse populations with high disease burden is critical because they may possess genetic risk variants absent in other populations.

# Drought is parching the world's largest artificial lake, stripping Zambia of its electricity

LAKE KARIBA

**T**INDOR Sikunyongana is trying to run a welding business which these days means buying a diesel generator with costly fuel he can't always afford.

Like everyone in Zambia, Sikunyongana is facing a daily struggle to find and afford electricity during a climate-induced energy crisis that's robbed the southern African country of almost all its power.

"Only God knows when this crisis will end," said Sikunyongana. His generator ran out of diesel and spluttered to a halt as he spoke. "You see what I mean?" he said.

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Zambia's worst electricity blackouts in memory have been caused by a severe drought in the region that has left the critical Kariba dam, the source of Sikunyongana's woes, with insufficient water to run its hydroelectric turbines. Kariba is the largest man-made lake in the world by volume and lies 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of Lusaka on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The massive dam wall was built in the 1950s and more than 80 workers died during construction. It was meant to revolutionize the countries' energy supplies by trapping the water of the Zambezi River, turning a valley into a huge lake and providing an endless supply of renewable hydroelectric power.

That's not the case anymore as months of drought brought by the naturally occurring El Nino weather pattern and exacerbated by warming temperatures have put Zambia's hydroelectric station on the brink of completely shutting down for the first time.

The water level is so low that only one of the six turbines on Zambia's side of the dam is able to operate, cutting generation to less than 10% of normal output. Zambia relies on Kariba for more than 80% of its national electricity

supply, and the result is Zambians have barely a few hours of power a day at the best of times. Often, areas are going without electricity for days.

Edla Musonda is so exasperated that she's taken to lugging her entire desktop computer - hard drive, monitor, everything - to a local cafe so she can work.

Musonda and others cram into the Mercato Cafe in the Zambian capital of Lusaka, not for the sandwiches or the ambiance but because it has a diesel generator. Tables are cluttered with power strips and cables as people plug in cell phones, laptops and in Musonda's case, a home office. This is the only way her small travel business is going to survive.

Less than half of Zambia's 20 million people had access to electricity before Kariba's problems. Millions more have now been forced to adjust as mothers find different ways to cook for their families and children do their homework by candlelight. The most damaging impact is during the daylight hours when small businesses, the backbone of the country, struggle to operate.

"This is also going to increase poverty levels in the country," said economist Trevor Hambayi, who fears Zambia's economy will shrink dramatically if the power crisis is prolonged. It's a warning call to the Zambian government and the continent in general about the danger to development of relying heavily on one source of energy that is so climate dependent.

The power crisis is a bigger blow to the economy and the battle against poverty than the lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Zambia Association of Manufacturers president Ashu Sagar.

Africa contributes the least to global warming but is the most vulnerable continent to extreme weather events and climate change as poor countries can't meet the high financial costs of adapting. This year's drought in southern



Africa is the worst in decades and has parched crops and left millions hungry, causing Zambia and others to already declare national disasters and ask for aid.

Hydroelectric power accounts for 17% of Africa's energy generation, but that figure is expected to rise to 23% by 2040, according to the International Energy Agency. Zambia is not alone in that hydroelectric power makes up over 80% of the energy mix in Mozambique, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia and Congo, even as experts warn it will become more unreliable.

"Extreme weather patterns, including prolonged droughts, make

it clear that overreliance on hydro is no longer sustainable," said Carlos Lopes, a professor at the Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

The Zambian government has urged people and businesses to embrace solar power. But many Zambians can't afford the technology, while the government itself has turned to more familiar but polluting diesel generators to temporarily power hospitals and other buildings. It has also said it will increase its electricity from coal-fired stations out of necessity. While neighboring Zimbabwe

has also lost much of its electricity generation from Kariba and blackouts there are also frequent, it gets a greater share of its power from coal plants.

At Kariba, the 128-meter-high (420-foot) dam wall is almost completely exposed. A dry, reddish-brown stain near the top marks where the water once reached in better times more than a decade ago.

Leonard Siamubotu, who has taken tourists on boat cruises on the picturesque lake for more than 20 years, has seen the change. As the water level dropped, it exposed old, dead trees that were com-

pletely submerged for years after the wall was built. "I'm seeing this tree for the first time," he said of one that's appeared in the middle of the lake.

The lake's water level naturally rises and recedes according to the season, but generally it should go up by around six meters after the rains. It moved by less than 30 centimeters after the last rainy season barely materialized, authorities said. They hope this year's rains, which should start in November, will be good. But they estimate that it'll still take three good years for Kariba to fully recover its hydroelectric capability.



By Guardian Reporter

# Climate change threatens cardamom farming in Muheza as farmers adopt organic practices

CLIMATE change has been significantly affecting the country's agricultural sector. In Amani Division, Muheza District, Tanga Region, spice farmers, particularly those growing cardamom, are now witnessing the impacts of climate change following declining yields of the commercial crop.

Farmers in Amani Division in Usambara Mountains which are part of the Eastern Arc Mountains have for years experienced changes in rainfall patterns—either prolonged droughts or intense rainfalls.

The Eastern Arc is renowned for its biodiversity, hosting a variety of unique plant and animal species. These mountains are important for water catchment and agriculture.

Cardamom requires consistent rainfall and high humidity, droughts limit water availability for the crops, while heavy rains can lead to flooding and soil erosion, which damage the plants and reduce productivity.

Magreth David, Operation Manager, GFP Organics Limited said with the support from the USAID Tuhifadhhi Maliasili project they are promoting organic farming practices amongst spice farmers.

Farmers are encouraged to adopt organic farming methods, which are more sustainable and environmentally friendly to be able to produce high-quality organic spices while protecting the environment, such as the forests and water catchment areas.

"Following climate change challenges, we promote practices that increase the resilience of crops, such as agroforestry and planting of shade trees that protect sensitive crops like cardamom," said David, adding that is why the company is working with the USAID Tuhifadhhi Maliasili project, as they were looking for people who are conserving the environment in the Amani-Nilo Corridor which connects Amani Nature Reserve and Nilo Nature Reserve.

The Amani-Nilo Corridor is a habitat for many endangered and endemic species of plants, birds, and animals.

In the Amani-Nilo Corridor, GFP Organics Limited works with farmers from villages namely: Antakae, Kwezitu, Zirai, Kizerui, Kazita, Msasa IBC, Magoda, Shamsangeda, Kwamhosi, Bombani, Tongwe, Mashewa, Mangubu, Magoroto na Kawaisaka.

To address impacts of climate change, David said they are educating farmers on how to make terrace bunds and ditches, and to plant environmentally friendly trees.

She added that climate change has affected cardamom yields whereas farmers cannot meet the market demand. She said the heavy rains and floods in 2018



**Drying of spices at the organic spices processing house at Kwamhosi village, Nkumba ward in Muheza District, Tanga Region. The factory with 28 permanent employees operates under GFP Organics Limited. Photo: Guardian Photographer.**

resulted in soil erosion as most of the farms are on mountains, causing all the topsoil, which contains essential nutrients for crops to be washed away by water.

"After all these efforts we are seeing some improvements compared to 2022 and 2023," she told The Guardian.

One of the spice farmers at Kwezitu village, Wallace Kimweri said the rainfall they are currently receiving is low compared to previous years.

"We are also grateful to GFP Organics Limited for the training they provide to us so that we can tackle climate change. We have been trained on areas environmental and forest management as well as terracing to control soil erosion,"

Chairman of Kazita village, in Msarai ward, William Hiza said in the

1960s the village was almost covered by forests with the presence of wild animals such as lions, leopards and elephants.

Hiza said they used to cultivate crops three times a year because there was enough rain, noting, the situation has now changed as most villagers cultivate crops once or twice a year.

He added that back then, they used to grow crops without applying fertilizer, which is not the case now, as they are forced to use fertilizers to get more yields.

"Climate change has greatly affected us. There was negligence in the past as people were left to cut trees

for logging business. This has significantly contributed to environmental and forest degradation, resulting in disappearance of wild animals. We are now receiving average rains compared to the past."

"We are grateful for the efforts by stakeholders including the USAID Tuhifadhhi Maliasili project in promoting tree planting and environmental conservation. Nowadays, many people in the village are educated, even schoolchildren understand the importance of protecting forests. Villagers monitor each other, and if someone is seen cutting trees, a report is quickly made to our office and actions are taken," said Hiza.

Nyenza Adam, the Acting Muheza District Agricultural Officer, said climate change has greatly impacted cardamom farming in the Amani Division.

Cardamom requires fertile soil and favourable conditions to thrive. In recognition of this, we are teaching farmers how to practice organic farming and avoid the use of chemicals such as pesticides.

Warmer conditions stress the plants, reducing yields and leading to poor quality of cardamom pods. This can also encourage the growth of pests and diseases, which further harm the crop.

Climate change can easily facilitate the spread of pests and diseases that attack cardamom plants. Warmer, more humid conditions promote the proliferation of fungal infections and insect pests, thus affecting both yields and quality.

# UNIAID Africa programmes to support 1,000 Tanzanian girls seeking STEM courses abroad

By Guardian Reporter

CYPRIANO Kassase is the CEO of UNIAID AFRICA; he pictures the future of Tanzania where girls are leading the charge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Future where young women from towns and villages are inventing the next great innovations, shaping industries, and tackling the world's biggest challenges. It's a beautiful dream, right? Well, that's exactly what UNIAID AFRICA is working towards, and believes that it is not just a dream—it's achievable.

Kassase shares the grand vision behind their latest initiative that gears to sponsor 1,000 Tanzanian girls to study STEM courses in India by 2024.

## Young women left behind

First, let's talk about the elephant in the room—education in Tanzania, especially for girls. Let's be honest, we've got some serious catching up to do. Girls face overwhelming challenges in accessing quality education, particularly in the STEM fields. Whether it's cultural expectations financial hurdles, or the classic "Girls don't do science" nonsense, many young women are left behind.

That's not just a missed opportunity for them—it's a missed opportunity for all of us, says Kassase who is passionate about transforming Tanzania's future, paints a pretty bleak picture: "Every year, over 50,000 students miss out on higher education. He adds that that another 20,000 girls end up studying subjects they're not even passionate about, simply because they need a degree. These are more than just numbers. These are dreams put on hold, talents left untapped."

## Why girls? Why STEM?

"Well, if we want a strong

future, we need to tap into the half of the population that's traditionally been sidelined. And STEM? That's where the jobs are. The world is moving towards technology and innovation, and if we leave our girls behind, we leave half of our country's potential untapped," he elaborates.

## Why India?

Kassase says India offers world-class education at a fraction of the cost you'd pay in other countries. For the price of sending one student to Europe or the US, one can send two to five girls to India. Plus, the Indian universities we're working with, like SRM University and KIIT

University, are at the cutting edge of STEM programmes. They have got it all—biotechnology, artificial intelligence, data science, cyber security—you name it.

"India provides the best mix of affordability and quality. These girls will come back to Tanzania equipped with skills that will put our country on the map for innovation," he explains.

## Arafa's story of determination

Arafa is a young girl from Mvomero District in Morogoro Region, with dreams that soar as high as the airplanes she one day hopes to build. She wants to be an aerospace engineer. But, like many Tanzanian girls, her dreams have been put on hold, not because of a lack of ambition, but because of financial constraints.

Despite her best efforts, Arafa hasn't secured the funds to travel to India just yet. But the good news is that UNIAID AFRICA has stepped in, and they're working tirelessly to make sure she—and 999 other girls just like her—get the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Arafa's story is just one in a



**Arafa's family at Mvomero: Supporting her has impacted more than 13 people in her family**

sea of potential that could transform not just her life but the entire future of Tanzania. She's a symbol of what's possible when we invest in our girls.

Kassase calls for stakeholders to help Arafa achieve her dream as the total cost for her studies is \$12 million which covers everything—from tuition to accommodation to ensuring these students have access to mentorship and career guidance.

The sustainability plan

By 2029, the first batch of 1,000 brilliant students will graduate. But they won't just be leaving with degrees—they'll also have a commitment to give back. These future leaders will help sponsor even more girls, keeping the cycle of empowerment going. Imagine

Arafa, not just as an aerospace engineer, but as someone helping the next generation of engineers take off—literally and figuratively!

Starting next year, we're not

stopping at just Tanzania. Our vision is to support 1,000 girls from each African country to pursue STEM courses. Yes, you read that right—1,000 from every African nation! We're expanding across borders like an unstoppable wave of change and STEM geeks.

He said they are rolling out income-generating projects, like social enterprises, partnerships, and strategic investments. Think of it as creating our own financial engine to

keep the program rolling without knocking on anyone's door too often.

He said a financial cooperative (SACCOSS) specifically for students is going to be launched to help support them not just while they're in school but long after, ensuring they have the resources to succeed and keep the initiative alive for generations to come.

UNIAID AFRICA vision is to empower, expand, and, most importantly, sustain this move-

ment without constantly asking for hand-outs.

The yellow movement: Fashion meets fundraising UNIAID AFRICA has launched the Yellow Movement for Girls in STEM, an initiative that combines awareness and fundraising. One can buy a bright yellow t-shirt for \$50, with all proceeds going towards sponsoring girls in STEM. The t-shirts are designed to catch attention and make you look good.



# BoT projecting economic growth of 5.6pc in Q3, 2024

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) is projecting an economic growth of 5.6 percent during the third quarter of this year, and is projected to grow at around the same pace in the fourth quarter of the year, attributed by the increases in public and private sector investments.

The projected growth is bolstered by improvements in global and domestic economic conditions.

In its monetary policy report released at the end of last week, the central bank also estimated an economic growth of 5.8 percent during the second quarter, an increase from 5.6 percent recorded during the first quarter.

Contributors of real GDP include construction, agriculture, tourism, financial and insurance activities, manufacturing, trade and repair as well as transport and storage.

In addition, the report says that the growth will be reinforced by improving agricultural activities due to the availability of inputs (fertilizers and quality seeds) and pesticides, as well as investment in irrigation schemes.

Construction is also expected to continue driving growth, owing to the construction of SGR, roads, airports and residential buildings.

Furthermore, improving transport logistics through ports, railways and airways is projected to contribute significantly to growth.

Increasing electricity generation, particularly from Mwalimu



Bank of Tanzania (BoT) office in Dar es Salaam

Nyerere and Rusumo Hydro-power plants, are expected to add impetus to growth.

Despite this positive outlook, challenges remain, such as inflationary pressures, global economic uncertainty, and fluctuating commodity prices.

Headline inflation was 3.1 percent in the quarter ending September 2024 and is projected to be at around 3.2 percent in the subsequent quarter.

The stability of consumer goods prices in the world market, adequate food supply, stable power supply, and prudent monetary and fiscal policies are expected to contribute the most in containing inflationary pressures.

"The upside risks to the inflation outlook include the potential disruption of supply chains due to geopolitical conflicts," says BoT.

According to the report, private sector investment is expected to expand due to credit growth through banks intermediation and microfinance lending.

Tourism and exports of cash crops such as cashew nut, tobacco, cotton, and coffee are expected to be higher than last year. Electricity generation, an input into manufacturing activities, also increased.

However, the report notes that the growth of money supply slowed slightly in July

to September 2024 relative to the preceding quarter. Private sector credit growth remained robust, averaging at 17.16 percent, as in the previous quarter.

The risk on lending remained low, reflected by improvement in banks' asset quality, with the NPL ratio decreasing to 3.9 percent in August 2024 from 5.1 percent in the corresponding month of 2023.

Private sector credit growth is expected to remain high as global and domestic economic conditions continue to improve, coupled with supportive policies intended to boost economic growth.

Foreign exchange inflows improved on account of a seasonal increase in tourism and exports of food and cash crops.

The high price of gold in the world market also contributed to the foreign exchange inflows. The exchange rate depreciated at a slower pace of 10.1 percent, year-on-year, in September 2024, compared with 12.5 percent in June 2024.

Foreign exchange reserves were high, amounting to US\$5,413.6 million at the end of September 2024 from US\$5,345.5 in June 2024.

The reserves were more than 4 months of projected imports, which aligned with the country's requirement.

Meanwhile, the Zanzibar economy is also projected to grow at the same high levels of 6.4 percent in the outer periods of the year, driven by transport, financial and insurance, and construction.

Inflation also eased in Zanzibar, reaching 5.1 percent in August 2024 attributed to both food and non-food prices and is projected to remain consistent with the target of 5 percent.



Korogwe Town Council executive director Mwashabani Mrope. Photo by Cheji Bakari

## Korogwe town council allocates 250m/- loans for special group loans

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Korogwe

The Korogwe Town Council disbursed a total of 250m/- during the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year to provide loans to special groups. This amount represents 10 percent of the council's quarterly revenue.

Mwashabani Mrope, the council's Executive Director, announced this recently, stating that the funds were disbursed on October 1st to various beneficiaries, including people with disabilities, youth, and women's groups.

"The loans were sourced from our domestic revenues, and similar amounts will be allocated to all groups that meet the criteria. I would like to emphasize that this allocation is for the first quarter of the 2024/25 fiscal year," she explained.

Mrope further clarified that loan applicants must first submit their applications through executive officers in their respective areas for initial approval. Afterward, the applications will be forwarded to the Town Council's Community Development Officer for final approval.

One of the beneficiaries, Ally Fungo, urged fellow recipients to ensure timely repayment of their loans to allow others on the waiting list to benefit as well.

"This money is not ours, but a means to support our economic activities. Once we succeed, we must repay the loans on time so others can also ben-

efit," he emphasized.

Korogwe Town Council, located in the Tanga Region of northeastern Tanzania, serves as the administrative and commercial hub of Korogwe District, which is renowned for its agricultural activities and growing infrastructure. The town's strategic location along the highway connecting Dar es Salaam to northern regions makes it a key transit point for trade and transport.

The local economy primarily revolves around agriculture, with maize, sisal, and fruits like oranges and mangoes being major crops. The region's fertile land and favorable climate contribute significantly to the livelihoods of its residents.

In recent years, Korogwe has experienced gradual improvements in infrastructure, including roads, schools, and healthcare facilities. The main highway has further enhanced trade and the movement of goods, benefiting local businesses.

Additionally, Korogwe's proximity to the Usambara Mountains offers potential for tourism. The area boasts natural attractions such as forests, waterfalls, and hiking trails, which attract both local and international visitors, contributing to the town's economy.

Through its agricultural base and strategic position in Tanzania's transport network, the Korogwe Town Council plays a pivotal role in driving economic development in the Tanga Region.

## FAO: September sees biggest food prices hike in 18 months

By Guardian Reporter

Global food commodity prices experienced their sharpest rise in 18 months during September, driven by increases across all key commodity groups, particularly sugar, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The FAO Food Price Index, which monitors monthly changes in international prices for a basket of widely traded food commodities, averaged 124.4 points in September, reflecting a 3.0 percent rise from August and a 2.1 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

The sugar price index registered the largest increase in September, rising by 10.4 percent driven by worsening crop prospects in Brazil and concerns that India's decision to lift restrictions on sugarcane use for ethanol production may affect export availabilities from the country.

The cereal price index increased by 3.0 percent during the month, led by higher wheat and maize export prices.

International wheat prices increased due largely to concerns



Sugar price index registered the largest increase in September, rising by 10.4 percent.

over excessively wet conditions in Canada and the European Union, though this was partly offset by competitively priced supplies from the Black Sea region.

World maize prices also climbed, influenced by low water levels on key transportation routes along the Madeira River in Brazil and the Mississippi River in the United States of America. By contrast, the FAO All Rice Price Index declined by 0.7 percent, partly reflecting generally quiet trading activities.

The vegetable oil price index

increased by 4.6 percent from August, with higher quotations across the board for palm, soy, sunflower and rapeseed oils.

The rise in international palm oil prices was due to lower-than-expected production in major Southeast Asian producing countries, while the rebound in soy oil quotations was primarily due to lower-than-expected crushings in the United States of America.

The dairy price index rose by 3.8 percent in September, with quotations up for whole milk powder, skim milk powder, butter

and cheese.

The meat price index increased by 0.4 percent, mainly due to higher poultry meat prices driven by strong import demand for Brazil's products. World bovine and pig meat prices remained stable, while those for ovine meat declined slightly from August levels.

FAO raised marginally its forecast for global cereal production in 2024 to 2,853 million tonnes, reflecting upward revisions to rice and wheat outputs that outweighed a small reduction made to global coarse grains production.

The new figure, also published in the new Cereal Supply and Demand Brief, remains moderately below the record output of 2023.

World wheat production is expected to increase by 0.5 percent in 2024 from the previous year, as improved yield prospects in Australia more than compensate for a significant cut to the European Union's forecast due to excessively wet conditions.

By contrast, global production of coarse grains is now expected to decline by 0.8 percent from 2023, with smaller crops in the European Union foreseen to outweigh higher maize output anticipated in the United States of America.

## Students win cash prizes in DSE scholar challenge

By Francis Kajubi

Three students from various universities have won cash prizes after emerging as the top performers in the 2024 DSE Scholar Investment Challenge, organized by the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

The DSE awarded medals, certificates, and cash prizes to the winners. The first-place winner received 1.7m/-, the second-place winner received 1m/-, and the third-place winner took home 800,000/-.

Speaking at the awards ceremony held on Friday in Dar es Salaam, Peter Nalitolela, Chief Executive Officer of the DSE, said the challenge aims to nurture innovative stu-

dents in the fields of capital markets and securities investment. It also seeks to introduce students to stakeholders in the stock market, offering potential employment or collaboration opportunities after graduation.

"The challenge is a call to action for financial sector stakeholders, reminding them to consider young graduates for various emerging opportunities," Nalitolela said.

He noted that October 7-13 was celebrated globally as World Investor Week, where capital markets authorities emphasized responsible practices and the delivery of quality services to customers.

The process to identify the winners began in September

2023, with students encouraged to participate both as individuals and through their investment clubs. Four top clubs advanced to the finals, and the judges are finalizing the selection of the three winners.

Nalitolela highlighted that since Tanzania adopted a free market economy in the early 1990s, initiatives like this help promote its continued growth.

With approximately 610,000 current investors in Tanzania, Nalitolela said the DSE's strategic plan aims to increase this number through the use of digital tools. He added that today, anyone can invest in the stock market 24/7.

The World Federation of Exchanges also supports public financial education to help achieve financial inclusion for all.

This year, 816 students from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), the Institute of Finance Management (IFM), and the College of Business Education (CBE) participated in the competition.

In previous years, DSE involved all universities in the challenge. However, this year, the competition featured investment clubs of at least 20 students, with mentorship provided in collaboration with insurance brokers.

Participants in the DSE Scholar Investment Challenge were each given virtual capi-

tal worth 3m/- to use in securing securities listed on the online challenge platform.

"They bought shares and, upon selling, made profits. Every two weeks, they received a 2 percent dividend on the profits generated from their investments," Nalitolela explained.

Erasmus Ishengoma, a UDSM student and the second-place winner, expressed how the competition enhanced his knowledge of investing in the stock market and bonds.

"We were given mentors who guided us on how to invest in the stock market and how to make informed investment decisions," he said.



Peter Nalitolela, Chief Executive Officer of the DSE



# Tanga designates 13,537ha for forest reserves

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

A total of 13,537.9 hectares of forest have been designated as village land forest reserves in Kilindi, Handeni, and Pangani Districts in the Tanga Region.

This initiative aims to promote community-based forest management and assist villagers in generating income to fund local development projects.

Peter Mtoro, a community-based forest management officer with the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), spoke last week to planning officers, district forest officers, environmental officers, village natural resources committee members, livestock officers, agricultural officers, community development officers, village chairmen, and village executive officers across the three districts.

Among the designated areas, 2,304 hectares of forest are allocated for sustainable charcoal harvesting. Ibrahim reports that 549.1 hectares have been set aside in Kilindi District, 695 hectares in Pangani District, and 1,060 hectares in Handeni District for this purpose.

This achievement has been made possible through a three-year project titled "Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania" (IFBEST), funded by the European Union (EU). The EU has contributed a total of 5.4bn/- through the Minis-

try of Finance to enable TFCG and the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) to implement the IFBEST project.

"We are grateful to the EU for providing these funds, which have improved land use plans in various villages. We have assisted the community in designating areas for social services, residential activities, housing, agriculture, livestock, village land forest reserves, and other issues," he said.

TFCG and MJUMITA have also advised the community on sustainable forest utilization.

Regarding sustainable charcoal harvesting, Kilindi District is expected to produce 185.9 tons per year, Pangani 133.2 tons, and Handeni 233.3 tons of sustainable charcoal.

A total of 32 experts from district councils and the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), representing various departments, have been trained to support communities in establishing community-based forest management and developing sustainable charcoal management and value chains.

Additionally, TAFORI will conduct research to assess areas degraded by human activities and recommend suitable tree species for restoration.

With EU funding, TFCG and MJUMITA have successfully resolved a boundary dispute between Lusane and Kitingi villages and established the Mapanga village land forest reserve. They have also prepared a



Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) officer Augustino Gervas (facing the camera) presents an assessment of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) to planning officers, district forest officers, environmental officers, village natural resources committee members, livestock officers, agricultural officers, community development officers, village chairpersons, and village executive officers in Handeni District. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

management plan and allocated harvesting plots for sustainable charcoal production.

Damas Lucas, secretary of the Village Natural Resources Committee in Mseko village, Pangani District, expressed his gratitude: "We thank God; the community has embraced the project. They are now protecting the forest and conducting regular patrols."

He noted a significant reduction in tree cutting for charcoal production, with many individuals who previously lived in the village conservation forest moving away. Ongoing education about the importance of forest conservation and sustainable energy harvesting has led to this

positive change.

"Now you can walk inside the forest reserve for 2-3 hours without seeing a motorcycle or a truck transporting charcoal to Tanga Port for shipment to Zanzibar," Lucas remarked.

Previously, TFCG and MJUMITA's intervention saw 50 to 100 motorcycles transporting charcoal bags from Beho Village Land Forest Reserve to Tanga Port. Some individuals had established settlements, businesses, and bars inside the forest reserve while engaging in agricultural activities.

Lucas acknowledged the contributions of the European Union, the Ministry of Finance, TFCG, and MJU-

MITA in implementing the IFBEST project: "Before their intervention, the situation was dire."

Under the project, members of the Village Natural Resources Committee have received training on forest conservation, sustainable charcoal harvesting, and guidelines for tree cutting. This includes maintaining a cutting height of no less than 50 centimeters, splitting logs for drying, and selecting appropriate trees for sustainable harvesting.

Augustino Gervas, a Community-Based Forest Management officer, added that a total of 4,799.5 hectares of forest has been designated as village land forest reserve in Gendagenda village in Handeni District. Prior

to TFCG and MJUMITA's intervention, this forest had not been designated as a reserve.

So far, Handeni District has set aside a total of 1,060 hectares in Mkalamo and Gendagenda villages for sustainable charcoal harvesting. In Kilindi District, 549.1 hectares have been designated in Lusane and Mapanga villages.

In Mseko village, efforts have been made to empower residents to develop a forest management plan and its bylaws for community-based forest management, along with a harvesting plan.

Elida Fundi, MJUMITA's good governance and advocacy officer, expressed appreciation for the Village Natural Resources Committee's members and experts from the Pangani District Council for their contributions, which will help formulate a comprehensive action plan to enhance forest conservation activities.

"Let us continue to collaborate, as this is our district. We should seek ways to improve forest conservation activities, prevent deforestation, and allow villagers to benefit from the forest resources they have," she said.

Advocate Agape Fuwe from the Pangani District Council thanked TFCG and MJUMITA for providing essential equipment, including GPS devices, a printer, a laptop, and an office cupboard. He emphasized the importance of utilizing this knowledge effectively to enhance forest reserves and reduce degradation.



Prof. Godius Kahyarara, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport (R), visits BoT pavilion at the 7th Geita International Mining and Technology Expo in Geita. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

## BoT urged to collaborate with partners in gold purchasing

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Geita

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has been called upon to collaborate with Geita Gold Refinery (GGR) in its gold purchasing program, a move expected to improve both the quality and quantity of gold bought by the Central Bank.

GGR, the first automated gold refinery in Tanzania and the most modern in Africa, has been focused on benefiting artisanal and small-scale miners.

Speaking after visiting the BoT pavilion at the ongoing 7th Geita International Mining and Technology Expo, Professor Godius Kahyarara, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, emphasized the importance of this collaboration.

"GGR can help the Bank of Tanzania avoid the risk of acquiring fake gold due to their state-of-the-art automated equipment, which ensures thorough quality checks. Partnering with GGR will allow BoT to significantly enhance the quality of gold it procures," said Prof. Kahyarara.

He also noted that GGR holds a

license to sell gold globally and is a member of the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA), highlighting its credibility in the international gold market.

Prof. Kahyarara further suggested that the Central Bank could team up with other institutions, such as the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), to support small-scale miners.

"BoT, TRA, and NSSF can allocate at least 500bn/- to support small-scale gold miners. These miners don't require massive capital to generate higher yields," he added.

Last year, the Tanzanian government allowed the Central Bank to become the statutory gold dealer, aiming to enhance the national gold reserves.

Since BoT began purchasing gold from local miners, it acquired a total of 418kg of gold by the end of the last financial year in June, all at competitive world market prices.

To support this initiative, the government has removed certain taxes that hindered local gold companies and dealers, introducing more favorable tax policies. This has been

crucial in overcoming challenges in the gold trade and encouraging local transactions.

One such improvement is the 20 percent gold purchase obligation outlined in Section 59 of the Mining Act (Cap 123), along with additional incentives for small-scale miners. These measures are expected to boost Tanzania's gold production significantly in the future.

Recent amendments to regulations also exempted a one percent inspection fee and reduced the royalty rate on gold sales to BoT from 6 percent to 2 percent. The goal is to encourage more gold sales to BoT, increase the national gold reserve, and address the ongoing shortage of US dollars in the country.

With the new regulations in place, local gold miners, companies, and dealers registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) can now claim input when trading with BoT, as the tax on these transactions has been zero-rated.

At the Expo's opening ceremony last week, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Doto Biteko urged all gold sellers in Tanzania to sell their products directly to BoT, assuring prompt pay-

ment and the best value for their gold.

Tanzania's mining regulator now directs all mining firms and traders exporting gold to allocate at least 20 percent of their output for sale to the Central Bank, supporting its strategy to diversify the nation's foreign reserves.

The gold reserved for the BoT must be processed at one of two certified mineral refineries: Eye of Africa Ltd in Dodoma or Mwanza Precious Metal Refinery Ltd in Mwanza.

Gold remains one of Tanzania's most valuable exports, with the BoT's involvement not only boosting the country's reserve assets but also promoting growth and sustainability in the local gold sector.

Recognizing the BoT as the statutory gold dealer aligns the BoT Act and Mining Act, ensuring the growth of the national gold reserve and improving clarity in gold purchasing policies.

Gold accounted for approximately 25 percent of Tanzania's exports during the 2021/22 financial year and remains one of the country's key exports for stabilizing its currency.

## Dar due to host SADC's poultry industry forum

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Tanzania has been chosen to host this year's Southern African Development Community (SADC) Poultry Industry Forum.

Scheduled to take place on October 16 and 17 at Dar es Salaam's Serena Hotel, this will be the first time Tanzania hosts the forum. The event will provide a key platform for poultry stakeholders from SADC member states to explore various aspects of the sector's development.

Addressing a press conference about the forum, Professor Dr. Riziki Silas Shemdoe, Permanent Secretary (PS) in Tanzania's Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, said the forum would allow participants to share experiences and identify strategic opportunities for the poultry industry within the region.

In addition, discussions will focus on expanding poultry markets and the sector's role in the economic development of participating countries.

"The gathering will play a significant role in attracting more youth and women to venture into the poultry sector as a means to combat poverty," Prof. Shemdoe emphasized.

He added that the forum will be attended by 300 participants from SADC member states, including government officials, representatives from relevant ministries, poultry

experts, youth and women in the sector, development partners, and stakeholders involved in the poultry value chain.

Prof. Shemdoe also announced that the forum will coincide with a special exhibition, the 'Tanzania Poultry Show,' which will be held from October 18 to 20 at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam. The exhibition is expected to attract over 2,000 stakeholders from the country's poultry sector.

"The event will feature 50 exhibitors showcasing a variety of chicken-related products from both within and outside the country," he explained.

Exhibitors will include hatcheries, large-scale poultry farm owners, feed producers, and developers of key poultry technologies.

The forum will also feature a series of events, such as special awards recognizing the contributions of youth and women in the sector across SADC countries. In addition, parent stock chickens will be distributed as part of the initiative.

The poultry sector in the SADC region plays a crucial role in food security, employment, and economic growth.

Comprising 16 member states, SADC has a diverse poultry industry that varies significantly in terms of scale, production methods, and market access.

In countries like South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, poultry farming is well-established and accounts for a substantial share of total meat production.

South Africa, for example, dominates the regional market, producing nearly 80 percent of SADC's poultry output.

Urbanization and rising incomes in SADC countries are increasing the demand for poultry products, with chicken being the preferred source of animal protein due to its affordability and short production cycle.

The poultry sector in the SADC region holds immense potential for growth, provided that key challenges such as feed costs, disease control, and competition from imports are addressed.

With a rising demand for poultry products, increasing investments in technology, and efforts to enhance regional integration, the sector can play a pivotal role in achieving food security, creating jobs, and driving economic growth in the region.



Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Riziki Silas Shemdoe addresses reporters about the forthcoming poultry forum in Dodoma.







## WORLD

## Harris releases medical report, drawing contrast with Trump

WASHINGTON

US Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, released a letter from her doctor on Saturday that pronounced her in good health and fit for high office, in an effort to draw a contrast with her counterpart, Donald Trump.

In a memo distributed by the White House, the vice-president's physician, Joshua Simmons, said Harris's most recent physical exam in April was "unremarkable", that she maintains an active lifestyle and "very healthy diet" despite a busy schedule, suffers from seasonal allergies and sporadic hives, does not use tobacco and drinks alcohol only in moderation.

"She possesses the physical and mental resiliency required to successfully execute the duties of the Presidency, to include those as Chief Executive, Head of State and Commander in Chief," the doctor wrote.

Harris, 59, is running against Republican Trump, 78, for the White House. She made her medical information public on Saturday in an effort to draw attention to his refusal to do so, according to a Harris

aide.

Harris said Trump's reluctance to provide detailed medical reports is the latest example of his lack of transparency.

"I think that it's obvious that his team, at least, does not want the American people to see everything about who he is," Harris told reporters before boarding a plane to North Carolina.

Trump has voluntarily released updates from his personal physician, as well as detailed reports from medical doctor Ronny Jackson who treated him after the first assassination attempt, Steven Cheung, Trump Campaign Communications Director, said in a statement.

"All have concluded he is in perfect and excellent health to be Commander in Chief," Cheung said.

The Harris campaign is eager to highlight the former president's age since he became the oldest candidate in the race. President Joe Biden, 81, stepped aside as the Democratic standard bearer following a poor debate performance against Trump.

Locked in a tight race, Harris' campaign hopes that contrasting her comparative youth and mental acuity with Trump's more advanced age and ten-



Democratic presidential nominee and US Vice-President Kamala Harris waves as she arrives at Raleigh-Durham International Airport in Morrisville, North Carolina on Saturday. AP

dency to meander, along with the differences in transparency between the two, will help convince undecided voters that she is more fit for office.

A White House doctor said in 2018 when Trump was in office that he was in overall excellent health then but needed to shed weight and start a daily exercise routine.

Simmons said Harris's allergies had been well-managed with over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Her urticaria or hives were "sporadic and transient and do not seem to be triggered by any particular exposure

nor are they associated with other symptoms" and respond well to antihistamine treatment.

Harris has been on allergen immunotherapy for the last three years, dramatically improving her allergy and urticaria symptoms and negating her need for medication other than occasional nasal spray, he said.

Harris wears contact lenses. Her family history includes her mother's colon cancer. Harris was up to date on preventative health procedures including colonoscopy and annual mammograms, he said.

## Experts, officials call for stronger China-Africa cooperation via Global Development Initiative

ADDIS ABABA

EXPERTS and policymakers from various United Nations (UN) agencies, the African Union (AU) and African countries stressed the need to further bolster China-Africa cooperation across various sustainable development areas while attending a recent dialogue on the Global Development Initiative (GDI) here.

Addressing the gathering, Mohamed Belhocine, the AU Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, said China-Africa ties have evolved into "an outstanding and mutually beneficial partnership."

Describing China-Africa cooperation as "a bright example of South-South cooperation that addresses and harnesses global challenges and opportunities in several priority areas," the AU commissioner said the China-proposed GDI has the capacity to further strengthen the ever-growing China-Africa relationship and broaden South-South cooperation.

"The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2063 (the AU's 50-year continental development blueprint) both provide strategic frameworks for tackling issues confronting Africa and the world at large. In the same vein, the Global Development Initiative builds on the foundations of the SDGs to chart a path towards the realization of a global community," said Belhocine.

Belhocine further said China-Africa cooperation has achieved mutually beneficial development outcomes over the years.

"The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is a vivid testament to the benefits of a partnership which covers science and technology, peace and security, climate change, education, agriculture, and information and communications technology, among many other sectors."

Participants attending the high-level dialogue emphasized the critical need to promote synergy in development plans and strategies to enhance broader China-Africa cooperation as the two sides strive to realize the vision of the GDI.

Zhao Fengtao, vice chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency, highlighted China's readiness to work with Africa to fully implement the GDI and continue to strengthen China-Africa development cooperation, ultimately contributing to advancing the modernization and building of a China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.

"The GDI calls for staying committed to development as a priority, staying committed to a people-centered approach and staying committed to benefits for all," Zhao said. He also stressed China's strong commitment to supporting Africa's economic integration and modernization, improving the well-being of the African people and facilitating the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

Teshale Berecha, Ethiopia's state minister of labor and skills, said the "remarkable" China-Africa cooperation, which exemplifies the spirit of South-South cooperation, is a vivid manifestation of the two sides' shared commitment to mutual growth, sustainable development and empowerment of the two peoples.

Highlighting some of the significant achievements of China's cooperation with Ethiopia in particular and the wider African continent in general, the state minister said China has been a major partner for Ethiopia and beyond, particularly through its Belt and Road Initiative and other major development initiatives.

"Our collaboration has yielded significant advancements in the area of science and technology too," he said. "The establishment of joint research centers and technology transfer initiatives has enabled us to harness our collective expertise and address pressing challenges." *Xinhua*

## Russia to rebuild everything destroyed in Donbass, Novorossiia - Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will create conditions to realize the agricultural potential of Donbass and Novorossiia and will restore all the damaged facilities, President Vladimir Putin said in the video address on the occasion of the Agriculture and Processing Industry Workers' Day.

"Special words of gratitude go to the agricultural workers from the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions and Donbass, as well as the border regions of the Kursk, Belgorod, and Bryansk regions," the head of state said. They are putting a lot of efforts and doing their best despite the challenging situation, Putin stressed. "Such dedication and fortitude deserve the deepest respect. We will continue to prioritise assistance to you. Step by step, we will restore and rebuild everything that was destroyed or damaged." *Agencies*

## Mpox outbreak hits 15 African countries: WHO

KINSHASA

A total of 15 countries in the African region have been affected by the mpox outbreak since 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, warning of various clades that add "layers of complexity," late diagnosis, and poor access to treatment.

According to the WHO's latest report on mpox epidemics in the African region, 15 countries in the WHO African region have active transmission of mpox, defined as cases being reported in the past six weeks, with Ghana newly affected by mpox outbreak as reported in early October.

In 2024, as of Sept. 29, the African region has recorded 37,325 suspected cases, including 996 deaths and 6,602 confirmed cases, while the majority of the cases have been identified in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The DRC, which has reported 30,766 suspected cases, faces a higher fatality rate due to late diagnosis and poor access to treatment in several health zones.

Only 39 percent of suspected cases have been tested in 2024, as the positivity rate among tested cases is around 55 percent, the WHO warned. The health agency noted that a significant number of suspected mpox cases remain untested and "thus never get confirmed" due to limited diagnostic capacity.

In the newly-released report, Ghana was listed as the latest country in the region affected by the mpox outbreak, after it registered its first case of the year on Oct. 1.

The patient, a young boy, with a history of rash, fever, and bodily pains, is under isolation with contact tracing ongoing, while sequencing is still ongoing to determine the clade.

The region is contending with multiple



A person caught mpox gets treatment at a hospital on the outskirts of Goma, North Kivu province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Aug. 19, 2024.

clades of the virus, further complicating response efforts, said the WHO. Clade Ia is circulating in the Central African Republic, while Clade Ib is present in Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, and Clade IIb is reported in Nigeria and South Africa, which adds "layers of complexity" to managing the outbreak across affected countries, as per the report.

The WHO highlighted the urgent need to enhance laboratory capacity, strengthen surveillance systems, and improve cross-border coordination, calling on member states to focus on early detection, implement targeted vaccination campaigns, and intensify public health interventions, especially in areas experiencing rising case numbers.

In mid-August, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention declared the ongoing mpox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of continental security. Shortly afterward, the WHO also declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, activating its highest level of global alert for mpox for the second time in two years. However, the latest WHO bulletin did not include Zambia, which announced on Thursday that it had detected the country's first mpox case in a Tanzanian national who visited Chitambo Town in Central Province.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus, which spreads through close contact. Symptoms include fever, swollen lymph nodes, sore throat, muscle aches, skin rash, and back pain.

## RCS messaging traffic in East Africa set to hit a massive Growth by 2029 - Infobip report

NAIROBI

RICH Communication Services (RCS) is poised to revolutionise messaging across Africa, with key markets such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda expected to witness a dramatic surge in usage. According to a new whitepaper commissioned by global communications platform Infobip, RCS traffic in Africa and the Middle East is forecasted to grow by over 1300%, climbing from 545 million messages today to a staggering 8 billion by 2029.

Data from tech analyst Omdia indicates that both Application-to-Person (A2P) and Per-

son-to-Person (P2P) RCS traffic will experience substantial growth. A2P RCS messaging, where businesses send messages directly to consumers, is predicted to expand from nearly 1.5 trillion messages in 2024 to more than 6 trillion messages by 2029, generating \$4.2 billion in revenue. In the same period, P2P messaging will continue to grow, significantly contributing to the increasing volume.

RCS elevates traditional SMS, allowing Android users to send a range of rich media content, such as text, images, GIFs, videos, and more, using mobile data or Wi-Fi. Unlike WhatsApp, RCS

messages do not require users to download a separate app, as messages are received in the same inbox as SMS and MMS.

With Apple's adoption of RCS in its latest iOS 18 update, the service is set to achieve cross-platform reach, with Omdia estimating 2.5 billion monthly active users worldwide by the end of 2024.

The report highlights that regions such as the Americas and Asia & Oceania will lead the charge in A2P RCS traffic and revenue. However, Africa's growth potential is clear, with RCS presenting a valuable opportunity for enterprises and

mobile network operators to enhance customer engagement and drive business.

Charlotte Palfrey, Senior Analyst, Advanced Messaging and Communications at Omdia, said: "RCS offers significant benefits for enterprises and telcos. Enterprises should leverage Gen AI to enhance RCS experiences, making campaigns more personalized, engaging and effective in driving conversion.

At the same time, telcos must work with the messaging ecosystem to raise RCS awareness among enterprises and consumers. Additionally, telcos

should utilize RCS internally for marketing and customer care functions to demonstrate RCS's capabilities and benefits."

Ivan Ostojic, Chief Business Officer at Infobip, (pictured) said: "RCS has many benefits, and with the Apple upgrade, it now has universal availability. Consumers do not need to download a chat app to send and receive photos or videos.

Meanwhile, enterprises can take consumers through the entire customer journey from initial marketing pitch to purchase and support. This is also a significant opportunity for telcos to seize the benefits of RCS

Business Messaging and deliver rich conversational messaging for customers."

Infobip enables enterprises and telcos to benefit from RCS Business Messaging through its Messaging-as-a-Platform (MaaP) service. Infobip's MaaP solution provides messaging benefits, including throughput control, content and spam control, while Infobip's CPaaS offering enables connectivity with other Mobile Network Operators. Benefits include detailed billing and reporting, faster brand and partner approval, additional user control, and managed service options.

According to the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK), of the 65.7 million mobile devices connected to networks, 34.5 million are smartphones - mostly Android, representing a penetration rate of 58.3%. In Uganda, data from the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) shows 15.3

million mobile internet users, with smartphone uptake at 22%. Similarly, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) reports smartphone penetration at 32.13%, with 35.8 million internet users.

*Agencies*



# Xi stresses giving play to unique role of people-to-people diplomacy

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with foreign guests attending the China International Friendship Conference and conference marking the 70th founding anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) here on Friday.

Xi had a group photo taken with the foreign guests and spoke highly of the long-term dedication of international friends to cementing friendship with China.

He pointed out that people-to-people friendship is the foundation for stable and long-term international relations and an unremitting driving force for promoting world peace and development. Over the past 75 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has united and led the Chinese people in blazing a path of modernization that has not only developed the country itself but also benefited the world, he said.

Xi said that looking back on the journey, China's achievements in various fields would not have been realized without the support of people from other countries. Numerous international friends have shared weal and woe with the Chinese people. Numerous foreign enterprises, institutions and individuals have actively participated in advancing China's socialist modernization, thus achieving mutual benefits and making important contributions to promoting friendly exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries, he added.

"We will always remember your im-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with foreign guests attending the China International Friendship Conference and conference marking the 70th founding anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 11, 2024. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

portant contributions to China and the sincere friendship that has been developed with the Chinese people," said Xi.

Stressing that the world is once again at a crossroads in history, Xi said that in the face of changes unseen in a century, building a community with a shared future for humanity is the right way forward for people of all countries.

China is willing to strengthen friendly exchanges with friends from all other countries, give play

to the unique role of people-to-people diplomacy, and strive to build a community with a shared future for humanity, said Xi.

"First, embracing the spirit of 'shared responsibility as dwellers of the same planet,' we must build a broad consensus on creating a community with a shared future for humanity," Xi said. "We should promote humanity's common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, advocate an equal and orderly

multi-polar world and an inclusive economic globalization that benefits all, and make the planet Earth a peaceful, friendly and harmonious home for all."

"Secondly, guided by the principle of win-win cooperation, we should strengthen synergy in building a community with a shared future for humanity," Xi said. China does not pursue self-centered modernization, and welcomes more foreign friends to actively participate in China's modernization process. The country is committed to providing new opportunities for global development with its achievements in modernization, and promoting a global modernization that features peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation and common prosperity to better benefit people of all countries.

"Thirdly, with an open and inclusive mindset, we should embrace all civilizations to build a community with a shared future for humanity," Xi said. Noting that the Chinese nation has always been open and inclusive and the Chinese people are kind and friendly, he said China is willing to work with all parties to advance the Global Civilization Initiative and deepen understanding and friendship through sincere dialogue in order to replace estrangement with exchanges and clashes with mutual learning.

Xi emphasized that the CPC serves the people, the Chinese government belongs to the people, and China's diplomacy represents the people. The Chinese government will continue to support the CPAFFC in playing its unique role in developing international friendship and promoting

practical cooperation.

Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the National Assembly of Thailand Bhokin Bhakakula, and Elyn MacInnis, the founder of "Friends of Kuliang," spoke at the conference.

They extended warm congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and praised the unique role of the CPAFFC in promoting people-to-people diplomacy and fostering greater understanding and friendship among people from different countries.

According to the speakers, under the leadership of President Xi, China has successfully eradicated absolute poverty and achieved rapid development, becoming a beacon of hope for developing countries. President Xi's proposal to build a community with a shared future for humanity and initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative demonstrate far-sightedness, vision and a sense of responsibility toward global governance. Xi's proposal and initiatives have pointed the way for close cooperation and mutual benefit among countries, and China's development and prosperity will continue to benefit the world.

Approximately 200 people attended the event, including former political leaders from various countries, members of royal families, heads of international friendship organizations, and international friends of China.

Senior Chinese officials Cai Qi, Han Zheng and Wang Yi were present. ■

## Bumpy start for UK's new Labour government

LONDON

AS the United Kingdom's Labour government marks 100 days in office on Saturday, political commentators are markedly less enthusiastic than in the aftermath of the party's landslide win in the July 4 general election. Instead, they are asking whether Labour will be able to get back on course after an apparently bumpy start.

Labour had been in opposition since 2010 before Prime Minister Keir Starmer led the party to victory this year, securing a massive 174-seat majority in the UK parliament.

The honeymoon period of popularity enjoyed by a new government was short-lived for Starmer, however, as his government's accomplishments so far have been overshadowed by moves including the deeply unpopular plans to cut winter fuel benefits for pensioners.

Among the most-touted achievements during Starmer's first 100 days in power are the government's success in resolving the junior doctors' and train drivers' strikes, cancelling the controversial Rwanda scheme proposed by the previous Conservative government, making good progress in launching GB



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer reacts during a bilateral meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, inside 10 Downing Street in central London on Oct 10, 2024. AFP

Energy and scrapping no-fault evictions for tenants. Starmer's handling of the far-right riots that rocked the country this summer has also been applauded.

On Thursday, the government also unveiled the Employment Rights Bill, outlining reforms aimed at boosting economic growth and upgrading workers' rights across the country. Official figures on Friday showed that the UK economy returned to growth in August after flatlining for two months, a welcome boost for the government.

However, the government has come

under fire for announcing plans to scrap winter fuel allowances worth up to 300 British pounds (\$392) for 10 million pensioners, and refusing to lift a two-child cap on child benefit.

There has also been heavy criticism of Starmer for accepting thousands of pounds from a wealthy party donor to pay for clothes. Other Labour ministers have also received free gifts including tickets for major sporting events and Taylor Swift concerts.

Professor Iain Begg from the London School of Economics and Political Sci-

ence (LSE) told Xinhua: "Labour, in power for its first 100 days, has been frantic. It's had considerable difficulties and shown a lack of political experience, but it's also tried to push forward a very large number of agenda items which had been lapsed under the previous administrations."

"The verdict, therefore, is a rather checkered one," Begg said.

An Opinium poll revealed in late September that Starmer's approval rating had plunged below that of the Tory leader Rishi Sunak, suffering a huge 45-point drop since July. Meanwhile, a YouGov poll revealed this week that Starmer is now as unpopular as the controversial Brexit-teer Nigel Farage.

Nevertheless, Begg said that in British politics, a government will often make tough decisions and policy announcements in its first year in power, leaving another four years to turn such decisions around.

"It's fair to say that Starmer can expect a few more storms over the next year or so, until some of his initiatives start to show that they're genuinely making a difference. There'll be easy tests for the public to apply and if he passes those tests, he'll be seen as a more successful prime minister than maybe he has been in his first 100 days," he said.

Andrew Roe-Crines, a researcher in British politics at the University of Liverpool, thinks the Budget will be an opportunity for Starmer and his party to sway public opinion when it is delivered on Oct 30.

"If they are right and they're able to show this in the Budget by being able to invest in things which people expect to see, then maybe there's hope for positive things later down the line," Roe-Crines told Xinhua.

## Major Middle East war is real, but it can be avoided – Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

MOSCOW

A MAJOR war in the Middle East is real, but it can still be avoided if the parties show restraint, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told TASS.

"We are closely and anxiously following the events, the risk of a large-scale conflict is indeed high. The tendency to escalate into a full-scale conflict is a real danger. We call on all parties to exercise restraint. We are in intensive dialogue with the countries of the region. And once again - a major war can be avoided, but everyone must show restraint," the Deputy Minister said.

The situation in the Middle East has escalated sharply since the infiltration of militants of the Palestinian Hamas movement from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory on October 7, accompanied by the killing of residents of border settlements and the taking of hostages. The radicals

called the attack a response to the Israeli authorities' actions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Israel announced a total blockade of the Gaza Strip and began bombing it and certain areas of Lebanon and Syria, before launching a ground operation in the enclave.

On the evening of 1 October, Iran launched a massive rocket attack on Israel in response to the assassinations of key figures in the leadership of the Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps movements. Tehran claimed that 90% of the missiles successfully hit their targets, while Israel claimed that Iran launched some 180 missiles, most of which were intercepted.

The Israeli general staff vowed to "pick its moment" and surprise with a response to the attack, and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned in Hebrew that attacks on Israel would be even more extensive.



FRUIT trade between China and ASEAN countries has been thriving in recent years thanks to the increasingly close trade relations between the two sides.

At a fruit trading center in Youyi township, Pingxiang, South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, there are always constant streams of trucks loaded with various types of fruits.

As the largest port city for fruit trade between China and ASEAN, Pingxiang saw a total of nearly 1.65 million tons of fruit imported and exported in the first half of this year, up 15.36 percent year on year.

The bustling fruit business in Pingxiang is a vivid example of the thriving fruit trade between China and ASEAN. With the annual hosting of the

## Fruit trade between China, ASEAN thrives

China-ASEAN Expo, the full implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) among all 15 participating countries, and the deepening Belt and Road cooperation, the trade cooperation between China and ASEAN countries has been increasingly closer in recent years, with fruit trade becoming a highlight in the agricultural products trade between the two sides.

Currently, China is the largest export market for Vietnamese agricultural products, with Vietnamese fruits such as durian and dragon fruit being highly favored by Chinese consumers. China is also a major desti-

nation for Thai fruits. Sixteen land ports have been permitted by the two sides to deal with the fruit trade.

Fresh food e-commerce platforms have set up vegetable and fruit procurement bases in Vietnam and Thailand, becoming new channels for local agricultural products to enter the Chinese market. In the first seven months of this year, Chinese e-commerce platforms reported a 48.6 percent increase in sales of Thai durian.

With the continuous addition of new fruit varieties from ASEAN countries approved to enter the Chinese market, more and more ASEAN fruits are being favored by Chinese

consumers at more favorable prices.

Gao Lingyun, a researcher at the Institute of World Economics and Politics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, attributed the booming fruit trade between China and ASEAN countries to multiple factors.

First, he said, the full implementation of RCEP has continuously released policy dividends, significantly reducing trade costs; second, under the RCEP framework, policies such as rapid inspection and quarantine have promoted the circulation of fruits and other agricultural products.

He also attributed the booming fruit trade to the

increasingly strengthened infrastructure connectivity, the upgraded cross-border logistics system, and the diverse choices provided by ASEAN fruits for Chinese consumers.

Since the implementation of the RCEP on Jan. 1, 2022, agricultural products trade cooperation among member countries has become closer. According to statistics, due to the customs facilitation brought by the RCEP, China imported a total of 46.61 billion yuan (\$6.57 billion) of fresh durians from RCEP member countries such as Thailand and Vietnam in the first 11 months of 2023, 1.7 times higher than the amount in the same period of 2021, be-

fore the agreement took effect.

Furthermore, in recent years, with the implementation of major projects such as the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the China-Laos Railway, cold chain and refrigeration facilities in the region has been continuously improved, providing important technical support for China's import of fruits. Today, it has become more convenient for ASEAN countries' fruits to enter the Chinese market.

As a "golden channel" of logistics between China and ASEAN countries, the China-Laos Railway has shown its increasing significance since its operation. As of Aug. 22, 2024, the China-Laos Railway

has transported over 43 million tons of goods, including 13,000 tons of Thai durians, bananas, and other fruits carried by cold chain carriages.

An industry insider pointed out that China and ASEAN countries have shown significant seasonal and category complementarity in fruit production. China excels in producing temperate fruits such as apples and pears, while ASEAN countries specialize in tropical fruits like mangoes and durians. The fruit trade between the two sides helps optimize the supply and distribution of fruits in the region.

A recent report by Vietnam's Nhan Dan Newspaper stated that Vietnam is currently the largest supplier of durians and fresh bananas to the Chinese market. **People's Daily**





Sean 'Diddy' Combs, accompanied by attorneys Marc Agnifilo and Anthony Ricco, and with his mom seated in the back, attends a hearing in federal court in the Manhattan borough of New York City, U.S., October 10, 2024 in this courtroom sketch. REUTERS

## Sean 'Diddy' Combs to stay in jail while appeals court takes up bail fight

NEW YORK

A FEDERAL appeals court judge has ruled to keep Sean "Diddy" Combs locked up while he makes a third bid for bail in his sex trafficking case, which is slated to go to trial in May.

In a decision filed Friday, Circuit Judge William J. Nardini denied the hip-hop mogul's immediate release from jail while a three-judge panel weighs his bail request.

Combs' lawyers appealed to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 30 after two judges rejected his release.

Combs, 54, has been held at a federal jail in Brooklyn since his Sept. 16 arrest on charges that he used his "power and prestige" as a music star to induce female victims into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances with male sex workers in events dubbed "Freak Offs."

Combs has pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges alleging he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

At a bail hearing three weeks ago, a judge rejected the defense's \$50 million bail proposal that would've allowed the "I'll Be Missing You" singer to be placed under house arrest at his Florida mansion with GPS monitoring and strict limits on visitors.

Judge Andrew L. Carter Jr., who has since recused himself from the case, said that prosecutors had presented

"clear and convincing evidence" that Combs is a danger to the community. He said "no condition or set of conditions" could guard against the risk of Combs obstructing the investigation or threatening or harming witnesses.

In their appeal, Combs' lawyers argued that the judge had "endorsed the government's exaggerated rhetoric" and ordered Combs detained for "purely speculative reasons."

"Indeed, hardly a risk of flight, he is a 54-year-old father of seven, a U.S. citizen, an extraordinarily successful artist, businessman, and philanthropist, and one of the most recognizable people on earth," the lawyers wrote.

Combs' lawyers have not asked the new trial judge, Arun Subramanian, to consider releasing him on bail. At a hearing Thursday, as Combs sat alongside his lawyers in a beige jail jumpsuit, Subramanian suggested he would at least be open to taking up the issue.

After setting a May 5 trial date, Subramanian briefly questioned Combs' lawyers about his treatment at the Metropolitan Detention Center, which has been plagued by violence and dysfunction for years.

Combs lawyer Mark Agnifilo, who had previously sought to have him moved to a jail in New Jersey, told the judge: "We're making a go of the MDC. The MDC has been very responsive for us."

Another Combs lawyer, Anthony Ricco, told reporters outside the courthouse afterward: "He's doing fine. It's a difficult circumstance. He's making the best of the situation."

But, Ricco said: "Nobody's OK with staying in jail for now."

AP

## Azam FC coach aims to strengthen team chemistry ahead of Tanzania Prisons clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**A**ZAM FC head coach Rachid Taoussi is focused on boosting team cohesion and attacking efficiency as his side prepares for their next Premier League encounter against Tanzania Prisons this Friday at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

The Ice-Cream Makers are coming off a morale-boosting victory over Namungo FC after experiencing a mixed set of results in September.

The team recorded a loss to Simba SC, draws against Pamba Jiji and Mashujaa FC, and victories over KMC and Coastal Union.

Despite these up-and-down performances, Taoussi (pictured) remains focused on building unity within his squad since his appointment last month.

In a recent statement, Taoussi downplayed the importance of past results, choosing instead to emphasize progress in training and gaining a deeper understanding of his players' strengths and potential.

He acknowledged that the team's preparation had been impacted by the absence of key players due to international commitments, but he expressed confidence that his squad would be able to deliver strong performances in the upcoming matches.

Azam, who finished second in the Premier League last season, have had a turbulent start to the current campaign, including the sacking of former head coach Youssef Dabo after the team's early exit from the CAF Champions League.

However, under Taoussi's leadership, the club has managed a solid record of three wins, two draws, and one loss, signaling a promising new direction for the team.

"While results are important, my priority is the development of the team and its players," Taoussi said.



"Considering the circumstances, including several players being on international duty early in the season, I am pleased with our record. The draw against Pamba Jiji was a positive result, and our recent performances reflect the progress we've made."

Taoussi is particularly focused on fostering team chemistry and improving Azam's attacking capabilities, areas he believes are essential to success in the upcoming fixtures. He emphasized the importance of his players working together, understanding each other's roles, and remaining committed to the team's overall objectives.

"We still have work to do over the next month to solidify our team chemistry and increase our attacking efficiency," the Moroccan coach explained.

"It's crucial for the players to grasp the value of teamwork and how it will contribute to our success this season."

As Azam prepare for their match against Tanzania Prisons, Taoussi warned that their opponents' inconsistent form could pose a challenge.

Tanzania Prisons have recorded three draws, one win, and one loss in their recent matches, a performance that Taoussi feels makes them an unpredictable and potentially dangerous opponent.

"Tanzania Prisons are a tough side, and we need to approach the match cautiously," he said. "Their recent comeback victory will have boosted their confidence, and we cannot underestimate them. It's important that we close out the game early and take control."

Currently, Azam sit five places ahead of Tanzania Prisons in the league standings. Tanzania Prisons have struggled this season, holding a 1-4-2 record after seven matches.

Taoussi hopes to maintain his team's positive momentum and continue their climb up the table with another strong showing on Friday.

## Asylum-seeker to film star: Guinean's unusual journey highlights France's arguments over immigration

By DIANE JEANTET

A FEW months ago, Abou Sangare was an anonymous, 23-year-old Guinean immigrant lacking permanent legal status in northern France and, like thousands of others, fighting deportation.

Now a lead actor in "Souleymane's Story," an award-winning feature film that hit French theaters last week, his face is on every street corner and in subway stations, bus stops and newspapers.

The film and Sangare's sudden success are casting light on irregular migration in France just as its new government is taking a harder line on the issue. It is vowing to make it harder for immigrants lacking permanent legal status to stay and easier for France to expel them.

Sangare plays a young asylum-seeker who works as a Paris delivery man, weaving his bicycle through traffic in the City of Light. In a case of life imitating art, Sangare's future also hangs in the balance. Like the character he portrays, Sangare is hoping to persuade French officials to grant him residency and abandon their efforts to force him to leave.

"When I see Souleymane sit-

ting in the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons, I put myself in his place, because I know what it's like to wait for your (identification) papers here in France, to be in this situation – the stress, the anxiety," Sangare told The Associated Press in an interview.

"Like me, Souleymane finds himself in an environment that he doesn't know."

Sangare says he left Guinea at age 15 in 2016 to help his sick mother. He first went to Algeria, then Libya, where he was jailed and treated "as a slave" after a failed crossing attempt. Italy was next, and he eventually set foot in France in May 2017.

His request to be recognized as a minor was turned down, but he was able to study at high school and trained as a car mechanic – a skill in demand in France. Recently, he was offered full-time employment at a workshop in Amiens, a northern French town that has been his home for seven years and which, incidentally, was French President Emmanuel Macron's hometown, too.

But Sangare cannot accept the job because of his illegal status. He's unsuccessfully applied three times for papers and lives

with a deportation order over his head.

Critics say deportation orders have been increasingly used by successive governments.

"We are the country in Europe that produces most expulsion procedures, far ahead of other countries," said Serge Slama, a professor in public law at the University of Grenoble.

But their use – more than 130,000 deportations were ordered in 2023 – is "highly inefficient," he added, because many of the orders aren't or cannot for legal reasons be carried out.

Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau says about 10% of people targeted for deportation end up leaving.

Retailleau, appointed in France's new government of conservatives and centrists last month, is making immigration control a priority.

He wants more immigrants lacking permanent legal status to be held in detention centers and for longer periods, and is leaning on regional administrators to get tough.

He also says he wants to reduce the number of foreigners entering France by making it "less attractive," including squeezing social benefits for them.

Mathilde Buffière, who works with immigrants in administrative detention centers with the nonprofit Groupe SOS Solidarités, says officials are spending "less and less time" reviewing immigrants' residency applications before holding them in detention centers.

In Sangare's case, his life took a turn last year when he met filmmaker Boris Lojkine. Several auditions led to him getting the film's lead role.

Sangare won Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival's "Un Certain Regard" competition this year.

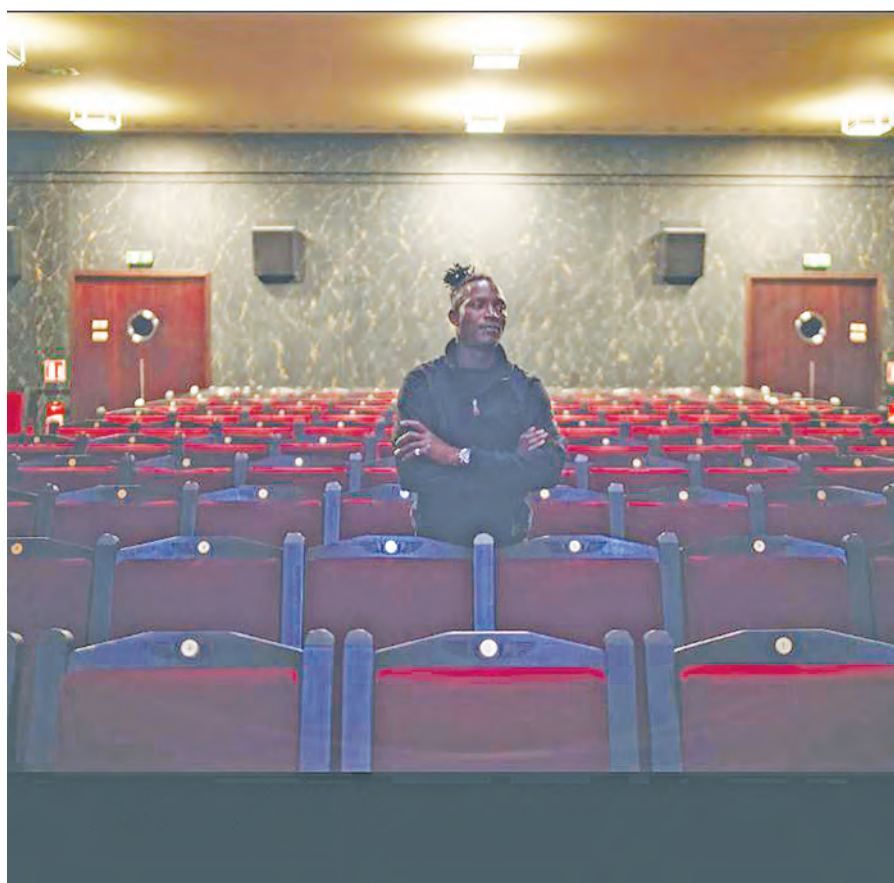
But a more meaningful prize might be on the horizon: After Cannes, government officials emailed Sangare, inviting him to renew his residency application.

Responding to AP questions, French authorities said the deportation order against Sangare "remains legally in force" but added that officials reexamined his case because of steps he's taken to integrate.

"I think the film did that," Sangare told AP.

"You need a residency permit to be able to turn your life around here. My life will change the day I have my papers," he said.

AP



Abou Sangare, lead actor in "Souleymane's Story," poses for photographs after a premiere at the Louxor cinema in Paris, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024. (AP Photo)



## World Cup tickets investigation of former FIFA official Valcke closed after nine years

GENEVA

NINE years into a World Cup black market tickets investigation, the case against former FIFA official Jérôme Valcke was finally closed.

The Swiss attorney general's office said on Friday it has decided to end the criminal proceedings into an alleged tickets deal proposed for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Other criminal cases that once implicated Valcke in a sprawling Swiss investigation of FIFA business also have been closed, though one is ongoing at appeal after he was found guilty on some charges and acquitted of others at two trials.

Proceedings against "among others, Jérôme Valcke, in connection with the award of media rights are still pending in front of the Federal Supreme Court," said the federal prosecution office which, like Valcke separately, has appealed against the second trial verdict from June 2022.

That case, which revealed how Valcke got use of a Qatari-owned vacation home on an Italian island, also involves Nasser al-Khelaifi, the Paris Saint-Germain president, who was twice acquitted in 2020 and 2022 of inciting the FIFA official.

In the tickets case, Valcke was suspended from his job as FIFA secretary general in September 2015 because of allegations made by businessman Benny Alon. FIFA fired him four months later and banned him from soccer.

"This acknowledgement of Mr. Jérôme Valcke's full innocence is the outcome that was always expected," his lawyers in Geneva, Patrick Hunziker and Elisa Bianchetti, said in a statement.

Valcke worked from 2007-15 alongside long-time FIFA president Sepp Blatter until both were ousted in fallout from United States and Swiss federal investigations of international soccer officials.

Federal proceedings, later closed without charges being brought, related to payments directed toward former FIFA vice president Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago: A \$10 million payment channelled through FIFA from South Africa, the 2010 World Cup host; and a \$1 million loan in 2010 later waived.

Prosecutors in Zurich also closed a criminal complaint filed by the current FIFA management relating to its soccer museum in the city that opened in 2016.

The 64-year-old Valcke remains banned from soccer by FIFA through 2032.

AP

## Zola on meeting Maradona, Chelsea joy and Italy suffering

Football Italia

GIANFRANCO Zola looks back over his career at Cagliari, the joke Diego Armando Maradona made when meeting him at Napoli, why he enjoyed Chelsea and 'suffered' for Italy.

The Festival dello Sport in Trento was organised by La Gazzetta dello Sport and has seen a series of speakers interviewed on stage over the last few days.

"Magic Box" will always have to begin his story in his childhood home in Sardinia, where he started out at Cagliari.

"You need to keep your identity solid in order to help you navigate through stormy waters. Growing up in a small town with 7,000 inhabitants gave me a strong sense of identity and values that helped me in those moments when my beliefs and abilities were being challenged," said Zola.

"I started hanging around training sessions at the age of 3, because my father was president of the local club, so football was always part of my life."

"Zola joked with Maradona and soared at Chelsea

The move to Napoli in 1989 allowed him to work with the legendary Maradona, who at that time was at the height of his powers.

"It was my first time outside of Sardinia and that Napoli was the strongest team in Italy, so I was just starting out. Francini and Corradini practically adopted me, on the field and off it.

"As for Maradona, we were two very different people, even if he was far more humble and relaxed in private than in public. The first thing he said when he saw me was: 'Finally, they have signed someone shorter than me!' But he was only taller because of his hair..."

Zola came of age at a time when Serie A was in thrall of tacticians who had no place for a trequartista like him, so he was pushed towards the Premier League and Chelsea.

"I had good seasons at Parma and when I left, I was crying in front of (President Calisto) Tanzi. When I arrived in London, at the start it wasn't all going well, but I discovered an incredible style of football. There they played only for the pleasure of playing and all the fans wanted was for each of us to give our all."

AGENCIES

## Ronaldo scores again in Nations League win for perfect Portugal. Spain finds replacement for Rodri

BARCELONA, Spain

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored his record-extending 133rd international goal to keep Portugal perfect in the Nations League with a 3-1 win over Poland on Saturday, and Spain struck late to edge Denmark 1-0.

The 39-year-old superstar was there to put in the rebound after Rafael Leão's shot hit the post in the 37th minute. That made it 2-0 following Bernardo Silva's opener in Warsaw in the 26th.

After failing to find the net in his five appearances at this summer's European Championship – with Portugal exiting in the quarter-finals – Ronaldo has scored in three straight Nations League matches, including in wins over Croatia – his 900th career goal – and Scotland last month.

Portugal coach Roberto Martínez replaced Ronaldo with Diogo Jota with just under half an hour to play.

Midfielder Piotr Zielinski halved the deficit in the 78th for the hosts, only for Southampton defender Jan Bednarek to score an own-goal with two minutes left.

Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski started alongside Karol Swiderski but the Polish attacking pair couldn't find their way past the Portuguese defense.

"We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this game," Martínez said. "Also, I am satisfied how Renato Veiga and Rúben Dias performed against one of the best in the world (in Lewandowski)."

Portugal leads Group A1 with nine points from three games. Second-place Croatia has six points after it came back to beat Scotland 2-1 in Zagreb with the visitors having an equalizer deep into second-half stoppage time ruled out by VAR. Poland has three points, and Scotland zero.

Scotland's Ryan Christie opened for the Scots and their under-fire manager Steve Clarke in the 33rd. Igor Matanovic leveled three minutes later and Andrej Kramaric completed the fightback in the 70th.

Scotland had the ball in the net right at the end with substitute Che Adams involved but VAR confirmed



Spain's Martin Zubimendi celebrates after scoring the opening goal against Denmark. AP

it was offside.

\*Zubimendi shines in Rodri's spot

Martín Zubimendi helped Spain crack Den-

mark's defense as the holding midfielder starred in place of injured Rodri.

The Real Sociedad player unleashed a powerful vol-

ley in the 79th to smash a rebound from outside the area past Kasper Schmeichel, who got his hand on the ball but couldn't keep it out.

Zubimendi had impressed in the final of Euro 2024 when he replaced Rodri for the second half of Spain's 2-1 win over England. Rodri seriously injured his right knee and required surgery on his ACL while playing for Manchester City last month.

"Martín is a treasure," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said. "I suppose with his goal he will get more attention, but his play, the fact that he's got a computer in his brain, means we are privileged to have him at a time when Rodri will be out for a while."

Spain was also missing Nico Williams and Dani Olmo, two more players who excelled at the Euros, who are sidelined with minor injuries.

Spain, the defending Nations League champion, has seven points in Group A4 after three games. Denmark has six points, and Serbia has four after beating the pointless Switzerland 2-0.

The Swiss didn't help their cause with an own-goal by Nico Elvedi right before the interval.

Aleksandar Mitrovic doubled the lead for Serbia with a solo effort in the 61st, and Serbia goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic saved a penalty taken by Breel Embolo.

\*Wins for Kosovo, Romania  
Kosovo won 2-1 at Lithuania in League C, while Romania thumped Cyprus 3-0, Northern Ireland drew 0-0 at Belarus, and Bulgaria was held 0-0 at home by Luxembourg.

AP

## Coach Pochettino wins US debut as Musah and Pepi score second-half goals in 2-0 victory over Panama

AUSTIN, Texas

MAURICIO Pochettino arrived at Q2 Stadium to see posters and banners with his face around the grandstand and behind a goal.

By the time he left, he was saluting fans who were cheering his name. The 52-year-old Argentine's debut as U.S. coach was a crowd-pleasing success.

Yunus Musah scored a 49th-minute goal off an assist from AC Milan teammate Christian Pulisic and Ricardo Pepi added a stoppage time strike to close out 2-0 win over Panama on Saturday night.

The match in front of a near-capacity crowd of 20,239 was the first of two friendlies for the U.S. in a four-day span that includes a game against Mexico on Tuesday in Guadalajara. The Americans ended a four-game winless stretch and their first four-game home winless streak since a seven-game slide in 2010-11.

"Little by little building something. The objective is 2026," Pochettino said. "It's only the first step."

And the love-at-first sight from the U.S. fans? "Amazing. Amazing. Thank you to the fans. You were amazing," Pochettino said.

The former Tottenham, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain manager was hired last month to replace Gregg Berhalter, who was fired in July after first-round elimination at the Copa America. Pochettino was given a contract through the 2026 World Cup that the U.S. will co-host and tasked with sparking a team that has not reached the World Cup



United States head coach, Mauricio Pochettino, celebrates with fans after defeating Panama. AP

quarterfinals since 2002. Musah made the most of the team's fresh start, scoring his first goal in 42 international appearances.

"Hopefully more to come," Musah said.

Antonee Robinson worked around defender Michael Murillo on a flank and centered to Pulisic, who exchanged passes with Brenden Aaronson and one-timed a cross. Musah beat defender César Blackman and redirected the ball with a right-foot volley past Orlando Mosquera from 4 yards.

"I told him it was goal-scoring instincts. He's been watching me," said Pulisic, who has five goals in seven Serie A matches this season. "He's been learning a thing or two. But honestly, that moment ... it's great to see that."

Pulisic played for his eighth U.S. coach, a record for an American player. The U.S. was missing injured regulars Sergiño Dest, Tyler

Adams, Gio Reyna, Tim Weah and Polarin Balogun.

Three second-half subs combined for the second goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time. Malik Tillman brought down a kick from goalkeeper Matt Turner and passed to Haji Wright, who crossed. A Texas native, Pepi slid the ball through Mosquera's legs for his 11th goal in 31 appearances – his fourth

in three international games in Austin.

Turner, who played all four matches at the 2022 World Cup, made a double save in the 52nd minute, batting Puma Rodríguez's shot with his left hand, then diving back in front to get his body in front of Yoel Bárcenas' attempt off the rebound.

Panama's José Fajardo put an open shot wide in the 87th minute. The U.S. had 55% possession and

was outshot 13-11.

"It was a good night, but I don't want to get way too ahead of ourselves," Turner said. "It was a building block for the future. By no means was it perfect."

Panama beat the U.S. in the Copa America group stage, a match in which Weah was given an early red card for punching an opponent.

"I didn't feel too many changes. But when a new

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Ronaldo scores again in Nations League win for perfect Portugal. Spain finds replacement for Rodri

PAGE 19



## Coach Hemed Morocco confident of victory in must-win clash with DRC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA national football team (Taifa Stars) head coach, Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, remains optimistic about his team's chances of reversing their fortunes against the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in tomorrow's Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Last week, Taifa Stars fell to a narrow 1-0 defeat against DRC in Kinshasa, with a Clement Mzize own goal proving decisive. Despite the setback, Coach Morocco (pictured) is confident that his team can turn things around, emphasizing the need for accountability and unity as they prepare for the rematch.

"We have analyzed DRC's playing style and identified opportunities we can exploit," said Morocco. "Taifa Stars must maintain our momentum and strong tactical performance. In matches like these, quality can be the deciding factor. We need to be at our best, converting every scoring opportunity and remaining patient in defense. By forcing DRC into mistakes, we can gain the upper hand."

Reflecting on the previous match, in which Tanzania adopted a more defensive strategy while DRC controlled possession, Morocco said his team is ready to adjust and be more clinical. He stressed the importance of capitalizing on every chance, especially against a side boasting many European-based players.

"We've worked hard during training to correct the mistakes from the last game. I'm pleased with the team's effort and believe we'll have a fantastic match on Tuesday. The key is to protect the ball and avoid unnecessary long balls that play into DRC's hands," Morocco added.

As Taifa Stars prepare for back-to-back qualifiers against DRC, a win in tomorrow's encounter could significantly boost Tanzania's chances of qualifying for the 2025 AFCON finals. Currently, the DRC leads Group H with nine points, while Tanzania sits second with four, just ahead of Guinea (three points) and Ethiopia (one point).

Morocco also acknowledged the crucial role fans will play in the match, urging them to show up in large numbers.

"Our fans are invaluable. Their presence gives us energy, like having a 12th player on the field. I'm confident that with their support, our players will deliver a strong performance."

Tanzania's advantage in the qualifiers lies in their upcoming home matches, with three of their remaining four fixtures to be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. This includes tomorrow's clash against DRC, a key match against Ethiopia, and the final Group H showdown against Guinea on November 18.

Taifa Stars will face Ethiopia at a familiar venue after the Ethiopian FA chose Benjamin Mkapa Stadium as their home ground for the qualifiers. Tanzania will look to improve on the goalless draw they played out in the last meeting with Ethiopia.

To secure qualification, Tanzania will need to capitalize on their home advantage and avoid any further slip-ups. A victory tomorrow will be crucial in maintaining their push for a place in the AFCON finals in Morocco next year.

# Tanzania's AFCON qualification hopes in jeopardy after Guinea's victory against Ethiopia



Taifa Stars players pictured on Saturday during a training session at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's journey to the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) has taken a critical turn following Guinea's commanding 4-1 victory over Ethiopia in their recent Group H qualifier.

This result has reshaped the dynamics of the group, putting added pressure on Tanzania as they aim to secure one of the coveted spots in the tournament.

Guinea's resurgence, spearheaded by a first-half hat-trick from Borussia Dortmund striker Serhou Guirassy, has shaken up Group H.

The match, held at the Stade Olympique Alassane Ouattara in Abidjan on Saturday, saw the Syli National dominate Ethiopia from start to finish, catapulting them from the bottom of the group to third place.

With three points, Guinea now trails Tanzania, who sit second with four points, while

DR Congo tops the group with nine points.

For Tanzania, Guinea's sudden revival is a significant threat. The Taifa Stars have three crucial matches remaining in the qualifiers, and they'll need to perform at their best to fend off Guinea's challenge and keep their AFCON hopes alive.

Guinea's star striker Guirassy, who missed the previous encounter when Tanzania won 2-1 in September, poses a serious challenge in the upcoming rematch.

Tanzania's next game, a must-win clash against group leaders DR Congo, takes place tomorrow at the Benjamin Mkapa National Stadium in Dar es Salaam. This match is crucial for Tanzania's qualification chances, as they will likely need two victories from their remaining three fixtures to secure a place in the 2025 AFCON finals.

Following the match against DR Congo, Tanzania will face Ethiopia

on November 11, before a potentially decisive showdown with Guinea on November 15.

Tanzania's recent 1-0 loss to DR Congo last week has left little room for error. DR Congo's win consolidated their position at the top of Group H with nine points, while Tanzania's defeat means that any further slip-ups could jeopardize their qualification chances. With Guirassy returning to form for Guinea, Tanzania's defense will face a daunting task when the two teams meet again next month.

Guirassy, who has been in prolific form for both club and country, is now a key figure in Guinea's qualification push. His hat-trick against Ethiopia was a stark reminder of his goal-scoring prowess, and his presence will undoubtedly be a concern for Tanzania's defense, which has already shown vulnerability against stronger opposition.

In the previous meeting between

Tanzania and Guinea, Guirassy's absence was felt as the Taifa Stars capitalized on Guinea's defensive gaps to secure a hard-fought 2-1 victory. However, with Guirassy back in the lineup, the upcoming rematch will present a far greater challenge for Tanzania.

Guinea, eager to avenge their loss, will be pushing hard for a win that could see them overtake Tanzania in the standings.

Tanzania's head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman faces a tough task ahead. After the disappointing loss to DR Congo, he must rally his players for tomorrow's home game, knowing that victory could provide a much-needed boost ahead of their remaining fixtures. The home crowd at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium will play a crucial role in motivating the team as they look to secure three points.

Should Tanzania win against DR Congo, their path to AFCON qualification will be clearer, but a loss could leave them vulnerable to a resurgent Guinea. The Taifa Stars will need to be especially vigilant in their final two matches, with the game against Ethiopia potentially offering their best chance for victory. However, much will depend on how they fare against both DR Congo and Guinea.

Tanzania's immediate focus is on tomorrow's match, but the looming challenge of facing Guinea with Guirassy in full form will require careful preparation. Guinea's hunger for a place in AFCON, coupled with their recent resurgence, makes them a formidable opponent.

Ultimately, Tanzania's fate in Group H rests on their performances in these final three matches. With the competition heating up, every point is crucial. The Taifa Stars must dig deep and find their best form to keep their AFCON 2025 dreams alive.

# Simba eye redemption in derby as ticket sales begin for October 19 showdown

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA have officially announced ticket sales for the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam derby against long-time rivals Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga), set to take place on Saturday, October 19, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Simba will host the match in what is expected to be a thrilling showdown between the two Tanzanian football giants.

Ticket prices for the derby offer a range of options for fans. Regular stand tickets are priced at Tsh 5,000, while VIP tickets are available at different rates: VIP A at Tsh 50,000, VIP B at Tsh 30,000, and VIP C at Tsh 20,000. Additionally, tickets for the popular Orange stands are set at Tsh 10,000.

Simba's management has urged fans to purchase their tickets early to avoid last-minute delays and to ensure their attendance at this crucial match.

As hosts, Simba have called on their supporters to create an electrifying atmosphere that could influence the out-

come of the game. With the home advantage at stake, the team hopes that a passionate fanbase will drive them to success in this pivotal encounter.

Simba are on a mission to reclaim the Premier League title after three seasons without it. Their pursuit of championship glory has been fueled by a rejuvenated squad and a renewed sense of purpose under head coach Fadlu Davids.

The derby against Young Africans is seen as a must-win match in Simba's quest to regain their crown as champions of Tanzanian football.

Young Africans, who have dominated Tanzanian football for the past three seasons with consecutive league titles, pose a formidable challenge. Young Africans boast a strong and well-balanced squad, which has made them difficult to defeat, and they are determined to maintain their status as the top team in the country.

Simba's recent form in derby matches against Young Africans has not been ideal. In their last ten league encoun-



ters, Simba have managed just one victory, while Young Africans have won four, and five matches have ended in draws. This record adds further pressure on Simba as they look to change the narrative and maintain momentum in their title race.

Saturday's derby marks the second time Coach Davids (pictured) will lead Simba against Young Africans this season. In their previous meeting in August during the Community Shield semi-fi-

nal, Young Africans narrowly edged out Simba with a 1-0 victory. Despite that defeat, Davids believes his team is stronger now and capable of turning the tables in the upcoming match.

Securing three points in this derby is crucial for Simba's early-season title ambitions, especially after their recent setback - a 2-2 draw against Coastal Union in their last Premier League game. Another stumble could complicate their path to reclaiming the league title.

Davids has emphasized the importance of the derby, describing it as one of the most critical matches of the season.

"We are going to approach this game as if it is the last match of our lives," Davids said, reflecting the urgency and determination within the team.

Simba's players echoed this sentiment during Simba Media Day, expressing their commitment to proving the team's strength and form in this high-stakes encounter.

Simba's current standing in the Premier League table re-

fects their strong start to the season. After five matches, they sit in second place with 13 points, having won four and drawn one. Young Africans, with one game in hand, are fourth with 12 points from four matches.

Both teams remain undefeated, adding further intensity to what is already one of the most significant fixtures in Tanzanian football.

For Simba, this derby represents more than just bragging rights - it's about staying firmly in the title hunt. A win over Young Africans would boost their confidence and send a message to their rivals that Simba are a serious contender for this season's championship.

As the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium prepares to welcome a sea of passionate fans from both sides, anticipation is building for what promises to be a thrilling and intense battle. With both Simba and Young Africans eager to assert their dominance, all eyes will be on the Dar es Salaam derby, a match that could shape the rest of the season.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

