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FAO's banana virus clinic colours World Food Day
By Guardian Reporter

EFFECTIVE communication in managing plant diseases between farmers, decision-makers and the public has been highly encouraged in efforts to engage in awareness campaigns and promptly report any suspected cases of banana plus virus.

Diomedes Kalisa, project coordinator for the Plant Health and Biosecurity Initiative (PHBI) with the country office of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), made this observation in an event to mark World Food Day in the lakeside town of Bukoba at the weekend.

The initiative is part of the 'strengthening plant health for enhanced food safety in Tanzania' (STREPHIT), intended to raise awareness and enhance the capacity of field extension agents, farmers, exporters and the wider public to guard against the potential threat of BBTB, even though Kagera is currently the virus-free zone.

The FAO project manager organised a special clinic in Kagera Region to heighten the prevention and management of the banana bunchy top virus (BBTV), where the global commemoration and the clinic were part of the overall theme, "right to food for a better life and a better future," aligned with efforts to secure food security and bolster agricultural

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Miners say TRA ignoring directive on tax backlogs



President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured at Mwanza city's CCM Kirumba Stadium yesterday receiving the Uhuru Torch from the leader of this year's edition of the 'cross-country' Uhuru Torch Race, Godfrey Mzava. It was the climax of the annual event. Photo: State House

Try and check district own-funds development projects, Samia told

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

DISTRICT councils across the country fail to utilize internal revenues to create and implement development projects, the Uhuru Torch team has declared.

Uhuru Torch team leader Godfrey Mzava said in a report before President Samia Suluhu Hassan here yesterday that districts instead rely on funds from the central government and public institutions.

Just a few councils are implementing development projects using internal funds, while many councils do not have satisfactory explanations regarding the use of internal revenue collected, espe-

“The civic polls are a significant opportunity to enhance democracy and participation in community development

cially in the area of project implementation, he specified.

If it happens that the Uhuru Torch race for 2025 is directed at addressing projects funded by internal revenue of local government authorities the results will be abysmal, he told the gathering.

He strongly asserted that tax deductions from government funds allocated for development projects are not respected by local government authorities in many areas.

Speaking at the climax of the 2024 National Uhuru Torch Race and the launch of the Uhuru Torch history book here yesterday, the team leader told the presi-

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The DC responded that the district authorities would seek ways to consult with higher levels of government for resolution of these concerns, as the district team was in a position to appreciate what the miners feel in that regard

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

OFFICIALS of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) were still charging miners on the basis of tax claim backlogs of several years ago and ignoring the government's position on the matter, miners stated at an exhibition here yesterday.

They raised these concerns yesterday before the Songwe district commissioner, Solomon Itunda, at a mining sector exhibition in Saza ward, organised by the Edwin Luvanda Branding and Entailment Co.

The show involved small, medium and large-scale miners, meant to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experience relating to mining operations, with Michael Matoke, the Songwe Gold Family (SGF) managing director hosting the event.

He recalled assurances by the government that levies and taxes related to backlogged tax claims would be removed from the books, but TRA officials do not recognise that position, thus sowing confusion about the government's position.

“We urge the government to address this issue

He similarly objected to the two percent levy imposed by TRA on every transaction relating to a mineral, saying the margin is excessively high.

Backlogged tax debt and levies contribute to gold smuggling because some miners lack capital, thus when officials calculate their debts while they don't even have 20m/- in their accounts, it forces them into difficult decisions, he declared.

The show organiser urged local government officials to take their concerns to higher authorities to find a solution, as the current situation on when tax backlogs apply is a confusion to miners.

The organiser spoke for many in explaining that multiple taxes and levies imposed on their activities by the revenue authority and other public agencies compel the miners to smuggle gold and sell it to nearby markets.

He suggested reducing the transaction levy to one percent, given that miners also face an additional seven percent in taxes, resulting in a total tax burden of nine percent on their sales.

He pointed at additional levies imposed by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) and various local councils, an overwhelming situation for miners.

"This multitude of levies poses a significant challenge, pushing miners towards smuggling—something they deeply wish to avoid," he em-

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Chinese firm starts to build key manufacturing complex

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

STATE of the art manufacturing facilities are being built at Ikelu area of Makambako town in Njombe Region, to produce steel, innovative tourist vehicles, iron powder, lime and cement.

Xu Xingda, the Fujian Hexingwang Industry (T) Ltd managing director, issued this overview during a visit to the construction site with Ambassador Chen

Mingjian plus a number of local government officials and residents.

The total investment for the project, including construction costs, is projected to exceed 1bn/- and once operational, the factory is expected to create over 500 jobs for local youth, covering formal contractual positions and casual labour.

Highlighting the project's significance in boosting economic development in the region and the country at large, he

said that modern factories are another step in driving economic growth in East Africa.

He acknowledged the support received from the regional authorities, especially RC Anthony Mtaka and government agencies in fostering a favourable investment climate.

The RC expressed regional ambitions to position Makambako town as an industrial

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FAO's banana virus clinic colours World Food Day

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resilience.

The coordinator said that FAO's efforts during World Food Day highlighted the importance of education and engagement in plant health to safeguard future food security.

"The STREPHIT project aligns with this year's theme by contributing to the broader mission of ensuring the right to food," he said, stressing the need for food diversity to promote better nutrition.

"Food is a basic human right, like air and water," he declared, highlighting that during this year's global event, emphasis was placed on the right to food "not just in the singular but in the plural," that is, as foods.

He said diversity is key to proper nutrition thus the clinic would play a crucial role in securing local food supply chains, by implementing proactive measures to prevent the spread of BBTB.

The FAO and its partners are working to assist Tanzanian farmers in safeguarding their livelihoods, also contributing to national food security and improved nutrition, he said, noting that bananas are a staple food in Tanzania, making the protection of the vital crop essential for food security and economic stability.

"FAO experts provided training on recognising the early signs of BBTB, a virus that has caused significant damage in other banana-growing regions of Africa. Early detection is crucial to stopping the virus before it spreads," he explained.

Extension agents were trained on establishing quarantine zones to prevent the virus from entering and spreading in Kagera, which is critical to maintaining the region's BBTB-free status, he stated.

Timely communication is essential for coordinating responses and preventing potential outbreaks, he said, while Said Mwabesa, an Agriculture ministry official, lauded the effort to organise the clinic, urging farmers to utilise instructions gained for their development.

The knowledge gained from the clinic is vital as Tanzania remains vigilant in addressing emerging agricultural threats, he said, underlining the need for further capacity building and community engagement.

Tanzania is making significant strides toward a healthier and more

secure future, he said, underlining the government's focus as to ensure preventive measures are in place so farmers can respond quickly if the disease appears.

"Collaboration with FAO in organising this clinic was vital for the safety of our farmers and their crops," he said, noting that the clinic highlighted the need for an integrated approach to managing BBTB.

Farmers at the clinic expressed their gratitude for the training and knowledge gained, here Adelina Kishaju, a banana farmer in the surrounding Bukoba District said what she learnt would help in identifying BBTB symptoms early and take the necessary steps to protect the crop.

Those attending have taken note of strict quarantine protocols, the destruction of infected plants, routine surveillance, the use of clean planting materials and pesticide risk management, she said.

Observers noted that a severe outbreak of BBTB, responsible for the bunchy top disease of bananas, was reported in the western regions in 2021, spreading through infected planting material and by the aphid *Pentalonia nigronervosa*, a virus that is widespread in banana production areas.

Delimiting surveys were conducted between May and July 2023, covering 85 districts in 15 regions, which represent the major banana production areas in the country, where the virus was detected in 22 districts in 10 regions.

Bananas in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbaye, Katavi, Geita, Kigoma, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, and Coast regions were identified to have pockets of the virus, reports indicated.



FAO experts provided training on recognising the early signs of BBTB, a virus that has caused significant damage in other banana-growing regions of Africa. Early detection is crucial to stopping the virus before it spreads

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phased, citing another burdensome tax as the inspection fee.

He argued that it should be charged on the buyers and not the miners themselves, citing the fact that the law imposing a one percent tax on miners was enacted in 2017 to regulate mineral trading.

He said the law has not been adequately reviewed and has now become a burden for miners who do not even export minerals. "We urge the government to address this is-

sue," he said.

The DC responded that the district authorities would seek ways to consult with higher levels of government for resolution of these concerns, as the district team was in a position to appreciate what the miners feel in that regard.

He praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for intense efforts in uplifting the mining sector, affirming that miners faced challenges in selling the minerals but there is now a scatter of markets, allowing them to sell without hassle.

Chinese firm starts to build key manufacturing complex

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She emphasized its potential to supply high-demand products both domestically and around the region, enabling earnings of foreign currency, while Makambako MP Deo Sanga hailed the investor's decision to establish operations in Tanzania.

The capital is also being developed as an industrial centre, as a fertiliser factory is coming up in Dodoma, he stated, noting that these efforts have the backing of the central government, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan visiting the region recently, in pursuit of the president's instructions to 'think outside the box' and work to transform the regions.

"It is our responsibility to seize every opportunity that comes our way," the RC noted, while the envoy praised the project as a catalyst for job creation and economic growth.

He praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for intense efforts in uplifting the mining sector, affirming that miners faced challenges in selling the minerals but there is now a scatter of markets, allowing them to sell without hassle.

The investor donated two laptops, a printer and school badges for 450 children in a show of supporting community commitment, while pledging to construct a classroom at Ikelu Primary School, further supporting local education initiatives.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan with the Archbishop Renatus Nkwande of the Catholic Church Archdiocese of Mwanza and shortly after the Holy Mass held yesterday in remembrance of Father of the Nation Mwalimu JK Nyerere at St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church in Mwanza city's Nyakahoja Parish. Photo: State House

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dent that the rates of these taxes are known and are set according to the law, but the relevant authorities fail to fulfil their obligations to ensure they are deducted and returned to the TRA.

This challenge has been noticed during the race as it has been evident in many projects being implemented in the country. "This is an area to follow up closely," he said, pointing out that many public project tenders are awarded outside the digital public procurement system (NeST).

This is contrary to the Public Procurement Act of 2023 and laws against the mismanagement of public assets and unsatisfactory public tendering, he stated.

He also raised worries on electricity supply in rural areas under the supervision of the Rural Energy Agency (REA), affirming that its implementation is problematic in

Try and check district own-funds development projects, Samia told

many areas, so this area needs priority in monitoring.

President Samia participated in a memorial church service to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of the late Mwalimu Nyerere, inspected the Youth Week exhibition concluded at Furahisha grounds, and launched a book on the Uhuru Torch authored by Job Lusinde and edited by Dr Bashiru Ally.

The president used the occasion to appeal to the wider public to participate fully in the local government elections on November 27, underlining that it's holding and results will give a picture on what to expect in the general election, late 2025.

The civic polls are a significant opportunity to enhance democracy

and participation in community development, she stated, asking Tanzanians to distinguish between the voter list used in local government elections and the permanent voter register used in the general election. Participating in the upcoming elections will demonstrate public participation in the development of their regions, alongside creating, managing and implementing economic activities at the community level for the inclusive development of people in those administrative areas, she emphasised.

Ridhiwani Kikwete, the Labour, Youth, Employment, and Disabled Persons state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), said in presenting a report on Youth Week activities that the torch has been car-

ried across 37,235.62 km across 31 regions, spending an average of one day in each district.

The running team visited 195 councils in the 195 days it lasted, led by six youths from Zanzibar, Kigoma, Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam regions, while the team leader for the race was picked from Mwanza.

During this race, 150,159,594 trees were planted and 1,595 projects valued at 11trn/- launched and inspected, compared to 1,424 projects valued at 5.3trn/- completed during the same exercise last year.

Additionally, 16 projects valued at 8.6bn/- were rejected after being found to have deficiencies and were handed over to the anti-corruption watchdog for thorough investigation, the minister stated.



From-L: CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (L), Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko participate in the Holy Mass in remembrance of Father of the Nation Mwalimu JK Nyerere at St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church in Mwanza city's Nyakahoja Parish. Photo: VPO

WASHINGTON

THE world's 26 poorest countries, home to 40% of the most poverty-stricken people, are more in debt than at any time since 2006 and increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and other shocks, a new World Bank report said.

The report finds that these economies are poorer today on average than they were on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic, even as the rest of the world has largely recovered from COVID and resumed its growth trajectory.

Released a week before World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings get underway in Washington, the report confirms a major setback to efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and underscores the World Bank's efforts this year to raise \$100 billion to replenish its financing fund for the world's poorest countries, the

WB says 26 poorest countries in worst financial shape since 2006

International Development Association (IDA).

The 26 poorest economies studied, which have annual per-capita incomes of less than \$1,145, are increasingly reliant on IDA grants and near-zero interest rate loans as market financing has largely dried up, the World Bank said. Their average debt-to-GDP ratio of 72% is at an 18-year high and half of the group are either in debt distress or at high risk of it.

Two-thirds of the 26 poorest countries are either in armed conflicts or have difficulty maintaining order because of institutional and social fragility, which inhibit foreign investment, and nearly all export commodities, exposing them

to frequent boom-and-bust cycles, the report said.

"At a time when much of the world simply backed away from the poorest countries, IDA has been their lifeline," World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill said in a statement. "Over the past five years, it has poured most of its financial resources into the 26 low-income economies, keeping them afloat through the historic setbacks they suffered."

IDA normally is replenished every three years with contributions from World Bank shareholding countries. It raised a record \$93 billion in 2021, and World Bank President Ajay Banga is aiming to exceed that with over \$100 billion in pledg-

es by Dec. 6.

Natural disasters also have taken a greater toll on these countries over the past decade. Between 2011 and 2023, natural disasters were associated with average annual losses of 2% of GDP, five times the average among lower-middle-income countries, pointing up the need for much higher investment, the World Bank said.

The report also recommended that these economies, which have large informal sectors operating outside their tax systems, do more to help themselves. This includes improving tax collections by simplifying taxpayer registration and tax administration and improving the efficiency of public spending.



Dodoo Matambo, a small-scale farmer from Gedamar village in Babati District chiefly growing beans, cowpeas and pigeon peas, is interviewed by journalists who were on a tour at the weekend organised by the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT). The agency is spearheading a transformative project called 'Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Seed Systems for Productive Farmers' implemented as part of a larger initiative known as 'Vision for Adaptive Crops and Soils', funded by Feed the Future. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM recommends drought-resistant, fast-maturing seeds amidst low rains

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged farmers to opt for drought-resistant and fast-maturing crop seeds as well as to preserve food as the country anticipates shortage of rainfall in the coming three months.

Majaliwa made the call yesterday here during commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, saying that the situation may lead to insufficient harvests.

He said as per the climate outlook issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) for the Vuli season which normally begins in October to December, there will be below-normal to normal rainfall which will be characterised by a late onset, poor distribution and prolonged dry spells.

"To overcome the challenge, the government has put strategies in place which include promoting the use of fast-maturing seeds and preserving food for both humans and livestock," he said.

The Prime Minister also called for the strengthening of knowledge dissemination on agricultural techniques that require minimal water usage.

He urged public institutions, including education and health offices as well as the private sector, to expand and establish systems for collecting and storing rainwater.

"We must enhance strategies to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases that may arise due to lack of clean and safe water, particularly during the upcoming Vuli season," he said.

He encouraged relevant institutions to collaborate with educational

establishments to provide training and work with development organisations on how to cope with drought as recommended by TMA.

"The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology should continue to strengthen the curricula to include topics related to safety in schools, disaster risk reduction and disaster awareness. It is also essential that teachers receive regular training to effectively teach the issues to pupils," he said.

The Premier called for a united effort to empower youth on disaster-related issues, including climate change, to foster a safe and resilient society where everyone can contribute to reducing the impact of disasters.

October 13 marks the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 64/200 on December 21, 2009. Each year, the day is commemorated to promote a culture of disaster management globally, aiming to prevent and reduce disaster risks, as well as prepare to respond to and recover from disasters.



We must enhance strategies to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases that may arise due to lack of clean and safe water, particularly during the upcoming Vuli season

Honour country's progress made over 60 years, Tanzanians urged

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mwanza, Renatus Nkwande has called on all Tanzanians to appreciate the progress the nation has made over the past 60 years, stressing that the country has come a long way and should take pride in its achievements.

He made these remarks during a service held yesterday to honour the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere at the Catholic Parish of St. Francis Xavier in Nyakahoja.

"Mwalimu Nyerere once said that we are running while others are walking. Our strides in development have brought us to this point, and we should not undervalue the progress we have made.

Those who criticize today should ask their elders about the past," said Archbishop Nkwande.

The service was attended by prominent figures, including President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, and several other government and political leaders.

Reflecting on the past, Nkwande remarked, "Sixty years ago, life was nothing like it is today. Even fifty years ago, the differences were immense. I once lived in Musoma, and after the war, life was extremely difficult. Sometimes, we had to cross into Kenya just to buy a bar of soap, as we didn't have basic products like toothpaste here."

He continued, "We wore clothes, but we couldn't wash them properly. We used papaya leaves and even roots to clean them. Those of us in school had to make a single bar of soap last for six months for both washing and bathing. And yet, people say we haven't made progress! Ask your mother; she will tell you how life was back then."

Archbishop Nkwande stressed that the nation's progress is a result of the efforts of both Tanzanians and their leaders, urging people to appreciate these contributions.

He further emphasized that it is now President Samia's time to lead the nation forward, expressing gratitude for her accomplishments and encouraging her to continue building on the foundations laid

by her predecessors.

As local government and general elections approach, Nkwande urged Tanzanians to participate responsibly and wisely, instead of merely seeking power.

"I often wonder, if I weren't a priest, would I compete for such positions? You see people straining, with veins bulging, eager to become Members of Parliament, sometimes even resorting to violence. We haven't descended to that level," he said.

Speaking on behalf of President Samia, Vice President Dr Mpango noted that the purpose of the service was to pray for the Father of the Nation, asking for wisdom to guide the President and her aides in effectively serving Tanzanians.

"The Father of the Nation skillfully united Tanzanians from over 120 tribes into one, bringing us together under the common language of Kiswahili," Dr Mpango added.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Inviting Proposals from Local Civil Society Organizations (LCSOs) who are active in Dar es Salaam to be Implementing Partner to Children in Crossfire in our Dar Urban Daycare Programme



Children in Crossfire is an Irish-based international NGO whose purpose is to respond to the rights and needs of young children caught in the crossfire of global poverty and injustice. Children in Crossfire Tanzania focuses on increasing access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) supporting children's developmental needs and giving them a chance to reach their fullest potential. For more info visit: www.childrenincrossfire.org/tanzania/

Children in Crossfire Tanzania currently implements ECD programmes with a particular focus on early learning. We are piloting a new programme to support improved quality and equitable access to ECD/E daycare in high-density low-income areas of Dar es Salaam City (Dar). The private market for ECD/E daycare in Dar is thriving especially in the informal economy. Children in Crossfire is supporting these ECD/E daycare centres to improve the quality of childcare and early learning provision, support more sustainable profitable business models, and meet minimum regulatory requirements. Importantly, the programme places priority on equitable access to ECD/E daycare. More info on the Dar Programme is found at: www.childrenincrossfire.org/tanzania-resources/

Children in Crossfire has recently secured modest funding for four years, spanning 2025-2028, to implement an evolving programme of work with informal daycare centres in the Dar high-density setting. To this end, we are now looking to contract a Local CSO as an implementing partner to deliver this exciting programme. Key responsibilities will span: supporting quality improvements in daycare operations as microenterprises and ECD/E practices; reporting on regular monitoring data and demonstrating targeted support based on implementation trends; collaborating with local government and the daycare union to support effective communities of learners and other strategies to scale wider diffusion of good practices; and to provide lead implementation support for different programme innovations including effective use of digital platforms and piloting a MVC voucher subsidy.

A detailed **TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)** for this exciting partnership opportunity can be downloaded from: <https://www.childrenincrossfire.org/lcso-proposal-invitation/>

The ToR includes a hyperlink to a Google Form template for submitting EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (Eoi). Please note that we will not consider Eoi submitted in any other format.

Closing date for applications: **23:00hrs Sunday 3rd November 2024**, local time in Tanzania.



DAR RAPID TRANSIT AGENCY



Request for Expression of Interest to Invest in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) at Gerezani BRT Terminal in Dar es Salaam.

The Dar Rapid Transit (DART) Agency is a governmental entity established by Government Notice (GN) No. 120 of 25th May 2007 under the Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of 1997. The Agency's mandate is to plan, develop, and manage an efficient public transport system in Dar es Salaam to reduce traffic congestion, promote sustainability, and improve urban mobility.

- The Agency owns a parcel of land in a prime area located at Gerezani, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam, measuring approximately a total of 19,000m², which is planned for accommodating TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD). The area is divided into two lots:
 - Lot One: 8,000 square meters
 - Lot Two: 11,000 square meters
- Developers may express interest in developing either one or both lots. Each lot must be submitted separately but under the same conditions and address.
- The objective is to transform the Gerezani BRT Terminal into a more appealing customer-oriented hub to complement the transport services with them, but not limited to:
 - Supermarkets
 - Retail Shops/Stores
 - Malls
 - Residential and Small Traders (Machinga)
 - Parkings
- To foster BRT services, the Agency plans to develop the referred piece of land under a Joint Venture model in a form to be agreed upon by both parties (investors). Therefore, the Agency seeks an eligible, reputable, competent investor(s) who powerfully demonstrates the appropriate muscles, experience, and expertise in designing and investing in the referred TOD at Gerezani BRT Terminal.
- The developer may express interest in a Joint Venture (JV), but the JV must still meet all legal and technical requirements, with defined roles and responsibilities for each member.
- This advert serves to invite sealed submission of the Expression of Interest from eligible and reputable investors to formally express their interest in investing in the referred TOD at Gerezani BRT Terminal under the Joint Venture or Design, Build, Finance, Operate/Maintain and Transfer (DBFOMT) Arrangements.
- Those who are interested and find themselves to be eligible for investing in the referred TOD MUST avail the Agency with the following paper qualifications:
 - Expression of Interest letter
 - Company Profile
 - Document establishing the company (certified copies)
 - Pre-proposal design
 - Feasibility study/business plan
 - Proposed financing model
 - Cost estimates
 - Audited Financial Statement for the past three (3) years
 - Profit-Sharing Proposal
 - Proof of experience investing in a similar large-scale project for at least **Seven (7) years** worth at least **Tsh 100 billion**.
- Expression of Interest MUST be accompanied by a proof of availability of funds for the proposed TOD project in either form from the reputable financing institution(s)
- NOTE:** This is not an invitation to tender
- Interested investors who may wish to visit the area for the proposed TOD are humbly encouraged to do so and should contact the responsible Officer via Mobile No. +255 784632208 effectively from 16th October, 2024 to 30th October 2024.
- A request for clarification MUST be in writing and reach the office of the undersigned at the latest five (5) days before the deadline for submission of the expression of interest.
- The Agency has the mandate to accept or reject any submission and, if necessary, may annul the entire expression of interest process at any time without consideration for the interested investors.
- Expression of interest in a sealed envelope marked **"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) AT GEREZANI BRT TERMINAL"** must be submitted on or before 30th October 2024 and should be either physically or electronically delivered to the address below:

Chief Executive
Dar Rapid Transit Agency,
Ubungu Maji, Morogoro Road,
P.O. Box 724,
DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania.
Email: ce@dart.go.tz

Dr Mwinyi urges Tanzanians to fully utilise banking services

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has called on Tanzanians to make full use of banking services to support the government's goal of ensuring that integrated financial services reach 80 per cent of the population by 2028.

Dr Mwinyi made the appeal over the weekend during the inauguration of a new branch of the People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) in Mwanza.

He expressed concern over current data, which shows that financial services have reached 76 per cent of the population, while only 22 per cent are using banking services.

"Financial inclusion is essential for promoting sustainable economic growth in Tanzania. That's why it is imperative for Tanzanians, especially residents of Mwanza and neighbouring regions, to take full advantage of banking services," Dr Mwinyi emphasized.

He highlighted that PBZ Bank's efforts to expand its presence across mainland Tanzania align with the government's goal of fostering economic unity.

He noted that the establishment of this new branch would provide enhanced access to loans and financial services, thereby creating economic opportunities for the region's residents.

"The expansion of PBZ in both mainland Tanzania and the Zanzibar islands serves as a vital link to strengthen national unity and promote economic benefits for all. This bank will unlock opportunities for various groups, including farmers, livestock keepers, entrepreneurs, traders, and employees in both the public and private sectors. I expect that interactions between Zanzibar and the Lake Region will thrive with the opening of this branch," Dr Mwinyi said.

He commended the bank's commitment to quality service and its contributions to community welfare, including support for sports, education, and healthcare initiatives.

"I am optimistic that the people of Mwanza will benefit from the bank's dedication to corporate social responsibility," he added.

Arafat Haji, bank's managing di-

rector, spoke about the positive impact the new branch would have on Mwanza's residents, emphasising that the improved banking services would offer significant opportunities for empowerment and provide loans to various groups, such as farmers and entrepreneurs.

"It is no coincidence that we opened this branch during Customer Service Week. This branch will bring our services closer to Mwanza residents and surrounding areas, in line with the motto of Customer Service Week, 'Above and Beyond,'" Arafat said.

He also recognised the ongoing efforts of both President Dr Mwinyi and President Samia Suluhu Hassan in crafting policies that promote economic growth and support the success of financial institutions in the country.

PBZ, which is the seventh-largest bank in Tanzania with assets exceeding 2.3trn/-, continues to expand. This year, the bank opened branches in Morogoro, Mbeya, and Mwanza.

"In our strategic plan, we intend to open more branches in regions such as Arusha and Tanga," Arafat said, reaffirming that PBZ services are accessible through various platforms, including VISA cards, Umoja Switch cards, agents nationwide, mobile banking, and internet banking.



It is no coincidence that we opened this branch during Customer Service Week. This branch will bring our services closer to Mwanza residents and surrounding areas, in line with the motto of Customer Service Week, 'Above and Beyond'



Aerial view of the 3-km Kigongo-Busisi J. P. Magufuli Bridge, which constitutes a section of the Usagara-Sengerema-Geita road across Lake Victoria waters and whose construction has reached the 93 per cent mark, as captured by the Works ministry on Sunday.

Statistics Norway to work closely with NBS, OCGS

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

STATISTICS Norway has expressed the commitment to continue working closely with the National Accounts Statistics of Tanzania in effort to help improve data storage among other activities.

Janne Utkilen, Head of Division for International Development Cooperation at Statistics Norway, made her remarks in Dodoma during the closing of a five-day training programme for officials from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar (OCGS). The officials gathered in the capital city to receive training on the National Accounts Database System (NADABAS), an Excel-based software for compiling national ac-

counts, which is freely available.

The training aimed to encourage Tanzania to adopt the NADABAS system. According to Gervais Nduwimana, National Accounts Expert from the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, STATAFRIC collaborated with the EAC to develop software that could facilitate member states in advancing toward the EAC Monetary Union Protocol.

Utkilen expressed satisfaction with the basic training on the tool, noting that the trainees exceeded expectations by demonstrating exceptional skills and abilities. "Statistics Norway remains committed to working with national accounts to enhance statistical coordination, contributing to the harmonization of statistics across the region," she said.

Titus Kamatuka from STATAFRIC echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the importance of harmonizing statistics. He highlighted that a shared statistical tool among EAC member states marks significant progress toward establishing the monetary union. "The training was effective, as participants were able to solve challenges independently, showing they have truly mastered the skills," he added.

Gervais Nduwimana also noted that the training sessions went smoothly, with strong engagement from all participants.

Dr Albina Chuwa, Statistician General of Tanzania, acknowledged that the training objectives were met and expressed her gratitude to the organizers and trainers. She stated, "Tanzania will benefit

from this training by adopting the tool, and once all member states are using it, sharing experiences on data usage will become much easier."

Tanzania has already begun the process of adopting the National Accounts Compilation Software, alongside other EAC member states. NADABAS, which was originally developed through a joint Scandinavian project in Mozambique in 2004, has since been adopted in several other countries, including Lesotho, Kenya, Eswatini, Namibia, and Botswana.

The training, which concluded over the weekend, aimed to equip participants from the NBS and OCGS with the necessary skills for effectively compiling national accounts using NADABAS.

Early childhood teachers in Dar equipped with focused training

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

THE Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has provided specialised training for early childhood teachers from various schools in Dar es Salaam Region to enhance the delivery of education.

The initiative is being implemented collaboratively with the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government through the Boost Primary Pupil Learning Project (BOOST).

Speaking during the opening of the training in Dar es Salaam recently, Dr Wilson Mahera, the deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said that the training is also part of the implementation of the Education and Training Policy of 2014 and its revisions in 2023.

Dr Mahera said the training is designed to improve teaching methods for early childhood teachers, who play a critical role in a child's development at this foundational level of education.

"Through the BOOST project, we aim to invest in early childhood education by preparing a quality framework called the Quality Early Learning Package. This will align learning content with developmental stages and ensure that various guidelines, including those for operations and standards in early education, are implemented to provide quality education from the very start," he said.

He added that the project aims to increase the number of enrolled children, improve classroom facilities, and ensure that children receive nutritious meals while at school.

Hawa Selemeni, BOOST coordinator, highlighted that the project will work to ensure that early childhood

pupils benefit.

"We recognise the importance of hands-on learning and engaging activities. We have empowered teachers to create teaching aids for counting and reading, which will help children develop creativity in their daily lives," she said.

She also addressed the shortage of early childhood teachers, urging the government to ensure that new hires include those who will teach young children.

Golden Hinju, an early childhood teacher from Mbezi Primary School remarked that the BOOST project has significantly improved teaching effectiveness, enabling children to grasp concepts more quickly through innovative methods.

"Through this project, we have received teaching materials, learned new techniques and built new classrooms. This has helped us nurture children to become good leaders in the future and to foster creativity in their everyday lives," Hinju said.



We recognise the importance of hands-on learning and engaging activities. We have empowered teachers to create teaching aids for counting and reading, which will help children develop creativity in their daily lives



Motorbike taxi riders and other stakeholders opposed to sexual corruption march around Dar es Salaam's Bunju A suburb yesterday in a belated International Day of the Girl Child gesture. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

GENEVA

THE head of the UN refugee agency warned that displacement crises in Lebanon and Sudan could worsen, but said tighter border measures were not the solution, calling them ineffective and sometimes unlawful.

Addressing more than 100 diplomats and ministers in Geneva on Monday at UNHCR's annual meeting, Filippo Grandi said an unprecedented 123 million people are now displaced around the world by conflicts, persecution, poverty and climate change.

"You might then ask: what can be done? For a start, do not focus only on your borders," he said, urging leaders instead to look at the reasons people are fleeing their homes.

UNHCR's chief urges states to drop border controls even as displacement crises worsen

"We must seek to address the root causes of displacement, and work toward solutions," he said. "I beg you all that we continue to work – together and with humility – to seize every opportunity to find solutions for refugees."

Western governments are under growing domestic pressure to get tougher on asylum seekers and Grandi has previously criticized a plan by the former British government to transfer them to Rwanda.

In the same speech he warned that in Lebanon, where more than one million people have fled their

homes due to a growing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, the situation could worsen further.

"Surely, if airstrikes continue, many more will be displaced and some will also decide to move on to other countries."

He called for a drastic increase in support for refugees in Sudan's civil war, saying lack of resources was already driving them across the Mediterranean Sea and even across the Channel to Britain. "In this lethal equation, something has got to give. Otherwise, nobody should be surprised if displacement keeps

growing, in numbers but also in geographic spread," he said.

The UNHCR response to the crisis that aims to help a portion of the more than 11 million people displaced inside Sudan or in neighbouring countries is less than 1/3 funded, Grandi said.

The number of displaced people around the world has more than doubled in the past decade. Grandi, set to serve as high commissioner until Dec. 2025, said the agency's funding for this year had recently improved due to US support but remained "well below the needs."

Herders in Manyara now get into farming

By Correspondent Felix Andrew, Babati

SOME pastoralists in Simanjiro and Babati districts, Manyara Region have ventured into farming alongside cattle rearing, having been involved in agricultural activities for the past 20 years.

Speaking to reporters in Orkirung'urung'u village, Simanjiro District, they shared how various training programmes have led them to take irrigation seriously.

Mathayo Olonyoki, a pastoralist from the village who transitioned into farming, said that due to the training they received from the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) and its partners, they now view farming and cattle keeping equally.

"We no longer allow cattle to enter farms, and if crops are damaged, the agricultural officer assesses the loss and ensures that the farmer is compensated," Olonyoki said.

Olonyoki, who has been involved in irrigation farming for over 20 years, noted significant achievements, including paying university fees for his children, building new houses, and increasing his income.

Initially, he struggled with poor rainfall and a lack of knowledge about modern farming practices and climate-smart agriculture. After receiving training from BEULA Seed Company, he became a contract farmer for the firm.

Meanwhile, farmers engaged in drip irrigation in Gedamar village, Babati district, Manyara region, reported an increase in harvests from 1 bag to 4 bags per acre.

Dodo Matambo, a beneficiary, said that drip irrigation has completely transformed his economic life. "In the past, even two meals were difficult for my family. Irrigation farming pays well, and I have been educating fellow farmers about its benefits," he said.

Matambo noted that many farmers who previously struggled with drought have switched to irrigation farming, allowing them to plant and harvest more than three times a year.

Fatuma Idd, a mung bean farmer in the same village, said the training has helped improve farming practices and increased their yields.

Delta Shila, Monitoring and Results Measurement Officer at AMDT, said the organization is spearheading a transformative project called the "Inclusive Resilient and Sustainable Seed System for Productive Farmers," under the broader "Vision for Adaptive Crops and Soils" (VACS) project funded by Feed the Future.

The project is being implemented in four regions: Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara. It aims to meet the specific needs of farmers growing mung beans, cowpeas, and pigeon peas in the northern and central zones of Tanzania.

The initiative focuses on creating demand and awareness through demo plots, field days, and strengthening connections between farmers and off-takers.

Shila mentioned that between June and September this year, they reached over 600 farmers in these regions, providing training on modern farming practices and the use of certified seeds.

"We emphasize the use of quality seeds to increase production and improve farmers' livelihoods," he said, adding that education on irrigation technology will enable farmers to produce year-round.



We no longer allow cattle to enter farms, and if crops are damaged, the agricultural officer assesses the loss and ensures that the farmer is compensated

Rwanda reports progress in MVD fight as recoveries outpace fatalities

KIGALI

RWANDA is making significant strides in its fight against the Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak, with recent data showing more recoveries than fatalities.

Rwandan Health Minister Sabin Nsanzimana provided this update during a Sunday press conference in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, as the country continues its efforts to contain the spread of the disease. "In the past seven days, we have seen more recoveries than deaths, which is a positive sign that the protective measures and treatments we have implemented are producing results," Nsanzimana said.

He highlighted that since the MVD was detected in Rwanda at the end of last month, 61 people have been infected - 14 have died, 18 have recovered, and 29 remain under treatment.

Nsanzimana added that no new infections have been detected in the last three days of testing, though he cautioned against complacency. "This doesn't mean we can relax our efforts," he warned.

Of the 700 vaccines received, 620 doses have already been administered to frontline workers and emergency responders. The cumulative number of tests conducted in the country had reached 3,376 as of Saturday, according to the latest update by the Ministry of Health.

Rwanda's first batch of 700 Marburg vaccines arrived on Oct. 5. Nsanzimana also reassured the public that all confirmed cases so far have been traced to a hospital cluster in Kigali, and all patients are under isolation and treatment. There is no evidence of community transmission at this time.

He announced that Rwanda

received an additional 1,000 doses of the Marburg vaccine Saturday, which will be used to continue protecting those at the highest risk.

Nsanzimana revealed that three of the 29 patients currently receiving treatment are critically ill, and medical teams are doing everything possible to save them.

Looking ahead, he said that the government is reviewing its current health guidelines and will soon announce updated protocols. He clarified that the vaccine rollout will continue to prioritize frontline workers and those most at risk while vaccinating the general population is not yet necessary.

"The world faces many potential epidemics, and we must always be prepared to handle them," Nsanzimana said, reflecting on the broader implications of the outbreak.

Brian Chirombo, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Rwanda, also spoke at the press conference, praising the country's response. He advised against imposing travel and trade restrictions. "The measures Rwanda and its partners have taken are sufficient. Restricting travel would only harm the country's economy without improving the situation."

Authorities are urging all residents to stay informed and continue following health guidelines as Rwanda works to contain and eliminate the outbreak.

MVD, a highly virulent disease that causes hemorrhagic fever, has a fatality rate of up to 88 percent and is caused by a virus from the same family as Ebola, according to WHO. Symptoms typically appear within seven days of infection and include high fever, severe headaches, and malaise.



Personal Data Protection Commission chairperson Adadi Rajabu (C) is introduced to guidelines as he registers in the national Permanent Voters' Register at Mkunguni-Majengo in Muheza District yesterday accompanied by his wife, Aziza Adadi (L). Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Chunya District allocates 52,000 acres for farming

CHUNYA District Council in Mbeya Region has allocated more than 52,000 acres of land to facilitate collective farming of various crops, including cash crops, in a renewed effort to increase agricultural production and productivity.

Paul Rugodisha, the agricultural officer for Chunya District Council, announced the initiative recently during a council executives meeting aimed to assess preparations for the upcoming farming season, which is set to commence in November.

He said the council is focused on enhancing food security and boosting local economies through increased agricultural output.

Rugodisha said the designated land is situated in Nkung'ungu, Lualaje and Mapogoro villages, all of which boast large areas well-suited for diverse agricultural activities.

Rugodisha highlighted that this initiative aligns with the government's broader strategy

to empower women and youth through the Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA) programme which aims to enhance livelihoods in various districts, including Chunya.

"We have commenced operations with the Mapogoro Village farm, covering a total of 27,000 acres. This land has been jointly titled between our council and the Ministry of Agriculture, and soil health assessments have already been conducted. We are now preparing to allocate this land to farmers who will cultivate a variety of crops," Rugodisha said.

Chunya District Commissioner, Senior Immigration Officer Mbaraka Batenga, urged potential

investors to explore agricultural opportunities in the district, asserting that the local government has created a favourable investment environment.

He emphasised that the district's climate and fertile soil support the cultivation of a wide range of crops, including both food and cash crops.

"Chunya is among the top producers of tobacco in the country, ranking third nationally, which has helped to establish the region as a significant player in the tobacco industry. Additionally, we are capable of growing various other crops, such as maize, beans, groundnuts, and sesame. Any investors interested in entering this market should feel confident in reaching out to us for support,"

Batenga said.

He noted that beyond agriculture, Chunya District is also rich in natural resources, producing substantial amounts of gold. He invited investors in the mining sector to consider opportunities in the district, highlighting the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships.

He said through the collective farming efforts and investment opportunities, Chunya District is poised to become a key agricultural and economic hub in Mbeya Region.

The council's initiatives aim not only to boost agricultural productivity but also to improve the livelihoods of local farmers and contribute to the overall economic development of the region.



Health minister Jenista Mhagama (in pink) cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to launch Shifaa Cancer Care and Research Centre at the city's Shifaa Pan African Hospital. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Z'bar needs more anaesthesiologists

ZANZIBAR faces acute shortage of anaesthesiologists and anaesthetists, with current statistics indicating that only four specialists are available to serve the population, a senior government official has said.

Anesthesiologists are doctors who specialise in giving anesthesia (total asleep) to patients during surgeries, ensuring they are comfortable and pain-free. Anaesthetists are healthcare professionals, often nurses, who assist in administering anaesthesia and monitoring patients during the procedure.

Health Minister, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui revealed this yesterday here when speaking to reporters at his office in light of the upcoming Anesthesia and Sleep Day, celebrated every October 16.

He said this year's theme emphasizes the importance of safe

surgery through effective anesthesia management and patient care.

Mazrui explained that while the government has made strides in improving healthcare infrastructure, the shortage of qualified professionals in the field of anaesthesia remains a critical challenge.

"Despite having 49 anesthesia service providers across Unguja and Pemba, the demand continues to outpace supply, especially in public health facilities," he said.

He urged academic institutions to encourage more students to pursue careers in this vital medical field to ensure that patients receive the necessary surgical care without complications.

The Minister further elaborated on the potential benefits of increasing the number of trained

anaesthesiologists.

"By expanding this workforce, we can significantly improve patient outcomes and enhance the quality of surgical services offered in our hospitals," he said.

Mazrui further appealed to graduates and healthcare professionals to consider furthering their education in anesthesia and sleep medicine, citing numerous institutions both domestically and internationally, including reputable programmes in India.

"Investing in this education will not only benefit individual careers but will also strengthen our healthcare system as a whole," he said.

He said the Ministry of Health was committed to tackling the challenges to build a robust healthcare framework that meets the needs of

the Zanzibar population, ensuring access to quality surgical care for all.

Dr Mwadini Simai, an anaesthesiologist, echoed Mazrui's concerns but highlighted that the government has been proactive in providing essential medical equipment and ensuring adequate supplies of postoperative medications for all patients.

"While we face staffing challenges, the government's commitment to enhancing our capabilities is evident," he said.

In addition to the need for more specialists, Dr Simai pointed out the importance of continuous professional development. "We are focusing on training in various surgical techniques and safe anesthesia practices, ensuring that our team is well-equipped to handle complex cases," he said.

RC Chalamila urges residents of Dar to use cleaner energy

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has urged residents to use cleaner energy sources, noting the price of gas is lower considering health costs associated with treating diseases.

"Charcoal is more expensive than gas. Using clean cooking energy helps to save the next generation. Dar es Salaam is the main market for charcoal. If we discourage the use of charcoal in Dar es Salaam, we will make a big impact," he added.

He was speaking yesterday at an event to distribute 1,000 gas cylinders to food vendors in the city. He commended the latest move by Puma Energy Tanzania to launch a programme of donating gas cylinders to various groups in the country.

Dar leads in the use of dirty energy but also leads in the use of clean energy, said Chalamila, adding through the campaign, the city will be the leader in the use of clean energy.

Kinondoni District Commissioner, Saad Mtambule said for many years Tanzanians have relied on firewood and charcoal, with over 80 percent of people using them, which has many negative effects.

"We commend the energy firm for coming up with this plan, which supports the government's efforts," Mtambule noted, adding the move complements the government's clean energy initiative.

Initially, the government-privately owned company supported the clean energy campaign through providing public education over the importance of using clean cooking energy.

Company's Managing Director, Fatma Abdallah stated that the company decided to be part in building the national economy by distributing gas cylinders free of charge.

"Today we are making our contribution to an important group—food vendors by distributing gas cylinders. Food vendors in Dar es Salaam face the challenge of accessing clean cooking energy,"

Abdallah said.

Puma has been supporting and promoting the use of clean cooking energy, especially cooking gas.

"Recently, we launched a campaign to educate people about clean energy. The cost of clean energy is lower than the cost of charcoal. Using gas promotes better health, as women and children face health risks from charcoal and firewood, such as respiratory diseases," she remarked.

She argued that charcoal and firewood are major contributors to deforestation. Therefore, using gas helps conserve the environment for future generations.

Abdallah added: "We are committed to fulfilling our responsibility to society by supporting the government's clean energy campaign. By investing in clean energy, we are building strong social and economic foundations. We call on other stakeholders to support this government campaign to promote the use of clean energy."

Mariam Simba, a resident of Kinondoni and leader of the food vendors, said, "We thank the President for remembering food vendors by bringing us clean energy. We promise to support her by promoting the use of clean energy."



Today we are making our contribution to an important group—food vendors by distributing gas cylinders. Food vendors in Dar es Salaam face the challenge of accessing clean cooking energy

Fertiliser subsidy increases to 840,000 tonnes this year

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE government has stated that provision of fertiliser subsidies has led to a major increase in fertiliser usage, rising from 360,000 tonnes in 2022 to 840,000 tonnes currently, equal to 131 percent increase.

Dr Mohamed Omary, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture made the statement over the weekend during the celebration of World Fertiliser Day, held at national level in Manyara Region.

Dr Omary highlighted that when the government initiated the subsidy programme in 2022, fertiliser usage stood at 360,000 tonnes, while in 2021, it was over 500,000 tonnes.

"Today, this figure has surpassed 1.2 million tonnes," he said.

In addition to the increase in fertiliser usage, he noted that maize productivity has improved from 1.9 tonnes per acre to two tonnes, and bean productivity has risen from 800 kilograms per acre to 1,000 kilograms.

Dr Omary emphasized the critical need for farmers to have agricultural insurance to safeguard against disasters such as droughts, floods, and cyclones.

He cited Zambia's request for 650,000 tonnes of fertiliser following a drought as a cautionary example, mentioning similar requests from Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He urged Tanzania not to be complacent and to prepare by investing in insurance.

Joel Laurent, executive director of the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory

Authority (TFRA), said that for the 2023/24 season, their target was to inspect 3,400 businesses, but they successfully inspected 3,737.

He also mentioned that for the 2024/25 farming season, they plan to test the farms of farmers registered in the subsidy program and issue title deeds that can be used as collateral for loans from financial institutions.

Veronica Kessy, Mbulu District Commissioner said that the government provided 11,346 tonnes of subsidized fertilizer to farmers last year.

Pendael Valentine, manager of Rift Valley Cooperative Union (RIVACU) in Manyara Region, confirmed that they have been appointed as agents to distribute Minjingu and Yara fertilisers to farmers.

He stressed the importance of fertiliser for achieving sufficient harvests and encouraged farmers to conduct soil health tests before application.

The manager also highlighted the priority crops, which include coffee, cotton, garlic, sugarcane and lentils.



He stressed the importance of fertiliser for achieving sufficient harvests and encouraged farmers to conduct soil health tests before application



Mbeya Rural constituency legislator Oran Njeza pictured in Mbalizi township at the weekend making remarks at Juhudi Secondary School's Form Four graduation ceremony. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has pledged to increase the budget for cancer drugs each year, in response to the growing number of cancer patients.

Health Minister, Jenista Mhagama made the pledge in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when inaugurating the Shifaa Cancer Care and Research Centre at Shifaa Hospital.

She noted that as the number of cancer patients rises, many are unable to afford treatment, highlighting the need for support. For the current fiscal year, the government has allocated 10 billion Tanzanian shillings for the purchase of cancer drugs, and she assured that this amount will increase with each new budget.

The Minister emphasized that the new center will significantly improve access to critical diagnostic and treatment services for cancer-related issues in the country.

Mhagama also pointed out that

Government to increase budget on cancer drugs

cancer cases have been rising annually, with statistics showing 45,000 new cases in 2022 alone. She warned that without early treatment, cancer leads to fatalities, and with such a large number of patients, the country must plan to save lives by offering timely treatment.

She highlighted the most prevalent cancers in the country: cervical cancer (24.2 percent), prostate cancer (10.7 percent), breast cancer (10 percent), throat cancer (7.9 percent), and colon cancer (4.9 percent). These types account for 42 percent of all cancer cases, with cervical and breast cancer being the most common among women.

"The government has made

concerted efforts to protect its citizens from cancer. When someone is diagnosed, they should have access to treatment. We are grateful for Shifaa's support in the government's mission to save lives and bring joy to cancer patients," said Mhagama.

She added that the government is actively educating the public, conducting screening campaigns for early detection, and expanding these services across various regions in Tanzania. The goal is to establish more centers, especially for women, and enhance diagnostic services with sufficient CT and MRI machines.

Bashir Haroon, the Managing Director of Shifaa Hospital, praised the government for its substantial

investments in the health sector. He shared that the Shifaa Hospital represents a \$60 million investment aimed at providing modern healthcare services to Tanzanians.

"The construction of this hospital aligns with our support for the government's health sector initiatives. We're pleased with the improvements in healthcare and commend the private sector for their contributions," Haroon said.

He added that cancer has become a major global issue, including in Tanzania, which is why the establishment of a local cancer treatment center is crucial to reducing the financial burden on Tanzanian patients who would otherwise seek treatment abroad in countries like India.



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (C, in glasses) queues at Mrara Street in Babati municipality at the weekend to update her personal information in the national Permanent Voters' Register in readiness for participation in the countrywide local government elections slated for November 27. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Anna Athanas Paul, has emphasized that investing in girls' education can significantly empower them to recognize and avoid various signs of abuse.

She made these remarks over the weekend during the commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child, held at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) Maruhubi Campus in Unguja.

Paul stated that violence and abuse are major obstacles preventing girls from reaching their

Investing in girls' education vital in empowering them, official says

goals, emphasising that hard work in education will help them achieve their future aspirations, thereby enabling them to avoid harmful practices, including gender-based violence.

"If a girl studies diligently, she will be able to avoid the signs of abuse, which are the biggest barriers to achieving their goals," she said.

The Deputy Minister noted that, according to statistics from the

Office of the Chief Statistician, a total of 1,954 cases of violence and abuse were reported in 2023. Among these cases, 1,263 involved girls, accounting for 77.1 percent.

Atma Salum, a pupil from Tumekuja Primary School, highlighted the importance of parents and guardians taking the time to communicate with children to understand the challenges they face in their environments.

Henry Tindwa, an education expert from Save the Children Tanzania, stated that the organization will continue to help children understand themselves to reduce the wave of abuse and promote self-awareness.

The International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated annually on October 11, and this year's theme was: "Empower the Girl Child, Let Her Raise Her Voice."

Govt boosts learning, teaching environment at school in Muheza

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE government has made strides to improve the learning and teaching environment at Kwemkabara Secondary School in Muheza District, Tanga Region, with projects including new classrooms, toilets, laboratories, and teacher offices.

The initiative follows the allocation of 285m/- from the central government over the past four years to improve the environment and boost academic performance.

Juma Hango, Kwemkabara Secondary School headmaster, announced the developments at a form four graduation ceremony held at the school over the weekend.

Hango expressed his gratitude to President Samia Suluhu's administration for funding the school's infrastructure improvements.

He noted that the school has experienced a remarkable increase in pupil performance each year, currently serving 1,082 pupils and employing 36 teachers.

"This achievement is a result of collaboration with my fellow teachers, the school board, and the district's leadership," Hango said.

Despite the achievements, Hango highlighted challenges such as the school's lack of a photocopy machine and appealed for donations to help acquire one, which will greatly facilitate school operations.

Juma Mahunja, head of Eljerry Health and Science College in the district, encouraged the graduating pupils to study diligently to excel in their upcoming examinations and achieve their future aspirations.

He emphasised the importance of education, urging pupils to fully focus on their studies and listen to their teachers if they wish to succeed after school.

Mahunja praised the government's commitment to enhancing school infrastructure under President Samia's leadership and reiterated that efforts would continue to ensure a conducive learning environment for pupils and a supportive teaching space for teachers.

He advised pupils to remember the purpose of their education and to set clear goals, explaining that the knowledge and skills they acquire will enable them to compete effectively in the job market.

Mahunja also invited pupils who perform well in their secondary education to consider enrolling at Eljerry Health and Science College in Muheza, describing it as a valuable opportunity for future employment.

Peter Mgavilwa, Kwemkabara Ward Councillor in Muheza, said that between 2020 and 2024, the government has allocated 2.35bn/- for various projects in the ward.

Similar graduation ceremonies have been held at other secondary schools in the district, including Ngomeni Secondary School, Songa Secondary School, and Misozwe Secondary School.



This achievement is a result of collaboration with my fellow teachers, the school board, and the district's leadership



Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde (L) pictured in Geita town at the weekend presenting a trophy to Azania Bank Limited's Head of Agribusiness, Augustino Matutu, after the lender emerged winner in the Financial Institutions category at the just-ended 7th Geita Mining and Technology Exhibition. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Handwashing contest improves hygiene among school children, says DC Magoti

By Guardian Correspondent, Kisarawe

KISARAWA District Commissioner Petro Magoti said yesterday that a hand washing competition conducted by WaterAid Tanzania has contributed to behaviour changes among school children, thus improving health services and personal hygiene.

"I firmly believe that by celebrating the Global Hand washing Day (GHD), our children are clearly demonstrating how these behaviour changes significantly contribute in the fight against outbreaks and diseases caused by poor sanitation in our community," said Magoti.

He was addressing participants at a special event to celebrate GHD held in Kisarawe District, Coast Region where students from six schools creatively participated in a hand washing competition under the theme 'Why Are Clean Hands Still Important?'

The event aimed to raise awareness about the critical role of hand hygiene in preventing diseases and promoting better health, particularly in schools and healthcare facilities.

WaterAid Tanzania, Country Director, Anna Mzinga said: "These competitions are part of our efforts to sustain behaviour change in our communities, especially through youth. We proud to be part of this transformation, working in collaboration with the government, health experts, teachers, and the community to ensure that every student receives adequate education about hand hygiene and has the proper environment to practice that knowledge."

Mzinga said the competition is an opportunity for children to showcase their creativity in different ways such as art, music, or drama.

"I hope your message will spread far and wide, reaching others and helping them to understand the value of proper hand hygiene in the surrounding communities," said Mzinga.

Commemorated every year on October 15, the day highlights the importance of hand washing with soap as one of the most effective and affordable ways to prevent infections.

This year's celebration in Kisarawe was special since the closing of the project - 'Effectiveness of Hygiene Behaviour Change in 15 Health Care Facilities and 30 Schools in Kisarawe'

The event brought together students from three intervention schools and three non-intervention schools, who showcased their talents in a creative competition designed to raise awareness of proper hand hygiene practices.

The competition not only encouraged creativity but also reinforced the importance of sustainable hand washing practices among students, their peers, and the community. Prizes were awarded to winners to encourage peer-to-peer hygiene education in schools.

WaterAid Tanzania emphasized the need for improved WASH infrastructure and hygiene education to ensure better health outcomes, particularly in underserved rural areas.

The organization calls on all Tanzanians to join the movement for better hand hygiene. By prioritizing clean hands, to collectively reduce the spread of infections, improve public health and create a healthier future for all.

Global agency says 86,000 Kenyan children suffering from eye sight blurring

NAIROBI

OVER 80,000 Kenyan school-going children are struggling with eye health challenges including short or long-sightedness amid threats to their career aspirations, said a report from the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) on Thursday in Nairobi, Kenya.

Released on the World Sight Day which falls on Oct. 10 this year, the report, titled "Better Education in Sight," disclosed that Kenyan children lose nearly 25,000 years of schooling every year due to poor vision.

Peter Holland, chief executive of the IAPB, said that with uncorrected refractive errors, the academic outcome for Kenyan children and youth is in jeopardy, hence the need for investing in regular eye screening and treatment.

"We urge health and education sector players to improve access to vision screenings and eyeglasses for school children," Holland said, adding that learning institutions should encourage students to undergo routine eye checkups.

The theme for 2024 World Sight Day, "Children, love your eyes," underscores the importance of raising awareness about vision impairment and promoting proper eye care for the young generation.

Addressing children's eye health crisis could add an additional earning of \$113.95million to the Kenyan economy, according to the report compiled by IAPB in conjunction with Seva Foundation, an international health charity.

Victor Opiyo, president of the Optometrists Association of Kenya, said that improved eye health among children will translate into quality adulthood characterized by gainful employment.

"For example, if a five-year-old is provided with glasses in primary school and continues to wear them until they are 18, they will earn, on average, 125 percent more lifetime income than if they never had their vision corrected," Opiyo said.

Opiyo added that capacity building for opticians coupled with investment in modern diagnostic machines will be key to boosting early detection and treatment of vision challenges among Kenyan school children.



Farmers from Masaera village in Makuyuni ward, Moshi District, attend training conducted by agricultural and business officers working with Agroveg Project, which helps in promoting the use of 'push-pull technology' to protect consumer health. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Smoking causes 6,000 deaths per year in Cote d'Ivoire

ABIDJAN

SMOKING leads to more than 6,000 deaths annually in Cote d'Ivoire, according to the country's major lawyer association.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Association of Women Lawyers of Cote

d'Ivoire, Andosine Tomou De Touali, revealed the figures on Wednesday at an anti-smoking campaign initiated by the association in the political capital Yamoussoukro.

The association called for raising public awareness about the risks of all forms of smoking, including e-cigarettes,

whose consumption is rapidly increasing among the youth, and strengthening anti-tobacco legislation in Cote d'Ivoire.

"Both active and passive smoking causes serious diseases, such as cancers, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as malformations in fetuses when smoking occurs during pregnancy," said

Oumar Coulibaly, deputy coordinator of the National Anti-Tobacco Program.

He said efforts should be made to "prevent young people from ever starting to smoke." Despite the ban on smoking in public places in 2012 and the enactment of a tobacco-control law in 2019, smoking remains very popular among Ivoirians.

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Change in legislation on marriage: Hope of success still remote dream

A highly rated media pundit is quoted as having said many years ago that there were two things in life that could not be avoided, namely, death and taxes.

At the local level today there is a more pronounced pair of issues which, however much the political system believes it has drained the key issues and some consensus has been found, keep coming back, banging on the door if not on the table.

The difference is that, after visible consensus has apparently been struck on vital aspects, the issues rebound with less impact.

There is talk of demands that the government take to the National Assembly 'the revised Marriage Bill' for debate and approval in furthering the enhancing of the protection of girls in the country.

But it is not enough to point out that the current legislation of marriage allows girls as young as 15 to get married with parental consent, and especially to make a point of contrast that boys cannot get married before attaining the age of consent - that is, 18.

Strictly speaking, the notion of consent relates to girls being married but is also expected even if it relates to less than legal 'age of consent', as it is varied in its usage. Consent is one thing on family issues and another as legal liability for individual acts.

Those arguing for the revision of the law to place consent at par for both boys and girls don't seem to seek the views of stakeholders other than from fellow activists.

They thus demand that the Justice and Legal Affairs ministry as well as the ministry under which falls the Community Development wing

'expedite' the exercise, this seen as vital to enabling girls to achieve their full potential.

This idealistic view skips the fact that customary law is one among sources of our legislation, in which case it can't be said that the 1971 consensus on the matter is outdated.

One explanation here is that the Beijing Conference of 1995 and global agenda for women were at that time not yet in place.

Policy makers have for years battled with the challenges of early marriages, or child marriages as they are sometimes called, and settled for a widening of educational opportunity for girls wherever it is feasible for them to study.

This has generally been made possible by the quasi-universal availability of secondary school spaces. The point is that when a girl child is no longer attending formal schooling, it is to be expected that there will be other influences to hinder child marriage - and not necessarily law enforcement.

That is the singular point where many analysts feel that the vocal lobby is being simplistic in taking for granted that the idea of girls' dreams is sufficient to scrap customary law or community practices as a source of legislation, or spirit of laws.

Again the lobby seems to distrust the other parameter open to families and the girls themselves as, without consent, such 'marriages' amount to unlawful detention and neglecting to help a person in need.

Activists would thus be well advised to see how they can use schooling, social pressure and their own networks in communities to make their voices heard more and make the impact they are determined to see.

Policy wish for special investment companies outflanks preparations

It is usually hard to figure out which policy initiatives are locally based and which are propelled by multilateral development institutions.

The government, in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), is now unveiling a policy instrument given as a national guideline for establishing project-focused companies with limited financial risk.

There have been considerable preparatory efforts at least since 2021 - when it was that the government published a similar document, given as a 'national guideline'.

The focus is on affording local government authorities a specific fiscal governance tool for financing income-generating infrastructure investments, said to be a user guide for districts and municipalities, in a way without clear link with central authorities.

The schematic overview of the 2021 instrument envisaged the institution of municipal bond issuance processes, which for a while became the scheme's talking point.

A substantial bond was floated and properly subscribed, so this may have provided an idea of the modality as it targets local authorities and major public firms.

While the role of the UN agency was visible and high-flung, and it isn't an investment consulting agency but a fund, it implies that credits are likely to be available for any such initiatives from the agency so long as they are well designed and accountable.

This means that preparations are not that limited, but plenty of issues remain as to the UNCDF design and how it is seconded by the Treasury and the central bank in limiting the profile to local government affairs.

There are indications of a strategic agreement between the policy citadels on the issue, which is tantamount to keeping all such initiatives within the confines of local authorities. In other words, stakeholders like banks can take such bonds on their own terms, if they have no qualms over the matter.

While analytically speaking the Tanga water investment bond issues can be taken as a flagship project pointing to how it can be done, chances are that it could be an exception as its guarantees may not necessarily be duplicated in other areas.

There is need to take a look at how much the funding is related to donor agencies and issues like user billing that is relatively straightforward in the case of water.

Again, it is not quite clear what the motivation of major banks in that project was - was it really an investment or a gesture of corporate social responsibility that is hard to duplicate?

So there are several weak points in the design as was issued and on the basis of praxis so far, namely, that the Treasury is not willing to guarantee the bond issuing forming the premise of such investment.

Nor is it clear how far forming companies makes any difference, unless the local government authorities are shareholders like any other, where they are not constituted as parastatal bodies, so that their assets can be seized by court order when necessary.

All that was visible at the launch was that extensive training was going on for regional administrators and their district counterparts on the issue, but it is hard to see how it comes up more than CSR if it lacks the requisite legal checks and balances.



Low vitamin D levels associated with slower healing in children's fractures

By George Citroner

RESEARCH presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2024 National Conference & Exhibition underscores the critical role of vitamin D in the recovery of paediatric fractures, showing that low levels can significantly delay bone healing in children.

The study, presented this September 28 by Michael Guyot, a medical student from the University of Florida involved in the research, analysed 186 cases of extremity fractures among children treated between 2015 and 2022 and discovered a consistent link between low vitamin D levels and increased healing time.

The findings suggest that children with non-surgical leg fractures with low vitamin D levels took an additional 20 days for clinical healing. Additionally, the same group displayed a nearly two-month delay before radiographic evidence showed that the fractures were healing.

For fractures requiring surgical procedures, recovery took an entire month longer clinically, with indicators of healing taking close to four additional months to show.

This research may shift the narrative regarding vitamin D from having a preventative role in fractures to highlighting its essential function during the healing process.

Past recommendations focused on how adequate vitamin D helps strengthen bones, reducing fracture risk. However, this new investigation found potential complications when a child's vitamin D levels are inadequate during recovery.

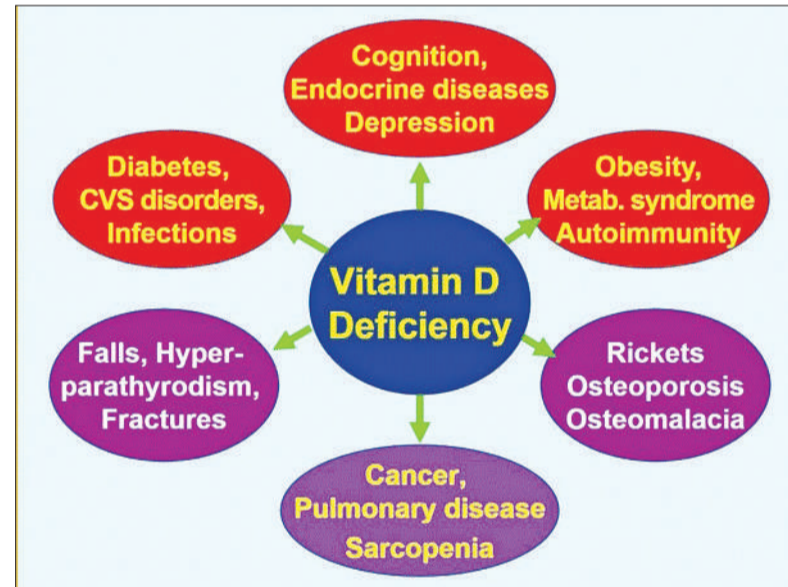
Dr Jessica McQuerry, the study's senior author, emphasized the importance of a well-balanced diet rich in vitamin D for children.

The researchers advise that if a child's fracture is not healing within the usual timeframe, health care providers may need to evaluate the child's vitamin D levels.

The implications of these findings extend beyond clinical settings, emphasizing the importance of diet and lifestyle factors in recovery from bone injuries. McQuerry encourages outdoor activity for children to promote health through exercise and enhance vitamin D production from sunlight.

"Getting outside and enjoying the fresh air can do wonders for your health while also upping vitamin D absorption," McQuerry said in a press release, adding, "What a great excuse to get outside and explore nature!"

Vitamin D aids in the absorption



of calcium and phosphorus, two minerals critical for bone development.

According to Dr Vishal Sarwahi, a paediatric orthopaedic surgeon at Cohen Children's Medical Centre in New York, vitamin D is crucial in promoting bone health in children as it helps build strong bones and prevent fractures.

He explained that deficiency in this essential nutrient is linked to various health issues, making it vital for parents to ensure that their children receive adequate amounts through diet and sunlight exposure.

Research further shows that children with adequate vitamin D levels are less likely to experience bone-related problems such as rickets, characterised by soft and weak bones, which can lead to deformities and fractures.

Sarwahi, who wasn't associated with the study, said that ensuring that children get sufficient vitamin D can help promote overall skeletal health as children grow and prevent a variety of conditions, including rickets.

"Vitamin D deficiency can lead to rickets, which results in deformity of the bones, legs, short stature, and higher risk of fractures," Sarwahi explained.

"Bent and deformed legs, resulting in changes in weight bearing, can cause major issues later on such as arthritis, difficulty walking and increased risk of fractures," he added.

Rickets is most common in babies and young children between 3 and 18 months of age and adolescents between 12 and 15 years old. However, low vitamin D levels can also affect adult bones.

Sarwahi noted that "adults with low vitamin D can develop osteomalacia, a condition with 'soft' bones which can cause bone pain, deformities and increased risk of fractures."

Sufficient vitamin D levels can also combat a number of other conditions, one being cardiovascular disease: Vitamin D deficiency may be associated with paediatric cardiovascular diseases like hypertension, orthostatic intolerance, and Kawasaki disease.

[Kawasaki disease, also called mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome, is a condition that causes inflammation in the walls of some blood vessels in the body. It is most common in infants and young children.

Early stages include a rash and fever. Symptoms include high fever and peeling skin. In late stages, there may be inflammation of medium-sized blood vessels (vasculitis). It also affects lymph nodes, skin and mucous membranes, such as inside the mouth.

Kawasaki disease is usually treatable. Initial treatments include aspirin and intravenous immunoglobulin therapy given in a medical facility.

However, it may call for emergency care at the critical stage.

The second condition is infections: Children with vitamin D deficiency are more likely to develop respiratory infections. Low levels also increase the risk of developing respiratory conditions that include asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The third condition is pain and weakness: Low vitamin D can cause muscle bone pain and muscle weakness in children and adults.

The fourth condition includes irritability, depression, and anxiety: Vitamin D deficiency can cause aggressive behaviour, depression and anxiety in school-age children.

The fifth condition is multiple sclerosis: Vitamin D deficiency in childhood may contribute to the risk of multiple sclerosis.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children aged one to 18 years receive a daily intake of 600 international units (IU) of vitamin D," Sarwahi said. Adding, "This can typically be achieved through a combination of diet, supplements and sunlight."

Monitoring vitamin D levels is especially important in regions with limited sunlight exposure or during winter. Parents are encouraged to consult health care providers if they have concerns about a child's vitamin D status.

Sarwahi pointed out that human skin cells manufacture vitamin D in the presence of sunlight, so encouraging children to play outside in the sun helps.

He added: "In addition, mechanical loading on bones that occur during physical activity such as playing keeps bones strong. However, this sunlight exposure is usually not enough."

According to the expert, the human body needs at least 1,000 IU of vitamin D daily for good bone health starting at age five, but getting enough from what we eat is difficult, with one glass of milk only containing about 100 IU.

"As a result, AAP recommends that all children take vitamin D supplements to meet daily requirements," he said.

Five dietary sources of vitamin D can help children meet their daily requirements. Foods rich in vitamin D include the following:

Fatty fish: Salmon and mackerel are excellent sources of vitamin D. A single serving can provide a significant portion of the daily recommended intake.

Fortified foods: Many products, including milk, orange juice and some breakfast cereals, are fortified with vitamin D. Checking labels can help parents select the best options for their children. However, it is important to prioritise whole foods over processed foods like cereals when possible.

Dairy products: Milk, cheese and yoghurt are good sources of calcium and are often fortified with vitamin D.

Eggs: Egg yolk contains small amounts of vitamin D, making them a tasty source for children.

Mushrooms: Certain varieties of mushrooms, particularly those exposed to ultraviolet light, can provide a plant-based source of vitamin D.

* A dispatch by The Epoch Times. George Citroner reports on health and medicine, covering topics that include cancer, infectious diseases and neurodegenerative conditions.

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Data Protection awareness gaining momentum in Tanzania as advocacy groups call for policy reforms

EFFORTS to raise awareness on Tanzania's Data Protection Act of 2022 and its 2023 regulations have intensified following a joint initiative by Paradigm Initiative (PIN) and Zaina Foundation.

The two organizations have provided training to members of the Tanzania Digital Rights Coalition to familiarize them with the law's provisions and equip them with advocacy skills to push for policy reforms.

The training, held in Dar es Salaam recently aimed to improve participants' legal understanding and their ability to advocate for the law's alignment with the country's constitution and international standards.

Miriam Wanjiru, Programmes Officer at PIN, emphasized the need to address gaps in the Act, citing a recent High Court ruling that declared several sections unconstitutional.

"The two-day workshop, part of PIN's Digital Policy Engagement Series (DiPES), is part of broader efforts to harmonize Tanzania's data protection laws with constitutional rights and global norms," Wanjiru said, referring to the landmark Tito Magoti case, where the High Court ruled that Sections 22 and 23 of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) violated Tanzania's constitution.

The court's decision highlighted concerns about data privacy protections and the potential for governmental overreach.

The case challenged various sections of the Act, including Sections 8, 11, 14, 19, 20, and others, arguing that they imposed excessive restrictions on the right to privacy and risked undermining basic freedoms.

One key issue was the significant authority granted to the Minister, who can overturn decisions made by the Personal Data Protection Commission, raising fears of political interference. Additionally, the law allows the Commission to review its own decisions, conflicting with principles of natural justice.

Wanjiru stressed the importance of having an independent and adequately funded Data Protection Commission, separate from government influence. "In today's digital world, data is as valuable as gold or oil, and it must remain free from government control", she added.

Despite the enactment of the data protection law, awareness levels remain low, with many organizations, particularly data processors and controllers, yet to comply with the new regulations.

Wanjiru noted that only a few of the 30 companies assessed had met the compliance requirements, highlighting the need for more public awareness on data protection issues.

"The rapid adoption of technology, combined with insufficient public education, has left many Tanzanians unprepared to protect themselves from cyber threats," she warned, emphasizing that the Data Protection Commission plays a critical role in protecting individuals' privacy, ensuring transparency, and building public trust in the regulatory framework.

However, Wanjiru pointed out that the Tanzania



Members of the Tanzania Digital Rights Coalition during a recent awareness training on Data Protection Act of 2022 and its 2023 regulations. Conducted in Dar es Salaam the training was organized by Paradigm Initiative and Zaina Foundation. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Data Protection Commission has not yet released any reports since its inception in 2023, limiting public insight into how well organizations are adhering to data protection laws.

Gbenga Sesan, Executive Director of Paradigm Initiative, remarked on the significance of the recent meeting of the Tanzania Digital Rights Coalition. Participants, including civil society members, legal experts, and tech professionals,

discussed the implications of the PDPA and the importance of ensuring it protects citizens' privacy and digital rights.

They also called for stronger data breach reporting mechanisms, clearer definitions of consent, and the right of individuals to access and correct their data.

Zaituni Njovu, Executive Director of Zaina Foundation, emphasized the need for widespread public understanding of

the PDPA, particularly in protecting individuals' privacy. Their outreach aims to reach over 10,000 women, both in urban and rural areas, to ensure they are informed about their rights under the law.

Benjamin Kahale, Policy and Legal Expert at Zaina Foundation pointed out the rising demand for personal data protection due to technological advances, which can be both beneficial and harm-

ful. He raised concerns about the misuse of personal information and the need for proper safeguards.

Philomena Mwalongo, Executive Director, Youth Environmental Justice and Gender Equality (YOGE) highlighted that the PDPA provides citizens with a framework to protect their rights and take action when their data privacy is violated, which was not the case before the law's enactment.

Clerics play active role in protecting natural resources, promoting sustainable practices

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

RELIGIOUS leaders across Tanzania are uniting in a ground-breaking initiative that aims to protect the country's natural resources.

The UWAKILI Interfaith Forum (UIF) had recently brought together representatives from various religious denominations to engage in a meaningful dialogue with government authorities and advocate for the sustainable use of the environment.

Through this initiative, religious communities are taking on the responsibility of ensuring natural resources are preserved for the benefit of both current and future generations.

Bishop Benson Bagonza of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Karagwe Diocese explained the concept of 'UWAKILI' which he said refers not to a legal framework, but the spiritual and moral responsibility that humans have to care for the environment.

"God created resources before creating humanity. These resources can exist without us, but we cannot survive without them," he remarked, highlighting the critical role religious leaders can play in conservation activities.

UIF is an inclusive platform, with leaders from multiple faiths, including Muslims, Catholics, Mennonites, and the Africa Inland Church, working together to promote sustainable environmental practices.

Six dioceses of the ELCT, from regions such as Karagwe, North West, East and South East of Lake Victoria are involved in the project which aims at resolving conflicts over resource use and promote harmony between communities and nature.

The forum held its first meeting in Mwanza from May 2nd to 3rd, 2024, where Bishop Alex Malasusa was elected chairperson and Sheikh Hasani Kabeke, the Mwanza Regional Sheikh, was elected as co-chairperson.

This collaboration between Christian and Muslim leaders is a powerful example of the unity needed to address the environmental challenges facing the nation.

The second UIF meeting, hosted by Danmission—an international faith-based organization, took place in Bukoba District, Kagera Region on October 8-9, 2024.

The gathering brought together religious leaders and government officials to discuss strategies for protecting natural resources and reducing environmental degradation.

The shared message was clear that the task of safeguarding the environment cannot be left solely to government bodies like the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) and the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS).



Participants of the second meeting of the UWAKILI Interfaith Forum (UIF) that was recently held in Bukoba District, Kagera Region.

Participants agreed that religious leaders have a profound influence within their communities, hence the need for them to take an active role in raising awareness and encouraging sustainable practices.

Mwanza Regional Sheikh, Hasani Kabeke emphasized that the current generation must be careful when harvesting forest resources to ensure the next generation benefits with them. He called for collaborative action to ensure the environment is managed in a way that benefits both the current and future generation.

The forum provided a unique opportunity for participants to offer insights and recommendations, fostering collaboration between religious communities, government bodies, and other stakeholders in the pursuit of sustainable environmental management.

One of the pressing issues raised during the forum was the high cost of clean energy, which has left many Tanzanians reliant on firewood and charcoal for cooking. This has contributed to widespread deforestation and environmental damage.

Zainabu Khalfan, from the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) in Mwanza stressed that the government must find ways to make clean cooking energy more affordable.

"The current price of gas cylinders does not allow many Tanzanians to afford clean energy. Gas cylinders and stoves should be given for free or at a reduced cost to help curb deforestation and charcoal burning," she added.

Sheikh Balilusa Khamis from BAKWATA in Shinyanga Region urged that if the country is serious about promoting clean energy, the government should consider providing gas and electricity at a subsidized price. "If we are serious about clean and safe energy, the government should offer these services at affordable prices. The move will not only protect the environment, but contribute to economic growth," he said. According to a 2009 World Bank report, over 90 percent of Tanzanian households rely on firewood or charcoal as their primary source of fuel, with Dar es Salaam alone consuming 500 tonnes

of charcoal annually. These figures highlight the urgent need for alternative energy solutions that are affordable and accessible to all. The government has expressed commitment to end the use of firewood and charcoal, citing the Environmental Management Act of 2004, which guarantees every citizen the right to live in a clean environment. The law also places responsibility on every individual in the country to protect the environment.

Vicent Haule, Principal Legal Officer for NEMC in the Lake Zone, emphasized the government's efforts to ensure compliance with these laws and to support sustainable development practices.

Tanzania's environmental policies extend beyond energy use, addressing issues such as forest management, land conservation, and water resource protection. The 1998 Forestry Policy promotes the sustainable management of forest and tree resources, ensuring they contribute to the national economy while preserving biodiversity. The 2002 Forest Act empowers local communities to take an active role

in conserving and managing forests, aligning with the UIF's mission of communal responsibility for environmental stewardship. In addition to these national policies, the Tanzanian government is also addressing broader environmental challenges, such as land degradation, deforestation, habitat loss, and land conflicts.

Dr Juma Mohamed Salum, representing Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Vice President responsible for Union and Environment, praised UIF for its efforts in collecting critical data and addressing environmental issues. Salum raised concerns that most of the country's environmental problems stem from cultural and religious influences, including the impact of foreign religions such as Christianity and Islam.

He said the UWAKILI project offers a unique opportunity for laying foundations for sustainable solutions through collaborative action. The government is also taking steps to address environmental challenges through international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

These initiatives are expected to bring about significant positive changes in the country's environmental landscape, but the involvement of religious leaders through the UIF is seen as an essential component in driving this progress.

As the UIF continues to grow, it is becoming a vital platform for promoting ethical and sustainable environmental practices across Tanzania. By bringing together religious leaders, government officials, and local communities, the forum is fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility for the environment.

Through its efforts, UIF is reinforcing the importance of preserving the natural world for future generations, ensuring that Tanzania's rich biodiversity and natural resources continue to sustain the nation for years to come. This growing movement reflects the deepening commitment of religious leaders to not only preach the importance of environmental stewardship but also to take concrete action.

By Adam Williams

WHEN Omayra Abrego was 19 years old, her feet started to swell. Soon afterwards, her knees became inflamed, followed by her hands and elbows. Within months, the once healthy young woman with thick black hair and wide brown eyes had become immobile, unable to bend, stand or lie down.

Omayra's parents didn't know what to do or where to turn. They are Ngabe-Bugle, Panama's most impoverished and populous Indigenous group, and the family of eight lives in a wooden hut with a thatched roof made of palm leaves in an isolated village known as Wari, located high in the mountainous rainforest.

The nearest hospital is three hours away and, to get there, Omayra must be carried in a hammock down slippery, steaming jungle hills, crisscrossing rivers along the way. After multiple visits to a hospital on Panama's Caribbean coast, the Abregos say they reached a point where they didn't have any answers or a diagnosis for Omayra's deteriorating condition.

It was then they contacted the Floating Doctors.

The Abregos knew of the Floating Doctors - a group of mobile volunteer doctors, medical professionals and students offering healthcare services to rural areas - from residents of La Sabana, a nearby Ngabe-Bugle village that is one of 24 communities the organisation serves.

"When the Floating Doctors started coming to our home, I started to feel some hope," says Omayra, now 25, her frame feeble but her voice robust.

After a few visits, the organisation concluded Omayra likely has juvenile idiopathic arthritis, a rare condition among children that causes inflammation, swelling, pain and stiffness in joints.

On the days the Floating Doctors come, the young woman's parents, siblings and cousins gather in the family's dimly-lit wood-planked home and observe as the volunteers speak with Omayra about how she's feeling and run a series of tests. During their quarterly visits, the Floating Doctors check Omayra's vitals, such as blood pressure, oxygen saturation levels and pulse, listen to her heart and lungs with a stethoscope and test the flexibility of her joints to monitor if they've improved or tightened since her last checkup.

During a visit to her home on a hot, muggy day in June, Omayra complained of gastric pain, rashes on her skin and an itchy scalp. The Floating Doctors volunteers asked her to give detailed descriptions of her symptoms, tested her for lice and cleaned her infected, swollen knees.

At the conclusion of the hour-long consultation, the Floating Doctors gave Omayra paracetamol for joint pain, omeprazole for stomach discomfort, clotrimazole antifungal cream to treat her irritated skin, soap and a large box of rice, as there are limited options for food in the village.

"I do feel sad on most days," says Omayra, who wears cotton dresses to ventilate her swollen knees. "But when the Floating Doctors come to visit I feel cared for. I feel attended to. I feel happy."

Healthcare by boat

The nongovernmental organisation, which is made up largely of volunteers, was founded by Dr Benjamin LaBrot, a United States-born physician. He developed the idea for a mobile medical team while on vacation in Tanzania, soon after graduating from medical school. On the way to the Serengeti, the driver asked if he wanted to visit a Maasai village. The community, LaBrot says, was "in the middle of nowhere", had no water, no electricity and a population of around 200 people. After learning he was a doctor, villagers surrounded him for "sidewalk consultations", he recounted.

"I looked at a first patient and then a second, and suddenly I look up and there's this line of people," he says. "This quick visit as a tourist turned into seven hours of me staying in the community and seeing patients while sitting under a tree."

LaBrot says he then decided to commit his life's work to providing healthcare services to develop and assist rural, isolated communities that lack hospitals and clinics. Back in the US, he "knocked on a million doors" and an elderly couple in Florida donated a dilapidated 23-metre (76-foot) ship, which he and a group of about 14 people worked on for a year, while raising funds to launch the organisation. The 2010 Haiti earthquake was their "put up or shut up" moment to provide mobile healthcare, LaBrot says. They sailed to Haiti with a boat full of cargo and medical equip-

Floating doctors: Mobile medicine seen coming to Panama's jungles



ment and spent weeks there providing medical services.

The original plan for the Floating Doctors was to provide short brigade missions to countries accessible by boat. However, the group saw the advantages of a permanent presence, where they could provide consistent long-term care. While on a mission to Honduras, the group was contacted on Facebook by people in Bocas del Toro, Panama, who told them of a pressing need for rural healthcare in the region. They then travelled to Panama to meet with a local mayor, who helped them to establish operations with the local marina and federal government.

"A lot of things fell into place" upon arrival in Panama, LaBrot says. "When we got there, we found that the conditions were exactly what our organisation was designed to overcome. Most of the populations were accessible only via water, so a ship was needed, and they were without access to even basic services."

In its 13 years in Panama, the Floating Doctors has conducted around 80,000 medical visits, primarily serving Ngabe-Bugle patients. The group currently serves 24 communities on Panama's Caribbean coast or in the Bocas del Toro archipelago which they visit every three months, meaning they provide medical attention to patients such as Omayra four times per year.

Each week, doctors, nurses and medical students from around the world travel to Panama to volunteer their services as part of the programme and stay anywhere from a few days to several months. The volunteers cover their own travel expenses and pay a contribution fee to the organisation, which is used to fund the operational costs of the healthcare programme, such as medications, equipment and fuel for the boats.

In its time in Panama, the organisation has worked with an estimated 4,000 volunteers.

Of all the communities the group currently serves, the most remote village they visit - which requires an eight-hour commute via boat, bus and hike - is nestled high in the Panamanian rainforest.

It is known as La Sabana. Journey into the clouds

Deep in the jungle of western Panama, La Sabana was founded in 1970 by three Ngabe-Bugle families and is now home to around 200 residents who live in wooden homes with dirt floors and roofs made of tin or thatched dry leaves.

The Floating Doctors have been visiting the village, which is surrounded by verdant mountains and lush green vegetation, for more than a decade. La Sabana is far removed from the modernities of urban life and families in the village sleep in hammocks stretched across rooms of their homes and are largely without basic services such as electricity, working toilets or running water.

Most of the 210,000 members of the Ngabe-Bugle live in small villages in the mountains, in the rainforest or on small islands. They are particularly vulnerable to common illnesses such as fevers and diarrhoea, as well as complications during pregnancy, medical emergencies and accidents.

"When there is an emergency here, it takes us hours to get to the closest hospital, and we usually walk and carry the patient in a hammock," says Celestino Serrano, a village leader in La Sabana who first sought the assistance of the Floating Doctors years ago.

Serrano, 48, is a thin, strong man of medium height with serious brown eyes, short black hair and a composed demeanour. His first language is the native Ngabere, and

when he speaks Spanish, his words are careful and measured.

"The support from the Floating Doctors has helped us understand what to do in those situations, and they've trained us on how to treat injuries and emergencies. This is why their visits are so important to us," he says.

Serrano said that in La Sabana, machete wounds are common. Most villagers carry machetes and use them to hack through thick vegetation when walking. The tools also help them cut grass, open coconuts and fend off venomous snakes.

Before the Floating Doctors started coming to La Sabana, there were few options in the village to treat and manage serious machete wounds. Serrano says that the Floating Doctors have taught villagers how to clean, close and bandage machete wounds and gashes, and have provided medications to ease pain and avoid infections.

A new way to learn medicine

A recent five-day trip to La Sabana begins at sunrise on a Monday in June. I am travelling with them.

The eight-hour journey begins at the Floating Doctors headquarters on Cristobal Island in the Bocas del Toro archipelago. The small island is thick with palm trees and dense mangroves, and hundreds of small brown and orange crabs scurry along the boggy ground.

At the centre of the island is the main base, a large, broad four-storey building with a teal foundation, white protective railings, orange trim and thick red waterproof curtains to keep out tropical rains. Here, volunteers have access to a pharmacy, dining room, classroom and training area, and they sleep in small rooms with bunk beds just beyond the base.

This week, the Floating Doctors group in-

cludes six core team members and 13 volunteers.

The six core team members, who spend months working with the Floating Doctors, are in their 20s and 30s and include medical experts who hail from Argentina, Portugal, the Netherlands and Panama. Among them are two young Ngabe-Bugle men who lead the mission and act as translators for patients in La Sabana.

Trepidation, anticipation and inspiration

After a 7am breakfast as the heat begins to rise, members of the group - some dressed in light blue scrubs - carry heavy duffel bags to the island's main dock to load long, narrow red boats with equipment needed for the week: ultrasounds, stethoscopes, thermometers, scales, medications and dry food. In total, the Floating Doctors bring around 185 kilograms (408 pounds) of medical equipment, food and supplies up a mountain in the jungle for the three-night stay in La Sabana.

Following a 30-minute boat trip across the calm Caribbean waters, the group boards a small bus, which takes them along a bumpy coastal highway to a town known as Pueblo Nuevo, just over an hour away. From there, the four-hour hike into the rainforest begins.

Making good time is important, particularly during the June rainy season, when almost every day includes a tropical downpour bringing its own complications.

And the 200 or so residents of La Sabana are anxiously awaiting the group's arrival.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAI DI 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

Serengeti-Mara ecosystem faces climate change effects

By Special Correspondent

THE Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, straddling the border between Kenya and Tanzania, is renowned as one of the most iconic wildlife areas in Africa.

This vast expanse encompasses Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve and Tanzania's Serengeti National Park, together creating a dynamic habitat teeming with biodiversity.

Spanning approximately 30,000 square kilometers, the ecosystem is characterized by a rich tapestry of landscapes, including savannahs, grasslands, riverine forests, and acacia woodlands, providing a diverse range of habitats for numerous species.

One of the defining features of the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem is the Great Migration, an awe-inspiring natural phenomenon where millions of wildebeest, zebras, and other herbivores undertake a perilous journey in search of fresh grazing grounds.

Each year, these animals traverse the plains in a circular route, driven by the seasonal rains and the search for food and water. This migration not only showcases the remarkable adaptability of these species but also plays a critical role in maintaining the ecological balance of the region.

Predators such as lions, leopards, and cheetahs follow closely behind, creating a dramatic interplay between herbivores and carnivores that epitomizes the circle of life.

The ecosystem is also home to an incredible variety of other wildlife, including elephants, giraffes, hippos, and countless bird species.

The diverse habitats support a rich avifauna, making it a paradise for birdwatchers. The combina-

tion of open grasslands and riverine forests creates a unique setting for many species, allowing for intricate interactions and dependencies within the ecosystem.

Additionally, the Mara River is vital to the survival of many animals, providing water and nourishment while serving as a critical passage during the migration.

Human communities, particularly the Maasai people, have coexisted with the wildlife in this region for generations. Their traditional practices and deep-rooted knowledge of the land contribute to the preservation of this unique ecosystem. However, the increasing pressures of tourism, land use changes, and climate change pose significant challenges to the sustainability of the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem. Conservation efforts are crucial to ensure that this rich natural heritage is preserved for future generations while balancing the needs of local communities and wildlife.

Every year, millions of animals move across the land in search of fresh grass and water, creating an incredible spectacle known as the Great Migration. This migration sustains hundreds of predators and scavengers like vultures. The wildlife is also important for local governments and communities that rely on funds from tourism and conservation efforts.

All this activity - the well-being of wildlife, the water they drink and the vegetation they feed on - depends on weather patterns. Extreme weather phenomena, therefore, can wreak havoc on the workings of the ecosystem.

I'm part of a team from the universities of Hohenheim and Groningen, Free University of Berlin, the IUCN, the Indian Institute of Management in Udaipur and the Kenya Meteorological Department which



has been studying weather patterns in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem since 1913. Our new study has found that it has been experiencing major changes.

Over the past six decades, rainfall has been above average and there have also been recurrent severe droughts, erratic extremely wet conditions and a temperature rise of 4.8°C to 5.8°C.

These events are having a significant impact on wildlife populations and biodiversity in the area. Vegetation and water are gradually drying. Competition between wildlife, livestock and people for resources is increasing. Wildlife numbers are falling and there are changes in patterns of migration and breeding.

The average monthly minimum temperatures (taken in Narok Town, bordering the Maasai Mara ecosystem) between 1960 and 2024 increased significantly - an overall rise of 5.3°C. The minimum temperature increased from 7.9°C in May 1960, reaching 13.2°C in 2024.

Rainfall in both the Maasai Mara and Serengeti increased over time. Severe droughts are becoming more frequent and intense. And though

extreme floods are relatively rare, they're also increasing in frequency and intensity over time.

By analysing patterns in rainfall and temperature alongside global oceanic and atmospheric climate systems, we connect the weather changes in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem to climate change. The global climate systems are changing due to global warming.

Specifically, we examined the Southern Oscillation Index and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) between 1913 and 2024. These are the most significant oceanic and atmospheric patterns affecting climate in east Africa.

The Southern Oscillation Index measures the difference in air pressure between two places, Tahiti in the South Pacific and Darwin in Australia. When the sea level pressure difference is big it signals changes - like El Niño (warm phase of the oscillation) or La Niña (cold phase) - which can affect weather patterns around the world. El Niño is linked to more rainfall in east Africa and La Niña to droughts.

The Indian Ocean Dipole is a climate pattern which is like a seesaw

for the ocean temperatures in the Indian Ocean. Sometimes, one side of the ocean near Africa gets warmer, while the side near Indonesia gets cooler. Other times, it flips, with Indonesia being warmer and Africa cooler. This changing pattern affects the weather, causing more rain when the ocean near east Africa is warmer and droughts when the ocean is cooler.

Our study of the Southern Oscillation Index found that around 1970 the shifts in oceanic and atmospheric conditions that cause El Niño and La Niña were becoming more extreme. As a result, these events - and the droughts and floods they bring - are happening more often and with greater intensity.

Meanwhile, between 1913 and 2024, the Indian Ocean Dipole has slowly increased due to steady ocean warming. And there are two repeating cycles that happen every 4.1 and 5.4 years. These cycles change in strength and timing, but they keep coming back regularly. The steady strengthening of the dipole is a sign of global warming and altered atmospheric circulation. The increased frequency and inten-

sity of dipole events, when there are warmer sea surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean, are linked to more frequent and severe floods and droughts in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.

The droughts, floods and temperature rise are affecting wildlife populations and biodiversity in the ecosystem.

We've seen this through field observations in annual reports by Kenya's Game Department and its successor, the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department, and from local district documents in the Kenya National Archives and there are also more contemporary observations.

We analysed this observational data to identify trends and patterns in wildlife populations over time, and the timing, scale and location of changes. We then linked these to changes in the weather and specific anomalies, such as droughts.

We also systematically ruled out other potential causes, such as disease outbreaks, habitat destruction, pollution or overexploitation, such as through poaching.

From trash to treasure: Kenya's green market leading in waste management

NAIROBI

AT the Karatina market in Nyeri County, central Kenya, Samuel Mutua and his team start their day early, collecting and sorting garbage into organic and inorganic waste.

Although Karatina is classified as a green market, it generates both types of waste due to the wide variety of goods sold, including packaging materials and plastics. Mutua estimates that 60-70 percent of the market's waste is organic.

By 11 a.m., the team loads the sorted garbage onto a Chinese-made three-wheeler, transporting non-biodegradable waste to a disposal site while delivering organic waste to the recycling center.

This daily routine, in place for the past two years, has transformed solid waste management at Karatina.

Mutua, acting manager of Biogas International Limited at the Karatina recycling center, explained that the organic waste is processed into compost manure and biogas. The Kenyan company designs practical technology

to address challenges for rural farmer, with biogas helping reduce tree felling for wood fuel and mitigating health risks from smoke.

The company sells compost manure and liquid fertilizer at 38 U.S. cents per kg or litre. The team also grows organic vegetables like kale and spinach using these products at their demonstration farms.

"As a result, we do not need synthetic fertilizers to boost our crops because the compost is a compound organic fertilizer," Mutua told Xinhua.

Since beginning their recycling efforts in 2022, Mutua and his team initially collected about three tonnes of waste daily - two tonnes of organic and one tonne of inorganic. However, this amount has now decreased to between one and two tonnes as they have educated traders on the many uses of waste.

Solid waste management has long been a significant challenge at the Karatina market and many other towns across Kenya. Despite this, Mutua believes that all waste disposed of by the county government at dump sites holds potential value.

Traders at the market have not-



Samuel Mutua, acting manager of Biogas International Limited, checks vegetables grown at a demonstration plot in their recycling center in Karatina town of Nyeri County, Central Kenya

ed a marked improvement since the team started daily garbage collection. Previously, with trash collected only once a week, the market often became unmanageable.

"When they were loading the seven-day-old garbage into trucks, the entire area would be messy, and many traders and customers avoided the market on those days," Esther Nyakio, a trader, told Xinhua. "Now, we are grateful to work in a clean environment that is conducive for business."

However, Mutua and his team's efforts face challenges. They have struggled to educate traders on the importance of sorting garbage on-site to streamline their work. Additionally, many still prefer synthetic fertilizers over compost due to a lack of awareness about the health benefits of organically grown food.

Consumers also shy away from organic produce because it tends to be more expensive than conventionally grown options. For instance, a kg of organic kale sells for 77 cents, while its inorganic counterpart costs just 15 cents.

"Our future goal is to expand and establish recycling centers throughout the county," Mutua said.

Accelerated partnership for renewables in Africa investment forum kicks off in Kenya

NAIROBI

THE Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) Investment Forum officially kicks off yesterday in Nairobi, Kenya convening ministers, investors, developers, and financial institutions to foster open dialogue, further the development of a robust project pipeline and mobilise large-scale investments to accelerate the energy transition and support the development of green industries within APRA countries.

Under Kenya's leadership, the forum marks a significant milestone in implementing the Nairobi Declaration, and the Call for Action to boost the continent's renewable capacity to 300 GW by 2030, contributing to the COP28 goal to triple global renewable power by the end of the decade. The partnership with APRA countries including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe, offers unique opportunities to fulfil obligations, deliver on pledges made before, and

support global and local ambitions for climate action.

In addition to high-level panels and technical discussions, the three-day forum will host matchmaking sessions between project developers and financial institutions, along with a project exhibition, to bring global exposure to renewable energy projects from across the continent. It will also showcase real-world case studies, focusing on both the energy transition and the creation of economic opportunities through industries centred on renewables.

"The success of global climate objectives is intrinsically linked to Africa realising its vast renewable energy potential," said IRENA Director-General Mr. Francesco La

Camera. "APRA sets a new benchmark for international cooperation, ensuring that support from the Global North for Africa's energy transition fully complements the continent's own priorities. The partnership's inaugural investment forum in Nairobi marks a milestone in this alignment, uniting key stakeholders to mobilise finance and turn priorities into tangible outcomes."

Opiyo Wandayi, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Petroleum and Energy, stated: "Under President Ruto's leadership, which championed both the Nairobi Declaration and APRA, Africa's energy transition is gaining unprecedented momentum. The APRA Investment Forum is a significant milestone, mobilis-

ing critical investments to support Africa's sustainable development at home while accelerating progress on global climate and energy transition goals."

Joseph Nganga, Vice President for Africa at the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet said: "APRA's inaugural forum builds on the momentum of the 2023 Africa Climate Summit and the Africa

Leaders Nairobi Declaration, accelerating progress toward Net Zero and unlocking crucial climate finance. By aligning with the efforts of the World Bank, African Development Bank, and partners like GEAPP, the Rockefeller Foundation, and SeforAll, we are committed to connecting 300 million unelectrified Africans to clean, affordable

power by 2030 - fuelling economic growth, job creation, and climate resilience. APRA serves as a vital platform, uniting investors, governments, and project developers to create an ecosystem that fast-tracks low-carbon electrification across the continent."

APRA's membership will expand to engage more countries with high ambitions for renewable energy and green industrialisation in Africa and beyond.

Backed by IRENA, which serves as the APRA secretariat, the partnership is supported by Denmark, Germany, the United Arab Emirates and the United States, in addition to technical, advocacy and philanthropic actors including GEAPP and the Rockefeller Brothers

By Oluosunkanmi Okunola and Saskia Werners

Post-flood recovery: Lessons from Germany, Nigeria on how people can cope with loss and build resilience

EXTRME climate events – floods, droughts and heatwaves – are not just becoming more frequent; they are also more severe. It's important to understand how communities can recover from these events in ways that also build resilience to future events.

In a recent study, we analysed how communities affected by the extreme flood events of 2021 in Germany's Ahr Valley and in Lagos, Nigeria, grappled with recovery from floods.

Our aim was to identify the factors – and combinations of factors – that served as barriers (or enablers) to recovery from disasters.

We found that financial limitations, political interests and administrative hurdles led to prioritising immediate relief and reconstruction over long-term sustainable recovery.

In both cases immediate and long-term recovery efforts were siloed, underfunded and focused on reconstruction to pre-disaster conditions.

We concluded from our findings that the success of recovery efforts lies in balancing short-term relief and a long-term vision. While immediate aid is essential after a disaster, true resilience hinges on proactive measures that address systemic challenges and empower communities to build a better future.

Recovery should not be merely action-oriented and building back infrastructure (engineering). It should also include insights in other areas, like governance and psychology, helping people to deal with losses and to heal.

What worked

To understand the recovery pathways of the two regions, we reviewed relevant literature, newspaper articles and government documents. We also interviewed government agencies, NGO representatives, volunteers and local residents in the communities where these floods occurred.

We found that in the Ahr Valley, recovery wasn't just about rebuilding structures, it was about empowering individuals.

Through initiatives like mental health and first aid courses, residents learned to support one another. This fostered a sense of community and resilience that was essential for meeting the emotional challenges posed by the disaster.

The focus on rebuilding with a sustainable vision also included environmental initiatives. For example, a type of heating system was put in place that didn't rely on fossil fuels.

Not only did this reduce carbon emissions, it also served as a symbol of hope. It showed there was an opportunity to create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly community.



In Lagos, too, residents found strength in community and innovation. Grassroots efforts using sustainable materials like bamboo and palm wood highlighted the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the people. Faith-based organisations provided material aid as well as emotional and spiritual support. This reinforced the bonds that held the community together.

Each community faced unique challenges. But they shared a common thread: the importance of adaptive governance – flexible decision-making and strong community ties.

For example, established building codes in the Ahr Valley provided a framework for reconstruction, ensuring that new structures were resilient and safe.

In Lagos, the absence of strong government support highlighted the critical role of community organisations in providing services and fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

What needs improvement

In both the Ahr Valley and Lagos, the journey towards recovery has been fraught with obstacles as well.

In the Ahr Valley, bureaucratic red tape has become a formidable barrier. Residents, eager to rebuild their lives, find themselves entangled in a complex web

of regulations and lengthy approval processes. This has delayed their access to insurance and recovery funds. Waiting for months or even years has eroded hope and fuelled a sense of abandonment.

Meanwhile, in Lagos, insufficient government support has left communities to fend for themselves, creating a breeding ground for uncertainty and conflict.

Land tenure disputes, fuelled by a lack of clear property rights, sow seeds of distrust and hinder resettlement efforts. Political disagreements complicate the picture, as competing interests divert attention and resources away from those who need them most.

In Lagos, none of the respondents reported having insurance to help them to recover from disaster-related losses.

While some residents in the Ahr Valley did have insurance, many were under-insured.

The Ahr Valley's building codes offer a framework for reconstruction. But it's clear that processes should

be streamlined so communities can take ownership of their recovery.

In Lagos, the importance of robust social safety nets is clear. Partnerships between communities and authorities are also needed.

A different approach Recovery isn't a separate process that occurs after disasters only. It should be seen as an essential part of managing risks. It's important to understand what recovery involves and what resources are needed.

This will help reduce future risks and increase resilience after extreme events.

Governments should encourage flexible governance structures that value community voices and local knowledge to enable recovery. A good example is the New Orleans Recovery Authority, established after Hurricane Katrina. It involved local residents and city officials in planning and rebuilding efforts.

Grassroots efforts in Lagos demonstrated the power of sustainable materials and community-led initiatives. Seeing things from the community's point of view can help tailor solutions that fit the situation and adapt to evolving challenges.

Training and capacity-building programmes empower communities to be active in their own recovery.

Mental health and first aid courses were successful in the Ahr Valley. Equipping individuals with skills in sustainable practices and disaster preparedness helps weave a social fabric capable of weathering future storms.

Climate change: Care for humans, other species and the natural environment is key to a just transition

By Special Correspondents

COMMUNITIES across the world are facing two worsening crises: a climate crisis and a care crisis.

The evidence and urgency on the climate crisis has been expertly illustrated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The root cause of this crisis is the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This is due to excessive exploitation of fossil fuels, deforestation and industrial processes. In short, it is a result of development processes that have not been based on caring for the environment.

Less discussed is the care crisis. This refers to a society's capacity to maintain livelihoods in households, raise children and sustain communities. In short, the care crisis is a result of not investing enough in caring for each other.

Addressing these crises requires acknowledgement of the interdependency of people, other species and the physical environment. Our failure to invest sufficiently in caring for each other, other species and our environment is a root cause of climate change. We refer to this as the "care-climate nexus". As the effects of climate change intensify, we will need to care for each other more than ever before, and we need systems to enable better care of our environment.

There is a growing discussion linking gender and climate change. However, the links between climate change and care have been largely under-researched.

The climate crisis stems, similarly to the care crisis, from an economic paradigm that undervalues care – both for each other and for our physical environment. The concept of care therefore can serve as a powerful focal point for understanding the climate challenge and for policies towards a sus-

tainable and equitable future.

This is the gap that the "care-climate nexus" project led by the Southern Centre for Inequality studies, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre and a group of feminist economists and climate scientists from across the world, plans to fill.

The research project has two main objectives. First, to map the conceptual links between climate change and care. Second, to inform and support policymakers to include care in climate policy. For example, significant investments in quality care that supports climate adaptation are as important as building resilient infrastructure and can reduce the burden on those who carry out care work. Climate policy that does not centre care risks replicating or even exacerbating structural inequalities.

Undervaluing care and nature

The climate and care crises have resulted from the undervaluing of two things – nature and care work.

Indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) place value on – and reward – unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. Too little – or no – value is placed on the natural environment. The consequences are proving dire. Continued exploitation of raw materials and natural resources has come at the expense of the environment. The undervaluing of nature has caused pollution, loss of habitats, extinction of species and declining biodiversity.

Similarly, no value is placed on unpaid care work. What is measured and "valuable" in the calculations of GDP in an economy excludes unpaid care work, even though it is essential for sustaining livelihoods and therefore economic activity.

Care work has been cast as "women's work", although men do it too. On average, women



and girls in the global south undertake over three times more unpaid care work than men.

The disproportionate responsibility for this work restricts women and girls' opportunities to pursue education or employment. The undervaluation of care work reflects gender norms that regard women's work as inherently less valuable and as something that is endless and free.

Climate change poses threats to food security, water accessibility, health and livelihoods, among many other impacts. Unpaid or under-paid tasks like providing food, collecting water and caring for the young, ill and elderly will be made more difficult by the impacts of climate change.

As we have shown above, these tasks are often, but not ex-

clusively, carried out by women. There is also a growing trend in the global North for this work to be outsourced to women immigrants and the working class.

Anchoring care in climate policy

It is possible for humans to contribute to the regeneration of the environment instead of its depletion. But this calls for a rethink: what we value and whether this is represented in our current economic systems and policies.

The care-climate nexus conceptual framework makes two key arguments:

One is for an expansive view of care that goes beyond person-to-person care to include caring for the environment. Centering care in responding to the climate crisis requires under-

standing diverse meanings and articulations of care that include understandings of care in different contexts from the global South.

Second, care is not only a practical concern but also an ethical and political one. It involves recognising that everything we do to maintain, continue, and repair our world is significant and crucial for life on Earth.

A focus on care and climate change means understanding and addressing interconnected socio-economic challenges. These include: Climate change adds to the unequal burden of unpaid caregiving and care work, which carries substantial economic and social repercussions.

The conditions of care

work. The labour that goes into maintaining households, rising and birthing children and sustaining communities more broadly is being undermined by an economic and social system that systematically undervalues care. Many in rural communities in the global South work on farms, where their agricultural labour is seen as an extension of their domestic care duties and is often precarious. Yet rural communities often do more than their share of environmental care. These forms of work should be protected and valued.

The growing privatisation of care services globally, like healthcare, and cuts in public expenditure on these vital services, has made it difficult for the majority to obtain proper

care. Quality healthcare, for example, is out of reach for many. Addressing the fact that care work extends beyond domestic work and includes caring for nature, land and animals.

The central theme of the upcoming annual Conference of the Parties (COP) in November is climate finance. COP is a multilateral forum that deliberates on global climate policy: this is a crucial space to emphasise and put forward proposals for better resourced caring economies as a way to build climate resilience.

This article is part of a series of articles initiated through a project led by the Southern Centre for Inequality studies, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre and a group of feminist economists and climate scientists across the world.



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45m people in EA face food insecurity

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of people who do not have sufficient food for consumption across five countries in East Africa has gone up by 11.6 million people from 33.7 million in August to 45.3 million in September 2024.

The food security monitor September, 2024 by AGRA says this deterioration in food insecurity across East African countries is driven by a rise in Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan.

Similarly, the number of people with insufficient food for consumption across seven selected West African countries had gone up by 7.6 million driven by a rise in Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo.

"It appears the aftermath of the weather-related shocks (floods and droughts), conflicts and refugee burdens, as well as challenging macro-economic conditions are impacting negatively the food security situation in the regions," says AGRA.

Food insecurity also remains still of high concern in the Southern African region, with a growing food need anticipated across Southern Africa through early 2025.

Despite the decline in maize prices supported by cross-border imports from Tanzania and ongoing food assistance support program by the WFP, the early depletion of households' food stocks and the early onset of the lean season is worsening the

food security situation.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) estimates about 68 million people (nearly 17 percent of the region's population) are affected, while the number of people with insufficient food for consumption has gone up by 100,000 more people.

Overall, the national average price of maize (in local currency) in the Eastern African region is significantly lower than a year ago in all select East African countries except for South Sudan.

The prices of maize in South Sudan remain 46-196 percent higher than the past 1-12 months.

Tanzania maintains the lowest price of maize in the region (in US\$ terms) at US\$220/Mt compared to almost or over US\$300/Mt in all other countries.

Kenya records the most expensive prices (in US\$ terms) of maize, rice, wheat and beans in the region given that the price of maize attracts excess margins from retailers of up to 82 percent due to the high demand of the staple crop in the country.

According to the report, Uganda's maize price remained considerably low when compared to the past 1-12 months, while Ethiopia's maize price, both in local currency and US\$, also continued to drop influenced by the onset of the season cereals harvests.

In Southern Africa, the national average prices of maize in local currencies show declines in Malawi and Zambia but a low uptick in Zimbabwe compared to the past month.

This is attributable to imports from neighbouring Tanzania as well as the ongoing



ing food assistance support program by the WFP.

Overall, the price of maize remains above the levels seen 6-12 months ago due to macroeconomic challenges, the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy and the El Niño-induced drought.

According to FEWSNET, Malawi is expected to experience a

La Niña phenomenon this year, which will result in an average to above-average rainfall season in most parts of the country and lead to average to average national harvests.

In West Africa, the overall local prices of maize show higher trends compared to the past 3, 6, and 12 months underpinned by

high transport costs and strong domestic demand due to a below-average cereal output in 2023 that has led to households' early reliance on markets and as well conflicts in the region.

The prices of rice, millet, and sorghum also generally remain above their 3, 6, and 12-months levels in most of the monitored West African countries.

Nigeria registered the most significant

rise in prices of maize and rice, at 200-250 percent and 92-161 percent respectively, higher than a year ago.

"With the completion or near completion of harvesting of main season cereals in the region, we expect prices to start declining except in northern Ghana where the impact of the drought conditions remains a concern, plus those regions impacted by ongoing conflicts and socio-economic challenges," says FEWSNET.

The ongoing high cost-of-living crisis due to high inflation rates, currency depreciation, and elevated fuel prices continue to pose a threat to staple crop prices in this region.

"West African countries need to open trade to allow the free flow of grains in the region contrary to the current self-seeking restrictive trade policies," adds FEWSNET.

Development partners have been urged to double up efforts at food assistance and support to increase food production in the medium to long term.

Shift in policy to strengthen nation's growth

BEIJING

CHINA'S economic growth is expected to strengthen on a sequential basis amid the latest stimulus package and with more incremental policies in the pipeline, translating into over 5 percent year-on-year growth in the fourth quarter, analysts and economists said on Sunday.

They said a long-awaited policy shift is unfolding for China's economy and markets, as policymakers have pledged to strengthen countercyclical adjustment and step up fiscal policy support. This will include the largest debt resolution support in recent years, with a particular focus on addressing pressing challenges such as the prolonged housing downturn, debt issues and sluggish domestic demand.

Their comments came as data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Sunday that China's consumer prices rose at a slower pace in September, while the decline in factory gate prices continued, pointing to pressures on the world's second-largest economy and intensifying the need to roll out more incremental policies.

The country's consumer price index, the main gauge of inflation, rose 0.4 percent year-on-year in September, compared with a 0.6

percent increase in August. The producer price index, which gauges factory gate prices, dropped 2.8 percent last month, widening from a 1.8 percent fall in August, the NBS said. "The slower CPI growth in September was mainly due to still-weak domestic demand, seasonal factors and the high comparison base in the previous year, while the deeper PPI drop was influenced by falling commodity prices, especially in the energy sector," said Zhou Maohua, a researcher at China Everbright Bank.

Shen Bing, director-general and a senior research fellow at the market and price research institute of the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research, said the growth in CPI is expected to register a mild recovery while maintaining overall stability in the fourth quarter of the year.

This is because consumer demand has shown signs of pickup, with the sales of passenger vehicles and home appliances having improved, a trend that would be consolidated upon the implementation of incremental policies to expand domestic demand, Shen said.

On Saturday, the Ministry of Finance announced plans to soon introduce a comprehensive package of new targeted policy measures, with a key focus on improving the fi-

ancial situations of local governments, facilitating the stabilization of a bottomed out property market, and enhancing the risk resilience and credit allocation capabilities of major banks, among other things.

The ministry said there is still ample room for the central government to borrow and increase its deficit. It plans to enhance the large-scale debt limit at once, replace the hidden debt of local governments, and increase support for local governments to resolve debt risks.

Chang Haizhong, executive director of corporates at rating agency Fitch Bohua, said this policy is the largest supportive debt measure introduced in recent years and will greatly alleviate the pressure on local governments.

"It is expected that the hidden debt of local governments may be replaced in large part by increasing the issuance of treasury bonds in the future," he said.

According to Chang, the current economic growth is under pressure and fiscal revenue is lower than expected, making some local governments more stretched financially.

"Once implemented, this policy will substantially reduce local fiscal pressure, unleashing fiscal funds for economic development and ensuring people's livelihoods. At the same time, the balance sheets of local government financing vehicles will also be strengthened," he said.

Africa urged to engage private sector in developing telecom infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

PPRIVATE telecom operators in Africa have often been reluctant to invest in less profitable areas, pushing some governments to intervene despite facing financial and technological hurdles.

A new report by Ecofin Pro, a platform of the Ecofin agency, suggests that enhanced public-private partnerships (PPPs) can combine resources and expertise to achieve more inclusive and sustainable telecom development.

According to the report, direct public investment in African telecom infrastructure can serve as a strong catalyst for economic development and digital inclusion, especially as private operators show limited enthusiasm.

However, this approach presents significant challenges, including limited state financial resources, rapidly advancing technology, and a lack of technical expertise among government agencies.

Titled "Who Should Invest in Telecom Infrastructure: Public or Private?" the report notes that for the past three decades, African telecom regulators have urged operators to adhere to quality service standards.

Despite repeated warnings, threats, and financial penalties, compliance remains limited.

Telecom companies, while paying imposed fines, often express concerns that such costs disrupt their investment plans, opting instead to focus on more profitable regions.

In response, several governments have taken decisive action, building their own national telecom infrastructure and encouraging operators to connect.

For example, in August 2023, Ghana announced plans to create a shared, neutral national network infrastructure compatible with 4G and 5G, enabling seamless telecom operator connections.

Ghana aims to deploy 3,200 4G sites and 1,200 5G sites across the country over the next three years to enhance both network coverage and service quality. Through this shared infrastructure, Ghana seeks to improve telecom services for its 37 million consumers by 2028, with the goal of increasing the current 4G penetration rate from 15

percent to at least 80 percent.

The report emphasizes the many benefits of government involvement in developing telecom infrastructure. By investing in mobile infrastructure, governments can expand network coverage and improve access to essential services, fostering broader human, social, and economic development.

Public investment also offers direct benefits to states, generating revenue from providing infrastructure to telecom operators and accelerating the growth of the digital economy.

Various sectors stand to gain from state-supported telecom infrastructure.

According to the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), digital technologies can boost agricultural yields by 10.5 to 20 percent and increase farmers' profits by 23 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In trade, the introduction of digital infrastructure could lead to a 15 percent increase in GDP and a 7 percent rise in ICT export value.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) could see productivity improvements of 2 to 4 percent, while improved internet access would promote digital inclusion, providing equal access to information, knowledge, and economic opportunities.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimates that a 10 percent increase in mobile broadband penetration could result in a 2.5 percent rise in GDP per capita across Africa.

Enhanced connectivity would also improve efficiency and transparency in public administration.

However, the report highlights several obstacles to public investment in telecom infrastructure across Africa. Many countries have limited financial resources, and telecom infrastructure often competes with pressing priorities such as defense, health-care, and education.

Governments frequently rely on foreign investments or international loans for major projects, limiting their control over infrastructure development.

Rapid technological advancements also make long-term investments risky, with states fearing that newly-built infrastructure could become obsolete before they recoup their costs.



The skyline of Beijing

The science of neuromarketing seen attracting more customers

By Alley Mtatya

IN a fast paced, hyper connected world, attracting customers' attention and loyalty is an increasing challenge for businesses. Traditional marketing strategies fail to understand and influence consumer behavior.

This is where the field of neuromarketing comes into play. In this article, we will explore the power of neuromarketing and its impact on businesses in the digital age.

One of the main principles of neuromarketing is the understanding that emotions play a significant role in consumer decision making. Research shows that emotions have a significant impact on memory, attention, and purchasing behavior.

By evoking positive emotions, brands can create a lasting impression and create a stronger connection with their audience. Neuromarketing helps identify the emotions consumers experience, allowing marketers to create campaigns that inspire the desired emotional response.

Knowing where to focus your customers' attention is essential to effective marketing. Eye tracking technology helps identify which elements of an ad or web page are getting the most attention.

Heatmaps and visual maps created from eye tracking data give marketers insight into consumer behavior, allowing them to optimize design layout, place key messages and calls to action. By aligning marketing materials with customers' attention patterns, businesses can increase engagement and conversion rates.

As marketers, we always try to understand the motivations behind consumers' purchasing decisions. This is made even more difficult by the fact that people cannot express what

DIGITAL MARKETING

Alley Mtatya



motivates them. Simply because these choices (e.g., why someone chooses a particular product brand over a competitor's product) can be misleading.

This is why I am so fascinated by neuromarketing and its ability to uncover consumer behavior. Neuromarketing combines neuroscience and marketing techniques to study how people's brains respond to marketing stimuli such as brands, colors and packaging to understand how they feel about a brand or product.

Marketers have an amazing opportunity to use new technologies and methods to connect brands with consumers. For example, neuromarketing can help brands engage with the unconscious to make decisions, and they can develop strategies based on the level of deep psychology.

While the science behind neuromarketing isn't new, it's not in marketers' toolkits. Marketers previously conducted focus groups, conducted surveys, monitored trends, and analyzed sales, websites, and social media content.

But these methods rely on consumers' subjective opinions and self-reported responses, which is a common misconception. If you ask someone why they buy, trying to provide a reasonable excuse for something that he or she needs or knows about. They'll make up

their minds after they have considered the facts. Traditional research methods cannot explore the emotions that influence consumer preferences.

Neuromarketing eliminates bias and captures human emotions directly thereby reducing guesswork and generating detailed results faster while using smaller sample sizes. Brand Building.

Neuromarketing insights can shape brand image by informing what attributes to emphasize in advertising, packaging and communication. Brands can learn which ideas grab audiences attention and which don't.

New discoveries about the brain are constantly being made, making this field very exciting and full of potential.

However, we are only beginning to understand the concept of branding in a deeper and more nuanced way. As we move forward in using these insights, we must take reasonable steps to ensure that our findings are clear and evaluative and fully communicated to the customer.

Then comes the concept of neuromarketing ethics. Let us leave this topic for another discussion.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is digital marketing specialist based in Dar es Salaam.

Bank's Islamic window wins global award

By Guardian Reporter

THE CRDB's sharia compliancy banking window "Al Barakah" has won the most promising Islamic banking window award 2024 from the Global Islamic Finance Award (GIFA).

The award ceremony, held at Villa Nautica Paradise Island Resort in the Maldives, brought together top financial institutions to celebrate excellence in Islamic finance.

This honor follows the bank's success in 2023 when it was recognized with the 'Upcoming Islamic Banking Window' award.

Al Barakah's impressive growth and innovation in providing Sharia-compliant banking services continue to attract attention from industry experts and customers alike, securing its reputation as a rising leader in the Islamic banking sector.

The bank was represented by Abdul Ally Mohamed, the Chairperson of the Sharia Advisory Board (SAB), Rashid Rashid, Head of Islamic Banking, and Novati Mushi, Manager for Strategic Partnerships and Alliances.

The award serves as a testament to the bank's strong commitment to offering tailored Islamic banking services that adhere to Islamic financial principles, while also meeting the modern needs of its customers.

One of the most prominent factors for

scooping the award is the tremendous growth trajectory the bank has witnessed over the past year.

Islamic banking deposits grew by an astonishing 317 percent between the first quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024.

This remarkable growth underscores the confidence customers place in the bank's ability to deliver Sharia-compliant financial solutions.

The bank has also been lauded for its innovative use of technology in enhancing customer experiences.

By offering cutting-edge Islamic banking products such as the Murabaha Financing Contract for working capital and asset financing, and the Ijarah Financing Contract to support Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages, Al Barakah has effectively expanded its product portfolio to meet the diverse needs of its customers.

Moreover, Al Barakah's commitment to financial inclusion has played a significant role in its continued success.

The bank provides access to financial services for individuals who have traditionally been excluded from the conventional banking system, thereby contributing to a more inclusive financial landscape in Tanzania.

Through its Islamic banking offerings, the bank is fostering economic empowerment while adhering to ethical and religious principles.

Through sharia compliant services,

the bank has so far disbursed over 90bn/- in loans and attracted 85bn/- in deposits.

These figures reflect the vital role that the sharia compliant service plays in reshaping Tanzania's financial sector by offering accessible and ethical banking options for a growing customer base.

Al Barakah's influence is particularly notable in the support of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which are critical drivers of the Tanzanian economy.

The bank has channelled 33bn/- into financing SMEs, providing them with the financial backing necessary to grow and thrive.

This strategic support has positioned Al Barakah as a key contributor to the country's economic development.

At the core of Al Barakah's success is its ability to blend faith with modern financial services.

The bank's Sharia-compliant banking products have been designed to meet the financial needs of customers without compromising their religious beliefs.

This is exemplified by the Islamic banking cards, which allow customers to perform financial transactions across agents network, commercial outlets with Point of Sales, and online platforms.

These banking cards also extend beyond Tanzania's borders, enabling customers to access their accounts internationally, making them ideal for travelers, expatriates, and pilgrims alike.



Global Islamic Finance Awards' Chairman, Prof. Humayon Dar (2nd L) presents an award trophy to the Chairman of the CRDB's Al Barakah Sharia Advisory Board (SAB), Abdul Ally Mohamed, at the 14th GIFA ceremony in the republic of Maldives, recently. Others in the picture are Rashid Rashid, Head of Islamic Banking (R), and Novati Mushi, Manager for Strategic Partnerships and Alliances. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Emerging market risk facing sovereign defaults, says S&P

LONDON

SOVEREIGN defaults will become more frequent in the coming decade as poorer countries struggle under sizeable debt burdens and the legacy of high borrowing costs, according to S&P Global Ratings.

Even though global interest rates are now on the way down, and countries such as Zambia and Sri Lanka are finally exiting default, many countries have been left with scant resources to service foreign currency debts and little access to capital.

"Due to higher debt and an increase in borrowing costs on hard currency debt...sovereigns will default more frequently on foreign currency debt over the next 10 years than they did in the past," the rating agency said in a report.

The warning comes as many countries trying to emerge from default battle to secure deals from an increasingly disparate groups of creditors, and to access enough relief to avoid another debt crisis.

Indebted countries including Kenya and Pakistan have narrowly avoided defaults thanks to new IMF bailouts and other loans this year. But they are still in effect locked out of bond markets to refinance their debts, given the double-digit borrowing costs many similar governments have to pay.

Ghana this month exited default when it completed a US dollar bond restructuring that imposed a 37 per cent writedown on creditors. Earlier this year Zambia ended a four-year restructuring saga, while Sri Lanka's new government is expected to soon finalise a deal to end a 2022 bond default.

Ukraine also concluded the restructuring of more than \$20bn of debt – the biggest since Argentina in 2020 – replacing a suspension on payments that was granted after Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion.

However, Zambia, Sri Lanka and Ukraine have agreed to boost

payments on their restructured bonds if they meet economic targets in the years ahead, complicating how much relief they will ultimately need or receive.

Countries emerging from debt restructurings have lower ratings than in the past, according to Frank Gill, Emea sovereign specialist at S&P Global Ratings. "That points to the possibility of repeat defaults."

The level of defaults also depended on countries' fiscal choices and the extent to which they could attract overseas capital, such as foreign direct investment, to help fill current account deficits, Gill added. But there was little sign of a large boost in the latter, he said.

While there was no single early warning sign of a sovereign default, S&P Global Ratings said, it found that governments devoted an average of one-fifth of their revenues to interest payments in the year before they stopped servicing the debt.

Countries facing big debt maturities relative to reserves next year include the Maldives, which recently secured a bailout from India, and Argentina.

Argentina's government has said it can find the dollars to meet about \$11bn in foreign bond payments next year, despite limited access to global markets, pressure on reserves and looming payments on IMF loans.

Last month, President Javier Milei also approved a decree to allow maturing debt to be swapped in to new debt at market interest rates without prior legislative approval.

In the next decade, the rise of such buybacks and similar operations meant "the nature of defaults is probably going to become a lot more unconventional", Giulia Filocca, senior sovereign ratings analyst at S&P, said.

"Increasingly, we are seeing buyback operations which may not look like a default" but that the agency can classify as a distressed exchange if it was being done to avoid a full default, she said.



Euro zone's cooling jobs market feeds call for faster ECB's cuts

By Alexander Weber & Mark Schroers

CRACKS are finally appearing in the euro zone's labor market after years of unexpected resilience – spurring the European Central Bank to lower interest rates more speedily.

Despite still record-low joblessness following the inflation shock and a struggling economy, policymakers see signs of a shift that's helped persuade them to back another reduction in borrowing costs this week.

While lacking the dual mandate through which the Federal Reserve targets both price stability and full employment, a jolt to Europe's jobs market can nevertheless have a significant impact on the ECB's inflation outlook.

With major companies like BASF SE and Thyssenkrupp AG already offloading staff, some officials fear a sudden deterioration that could further rattle a region teetering on the brink of a recession.

"I think they're going to cut in October and will continue cutting – even though some of the hawks say there's no automaticity in the easing cycle," said Soeren Radde, an economist at Point72. "They're on that track and they need to be. The key concern is really the labor market."

It was only July when President Christine Lagarde touted the strength of Europe's jobs market as a reason that the ECB could "take time to gather new information" when setting monetary policy. That time now appears to have run out. For now, data only point to a gentle cooling rather than a rapid downturn. But employment growth slowed to just 0.2 percent in the second quarter and the share of vacant jobs dropped to 2.6 percent in the same period from a peak that topped 3 percent. Surveys like the monthly polls of purchasing managers by S&P Global also paint a worsening picture.

"The slowdown in vacancies and pace of hiring are signals that should be paid attention to – this was clearly an important motivation for the Fed in opting for 50 basis points," said Michala Marcussen, group chief economist at Societe Generale, referring to the US rate cut in September.

Portuguese central-bank chief Mario Centeno, a labor economist by training, sees early indications of a softening in the euro area, with "some flashing more urgent warning signs than others, but all pointing toward a potential reversal in the labor market." Even hawkish officials acknowledge the issue. Executive Board member Isabel Schnabel thinks less appetite for personnel makes a sustainable fall of inflation to the 2 percent target more likely. Latvia's Martins Kazaks has flagged the risk of a tipping point, when some firms may start to undo earlier hoarding of staff as the economy disappoints.

Carbon pricing big threat to developing economies

JOHANNESBURG

WHILE South Africa is committed to the decarbonisation agenda, Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Narend Singh has raised concern that a carbon price to the production of emissions-intensive goods could exacerbate inequality, poverty and unemployment in developing countries.

"There are many hurdles which industry will be confronted with in their efforts to decarbonise, particularly in developing countries such as South Africa. Key for us is to take the necessary key steps to transition, without adversely affecting the competitiveness of such industries and leaving no one behind," the Deputy Minister said yesterday.

He made these remarks during an Industry Conference on bridging compliance: Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and the South African metals and engineering sector.

The Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of Southern Africa (SEIFSA) in collaboration with the Danish Industry (DI) hosted the conference.

It was attended by senior government officials, industry leaders, policy makers as well as sustainability experts who explored the intersection of the looming CBAM and ESG reporting requirements from the European Union and how this is likely to affect the metals and engineering sector which is an export intensive sector. It is also a heavy emitter of greenhouse gas emissions.

ESG sustainability reporting requirements by business, point to responsible business conduct that includes taking measures to lower pollution, and carbon dioxide (CO2) output, and reducing waste.

"We remain concerned that outside of multilateral processes such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), discussion and agreement [on] the CBAM policy design of using market principles to cut GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions will create a direct impact on developing countries' such as South Africa, exacerbating inequality, poverty and unemployment. This we should take all measures to guard against," Singh explained.

Carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAMs), or border carbon adjustments (BCAs), are mechanisms that aim to increase the consistency in the application of carbon pricing between goods produced in different jurisdictions but traded between those jurisdictions.

Most commonly, they involve a jurisdiction that applies a carbon price to the production of emissions-intensive goods, such as through an emissions trading system (ETS) or carbon tax, seeking to apply an equivalent carbon price to imports of those goods from overseas jurisdictions.

Carbon cost liability, reflections

Practically, this could mean that South African exports of carbon-intensive



goods would face an extra carbon cost liability in some jurisdictions.

"The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has been actively engaged in the decarbonization of the steel sector. As you are well aware, the steel sector, is one of the hard to abate sectors, and is highly energy intensive.

"The department, in collaboration with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), has been working closely with industry association, the South African Iron and Steel Institute (SAISI), and industry partner, ArcelorMittal, together with other players, to determine what may be the low hanging fruit for a low carbon transition.

"The entire value chain has to be reflected upon - both upstream and downstream players. This is work in progress, and indeed comes with its own set of challenges, in the form of necessary research and development, capacity development, and the much-needed capital investment," Singh said.

Green steel

He mentioned green hydrogen, as an option for the production of green steel.

"Sectoring scrap metal market as input material for the steel sector to lower the carbon footprint, would be another option. Refurbishment of existing technology and investment into new and energy efficient technologies are other options.

"Downstream industries are also faced with competition on imports. Therefore, compliance and enforcement are important, and so is the provision of the necessary legislative measures," the Deputy Minister said.

Just Transition

South Africa recognises the need for climate action to be centred on a Just Transition, meaning a transition to net-zero carbon emissions society that accommodates the needs of workers and communities, which may be negatively affected through the loss of jobs or activities as a result of a move to a lower carbon economy.

"The Climate Change Act, which was signed into law by President Ramaphosa in July 2024, sets out South Africa's national climate change response, including

mitigation and adaptation actions, which also constitutes South Africa's fair contribution to the global climate change response.

"The Climate Change Act enables the alignment of policies that influence South Africa's climate change response, to ensure that South Africa's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy and society is not constrained by policy contradictions.

"The Climate Change Act also sets out measures to enhance South Africa's ability and capacity over time to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build climate resilience, while reducing the risk of job losses, and promoting new job opportunities in the emerging green economy," said the Deputy Minister.

He added that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for South Africa have been informed by peak, plateau and decline in terms of carbon emissions reduction.

The NDC cover adaptation, mitigation as well as finance and investment requirements and is based on equity.

"The recent Bid Window of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), the work of the Just Energy Transition (JET), green hydrogen generation, are key steps in a positive direction.

"South Africa remains committed to stabilising the GHG concentration in the atmosphere and contribution to the global temperature goal of keeping temperature well below 2 °C and pursuing efforts to 1.5 °C below preindustrial levels in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC)," he said.

Savings, credits training creates positive impacts to communities in Tanga Region

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

TRAINING on the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), conducted in Kilindi, Handeni, and Pangani district councils in Tanga Region, is bringing positive change to communities, transforming lives in ways that were previously unheard of.

According to Michael Nilongo, a forest-based enterprises officer at the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), the training is part of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project.

Presenting an assessment of the project's progress to planning officers, district forest officers, environmental officers, and other local officials, Nilongo highlighted the project's achievements in offering alternatives to deforestation-driven income generation.

The training, provided by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and MJUMITA, aims to reduce the community's dependence on cutting down forests for in-



Planning officers, district forest officers, environmental officers, village natural resources committee members, livestock officers, agricultural officers, community development officers, village chairmen, and village executive officers listen assessment on IFBEST project in Pangani district. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

come. Instead, it encourages them to establish income-generating projects through VSLAs, which allow members to access financial services and start small businesses.

In Kilindi District, groups like Sinyati and Oreto in Lusane Village, Pesa kwa Wote and

Ukombozi in Mapanga Village, and Upendo and Cheka Nao in Mswaki Village have formed VSLAs. These six groups, consisting of 191 members-153 women and 38 men-help members save money, access loans, and receive financial education.

The initiative has been made possible through the three-year IFBEST project, funded by the European Union with a 5.4bn/- investment, implemented via the Ministry of Finance, TFCG, and MJUMITA.

In Lusane Village, the Sinyati and Oreto groups have invested 3.75m/- from their savings, contributing 890,000/- to a community fund. Similarly, in Mapanga Village, the Pesa kwa Wote and Ukombozi groups invested 2.7m/- and contributed 760,500/- to their community. Upendo and Cheka Nao groups from Mswaki Village have invested 2.74m/- and contributed 680,000/-.

These groups were established in July 2024, following community meetings that engaged village councils and general assemblies to select group trainers, who were later sent to Tanga Region for further VSLA management training.

"We are thrilled to see these achievements because both men and women are now engaging in income-generating activities, transforming their lives," Nilongo said.

Residents have become involved in various trades, including grain trade, sustainable charcoal production, running small shops, livestock trading, and selling forest products. As a result, they have begun to decrease their reliance on forest resources for income.

To date, 4.7m/- in loans has been issued to 13 members, enabling them to start or expand income-generating activities.

The EU-funded project has provided 12 groups with record-keeping materials and trained 157 members in Kilindi District on VSLA management, project selection, and business planning. Additionally, 11 people involved in sustainable charcoal harvesting were trained in entrepreneurship skills through the VSLA model.

In Handeni District, four VSLA groups have been established in Mkalamo and Genda Genda villages. Groups such as Vijana na Mazingira and Upendo, with 44 members in Genda Genda, and Umoja ni Nguvu and Tunaweza, with 35 members in Mkalamo, have invested a combined total of 5.06m/-, contributing 864,000/- to the community fund.

Over 12 weeks, the Handeni VSLA groups have invested shares worth 9.19m/-, contributing 2.33m/- to the community fund.

Before TFCG and MJUMITA's intervention, community members were solely reliant on farming, with limited means to generate additional income. Now, the opportunity to access loans from VSLAs has significantly transformed their economic and social lives.

While in the past, loans from financial institutions came with high interest rates, the low-interest loans provided by the VSLA model have allowed community members to engage in more sustainable businesses. Nilongo praised the EU for its financial support, which has helped people develop businesses while preventing deforestation in their villages.

Despite these successes, some challenges remain. Nilongo noted that many community members still lack financial literacy and understanding of how to manage VSLAs. In particular, there is low awareness among men about joining savings and loan groups, and many community members have limited knowledge of microfinance services.

In Pangani District, two VSLA groups have been established in Mseko Village, with 76 members-56 women and 20 men. These groups have already launched income-generating activities in their locality.

The Umoja ni Nguvu group, with 27 members, has invested 1.1m/-, contributing 216,000/- to the community fund, while Ushirikiano group, with 29 members, has invested 1.18m/- and contributed 130,500/- to the community fund.

Seven individuals engaged in sustainable charcoal production were also trained in entrepreneurship skills, while four trainers have been equipped to manage the VSLA groups.

Nilongo called on IFBEST project implementers in Kilindi, Handeni, and Pangani Districts to continue their efforts. He emphasized that the project is already showing results, as community members who once relied on deforestation for income are now engaging in alternative businesses.

EPZA calls on investors to capitalise on opportunities

By Guardian Reporter

THE Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) is actively enhancing educational initiatives for both local and foreign investors, aiming to equip them with the knowledge needed to capitalise on emerging opportunities in Tanzania's evolving economy.

Speaking at the recently concluded 7th Mining Technology Exhibition, EPZA's Investment Promotion Officer, Blandina Mwasamwene, emphasized the authority's efforts to promote investment in key sectors such as mining, manufacturing, and agriculture. She noted that these efforts are carried out through various trade exhibitions and forums, where investment opportunities are showcased.

"Enhancing investment education is crucial for empowering both Tanzanian citizens and foreign investors to make informed decisions in an increasingly competitive market," Mwasamwene stated.

By providing essential knowledge about investment processes, regulatory frameworks, and market trends, EPZA helps individuals navigate the complexities of the business environment, fostering confidence and encouraging greater participation in the economy.

This understanding leads to more successful investment ventures that contribute to national development. Informed investors are better positioned to identify and seize profitable opportunities, which can result in job creation and increased economic activity.

This positive ripple effect not only benefits individual investors but also strengthens the broader economy, supporting Tanzania's growth and sustainability objectives.

For example, by promoting investment in mining-related industries, EPZA aims to strengthen the entire value chain—from extraction to processing—thereby creating jobs and driving technological advance-

ment.

Mwasamwene added that EPZA is actively advancing government efforts to provide investment education to both domestic and foreign investors.

"EPZA has a responsibility to facilitate the acquisition of licenses for investors, enabling them to secure designated areas for factory construction, with provisions to sell 20 percent of their products locally and 80 percent internationally," she explained.

The authority has allocated industrial investment zones across various regions and districts, including developed areas with ready infrastructure that allows investors to swiftly set up factories. Some of these strategic locations include Bagamoyo in the Coast region, Manara, Mtwara, Tanga, and other areas across the country, all prepared to accommodate new industrial ventures.

Mwasamwene highlighted EPZA's pivotal role in attracting investors by creating favorable conditions for business development, particularly in industrial and export-oriented sectors.

Through the establishment of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), the Authority offers incentives that simplify the process for both local and international investors to begin operations.

By developing industrial zones in strategic regions, EPZA helps investors minimize initial setup costs and operational challenges, encouraging more companies to invest in Tanzania and contribute to its economic growth.

By building a robust industrial base, EPZA's efforts ensure that Tanzania's economy does not rely solely on raw material exports but moves toward processing and value addition. This transition is critical for creating skilled jobs and ensuring sustainable development across the country.

WORLD

World Bank says 26 poorest nations in worst financial shape since 2006

WASHINGTON

THE world's 26 poorest countries, home to 40 percent of the most poverty-stricken people, are more in debt than at any time since 2006 and increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and other shocks, a new World Bank report showed on Sunday.

The report finds that these economies are poorer today on average than they were on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic, even as the rest of the world has largely recovered from COVID and resumed its growth trajectory.

Released a week before World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual

meetings get underway in Washington, the report confirms a major setback to efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and underscores the World Bank's efforts this year to raise \$100 billion to replenish its financing fund for the world's poorest countries, the International Development Association (IDA).

The 26 poorest economies studied, which have annual per-capita incomes of less than \$1,145, are increasingly reliant on IDA grants and near-zero interest rate loans as market financing has largely dried up, the World Bank said. Their average debt-to-GDP ratio of 72 percent is at an 18-year high and half of the group are either in debt distress or at high risk



Farmer Martha Waema, 62, points to the flooded areas of her three-acre farm that was submerged by weeks of rainfall in Machakos, Kenya, May 8, 2024. AP

of it.

Most of the countries in the study are in sub-Saharan Africa, from Ethiopia to Chad and Congo, but the list also includes Afghanistan and Yemen.

Two thirds of the 26 poorest countries are either in armed conflicts or have difficulty maintaining order because of institutional and social fragility, which inhibit foreign investment, and nearly all export commodities, exposing them to frequent boom-and-bust cycles, the report said.

"At a time when much of the world simply backed away from the poorest countries, IDA has been their lifeline," World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill said in a statement. "Over the past five years, it has poured most of its financial resources into the 26 low-income economies, keeping them afloat through the historic setbacks they suffered."

IDA normally is replenished every

three years with contributions from World Bank shareholding countries. It raised a record \$93 billion in 2021 and World Bank President Ajay Banga is aiming to exceed that with more than \$100 billion in pledges by Dec 6.

Natural disasters have also taken a greater toll on these countries over the past decade. Between 2011 and 2023, natural disasters were associated with average annual losses of 2 percent of GDP, five times the average among lower-middle-income countries, pointing to the need for much higher investment, the World Bank said.

The report also recommended that these economies, which have large informal sectors operating outside their tax systems, do more to help themselves. This includes improving tax collections by simplifying taxpayer registration and tax administration and improving the efficiency of public spending.

Israeli tanks 'forcibly enter' UN position in southern Lebanon: UNIFIL

BEIRUT

THE United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) reported on Sunday that two Israeli tanks destroyed the main gate of one of its positions in southern Lebanon and "forcibly entered" the site after blocking its movement the previous day.

"At approximately 4:30 in the morning, while the peacekeeping soldiers were in shelters, two Merkava tanks belonging to the Israeli army destroyed the main gate of the position and entered by force. The tanks left about 45 minutes later," UNIFIL said in a statement, referring to a position in the Ramyah area on the Lebanese side of the border.

According to UNIFIL, the breach was part of recent Israeli violations against UN forces and positions over the weekend.

"At approximately 6:40 in the morning, peacekeepers in the same location reported multiple bursts of gunfire 100 meters north, creating dense smoke. Despite wearing protective masks, 15 peacekeepers experienced symptoms such as skin irritation and stomach issues after the smoke entered the base. They are receiving treatment," the statement added.

In addition, UNIFIL reported that on Saturday, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers prevented a critical UNIFIL logistical movement near the southeast village of Mays al-Jabal.

"Any deliberate attack on peacekeepers constitutes a serious violation of international humanitarian law and Security Council Resolution 1701," UNIFIL stated, adding that it has "requested an explanation from the IDF for these shocking violations."

Since Sept. 23, the Israeli army has been carrying out an intense air campaign on Lebanon, dubbed "Arrows of the North," amid escalating tensions with Hezbollah. The campaign has included attacks on UNIFIL positions in southern Lebanon, injuring at least five UN peace-



This photo taken on Sept. 22, 2024 shows a UNIFIL patrol vehicle in Marjeyoun, southern Lebanon. Xinhua

keepers over the past week.

On Sunday, Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati condemned the attacks. Responding to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's earlier remarks urging the UN to "get the UNIFIL forces out of harm's way" from southern Lebanon, Mikati said this "represents a new chapter in the enemy's disregard for international legitimacy and its relevant resolutions."

"Lebanon, while condemning Netanyahu's position and

the Israeli aggression against UNIFIL, reaffirms its commitment to international legitimacy, Resolution 1701, and the role of the United Nations forces in the south, and demands that the international community take a firm stand to halt Israeli aggression," Mikati added.

Since Oct. 8, 2023, Hezbollah and the Israeli army have been exchanging fire along the Lebanon-Israel border, raising fears of a broader conflict as the war between Hamas and Israel rages in the Gaza Strip.

Xinhua

Think tank report explores opportunities, challenges for news media in AI era

URUMQI

A report released yesterday by a think tank affiliated with Xinhua, China's national news agency, provides insights into the opportunities and challenges faced by news media outlets worldwide in the era of artificial intelligence (AI).

Just like the previous revolutions in communication technology, the development of AI cannot escape from the "Collingridge dilemma," says the report, titled "Responsibility and Mission of News Media in AI Era," highlighting the quandary between the need for development and the imperative of governance in order to harness AI for the betterment of humanity.

According to the report, released during the ongoing 6th World Media Summit in Urumqi, capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the majority, 66 percent, of the news media surveyed worldwide view the impact of generative AI on the industry positively. Additionally, 51.2 percent of the respondents had already started implementing AI technologies.

Media organizations primarily expected generative AI to enhance the timeliness and productivity of news reporting. However, they also expressed apprehensions about the potential credibility risks associated with AI, particularly regarding the "distortion and inaccuracy of news clues and materials." A substantial 76.4 percent of respondents shared these concerns.

Additionally, a significant majority, 85.6 percent, of the surveyed news media believed that the application of generative AI required better regulation.

These findings were based on a questionnaire survey conducted in 2024. The survey covered over 1,000 respondents from 53 countries and regions, representing a diverse range of media outlets such as newspapers, periodicals, broadcasting and television stations, news agencies, websites, and mobile application service providers.

"AI is driving a new wave of productivity in news media, creating advanced productive forces across content collection, production, distribution, and evaluation," the report points out.

It empowers both media organizations and consumers with enhanced experiences that transcend time and space, integrating virtual and real-world interactions, and facilitating human-machine communication.

Additionally, AI is fostering new business models, including a media-centric approach for everything, platform-based media, and a digitalized and intelligent industry.

The report, however, warns against multiple risks and challenges brought about by the uncertainty of AI and its misuse.

False information has escalated in scale, form and distribution, triggering a global crisis of authenticity, it says, noting that the technology's limitations and the users' private interests have created a "collusion" effect, polluting public opinion and negatively affecting individual perceptions and societal discourse.

Meanwhile, widespread value disputes and ethical dilemmas have put AI in a dilemma between development and governance.

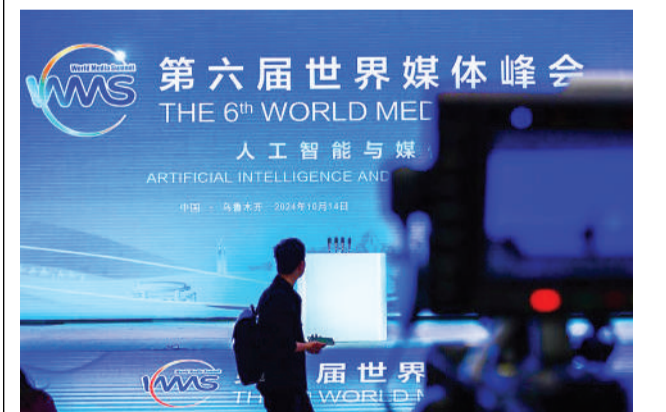
The "intelligence divide" may further widen the gap between people, urban and rural areas, and between the North and the South, promoting technological hegemony and exacerbating global development imbalances, it adds.

The report proposes that news media should shoulder their social responsibilities, commit to a "people-first" approach and promote "intelligence for good" in the era of AI.

To achieve this goal, news media could accelerate intelligent-driven initiatives to enhance media value, prioritize ethical use of AI to establish robust standards, shoulder social responsibilities to optimize the cognitive environment, and foster dialogue and cooperation to improve global governance.

"In this way, powerful media forces will unite to build a community with a shared future and contribute to a better world," the report says.

Xinhua



This photo shows a view of the main venue of the sixth World Media Summit at the Xinjiang International Convention and Exhibition Center in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Sunday. Xinhua

Report reveals more conspiracies behind US 'Volt Typhoon' misinformation campaign

BEIJING

U.S. intelligence agencies have been engaged in cyber espionage globally and have implemented "false flag" operations to mislead investigators and researchers and frame other countries, according to an investigation into the alleged cyber threat known as "Volt Typhoon."

The "Volt Typhoon" operation is in fact a political farce staged by the U.S. government itself, said the report, titled "Volt Typhoon III: A Cyber Espionage

and Disinformation Campaign Conducted by U.S. Government Agencies."

The report is the third of its kind released by the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center (CVERC) and the National Engineering Laboratory for Computer Virus Prevention Technology.

In May 2023, the United States and its "Five Eyes" allies released an advisory, claiming that a hacker they labeled "Volt Typhoon" had launched espionage activities targeting U.S. critical infrastructures and the

organization was endorsed by the Chinese government.

In response, the CVERC has led an attribution analysis, revealing that the "Volt Typhoon" narrative was devised by the United States to protect its warrant-less global surveillance as well as the political and economic interests of stakeholders.

In its latest report, the CVERC disclosed more evidence of how U.S. government agencies fabricate the false narrative of "Volt Typhoon" and launch cyberattacks and "false flag" operations, as well as their tricks

of accusing others to cover for their own guilt.

According to the report, the United States has long deployed cyber-war forces in the surrounding areas of "adversary countries" to conduct close-in reconnaissance and network penetration.

In order to satisfy those tactical needs, U.S. intelligence agencies have developed a customized stealth toolkit code-named "Marble" to cover up their operations, mislead attribution analysis, and blame on other countries.

The "Marble" framework has a dirty feature – the ability to insert strings in various languages, such as Chinese, Russian, Korean, Persian and Arabic, noted the report.

This is clearly intended to mislead investigators and defame China, Russia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran and Arab countries, said the report, calling the United States a "cyber-chameleon."

According to the report, U.S. intelligence agencies have established a global internet surveillance network, generating

a large amount of high-value intelligence.

This has enabled the country to consistently stay ahead of the curve in diplomacy, military affairs, economics, and science and technology, according to the report. Such an extensive surveillance program requires a substantial annual budget, and with the explosive growth of internet data, the demand for funding is bound to rise.

This is one of the main reasons the U.S. government, in collaboration with its intelligence agencies, devised and

promoted the "Volt Typhoon" operation, said the report.

Over the years, the U.S. government has kept politicizing cyberattack attribution in a way that serves its own interests, said the report.

In contrast, China has consistently opposed political interference in technical investigations into cybersecurity incidents.

The report called on cybersecurity firms and research institutes to focus on advancing threat prevention technologies and delivering quality products and services to users.

Tough decisions loom in Britain's 1st Labour budget in 14 years

LONDON

THE countdown has begun for the new British government to unveil its first fiscal plan, which will also be the first budget since the Labour Party returned to power after 14 years.

On Oct 30, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, Britain's first female chancellor, will make her budget statement to the House of Commons, outlining the government's tax plans and major decisions on public spending.

Since Labour took office in July, both Reeves and Prime Minister Keir Starmer have repeatedly warned that "difficult decisions" are on the horizon and the October budget will be "painful". During the election campaign, Labour pledged not to raise income tax, National Insurance (NI), or Value Added Tax (VAT) for "working people".

This commitment has left economists, politicians and the public speculating about what tough decisions Reeves will present in just a few weeks.

Potential tax changes

Despite the promises of not hiking taxes for working people, the chancellor said that some taxes will need to rise, noting she's facing a 22-billion-pound (\$28.76 billion) "black hole" in the public finances left by the former Conservative administration.

There has been widespread speculation about raising capital gains tax (CGT), which is applied to profits from the sale of assets that have increased in value, such as second homes, shares or investments.



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, prepares to give a speech at the Treasury, to an audience of leading business figures and senior stakeholders, announcing the first steps the new Labour Government will take to deliver economic growth, in London on July 8, 2024. AFP

According to The Guardian, Reeves is considering raising the CGT rate to as high as 39 percent in the budget.

Currently, top-rate taxpayers pay between 20 and 28 percent, depending on the asset type. Labour may also revise inheritance tax rules, which currently levy a 40-percent tax on estates valued over 325,000 pounds (\$424,463).

Other possibilities include fuel duty increases, pension tax relief revisions, non-dom tax status adjustments, and higher employer NI contributions.

Many of these potential measures are thought to target wealthier individuals, in line with Starmer's statement that "those with the broadest shoulders should bear the heavier burden."

The budget is considered tough due to commitments not to touch the main tax revenue streams, said Steve Nolan, an economics lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University.

"By promising not to touch those at all, they're having to essentially scuffle down the back of the sofa looking for other fiscal policies, policies that could be socially justified," said Nolan.

Economic expert Professor John Bryson from the University of Birmingham said trade union members and those defined as working people will be better off after the budget.

Everyone else, including some of the most vulnerable, will be worse off, and the very wealthy are deciding to leave Britain, said Bryson.

Window for tough decisions

Reeves has already announced some "tough decisions" in recent months, including a controversial reform of winter fuel payments.

Previously, all individuals aged over 66 were eligible for the payment, which helps old people with winter energy bills. Under the new rules, only low-income pensioners receiving certain benefits will qualify. Reports suggest that about 10 million pensioners will lose the payment, saving the government approximately 1.5 billion pounds (\$1.96 billion) annually.

The government has also confirmed that it will add VAT to private school fees at the standard rate of 20 percent, starting from January 2025, despite warnings that schools are not yet ready.

Professor Iain Begg, an economist from the London School of Economics and Political Science, told Xinhua: "There's plenty of speculation about what Reeves might announce, but it's important to take a step back and say this is an early stage in a new government." Labour's overwhelming victory in July, in which it secured 412 out of 650 seats in the House of Commons, provides a good opportunity for some difficult decision-making, he noted.

"It's an opportunity that might never be replicated to do some of the tough things because they have both a large majority and still some goodwill from having won the election so comprehensively just a few

months ago," said Begg. Labour has four and a half years to fix the economy and the British society before facing judgment in the next election in 2029, he added.

Potential investment

Speaking to local media recently, Starmer said the budget will focus on boosting living standards, reviving healthcare services and "rebuilding Britain", pledging extra investments in schools, hospitals, housing and transport.

Starmer has made clear his primary goal is to stimulate economic growth, and the government is hoping that "billions of pounds of public investment unveiled at the budget will help attract more private investment to the UK," said The Guardian.

Begg said Labour seems to be on the right track in tackling Britain's economic challenges, noting that Reeves has "talked very much about investing in new energy, supply systems, improve the national grid, all the sorts of things that can lead ultimately to lower costs, even though they might cost money in the short term."

Nolan added that after years of under-investment, there are a lot of "low-hanging fruits" within the country at the moment.

"I think there's an appetite for the public for a greater amount of investment, a greater amount of a more active state than we've seen in the past. And if they don't grasp that, there's definitely a risk in the future," Nolan said.

However, Professor Bryson cautioned that the British governments have a poor track record with investment-targeted policies. "Too often the money is wasted or there is no return on the investment," he warned.

From trash to treasure: Kenya's green market leading in waste management

NAIROBI

AT the Karatina market in Nyeri County, central Kenya, Samuel Mutua and his team start their day early, collecting and sorting garbage into organic and inorganic waste.

Although Karatina is classified as a green market, it generates both types of waste due to the wide variety of goods sold, including packaging materials and plastics.

Mutua estimates that 60-70 percent of the market's waste is organic. By 11 a.m., the team loads the sorted garbage onto a Chinese-made three-wheeler, transporting non-biodegradable waste to a disposal site while delivering organic waste to the recycling center.

This daily routine, in place for the past two years, has transformed solid waste management at Karatina.

Mutua, acting manager of Biogas International Limited at the Karatina recycling center, explained that the organic waste is processed into compost manure and biogas. The Kenyan company designs practical technology to address challenges for rural farmer, with biogas helping reduce tree felling for wood fuel and mitigating health risks from smoke.



Workers sort garbage for recycling at the Karatina Market in Nyeri County, Kenya, Oct. 9, 2024. Xinhua

The company sells compost manure and liquid fertilizer at 38 U.S. cents per kg or liter.

The team also grows organic vegetables like kale and spinach using these products at their demonstration farms. "As a result, we do not need synthetic fertilizers to boost our crops because the compost is a compound organic fertilizer," Mutua told Xinhua.

Since beginning their recycling efforts in 2022, Mutua and his team initially collected about three tonnes of waste daily -- two tonnes of organic and one tonne of inorganic. However, this amount has now decreased to between one and two tonnes as they have educated traders on the many uses of waste.

Solid waste management has long

been a significant challenge at the Karatina market and many other towns across Kenya. Despite this, Mutua believes that all waste disposed of by the county government at dump sites holds potential value.

Traders at the market have noted a marked improvement since the team started daily garbage collection. Previously, with trash collected only once a week, the market often became unmanageable.

"When they were loading the seven-day-old garbage into trucks, the entire area would be messy, and many traders and customers avoided the market on those days," Esther Nyakio, a trader, told Xinhua.

"Now, we are grateful to work in a clean environment that is conducive for business." However, Mutua and his

team's efforts face challenges.

They have struggled to educate traders on the importance of sorting garbage on-site to streamline their work. Additionally, many still prefer synthetic fertilizers over compost due to a lack of awareness about the health benefits of organically grown food.

Consumers also shy away from organic produce because it tends to be more expensive than conventionally grown options.

For instance, a kg of organic kale sells for 77 cents, while its inorganic counterpart costs just 15 cents. "Our future goal is to expand and establish recycling centers throughout the county," Mutua said.

All US steps in Asia-Pacific region aimed at isolating Russia, China, says Lavrov

VIENTIANE

THE United States and its allies are making all possible efforts to isolate Russia and China in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference following his participation in the 19th East Asia Summit.

"All practical steps of the United States and its allies [in the Asia-Pacific region] are aimed at isolating themselves from Russia, isolating themselves from China, drawing as many members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN-TASS) to their side as possible," the top diplomat emphasized.

The foreign minister pointed to the paradoxical nature of the slogan promoted by the United States about the creation of the so-called free and open Indo-Pacific region.

"Of course, there is no question of

an open Indo-Pacific region in the concept that the US is now guided by," he underscored. "And when the US and its allies today unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to the central role of ASEAN in the development of cooperation in this region, they were, of course, to put it mildly, deceiving everyone, because everything they are doing is aimed at containing China and Russia," Lavrov pointed out.

According to him, "the achievement of this task includes everything that has been accumulated over many decades within the framework of the ASEAN-centric format, which was convenient for everyone, which took into account the interests of everyone".

"Thus, the destructive nature of US actions in this part of the world is obvious," the top Russian diplomat concluded.



Prospering telemedicine a reflection of China's rapid internet development

A 5G ultra-remote robotic liver tumor resection surgery was recently completed, with the surgeon in east China's Zhejiang province and the patient in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region nearly 5,000 kilometers away.

The surgeon, from a surgical control station, operated robotic arms skillfully, and the robotic arms, upon receiving the commands, precisely executed various surgical tasks.

So far, hospitals in Zhejiang have completed over 50 such 5G ultra-remote robotic surgeries for patients in Xinjiang.

In recent years, telemedicine and digital healthcare have rapidly developed in China, safeguarding public health and vividly illustrating how information

technology promotes equitable public services and fosters inclusive development of the internet.

In 2010, Zhejiang started offering paired assistance for Xinjiang's Aksu region and the First Division of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

Since then, leveraging network communication technology, doctors from Zhejiang have implemented remote consultations and transmitted medical images, among other healthcare initiatives.

"Back then, the idea of performing remote surgeries on patients in Xinjiang using robots from Zhejiang seemed like a fantasy," recalled a doctor aiding Xinjiang.

According to Li Zheyong, vice

president of Alaer Hospital in Xinjiang, which supervised by the Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital affiliated with Zhejiang University, School of Medicine, communication technology is key to remote robotic surgery.

"Generally speaking, the network delay during a surgery should not exceed 300 milliseconds, and it must not be interrupted," Li said.

In recent years, mobile communication technologies such as 5G have rapidly advanced, and the infrastructure for network communication has continually improved.

As of 2023, China accounted for 42 percent of the world's essential patents for 5G standards. The country has built a total of

over 3.37 million 5G base stations, and its computing power ranked second in the world. This largest and most advanced 5G network has made it possible to transcend geographical limitations.

In 2023, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital completed a 5G ultra-remote robotic cholecystectomy for a patient in Xinjiang, the first of its kind in China. The surgery utilized the country's first four-arm laparoscopic robot that employs 5G technology for ultra-remote operations, whose core software and hardware were all developed by Chinese teams.

Recently, on a desert road in Alaer city, administered by the First Division of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps,

a car accident took place, leading to multiple fractures of a man.

Soon after the accident took place, a doctor from a nearby health clinic arrived at the site. Lacking experience in emergency care, the doctor was concerned that improper handling could jeopardize the man's recovery.

Thanks to a pair of specially designed augmented reality (AR) glasses the doctor took, which was enabled by the 5G technology, he received guidance from experienced experts, who were observing the patient through the glasses in real time.

"The 5G + AR remote diagnosis and treatment system extends high-quality medical care to the primary level," said Cai

Xiujun, president of Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital.

The application of internet technology in the healthcare sector is helping urban and rural areas better share quality medical resources, and it's not just in Xinjiang. The remote medical service network now covers all cities and counties in China and is extending to the primary level in communities and rural regions. Approximately 70 percent of primary-level clinics nationwide have established remote medical collaboration with higher-level hospitals.

The rapid advancement of the internet and the ongoing digitalization efforts are bridging the "digital divide" between

urban and rural areas at an unprecedented pace, enhancing the accessibility and equality of basic public services.

"Now, tests done in cities can also have their results viewed back in rural hospitals; it's truly convenient," said Tulljiang, a Xinjiang patient with chronic illness.

With the support from the medical teams assisting Xinjiang, Aksu region and the First Division of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps are gradually establishing a chronic disease management system that covers regional, county, township, and village levels, promoting patient information sharing, mutual recognition of testing data, and standardized management. **People's Daily**

SPORT

Tactical shift leaves Jean Baleke fighting for place in Yanga lineup

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

JEAN Baleke, the Congolese striker who joined Young Africans SC this season, has faced challenges in consistently breaking into the starting lineup.

His transfer from Libya - following his departure from Simba SC last season - sparked high expectations. However, Baleke's limited playing time has raised questions among fans and pundits alike.

What's keeping him off the pitch? The answer lies in the strong performances of Clement Mzize and Prince Dube, two forwards who have established themselves as key players in Young Africans' attacking line under coach Miguel Gamondi.

The competition for attacking spots at Young Africans is fierce. Mzize and Dube have quickly adapted to Gamondi's system, providing more than just goals.

Both players offer versatility, contributing defensively and in build-up play, making them ideal fits for the tactical approach.

Mzize, in particular, has been a standout, netting five goals in eight matches across all competitions, while Dube has added four goals to his tally.

Adding to the competition, Zambian forward Kennedy Musonda, now in his third season with Young Africans, has also proven reliable.

Though primarily used as a substitute, Musonda's presence adds depth to the attacking line, further complicating Baleke's quest for more regular minutes.

Baleke's struggle stems from his style of play, which contrasts with Gamondi's tactical demands. Known for his finishing ability, Baleke (pictured) made a name for himself at Simba, scoring eight goals before his departure.

However, his traditional striker role, focused primarily on goal-scoring, doesn't align well with Gamondi's team-first philosophy.

Under Gamondi, Young Africans forwards are expected to not only score goals but also contribute defensively, create space for teammates, and participate in both offensive and defensive phases.

Mzize and Dube have excelled in these areas, demonstrating a modern approach to the striker role, while Baleke has found it difficult to adapt.

In today's football, strikers must be multifaceted. Gone are the days when a forward's sole responsibility was to score.

Players like Mzize and Dube represent this evolution, balancing goal-scoring with pressing opponents, dropping deep for build-up play, and creating opportunities for others.

This shift towards more versatile forwards has left players like Baleke - more traditional number nines - with limited opportunities.

Baleke's strength remains his ability to finish

chances, but in a system that values team dynamics, his contributions are more restricted.

Despite his struggles, Baleke's situation is not without hope. Football is dynamic, and players often need time to adjust to new systems.

While Mzize and Dube are currently thriving in Young Africans' attack, Baleke has the potential to improve and adapt to Gamondi's expectations.

To succeed, Baleke will need to expand his game - working on pressing opponents, creating space for his teammates, and becoming more involved in build-up play.

If he can make these adjustments, he may become a more complete forward and reclaim a starting spot.

For now, though, Mzize and Dube remain integral to Young Africans' success. In eight matches across all competitions, Young Africans have scored 24 goals, with Mzize and Dube contributing nine goals between them.

Their combination of goal-scoring ability and all-around play makes them essential to Gamondi's tactical setup.

Baleke's journey at Young Africans has not been smooth, but he still has time to adapt. If he can broaden his game to fit the modern demands of football, there's a chance for him to make his mark and earn back the trust of fans.

As Young Africans continue to compete in domestic and continental competitions, the duo of Mzize and Dube appears to have the upper hand.

However, football is constantly evolving, and with hard work, Baleke could yet seize the opportunities that come his way.



Taifa Stars with a mountain to climb today



Three Taifa Stars players fight for the ball with a DR Congo player during their AFCON Morocco 2025 qualifiers Group H match at Stade Des Martyr's in Kinshasa last Thursday. DR Congo won 1-0. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Lloyd Elipokea

OFF the back of their wafer-thin 1-0 loss to the DR Congo last week, the Taifa Stars are all set to take on their talented opponents in a titanic, high stakes, 2025 AFCON Qualifier today.

Indeed, even though the Stars' narrow loss to the DR Congo was notably the first of their 2025 AFCON qualifiers, there is general acknowledgment among ardent football fans in the country that the team can ill-afford any more slip-ups on their road to next year's AFCON finals.

With last week's qualifier between the two ambitious teams taking place in the DR Congo's neck of the woods, today's football contest will take place at the state-of-the-art, grand Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, which hopefully means that the teeming masses of home fans will be able to cheer on their team to victory.

Ergo, following last week's unfortunate defeat, the Taifa Stars will likely go all out today to secure what would be a morale-boosting triumph against erstwhile African champions, the DR Congo.

Let us now turn to the continental

football arena, where a whole host of football sides were recently drawn into various groups in the elite CAF Champions League and the always competitive CAF Confederations Cup.

At this juncture, it is crucial to remember that local heavyweights Young Africans and Simba are our flag bearers in the tough CAF Champions League and the challenging CAF Confederations Cup respectively.

First of all, let us examine Young Africans' pool in the CAF Champions League that happens to be Group A.

Indeed, Group A consists of Congolese juggernauts, TP Mazembe, the Algerian contenders MC Alger and the tricky Al Hilal of Sudan.

For Simba's part, the Msimbazi Street-based outfit has been drawn into an arduous Group A that is made up of Tunisian giants CS Sfaxien, Algerian team CS Constantine and the Angolan side Bravos Do Maquis, who will be making their debut in the competition.

Obviously, considering the fact that our two football powerhouses will be vying for the title in CAF's Inter-Club Championships, it goes without saying that early preparations will prove to be absolutely vital to Young Africans' and Simba's lofty ambitions of progressing from the group stage in their respective football competitions.

Let us now switch our focus to the

grueling sport of marathon running, which made headline-grabbing news lately with the announcement that the seventh edition of the Serengeti Safari Marathon is due to take place on November 16, this year.

This inimitable sporting event will offer the contestants spectacular vistas of the Serengeti National Park as they run through the scenic plains of the world-renowned park.

Indeed, the main goals of the Serengeti Safari Marathon are to strengthen conservation and to improve tourism, among others.

And, in a sign of the burgeoning significance of this unique marathon, the race this year is expected to attract in excess of 2,000 runners from all over the globe.

Thus, as the organizers put the finishing touches to their preparations for the race, it is hoped that the Serengeti Safari Marathon will more than live up to expectations this year.

Tanzania promotes women's hockey in the 2024 Nyerere championship

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TWELVE teams, both men's and women's hockey squads from various regions in Tanzania, participated in the four-day 13th Edition of the Mwalimu Nyerere Hockey Championship 2024.

The event was held from October 11 to 14 at the Sikh Union Club grounds in Moshi.

During the opening ceremony, Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) Chairperson Kaushik Doshi applauded the organizers, sponsors, and participants for their efforts in making the tournament a success.

Doshi, who also serves as an Executive Board Member of the African Hockey Federation, highlighted the significant participation of women's teams in this year's edition, stressing the importance of promoting hockey among young women and girls in Tanzania.

"As you have seen today, twelve teams are participating in this year's Nyerere Hockey Tournament, and among them are four women's teams from Dar es Salaam - namely Ilala, Temeke, Twende, and the TPDF. This is a move aimed at encouraging school children, young ladies, and women in Tanzania to engage in hockey sports," Doshi explained.

He also listed the eight men's teams that took part in the event, including Moshi Khalsa and Kili Vijana from Kilimanjaro, the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF), Ngome, Twende, and Black Mamba from Dar es Salaam, Arusha Twigas from Arusha, and Tanga Stars from Tanga.

Event official Kanwalpal Kalsi, speaking on behalf of the organizers, shared that the tournament not only commemorates the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, but also aims to raise the standards of hockey in Tanzania.

"As you can see, everything is going smoothly in this 13th Edition of the Nyerere Hockey Championship. We have also encouraged young hockey players from local primary schools to participate. If the Tanzanian government supports us, we are confident that we will achieve even greater success in national and international hockey competitions," Kalsi stated. He further emphasized the need for Tanzania to invest in hockey, similar to the level of investment seen in football, noting the lack of standard hockey grounds (Astro Turf) in the country.

Kalsi, who also serves as the Assistant Treasurer for the Sikh Union Club of Moshi, acknowledged that this year's tournament was fully sponsored by the Sikh Community of Moshi and organized by the Sikh Union Club. The event was hosted by Moshi Khalsa, one of Tanzania's leading hockey sides.

Meanwhile, the veteran hockey player and official of the tournament encouraged Moshi residents, particularly youth in primary and secondary schools, to take up the sport.

He mentioned that while many are interested, there are challenges in accessing proper sports gear and learning the game. However, the Sikh Union Club and Khalsa Sports Club are ready to offer support, including providing equipment, coaching, and playing grounds at no cost, to promote hockey in the Kilimanjaro region.

"We have also brought in referees from Kenya for this tournament to ensure the quality of officiating," he added.

TPDF assistant hockey coach Abdallah Katundu and TPDF Ladies team captain Prisca Mwita both praised the development of hockey in Tanzania but acknowledged that challenges remain, including the high cost of hockey gear.



International All Stars (IAS) U-11 player, Michael Salota (R), in action against Dar Thunders FC players during the opening of Dar Youth Cup 2024 tournament held at TPDC Mikocheni grounds in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Real Madrid midfielder comes out in support of Mbappe - 'Giving too much importance to this'

Madrid Universal

REAL Madrid midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni recently stood up for his Real Madrid teammate Kylian Mbappe following criticism about his presence in Stockholm while France was playing Israel in Hungary.

The French striker, who has faced plenty of attention on and off the pitch, became a topic of discussion after being spotted away from the match.

Tchouameni, who has now been given the captain's armband for the French national team, addressed the situation during a press conference ahead of their game against Belgium.

Too much focus on Mbappe

He dismissed the incident, stating that too much focus is often placed on Mbappe, and reassured everyone that the team is excited about his return to the squad.

"I think we are giving too much importance to the Mbappe thing. Everyone can think what they want, but we know that every time it is about Kylian it is exaggerated," he said.

Tchouameni made it clear that Mbappe's commitment to the French national team should not be questioned. According to him, Mbappe's love for the team is evident, and his temporary absence has been blown out of proportion.

"We talk about him after the game, before the game, so it doesn't matter where he watched the game, it's not our problem. Mbappe's love for the French national team is unquestionable."

The midfielder emphasised that, regardless of where Mbappe watched

the match, it should not be turned into a major issue.

He noted that the forward was actively staying in touch with the players, asking how they were doing during the game, and showing that his support was still very much there.

"He sent messages to all the players asking how things were going. We are looking forward to him coming back," he noted.

Deschamps' take on the same Head coach Didier Deschamps also addressed the media regarding the situation. He spoke about the importance of respecting Mbappe's personal life, highlighting that the player has the right to spend his free time as he chooses.

"He is not here! From a private point of view, he does what he wants. Everyone will have their own perception."

He clarified that Mbappe's presence in Stockholm was not a matter of neglect or lack of professionalism, but simply a decision that aligned with his club's schedule.

He pointed out that privacy often becomes a challenge for high-profile players like Mbappe, but urged the media and fans to remember that athletes, too, deserve space outside of their public roles.

"If he was where he was, it was because his club had not deprived him of it. I am not defending him for the sake of defending him."

"His problem is that his private life is not private. It is not your case because it is often convenient for you," he said.

Source: AS

Guardiola admits he would 'avoid facing Barcelona' in the Champions League

Barca Universal

PEP Guardiola recently appeared on the popular Italian show Che Tempo Che Fa where he reunited with his former Brescia teammate, Roberto Baggio.

Guardiola spoke openly about his career, Lionel Messi, his admiration for Johan Cruyff, and his enduring connection with Barcelona, providing some insightful reflections.

He acknowledged that he's had the privilege of managing three great teams during his career, but Barcelona, the club of his heart, hold a special place in his journey. His deep connection to the Catalan club is something he often reflects on, and it continues to shape his outlook on the sport. "I was lucky at Barcelona, the team of my heart. But I've been in three great teams in my career," he admitted.

One of the key figures in Guardiola's development was Johan Cruyff. He credited the Dutch legend for significantly influencing his career, not just from a tactical perspective but also shaping him as a person.

"I can't imagine what my life and career would have been like without Cruyff."

"He taught me a lot on a tactical level, but above all, he created me on a human level. He was a genius, unique. He made me fall in love with football," he noted.

Lionel Messi, Pele, Maradona

Guardiola also addressed his time coaching Lionel Messi, highlighting the rare talent Messi possesses. While he recognises other football legends like Pele and Maradona, he considers Messi to be the best player of all time.

"You have to know him. For me, it's easy to say that he's the best player of all time, but the stars came together at that moment."

"The strongest? Maybe it's a lack of respect towards Pelé and Maradona, but for me yes." Guardiola marvels at Messi's consistency over such a long period, comparing him to other sporting greats like Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan. He feels fortunate to have witnessed Messi's brilliance up close during his time at Barcelona.

"I've never seen someone like that coaching, you can't imagine him maintaining this continuity for 15-20 years."

"When you see him up close, you think of Tiger Woods or Michael Jordan: we were lucky to be their contemporaries. These characters are Sorrentino's Great Beauty: it's a great title for that team."

Lastly, when asked about the one team he would prefer to avoid facing in the Champions League, he pointed to Barcelona.

"Good question. Barcelona, maybe. The affection I have for them destroys me. I was born in a small town nearby, finding each other is never easy."

Source: Mundo Deportivo

Australia faces toughest of challenges in Asian World Cup qualifying

By JOHN DUERDEN

AUSTRALIA faces the most daunting road trip in Asia today when it faces a dominant Japan at Saitama Stadium, knowing a win would put the Socceroos back on track for a sixth successive World Cup appearance after a mixed start in the third round of qualification.

The Group C meeting is also a chance for new coach Tony Popovic, appointed in September to replace Graham Arnold, to make a statement win in his second game in charge and cross swords with a former teammate.

Popovic played for Japanese club Sanfrecce Hiroshima from 1997 to 2001 alongside Hajime Moriyasu - now coach of Japan. "I know their head coach very well; he was my captain during my time in Japan. A remarkable person who has dedicated years to developing the national team," said Popovic. Japan is on course for an eighth successive World Cup appearance with three wins against China, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, scoring 14 goals and conceding none.

"This is undoubtedly a significant challenge, but it also presents a fantastic opportunity to etch our name in history by winning in Japan," Popovic said after defeating China 3-1 in his first game in charge on Thursday, a result that took Australia to four points in the group, five behind Japan. The top two teams from each of the three groups of six qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup with the third and fourth place finishers advancing to the next stage.

AP

'A camp riddled with chaos & confusion - England need clarity'

By Phil McNulty

ENGLAND - and interim manager Lee Carsley - left Finland with a win to warm them against freezing temperatures but this has been an international camp riddled with chaos and confusion on and off the pitch.

Carsley's side simply had to fly out of Helsinki victorious after the tactical debacle that brought defeat against Greece at Wembley on Thursday - and it was duly achieved, although in a far from convincing fashion.

England's interim manager now has two more games, the tough trip to face Greece in Athens and a Wembley meeting with the Republic of Ireland in November, before the dizzying dance around whether he wants the job - or the Football Association actually want him to do it - must end.

Carsley's public evasion of indicating any desire to commit beyond two more games has created uncertainty, all this with the clock ticking and the FA still not holding formal negotiations with any other potential targets to succeed Gareth Southgate on a permanent basis.

England's two performances against Greece and Finland have not bolstered Carsley's claims, should he even want the post, so eventually someone - either the interim manager or more pertinently the FA - must bring clarity to this cloudy situation.

The presumption must be that the FA knows Carsley's intentions. It would almost be a dereliction of duty if it were otherwise, but time is now running out to crystallise thoughts on what is arguably the biggest single decision the organisation has to take.

His words in Helsinki were at first telling as he said: "This job deserves a world-class coach that has won trophies and I am still on the path to



England interim boss Lee Carsley has won three and lost one of his four games in charge of the Three Lions (Getty Images)

that."

Was this Carsley, an outstanding England Under-21 coach, admitting he does not possess the qualifications for the top job? It could be interpreted this way, but this has become an unsatisfactory word salad.

He then insisted after the game that it is "definitely" wrong to say he has ruled himself out of the job, saying he is keeping an "open mind".

Carsley's mixed messaging with the media has exacerbated the situation, with his thoughts and intentions on whether he wants the full-time job badly blurred.

Confused? You will be.

Former Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel fits the bill by Carsley's measure but international management is a different matter from leading a club. Newcastle's Eddie Howe is still mentioned, while any idea of luring Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola to St George's Park is surely a dream, a fanciful one at that.

The questions and second-guessing will continue until this is cleared up once and for all. It has created an inertia which will only be solved by someone, perhaps the FA, showing their hand.

The received wisdom is the FA would like Carsley to be their man,

continuing on the pathway - from St George's Park to under-21 coach and then national coach - forged by Southgate.

At this stage, however, it appears they are no closer to putting a firm recruitment strategy in place.

On whether he would like to carry on, Carsley repeated the lines consistently trotted out as he added: "I've not really thought much about it. I keep saying the same thing. My remit was six games and I'm happy with that."

"This is a privileged position. I'm really enjoying it but I didn't enjoy the last two days. I'm not used to losing in an England team. I don't take losing well."

"People are always going to try and put their chips on one side. I'm in the middle. My bosses have made it clear what they need from me."

Carsley's credentials to take England to the 2026 World Cup have taken a heavy hit since the victories against the Republic of Ireland and Finland in his opening two games. Just about everything about the 2-1 loss to Greece needs to be placed in the negative half of his ledger.

He got his team selection horribly wrong, his front-loaded side stripped of a recognised striker were a tacti-

cal mess, and Carsley's suggestion he would "hopefully" return to the under-21 job crowned a truly dismal, head-scratching night for all involved.

England won 3-1 in Finland. They had to win. Anything else was unthinkable against a gallant but limited side ranked 64th in the world and without a point in this Uefa Nations League Group B2.

And yet, for long periods, England were slow, sterile and ponderous, even with the lift of Jack Grealish's early goal. The nerves would have been rattling had Finland striker Fredrik Jensen not spurned two big chances at 1-0, the second after the break a shocking miss when he somehow fired over the top with the goal at his mercy.

England made Finland pay with further goals from Trent Alexander-Arnold, used at left-back in another Carsley break from convention, and Declan Rice, but this was not enough to blow away the cobwebs left from the loss to Greece.

Grealish continued his rejuvenation with a goal but it was not a good night for Chelsea's Cole Palmer, marginalised on the right to little effect, with returning captain Harry Kane looking short of fitness.

It was better than Greece. It could not be worse.

England at least had a shape but they were making very hard work of seeing off Finland until Alexander-Arnold produced a very rare moment of quality with a brilliant free-kick from 25 yards.

They were flat for long periods, lacking tempo and fluency. It was not an impressive dispatch of such inferior opposition.

A win is a win, though, and that is at least a small mercy at the end of a highly unsatisfactory week on and off the pitch.

BBC

Iniesta talks Yamal, Olmo, Pedri, Ansu, La Masia, Flick

Barca Universal

FORMER Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta recently spoke with Mundo Deportivo about Barcelona's progress and the club's focus on young talents under Hansi Flick.

Iniesta (pictured) believes Barcelona's recent emphasis on developing youth players has been a wise investment, and he is confident that the team is on the right path to winning titles this season.

When discussing football with his children, Iniesta mentioned how his kids often ask for jerseys of some of the club's brightest stars.

Unsurprisingly, Lamine Yamal is a popular request. In addition, his son Paolo Andrea also asked for Dani Olmo's shirt, while the names of Ansu Fati and Pedri also came up.

"Lamine Yamal, obviously, and Paolo Andrea asked me for Dani Olmo's. I'm also asked for Ansu's and Pedri's," he began by saying.

Thoughts on Lamine Yamal

Regarding Lamine Yamal, Iniesta was asked whether it's normal for a player so young to perform at such an exceptional level.

Iniesta acknowledged that it's far from typical. What Yamal has achieved so far is extraordinary, and at just 17 years old, the youngster has his entire career ahead of him.

"It's not normal as we think of normality. What he's doing so far is not normal. The challenge is that the environment and what accompanies him guide him to that evolution."

"He's 17 years old, he has his whole career ahead of him and what he must do is continue enjoying that joy and the freedom of playing in the school playground," he added.

Iniesta emphasised that the environment around Yamal will be crucial to his development, allowing him to enjoy the freedom of playing football while continuously improving.

"Therefore, everything around him must accompany him so that his growth continues every year."

"Every year he will have to improve himself and that is the demand that he will have at Barça and in the national team and that at the same time is not easy."

"La Masia then and now

Iniesta also touched upon the rich history of La Masia. He recalled how La Masia nurtured talents like himself, Xavi, Carles Puyol, and Victor Valdes under Louis van Gaal.

Fast forward to today, managers like Ronald Koeman, Xavi, and Flick have shown courage by giving early opportunities to younger players.

Iniesta highlighted that La Masia's consistent success is no accident. Behind the scenes, there is immense

work going on, making it the best academy in the world.

"Because there is an impressive amount of work behind it and it is the number one youth academy in the world. There are times when it seems that no one is coming up, but they always are."

Even when it seems like no one new is emerging, the talent pipeline never stops. Currently, five or six players have broken through because they have reached the required level of per-

formance.

"What is happening right now is impressive, with five or six players who either have that level or they don't play."

"It is a satisfaction and a joy. There is something that doesn't change. When this club has needed the youth academy, the youth academy always responds."

Thoughts on Pedri

On Pedri, Iniesta expressed his admiration, stating that Pedri's simplicity and natural approach to the game are his greatest strengths.

"That naturalness and simplicity, when it is so difficult to play simply. How he moves and how he understands the game."

"It comes naturally to him and he has been demonstrating that level of play for some time now."

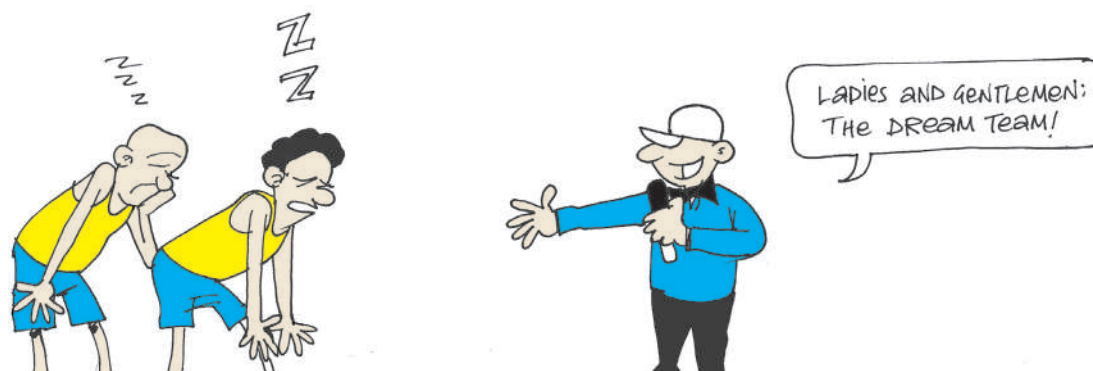
Finally, Iniesta was optimistic about Barcelona's prospects this season under Hansi Flick. He believes the club is on the right track and has the potential to compete for titles.

If things continue to go well, Iniesta hopes that by April or May, discussions will revolve around Barcelona's real chances of securing trophies. With the groundwork being laid so effectively, the future looks bright for Barcelona.

"I always see Barça as having the potential to do so. Things are being done very well and from there I hope that it will continue and in April or May we can talk about the possibilities being real. That is what we hope for," he concluded.



Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'A camp riddled with chaos & confusion - England need clarity'

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

All set for 2024 Women's Criio Festival in Dar



Cricketers forming Tanzania's women's cricket team celebrate when they trounced Sierra Leone in the 2024 Nigeria Invitational Women's T20I Tournament in Lagos early this year. PHOTO COURTESY OF NIGERIA CRICKET FEDERATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

EFFORTS to raise cricket's standard in Tanzania have continued to gain momentum, with a women's cricket festival having been scheduled for October 29 in Dar es Salaam.

The initiative - termed 'Women's Criio Festival' - is slated to take place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club venue.

A Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) official stated the festival has been slated to get underway at 9 am.

The Criio Festival, the official added, promises to be an energetic celebration of women's cricket domestically.

The official pointed out that Criio cricket is all about playing the game in a particular person's way. Whether on a beach, in a park, or even in the streets, he stated, Criio welcomes everyone to experience cricket in their particular style.

The official added that it is hardly about either rules or boundaries, it is all about freedom, creativity, and community.

The festival is, according to him, an opportunity for cricket lovers in the city to come together, explore, and redefine the spirit of cricket.

Despite the presence of traditional formats of the game, Criio is for everyone with a focus on making the game accessible, fun, and adaptable.

Cricket stakeholders in the city have been urged to gather friends, bring their energy, and join the organizers for a day filled with activities, music, games, and endless excitement.

Criio cricket program, operating under the International Cricket Council (ICC), is a celebration of the many ways cricket is played around the world.

A cricket fanatic can play in a park, on the streets, on a beach, or in a hall, using any type of bat and ball to play.

Criio is played in any person's way. Traditional cricket is played with a hardball, bringing together teams of eleven-a-side.

Criio celebrates all of the creative and adaptive ways that cricket is played around the world.

The council pointed out that Criio can be played anywhere, noting the cricketers ought to bring bats and balls and make sure the playing area is safe.

The Criio cricket program facilitator training - offered by ICC - is an online workshop designed to support new cricket facilitators with the tools and knowledge they need to deliver exciting and engaging cricket sessions to new participants of the game.

The modules, the ICC said, cover key areas around safeguarding, session planning, and structure.

It provides tips on the delivery of the games and drills featured in the Criio cricket program.

This training provides a great entry point for teachers, parents and cricket activators with limited experience in the game.

Upon completion of the course, Criio facilitators would be able to deliver safe and enjoyable sessions, using the Criio cricket program.

There is, of late, tremendous progress in women's cricket in Tanzania, with TCA stepping up efforts to boost women's participation in the sport from the grassroots.

One of the tangible achievements in the country's women's cricket is the senior women's cricket squad's victory in this season's Nigeria Invitational Women's T20I Tournament in Lagos early this year.

The four-team tournament, which brought together Rwanda, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria, took place from February 35 - March 3.

Tanzania walloped Sierra Leone by 92 runs to lift the silverware, whereas Nigeria ended as runners-up.

Coach Morocco now promises improved performance as Taifa Stars set for DR Congo rematch

By Guardian Correspondent

NATIONAL soccer team (Taifa Stars) interim head coach, Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman, has assured Tanzanians of positive results in their upcoming second-leg match against DR Congo in the 2025 AFCON qualifiers, set to take place today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Taifa Stars were narrowly defeated 1-0 in their Group H encounter against DR Congo last Thursday, with an own goal by Clement Mzize in the second half.

The defeat left Tanzania in second place in the group with four points from three matches, trailing DR Congo, who lead with nine points. Guinea, with three points, and Ethiopia, with one point, follow closely behind.

With a crucial path to the 2025 AFCON finals on the line, Taifa Stars must avoid consecutive losses to DR Congo to keep their qualification hopes alive.

Speaking yesterday, Coach Morocco expressed confidence in his team's readiness and preparation.

"After our first match in Kinshasa, we returned home and had at least two training sessions. We are focused on preparing for the match, and our squad is free of injuries," said Morocco.

"The players are physically and mentally fit. They understand the importance of the upcoming game."

He added: "We lost the first match, but we have been working hard to correct the mistakes we made. I believe we have made significant improvements. Our tactical approach has advanced, and I'm pleased with the team's overall progress."

Coach Morocco also emphasized the need to capitalize on home advantage at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

"I'm happy with the level of readiness we've achieved - physically, mentally, and tactically. We're in a good position for the match tomorrow, and I believe fans will see a noticeable change in our performance," he said.

With DR Congo leading the group, Taifa Stars need to secure a victory to boost their chances of qualifying for the AFCON finals.

"We are determined to deliver a good result and ensure we take advantage of playing at home," Morocco concluded.

No room for slip-ups as Taifa Stars host DR Congo



Taifa Stars players pictured on Sunday listening to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Damas Ndumbalo (not in picture), when he visited their camp in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA will have no room for complacency when they entertain DR Congo this afternoon.

The 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers Group H encounter will be held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium from 4pm.

Sitting one and three points clear of Guinea and Ethiopia respectively, Tanzania will now have to navigate a three-way battle in the race to qualify alongside DR Congo, who already have one foot in the 2025 AFCON finals.

With two games against Guinea and Ethiopia to come next month, victory against DR Congo would leave Taifa Stars in the lead to join DR Congo for a ticket to Morocco.

Tanzania endured a 1-0 defeat against DR Congo on Thursday, with Clement Mzize scoring an

own goal early in the second half. That was the first defeat in six games across all competitions for Taifa Stars, dating back to a friendly 2-1 defeat to Sudan back in May, after which they had picked up three wins and two draws.

While Taifa Stars will be looking to bounce back from that defeat and get their qualifying journey back on track, they will need to translate possession dominance into goals.

Against DR Congo last week, they dominated proceedings without threatening their hosts, something that they must reverse today.

Caretaker head coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman is likely to name a similar starting XI to the side that lost to DR Congo last time out following an impressive performance despite the result.

Goalkeeper Ally Salim could start behind centre-backs Dickson Job and Ibrahim Hamad 'Bacca', while Mudathir Yahya and Adolf Bitegeko may start in a double pivot.

Lusajo Mwaikenda could start on the right of attack alongside while Mohamed Hussein features on the left side.

Captain Mbwana Samatta may be partnered in attack with Dennis Kibu and Feisal Salum with Mzize positioned as the out and out centre forward once again.

As for DR Congo, they are one of six teams still with a perfect record in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers going into the fourth round of fixtures.

With Thursday's victory, DR Congo have now picked up four successive wins from their last five matches across all competitions, including an away draw against Senegal in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers back in June.

The team has also registered four consecutive clean sheets while scoring five goals in the process.

It is the kind of form that gives them belief and hope of securing a victory that is needed to guarantee themselves a place in Morocco with two games to spare.

Kagera Sugar begin search for new coach following Nkata's dismissal

By Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar have announced a search for a new technical bench following the dismissal of head coach Paul Nkata and his coaching staff after a poor start to the 2024/25 Premier League season.

The decision comes after a disappointing run of results, with the team securing only four points out of a possible 21 in their first seven matches.

Ramadhan Kharula, the club's official, explained that the decision to part ways

with Nkata stemmed from a mismatch between the coach's philosophy and the club's ambitions for the season.

Kharula emphasized the need for a fresh approach to put the team back on track toward achieving their competitive goals. "Given the recent performance of Kagera Sugar, including a disappointing four-point return from seven league games, we've made the difficult decision to terminate the contracts of our coaching staff, including head coach Paul Nkata," Kharula said.

"This change is necessary to keep the team competitive and to meet our ambitions of finishing at the top. We believe a new approach is required to address the current challenges and lead us to success." Despite being in his first season with the club, Nkata's time at Kagera Sugar was marked by frustration. The coach struggled to implement his tactical plans, with communication issues and on-field challenges contributing to the team's disappointing form.

Under Nkata's leadership, Kagera Sugar

managed just one victory - a 2-0 win over KenGold - and a 0-0 draw with JKT Tanzania. However, the team suffered five defeats, including losses to Fountain Gate (3-1), KMC (1-0), Young Africans (2-0), Tabora United (1-0), and Singida Black Stars (1-0).

Kagera Sugar currently sit 14th in the Premier League standings, with a record of one win, one draw, and five losses. The team has scored only three goals while conceding eight, a situation that Kharula and the club's management are eager to rectify.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss firmly, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM