



National Pg 3 Dentists urged to stop using mercury-containing fillings



National Pg 4 Northern zone producers praised for quality



National Pg 6 Children with special needs appeal to govt



Turkish-Egyptian syringes industry set for EA market

“We commend the government for creating a conducive environment as it has facilitated the investment we are witnessing today”

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA has begun using locally manufactured disposable medical puncture and injection devices, thanks to a Turkish and Egyptian joint venture, officials say.

Mavere Tukai, the Medical Stores Department (MSD) director general, made this observation when visiting the site of Medical Dawlia Ltd, accompanied by officials of the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) yesterday, to inspect its progress.

He said that the company will also manufacture IV drips and polypropylene sutures, ensuring that these products are branded as ‘Made in Tanzania,’ expected to be distributed across East Africa.

“This is a major achievement, and we are proud of it,” he said of the Kigamboni factory, which has already started operating, receiving an order from MSD to supply one million sy-

TURN TO PAGE 2



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents a draft of Tanzania's National Development Vision 2050 to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa moments after launching it at Kiambesamaki in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

‘Feedback on Vision 2050 draft must be transparent’

By Guardian Reporter

EXPERTS working on the 2050 Development Vision need to meet various stakeholders to ensure that the process of gathering public feedback is carried out thoroughly, so that the final draft reflects the main aspirations of the people.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi issued this instruction to the Planning Commission team in Zanzibar yesterday, at the launch of the draft of the National Development Vision 2050.

The event was attended by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed



...Tanzania is one among a few countries worldwide with food self-sufficiency, rated at 124percent in the past year, despite that agriculture is not fully modernised

Suleiman Abdulla, where the president directed the planning commissions for both sides of the union to coordinate the verification process, ensuring it is efficiently conducted.

The commissions need to distribute copies of the draft Vision to a wide range of media outlets and civic institutions, setting up a transparent procedure for receiving feedback, he said.

Ministerial officials and other executives must fully cooperate with the technical team working on the 2050 Vision as their participation is crucial to the success of the initiative, he said.

The planning team should ensure every citizen—regardless of religion,

TURN TO PAGE 2

VP: Study invasive species, bush fires

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has advised the Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) to initiate research that may help combat the current surge of invasive weeds.

Dustan Kitandula, the Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister, made this appeal in an address he attributed to the VP, pointing at the negative effects of invasive alien species as threatening the nation's farming and livestock sectors.

“Invasive species are also stifling efforts to conserve wildlife and other natural resources across the country's landscape and taking a major toll on the country's economy,” he explained at the opening session of the third national scientific conference organized by TAFORI.

More than 900 scholars, ministerial experts and agency officials in natural resources, forestry, tourism and scientific research bodies, converged under the theme ‘restoring forest cover for sustaina-



TAFORI faces an acute shortage of manpower especially botanical researchers

ble development and intercepting climate change.’

The presiding guest used the platform to ask the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) agency to come up with a lasting solution to curb incidents of bush fires withering natural forests, citing frequent outbreaks on Mount Kilimanjaro.

He urged TFS and TAFORI to work closely with local farmers as a participatory dimension in conservation programmes and initiatives on the ground.

This is the best way to guarantee their mission becomes successful, he said, while Prof Verdiana Masanja, the TAFORI board chairperson, appealed to the government to set aside funds for extensive research for lasting solutions to crucial environmental and climate challenges.

TAFORI faces an acute shortage of manpower especially botanical researchers, she said, affirming that so far Tanzania has 85 forest and tree related researchers.

Lucy Mayenga, a parliamentary committee for member of Land, Natural

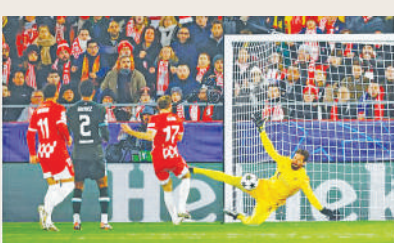
TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS Page 20

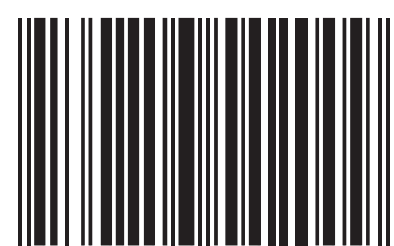


Injury comebacks bolster Yanga ahead of Lubumbashi showdown

Page 19



Slot sings Alisson's praises after returning keeper helps Liverpool to Girona win



9 770856 542009 >

Marine conservation, gender key to Zanzibar, EU accords

“These agreements demonstrate the EU's unwavering commitment to Zanzibar's long-term development, from fostering sustainable marine practices to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment”

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MARINE conservation, and gender equality are the focus of two agreements that the Zanzibar government yesterday signed with the European Union (EU), valued at 40.8bn/-.

Riziki Pembe Juma, the Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children

minister presided at the signing, alongside Rita Laranjinha, the European External Action Service (EEAS) managing director for Africa, and Hans Stausboll, the acting director for Africa at the European Commission.

The agreements have further strengthened EU partnership with Zanzibar, in underscoring the EU's strategic focus on

fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development, the lead director stated.

The initiatives include enhanced funding for the seashore environment project, a key component of the EU's Team Europe initiative for the blue economy, as well as a renewed commitment to the gender transformative action programme, she stated.

The first agreement, valued at 32bn/- (€11m), is dedicated to marine conservation via the seashore project, part of an initiative implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

It is intended to address critical challenges such as protecting marine resources, promoting sustainable fishing practic-

es and tackling plastic pollution, along with empowering local communities, she said, noting that envisaged initiatives include creating sustainable economic opportunities while safeguarding Zanzibar's rich marine biodiversity.

The second agreement, allocating an additional 8.8bn/- (€3m), focuses on expanding the EU's gender transformative action programme in Zanzibar, implemented by UN Women and the gender portfolio in the cabinet.

It is intended to eliminate barriers to realising women's rights, enhance women's leadership roles across public platforms and the private sector, stressing girls' edu-

TURN TO PAGE 2

Turkish-Egyptian syringes industry set for EA market

FROM PAGE 1

syringes in the first batch.

The company plans to expand its reach to East African markets, with TIC director general Gilead Teri underlining that for the first time medical syringes will be locally produced and meet all local demand.

He described the Kigamboni investment as among the largest in the sector, making a difference as the country always relied on importing syringes. This is the beginning of using locally made medical devices, he reiterated.

"We commend the government for creating a conducive environment as it has facilitated the investment we are witnessing today," he stated, while company representative Ibrahim Khalile said that the

company plans to expand its sub-regional reach more or less rapidly.

The focus at present is reaching production capacity to meet the growing demand, he said, citing the firm as a pioneers in Africa and the Middle East. It was established in 2004 to manufacture medical disposables, starting with conventional syringes and later expanding to self-destructive and safety syringes, he explained.

The company's syringes are equipped with a clear graduated scale that allows clinicians to quickly verify precise dosages. An integrated plunger stop prevents accidental withdrawal of the plunger, while the absence of natural rubber latex components provides an extra layer of safety, he added.

Marine conservation, gender key to Zanzibar, EU accords

FROM PAGE 1

cation at tertiary level, she further noted.

"These agreements demonstrate the EU's unwavering commitment to Zanzibar's long-term development, from fostering sustainable marine practices to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment," the director stated.

EU Commission executive Stausboll underlined that the partnership exemplifies the EU's broader mission to deliver tangible, long-term benefits for all Zanzibaris. This

will contribute to shared prosperity, sustainability and social inclusion, he stated.

The top EU officials' visit to Zanzibar is part of a broader engagement with Tanzania, as prior to the signing ceremony, they held talks with President Mwinyi.

The agreements are aligned with the EU's Global Gateway strategy, which focuses on high-quality, sustainable investments designed to meet the needs of partner countries and ensure lasting positive impact, they told the Isles leader.

VP: Study invasive species, bush fires

FROM PAGE 1

Resources and Tourism, said the importance of forests cannot be understated, as sources of water, livelihoods and as natural habitats to abundant wildlife species.

The Mainland has upwards of

48m hectares of bush or forest, equivalent to 55 percent of the 88.6m hectares land area, while Zanzibar forest area extends 106,500 hectares, or 40 percent of total land area, official data indicates.

Whale epic migration, astonishes scientists

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

A Humpback whale has made one of the longest and most unusual migrations ever recorded, possibly driven by climate change, scientists say.

It was seen in the Pacific Ocean off Colombia in 2017, then popped up several years later near Zanzibar in the Indian Ocean - a distance of at least 13,000 km.

The experts think this epic journey might be down to climate change depleting food stocks or perhaps an odyssey to find a mate.

Ekaterina Kalashnikova of the Tanzania Cetaceans Programme said the feat was "truly impressive and unusual even for this highly migratory species".

Dr Kalashnikova said it was very likely the longest distance a humpback whale had ever been recorded travelling.

Humpback whales live in all oceans around the world. They travel long distances every year and have one of the longest migrations of any mammal, swimming from tropical breeding grounds to feeding grounds in cooler waters.

But this male's journey was even more spectacular, involving two distant breeding grounds.

One theory is that climate change is altering the abundance of the tiny shrimp-like krill humpback whales feed on, forcing them to travel further in search of food.

Alternatively, whales may be exploring new breeding grounds as populations rebound through global conservation efforts.

"While actual reasons are unknown, amongst the drivers there might be global changes in the climate, extreme environmental events (that are more frequent nowadays), and evolutionary

mechanisms of the species," said Dr Kalashnikova.

Humpbacks migrate annually from summer feeding grounds near the poles to warmer winter breeding waters closer to the Equator.

He was then identified in a similar area in 2017 - and off Zanzibar in 2022.

The sightings are separated by a 13,046 km great-circle distance - the minimum distance for the route the whale might have taken, the scientists say, though it is likely to be much greater.

Since the earth is a sphere, the shortest path between two points is expressed by the great circle distance, which corresponds to an arc linking two points on a sphere.

The paper's findings are based on hundreds of thousands of photos of whales submitted by researchers, whale watchers and members of the public to the citizen science website, happywhale.com.

The database uses artificial intelligence to match the individual shapes and patterns of humpback whale tails, or flukes, thereby mapping their movements around the globe.

Accra more flood-resilient, residents like Adiza face a difficult choice: abandon their homes or brace for increasingly challenging conditions.



He was then identified in a similar area in 2017 - and off Zanzibar in 2022



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango cuts the ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to launch a special Watumishi Housing Investment housing plan targeting civil servants in Tanzania. Photo: VPO

'Feedback on Vision 2050 draft must be transparent'

FROM PAGE 1

political affiliation, gender, special groups or region - has an opportunity to provide input, he said, insisting that the Vision belongs to all Tanzanians and must reflect their aspirations for the next 25 years.

Key objectives of the draft Vision include improving people's lives, education, healthcare and ensuring peace and justice, while focusing on being inclusive and allowing every citizen "to contribute to the nation's development," he said.

The team needs to align its work with the nation's development plans along with regional and in-

ternational agreements, citing the East African Community Vision 2050, and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Vision 2050.

Another reference point is the African Union Agenda 2063, observers noted, while the president recommended that the technical team conduct nationwide consultations, organising forums and discussions with the public.

Reflecting on achievements of Vision 2025 being concluded next June, the Isles leader touched on improvements in the quality of life, education, healthcare, a reduction

in mortality rates and a significant increase in life expectancy.

He said Tanzania is one among a few countries worldwide with food self-sufficiency, rated at 124 percent in the past year, despite that agriculture is not fully modernised.

The premier said that the launch of the draft is a milestone for deciphering the future of Tanzania, affirming that the professional team will carry out its duties with expertise and integrity to ensure that the Vision benefits all Tanzanians.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister

in the President's Office and vice-chairman of the national steering committee for Vision 2050 preparation, explained that the Vision's foundation is built on security, peace, stability and a strong economy.

Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, the Finance and Planning state minister in the Zanzibar President's Office and co-chairperson of the committee, highlighted Zanzibar's active participation in providing feedback on the draft Vision. This included the mobilisation of public input, with strong involvement from women, she added.



Prof Penina Mloma (L), Chairperson of the National Mwalimu Nyerere Literary Awards Board, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. She appealed for the submission of quality scripts in the drama category to compete for the prestigious awards. She is with Tanzania Institute of Education director general Dr Aneth Komba. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Project helps hearing impaired build farming skills, find jobs

By Special Correspondent

AT the Westonaria Agri-Park east of the South African city of Johannesburg, farm workers are busy tilling the soil and planting tomatoes and lettuce.

But despite the hive of activity, there is silence.

This is because most of the people working there are deaf and communicate using sign language.

They are members of the Voiceout Deaf farming collective started by entrepreneur Matebogo Victoria, who has a hearing disability herself.

She understands the challenges they face. During her studies, she had to attend her classes with a

hearing partner as her university could not make the lectures accessible for her.

Victoria, who used to work for one of the country's major banks, decided to leave her corporate job and start Voiceout to allow deaf people to gain agricultural skills.

"Before I left my job, I saw a lot of deaf people staying at home and unemployed. They have accessibility challenges. Communication is the biggest challenge in the deaf community," she says.

Many of them either do not finish school, she says, or cannot afford the long distances they need to travel to attend one of the country's 44 schools for deaf students.

"They often decide to stay home.

So, I decided to start an agricultural business and give them farming skills, teach them how to plant, and give them work that matches their skills," she says.

The opportunity to learn to farm in a space where co-workers can easily communicate with her was transformational for Sibongile Maake.

It has also allowed her to earn a living and rely less on the welfare disability grants that the government pays out.

"I'm happy working here. It's a pleasure working here on the farm. I'm working slowly but surely. And I am learning while also getting a salary. I can do things for myself, I can afford to pay for things myself,"

she says.

John, another worker at the farm, says communication challenges reduced his chances of getting a job, but the Voiceout Deaf project has been a lifeline for him.

"Communication is always a barrier, so coming here at the farm is very much better because they are able to communicate in my own language so it makes life much easier for me," he says.

Demand for their vegetables is so great that Voiceout Deaf has taken on two other farms and is supplying local supermarkets and chain stores with fresh produce.

South Africa's parliament recently approved sign language as the country's 12th official language.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (R) gifts various Tanzanian tea products to the Director of Development Projects at Japan's Kawasaki Kiko Company, Hirofumi Suganuma, in Dodoma city earlier this week. This was at a meeting held when Suganuma led a five-member delegation on a visit to Tanzania, the thrust being on exploring investment opportunities and exchanging experiences in tea production. Photo: Correspondent Halfan Chusi

By Correspondent Joseph Mwednapole

Construction of more berths at Dar port to begin next year

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has revealed plans to build two new berths at the port of Dar es Salaam next year, increasing its total number to 12.

The expansion is expected to stimulate the country's economic growth and enhance its position as a key regional trade hub.

Plasduce Mbossa, the TPA director general, announced yesterday that Dar es Salaam port handles 95 per cent of all cargo entering Tanzania.

He said the addition of two piers is expected to serve both domestic and international customers, including neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Malawi.

"The expansion will not only enhance domestic capacity but also attract increased business from surrounding countries," Mbossa said.

The port of Dar es Salaam has already become a focal point for several countries in Africa, Asia, and

Europe, with foreign delegations visiting to observe its improvements and potential for collaboration.

Under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership, significant progress has been made, including partnerships with investors such as DP World, which manages piers 8 to 7, and Adan International Ports Holding, which manages piers 8 to 11. These investments have helped transform the port into a modern and efficient facility.

To further strengthen regional partnerships, TPA has opened offices in Malawi and Zambia, allowing direct engagement with customers and making it easier for them to use the port for their logistics needs.

Mbossa highlighted that these initiatives, alongside the construction of new piers, will reduce customer wait times and increase business flow.

"Previously, unloading a ship at Dar es Salaam took up to 30 days, but now it only takes 4 to 5 days," he said, adding: that the port now handles 100,000 containers per month, up from 70,000 containers previously. The new piers will further increase the port's unloading capacity.

In addition to infrastructural improvements, TPA is working to enhance its digital payment systems, allowing customers to complete transactions from anywhere.

Mbossa stated that TPA currently contributes 7.3 per cent to the national income and aims to increase this figure to 15 per cent.

Recently, the European Union (EU) visited the Port of Tanga and commended the Tanzanian government for its substantial investments in port infrastructure, designed to improve efficiency and facilitate

trade.

TPA has also hosted foreign delegations, including Dutch Ambassador Wiebe De Boer, who praised Tanzania's efforts to create a favourable business environment.

Additionally, Volkswagen's car manufacturing company from Germany visited the port, expressing interest in using it for transporting cars and spare parts to East and Central Africa. Following their inspection in September, they confirmed that the port met international standards and pledged to use it for their logistics needs.

The port's continued improvements have also caught the attention of traders from the Democratic Republic of Congo, with delegations from Kalemie, Uvira, Bukavu and Goma visiting to see first hand the advancements made at the port of Dar es Salaam.

Dentists urged to stop using mercury-based dental fillings

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH stakeholders in the country have urged dentists across East Africa to stop using mercury dental fillings also known as dental amalgam.

The call was made as part of the annual observance of the Africa Week for Mercury-free Dentistry which this year is being commemorated from December 9 to 14.

The stakeholders say dental amalgam or "silver fillings" contains fifty per cent of mercury, which is harmful to health and the environment. Exposure to mercury may lead to pneumonia, bronchitis, chest pain, dyspnea, cough, stomatitis, gingivitis, excessive salivation, and diarrhea.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday Dorah Swai, executive secretary of the Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA), explained that the week traditionally takes place in October but was postponed this year to accommodate additional NGOs attending the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee for the Plastic Treaty in Busan, South Korea.

This year's theme, "Member states for the Minamata Convention on Mercury Must Adhere to Treaty Requirements," emphasizes the need for countries to align with the treaty's restrictions. One key aspect of the treaty prohibits the use of dental amalgam in children under 15 years of age, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers.

The Minamata Convention, which targets the elimination of mercury use, mandates member states to phase out dental amalgam due to its harmful effects on both health and the environment.

Dental amalgam contains 50 per cent mercury, which can negatively impact the developing brain of a child, even during pregnancy. Mercury can be passed from mother to child through both pregnancy and breastfeeding, leading to reduced intellectual development and lower IQ levels that can impede a child's

future economic prospects.

Additionally, mercury is persistent in the environment, accumulating in creatures such as fish, which, when consumed by humans, further exposes them to mercury.

Silvani Mng'anya, principal programme officer at AGENDA, highlighted the importance of adopting mercury-free alternatives, stressing that many such materials are already available. He called on East African countries to follow Tanzania's lead, which banned the use of dental amalgam in 2022 for all age groups.

"We urge other EAC nations to switch to mercury-free dental fillings to protect the health of children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers," said Mng'anya.

Bernard Kihyo, Director of Tanzania Consumer Advocacy and Research (TCAR), echoed the call, urging EAC nations to protect the health and future of their children by adopting mercury-free alternatives. "By doing so, we are ensuring that children receive their right to a healthy future, which will also benefit their countries," Kihyo added.

The Minamata Convention, named after the Japanese city of Minamata, was endorsed in 2013 to curb global mercury exposure from various sources. As of December 2024, 151 countries have ratified the convention, a significant step towards protecting both human health and the environment from mercury contamination.



We urge other EAC nations to switch to mercury-free dental fillings to protect the health of children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers

SUA develops technology for detecting conventional drugs in herbal remedies

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) has developed a new technology, the liquid chromatography tandem mass method, designed to detect the presence of conventional in herbal medicines.

Associate Prof. Faith Mabiki, from the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Department of Chemistry and Physics at SUA, unveiled the technology in Dar es Salaam recently at the 9th National Science, Technology and Innovation Conference and Exhibition (STICE), organised by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTEC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

The event brought together scientists, researchers, and lecturers from various institutions.

The newly developed method will enable the quality assessment of herbal medicines, ensuring their safety for patients. It is also intended to support regulatory authorities in conducting routine analyses of herbal medicines to monitor their quality.

Prof. Mabiki explained that the need for this technology arose from the discovery that some traditional healers in Tanzania have been using corticosteroids, such as Dexamethasone and Prednisolone, in herbal treatments.

The substances can pose serious health risks if not properly regulated.

"We developed this technology after identifying that some traditional healers were incorporating Dexamethasone and Prednisolone into their herbal medicines, which can lead to serious side effects," she said.

She said: "We aim to help the government monitor the quality of these drugs in both prescribed and over-the-counter herbal medicines."

To develop the technology, Mabiki and her team collected 119 herbal medicine

samples from nine regions, including Mwanza, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Morogoro, Njombe, Iringa, Manyara and Dar es Salaam.

The research revealed that 14 samples were adulterated with corticosteroid medicines: four samples contained Prednisolone, one contained Dexamethasone, and nine contained both.

Mabiki highlighted several environmental factors, such as deforestation, climate change, and urbanisation that have contributed to the scarcity of plant resources needed for herbal medicine

production. As a result, some herbalists have turned to pharmaceuticals like dexamethasone and prednisolone.

Many herbal producers also lack scientific knowledge and do not seek advice from experts when they face shortages of traditional plants. Instead, they resort to using corticosteroids as substitutes.

"Herbal medicine producers should be educated on safe production methods. If they cannot find the plants they need, they should consult botanists to help them identify alternative sources," Mabiki said.

In response, the SUA Department of Chemistry and Physics has already trained over 150 traditional healers from Morogoro and Njombe on safe herbal medicine production practices.

The training includes information on sustainable harvesting methods and the proper collection of plant materials.

The government, forestry institutions, universities, and other stakeholders are encouraged to support further education on the safe preparation and regulation of herbal medicines to ensure public health and safety.



High Commission of India
Dar es Salaam

Date: 11th December 2024

Subject: Tender Inviting Bids for Annual Maintenance Contract for IT Infrastructure

The High Commission of India, Dar es Salaam, invites sealed quotations from reputed, experienced, and financially sound companies registered under the relevant Tanzanian Companies Law to provide an Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for IT infrastructure, including Internet, Servers, Desktops, Printers, UPS, and Laptops, installed at the High Commission of India, Shaaban Robert Street, Plot No. 213/51, Dar es Salaam. The tender document, inviting bids for this work, can be downloaded from the Mission's website <https://hcindiatz.gov.in> under the "What's New" section, titled "Annual Maintenance Contract for IT Infrastructure, including Internet, Servers, Desktops, Printers, UPS, and Laptops, installed at the High Commission of India, Dar es Salaam." Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Head of Chancery at the above address, by 2nd January 2025 (up to 1500 hrs).

TANZANIA MASIGIRA POWER LIMITED (INCORPORATION NUMBER 107675)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of section 360 of the Companies Act, 2002, on 29 November 2024, the Members of Tanzania Masigira Power Limited (the Company) passed the following resolutions:

1. The Company be wound up voluntarily.
2. Geoffrey Nicholas Dimoso, a Tanzanian National for purposes hereof of c/o A&K Tanzania, The Address Building, 1 Bains Singh Avenue, Msasani Peninsula, P.O. Box 79651, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, be appointed liquidator (the Liquidator) for the purpose of such winding up.
3. The Liquidator be authorized to divide all or any part of the Company's assets in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company and the Companies Act, 2002.

**For Tanzania Masigira Power Limited
In Members Voluntary Winding Up
The Address, Ground Floor,
1 Bains Singh Avenue, Msasani Peninsula
P O Box 79651
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania**



Now Scan here to visit our channel



Ugandan delegation hails EACOP construction pace

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

A Delegation from Uganda High Commission in the country has expressed satisfaction with the ongoing progress of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, particularly in Tanga region.

During their visit led by Uganda High Commissioner to Tanzania (rt.d.) Colonel Fred Mwesigye praised the major progress in the construction of an offshore oil export terminal in the Indian Ocean, which stretches over two kilometres and is crucial for loading crude oil onto ships for international markets.

Kurt Holtzhausen, construction manager reported that the terminal's construction is 60 per cent complete, with work continuing to ensure timely delivery.

The delegation also visited the Chongoleani area and the Marine and Storage Terminal (MST), where the High Commissioner Mwesigye and his team were impressed by the progress made so far, including the construction of four large tanks designed to store up to two million barrels of crude oil, which will be transported from Hoima, Uganda.

"As part of my duty is to oversee and report on this project, which is collaboration between the Tanzanian and Ugandan governments," said Mwesigye. "When I arrived in 2022, work had just started, with land clearing underway. Today, I am amazed by the progress made."

He expressed optimism that the project will successfully conclude, benefiting both countries and the broader East African region economically.

"It is a joy to see Uganda's crude oil being shipped from the shores of Chongoleani to international markets," he said.

The ongoing project has already created significant opportunities for local citizens, providing employment and

allowing Tanzanian and Ugandan professionals to gain valuable experience working alongside international experts.

Eng. Musa Msafiri reported that the storage tanks have reached 69.8 per cent completion, and overall, construction is progressing smoothly.

"We expect to complete the project as planned, with some areas already at advanced stages," he said.

Deputy High Commissioner Elizabeth Allimadi and senior engineer Deo Bukunya from Uganda's Petroleum Authority (PAU) also expressed pride in the project's progress.

"The collaboration between foreign and local workers has been key to the success so far," Bukunya said, noting that similar progress is being made on Uganda's side, including significant infrastructure development.

In addition to the pipeline, the project includes a coating plant in Sojo, Nzega district, Tabora region. The project is also focused on environmental conservation, community collaboration, and workers' safety.

The delegation also visited the Sigi River area, where the pipeline will pass under the river. Project manager Sinan Elaslani explained that the pipeline will be installed at a significant depth to protect the river's ecosystem, including its aquatic life.

Spanning eight regions in Tanzania and Uganda, the 1,443-kilometer pipeline runs from Hoima in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula in Tanga. Of the total length, 1,147 kilometers are in Tanzania.

The project is a joint venture, with TotalEnergies holding a 62 per cent stake, while Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Uganda Petroleum Development Corporation (UPDC) each own 15 per cent, and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) holds 8 per cent.

Mandela Institute, UNIDO partner to convert waste into clean energy

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

IN a major move to combat environmental challenges and promote sustainable energy solutions, the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) has partnered with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to spearhead the conversion of waste discharges into clean energy.

The initiative, focused on Waste-to-Energy (WTE) technologies, aims to provide eco-friendly energy alternatives for various productive sectors and large public institutions across Tanzania.

The collaborative project, dubbed "Promotion of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Applications in Agro-industries," is being executed by UNIDO alongside the NM-AIST.

Recently, the project hosted a capacity-building workshop on WTE technologies at the Nelson Mandela University campus in Arusha, aimed at empowering stakeholders with the skills and knowledge to convert solid and liquid waste into valuable energy sources.

Lilian Nyaki, the national chief technical advisor at UNIDO, explained that the project has been running for over a decade, initially focusing on generating electricity and heat from waste in the sugar industry. "This initiative is now expanding its scope, targeting broader agro-industries and public institutions, promoting the use of waste materials for sustainable energy production," Nyaki said.

The training sessions are part of a broader effort to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, which ensures access to affordable and reliable energy for all.

The project also aligns with

SDG 13, addressing climate change and its impacts by promoting environmentally friendly practices. The Waste-to-Energy project has been funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and involves multiple partners, including the Environment Department in the Vice President's Office, the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), TANESCO, and COSTECH.

Dr Elizabeth Mkoba, NM-AIST's consultancy bureau coordinator expressed her gratitude towards UNIDO for their support.

"Funding this project is more than just a financial commitment; it's a reflection of trust. We will continue working diligently to meet your expectations and deliver impactful results," she said.

The programme engages a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, regulators, financial institutions, development partners, microfinance institutions, and investors, all of whom are key to implementing WTE technologies across the country.

Notably, the workshops also target large-scale institutions such as schools, prisons, and agro-industries, with the aim of converting biodegradable waste into electricity and heat, thus improving productivity and sustainability.

Damian Mathias, a civil technician from Arusha Prison, highlighted that the prison, with over 600 acres dedicated to farming, is keen on transforming its liquid waste into a productive energy resource.

The initiative marks a significant step forward in Tanzania's efforts to address waste management issues, promote clean energy, and combat climate change, while also driving economic and social development through innovative technologies.



Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (Tawla) member Neema Ahmed addresses residents Dodoma city's Matumbulu and Mpunguzi suburbs yesterday in marking this year's anniversary (Nov 25 to Dec 10) of '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'. The audience included grape farmers. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has commended northern zone producers for achieving product quality certification and given licences to use the quality mark.

Lazaro Msasalaga, TBS's director of quality control, made the remarks during a ceremony yesterday, where the manufacturers were awarded licences to display the quality mark.

"This is a significant day to recognise and congratulate those who have validated the quality of their products based on rigorous standards," Msasalaga said.

He added: "Our certification systems are robust and internationally recognised,

Northern zone producers praised for achieving quality certification

ensuring that the products now bearing the quality mark meet the highest standards and are ready for markets in the East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the African Continental Free Trade Area."

Frank Mbando, the assistant regional administrative secretary for Industry, Trade, and Investment in Arusha, expressed pride in the achievement, noting that 154 products had received the quality mark. He emphasised that this recognition aligns with efforts to enhance the region's economy,

particularly its tourism sector.

"These certifications reflect our commitment to ensuring that products meet both national and international standards, which is essential for attracting tourists," Mbando said.

He said: "On behalf of the Arusha Regional Commissioner's office, I congratulate the entrepreneurs for meeting the quality requirements and celebrate their success."

Mbando also highlighted the increased competitiveness of local producers, stating: "We are no longer complainers; we now have products that meet the necessary

standards and can compete on the global stage."

Yasin Abdallah, a producer of liquid soap, praised TBS for awarding the quality mark and for educating producers on the significance of certification.

"The quality mark assures consumers of the product's quality and enhances our competitiveness in the market," he said.

Fred January, an entrepreneur, acknowledged the responsibility that comes with the quality mark, stating that it challenges them to maintain consistent product quality.



Health ministry permanent secretary Dr John Jingu pictured in Dodoma city yesterday opening three-day training on chemical management and regulation for stakeholders in the chemical subsector. Photo courtesy of Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Agency

By Guardian Correspondent

THE implementation of the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) vector control project has made significant strides in malaria prevention and control, leaving a lasting impact on public health across Tanzania.

Running from 2020 to 2024, the \$43 million project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has successfully concluded, marking a major milestone in Tanzania's ongoing fight against malaria.

One of the project's key successes was the distribution of over 20 million insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) across Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, benefiting more than 35 million people.

The nets were provided through mass distribution campaigns in schools and health facilities, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and

USAID's PMI vector control project marks major milestone in fighting against malaria

infants.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, Craig Hart, USAID Mission director in Tanzania said: "The U.S. has been working alongside Tanzania for over six decades, and since 2006, PMI has invested over \$747 million in malaria control efforts. While this specific project has ended, our commitment to tackling malaria and other critical health challenges in Tanzania remains steadfast."

The PMI Vector Control Project reached 90 per cent of Tanzania's at-risk population, covering 14 high-prevalence regions on the Mainland and all five regions of Zanzibar. In total, the initiative reached 57 per cent of the nation's population, significantly reducing the malaria burden in these areas.

A major achievement of the project was strengthening the capacity of Tanzania's medical supply agencies to independently manage mosquito net distribution. By integrating innovative tools and real-time tracking systems, the project enhanced supply chain logistics and ensured the sustainability of malaria prevention efforts.

Naomi Serbantez, USAID's PMI resident advisor, emphasized the importance of local expertise in achieving these outcomes: "Through this project, we've improved access to mosquito nets and implemented evidence-based malaria control strategies. By empowering local institutions and using data-driven insights, we have set the stage for continued progress toward malaria

elimination in Tanzania."

The PMI vector control project, implemented by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programmes in partnership with Tropical Health LLP and Viamo PBC, highlights the effectiveness of international collaborations in addressing public health challenges.

Beyond tangible results, the initiative has built local capacity and empowered communities to take ownership of malaria prevention, ensuring that efforts continue even after the project's completion.

As Tanzania moves closer to malaria elimination, the legacy of the PMI vector control project stands as a testament to the power of partnership, innovation, and a shared commitment to improving public health.



James ole Millya (L), one of the Tanzanian East African Legislative Assembly members, pictured at Mirerani township earlier this week assisting a Chinese investor visiting a tanzanite mining site to put on part of traditional Maasai attire. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Public urged to end discrimination, empower girls for national progress

THE public has been urged to eliminate discriminatory practices against girls and women, instead champion empowerment of the group to unlock their full potential and drive national progress.

Nyanzobe Makwaia, coordinator of a tailoring training programme, made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday, highlighting the urgent need for societal change.

The training, organised by the Environment Conservation Community of Tanzania (ECCT), is part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, aimed at raising awareness and advocating for the rights of women and girls.

Nyanzobe said findings from research conducted by various organisations, consistently show that girls and women are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence.

"Girls and women are the largest group affected. In some families, resources are available to educate girls, but they are overlooked while boys are sent to school.

This ingrained inequality must change," she said.

Nyanzobe expressed disappointment that discrimination against girls and women continues, despite the government's free education policy under President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Through the tailoring initiative, Nyanzobe and her team equip girls with practical skills to earn a sustainable income, helping them support themselves and gain the confidence to escape domestic violence.

Lucky Michael, director of ECCT, elaborated on the programme's broader mission which initially targets 15 girls from Dar es Salaam and surrounding areas, with plans to expand nationwide.

"In addition to entrepreneurial skills, we teach the young women how to identify and avoid violence at home and in their communities," Michael said.

She added: "This comprehensive approach prepares them for a safer and more empowered future."

She also highlighted the "ECO WEARE" project, funded by Women Fund Tanzania, which combines entrepreneurship training with environmental conservation. This initiative teaches participants to repurpose fabric scraps into sustainable products.

"This unique approach not only equips girls with income-generating skills but also promotes environmental stewardship, encouraging them to contribute to a sustainable future," she said.

By combining entrepreneurship, environmental conservation, and education on gender-based violence, the ECCT programme empowers young Tanzanian women to build independent lives while promoting equality and environmental awareness.

Government urges action to end online violence against women

By Correspondent Zuwena Khatib

THE government has urged stakeholders in the digital sector to enhance innovation and creativity in addressing online violence, including identifying and reporting perpetrators, many of whom live within communities.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups made the call in Dar Salaam yesterday during the closure of the International Human Rights Day commemoration. The event was organised by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

Dr Gwajima acknowledged the significant benefits brought about by technological advancements in digital communication, but also highlighted the challenges, particularly the rise of online gender-based violence, which disproportionately affects women.

"I urge stakeholders to enhance their efforts to tackle online violence, especially gender-based violence. While the government has implemented online content regulations, it's crucial to be proactive, creative, and vigilant in finding lasting solutions," Dr Gwajima said.

She emphasised that protecting human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups, cannot be the responsibility of any one institution or individual. It requires collaboration across the government, private sector, and the wider community.

Dr Gwajima shared the example of a girl from Ngorongoro who was rescued after being abused for resisting a forced marriage. Her case, she noted, was a success story of collective advocacy and intervention.

"Through collective efforts, many victims of violence have received justice. The government is committed to remaining open to opinions, ideas, and contributions aimed at enhancing rights protection, particularly for women and children," Dr Gwajima said.

She also acknowledged the existence of outdated laws, such as those related to marriage and inheritance, which remain unfavourable to women and girls.

However, she said the government is revising the laws to improve rights protection, citing recent amendments to child protection laws, particularly concerning online violence.

"These changes have provided greater protection for children, especially against online violence, which has become a growing concern," she said.

Furthermore, Dr Gwajima highlighted the importance of women's representation

in decision-making bodies, particularly in addressing gender-based violence.

She commended the long-standing advocacy efforts that led to changes in electoral laws, creating opportunities for women without barriers.

"The legal amendments have also addressed gender-based violence in political processes. The government will continue to work with you to achieve true democracy, where everyone has the opportunity to participate," she said.

Dr Anna Henga, LHRC Executive Director called for further improvements to electoral laws and policies to support the political participation of women and marginalized groups in future democratic processes.

She also stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of violence against women and children.

"It's not enough to respond after violence occurs; we must prevent it by challenging societal norms and power structures that perpetuate inequality. Educational campaigns, promoting positive masculinity, and ensuring our legal systems protect victims while holding perpetrators accountable are essential," she said.

Dr Henga noted the alarming rise in violence against children, particularly sexual violence, with 79 per cent of last year's documented incidents being cases of sexual violence.

"Over 80 per cent of rape victims were girls, while boys represented 80 per cent of sodomy victims. Children accounted for 45 per cent of all human rights violations documented last year, with 30 per cent involving women," she said.

Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania Charlotta Ozaki Macias affirmed support for Tanzania's efforts to uphold human rights as the country approaches its 2025 general elections.

"We encourage the government, political parties, civil society, and citizens to work together to open political space and continue reforms that strengthen human rights and the rule of law," she said.

She expressed concern over credible reports of electoral irregularities, disappearances and violence before and during the local elections, urging transparent and independent investigations into the claims to ensure free and fair elections in 2025.

The envoy reaffirmed the donor group's commitment to working with Tanzania and other countries under the theme of International Human Rights Day 2024, "Equality: Reducing Inequalities and Advancing Human Rights."



TENDER OPPORTUNITY ON DEBT RECOVERY FOR DEFAULTED LOANS ATTENTION: DEBT RECOVERY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Stanbic bank Tanzania is pleased to announce a tender opportunity for professional and experienced debt recovery service providers to assist in the recovery of defaulted loans. We invite interested parties to submit their tenders in accordance with the details provided below:

Scope of Services:

The selected service provider will be responsible for executing an efficient and effective debt recovery process, working towards the retrieval of defaulted loans owed to Stanbic bank Tanzania. The services required include, but are not limited to, comprehensive debtor investigation, negotiation with debtors, and the implementation of approved recovery strategies.

Tender Submission Details:

Interested service providers should submit their sealed tenders to the address below from 10th December 2024 to 7th January 2025 at 10:00 hours. Late submissions will not be considered.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania HQ
Cnrn Ali Hassan Mwinyi/ Kinondoni Road
P.O. Box 72647, Dar es Salaam
Monday to Friday: 08:30 to 15:30

Tender Opening:

The tender box will be opened on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 15:00 hours at Stanbic bank Tanzania HQ. Representatives of the service providers are welcome to attend.

Selection Criteria:

The selection of the debt recovery service provider will be based on a comprehensive evaluation process, which will assess several criteria, including:

1. Demonstrated experience in successfully recovering defaulted loans.
2. Capacity and expertise in debt investigation, negotiation, and legal proceedings (if necessary).
3. Proven track record of maintaining high ethical standards in debt recovery practices.
4. Financial stability and strong client references.
5. Competitive pricing and breakdown of proposed costs.

Additional Information:

All interested service providers are required to obtain the tender documents, which include detailed specifications and submission requirements, by contacting Recovery Manager at noel.philip@stanbic.co.tz cc: saidhassan.munsinsa@stanbic.co.tz and eva.ngana@stanbic.co.tz. Any further relevant information or updates will be provided upon request.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania reserves the right to change or cancel this tender opportunity without prior notice or liability to any party.

We look forward to receiving your tenders and working with a capable and dedicated debt recovery service provider to aid in the retrieval of defaulted loans.

Thank you for your interest.



MANTRA
TANZANIA
ROSATOM

Mantra Tanzania Limited

2nd Floor, Masaki Ikon, Bains Singh Avenue, Masaki
P.O Box 23451, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
Registration No: 29785
Tel: +255 764 700 440
e-mail: mantra@uranium1.co.tz; www.uranium1.com

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE RISK ANALYSIS SERVICE FOR MKUJU RIVER PROJECT MAIN PLANT. REFERENCE NO. MTL07/2024

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

Now Mantra invites qualified Company to provide Insurance Risk Analysis Service for Mkuju River Project Main Plant

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following:

- a) Detailed information on the company with an organization structure.
- b) List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- c) Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three (3) years and similar contract/agreements currently under execution under headings:
 - Brief scope of work
 - Contractual duration
 - Clients name
 - Contact details of the client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback)
 - Also, attach copies of LPO's, Letters of award/signed contracts/reference letters
- d) Search report from BRELA and the latest audited financial statements for the last three (3) years, signed and stamped by the audit firm. Financial statements should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to the EOI.
- e) Attached copies of the following business certificates
 - Business registration certificate,
 - Certificate of Incorporation,
 - TIN certificate,
 - VAT certificate,
 - TIRA certificates
- f) Valid Tax clearance certificate from relevant authority
- g) Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- h) Workers' compensation fund certificate
- i) Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- j) Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission

Interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and mantraprourement@uranium1.co.tz and / or the hard copy to the below address latest on 10th January 2025 at 16.00 hours.

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd
Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue-Masaki
P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255764700440
Dar es Salaam.

Children with special needs plead with govt

By Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa, Morogoro

WORKERS supporting persons with disabilities (PwDs) have been urged to provide tailored services for pupils with disabilities, from pre-school to university, ensuring they have equal opportunities to learn and achieve their potential.

Umyy Nderiananga, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) made the call on Monday during the opening of a special training programme aimed at raising awareness among assistants at higher education institutions that admit students with special needs.

She emphasised that the government is committed to ensuring students with disabilities have the same educational opportunities as their peers, in line with both national and international declarations highlighting the importance of inclusive education.

To support this, the government has committed to purchasing and distributing educational and assistive technology to students with special needs at all levels of education.

The tools provided include laptops, tablets, digital voice recorders, hearing aids, wheelchairs, braille embosser machines, white canes, obit readers, and voice amplifiers, ensuring students have access to a conducive learning environment.

The deputy minister also highlighted the government's investment in building and renovating infrastructure that accommodates the needs of pupils with disabilities.

This includes the construction of model inclusive schools across various regions in the country. Among the initiatives are Lukuledi Primary School in the Masasi district, Mtwara region; Patandi Secondary School in Arusha; and Mbuye School (pre-school, primary

and secondary) in Chato, Geita Region.

Furthermore, the government is expanding the number of institutions offering special education training for prospective teachers. The expansion includes new facilities at Mpwapwa and Kabanga, in addition to the existing Patandi College, as well as the distribution of Braille textbooks.

Dr Magreth Matonya, Director of Special Education at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, explained that the purpose of the training is to ensure students with special needs can successfully enter and graduate from school, with the support of trained assistants.

She added that 147 assistants from 19 institutions across the country are currently undergoing training to better understand how to support students with special needs. This will help assistants acquire the skills necessary to address the unique challenges these students face.

Cecilia Izahaki, representative from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) shared her experience of supporting students with visual impairments, mobility disabilities, and hearing impairments.

She noted that one significant challenge is the students' reluctance to be identified by terms related to their disabilities.



To support this, the government has committed to purchasing and distributing educational and assistive technology to students with special needs at all levels of education

Eight killed in Cairo building collapse amid safety concerns

CAIRO

AT least eight people were killed on Tuesday when a six-storey apartment building collapsed in Cairo's western Waili district, according to Egyptian authorities.

The Health Ministry confirmed the fatalities and reported that three others sustained injuries, with two of them currently hospitalized in stable condition.

The building, which was constructed in the 1960s, was home to dozens of residents. Emergency teams rushed to the scene, working through the debris in search of any survivors. Local officials said rescue operations were continuing well into the night as they combed through the rubble.

Cairo's Governor, Ibrahim Saber, ordered the evacuation of neighbouring buildings as a precautionary measure, fearing further structural instability in the area. Authorities have not yet determined the exact cause of the collapse. The governor's office stated that prosecutors are investigating the incident, but the reason behind the structural failure remains unclear at this time.

Building collapses are not uncommon in Egypt, especially in older districts where buildings are poorly maintained or constructed using substandard materials. The country's rapid urbanisation and the prevalence of unlicensed construction in informal settlements, as well as widespread corruption, have led to the proliferation of unsafe structures.

In Cairo alone, many neighbourhoods, particularly in poorer areas, are filled with aging buildings that lack proper inspections and updates.

In response to the growing problem, the Egyptian government has taken steps to combat illegal construction. Over the past few

years, authorities have made efforts to strengthen building regulations and crack down on unlicensed construction.

New housing projects and satellite cities have been developed to relocate people living in unsafe, overcrowded areas. However, many communities still live in conditions that fail to meet safety standards, putting residents at risk.

The Waili district, where Tuesday's collapse occurred, has been home to several reports of deteriorating infrastructure, with authorities having warned of building instability in some older structures. Local residents expressed concerns about the safety of other buildings in the area.

The incident has reignited calls for stronger enforcement of construction codes and greater investment in urban renewal, as well as better oversight of buildings in both urban and rural areas of Egypt. The government faces increasing pressure to ensure the safety of its citizens living in substandard housing conditions across the country.

The full extent of the collapse's impact, including possible additional casualties, is still under investigation.



In Cairo alone, many neighbourhoods, particularly in poorer areas, are filled with aging buildings that lack proper inspections and updates



Home-made mortars, pestles, coconut graters and various other kitchen tools on sale earlier this week at the Chalnze intersection of Morogoro highway well known for decades for all manner of small-time business. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE ten-day Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign has been launched in Iringa region, offering free legal aid services to citizens, particularly those in remote areas who have struggled to get legal assistance.

Speaking during the launch event, Iringa Municipality Mayor Ibrahim Ngwada emphasised the government's commitment to supporting citizens with legal matters, especially those who cannot afford to hire lawyers.

"The campaign is crucial in ensuring equality and development, which many people have been denied," said Ngwada. "It provides free legal education on issues such

Free legal aid campaign is launched in Iringa Region

as gender violence, land disputes, inheritance, alternative dispute resolution, and human rights."

The campaign, implemented in collaboration with government ministries, civil society, and other stakeholders, aims to protect citizens' access to justice.

Ngwada urged citizens to take advantage of the free legal services offered at the Mwembetogwa grounds, stressing that the legal aid is available throughout Iringa's councils and districts.

He encouraged local leaders

to inform their communities and ensure participation.

Dr Franklin Rwezimula, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, explained that the campaign is part of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision to provide justice and legal equality to underprivileged citizens.

Rwezimula stated that this campaign, which began in seven regions, has now reached Iringa, where it will run from December 11 to 19. Other regions that have participated include Dodoma,

Manyara, Ruvuma, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Njombe, and Singida.

The campaign also aims to increase legal awareness, particularly around human rights, gender equality, and the rights of women and children. It offers legal advice, counselling for victims of sexual violence, and public education on rights, responsibilities, and good governance.

Legal aid services will continue to be available after the campaign through dedicated desks set up in councils across the country.



Construction of downtown Dar es Salaam's Mnazi Mmoja Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) terminal in progress yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Nyerere awards board warns against use of AI in submissions

By Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

CHAIRPERSON of the National Committee for the Creative Writing Awards of Mwalimu Nyerere, Prof. Penina Mlama has issued a strong caution to all participants, saying that Artificial Intelligence (AI) should not be used in the preparation of submissions for the prestigious award.

The writers have until December 31, this year to send their writings before judges sit down to go through the works for four months before announcing the winners.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Prof. Mlama stressed that any work found to have

been produced with the aid of AI would be disqualified from the competition.

She highlighted that, to ensure authenticity, authors submitting manuscripts must sign a declaration confirming that the work is entirely their own and has never been published elsewhere.

"With advancements in technology, it's now possible for someone to use AI to write a poem, which can make the work appear authentic. To prevent this, authors must sign a declaration asserting that their submission is original and unpublished," Prof. Mlama said.

She further said that the creative writing submissions must address

significant social issues and reflect the author's own original ideas. The goal of the award is to nurture creative writing talents within the Tanzanian society.

Prof. Mlama also outlined additional criteria for the competition, stating that any work previously published by private publishers, online platforms, or any media outlets would not be accepted.

"We were disappointed in previous years when submissions included work that had already been published elsewhere. If a manuscript has won another award, it will not be considered," she explained.

She also stressed that

submissions should incorporate elements of Tanzanian performing arts, as the award aims to promote local culture, the Kiswahili language, and reading.

"A nation cannot develop without educated people. National development stems from the intellectual maturity of its citizens, and if people are not educated, it becomes difficult to consider the country among the civilized nations," Prof. Mlama said.

She urged Tanzanians to submit drama manuscripts for the competition, noting that submissions in this category have been disappointingly low. The deadline for submission is December 31 of this year.



One wonders what this bodaboda passenger should have considered more of a priority: personal safety or ensuring that the luggage did not "mysteriously" disappear! Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured this scene in Dar es Salaam's Kifuru-Kinyerezi on Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Getrude Mbugo

Tanzanian honoured for her excellent leadership in women's empowerment

A Tanzanian businesswoman Bernice Fernandes has been honoured with the prestigious Global Entrepreneurship Festival (GEF) Award for her remarkable leadership in championing women's empowerment.

The award ceremony took place recently in Nigeria, underscoring the growing recognition of women's economic participation as a cornerstone of sustainable global development.

As part of her contributions to the festival, Fernandes who is the founder of Accelerate Business Group and Accelerate Women delivered the opening keynote at the International Women's Congress, captivating attendees with a stirring call to eradicate poverty and achieve gender equality.

Themed "Poverty Eradication—Beyond Boundaries," the congress focused on the pivotal role of women in addressing global poverty. Fernandes made a compelling case that empowering women is not just a moral imperative but also an

economic necessity.

In her keynote address, Fernandes underscored that true societal transformation begins with empowering the girl child. She spotlighted the devastating impact of child marriage, describing it as a practice that robs young girls of their potential and perpetuates generational poverty.

"When a girl is married off young, she becomes trapped in a life of limited choices," Fernandes explained. "She grows up believing her only role is to bear children and manage a household, without ever realizing her true capabilities."

Fernandes passionately argued that given the right opportunities, girls can achieve far more. "Imagine a world where every girl has the chance to learn, innovate, and lead," she said, urging for collective action to end child marriage. She called for a shift in focus toward equipping girls with education and skills that empower

them to thrive.

Sharing her personal journey, Fernandes spoke about a pivotal moment a decade ago when a one-year mentorship program redefined her purpose. At the time, she was juggling five jobs but made the bold decision to drop three and fully commit to the programme. "You need to be hungry for growth to become a leader. Present yourself as one and behave like one," she advised, encouraging women to prioritize leadership development and technical expertise.

Fernandes also addressed workplace inequities, highlighting a stark disparity in how men and women are evaluated. "Men are often promoted based on potential, while women are judged solely on performance," she observed. "This disparity must change." She urged women to take bold steps to challenge biases: "Dare to be seen, take charge, and demand recognition for your contributions. The world will not

notice you unless you make yourself undeniable."

At the Global Empowerment Festival (GEF), Fernandes moderated the Women's Power Panel on "Women Leading Change Through Mentorship, Sponsorship, and Networking." The session provided actionable strategies for fostering connections, creating opportunities, and driving community-wide transformation.

Her contributions to the GEF were recognized with a prestigious award honoring her service to the Board and her unwavering advocacy for women's empowerment. Reflecting on her visit, Fernandes praised Nigeria's vibrant culture and the festival's inspiring atmosphere.

"Women are the leaders who can transform the world," Fernandes declared, leaving the audience energized to champion change and ensure that women and girls everywhere have the chance to unlock their full potential.

Youth forum to support drive in solving problems

By Guardian Reporter

A forum focus on the need arm youth with skills to solve problems, to think from a global perspective, and to become moral and innovative leaders was held in Arusha city.

Youth from various parts in of the country have been equipped with skills to enhance effective leadership and promote peaceful coexistence within society.

The group gathered in Arusha for a forum focused on faith-driven leadership and active citizenship involve participants representing regions such as Dodoma, Mtwara, Coast, Tabora, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Lindi, Kigoma, Arusha regions and Pemba in Zanzibar.

The two-day training, organised by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in partnership with the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC), was held under the theme: "Peace and Peacebuilding Process: Towards Definition, Understanding, and Solutions for Conflict in Tanzania and Africa."

During the event, ISCEJIC co-chair Sheikh Mataka shared his theological reflections on faith-based approaches to combating violence.

He emphasised the importance of integrity, stating that it is a key factor in ensuring justice and peace.

"Integrity is not optional; every member of society must embrace it. Without integrity, injustice and corruption will prevail," Sheikh Mataka said.

He further explained that Islam encourages justice even towards those we dislike, quoting the Qur'an: "Islam teaches that your hatred for someone should not prevent you from treating them justly."

Sheikh Mataka also highlighted the importance of respecting authority and obeying laws, as long

as they do not contradict religious principles. He urged the youth to avoid discrimination, learn to offer constructive criticism, and take charge of their future.

"Use wisdom and kind words when offering advice or criticism. This will lead to positive results if you remain firm and committed," he added.

In his opening remarks, Dr Fredrick Shoo, Chairman of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), challenged the youth to take responsibility for the nation's future. He stressed that there is no future without active youth participation.

Dr Shoo cited historical examples, including the late Julius Nyerere, who began his fight for independence while still in secondary school.

"We also learn from the holy books about youth leaders like Joshua, Daniel, Joseph, and David, who spread religion, led their nations, won wars, and strengthened their economies," he noted.

He urged the youth to embrace their potential for change and work towards solving community challenges rather than becoming disillusioned. "Be courageous, responsible, and dedicated to building a better tomorrow," Dr Shoo said.

The youth who participated in the training expressed that they were empowered with new skills to become catalysts for positive change, promote justice, and peacefully resolve conflicts in their communities.

Paul Josephat, a youth from Manyara Region, shared that due to challenges such as unemployment, many young people turn to crime.

He pledged to use the knowledge gained from the training to empower his peers and inspire them to become agents of change, justice, and peace.

Exports of agricultural products and machinery surge due to SIFC support

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

Exports of agricultural products and machinery from Pakistan have seen a significant increase, thanks to the ongoing support of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

According to official sources from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the government's initiatives to enhance agricultural trade, particularly with East Africa, have achieved notable success.

In a milestone achievement, Pakistan has begun exporting tractors to East Africa, with the first batch of Pakistani-made tractors recently arriving in Tanzania. The successful export is a key step in strengthening trade relations with the region and highlights Pakistan's

growing presence in the African market.

The Kenya-Tanzania partnership, particularly the Maasai Tracta Company, has played a pivotal role in facilitating the access and promotion of Pakistani agricultural machinery in Tanzania. This collaboration further strengthens the bilateral trade ties between Pakistan and East Africa, especially in agricultural sectors.

Pakistani tractors, imported from the Pak Tractors House Company, mark a new era of trade growth, which reflects the country's commitment to expanding its global trade partnerships. This achievement signifies a stable and thriving manufacturing sector within Pakistan, driven by increased demand in African

markets.

The support provided by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been instrumental in laying the groundwork for future trade relations, fostering long-term partnerships, and ensuring that Pakistan's exports continue to rise across the continent.

The SIFC's efforts are expected to facilitate further trade collaborations and enhance Pakistan's position as a key exporter in the global agricultural machinery market.

The success of the efforts highlights the ongoing strength of Pakistan's economic ties with East Africa, with prospects for continued growth and trade diversification in the future.



A commuter bus waits for passengers at Ukonga Banana in Dar es Salaam yesterday but, curiously, with work on open storm water drainage system far from done and putting at risk the safety of people jostling for transport. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

United Nations Development Programme



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

ADVERTISEMENT

Sale of Used Vehicles, Generators, Rapiscan machine Housing, Fire suppression and PA system.

UNDP will be selling its used vehicles, Generators, PA system, Fire suppression system and X-ray Machine Housing as per the below table. All assets are sold on "as is where is" basis with UNDP absolving itself from any liability whatsoever. Interested party are requested to submit their bids as of Thursday 12th December 2024 to Friday 20th December 2024.

Dar es salaam: UN House registry office, PSSSF Complex Sam Nujoma

Zanzibar: UNDP Sub Office

Make /model	Registration Number	Date of Purchase	Location
TOYOTA L/CRUISER 200	T203 CD3	2012	UN House
Ford Everest 2.5L TD 4x4 5MT	T 203 CD 600	2013	UN House
TOYOTA L/CRUISER 200	T 203 CD 667	2012	UN House
Nissan Patrol	T203CD645	2019	UN House
PA System- Ahuja	4144965	2016	UN House
Fire Suppression System	382301729	2015	UN House
RAPISCAN X RAY MACHINE-Housing	6160429	2016	UNDP Zanzibar
Generator -Diesel 27.8 KVA	Olympus GEP30-1	2003	UNICEF Field Office Zanzibar
Generator -Petrol	Vanguard Promax 900EA	2008	UNDP Zanzibar
Generator-Petrol	Euro power EPS83TDE		UNDP Zanzibar

Viewing: All assets may be inspected during office working hours (02.00 pm - 04.00pm) from Thursdays 12th December 2024 through Friday 20th December 2024 at UN House offices located at plot 3 Sam Nujoma Road Ubungu, Dar es salaam, UNICEF Field Office Zanzibar Kiembesamaki, Nyerere Road, Near Kira Garage Zanzibar and UN Sub Office Zanzibar ZSTC Investment House, Malawi Road, Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Contact person: Logistic Unit, UNDP Tanzania

Closing date: Friday, 20TH December 2024 at 13.00hrs.

Terms of Payment: Successful bidders will be contacted and required to deposit of their total bid amount. Failure to comply with this condition, will automatically nullify the sale without notice. Successful bidders will be required to pay all Government taxes and dues, provide proof of payment for our verification before collection of the purchased asset.

All referenced bids are to be addressed to the Deputy Resident Representative and deposited in the tender box at the UN House reception offices so as to reach on or before closing date and time.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.

UN House PSSSF Complex Sam Nujoma . P. O. Box 9182, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255-22-2112576 Fax: +255-22-2111668 Website: <http://www.tz.undp.org/> Email: registry.tz@undp.org

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

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

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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

Tea board will do best simply to facilitate technology investments

PLANS expressed by top officials of the Tea Board of Tanzania (TBT) of wishing to invest in advanced technology factories are based on expectations of reducing production costs.

There is also reference to how increasing the value of tea could strike some onlookers for the intriguing questions they raised at a meeting with a visiting Japanese delegation.

The visitors have a mission to find out how tea is produced locally and if they could chip in somewhere - with technology.

The fact that the delegation was interested in visiting various tea farms indicated that the interest there lay in producing tea, be it to increase the yield or raise the quality or both.

There was apparent emphasis on the use of modern technology to streamline agricultural work, but that is different from actually building factories as vast technological improvements aren't always mean having better market conditions.

Nor is it entirely helpful seeking to learn from the shortage of labour and, if that is one reason for seeking a technological uplift, they could skip it - leaving it to entrepreneurs.

There was an outcry in a neighbouring country famous for its tea exports when planters mechanised the picking process that was employing large numbers of people.

Here, the core agricultural sector strategy is getting youths and families into farming and thus, where manual labour is helpful and not excessively costly, replacing it isn't totally advisable.

Yet it is a different matter if someone is making a new investment, as initial sums invested in land already serve as catalyst for economic uplift before hiring

labour.

That the Japanese started to innovate ways to carry out farm work without people, using industrial revolution technologies could indeed cheapen their products.

However, any such tea brought here ought to be appropriately taxed, at least so that local tea can still be sold.

That is different from banning imports merely so that local interests can dictate prices, as happened when the government sided with local sugar monopolies for more than five years.

The government has since started figuring out how to end this, despite its having a big number of admirers.

In that context, the need for an industrial revolution of our own in the tea sub-sector hasn't been adequately stated, and preferably it should come from localised competition in a way induced by local technological drives and price changes.

We ought to be in less hurry moving to remove people from production as we face a shortage of jobs and not of labour as in applies in industrialised countries.

Our technology costs need to be cut accordingly so that we don't hasten or aggravate joblessness by imitating modernity.

An observation that the tea market situation is improving, with new markets already opened in Oman and with plans to expand further with a visit to Saudi Arabia soon, changes little in the matter.

Market niches of this sort are similarly open to other countries, so the board just can't make policy with a view to expanding exports to such markets.

They can only be a facet of policy, say on what sort of credit backup is needed for specific producers best suited for export markets.

TRC cannot arrange the use of export credits in isolation

LISTENING to policy suggestions is often more complicated than meets the eye, as there is often a noticeable difference between what is seen and what is meant - at least in the sense of being hidden from view.

That is not to say that it is kept out of view intentionally but rather opposes psychological problems that have the potential to unmake what is being espoused, so the policy idea presumes that it will work.

At times that sort of situation is evident to many people, while in some instances it can be cleverly hidden, clear only to 'connoisseurs'.

That in a way can be said with respect to a recent suggestion directed at the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) that using export credit agency financing as an innovative strategy could accelerate the completion of railway infrastructure projects.

It is an idea floated by a parliamentary committee, which asserts that TRC can explore how government agencies, private entities or semi-government organisations can use such credits.

The chairman of the parliamentary budget committee affirmed that such credits offer vital support to domestic companies by mitigating risks associated with international trade.

TRC can use portions of its foreign exchange inflows as collateral, as the legislator argued, talking of the utility of that method but largely avoiding to take up the issue of feasibility.

This implies that if the method is seen to be as useful as the committee says, then other institutions likely to be involved in the process leading up to its approval as policy and facilitating it in a regulatory context would do the needful.

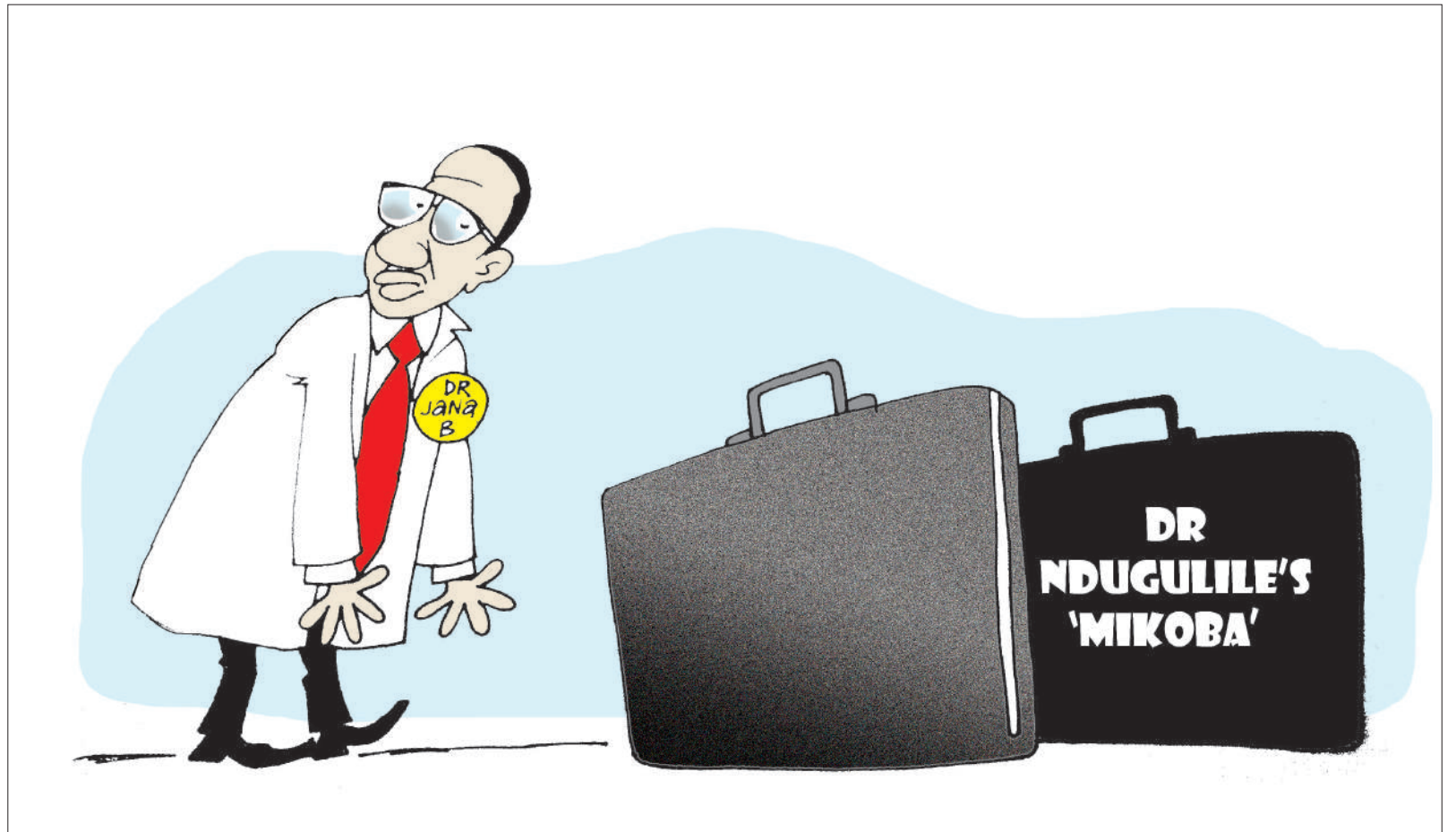
That is where a can of worms can be suspected, namely, how far TRC is in control of its foreign exchange flows, and whether it meets its financial obligations as per directives by its board of directors. While the legislator didn't apparently link this suggestion with what is known as public-private partnership, it can be figured out that there is such a link.

The idea is to finance the corporate entity on a stand-alone basis, using the foreign exchange it earns as collateral in the sense of what can be handed over in distress - that is, if the term is taken up in its proper meaning and context.

And that is where the game plan collapses, as collateral is something that can be seized by court order, while foreign exchange earnings entering the TRC account at the central bank appear to be off-limits.

This idea is an addition to the sort of voluntary financing of public agencies by financial sector entities which the public keeps hearing about from various policy makers or key advisers, skipping the fact that the cash they hold doesn't belong to banks.

Rather, the banks are merely administrators of deposits and earnings of other people, and any false move putting the safety of the deposits or savings at risk ought to be avoided.



Corporate, political influence undermining the media's editorial independence in India

By Hanan Zaffar

A journalist remembers vividly the excitement of joining a prominent Indian newsroom in New Delhi about five years ago, upon graduating from a prestigious journalism school.

At first the newsroom seemed like a space that valued journalistic independence and integrity. However, he soon began to witness a discernible shift.

"Maybe it started dawning on me a little later but there was clearly external interference on editorial decisions by the big corporations and leaders of political parties, particularly those in power," he said.

He added: "We had to either change story angles in a way that favoured government authorities or completely censor stories that were critical of them."

He worked in that newsroom for three years but when the interference intensified, he and several colleagues became disillusioned and left for another outlet, hoping for a better editorial culture. But they did not find an improved situation, and they now intend to leave journalism altogether.

"There is no hope. We have simply become PR machines of the government and the corporations who own us," he said, adding: "News agencies generally avoid reporting anything critical about corporate houses, especially those close to the government."

The warning signs became unmistakable for the particular journalists when a corporate behemoth with close government ties acquired one of India's last reputedly independent outlets.

The pervasive corporate influence, according to journalists interviewed for this piece, skews coverage and filters out inconvenient truths.

The journalists recalled a recent example: during the wedding of the son of one of India's wealthiest person, foreign outlets reported local outrage over the disruption caused by the festivities, but critical coverage was virtually absent in Indian media. "You could sense the silence," he said.

They also explained that public figures and "spiritual gurus" - prominent supporters and allies of the government - remain largely shielded from critique: "When corporate sponsorship is on the line, independent reporting fades. These figures are simply untouchable in mainstream Indian media."

Erosion of editorial



independence

journalists and the media.

Although corporate influence on Indian media has deep historical roots, the stakes appear higher today. A former editor of the prominent weekly publication believes that the buffer once separating management and editorial teams has dissolved.

"Historically, the media in India were always funded by wealthy business families, but now the control is absolute," he said, adding: "Editorial decisions are increasingly made by corporate bosses instead of journalists, leaving reporters with limited agency."

For the former editor, this shift hit close to home. When under his leadership the weekly newspaper published a cover story critical of the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, he found his job suddenly on the line.

"The same day that cover went viral, I was told by management that we couldn't publish such stories anymore," he said. As happened, he eventually was removed from his role and the cover story also disappeared from the magazine's website.

He explained that the weekly, which is owned by a diversified conglomerate with interests in several sectors including the media, real estate and cement manufacturing, has retreated from hard-hitting journalism and shifted instead to safer topics in a bid to avoid political and corporate backlash.

He believes that this issue isn't confined to national media or newsrooms based in the Indian capital, New Delhi. He noted that state-level outlets face similar pressures from regional governments, regardless of party affiliation.

"Local ruling parties call the shots just as much as those in power at the centre do. It is a pan-India issue, not a regional one," he noted, elaborating on ways the government is weaponising existing laws to silence and intimidate

The female activist, who has long been vocal about the deterioration of democratic values and institutions in the country, said the national media are controlled through corporations close to the government.

For her, too, the takeover of the major TV news channel cited epitomised the erosion of independent journalism. "When corporations have financial control, journalists become mere puppets," she said.

Reporters Without Borders' 2024 World Press Freedom Index ranks India 159 out of 180 countries, attributing the low assessment largely to political pressure and the influence of corporate ownership.

"India's media have fallen into an 'unofficial state of emergency' since Narendra Modi came to power (as prime minister) in 2014 and engineered a spectacular rapprochement between his party and the big families dominating the media," the report noted.

The activist added that instructions from government entities, even those outside the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, have become commonplace.

"We hear about direct orders from the Home Ministry dictating what can and what cannot be shown in the media," she said.

As a result, stories that might embarrass the government, such as drug seizures at corporate-owned ports, disappear from public view. "There's no room for dissent or even honest reporting," she said.

For the, the situation evokes memories of India's Emergency period in the 1970s, when government censorship reigned supreme. But today, she said, journalists don't even have the freedom to publish a blank column in protest. "You either praise the government or stay silent," she said.

It is democracy that ultimately suffers when people lose trust in the media, she warned, highlighting the negative, lasting consequences that concentrated media ownership may lead to in the country.

The lack of varied viewpoints, she argued, risks turning India's media into a monolithic entity that simply reflects the government's preferred narrative.

"When corporate and political interests dominate, the media become an echo chamber," she noted.

A system under siege

A long-serving pro-democracy and pro-harmony activist described the media's transformation in India as a symptom of a broader issue: the convergence of corporate and political power.

• Hanan Zaffar is a freelance journalist based in South Asia. His has reported for major international publications from the region including Al Jazeera, DW News and Newsweek.

Holiday season nearing: Time for learners, parents to work together



In our education system, the academic year serves as a crucial measure of a learner's progress. This reinforces the belief that achievement is closely tied to time. For primary and ordinary level secondary (O-Level) students, the academic year typically begins in January and concludes in late November, with two key holiday breaks: June and December.

The December holiday, which marks the end of the academic year in Tanzania, holds particular significance for both parents and educators. This period allows parents and teachers to prepare for the upcoming year. It is common to see parents diligently searching through bookshops to find educational resources that will help their children succeed academically.

During the December holiday, interactions between pupils, students and parents peak. Parents often feel that education is the most valuable inheritance they can give their children, driving them to meet their children's academic needs.

Many parents strive to make informed decisions based on their financial capabilities and academic priorities. Some go further by investigating which books are available in school libraries to manage their budgets effectively.

For parents who are also teachers, these conversations become even more productive, as they understand how to guide their children's learning during the break. However, regardless of their profession, the shared goal remains the same: ensuring their children's academic success.

Parental involvement during the holiday is crucial for a child's academic and personal development. By monitoring, motivating, and supporting their children, parents ensure that learning continues beyond the classroom. This active participation helps children return to school refreshed, prepared, and ready to succeed.

Parents can help children set realistic academic goals and create study plans for the holiday. Clear goals give children a sense of purpose, and a structured plan helps them stay organized. This approach encourages responsibility and accountability.

It is also important for parents to help children to balance between study, play and rest. Having a balanced routine is vital for both mental and physical health. Children also need time to play and rest. Play enhances creativity and brain development, while rest helps maintain overall

well-being. Parents should ensure their children manage time effectively to avoid exhaustion.

Some schools support

parents by providing holiday study packages. These packages help learners revise and maintain academic progress. Since younger children often struggle to study independently, structured tasks like exercises, homework, and assignments keep them engaged. Some learners need motivation or even discipline to complete their work – typical behavior for children.

Learners' responsibilities during the holiday

Learners can take several steps during the December holiday to enhance their academic performance: They are supposed to spend time reviewing their performance from January to November; identifying both strengths and areas for improvement.

By analyzing past exams and assignments, they can understand why certain goals weren't met and make plans to address these challenges. This practice fosters responsibility and accountability.

During holiday, learners are responsible for maintaining their learning progress and personal development whereas by identifying strengths and weaknesses, they can understand which subjects they excel in and which ones need more attention. Children should set clear and achievable goals for the upcoming term. These goals can be subject-specific,

such as improving Mathematic skills or enhancing reading comprehension.

It is also crucial for children to revise their past lessons as without the pressure of exams or assignments, children can revise calmly, reinforcing their knowledge and improving retention. Holidays are a great time to explore new topics and skills outside the school curriculum. Whether it's learning a new language, reading new books, or developing a hobby, expanding their knowledge helps children grow intellectually.

If schools provide holiday study packages or assignments, children should complete them on time. However, contributing to household tasks teaches children responsibility and teamwork.

By balancing study, new learning, and relaxation, students can return to school refreshed and ready to succeed.

After identifying areas of difficulty, learners should develop new strategies for improvement. Repeating the same methods will yield the same results, so adopting new study tactics can lead to better outcomes. A fresh approach can spark a "peaceful revolution" in their academic journey.

The holiday provides an ideal time for stress-free revision. Without the pressure of exams or assignments, learners can study calmly, which psychologists suggest enhances creativity and comprehension.

Consulting teachers for advice helps parents make informed decisions about their child's learning needs. Teachers are valuable resources for guidance, and their input can help avoid common pitfalls.

A motivated learner thrives when equipped with the right materials. Supplying books and other resources fosters independent learning – the ultimate goal of education.

True educational success depends on collaboration between teachers, parents, and learners. Teachers often carry the majority of this responsibility, but the holiday season offers an opportunity for parents to share the load. As teachers step back for the break, parents step forward to continue supporting their children's learning. Effective communication ensures that learning doesn't stop during the holidays.

Education is a collective effort. By working together, parents, teachers, and learners can achieve the goal of nurturing successful, well-rounded individuals.

CLASSROOM MATTERS
By Thomas Lyimo
lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

Tanganyika's 63rd independence anniversary: A triumph of unity, growth and resilience

By Adonis Byemelwa

On Monday, December 9, 2024, Tanganyika (now mainland Tanzania) celebrated its 63rd independence anniversary, a momentous occasion that reflects the nation's remarkable resilience and rapid progress. From recovering from past conflicts to emerging as a regional leader in economic growth, Tanzania has proven its unwavering commitment to national unity and development.

From its humble beginnings after gaining independence in 1961, Tanzania has evolved into a beacon of stability and opportunity in East Africa, continuously moving forward despite challenges such as the 1978 war with Idi Amin's Uganda, the COVID-19 pandemic, and global economic disruptions.

In recent years, Tanzania has enjoyed impressive economic growth, a remarkable feat given the global setbacks experienced by many nations. The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has seen steady expansion, with the Bank of Tanzania reporting an annual growth rate of approximately 5.7% in 2023.

This upward trajectory in GDP is a reflection of Tanzania's diversified economy, driven by key sectors such as agriculture, mining, tourism, and infrastructure. The mining sector, for instance, has become a significant contributor to the nation's wealth, with Tanzania being home to some of the world's largest deposits of gold, tanzanite, and other precious minerals.

In 2023 alone, the mining sector contributed an estimated 4.5% to the country's GDP. Additionally, President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government has focused on enhancing the mining industry, introducing reforms to increase revenue generation and ensure that Tanzanians fully benefit from their country's natural resources.

The tourism industry, too, has shown remarkable resilience and growth, even in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tanzania remains one of Africa's most popular tourist destinations, with its world-renowned national parks and game reserves, including the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, and Mount Kilimanjaro.

In 2023, Tanzania welcomed over 1.5 million tourists, a significant increase from the previous years, as global travel resumed post-pandemic. The government's focus on enhancing tourism infrastructure and marketing Tanzania's diverse attractions has paid off, with foreign exchange earnings from tourism reaching over \$2 billion in 2023, a solid indicator of the sector's continued potential for contributing to national economic growth.

At the same time, Tanzania has made major strides in improving infrastructure across the country. The expansion of roads, the construction of new bridges, and the implementation of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project are helping to open up previously underserved regions and enhance connectivity.

Access to electricity has also dramatically increased, with more than 78% of the population now having access, compared to just 10% in 2000. This transformation is not just about numbers; it's about improving the quality of life for Tanzanians across the country.

Tanzania's development, however, is not limited to its infrastructure. The government has also prioritized the social sectors, with tangible improvements in healthcare



and education. Maternal mortality rates, for example, have dropped significantly, from 770 to 265 per 100,000 live births, showing the country's dedication to improving healthcare systems.

Access to clean water has also improved, with 70% of the population now having reliable access, compared to only 50% in the early 2000s. Education has been a key focus as well, with secondary school enrollment rising from 20% in 2000 to over 70% in 2024. These achievements are not just numbers but represent real progress for millions of Tanzanians who are now experiencing improved living standards.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in her address to the nation on this historic day, emphasized the importance of unity, peace, and solidarity as the foundation of Tanzania's continued success. She reflected on the country's independence and how far it has come, urging Tanzanians to cherish and protect the peace and unity that have allowed for the nation's growth and prosperity.

By forgoing large-scale celebrations and directing resources towards community-based development initiatives, she reinforced the message that progress is achieved not just through symbolic gestures, but through concrete actions that directly impact the lives of the people. This approach aligns with the leadership philosophy of her predecessor, the late President John Magufuli, who also prioritized development over grand ceremonies.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Minister for Planning and Investment, also echoed these sentiments, praising the importance of collaboration between the government, private sector, and religious institutions in shaping the nation's future. He highlighted the critical role that sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure play in advancing Tanzania's Vision 2025.

Prof. Mkumbo noted the country's progress in several key areas, such as the increase in secondary school enrollment, the significant reduction in maternal deaths, and the ongoing expansion of the road network. With a focus on sustainable development, Tanzania is well-positioned to continue its upward trajectory and achieve its long-term economic goals.

This resilience was echoed by Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Minister for Planning and Investment, during his address at the 37th General Assembly of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ELCT) in the Coast region on December 8, 2024. While celebrating the nation's independence, Prof. Mkumbo highlighted the remarkable progress made in various sectors, emphasizing that this progress is not just a matter of numbers but of tangible improvements in the lives of Tanzanians.

One of the key indicators of progress that Prof. Mkumbo mentioned was the significant increase in life expectancy, which he attributed to improved healthcare systems, better access to education, and the country's overall development. When Tanzania gained independence in 1961, life expectancy was around 40 years. Today, it stands at approximately 65 years, a testament to the country's consistent investments in health and social services. As a planner, Prof. Mkumbo emphasized that these improvements are not coincidental; they are the result of long-term strategic planning and a commitment to building a healthier, more prosperous nation.

This significant increase in life expectancy mirrors the broader trajectory of Tanzania's development, which has been underpinned by a stable political environment, a growing economy, and a commitment to social reforms. The steady rise in foreign investments is another indicator of the country's growing attractiveness as an investment destination. Tanzania's strategic location in East Africa, combined with its stable governance and

ongoing economic reforms, has made it an appealing market for investors.

In recent years, Tanzania has seen a surge in foreign direct investment (FDI), particularly in sectors like mining, tourism, and manufacturing. The government's focus on improving the ease of doing business, reducing bureaucratic red tape, and offering incentives for investors has contributed to this positive trend. These efforts are creating jobs, boosting economic activity, and enhancing Tanzania's competitiveness in the global market.

Despite the global challenges that have impacted many nations, Tanzania's economy continues to grow at a steady pace. The country's GDP per capita has increased by over 5% annually in recent years, reflecting the expanding opportunities for Tanzanians to improve their living standards.

This growth is supported by ongoing infrastructure projects, such as the expansion of the Standard Gauge Railway and the upgrading of ports, which are essential for facilitating trade within East Africa and beyond.

While the country's achievements are impressive, President Samia's call for continued collaboration and unity is essential for ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared by all Tanzanians.

In her address, she urged the people to continue working together to safeguard the country's hard-won peace and stability, noting that it is through these efforts that Tanzania will continue to thrive. She reminded Tanzanians to be proud of their achievements but also to remain focused on the work that lies ahead. With a growing economy, a more educated and healthier population, and continued investment in infrastructure, Tanzania is poised to continue on its path of progress.

Tanzania's 63rd Independence anniversary marks an era of impressive growth, driven by the nation's commitment to unity, peace, and progress. The tourism and mining sectors are booming, while healthcare and education have made notable advancements. These efforts reflect the collective determination of the Tanzanian people, government, and institutions working toward a brighter future.

As the country pushes forward, President William Ruto of Kenya recently acknowledged Tanzania's leadership in trade and development in East Africa, pointing out that the country has outpaced Kenya in several areas.

This recognition highlights Tanzania's growing influence and its ability to attract foreign investment while enhancing infrastructure, education, and public services. Tanzania is on a path to even greater success, and with its strong values of unity and peace, the nation is poised to continue flourishing in the years ahead.

Negative list, zero-tariff treatment prove China's intensified efforts in opening up

ON December 2, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the fourth symposium on Belt and Road construction work in Beijing and delivered an important speech.

He acknowledged the major achievements in Belt and Road cooperation and made comprehensive arrangements for promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in the present and near future, providing important guidance and charting the course forward for promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in the next golden decade.

After the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) convened its third plenary session a few months ago, global observers are focusing on two landmark moves made by China as it opens its doors wider.

Zero-tariff treatment - Starting from Dec. 1, China gives all the least developed countries (LDCs) having diplomatic relations with China zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines, becoming the first major developing country and major economy to implement such a measure.

Negative list - On Nov. 1, the new edition of China's national negative list for foreign investment took effect, which slashed the items from 31 to 29 and removed all market access restrictions for foreign investors in the country's manufacturing sector.

So far, China's negative list for foreign investment has experienced eight rounds of reduction, demonstrating the country's steady expansion of opening up. This exactly proves why the "next China" is still China, according to analysts.

In 2013, the negative list approach was first adopted in China's inaugural pilot free trade zone (FTZ) in Shanghai, containing 190 items.

The following year saw the first reduction, which brought the number of restrictions down to 139, expanding areas of opening up while easing access requirements.

In 2015, China expanded the pilot FTZ practice to three other coastal provincial-level regions: south China's Guangdong province, north China's Tianjin municipality, and southeast China's Fujian province. This year, the list witnessed further shrinkage to 122 items and was applied to all FTZs. This second round of reduction removed all restrictions in the general manufacturing sector, including agricultural product processing and alcoholic beverages.

Starting from 2016, China's negative list for foreign investment was implemented nationwide. At the same time, China piloted the negative list for market access in four provinces and municipalities to introduce the market access negative list into its domestic economic governance.

The third reduction came in 2017, as China slashed the items on the national negative list for foreign investment to 63. Besides, the country applied the list to all its FTZs while also trimming the items on the FTZ negative list to 95. This round of reduction further opened sectors such as rail transportation equipment manufacturing and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

In 2018, the number of items on the national negative list was cut down to only 48, while that on the FTZ negative list was reduced to 45. In addition, the system of a negative list for market access was fully implemented nationwide in China.

The fifth and sixth reductions took place in 2019 and 2020, with the number of restrictions on the national negative list lowered to 40 and 33 respectively, and the FTZ negative list to 37 and 30 respectively, creating a more open, accessible and fair investment environment.

In 2021, there were only 31 and 27 restriction items on the national and FTZ negative lists respectively. This seventh round of reduction made all Chinese manufacturing sectors open to foreign investors in the pilot FTZs.

On Nov. 1, 2024, the new edition of the national negative list came into effect, which scrapped the two remaining manufacturing-related items on the previous list, marking the eighth reduction.

The eight rounds of reduction, addressing practical concerns and looking toward long-term development, demonstrate China's intensified efforts and growing confidence in expanding opening up.

The manufacturing sector was the earliest sector in China to open up to foreign investors, and is also the



A staff member from Benin (R) talks with a customer at the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 5, 2023. (Photo by Wang Chu /People's Daily Online)

most competitive and closely coordinated one in terms of global industrial division of labor. The removal of all market access restrictions for foreign investors in the manufacturing sector exemplifies how China is promoting reform and development through opening up.

At the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in 2018,

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China would reduce as soon as possible limits on foreign investment in automobiles, ships and aircraft, automobiles in particular.

Subsequently, China has gradually lifted foreign investment limits in automobiles, starting with special-purpose vehicles and new energy vehicles (NEVs) in 2018, fol-

lowed by commercial vehicles in 2020, and passenger vehicles in 2022. After a four-year transition period, China's auto industry has achieved full opening-up to foreign investment.

China's production and sales of NEVs accounted for over 60 percent of the world's total in 2023, ranking first in the world for nine consecutive years. The rapid devel-



Photo taken on Oct. 8, 2024 shows a busy terminal in the Qingdao area of the China (Shandong) Pilot Free Trade Zone in east China's Shandong province. (Photo by Zhang Jingang /People's Daily Online)

opment of China's NEV industry is attributed to the country's strong commitment to reform and innovation, which allows it to effectively respond to the ever-changing dynamics of open competition.

Boasting the most complete industrial system globally, China has been the world's top manufacturing country for 14 consecutive years, and has developed over 200 mature industrial clusters and 26 of the world's top 100 science and technology innovation clusters.

China's confidence in removing foreign investment restrictions in the manufacturing sector stems from the fact that the country has turned from a follower to a leader in an increasing number of scientific and technological areas.

Additionally, China has been advancing its manufacturing sector by focusing on high-end, intelligent, and green development, and is committed to promoting international cooperation, which has increased its capability to open up and driven its transition from a manufacturer of quantity to a manufacturer of quality.

In today's world, win-win cooperation is the sure way to success in launching major initiatives that benefit all.

Benin is one of the LDCs designated by the United Nations. In September 2023, China officially granted quarantine access for Beninese pineapples. In November that year, Benin's fresh pineapples made their debut at the sixth China International Import Expo. This "sugar bread of Africa" achieved the fastest entry into China in just two months, with an intended purchase deal reaching \$60 million.

China is pursuing high-standard opening up, and unilaterally opening its doors wider to the LDCs, which is one of the eight actions for global development outlined by the country during the 19th G20 Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

During the summit, China also announced that from now to 2030, its imports from other developing countries are likely to top \$8 trillion, which shows its commitment to sharing its development opportunities with the world.

The decision to give all the LDCs having diplomatic relations with China zero-tariff treatment demonstrates the country's open-mindedness, broad vision, and sense of responsibility.

Reform and opening up is a historic process in which China and the world achieve development and progress together. China has always been committed to win-win cooperation, continuously creating new opportunities for global development through its modernization achievements.

People's Daily

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Sustaining mpox response in Africa with efforts starting to bear fruit

BRAZZAVILLE

WHILE mpox remains a global threat—underscored by WHO's declaration on 22 November 2024 that it continues to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)—in Africa, we are beginning to see positive signs that response efforts are paying off.

Since August 2024, when mpox was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, globally, the situation has become more complex. And as the disease can spread through international travel, it still needs a coordinated international response.

This is not to say, however, that the situation in Africa is the same as just over 100 days ago.

The mpox situation in Africa is nuanced. Many countries in the region have strengthened disease surveillance, case detection (including at points of entry during travel), infection prevention (including through vaccination), and the provision of care and support for affected individuals. All these efforts have contributed to curbing the spread of the virus.

For example, since October 2024, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea, and South Africa have reported no active mpox outbreaks for at least six consecutive weeks and entered the "control phase" (the control phase kicks in when no new cases have been reported in the last 42 days). And as of 25 November, Ghana, Zambia and Zimbabwe have also entered the control phase.

Sixteen of the 19 mpox-affected countries in the region have now achieved testing rates above 80

percent. However, the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to dominate case counts, accounting for close to 80 percent of all lab-confirmed cases in the region since the start of the year.

Mpox has spread to over 80 percent of health zones (424 out of 519) across the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with South Kivu, Tshuapa, and Sankuru currently bearing the highest burden. The country faces significant challenges, including limited diagnostic capacity and logistical constraints. For example, only 37 percent of collected samples were tested in the three weeks spanning late October to early November 2024, leaving some provinces underrepresented in surveillance data and impacting the response.

We must continue our efforts in all key areas of outbreak response and strengthen our efforts where needed.

Across the region, WHO, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and partners have provided a wide range of technical and material support to governments to help them prepare for and respond to mpox outbreaks. More than 2000 health workers have been trained in the key aspects of outbreak response; diagnostic capacity has been vastly expanded with the delivery of 42 000 PCR (or polymerase chain reaction) tests in October alone; contact tracing and treatment have been ramped up; and large-scale risk communication and community engagement activities are being actively supported to inform populations on how to stay safe.

In addition, WHO is providing technical support to countries to develop targeted vaccine de-



ployment plans to maximize the impact of a limited number of doses. It has made it easier for countries to procure vaccines by adding the MVA-BN vaccine to its prequalification list; triggering the emergency use listing process for LC-16 and ACAM2000 vaccines; and establishing an Access and Allocation Mechanism (AAM) to facilitate better access to vaccines, treatments and tests where they are most needed.

Mpox vaccination campaigns are being rolled out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Rwanda and vaccination plans are underway in other countries. In November, AAM has allocated close to 900 000 mpox vaccine doses to nine African countries hardest hit by mpox surge. They include the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda.

During a recent visit to a treatment centre in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's capital, I saw first-hand the efforts and the challenges faced by health

workers who are continuing to work tirelessly under challenging conditions.

As of 27 November 2024, 12 countries still had active transmission of the virus. Eight of them—the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Uganda and Kenya—have outbreaks of high concern. Of these, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda collectively account for more than 96 percent of all lab-confirmed mpox cases in the region, continue to need urgent and sustained interventions.

The IHR Emergency Committee at its second meeting on the upsurge of mpox on 22 November 2024 noted the progress towards controlling the spread of mpox but advised that the event continues to meet the criteria of a public health emergency of international concern, and that there is a need for sustained a cohesive response across countries, including stronger national commitments.

Whilst we acknowledge gains and cel-

brate successes to date, no doubt, we need to do more to keep populations safe from mpox, in Africa and elsewhere.

Global and regional solidarity is key. More resources and support, especially for the communities and countries that are bearing the brunt of the mpox outbreak in Africa, is key.

Only then, can we consolidate gains and address remaining challenges, be that around surveillance or access to mpox vaccines.

As of 27 November 2024, more than 14 669 lab-confirmed cases with 55 deaths had been reported in the African region in this year. Case reports of the highly virulent clade 1b strain in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, the United States of America, Thailand and India highlight the urgent need to tackle this outbreak at its epicentre to prevent further global spread.

Mpox is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus, a species of the genus Orthopoxvirus. Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions which can last 2-4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy and swollen lymph nodes. In severe cases, the disease can be deadly.

Economic empowerment of women: A path to sustainable transformation

By Guardian Correspondent

ACROSS the globe, one in three women will face gender-based violence (GBV) at some point in their lives. In Tanzania, the disturbing reality is reflected in statistics from the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey (TDHS), which reveals that 27 per cent of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence, while 12 per cent have faced sexual violence. But as alarming as these numbers are, the question remains: what can be done to break the cycle of violence?

Poverty is a primary risk factor that exacerbates GBV, creating an environment where women are particularly vulnerable. Often, poverty intersects with gender inequality, compounding the challenges women face. In this context, economic empowerment becomes a crucial tool to combat GBV, offering women not just financial independence, but also the power to regain control over their lives and decisions.

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) is a global movement dedicated to advancing gender equality by investing in women's rights and amplifying their voices. In Tanzania, the forum has become a key advocate for the economic empowerment of women as a strategy to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence. The initiative brings together organizations from all sectors of society to collectively push for bold actions and transformative change.

The disparities in Tanzania's gendered poverty rates are stark. Female-

headed households face significantly higher urban poverty rates (20 per cent) compared to male-headed households (14 per cent). Without the economic power to control vital resources like land ownership or credit, many women are forced to depend on male relatives or partners. This dependency increases their vulnerability to violence and limits their ability to make decisions about their lives. Empowering women economically, therefore, is not just about boosting their financial security—it's about reducing their risk of GBV.

How economic empowerment combats GBV

Economic empowerment offers women the resources and agency to change their circumstances. By increasing women's bargaining power in the household, economic independence makes it easier for them to leave abusive relationships. With the ability to manage their finances and access capital, women can negotiate more equitable household power dynamics. This shift leads to a reduction in poverty and, over time, creates healthier relationships that are less likely to be rooted in violence and control.

Furthermore, economic empowerment helps change societal attitudes toward GBV. As women gain more control over their finances and livelihoods, communities begin to view women's economic participation not just as a necessity but as a right. This transformation leads to reduced acceptance of GBV and a greater intolerance of impunity when such violence occurs.

Women's economic empowerment is also a safe-



guard against economic abuse, where financial control is used as a tool of manipulation and violence. Women who are financially independent are less likely to fall into such relationships, as they have the means to support themselves and even set up independent households.

Tanzania's progress in women's empowerment

Over the past two decades, Tanzania has made remarkable strides in improving women's economic opportunities. The female labour-force participation rate has surged from 67 per cent in 2000 to 80 per cent in 2019, significantly surpassing the Sub-Saharan African average of 63 per cent. More Tanzanian women are now employed in wage-paying jobs, and the ratio of women to men in such jobs

has increased from 0.35:1 in 2000 to 0.64:1 in 2019. At the same time, the share of women engaged in unpaid agricultural work has decreased from 78 per cent in 2004-05 to 64 per cent in 2015-16.

Despite the advancements, challenges remain. Women still face barriers in accessing land and credit, and gender-based violence continues to undermine their potential. However, the growing support for women's entrepreneurship and local government initiatives aimed at providing loans and business training has provided a foundation for women's economic empowerment to flourish.

Women leading the charge
One such success story is that of Tabitha Julius Wambura, a fish vendor from Miama, Mwanza, whose

life has been transformed through economic empowerment. Starting with just 20,000 Tanzanian shillings as working capital, Tabitha's determination saw her business grow.]

Today, she owns her own outdoor engine and employs 15 people. "Because of my business, I can support the life and education of my four children, who were abandoned by their father," Tabitha explains. "I'm proud to not only support my family but also provide jobs to 30 other people here."

Tabitha's story exemplifies how economic empowerment creates tangible change. With financial independence, she has not only improved her own life but also empowered others in her community. Her success shows how women's

economic power is a pathway to breaking free from the constraints of violence and poverty.

Her dreams of expanding into real estate, further diversifying her income and securing a future that is free from the threat of GBV. Her journey demonstrates the transformative power of economic empowerment in overcoming gender-based violence.

While progress has been made, the journey toward fully eradicating gender-based violence through economic empowerment is ongoing. The National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) emphasizes that investing in violence prevention and women's economic empowerment has far-reaching benefits for inclusive growth. Tanzania,

along with other nations, must continue to invest in policies and programs that support women's economic autonomy, not just as a means of economic growth, but as a critical strategy for preventing violence.

By providing women with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive, Tanzania can build a more equitable society where women are not only free from violence but empowered to shape their futures.

Economic empowerment is not just a solution for women—it's a solution for society as a whole. Through collaborative efforts, including those led by initiatives like Generation Equality, the fight against gender-based violence can be won, one empowered woman at a time.



Thursday 12 December 2024

TGNP train NGO executives on new gender policy, programme responsive budgeting

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) has organized a one-day seminar for chief executive officers and managers representing at least 20 non-government organizations (NGOs) which aimed at training them on the National Gender and Women Development Policy 2023 so that they can start aligning their programs with the policy requirement especially on gender responsive budgeting (GRB).

Speaking at the seminar yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Sultan Mhina, Gender and Development Consultant at GAD Consultants said that they have consulted the stakeholders to exchange experiences about the policy as important stakeholders in its implementation.

He said that in all the matters contained in the policy, great emphasis has been placed on justice and equality among all citizens in accessing services provided through public funds derived from tax collections.

"For example, when we hear that the Rural Energy Agency is connecting villages to electricity, let that electricity benefit all people without discrimination. That electricity is there

not only to turn on the lights but also to be used to run social activities like salon and welding," he said.

Mhina said that TGNP have called the stakeholders to conduct a joint review of what the policy has identified as priority so that they can consider them in serving the community.

"We also aim to give stakeholders a reason to evaluate how far their services have contributed to the matters specified in the policy. For example in economic empowerment and combating gender violence," he said.

Eddah Duncan, Executive Director, Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls Tanzania (WAGITA) said that NGOs have been working in accordance with the policy of 2002 which was revised last year with many new aspects that chief executives and managers should be familiar with.

"Through this seminar, I have understood the priority trends that this new policy requires us development stakeholders to deal with;

My institution is engaged in women's economic empowerment where this policy has identified important areas involving special groups such as



people with disabilities," she said.

She said that the policy also encourages the monitoring of the implementation of the development budget up to the village and street levels. It indicates how NGOs can contribute to its implementation in their programs.

Mophat Mapunda, Assistant Director, Youth and Women Development Foundation (YOWED)

said that NGOs aim at community development where knowing the policies and budgets of the government is important to waive conflicts of interest during the preparation of plans and implementation. "Knowing the policy helps to know what aspects to consider in our programs so that they are in line with the plans and strategies of the government," said Mapunda.

Service wins CBN's IFIC award for financial inclusion innovation

LAGOS

OPAY has been honoured with the IFIC Award for Financial Inclusion Innovation by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The award was presented at the 2024 International Financial Inclusion Conference (IFIC), a premier event that brought together global thought leaders, regulators, and industry stakeholders to discuss strategies for accelerating financial inclusion across Africa and beyond.

The recognition underscores OPay's alignment with regulatory standards and its significant contributions to advancing Nigeria's financial inclusion objectives. It also reflects the institution's commitment to supporting the CBN's mission of achieving a 95 percent financial inclusion rate by 2024.

By working closely with the CBN and other regulatory bodies, OPay has provided millions of Nigerians with secure, innovative, and accessible digital financial services, breaking down longstanding barriers to financial access.

The award selection process was rigorous, evaluating metrics such as regulatory compliance, technological innovation, customer impact, and contributions to the CBN's financial inclusion goals. OPay emerged as the top performer among a competitive pool of financial service providers, setting a benchmark for excellence in delivering secure and innovative financial solutions.

"This recognition by the CBN highlights OPay's dedication to providing innovative, compliant, and inclusive financial solutions," said Dauda Gotring, CEO of OPay. "We remain committed to leveraging technology to drive financial inclusion while ensuring the highest standards of security and regulatory compliance."

The 2024 IFIC Conference addressed critical issues in Nigeria's financial inclusion landscape, including expanding financial service access, improving digital literacy, and fostering collaboration between regulators and private sector innovators like OPay.

As Nigeria approaches its ambitious financial inclusion target, OPay continues to lead by example. Its achievements not only showcase the potential of public-private partnerships but also reinforce the importance of building a secure, innovative, and inclusive financial ecosystem that supports sustainable economic growth.

Recently, Paystack introduced the "Pay with OPay" feature to tap OPay's over 40

million customers.

Revealed on its X handle, the fintech said, "Nigeria's most downloaded fintech app, is now integrated with Paystack Checkout.

"We're always increasing the number of payment channels we offer, while also improving the efficacy of existing channels."

"Today, we're thrilled to share that Paystack merchants in Nigeria can now accept payments quickly and securely from over 40 million OPay users," it added on its website.

To enable the feature, customers must enable Pay with OPay for their Paystack account.

According to Paystack, customers must click the Bank checkbox in the Preferences tab of the Settings section of your Paystack Dashboard, to enable the feature.

This will enable the Pay with Bank channel, giving you access to Pay with OPay and over 26 other bank channels.

Explaining how it works, Paystack noted that customers must first navigate to the Pay with Bank payment channel.

"After they select the OPay option, and click Authenticate, they'll be directed to their OPay app to complete the payment.

"If they're not paying via their mobile phone, they'll be directed to the OPay web app," the fintech added.

The Central Bank of Nigeria last month launched three initiatives aimed at realising Nigeria's vision of a \$1 trillion economy by 2030 through financial inclusion.

The initiatives were launched at the second edition of the International Financial Inclusion Conference, which was held in Lagos on Tuesday under the theme, 'Inclusive Growth: Harnessing Inclusion for Economic Development'.

The initiatives unveiled during this year's conference include the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code (We-Fi Code, which is a platform designed to transform the financing landscape for women-owned Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises globally, the Women Financial Inclusion Dashboard which allows regulators and policymakers to identify and prioritise gender gaps in financial services;

The third initiative is the Roadmap for the Financial Inclusion of Forcibly Displaced Persons, which is aimed at mobilising the collaborative efforts of financial institutions, regulatory bodies, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations to support FDPs in overcoming financial barriers, accessing essential services, and establishing the foundation for their economic independence.

Olayemi Cardoso, the CBN Governor, in his welcome address, said that as we gather here



Central Bank of Nigeria

today we reflect on Nigeria's ambitious plan to reach a \$1 trillion economy.

He said the Apex bank had been working assiduously to stabilise the economy, working through monetary policy to tame inflation and rebuild the confidence of the Nigerian people in its economy.

Cardoso emphasised that financial inclusion was central to achieving broad-based economic growth, stressing that Economically, financial inclusion impacts poverty reduction, income equality, employment generation, and overall productivity.

"When more people have access to formal financial services, they are better able to save, invest, and contribute to the economy," Cardoso said.

Cardoso, while noting that financial inclusion ensures that people have access to bank accounts, credit, savings, and other essential services, maintained that widespread access to financial services is an enabler of economic activity.

According to him, Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are the backbone of Nigeria's economy can thrive with improved access to credit, creating jobs and boosting productivity.

The CBN Governor reiterated that financial inclusion was foundational to Nigeria's sustainable economic development, saying that the Apex bank was keen on ensuring its Financial Inclusion Policies and Initiatives address the peculiar access to finance barriers for underserved populations, particularly women, youth, and MSMEs.

Furthermore, Cardoso emphasised that financial inclusion had the potential to unlock significant economic growth, particularly through the empowerment of SMEs,

women, and other vulnerable segments of the population.

He disclosed that SMEs were responsible for over 80 percent of employment in Nigeria, yet many struggle to access the credit needed for expansion, adding that financial inclusion for SMEs was essential to unlock the full potential of this sector, which he said the Federal Government remained committed to supporting these enterprises.

Similarly, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, urged various governments and stakeholders in Nigeria to remain focused on building a more inclusive economy, where no one is left behind, where every voice matters, and every individual has a fair chance to succeed.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Deputy, Obafemi Hamzat urged everyone to focus on the pursuit of financial inclusion, saying that this should be done with passion, purpose, and a shared vision of a Nigeria where every citizen has access to the tools and resources they needed to prosper.

According to him, the focus should be on building a more inclusive economy where no one is left behind, where every voice matters, and where every individual has a fair chance to succeed.

"Let us continue this work with passion, purpose, and a shared vision of a Nigeria where every citizen has access to the tools and resources they need to prosper.

"Let us remain focused on building a more inclusive economy where no one is left behind, where every voice matters, and where every individual has a fair chance to succeed," Sanwo-Olu said.

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**


Tanzanians urged to use ICT to curb GBV

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

THE Tanzanian community has been urged to use advancements in information and communication technology (ICT) and other methods, including the use of khanga (a traditional cloth), to spread the message against gender-based violence (GBV) in the country.

Speaking to women from various backgrounds such as food vendors, teachers, and entrepreneurs at the climax of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, Dakama Ward Officer Tumshukuru Mudui, emphasized that the 16 days of activism, coupled with women's training, marked a significant step towards a society free from GBV.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Taifa Gas, Barrick Bulyanhulu, and other partners for organizing this unique and innovative event aimed at promoting the fight against GBV and advocating for the use of clean energy (gas) to mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation in the country," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of women's participation in training sessions and their role in spreading information and education about GBV in primary and secondary schools, ensuring a better understanding of the issue from the grassroots level to the national stage.

He further praised the Tanzania Police Force for establishing gender desks to address GBV issues, while collaborating with various partners and other institutions to enhance the fight against GBV.

Barrick Bulyanhulu General Manager, Victor Lule, emphasized the need to leverage technological advancements as an effective channel for tackling GBV at the national, regional, and international levels.

"It is very sad that, even in this era of technology, we still encounter barbaric acts against women and children, some of which have led to loss of life," he said.

Barrick Bulyanhulu Mine Community Relations and Environmental Manager, Agapiti Paul, mentioned that the 16-day training sessions for women in surrounding communities had a positive impact. The women were now more aware of GBV and its solutions.

"We have been using these sessions not only to educate about GBV but also to promote the use of clean cooking energy as a way to support the efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government," he said.

Joshua Julius, energy firm Zonal Sales Manager, expressed that the company had decided to join the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV by supporting the distribution of clean energy stoves, in line with President

and called for the government and other stakeholders to continue with such a programme next year.

Joyce Felix (28), who holds a certificate on health issues, noted that training was a gateway for women to lift themselves out of GBV and any misconduct from the grassroots to regional level.

"We are aware that the media can also assist to raise the voices of women as the majority of us are voiceless on GBV. I now know how to report to the police and other helpful centres such as paralegals," she said.

Barrick Bulyanhulu partners for this year's commemoration included the Tanzania Police Force through gender desks, district councils, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) such as Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), Life Changing Foundation (LCF), Jadra, Hope for the Girls and Women (HGWT), Bowmans Law firm, and a renowned gas production and distribution company, Taifa Gas, to bring about positive change on GBV.



We have been using these sessions not only to educate about GBV but also to promote the use of clean cooking energy as a way to support the efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government

How StumbleUpon pioneered the way people use the internet

NEW YORK

STUMBLEUpon, a tool that led users to random websites, had a stranglehold on millennials in the 2010s. Its influence echoes through everything we do online.

For Kaitlyn Arford, a 31-year-old freelance writer based in Kentucky, US, memories of her early experiences with the internet all coalesce around one website: StumbleUpon.

"Any time I had a moment where I didn't know what to do with myself, I would jump on StumbleUpon in our school's little computer lab," she says. "It was a way to discover things I would have never known existed - it was so joyful and fun in a way that websites just aren't anymore."

Before there was TikTok's For You Page or the Newsfeed on Facebook, there was StumbleUpon - a website (and later a browser extension) founded in 2001 that worked by ushering users down online rabbit holes of semi-randomised websites. The platform helped cement a style of algorithmically-tailored content recommendation that continues to dominate the web. And though it shut down in 2018, StumbleUpon still has a grip on the people who grew up with it, coming to represent a different - and better - time when the internet felt vast, unknowable and delightful.

"I remember going to the site in middle school on my iPod Touch, and it was my first experience with social media," says Elena Schmidt, another millennial with a tender nostalgia for StumbleUpon, who works as a political organiser in Michigan, US. "There was almost a utopian feeling to it. The internet was an inviting, cool place where you could literally stumble upon concepts and ideas that were fun."

A brief search for "StumbleUpon" on X, Reddit or TikTok reveals countless posts yearning for the platform. For many, the mere mention of StumbleUpon brings on a state of reverie and nostalgia for the lost wonders it unlocked, and a seemingly bygone era of internet bliss.

The site's legacy lives on more than a decade after it drifted out of the mainstream. And with all the enduring love for StumbleUpon, many feel its disappearance as a marker of how the web itself has changed - once a sprawling playground of serendipity, now a tightly supervised ecosystem of platforms optimised for profit, efficiency and control.

StumbleUpon was founded in 2001 by four students at the University of Calgary in Canada, led by Garrett Camp, who later went on to co-found Uber. Camp described StumbleUpon in a 2011 New York Times article as a tool that "provides a personal tour of the Internet," a sort of mix between a search engine and social media site. Facebook didn't come around until 2004, making StumbleUpon many people's introduction to social sharing online.

The website allowed you to select general interests and topics. From there, you would hit the "Stumble" button, which sent you a new website, selected at random or curated by a relatively simple algorithm that learned from your browsing habits. Users could hit "thumbs



up" on websites they liked and "thumbs down" on content they didn't to better train the feed. If you hit thumbs up on a website that wasn't in the system, StumbleUpon would add the site to its database and recommend it to other users. Those who used StumbleUpon could spend hours drifting further into the unexpected labyrinths of the web.

Some of StumbleUpon's popular entries were things you might find in a different format on today's social media: hate mail from third graders when scientists decided Pluto isn't a planet; photos of street art; tips and tricks to annoy your friends. Arford remembers finding a Star Trek blog and a landscape photography website. Schmidt describes a finger-weaving technique she discovered through StumbleUpon.

But much of what most delighted Stumblers could never exist on TikTok or Instagram. For example, a web-app that topped StumbleUpon's charts let you drag your mouse around the screen to simulate the physics of water - the sort of experimental web design that's only possible on a site where a creator has complete control.

But it wasn't just the material that people loved. Looking back, some users say StumbleUpon gave them a feeling of agency over their digital lives that's been lost on the contemporary internet. For Schmidt, social media is now an endless, fast-moving stream that leaves her feeling powerless. "It's such a firehose of topics that can be overwhelming," she says. "StumbleUpon had that filter, and it empowered me as a social media user to curate my experience."

StumbleUpon commanded a massive influence in the early 2010s. For many, it became the go-to place to waste time online.

People were hitting the Stumble button over a billion times a month at the height of its powers. By some measures, more than half of the traffic that social media platforms sent to other parts of the internet in 2011 came from StumbleUpon - it sometimes beat out Facebook, even though StumbleUpon had hundreds of millions fewer users.

But just a few years later, the site had fizzled out. Camp announced in 2018 StumbleUpon would be shutting down the site and migrating users to a similar platform called Mix. The URL stumbleupon.com still redirects to Mix, which - unlike the free-flowing original site - primarily shuffles users through various posts on Reddit based on interest filters. Although other randomising sites have emerged, like the Useless Web, they have struggled to capture the fervour that StumbleUpon garnered in its heyday.

That's because the internet that produced StumbleUpon no longer exists, says Gilbert Wilkes, an information design professor at Mount Royal University in Canada, who co-authored a 2015 paper about the online ecosystems that shaped StumbleUpon.

"The web of 2001 was a web of sites," he says. "Now it's a web of

platforms. Those platforms don't support the sort of serendipity, the sort of variety, diversity that the previous internet supported."

In other words, the internet has been widely consolidated since its early days - a small number of platforms are managed by an even smaller number of companies. "That's the story of our era - it's mergers and acquisitions. There is no more development," Wilkes says. "The party is over."

Wilkes divides reasons for the disappearance of StumbleUpon into two main categories: a narrowing of the style of content people make online, and a fundamental consolidation of the internet's infrastructure.

StumbleUpon came into existence at a unique time in the lifecycle of the internet. From 1995 to about 2007, Wilkes says, there was an eruption of experimentation online - most of which was built on individual websites.

StumbleUpon, too, was built on a browser that was optimised for desktop computers, not phones. The first iPhone was released in 2007, heralding a major migration away from websites and towards apps. As of 2024, more than 40 percent of global internet traffic comes from mobile devices. StumbleUpon was "very much a desktop experience", Wilkes says, and couldn't adapt to this evolution.

The idea of a platform built around sending users off to websites owned by another company is practically unimaginable today. The current economic structure of online advertising incentivises companies to keep you on their pages, or in their apps, for as long as possible.

"What made StumbleUpon somewhat different is that it would deliver you to a site," Wilkes says. "It wasn't that you were inside StumbleUpon, like today you are on Pinterest and everything is posted on Pinterest. The brilliance of it was that it was delivering you wherever it wanted to."

That kind of open web is disappearing - it's been replaced by a series of walled gardens, and companies would prefer we stay inside them. That consolidation has contributed to an overall decline in the variety of content online, which StumbleUpon was able to serve users, Wilkes says. When big tech platforms control the attention, and therefore the money, it encourages people to homogenise their content to fit the formats of social media platforms and please their algorithms.

"In the '90s and the early '00s, you had this huge burst of creativity as people were exploring the space, trying to figure out what they wanted to do, and what problems they could solve with it. There was so much activity that is no longer there," says Wilkes. To be sure, there's still enormous creativity on the internet, but it's limited in scope, and to an extent, "the algorithms no longer support the sort of niche, weirdo activity everybody loved", he adds.

minimising waste and helping our customers to reuse, repair, and recycle their products". It says it offers customers free recycling options including home pick-up via its website.

Ebay said sustainability "is a core focus" for its business, and highlighted its new trade-in service where customers can hand in old technology in exchange for cash.

Other major online marketplaces Temu and Euronics have not commented yet.

The plans will bring an end to vapes being categorised alongside toys, leisure and sports equipment for recycling purposes.

Instead, a new category for e-waste specifically from vapes will be introduced.

UK non-profit Material Focus estimates five million vapes are either littered or thrown away in general waste every week in the UK.

And it estimates British households throw away over 100,000 tonnes of smaller household electrical items, such as kettles and lamps every year.

Elfbar, one of the UK's leading vape brands, told BBC News it welcomed the change.

"We are committed to providing products that reduce waste and are working with retailers to support them through regulatory changes while ensuring adult smokers and ex-smokers get continued access to smoking alternatives," said a spokesperson.

The government will also require online marketplaces to register with the Environment Agency and report UK sales from their overseas sellers.

This data will be used to calculate the financial contribution the online marketplaces must make towards the costs of recycling e-waste.

The UK government said the new obligations will be enforced by the Environment Agency and equivalent regulators in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The government says the move will help fund recycling services.

"We welcome the government's new measures to help level the playing field for responsibility for waste, making online marketplaces do their part," said Currys boss Alex Baldock.

"Low value, low quality and unsustainable tech is piling up in landfills, and it's good to see government doing something to tackle that."

Car loan scandal victims called on to lodge appeals

LONDON

A saga over the sale of car finance is "one unholy mess" and customers can complain to their lender if they are aggrieved, MPs have heard.

Lenders and dealers have been accused of hiding commission payments made when cars were bought on finance deals.

Facing the Commons Treasury Committee, bosses at the financial regulator were told the situation was a mess that would take a long time to resolve.

Dissatisfied car buyers should complain, if they felt their loan was mis-sold, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) said. Thousands of drivers have already done so.

The vast majority of new cars, and many second-hand ones, are bought with finance agreements.

About two million are sold this way each year, with customers paying an initial deposit, then a monthly fee with interest for the vehicle.

The FCA has been considering whether car buyers should be compensated for cases when car dealers received a commission from lenders, based on the interest rate charged to the customer. These arrangements were banned in 2021.

A recent Court of Appeal ruling widened the saga to other types of "hidden" commission payments and raised the possibility of millions of motorists receiving pay-outs. Banks have set aside hundreds of millions of pounds as a result.

Dame Meg Hillier described the situation as "one unholy mess" because dealers and lenders may not have been transparent to their customers.

She asked what advice there was for anyone caught up in it.

"If you are not satisfied with the

terms of your finance agreement, you should contact your lender and put in a complaint to your lender if you are concerned," said FCA chief executive Nikhil Rathi.

Hundreds of thousands of complaints are likely to have already been made, potentially ending with the largest compensation scheme regarding financial products since the payment protection insurance (PPI) saga.

Lawyers for car buyers say cases should proceed on the basis of the Court of Appeal ruling, but Mr Rathi was more circumspect.

He said that the courts had given different interpretations of the law regarding fixed commissions, while the FCA had already been looking into discretionary commission arrangements.

Lenders involved in the case have asked the Supreme Court to consider the case. In the meantime, dealers and lenders have been given a longer period to deal with complaints.

A clearer idea on whether a "structured redress system" which would either require customers to complain, or ensure firms go back through cases and automatically pay compensation, would come next year, MPs heard.

Significantly, Mr Rathi said that the regulator was also considering whether the Court of Appeal ruling could have implications for other sectors.

He would not be drawn on which sectors, but analysts have suggested other "big ticket" purchases made on finance could come under the microscope.

In a wide-ranging hearing, the committee of MPs also questioned the FCA on investment risks facing consumers, financial influencers, and the operational effectiveness of the regulator.



Lenders involved in the case have asked the Supreme Court to consider the case. In the meantime, dealers and lenders have been given a longer period to deal with complaints.



Amazon, eBay to pay 'fair share' for e-waste recycling

LONDON

ONLINE marketplaces such as Amazon and eBay will have to pay their "fair share" of the costs of recycling electrical waste under new government proposals.

Circular economy minister Mary Creagh said planned reforms would create a "level playing field" for electronics producers by putting more onus on international retailers to contribute to recycling costs.

Some foreign sellers have been able to avoid this charge by selling via online marketplaces, leaving UK-based firms such as Currys to foot much of the bill.

Firms which produce e-cigarettes will also be asked to pay more, with the plans not coming into action until January, 2026.

In 2023, the UN estimated 844 million vapes are thrown away every year - though it said "77 times more" e-waste is generated from unwanted



toys.

"Under these new plans, online marketplaces - Amazon, eBay and others - will face much tougher obligations to ensure that overseas sellers who use their platforms contribute to that cost of collection and recycling," Creagh told PA News.

The minister is responsible for the UK government's commitment to a circular economy, which is the idea of reusing, repairing, and the sharing of materials and products to live in a more environmentally sustainable world.

Amazon told BBC News it is "committed to

MARKETTRENDS

Firm introduces flexible, affordable motor policy

LAGOS

NIGERIA'S leading provider of insurance and investment solutions-emPLE, across Africa, has unveiled its newest offering, the Flexi Third-Party Motor Insurance, designed to address the dual needs of affordability and bespoke coverage for Nigerian vehicle owners.

It reflects emPLE's forward-thinking product development strategy and its vision of empowering individuals with accessible and innovative financial solutions that truly improve lives.

The Flexi Third-Party Motor Insurance re-

defines third-party insurance, offering the market unprecedented choice and flexibility. It has three distinct tiers of budget-friendly plans: Basic Third-Party, Flexi Basic, and Flexi Standard. These products allow customers to choose a coverage plan that suit their risk management appetite and budget.

The Basic third-party plan, priced at N15,000, helps car owners meet the statutory and compulsory insurance requirements for car owners in Nigeria.

On the other hand, the Flexi Basic plan stretches the benefits of third-party insurance to allow vehicle owners' the opportu-

nity to be indemnified up to N3,000,000 in damages, in the event of accidental damage to their car. The third plan, Flexi Standard, provides basic third party while offering added protection to the vehicle owner in the event of fire, theft and accidental own damage up to the limit of N2,000,000.

Speaking on this product Olalekan Oyindade, managing director, emPLE General Insurance, stated,

"At emPLE, we are aware that insurance is not a one-size-fits-all and remain committed to empowering Nigerians by providing financial products that align with their life-

style and needs. We believe that insurance should be a tool for empowerment; hence, the Flexi

Third Party Motor Insurance Plan is more than just an insurance policy; it is a solution that bridges the gap between affordability and extended protection.

This product prioritises road safety and financial security while giving our customers the peace of mind they deserve when

This new product reaffirms emPLE's position as an innovative, trailblazing and customer-centric solutions provider in the financial industry. By prioritising simplicity and

accessibility, the product ensures that Nigerians, from first-time car owners to experienced drivers, can enjoy protection without the complexities and lack of choice.

emPLE is a leading financial services company that provides insurance and investment solutions to retail and corporate clients across Africa.

We aim to empower Africans with innovative financial products that enhance freedom, security, and prosperity.

UBA hedges high inflation, interest with 375pc returns

LAGOS

United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc has delivered an extraordinary 375 percent capital gain to investors over nearly five years, outperforming both the Nigerian stock market average and the financial services sector as a whole.

Data from the Nigerian stock market shows that UBA investors have earned an average annual return of approximately 75 percent over the period, showcasing UBA's strength as a high-yield, inflation-resistant investment.

Between December 31, 2019, and December 6, 2024, UBA achieved a cumulative capital gain of 374.83 percent, which translates to an average annual return of 74.97 percent. This means that an investor who invested N500,000 in UBA shares at the start of 2020 now holds a market value of over N2.374 million, not including the cash dividends accrued during the period.

UBA has built a reputation as a shareholder-friendly company, offering consistent and above-average cash dividends. In 2024, UBA paid an interim dividend of N2 per share based on its half-year results, marking the highest payout by any Nigerian bank and one of the top three in the stock market.

An investor who committed N500,000 to UBA shares in 2020 would have received approximately N139,860 as interim dividends for the 2024 financial year alone, representing over 25 percent of their initial investment.

UBA is currently conducting a N239.4 billion rights issue, offering shareholders an opportunity to increase their stakes. The bank is issuing 6.84 billion new shares at N35 per share, on a ratio of one new share for every five held as of November 5, 2024. The rights issue will close on December 24, 2024.

Retail shareholders, who make up nearly three-quarters of UBA's 280,000 shareholders, have embraced the rights issue enthusiastically. Many are applying for more shares than their pre-allotted rights, while others are trading their rights in the stock market, taking advantage of favorable extant rules.



UBA's stellar performance has been a key contributor to the bullish trend in the Nigerian stock market, which has recorded five consecutive years of positive returns. The Nigerian Exchange's benchmark All Share Index (ASI) has consistently ranked among the world's top-performing markets, with average returns of 45.90 percent in 2023 and significant gains in preceding years: 19.98 percent (2022), 6.07 percent (2021), and 50.03 percent (2020).

In 2024, the ASI has achieved an average year-to-date return of 31.34 percent, while UBA has outperformed with a 35.26 percent year-to-date return, more than double the 15.53 percent average return for the banking sector.

UBA's capital gain also surpasses key indices like the NGX 30 Index (32.97 percent), NGX Premium Index (30.43 percent), and NGX Pension Index (33.95 percent), underscoring its status as a premium investment choice.

Despite Nigeria's challenging economic environment, with an inflation rate of 33.88 percent and a benchmark interest rate of 27.25 percent as of October 2024, UBA has maintained its position as a dependable and high-performing investment. Its share price, which started 2020 at N715, now stands at N33.95—an impressive 375 percent increase over the period.

Long-term shareholders, including notable figures such as Sir Sunny Nwosu, founder of the Independent Shareholders Association of Nigeria, and Faruk Umar, President of the Association for the Advancement of Rights of Nigerian Shareholders, have lauded UBA for its consistent performance and shareholder-friendly policies.

Nwosu praised the bank's strong dividend history and shareholder-focused decisions, urging fellow investors to

take advantage of the ongoing rights issue. Similarly, Umar highlighted UBA's robust management and governance, expressing optimism about future returns. UBA's financial performance remains a key driver of its market success. For the nine months ending September 30, 2024, the bank reported an 83.2 percent growth in gross earnings, rising from N1,308 trillion in 2023 to N2,398 trillion. Operating income grew by 51 percent to N1.54 trillion, while profit before tax rose to N603.48 billion, compared to N502.09 billion in the same period of 2023.

Net profit after tax increased from N449.26 billion to N525.31 billion, with earnings per share improving from N12.93 to N14.78. The bank's balance sheet expanded significantly, with total assets growing by 54 percent to N31.80 trillion as of September 2024.

This growth was driven by a surge in customer deposits, which increased by 52.7 percent to N26.50 trillion, and loans and advances, which grew by 46.8 percent to N7.68 trillion. Total equity also jumped by 76.8 percent to N3.59 trillion, reflecting UBA's solid financial footing.

BANKING & FINANCE

WB trims Kenya's economic growth outlook to 4.7 percent

NAIROBI

THE World Bank has downgraded Kenya's economic growth forecast for the year to 4.7 percent from an initial 5 percent forecast in June 2024—all lower than the 5.6 percent recorded in 2023.

"Growth in 2024 is estimated at 4.7 percent, a downward revision from the June 2024 economic update following headwinds that have already impacted headline growth during the year including severe floods in Q2-24, subdued business sentiment following the mid-2024 protests, a tighter monetary policy, and ongoing fiscal consolidation," World Bank noted in the Kenya Economic Update Report.

In the economic update report, published twice a year, the World Bank noted that missed revenue targets continue to ail the budgeting process, owing to the overly optimistic revenue targets leading to budget shortfalls. Higher debt servicing costs from the increased reliance on high interest rates domestic borrowing has put pressure on the fiscal space with Kenya still facing high risks of debt distress.

"Debt vulnerabilities including elevated debt servicing costs, accumulated pending bills, and missing revenue targets remain key challenges," World Bank noted in the report.

The report noted that business confidence remained subdued in the year with jittery sentiments in the private sector growth. Further, the severe floods in April affected the livelihood of households, mostly in urban areas, limiting growth in private consumption. The construction sector was affected by the high real interest rates amid the weaker housing demand, which negatively impacted the headline growth.

The multilateral lender however noted that lower inflation, adequate weather conditions and easing monetary policy will support disposable incomes of the private sector by boosting consumption to spur economic growth. Non-performing loans increased, highlighting the growing credit risks in the banking sector with borrowers facing the hurdle in the high interest rates regime.

"While the fiscal deficit remains high,

its steady decline offers a key opportunity to further reduce debt vulnerabilities through strategic revenue mobilization, fiscal discipline, and growth-oriented policies," said Naomi Mathenge, World Bank Senior Economist.

Kenya has secured access to approximately \$606 million following the IMF Executive Board's completion of the seventh and eighth reviews under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Extended Credit Facility (ECF), along with the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) review.

"The EFF/ECF and RSF arrangements continue to support the authorities' efforts to anchor macroeconomic stability, reduce debt vulnerabilities, and promote reforms," Gita Gopinath, IMF's Acting Chair, stated. Despite progress, the IMF stressed the need for a credible fiscal consolidation strategy, warning that Kenya's fiscal performance fell short, adding to debt risks.

The IMF Board also flagged concerns over missed revenue targets which could threaten Kenya's debt stability. "A credible fiscal consolidation strategy remains central," Gopinath emphasized, noting the importance of reforms to make the tax system more efficient and equitable.

The Board urged swift reforms, particularly in governance, anti-corruption frameworks, and AML/CFT measures, to build public trust and attract climate financing. Kenya's Central Bank was commended for decisive actions, including strengthening monetary policy and improving exchange rate flexibility to cushion against external shocks.

Kenya's economic growth, as measured by Real GDP growth, will slow down from 5.6 percent in 2023 to 5.0% in 2024 and 2025 respectively, the International Monetary Fund has predicted in its latest economic outlook report.

"In emerging market and developing economies, disruptions to production and shipping of commodities—especially oil—conflicts, civil unrest, and extreme weather events have led to downward revisions to the outlook for the Middle East and Central Asia and that for sub-Saharan Africa," the IMF said in the report.

China's capital market eyes upping investment choices for foreigners

BEIJING

FURTHER opening-up of the Chinese capital market and deepening cooperation with multilateral financial institutions will not only bolster the country's high quality economic growth, but also provide more opportunities outside the country, said experts.

China will steadily include more futures and options that can be directly traded by overseas investors. Commodity futures and options accessible to qualified foreign investors (QFIs) will also be expanded in an orderly manner.

Chen Huaping, vice-chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, released the above information during the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Derivatives Forum held on Saturday.

The CSRC, the country's top securities watchdog, will also support domestic and foreign exchanges to carry out settlement price authorization



and launch cross-border commodity exchange-traded funds. Overseas exchanges will be allowed to launch more financial products linked to Chinese onshore futures prices,

said Chen. The Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE) is studying the internationalization of its nickel products, the exchange's deputy general manager Zhang Ming

said at the Saturday forum.

The SHFE will study rolling out more international products to better meet risk management demand from companies around the world, Zhang said.

He said the SHFE has introduced six futures products directly available to overseas investors, including yuan-denominated crude oil, international copper and low

sulfur fuel oil. As to the other 16 futures options accessible to QFIs, they are now traded by investors from more than 30 countries and regions, covering companies along the industrial chain, cross-border trade firms, investment banks, funds and asset managers.

As of end-November, the SHFE saw the number of overseas clients up 20 percent year-on-year and QFI clients spiked 60 percent on a yearly basis.

"By giving full play to the massive size of the Chinese market and achieving higher level opening-up, the futures market can better serve the real economy," Zhang added.

The further opening-up of the Chinese futures market will help to bring in higher returns, better diversify risk and enhance market liquidity, said Kang Lan, deputy general manager of Metori Investment Management (Zhuhai Hengqin) Co Ltd.

More two-way opening-up

is underway in the Chinese insurance sector.

According to an action plan to promote high-quality development of the Chinese property insurance sector—released by the National Financial Regulatory Administration on Friday—qualified overseas financial institutions will be supported to invest in the Chinese property insurance sector. Foreign property insurers already operating in China will be encouraged to seek high-quality development. Meanwhile, qualified Chinese property insurance firms are encouraged to optimize their business layout in overseas markets.

Via reform and opening-up, the property insurance sector can better absorb economic fluctuations, stabilize economic growth and serve the country's major strategies, said Wang Guojun, professor at the School of Insurance and Economics at the University of International Business and Economics.

WORLD

Syrian transitional government talks with ousted officials to transfer power

DAMASCUS/WASHINGTON/DOHA/MOSCOW

SYRIAN ministers from the newly formed transitional government met with members of the ousted Bashar al-Assad's administration on Tuesday to organize the transfer of state institutions and ensure the continuity of public services, according to the Syrian national TV.

Mohammad al-Bashir, the prime minister overseeing the transitional government, said his cabinet, composed of ministers from the transitional government, has been tasked by the general leadership to manage Syria's affairs until March 2025, during which the transitional government aims to assume control of ministries, reintroduce employees to their posts, and restore essential services across the country.

"Our responsibility is to maintain security, protect the integrity of institutions, and prevent the fragmentation of the state," al-Bashir told reporters. "We want to ensure that Syrians receive the services they deserve during this interim phase until a new government is formed that meets the aspirations of Syrian society."

Al-Bashir underscored the need for cooperation from outgoing ministers, particularly in handing over files and responsibilities.

"We hope the ministers from the deposed regime will assist their successors," he said, emphasizing that a smooth transition is crucial to delivering uninterrupted

public services to the Syrian people.

Separately, the top commander of the US military in the Middle East visited the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Syria on Tuesday to be briefed on ongoing efforts to prevent the resurgence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the US military said.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a post on X that General Erik Kurilla, the CENTCOM commander, "visited US military commanders and servicemembers, as well as our Defeat-ISIS partners, the Syrian Democratic Forces, at several bases in Syria."

"He received a firsthand assessment of force protection measures, the rapidly evolving situation, and ongoing efforts to prevent ISIS from exploiting the current situation," CENTCOM said.

The United States has long partnered with the SDF in the fight to defeat ISIS. The SDF is separate from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the main rebel group that toppled the government of former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Later, Kurilla visited Baghdad, where he met with the Iraqi prime minister and military leaders, along with the US commander of the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve "for an assessment of the D-ISIS mission inside Iraq and Syria," CENTCOM said.

Also on Tuesday, a spokesperson from Qatar's Foreign Ministry said that Qatar remains committed to maintaining open dialogue with all Syrian groups through



Syrian army armored vehicles are left abandoned on road on the outskirts of Hama, Syria, Dec 3, 2024. AP

its embassy in Doha.

"By sustaining humanitarian operations in Idlib and fostering inclusive engagement, Qatar aims to understand the realities on the ground and support stability in Syria," Majed bin Mohamed Al Ansari said during a weekly media briefing.

Al Ansari stressed Qatar's readiness to collaborate with regional and international partners to address humanitarian needs and contribute to achieving lasting peace and security in the region.

He also said that Qatar has launched an air bridge to Syria to deliver urgent humanitarian aid. "Two aid planes have already been scheduled. One of these planes is arriving today in Jordan en route to Syria," he said.

He reiterated Qatar's support for Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and underlined the importance of building an inclusive nation in Syria that respects the rights of all its citizens.

UN humanitarianists said on Tuesday the humanitarian situation in Syria remains volatile, with continuing hostilities and looting reported in the capital Damascus area but relative calm in the country's northwest.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported challenges for aid delivery in parts of the northeast.

The World Food Programme reported that food prices in markets across the country are increasing sharply. WFP and its partners have provided meals to more than 40,000 people in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Latakia, Deir El

Zor, Raqqa and Hasaka, according to the agency.

Meanwhile, Al Ansari said Qatar is working in "full coordination with" Egypt and the US on the mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel, "forming a unified approach to peace negotiations."

Calling for applying equal pressure on both sides to ensure an equitable agreement and foster lasting peace in the region, he said "Qatar remains committed to facilitating dialogue and fostering sustainable peace for all parties involved."

Russia: Al-Assad safe now

Al-Assad, who has been granted asylum, is now safe in Russia, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Tuesday.

"In such a situation it would be very wrong for me to elaborate on what happened and how it was resolved, but he is secured," local RIA news agency reported, citing Ryabkov.

Commenting on the possibility of the extradition of al-Assad, the Russian diplomat noted that Russia is not a party to the International Criminal Court Rome Statute.

Syrian militant groups waged a major offensive from northern Syria since the end of November, swept southwards through government-held areas, and captured the capital Damascus within 12 days.

Following the offensive, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government collapsed on Sunday. Al-Assad resigned and went to Russia for asylum.

Israel's Netanyahu testifies in high-profile corruption trial

JERUSALEM



ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu testified for the first time on Tuesday in his long-running corruption trial, marking a pivotal moment in the case as he manages a war in Gaza and faces an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes.

Netanyahu (pictured) faces charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. According to an indictment filed more than five years ago, he is accused of advancing favorable regulations for a telecommunications mogul in exchange for positive media coverage of himself and his family. He is also alleged to have accepted luxury gifts, including cigars and champagne worth tens of thousands of dollars, from a billionaire Hollywood producer in return for assistance with personal matters.

Netanyahu arrived at the Tel Aviv courthouse around 10:00 a.m., where he was met by a mixed crowd of protesters and supporters. Some expressed support, while others urged him to intensify efforts to secure the release of approximately 100 hostages still held in Gaza. Coalition ministers and lawmakers, responding to a call from Netanyahu's office the previous night, also attended to show support.

At the start of the session, Netanyahu's attorney, Amit Hadad, criticized the Israeli judicial system, calling the trial "political persecution." Hadad described the indictment as "flawed and invalid" and argued that the case should have been dismissed.

Netanyahu began his testimony at approximately 11:30 a.m., opening with the statement, "I have waited eight years for this moment to tell the truth as I remember it." He described his testimony as "an opportunity to puncture the baseless accusations" against him.

Netanyahu, who has served as Israel's prime minister for more than 17 years, holds the record as the country's longest-serving leader.

Xinhua

China's vision in desertification control 'distinguished, holistic,' says expert

RIYADH



CHINA has a "distinguished" vision for desertification control and ecosystem protection, an Egyptian expert has said, calling for further bilateral cooperation on environmental issues and beyond.

"China is one of the countries with the most diversified landforms, ranging from deserts to grasslands. This makes China's policy on desertification control visionary and holistic," Ahmed Moustafa, director of the Asia Center for Studies and Translation, told Xinhua in an interview on Monday on the sidelines of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which is ongoing in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia.

According to his observations, all of China's development plans are "ecosystem-centered, aiming to keep the environment as intact as possible." Meanwhile, land restoration efforts are combined with initiatives to benefit the Chinese people, he added.

Citing Chinese enterprises operating in the Egyptian market as an example, Moustafa said, "We can see they have demonstrated a strong sense of social and environmental responsibility, including companies like OPPO and Huawei, as well as start-ups led by younger generations."

Noting that over 95 percent of Egypt's land is covered by desert, the expert emphasized, "We can learn a lot from China" in combating desertification.

"As a member of BRICS, a participant in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and a dialogue partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, we are eager to gain experience, technical assistance, and financial support through these multilateral frameworks from China to reduce desertification and restore land resilience in the future," he said.

Discussing Egypt-China cooperation, Moustafa praised China's shared development vision. "Unlike Western powers that interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries, China has been a much-respected and trusted partner, supporting other nations through win-win cooperation," he said.

Xinhua

At least 76 pct of South Sudanese live on 105 USD annually: report

JUBA

AT least 76 percent of the estimated 12.4 million South Sudan population lives below the national poverty line of 358,724 South Sudan pounds (about 105 U.S. dollars) per person per year, a new World Bank report revealed on Tuesday.

According to the South Sudan Poverty and Equity Assessment report, which is based on the most recent South Sudan Household Budget Survey, the world's youngest nation has experienced 10 years of economic decline, making poverty endemic and vulnerability nearly universal. Charles Undeland,

World Bank country manager for South Sudan, said weak governance, multiple shocks, lack of economic opportunity, high food prices, and conflict have all contributed to increased poverty and vulnerability.

"There are real opportunities to improve people's livelihoods. Key ways to achieve this goal include better management and utilization of the country's resources and fostering a

stable secure environment where citizens can farm, work, and invest in order to provide themselves with a better future," Undeland said during the launch of the report in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The report highlighted that widespread and extreme poverty stems from a combination of complex historical and systemic factors, including persistent conflicts and violence, inadequate capacity of the state to deliver essential services to the population, weak governance, and recurrent natural disasters.

Frank Adoho, World Bank senior economist for South Sudan, noted that food insecurity is a widespread issue in South Sudan and has worsened recently with the spike in inflation, adding that high food prices limit access to food, even in rural areas where over half of households depend on market purchases to acquire food.

"Insecurity, population displacements, and low agricultural investment have reduced food production, contributing to the high rates of food insecurity. Investing in agriculture and

road infrastructure would enhance market integration, connect rural areas with towns, and improve food delivery, thereby lowering staple food prices and reducing import dependence," Adoho said.

The report said that high levels of vulnerability are mostly explained by the very low levels of human and physical capital of the South Sudanese population, which locks people into chronic poverty.

It called for strong investments in basic services and infrastructure to reduce the vulnerability of the population.

The World Bank urged authorities to invest in data and statistical capacity to narrow large data and knowledge gaps, adding that South Sudan's statistical system is weak and complicates informed policymaking.

The challenge facing policymakers in South Sudan is to design and implement sustainable, well-targeted policy interventions to address extreme poverty and food security. Effective policy making relies on credible evidence, requiring increased investment in

building a robust statistical system to support these interventions," Director General for the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics Augustino Ting Mayai said.

Rwanda urges heightened awareness as mpox cases rise



Insecurity, population displacements, and low agricultural investment have reduced food production, contributing to the high rates of food insecurity. Investing in agriculture and road infrastructure would enhance market integration, connect rural areas with towns, and improve

Namibia's farmers market empowers local enterprises, cultivating commerce

WINDHOEK

UNDER the peak of the sun, the shade of the gazebo protected Michael Whitelock as he demonstrated his blacksmithing skills during a live metal assembly at Die Windhoek se Eie Boeremark in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia.

"Die Windhoek se Eie Boeremark" in the local Afrikaans language, loosely translated as "Windhoek Farmers Market," serves as the ideal backdrop for his craft. For the past five years, Whitelock has established a presence here on the last Saturday of every month, attracting a growing clientele with his hand-

crafted products. "Not only do I promote my products, but I also attract customers to my business and get more orders," said Whitelock, who is in his 70s. His story reflects that of many locals who are seizing opportunities at Die Windhoek se Eie Boeremark, overcoming barriers to market access and significantly expanding their businesses. The market was established in March 2011 by the late sisters Kiet and Elza van der Westhuizen to connect farmers directly with consumers. Esmé Lubbe and her husband Gideon took over as owners and organizers of the market six years ago.

According to Lubbe, there was a gap between farmers, local enterprises, and the community. "The market aims to create a platform for trade and exchange, bridging these gaps. It has since demonstrated its relevance and importance," she said in an interview with Xinhua Monday. The market has grown from its initial 20 stalls into a bustling hub with more than 115 stands. Vendors pay stall fees to participate in the market, and the revenue generated goes directly to the traders, enhancing the market's appeal as a viable income source. "In this way, exhibitors feel the

direct impact and value of the market, and in turn, the income generated aids business growth," Lubbe said. Over the years, the market has evolved into a diverse marketplace that fosters valuable networking opportunities among businesses.

Whitelock noted that from the market, he has established partnerships with other businesses that inform his production process and supply value chain. "The connections made here extend beyond sales, highlighting the importance of networking that can lead to future business collaborations." He is not alone. Another ven-

dor, Chrisman Stander, travels from Outjo in Namibia's northwestern region of Kunene to participate in the market with his agricultural business, Ruby Grace. For the past five years, Stander has focused on promoting his range of garlic products there.

According to Stander, although the market is not the only market he attends, its central location in Windhoek makes it a strategic choice. This allows vendors to leverage the city's population and advancements, which is not the case in smaller towns. "Besides selling here, we want our product to be

familiar to locals so that they recognize it when they see it in local retail shops. This has a ripple effect," Stander said.

Moreover, Die Windhoek se Eie Boeremark has empowered young people to enter the business world. Sonsteek Louw, 20, hoped to do something meaningful with her life this year before pursuing her studies in 2025.

She visited the market and was inspired to make handicrafts after watching online video tutorials on making customized bags. "I was wondering where to market my products, and I found respite here," she said. Louw said she has since been able

to network and get more orders from contacts made at the market. "I also enjoy the income generated, which I reinvest in the business," she added.

Beyond sales, another vital element of the market is fostering a sense of community, according to Lubbe, the co-owner of the market. "It is more than just a marketplace; it fosters camaraderie among attendees and vendors," Lubbe said, adding that Die Windhoek se Eie Boeremark is building on a foundation set to ensure that both clients and exhibitors continue to benefit from this thriving space. Xinhua

Syria's future hangs in balance as regional power struggles intensify

DAMASCUS

THE situation in Syria has undergone a dramatic shift in recent days, as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) fighters declared Sunday the liberation of Damascus and the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad's government following two weeks of sweeping offensives.

Mohammed al-Bashir, head of the "Syrian Salvation Government" in Idlib formed in 2017 by the HTS and other Syrian militant groups during the Syrian civil war, announced Tuesday that he has been tasked with heading a transitional government in Syria until early March 2025.

Meanwhile, Syria's neighboring countries have emphasized that the nation's future should be determined by the Syrian people themselves, urging a political solution to restore stability.

However, analysts pointed out that regional and external powers, each pursuing their own strategic interests, are increasingly involved in the power struggle, leveraging Syria's internal political forces to extend their influence. These developments carry significant implications for Syria's future and the broader geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East.

MAJOR PLAYERS

Amid the rapidly changing situation in Syria, a number of key regional and external powers have been quick to engage. Israel has publicly stated that it will not interfere in Syria's internal affairs, yet it has simultaneously sought to expand

its control over the Golan Heights. Israel's military said Tuesday that it had struck "most" of Syria's advanced weapons in 350 airstrikes across the country, including in Damascus, over the past 48 hours.

Also, Israeli media reported that its military seized a Syrian army outpost on Mount Hermon in the Golan Heights on Sunday, marking the first Israeli military presence in the buffer zone since 1974.

In response to the swift collapse of al-Assad's government, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday that Türkiye will not allow Syria to become a conflict zone and be divided once again. "Any attack on the stability of the new Syrian government or the integrity of ancient Syrian lands will face both the Syrian people and us," Erdogan said at a ruling party meeting.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Sunday that Syria's future, including its political and ruling systems, should be decided only by the Syrian people, stressing the necessity for dialogue among different segments of Syrian society to reach a consensus.

In response to Israel's military actions in Syria, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Monday in a statement that Iran has strongly condemned Israel's "frequent aggression against Syria's infrastructure and its occupation of other parts of the Golan."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed on Monday that al-Assad was given asylum in Rus-



Syrian opposition fighters drive past a damaged government vehicle south of Hama, Syria, on Saturday. AP

sia, saying that Russia is engaging in dialogue on Syria with Türkiye and other regional countries.

While the United States initially said it had no intention of intervening, the U.S. Central Command said on Sunday that it had struck more than 75 targets, including ISIS leaders, operatives and camps, to ensure that the armed group does not take advantage of the end of al-Assad's rule. U.S. President Joe Biden also reaffirmed support for Syria's neighbors, including Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Israel during the transition period, underscoring a commitment to countering ISIS and preventing its resurgence in the region.

GEOPOLITICAL CALCULATIONS

Analysts argue that the military actions and strategic engagements of these regional and external actors are driven by their respective national interests. Israel sees the changing situation in Syria as an opportunity to expand its influence in the region. For years, Israel has been deeply concerned about Iran's growing presence in Syria, and the collapse of al-Assad's government could deliver a significant blow to the Iran-led "Axis of Resistance," according to media reports.

Calling Israel a "winner" in the political shift in Syria, Mostafa Amin, an Egyptian researcher on Arab and international affairs, noted that "as a result of the developments in Syria, all of Iran's allies have become weaker."

Iran, meanwhile, finds itself in a particularly precarious position, analysts warned. The loss of its foothold in Syria would severely limit its ability to support groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon, a key ally in its broader regional strategy. "Bashar al-Assad was a critical link between Iran and Hezbollah. And now Iran has no more Syrian backup, so it's a major development," Germany's DW quoted Eyal Zisser, an expert on Syria and vice rector of Tel Aviv University, as saying in a report.

It is believed that Türkiye is also eyeing the situation to enhance its regional influence. Amin said Türkiye might seek to bolster its position by capitalizing on the instability to strike against Kurdish armed groups, whom it considers a significant threat to its security.

Russia is focused on securing its military assets in Syria. The Russian RIA Novosti news agency has reported that the leaders of the HTS fighters have guaranteed security to the Russian military bases and diplomatic establishments in Syria.

The United States, meanwhile, is focused on preventing the resurgence of ISIS and other extremist groups. Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security advisor, said that the main priority is to ensure "that the fighting in Syria not lead to a resurgence of ISIS."

Ali Moussa, an Iraqi political analyst said that the United States may reverse the disadvantages caused by its earlier withdrawal from the Middle East due to

a shift in strategic focus, and this could benefit the incoming Trump administration in advancing the normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, and potentially with more Arab countries.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Despite the fall of al-Assad's government, the future of Syria remains highly uncertain. The country's complex ethnic and religious composition, which includes groups like the Syrian National Army, Kurdish militias, and various Islamist factions, means that the confrontation with al-Assad is not a monolithic force.

While the removal of al-Assad may have been a common goal, the question remains whether these factions can unite under a single political framework or whether they will fracture into further conflict.

Zhao Jun, an associate professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, suggests that the ongoing political struggles within Syria will trigger a new round of international and regional geopolitical maneuvering.

"From the current situation, the United States' ability to assert control over the Middle East may be strengthened, while Iran is likely to face a new round of pressure from the United States and other Western countries," he said, adding that Israel and Türkiye will be more active in the region, which could manifest through the internal political power struggles within Syria.

Xinhua

S. Korean police confront security agents in attempt to raid Yoon's office

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean police officers had confronted security service agents for over three hours to raid the office of President Yoon Suk-yeol, multiple media



outlets said yesterday citing the police.

This developed as former defense minister Kim Yong-hyun attempted to take his own life while being held at a detention facility on charges of insurrection. The Justice Ministry said Kim (pictured) was in stable condition.

A group of police investigators attempted to raid the presidential office in central Seoul from 11:50 am local time (0250 GMT), but security service agents blocked them from getting in for security reasons.

Earlier in the day, the police launched a raid on the National Police Agency, the Seoul Metropolitan Police and the National Assembly Police Guards, as well as the presidential office.

The police investigated insurrection and other charges over Yoon's martial law declaration on the night of Dec 3, rescinded by the National Assembly hours later.

President Yoon reportedly was not staying at the presidential office building. The Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials said it will attempt to arrest Yoon with and without an arrest warrant if conditions are met, according to multiple media outlets.

Under the law, while the president mostly has immunity from prosecution while in office, that does not extend to allegations of rebellion or treason.

Suicide attempt

Former defense minister Kim was found trying to hang himself with a rope made from tying together innerwear inside a bathroom at the Seoul Dongbu Detention Center in eastern Seoul at 11:52 pm local time Tuesday, shortly before a court issued an arrest warrant for him, the ministry said.

Following the unsuccessful attempt, Kim was being held in a protective cell and his health remained stable, according to Shin Yong-hae, head of the correctional center.

Kim, who had already been detained since Sunday, was formally arrested early Wednesday on charges of helping Yoon stage an insurrection during the six-hour imposition of martial law.

Also yesterday, police arrested Cho Ji-ho, commissioner general of the Korean National Police Agency, and Kim Bong-sik, head of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, on insurrection charges, according to a special investigation team under the national police.

The two police chiefs were suspected of instructing police officers to cordon off the National Assembly compound to block lawmakers from attending a plenary session for a vote against the imposition of the emergency martial law.

Police made the arrests in consideration of the seriousness of the charges and the possibility of destruction of evidence by the two officers, Yonhap said, citing police sources.

Meanwhile, South Korea's National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik invoked authority to conduct a parliamentary probe into Yoon's martial law declaration last week. Prosecutors also raided the headquarters of the Army Special Warfare Command as part of their probe.



Kim, who had already been detained since Sunday, was formally arrested early Wednesday on charges of helping Yoon stage an insurrection during the six-hour imposition of martial law

WHO: Malaria cases up again in 2023, African children worst hit

LONDON

THERE were around 11 million more cases of malaria in 2023 than in 2022, up to an estimated 263 million, according to a new World Health Organization report, marking another year of negligible progress against the age-old killer.

There were 597,000 deaths, a similar total to 2022, the vast majority among African children aged under 5 years old, the WHO said.

"No-one should die of malaria; yet the disease continues to disproportionately harm people living in the African region, especially young children and pregnant women," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, in a statement.



A health worker shows a bottle of the malaria vaccine R21/Matrix-M before administering it to a child at the comprehensive Health Centre in Agudama-Epie, in Yenagoa, Nigeria, Dec 9, 2024. AP

Malaria cases and deaths fell significantly between 2000 and 2015, but since then progress has stalled and even reversed, with a particular jump in mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic. Case numbers are not only going up as populations

grow. In 2015, there were 58 cases for every 1,000 people deemed to be at risk; in 2023, there were 60.4, nearly three times higher than the WHO's target. There were 13.7 deaths per 100,000 people at risk, more than twice the target.

There are new tools available to fight the mosquito-borne disease, including two vaccines as well as next-generation bed nets, but climate change, conflict and displacement, drug and insecticide resistance and a lack of funding have all combined to challenge the response, the WHO said, despite progress in some countries.

In 2023, \$4 billion was available to fight malaria, compared with an estimated \$8.3 billion needed, the UN health agency added.

Global security threats from North Korea's troop deployment

NORTH Korea has been threatening the security order in Northeast Asia with its illegal nuclear weapons development for decades. It also supplied weapons to Russia, which invaded Ukraine, and recently began directly intervening in the war by sending special forces.

These deviations by North Korea not only worsen the threat in Europe, but can also lead to increased tension in Northeast Asia. There are various justifications and needs for Northeast Asia and the international community that hopes to maintain peace to stop North Korea's troop deployment and the illegal solidarity between North Korea and Russia.

In early October, it was discovered that North Korean special forces had begun moving to help Russia participate in the war in Ukraine. On the 18th of October, the South Korean government's

National Intelligence Service presented various evidence that North Korean troops had begun preparations for deployment.

A few days later, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin also said on the 23rd of October that there was evidence that North Korean troops were in Russia. The following day, on the 24th, the European Union criticized the deployment of North Korean troops as a violation of international law and an act of hostility that would have serious consequences.

On the same day, the United Nations also expressed its opposition to additional military forces in Ukraine.

North Korea's level of involvement in the war has continued to deepen. North Korea is simply providing weapons to Russia. In early August, dozens of North Korean military officials and officers appeared on the battle-

field in Ukraine.

They visited the KN-23 missile launch site that North Korea provided to Russia. In addition, the possibility and concerns regarding troop deployment have been raised in various ways as North Korea and Russia's relationship has deepened. Last June, North Korea and Russia held a meeting in Pyongyang. They held a summit and signed a treaty on strategic partnership. At that time, Article 4 of the treaty provided the basis for military support in response to mutual acts of armed aggression.

North Korea disclosed through its state-run media that Kim Jong-un had observed special warfare training in September. It is presumed that Kim Jong-un conducted an inspection as North Korea began preparing in earnest for troop deployment.

In August, Ukraine attacked Kursk on the Russian mainland,

creating unfavorable conditions for Russia.

This is the background to the presumption that Russia, in a state of desperation, requested troop support from North Korea. Up until now, North Korea has supported Russia's illegal invasion by supplying various weapons, including ammunition, to Russia. However, by sending troops and participates directly, the level of ripple effect will also change. It could also have a direct impact on security in Northeast Asia.

Christopher Clarke, a history professor at Cambridge University, pointed out that "at that time, there was a pervasive atmosphere of mutual distrust in Europe, and the protagonists of 1914 were sleepwalkers who, with their eyes wide open, could not see, were caught up in a dream.

They actually did not realize

the true nature of the horror they were about to unleash on the world," in his book "Sleepwalkers", which analyzes the outbreak of World War I. This is the interpretation that the European countries, which prided themselves on being civilized, failed to remain alert and thought "Surely not", which led to a series of conflicts occurring all over the world, which eventually escalated into world war.

Therefore, even today, we can obtain a reasonable analysis and lesson that the local conflict that started in Ukraine can escalate into a world war at any time.

After the outbreak of the Ukrainian War, there are ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, and concerns persist that military conflicts could occur simultaneously in Taiwan. In this way, we are already a few steps toward a world war.

This is the background to UN

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasizing on the 3rd of November that the North Korean troops deployment could be a "very dangerous escalation" and that all measures must be taken to avoid internationalization of the conflict.

Cooperation between North Korea and Russia can form and solidify a confrontational structure among North Korea, China, Russia - South Korea, the US, and Japan. This is a strategy intended by North Korea.

This is because it can ultimately work to the advantage of the vulnerable Kim Jong-un regime and the North Korean system. The confrontation between the camps increases North Korea's value to China and Russia, and encourages them to support the regime and system to continue.

In particular, Russia's support for North Korea can lead to closer ties between North Korea

and Russia, and hinder efforts to weaken sanctions against North Korea and denuclearize North Korea. North Korea's advancement of nuclear armament is ultimately worrisome because it can lead the Kim Jong-un regime and the North Korean system to make wrong choices, such as military provocations, or create favorable conditions.

Therefore, we must suppress North Korea's miscalculation, strengthen multilateral cooperation and solidarity with allies, and reduce the effect of North Korea's military deployment on the war.

The international community must urgently work to stop North Korea-Russia cooperation. Ultimately, efforts must be made to end the Ukraine war as quickly as possible in the right direction. North Korea's intervention will prolong the war, and the continuation of the war will

SPORT



Simba Queens striker Precious Christopher is pictured on Tuesday followed closely by JKT Queens defenders during their Tanzania Women's Premier League match at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Who is Tony Buzbee, the lawyer suing Jay-Z as part of civil cases against Sean 'Diddy' Combs?

By JUAN A. LOZANO

HIGH-PROFILE legal battles are nothing new for Texas attorney Tony Buzbee, with his latest being a lawsuit he's filed against Jay-Z, accusing the iconic rapper as well as Sean "Diddy" Combs of sexually assaulting a minor at an awards show after-party in 2000.

The lawsuit against Jay-Z is part of a series of civil cases the Houston-based Buzbee (pictured) has filed against Combs, who remains jailed in New York as he awaits trial on federal charges that he coerced and abused women for years.

In his legal career, Buzbee has represented a variety of clients. He helped acquit Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton at his impeachment trial in the Texas Senate last year.

He represented more than two dozen women who accused Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson of sexual misconduct and assault.

Buzbee has also made a couple of unsuccessful runs at elected office, including a bid to be Houston's mayor.

His critics say he's full of bluster and bombast. Jay-Z said the lawsuit against him is part of an extortion attempt.

Buzbee's law firm has said he's worked to amplify the voices of the marginalized and to "pursue justice against powerful figures."

"We're a society where we typically don't believe the accuser. We blame the victim and by proxy we blame her lawyers," Buzbee said during a March 2021 news conference.

Here's what to know about Buzbee, his involvement in the lawsuits against Combs and what other cases he's handled.

*Who is Tony Buzbee?

Buzbee is a well-known name in Texas courtrooms who has won billions of dollars in settlements for his clients. He grew up in northeast Texas, the son of a butcher and a high school cafeteria worker. After graduating from Texas A&M University, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Buzbee later went to law school and founded his own firm.

His style is "characterized by his aggressive legal tactics, his ability to command media attention and his knack for turning complex legal battles into public narratives that resonate with juries and the public alike," according to his law firm's website.

*What is Buzbee's involvement in the legal case against Combs?

Buzbee has said his firm is representing more than 150 people, both men and women, who allege sexual abuse and exploitation at the hands of Combs.

Buzbee's firm, which has set up a 1-800 number for accusers, has filed a wave of suits against the hip-hop

mogul.

Buzbee's lawsuits allege that many of the people he represents were abused at parties in New York, California and Florida where individuals were given drinks that were laced with drugs.

Combs' lawyers have dismissed Buzbee's lawsuits as "shameless publicity stunts, designed to extract payments from celebrities who fear having lies spread about them, just as lies have been spread about Mr. Combs."

On Sunday, Jay-Z issued a statement in which he accused Buzbee of trying to blackmail him by getting him to agree to a legal settlement over allegations he and Combs raped a woman when she was 13 years old.

"I have no idea how you have come to be such a deplorable human Mr. Buzbee, but I promise you I have seen your kind many times over," Jay-Z said in his statement.

"You claim to be a marine? Marines are known for their valor, you have neither honor nor dignity."

Buzbee said in a Sunday Facebook post he "won't be bullied or intimidated." "Sunlight is the best disinfectant and I am quite certain the sun is coming," Buzbee said.

*What other cases has Buzbee handled?

In 2009, his firm won a \$100 million settlement for 10 workers who were sicked by a chemical release at a refinery in suburban Houston.

Buzbee has also represented politicians, including Paxton and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry in an abuse-of-power case.

In 2013, he settled lawsuits for 10 teenagers who had accused eccentric Texas millionaire Stanley Marsh 3 of paying them for sexual acts.

Buzbee has also settled lawsuits that he filed on behalf of 25 women who had accused Watson, when he was with the Houston Texans, of exposing himself, touching them with his genitals or kissing them against their will during massage appointments.

"I've handled some of the largest cases in this state," Buzbee said during the 2021 news conference.

AP



SPORTS

Matampi breaks silence on Coastal Union exit

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

CONGOLESE goalkeeper Ley Matampi, whose stellar performance last season earned him recognition as the Premier League's best shot-stopper, has opened up about his abrupt departure from Coastal Union.

Matampi (pictured), who replaced Young Africans' Djigui Diarra as the league's top goalkeeper after two consecutive seasons, cited delayed payments as the primary reason behind his decision to terminate his contract early.

"I was given a termination letter last week, and honestly, I think it's a good decision," Matampi stated. "I was not receiving my payments as expected. I have gone three months without a salary, which is unacceptable. It was affecting my performance and focus. I am now ready to take on a new challenge."

Matampi joined Coastal Union in August 2023, signing a contract expected to last until the end of the current season. He was instrumental in the club's participation in the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary rounds.

However, this season saw a significant reduction in his playing time, with local goalkeeper Chuma Ramadhan often taking his place.

Coastal Union announced the termination of Matampi's contract through a statement, expressing gratitude for his contributions to the team's success last season.

"We have reached an agreement between our club and goalkeeper Ley Matampi to terminate both parties' services. Your experience has contributed significantly to our success last season," the statement read.

The club also extended appreciation to their goalkeeping coach, Mansour Ally, for his efforts in enhancing Matampi's abilities.

"A special thank you to goalkeeping coach Mansour Ally, who used his great energy to restore your ability and level, which was a great help in protecting our goal. We wish you all the best and more success in your life."

Coastal Union chief executive officer, Omar Ayoub, explained that the decision to terminate the contract was based on the technical bench's assessment.

"The club makes player decisions based on the technical bench report.



We believed it was the best course of action for both parties to sit down and agree on this decision," Ayoub said.

"By making this decision early, we give the player a chance to find another club that suits him, while we, as Coastal Union, continue to focus on our objectives. Matampi is a good goalkeeper and a veteran, and we are proud to have had him as part of our club."

Despite Ayoub's diplomatic remarks, internal reports suggest Matampi's departure was influenced by dissatisfaction with his performance this season.

According to a senior club official, the goalkeeper's mistakes in crucial matches led to significant losses, prompting the coaching staff to bench him in favour of Chuma Ramadhan.

"There are matches where his mistakes cost us dearly," the official disclosed. "That's why the coaches decided to bench him, hoping he would reflect and improve."

"For a foreign goalkeeper, the costs are high, and when their performance doesn't match the investment, tough decisions have to be made."

The official added that the club saw parting ways with Matampi as a cost-cutting measure, given that he had five months remaining on his contract.

"We are currently using Chuma, and while the improvement isn't drastic, there's noticeable relief. Having a foreign goalkeeper like Matampi sitting on the bench doesn't make financial sense. Reducing costs by parting ways was the logical step," the official said.

Matampi's exit marks a significant chapter in Coastal Union's ongoing restructuring efforts.

The Congolese goalkeeper, despite his challenges this season, leaves a legacy of professionalism and skill that the club acknowledged in its farewell message.

As Matampi looks ahead to new opportunities, Coastal Union will aim to rebuild its squad and continue its pursuit of success in the Mainland Premier League.

This development highlights the complex dynamics of professional football, where performance, finances, and player satisfaction intertwine to shape decisions that impact both individuals and clubs.

Rising stars shine at junior golf series grand finale

By Guardian Correspondent

THE NCBA Junior Golf Series reached its spectacular conclusion at TPDF Lugalo Golf Club, showcasing the exceptional talent of junior golfers from across Tanzania.

The two-day event gathered over 80 young players from Lugalo, Morogoro, Arusha, Dar es Salaam Gymkhana, TPC Moshi, and Zanzibar, with the latter two participating for the first time in the series.

This milestone reflects the bank's commitment to broadening access to golf development and nurturing talent at the grassroots level.

The guest of honour, Boniface Tamba, Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Sports, commended the bank's initiative, emphasizing the importance of sports in empowering youth and fostering national unity.

"Programs like the NCBA Junior Golf Series are vital for cultivating not only sporting excellence but also life skills such as discipline and teamwork. We applaud the bank's dedication to building a brighter future for young athletes," he remarked.

The tournament crowned champions in various categories, with juniors delivering impressive performances that demonstrated their passion and dedication to the sport.

Winners were awarded trophies, medals, and professional-grade golf equipment to further their development.

The event's family-friendly atmosphere extended beyond the competition, with golf clinics for beginners, fun activities for non-golfing juniors, and festive giveaways for all participants, ensuring an inclusive and memorable experience.

Speaking at the event, the bank's Managing Director, Claver Serumaga, highlighted the bank's commitment to nurturing talent through sports. "At NCBA, we believe in the transformative power of sports to inspire and uplift. By supporting junior golf, we aim to foster the next generation of leaders and champions who embody values of perseverance, focus, and teamwork," he said.

The tournament builds on the bank's extensive history of supporting sports across East Africa, including international competitions and regional tournaments.

Looking ahead, the bank is set to launch a special junior golf program in 2025, featuring quarterly tournaments to provide consistent opportunities for young golfers to compete and grow.

This year's series emphasized the bank's vision of inclusivity and empowerment, paving the way

for greater regional collaboration and camaraderie in the future. By creating platforms for young athletes to excel, the bank continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Tanzanian golf. The bank is committed to enriching lives and contributing to national development through innovative products, community engagement, and sports development.

As a key supporter of junior golf, the bank champions initiatives that empower youth and foster the values of discipline and teamwork.

The tournament has set the stage for a promising future in Tanzanian golf, demonstrating the bank's enduring dedication to nurturing talent and fostering community through sport.



Young golfers and officials pose in a group photo after the NCBA Junior Golf Series held recently at TPDF Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent

Ancelotti hopes Mbappe injury not serious after Champions League win at Atalanta

ATALANTA, Italy

REAL Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti hopes Kylian Mbappe will not be sidelined for an extended period after the striker paved the way for a 3-2 Champions League win at Atalanta on Tuesday but was forced off with an injury a few minutes after scoring the opener.

Real Madrid have endured a series of injuries this season, with several key players missing significant time, including Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao who are out for the rest of the campaign with ACL tears.

"Mbappe has suffered an overload, an ischial (lower pelvis) discomfort," Ancelotti told Movistar Plus.

"It doesn't seem serious, but we'll see tomorrow after the exams. He couldn't sprint, it was bothering him a bit and we decided to make the substitution."

Facing heavy criticism for his poor form in his first few months with Real Madrid after signing as a free agent from Paris St Germain, Mbappe was having arguably one of his best games of the season at Atalanta, scoring the opener in the 10th minute and making menacing runs.

But his night lasted only 35 minutes, when he fell to the floor and asked to be substituted before being replaced by

Rodrygo.

Vinicius Jr, who was returning to the side after missing the last two weeks with a muscle injury, was on the periphery for most of the game but made the most of the chance he got, netting in the 56th minute to put the visitors back in front after Charles de Ketelaere had equalised with a penalty right before the break.

Jude Bellingham extended Real's lead three minutes later and, after Ademola Lookman reduced the deficit in the 65th, the visitors' goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois worked his magic with a string of saves to secure a hard-fought win.

With two games left, Real are 18th in the 36-team table on nine points, three points off the top eight spots which secure direct qualification to the last 16. Atalanta are ninth on 11 points.

"It's a very important victory, not everyone wins here," Ancelotti said.

"We suffered and fought hard, there is no Champions League without suffering. They were pushing, but we started well in the second half. We are very happy. It was a win that is very good for us, not just for the points, but to build confidence."

"It's still difficult to finish in the top eight, but we have two games to pick up points. Let's see what happens."

REUTERS

Brugge celebrate likelihood of advancing in Champions League

BRUGES, Belgium

WITH a tough programme of fixtures to follow, Club Brugge knew they needed a home win over Sporting Lisbon on Tuesday to keep alive their Champions League hopes and did so with minutes to spare as they came from behind to win 2-1.

Victory catapulted the Belgian club up the standings to 14th place with 10 points from their six games, which will likely be enough for a top 24 finish and progress to the knockout stages.

Their last two group fixtures next month are against Juventus and Manchester City, where points will be hard to come by, so when substitute Casper Nielsen fired his team ahead in the 84th minute it set off furious celebration at the Jan Breydelstadion.

"It was wonderful to see how happy the supporters were," captain and goalkeeper Simon Mignolet told reporters. "Even at 36, I still had goose bumps, and that doesn't happen to me often. I am certainly very happy that I am still able to experience this."

Getting to 10 points was always the target for Brugge, who got through the Champions League group phase two seasons ago but then fell 7-1 on aggregate to Benfica in the first knockout round.

"Okay, we don't know yet exactly whether it is enough and we still have two games to play, but who knows what is still possible if we continue on this path," Mignolet added.

"If you have proven able to get 10 points in this new-look Champions League and in this super strong group, you can already speak of a successful campaign."

Coach Nicky Hayden hailed the comeback after Brugge had gone behind in the third minute.

"Was this the victory of willpower? Yes, definitely. It is a victory of strong mentality, but also of a group that fought for each other."

"They work very hard every day. Sometimes it doesn't work out, but that doesn't mean you don't want to give everything to achieve this."

"I told the staff that we really have to enjoy this. In the past we didn't do that enough, but almost everyone stayed in the stadium and cheered us on. Then you realise what you have achieved and that should motivate you to continue," he said at a press conference.

REUTERS

Luis Enrique urges PSG to improve despite Salzburg win

PARIS

PARIS St Germain boss Luis Enrique praised his side after their 3-0 win at Salzburg in the Champions League on Tuesday, but said they must improve if they want to stay in the competition.

The Ligue 1 leaders endured a terrible start to their Champions League campaign, with defeats to Atletico Madrid, Bayern Munich and last season's Premier League runners-up Arsenal.

However, Tuesday's win moved them into the playoff places and they now sit 24th in the standings with seven points from six games.

Yet that is not enough for the coach.

"Football is a pretty unfair sport, the classification is quite tight, a goal can make a difference and we still have two important games ahead, we can still be out," the manager said.

"This wasn't a better game than PSV (Eindhoven) or Atletico Madrid, I'd even say it was worse, but that's football, we know we have to improve and the squad hasn't changed a lot. We need points, and we will try to win the next games."

The manager did, however, praise the efforts of Nuno Mendes, who scored their second goal.

REUTERS

Slot sings Alisson's praises after returning keeper helps Liverpool to Girona win

GIRONA, SPAIN

LIVERPOOL keeper Alisson saw plenty of action on his return from injury in the Champions League win at Girona on Tuesday, and manager Arne Slot was full of praise for the Brazilian who played a big role in maintaining their perfect record.

Alisson had been out with a hamstring injury since Oct. 5, and while his replacement Caoimhin Kelleher impressed during his absence, Alisson showed why he is Slot's first choice with several saves before Mohamed Salah's penalty gave Liverpool the win.

"Alisson definitely didn't look like he'd been out for two months," Slot said.

"I joked with the players that maybe they wanted to see how ready he was because they let him make so many saves."

"But he showed why I always say that he's our number one."

Liverpool defender Andy Robertson also praised his keeper but was unhappy with how many chances they allowed Girona, with Alisson pulling off saves from Alejandro Frances and Miguel Gutierrez in the opening half.

"He has been out for a while so maybe we had to see whether he was rusty or not and he certainly wasn't," Robertson said.

"But we have to have more control. We can't leave so many gaps, we have to press aggressively and a lot better. Especially in the first half, it was a bit too back and forth for our taste."

Slot was also complimentary towards the opposition, who really posed problems for Liverpool but ultimately fell to their fifth defeat in six games, thanks in large part to Alisson.



Liverpool's Alisson Becker in action as he makes a save during their Champions League match against Girona at Estadi Montilivi, in Girona, Spain on December 10, 2024. REUTERS

"I almost feel really sorry for Girona, they are such a high quality team and they deserve much more than three points that they have so far," Slot said. "They had a really good game plan today but we had a really good goalkeeper."

Meanwhile, Girona coach Michel said they would keep fighting until the very end with two crucial matches still to play in the Champions League after a narrow defeat to Liverpool on Tuesday left their qualification hopes hanging by a thread.

Girona suffered their fifth defeat of the competition when Mohamed Salah scored a penalty in the second half to give Liverpool a 1-0 win in an

even contest.

With Michel's side in 30th place in the standings with three points, four points below the final playoff place, and matches against AC Milan and Arsenal remaining, it looks as though Girona's first Champions League adventure may be coming to an end.

"Qualification looks far away but so long as there's the faintest chance we'll keep fighting for it," he told reporters.

"We are going to compete in the two matches we have left, enjoy ourselves, and look for victory in both."

Despite the loss Michel was happy with his side's performance.

"We competed really well, we ful-

filled my objective of filling key spaces and we tried to leave Liverpool's central defenders without a reference man to mark so that we could then find our free man," he said.

"We created chances, especially for Danju (Arnaut Danjuma). We gave a good account of ourselves but we went out to win."

Girona's Miguel Gutierrez echoed his coach's view.

"This is an apprenticeship. We're playing every three days, all over Europe, and that gives you huge experience," he said.

"But listen, we aren't out yet, this isn't finished. Until we can't mathematically qualify we'll fight."

Kompany hails Mueller after Bayern dismantle Shakhtar

GELSENKIRCHEN, GERMANY

BAYERN Munich manager Vincent Kompany praised his veteran striker Thomas Mueller who took advantage of a rare start this season to put the side ahead against Shakhtar Donetsk after they had gone behind early in their Champions League game on Tuesday.

"His goal is a quality that he always had in his career, just the right moment, the right place and he scored the goal very efficiently," Kompany told reporters after the 5-1 win.

"And then of course the energy, the passion, the leadership. For us it is very important to have a good balance between experienced players and young players who still have to grow."

Mueller had started only one of Bayern's previous five games in the competition but, with Harry Kane out injured, the 35-year-old stepped up and was in the perfect position to put Bayern in front just before half-time and begin the fightback.

Kompany has given Mueller just three starts in the Bundesliga this season but the manager was keen to emphasise the importance of the player to his squad, and his ability to still be there when it counted.

"I think it has always been clear that he still plays a very important role for us, even if sometimes it is not every minute in the season, it is sometimes normal," Kompany said.

"I think because he has so much experience, he knows how important these moments are."

"He can turn a game but we play in the Champions League, you can't always have a totally dominant game without the opponents working out a chance. "At that moment it was his chance and he did something important for the team. Of course, I think overall that we were very dominant, that we played well and that was an important moment."

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich should not take its lead for granted and should keep pushing for more goals, veteran forward Thomas Mueller said after the club's 5-1 win at Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Mueller, who netted his first goal in



Bayern Munich's Michael Olise scores their fifth goal during their Champions League match against Shakhtar Donetsk at Veltins Arena, in Gelsenkirchen, Germany on December 10, 2024. REUTERS

three months just before half-time to put Bayern 2-1 ahead, has now scored in 16 Champions League campaigns for the club which he joined at the age of 10.

"We're pleased ... we kept going and

had a lot of moments through our pressing. The way we scored our second goal, we could've scored several more like that," the 35-year-old said.

"It's important that we keep going. It's not to be taken for granted that we

stay ruthless after going 3-1 up and that the attacking players, the magicians, want to keep scoring goals. That has to be our top priority."

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Slot sings Alisson's praises after returning keeper helps Liverpool to Girona win

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Packed festive schedule awaits Simba with CAF and league commitments

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Premier League fixture between Simba SC and JKT Tanzania, originally postponed following a road accident involving JKT Tanzania, has now been rescheduled.

The much-anticipated clash will take place on December 24 at the KMC Complex in Mwanza, Dar es Salaam.

Simba face a packed schedule to conclude 2024, with four crucial league matches lined up in just 10 days. The club will kick off their December fixtures on December 18 against KenGold at the KMC Complex.

Three days later, on December 21, they will travel to Bukoba to face Kagera Sugar at Kaitaba Stadium. Following the JKT Tanzania match on December 24, Simba will conclude their year with a clash against Tabora United at the Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium on December 28.

In the Premier League standings, Simba currently hold second place with 28 points from 11 matches, boasting nine wins, one draw, and one loss.

Azam FC lead the table with 30 points from 13 matches while reigning champions Young Africans SC sit in third place with 27 points, having played 11 matches.

Amid their domestic commitments, Simba are also gearing up for a critical CAF Confederation Cup encounter against Tunisia's CS Sfaxien.

The match is set for this Sunday at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Head coach Fadlu Davids (pictured) has rallied fans to turn up in large numbers, expressing confidence in his team's ability to deliver both a victory and entertaining football.

Speaking shortly after the team's return from Algeria, where they suffered a narrow 2-1 loss to CS Constantine in their previous CAF match, Davids emphasized the importance of home support.

"I promise Simba members and fans victory and clean football. Come in large numbers to Benjamin Mkapa on Sunday. When the stadium is full, it motivates the players to perform better," he stated.

Reflecting on the defeat in Algeria, Davids acknowledged the challenges faced but assured fans of a strong comeback.

"We were unlucky in the last match, but we are determined to bounce back and secure a positive result against CS Sfaxien," he added.

Simba's CAF Confederation Cup opponents, CS Sfaxien, arrived in Dar es Salaam yesterday after playing Bravo do Maquis in Angola.

The Tunisian side lost 3-2 in their Group A clash but opted to travel directly to Tanzania, reportedly to acclimatize to the city's hot and humid conditions.

Logistical reasons, including the impracticality of returning to Tunisia before heading to Tanzania, also influenced their early arrival.

The early arrival underscores CS Sfaxien's preparation and intent to make a strong impression on Sunday.

Simba, however, will be looking to capitalize on home advantage to gain crucial points in their quest for CAF Confederation Cup glory.

Simba's management has released the ticket pricing for the match against CS Sfaxien, ensuring affordability for fans while offering premium options for those seeking a VIP experience.

Tickets are priced as follows: TShs. 3,000: Regular stands, TShs. 5,000: Orange stands, TShs. 10,000: VIP C, TShs. 20,000: VIP B, TShs. 30,000: VIP A, TShs. 150,000: Platinum, TShs. 200,000: Tanzanite

Simba have urged fans to secure their tickets early and turn out in large numbers to boost the team's morale during this pivotal encounter.

With their domestic and continental commitments, December is shaping up to be a decisive month for Simba.

The team's ability to navigate their demanding schedule will be crucial in maintaining momentum across competitions.

As they juggle league matches with the high-stakes Confederation Cup, all eyes will be on how Davids and his charges rise to the challenge.



Serengeti Boys now gear up for AFCON U17 qualifiers in Uganda

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Serengeti Boys, Tanzania's U17 national football team, are in the final stages of preparation for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) CECAFA U17 qualifiers, scheduled to take place in Uganda from December 14 to 28, 2024.

This critical tournament offers young players a platform to showcase their skills while vying for a spot in the AFCON U17 competition set for 2025.

The team, under the leadership of head coach Aggrey Morris and assistant coach Boniface Pawasa, is training intensively to ensure they are fully equipped for the challenge ahead.

Speaking on the team's progress, Morris expressed satisfaction with the players' efforts and their understanding of the tournament's significance.

"We are working hard to ensure that we have a strong team for the AFCON qualifiers. The players are showing great determination and a strong desire to win. Our ultimate goal is to qualify for the AFCON U17 finals, and we are committed to doing everything necessary to achieve that," Morris emphasized.

The AFCON U17 qualifiers represent more than just a football competition for Tanzania. They are a stepping stone for developing young talent, providing a vital foundation for the country's footballing future.

The Serengeti Boys' commitment and hard work are aligned with the Tanzania Football Federation's (TFF) broader goals of nurturing youth football and establishing Tanzania as a competitive force in African football.

To further motivate the players, TFF president Wallace Karia recently visited the team's training camp.

During his visit, Karia commended the players for their discipline and dedication, urging them to stay focused on their preparations. His words of encouragement were meant to inspire the team to approach the tournament with confidence and determination.

The AFCON CECAFA U17 qualifiers are set to feature nine teams, as confirmed by Yusuf Mossi, the CECAFA Director of Competitions.

These nations include Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan.

Each team will battle for one of the top two spots in the final, which guarantees qualification for the AFCON U17 finals in 2025.

The tournament will be hosted in three Ugandan cities: Bukedea, Mbale, and Kampala. These venues were selected for their footballing infrastructure and readiness to host matches of this caliber.

Additionally, stringent measures have been put in place to ensure fair play and compliance with the competition's age eligibility rules. All participating players will undergo mandatory Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) tests before taking the field. This step is crucial for verifying players' ages and maintaining the integrity of the tournament.

For the Serengeti Boys, the qualifiers are an opportunity to demonstrate their talent and resilience on an international stage.

Success in Uganda would not only be a testament to their hard work but also a reflection of Tanzania's growing potential in youth football.

The team's technical bench has been working tirelessly to refine tactics, enhance fitness levels, and instill a winning mentality in the players.

Beyond the footballing aspect, the tournament serves as a platform for young players to gain valuable exposure and experience.

It also provides an opportunity for scouts, clubs, and stakeholders in African football to identify promising talents. For many of the Serengeti Boys, this could be a stepping stone toward professional careers and national team inclusion in the future.

With just days to go before the competition kicks off, the Serengeti Boys are fully focused on their mission. Their participation not only represents Tanzania but also symbolizes the potential of youth football in the country.

The road to the AFCON U17 finals may be challenging, but the Serengeti Boys are determined to overcome every hurdle.

Their journey is a testament to the power of preparation, teamwork, and the desire to succeed on the continental stage.

Injury comebacks bolster Yanga ahead of Lubumbashi showdown

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans are buoyed by the return of several key players who have recovered from injuries ahead of their crucial CAF Champions League Group A match against TP Mazembe on Saturday in Lubumbashi, DR Congo.

The Tanzanian giants face a tough test at Stade de Mazembe, as both teams look to bounce back from recent defeats.

Young Africans suffered a 2-0 loss to MC Alger in their previous match, while TP Mazembe went down 2-1 to Al Hilal Omdurman.

Young Africans coach Saed Ramovic is eager to turn the tide and secure a positive result in Lubumbashi.

A win or a draw could significantly boost their chances of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Al Hilal Omdurman currently lead the group with six points, followed by MC Alger with four points. The two teams will face each other on Saturday in another crucial encounter.

Young Africans team manager Walter Harrison has confirmed that Khalid Aucho (pictured), Clement Mzize, and Salum Abubakar have resumed full training. However, Chadrack Boka is still recovering from injury.

The team is scheduled to depart for Lubumbashi today. They will train today and tomorrow before their crucial CAF Champions League match against TP Mazembe on Saturday.

"I'm happy to share that we have almost our full squad ready for the TP Mazembe match. Key players like Aucho, Abubakar, and Mzize have returned to training and will be involved in the game. This is excellent news for us as we regain crucial players for this important fixture."

"We'll be departing for Lubumbashi on Thursday. The team will continue rigorous training that day to prepare for the match and fine-tune our tactics. We know our fans will also be traveling by bus, and we wish them a safe journey. We're determined to return home with a positive result," said Harrison.

Young Africans find themselves in a difficult position in the CAF Champions League, having failed to score a goal in their opening two matches.



They suffered a 2-0 defeat to Al Hilal Omdurman at home and a similar loss to MC Alger away.

Coach Ramovic will need to address both defensive and attacking issues to improve the team's performance.

The back-to-back losses have left Young Africans at the bottom of Group A.

Young Africans have struggled to find consistency in recent times, with only

one win in their last five matches across all competitions.

The upcoming match against TP Mazembe on December 14 in Lubumbashi is a crucial test for the team.

A positive result could revive their hopes of qualifying for the next round.

Following the TP Mazembe match, Young Africans will face Al Hilal Omdurman away and host MC Alger in their final two group stage matches.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

