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**WCF lauded for high quality of services** Page 3



**'Plant trees to remember your special days'** Page 5



**Join forces to cash in on carbon trading** Page 6

## Minister camps in Lindi to push emergency road rebuilding work

### Forest service donates 100 roofing sheets

By Guardian Reporters

**T**HE government is working day and night to restore the Lindi - Mtwara road and main bridges, after the zone was completely cut off from other parts of the country, especially the commercial hub of Dar es Salaam.

Works minister Innocent Bashungwa said yesterday that the government was working to ensure that the road was passable by all means and within a short period of time, supervising the work after camping in the zone from last weekend.

"Let me assure residents that I have camped here, I started from Somanga and now we are at Nangurukuru," he told reporters on the spot, pointing at the work being done. "We believe that within 72 hours we will have completed the work of restoring communication on this road," he declared.

The government has provided emergency funds to restore communication, cut off in Sunday in the wake of stormy weather linked with cyclone 5 Hidaya, disrupting journeys for passengers traveling to Lindi and Mtwara from Dar es Salaam to get stuck, and vice

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Cyclone Hidaya has come and gone, leaving behind a trail of unprecedented destruction with grave economic and other consequences. This is part of the heart-rending evidence: what was until only two or so days ago a rock-solid Nangurukuru stretch of the strategic all-weather tarmac highway linking Dar es Salaam city and Mtwara municipality via Lindi municipality, as caught yesterday. But contractors have already swung into action and are working around the clock, with the government promising completion of the rehabilitation of the infrastructure - again, within a day or two. Photo: Works ministry

## SPORTS

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**Yanga seeks to strengthen NBC PL title pursuit, hosts Kagera Sugar**

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**Terzic repays Dortmund faith before PSG semi-final clash**

## Govt to build 100 technical, vocational training schools

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

The government will in the next financial year proceed with the construction of 100 technical and vocational training secondary schools, Education minister Prof Adolf Mkenda told the National Assembly yesterday.

Tabling the ministry's 2024/25 budget estimates pegged at 1.97trn/-, he said that 26 schools will commence enrolment next January, as part of transformation to a skills-oriented education system.

The construction of 65 vocational training colleges will be the main task, with the required teaching and learning

tools already provided in 29 vocational colleges, he said.

The move targets the realization of capacity for self-employment on the part of secondary school leavers, with the ministry expecting to register 50 vocational colleges and 100 technical education training colleges, he stated.

The plan will bring to a total of 504 vocational colleges and 885 technical education training colleges countrywide, enrol 190,518 students in vocational colleges and 73,200 students in technical education training colleges starting next year, he said.

This admission plan targets at creating

a wider base of skilful graduates more capable of seeking out informal sector openings, with 2,089 students expected at the Morogoro Vocational Teachers Training College (MVTTC).

They will pursue courses that will lead to availability of vocational and training teachers in schools, as admission in technical education and vocational training colleges has grown to 235,804 students in 2023/24 from 171,581 in 2022/23, he elaborated.

The Higher Education Students' Loan Board has disbursed 786.72bn/- to 229,652 students during the past year, ex-

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## Five powerful radars uplift forecasting to 86pc of mark

*"The centre located in Dar es Salaam serves neighbouring countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi"*

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has installed five modern weather radars across the country which have led to improved meteorological services and raised forecast accuracy to 86 percent.

This follows the recent completion of installation of two radars in Mbeya and Kigoma regions as part of efforts by the government to reach the target of installing seven radars by the end of this year, with two others slated for installation by November.

Transport minister Prof Makame

Mbarawa said this when tabling budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year in the National Assembly yesterday, hinting that the two radars are at an advanced stage of construction in the United States.

Upon arrival they will be installed in Kilimanjaro and Dodoma regions to bring to seven the number of weather radars countrywide, he said, elaborating that the government has signed accords for upgrading radars installed in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam, to match with updated technologies.

Installation of the radars has helped TMA carry out daily, weekly and annual

weather forecasts whose accuracy has reached 86 percent, way above the 70 percent benchmark set by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), he stated.

In improving meteorological services, the government has finalized the installation of weather monitoring equipment at airports in Songwe, Zanzibar, Mtwara, Arusha and Songea, with similar equipment being installed at airports in Musoma, Iringa, and Mpanda progressively, he said.

Most regions would soon have automatic weather stations installed, he said, noting that due to these improvements, WMO chose Tanzania as a regional specialized meteorological centre for countries around Lake Victoria. "The centre located in Dar es Salaam serves neighbouring countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi," he added.

## Z'bar and Indian firm talk water, power projects

*The company already works in Dar es Salaam, Bagamoyo and other areas, a consultancy firm established in 1969 based in the capital, New Delhi*

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR needs major investments to enhance efficiency in the provision of water and electricity services, President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has declared.

Addressing officials of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS), an Indian firm visiting the Zanzibar State House, he said that Zanzibar receives 110 megawatts of electricity from the Mainland.

The Zanzibar government intends to produce electricity in the Isles and is prepared to cooperate with ready investors in a public-private partnership scenario, he said.

Zanzibar needs to do in-depth research on the production, transmission and distribution of energy with a focus on investment levels and ensuring efficient services, he said.

He invited WAPCOS to see how it can work with the relevant government agencies, hinting that India and Zanzibar are agreed on the importance of investments in social services and have collaborated in various development initiatives, including education.

Rajni Kant Agrawal, the WAPCOS chairman and managing director, said the company is on a visit to provide advice on energy, water and infrastructure designs, and was ready to work with the government to invest in those sectors.

The company already works in Dar es Salaam, Bagamoyo and other areas, a consultancy firm established in 1969 based in the capital, New Delhi.



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## Minister camps in Lindi to push emergency road rebuilding work

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versa.

Tanzania National Rads Agency (Tanroads) chief executive officer Mohamed Besta was instructed to increase the number of trucks that carry stones plus machinery to load the stones into vehicles, to speed up the filling of holes in the area of the road washed away.

The minister said that despite efforts to order plastic culverts used in emergencies to restore road communication to complete the work on time, builders will have to use metal containers by cutting them to be used as a substitute for culverts and enable water to pass.

He said the Lingaula road was cut by 12 kilometers from Nangurukuru in the direction of Lindi, with affected areas including Mafia in Coast Region, Kilwa in Lindi Region and Ifakara in Morogoro Region, all of which were hit by the cyclone over the weekend.

The southern zone of the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) on Monday handed more than 100 roofing sheets valued at just over 2.7m/- for those whose houses were damaged in the rain and gushing winds, and remain without shelter up to now.

The donation was handed to the Loutery Kanoni, the Masasi district commissioner and chairman of the disaster relief committee, for onward delivery to affected families, the environmental agency noted in a briefing.

During an emergency national disaster committee chaired by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday, President Samia Suluhu Hassan's earlier communication a directive that humanitarian assistance be delivered to the various affected areas urgently was reiterated.

The premier said that the president also directed the Fire and Rescue Force to speed up rescue efforts in all affected areas, pointing at Kilwa where more than 40 households are surrounded by water.

## Eleven workers found alive as building collapses in SA

PRETORIA

RESCUE teams in South Africa yesterday found 11 workers trapped under a collapsed building, authorities said.

One man managed to call his wife from beneath the rubble, the five-story building that had been under construction when it collapsed Monday, helping rescuers locate him.

Six workers have been confirmed dead and there are fears that the death count could rise sharply. There is no news on 37 other people unaccounted for amid the huge slabs of concrete and metal scaffolding that came crashing down when the building collapsed in the city of George, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of Cape Town.

Twenty-one other workers were rescued from the site and taken to various hospitals, with at least 11 of them suffering severe injuries, the George municipality said.

Colin Deiner, head of the provincial Western Cape disaster management services, said the search-and-rescue operation would likely take at least three days.

"We are going to give it the absolute maximum time to see how many people we can rescue," Deiner said at a press conference. "It is very, very difficult if you are working with concrete breakers and drillers close to people."

Deiner said it would take most of Tuesday to rescue the 11 workers that rescue teams were in contact with, some of whom had limbs trapped under concrete and couldn't move. Four of the workers are in what was the basement of the building, Deiner said.

"Our big concern is entrapment for many hours, when a person's body parts are compressed," Deiner said. "So, you need to get medical help to them. We got our medics in as soon as we possibly could."

Deiner said it was possible that there were more survivors deeper in the wreckage and a process of removing layers of concrete would begin after the 11 located workers were taken out.

More than 100 emergency services and other personnel worked through the night, using sniffer dogs to try to locate workers. Large cranes and other heavy lifting equipment were brought in to help with the rescue effort and tall spotlights were erected to allow search-and-rescue personnel to work in the dark.

Deiner said a critical part of the rescue operation came when they ordered everyone to remain quiet and shut off machinery so they could listen for any survivors. That's when they located the 11 workers, he said.

"We were actually hearing people through the rubble," Deiner said.

Several local hospitals were making space in their trauma units in anticipation that more construction workers might be brought out alive. More than 50 emergency responders had also been brought in overnight from other towns and cities to help.

Family and friends of the workers had gathered at the nearby municipal offices and were being supported by social workers, the George municipality said.

Authorities were starting investigations into what caused the tragedy, and a criminal case was opened by police, but there was no immediate information on why the building suddenly collapsed. CCTV footage from a nearby home showed the concrete structure and metal scaffolding collapsing at 2.09 p.m. Monday, causing a plume of dust to rise over the neighbourhood. People came streaming out of other buildings after the collapse, with some of them screaming and shouting.



Prof James Mdoe (3rd-R, front row), Education, Science and Technology ministry deputy permanent secretary; Indian High Commission charge d'Affaires Manoj B. Verma (2nd-R); EdCIL executive director Dr B. Chandrasekar (3rd-L); Dr Kennedy Hosea (2nd-L), Education, Science and Technology ministry deputy director for higher education; Indian High Commission second secretary Narendra Kumar (L); and Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry official Happiness Kimario follow presentations at a recent round table meeting on 'Advancing Higher Education on Partnerships' held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt to build 100 technical, vocational training schools

FROM PAGE 1

tended 6.37bn/- to Samia Scholarships applicants reaching 2,299 students, along with diploma students obtaining 6.11bn/- worth of loans, he stated.

The government has so far recovered 132.73bn/- of loans extended to higher

learners, short of the targeted 241bn/- for the year, meanwhile as the ministry has proposed a National Technology Park and drafting a 15-year national technology roadmap, he further noted.

A total of 12 Focal Development Colleges (FDCs) have been raised to zonal and regional innovation and technology

support centers, with 61.1bn/- allocated for fast tracking development of science and technology in the education sector, he said.

Similarly, the government plans to build 226 ward secondary schools, 184 secondary school teachers' housing units, 2,018 primary school classrooms

and 797 secondary school classrooms, he specified.

A total of 2,101 trainees in the integrated training for entrepreneurship programme were enlisted, where 1,488 are women, while administering apprenticeship training for 376 students, 195 of them being women, he added.



John Maguire (with microphone), President of UK-based Rotary Club of Midhurst & Petworth, has a word with Maasai community leader Michael Laizer (2nd-L) and other residents of Miti Mirefu ward in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region, on Monday after gifting them rolling water drums. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

NAIROBI

STUDENTS at Dandora Secondary School in the east of Kenya's capital Nairobi have taken their health into their own hands.

Armed with gardening hoes, they have planted over 100 bamboo seedlings in the school garden in the hope that the plants will filter the polluted air.

The school is situated right next to the country's largest dumpsite, and acrid fumes from the waste have been affecting their health.

Dandora site was declared full over 20 years ago, but hundreds of trucks still arrive leaving about 2,000 tonnes of waste every day from around Nairobi.

It occupies approximately 50 hectares of land and affects the whole neighbourhood, with the heavy stench detected from kilometres away.

"The dumpsite produces gas in the morning and the afternoon. Seeing is becoming a problem in the morning. It produces a fog which really pollutes the

## Students at Nairobi school plant bamboos to improve air quality

environment, produces bad smells," said 17-year-old student, Allan Sila.

"Some of the challenges that really affect us is the smell and the smoke. Burning of those elements in there produces smoke that triggers asthma. Asthma is a disease that is commonly known at the school."

When new principal, Eutyclus Maina, arrived at the school last year, he was welcomed by the filthy smell and smoke.

He knew he had to do something when cases of respiratory illnesses started increasing among students and teachers.

"My motivation for initiating the bamboo project was to mitigate the effects of the dumpsite. It really pollutes the air that we breathe and I know it is going to reduce the cases of respiratory infec-

tions amongst the people in Dandora community," he said.

Bamboo is the fastest-growing plant on earth and is seen as one of nature's finest air purifier. It also absorbs twice as much carbon dioxide as trees, and generates an impressive amount of oxygen.

"Planting bamboo trees ensures that there is a barrier in terms of the polluted air that is coming through, especially when you look at the fine particles," says UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Africa Regional Air Quality expert, Aderiana Mbandi.

"Of course the bamboo, being a plant, ensures that there is photosynthesis and this ensures that it is producing oxygen while also in taking carbon dioxide."

The school relies on donations to buy

the seedlings that retail at \$3 each, but is determined to keep going until the entire 900-metre wall separating it from the dumpsite is covered.

And Dandora Secondary School is not stopping there. They have planted more than 4,000 trees of different species of trees to create better air circulation.

UNEP, in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute, deployed sensors to the Dandora neighbourhood from October last year to April to monitor pollution levels from the dumpsite.

Out of the 166 days monitored, only 12 met the World Health Organization's guidelines for a daily average of excellent air quality conditions. For the pupils at Dandora Secondary School, the bamboo project is their way of fighting back.





George Simbachawene (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), holds consultations with his deputy, Ridhiwani Kikwete, in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. The Union legislative body is in routine session. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Chad presidential vote set to end military rule

N'DJAMENA

CHAD is set to become the first of Africa's current junta-led states to move to democratic rule with Monday's presidential vote.

It will end a three-year transition imposed after the sudden death of long-serving leader Idriss Déby Itno while fighting rebels.

But as his son, and successor, Gen Mahamat Déby is one of the favourites to win and there is some scepticism about whether this will bring about change.

Prime Minister Succès Masra is among his nine challengers and is seen as his biggest rival.

The voting has been mostly peaceful but one 65-year-old man was shot dead after voting in the southern city of Moundou, according to officials quoted by the AFP news agency.

They said the unknown gunman had opened fire after being barred from voting because he didn't have an electoral card and had stormed a polling station, along with others, shooting indiscriminately.

The local mayor said four people were arrested.

There have also been some opposition reports of irregularities.

As he cast his vote in the capital, N'Djamena, President Déby said he was proud to have fulfilled his promise to respect the deadline for "elections that will signal a return to constitutional order."

"It's up to the Chadian people to vote massively and choose their president," he added.

Masra wore a blue boubou, or traditional gown, as he voted, reports the AFP news agency.

"All those who have shown they want massive change must go and vote in massive numbers, peacefully," he said after voting.

Laoukoura Sa-Ndoudjinang, 72, has little faith that the election will lead to any change but still went to vote. "We don't have free and credible elections in Chad because

we can't imagine that an electoral code would prevent representatives of political parties from having the result tally. It doesn't make sense. If there's a crisis tomorrow, I wouldn't be surprised," he told the BBC.

"My wish is for there to be free and transparent elections, so that the voice of the people would count. Governing a country with weapons isn't normal."

But Ibrahim Moussa Youssouf was more hopeful.

"The votes are being conducted under very good conditions, because there was great sensitization... The outcome would be such that Chad will change."

Ten politicians who had been hoping to run, including two prominent figures, Nassour Ibrahim Neguy Koursami and Rakhis Ahmat Saleh, were excluded by the constitutional council because of "irregularities". For example, Mr Koursami was accused of forgery.

But some have argued that the decision to bar certain people was politically motivated.

Another potential opponent, Yaya Dillo, was killed by security forces in February while allegedly leading an attack on the National Security Agency in the capital, N'Djamena.

Activists have called for a boycott of the election that they termed a ploy to lend a sheen of democratic legitimacy to the Déby dynasty.

Many are still in exile following a deadly crackdown on opponents following protests in October 2022.

Nevertheless, Chad's election is a milestone for countries in West and Central Africa that have fallen under military rule since a spate of coups began in 2020.

It may serve as a template for juntas seeking to maintain political influence after first coming to power illegitimately.

The oil-exporting country of nearly 18 million people has not had a free-and-fair transfer of power since independence from France in 1960.

## PS commends WCF for high quality of services

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) has been commended for abiding by international standards in provision of its services.

Mary Maganga, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), gave the commendation yesterday, saying the services meet the criteria of the International Organization for Standards, namely risk

management, internet services, scientific evaluation of data, insurance and data bank.

She asked the fund to ensure that it completes the process of obtaining certification of the international organization for standardization (ISO) to continue providing quality services and improve performance.

She made the remarks when she visited the WCF head office in Dodoma as part of her visit to institutions under her office.

Maganga said the fund has been

performing its duties well, including paying compensation to employees who suffer occupational injuries or contract occupational diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment and in case of death, for their dependents.

"WCF is very important in our workplaces because it is an indicator that the government recognizes and appreciates workers in the country," she said.

Dr John Mduma, WCF Director General, assured the PS that the

fund will complete the process of obtaining ISO certification, adding that they have already received an international award for providing internet services and the International Labour Organization (ILO) has recognized its guidelines that it uses to assess disability levels.

He said assessment of vitality and sustainability of WCF carried out by ILO which showed that the fund has sustainability for a period of 30 years starting from the assessment year of 2022/2023.

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By Peter Jegwa, Lilongwe

# Malawian vice president's corruption charges dropped

A MALAWIAN court has dropped corruption charges against Vice-President Saulos Chilima after the state prosecutor filed a notice for the case to be discontinued.

No reasons were given for the decision.

Dr Chilima was arrested in November 2022 on allegations that he accepted money in exchange for awarding government contracts. He denied the charges.

The latest move has provoked questions over the government's handling of prosecutions for alleged corruption.

The vice-president's arrest followed accusations he had received money to influence the awarding of contracts to Xaviar Ltd and Malachitte FZE, two companies linked to British businessman Zuneth Sattar. Sattar also denied any wrongdoing.

The vice-president made several court appearances since his arrest, although the actual trial never commenced.

On Monday, presiding judge Redson Kapindu ordered his

immediate discharge citing a filing from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) made last Friday of a "discontinuance of charges against the accused person in respect of three counts of corrupt transactions".

The DPP now has 10 days to formally inform parliament of the reasons that led to the decision to drop the charges against the vice-president, as required by the constitution, the judge said.

Dr Chilima's lawyer, Khumbo

Soko, expressed relief over the decision to drop the charges.

"As of now, we do not know the reasons for the discontinuance, suffice to say only parliament has the mandate to know," the Reuters news agency quoted him as saying.

Critics of the Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera say the development is a further indication of his difficulties in fighting alleged corruption.

President Chakwera made dealing with graft one of his key campaign

pledges in 2020 and in public speeches repeatedly speaks highly of his government's commitment to bringing it to an end.

When tens of other high profile officials including the vice-president were named in a corruption scandal, the president dismissed several of the named officials. Under Malawian law, the president cannot fire the vice-president.

The president however made a public announcement that he would no longer delegate him any

official duties while he was facing trial.

The promise did not last long and the president had started to assign official duties to his vice-president even before the case was dropped on Monday.

This has led critics to suggest the president had a hand in the decision to end the case against Dr Chilima.

Information Minister Moses Kunkuyu, however said the decision to drop the charges was done in accordance with the law.



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CCTV CAMERAS

Global Communities is looking for a qualified and experienced company to supply and install CCTV Cameras to its Office and Warehouse in Dodoma- Tanzania.

All companies interested to supply this equipment should submit their expression of interest to [procurement-tz@globalcommunities.org](mailto:procurement-tz@globalcommunities.org) before 1700 hours on **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. Applicants who submit an expression of interest will receive a detailed tendering document with all required specifications.



Immanuel Muro, CookFund programme manager and senior finance specialist with the UN Capital Development Fund, moderates a high-level policy dialogue on clean cooking held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. R-L: Tanzania Private Sector Foundation policy analyst Lois Kassana; National Carbon Monitoring Centre biodiversity conservation officer Dr Paul Lyimo; UpEnergy Tanzania operations manager Jacqueline Ngulla; and Tajiel Urhoh, a senior managing consultant for climate policy, finance and carbon markets at South Pole. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION (THRDC)



#### CALL FOR PRE-QUALIFIED SUPPLIERS APPLICATION

**Opportunity:** Provision of service  
**Client:** Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)  
**Closing date for Application:** 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is an umbrella organization for more than 250 human rights organizations operating in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. THRDC engages several service providers to provide various services for its operations in different levels and capacities. THRDC is currently planning to engage pre-qualified suppliers for a contractual period of one year to provide the following services:

- Conference venues, hotel accommodation and catering services.
- Printing and Stationery services.
- Transport services (car hiring and flight booking)
- medical insurance and health-related services.
- Internet providers.
- Alarm and other Security services
- cleaning services
- Banquet/event chairs, tables, and décor suppliers
- Media stations (programs, ads, e.t.c).
- Consultant services for tax services and psychosocial services

Therefore, the Coalition is inviting interested qualified service providers to apply for any of the above-mentioned services.

#### 2.0 APPLICANTS' ELIGIBILITY

The service provider applicant should have:

- A well-defined organization/ company profile
- Legally operating in Tanzania with registration and tax compliance certificates
- Relevant experience especially working with NGO sector or government.
- Operating national wide.
- Permanent office location(s)

#### 3.0 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The applicant should submit a cover letter detailing the type of service requesting to offer, company profile, registration and tax compliance certificates, and at least two (2) reference letters from previous clients or customers and all other relevant documents detailing their technical capacity and experience.

#### 4.0 HOW TO APPLY

Interested qualified suppliers should submit their applications through the following address not later than 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 23:00hrs

**To:**  
**The National Coordinator,**  
**Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition,**  
**P.O. Box105926,**  
**Dar es Salaam.**

#### NOTE:

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition provides equal opportunity to all bidders. We, therefore, encourage all qualified and interested suppliers to apply for these opportunities.

### TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION (THRDC)



#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Details	Note	2023 TZS	2022 TZS
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	298,336,348	336,609,382
Intangible asset	6	480,000	818,000
		<u>298,816,348</u>	<u>337,427,382</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Prepayments	7	94,280,157	92,137,839
Subscription in Arrears	8	35,935,550	25,170,550
Cash and Cash Equivalent	9	715,980,692	579,571,104
		<u>846,196,402</u>	<u>696,879,493</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,145,012,747</b>	<b>1,034,306,875</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
<b>Accumulated surplus</b>			
Capital Fund	10	64,533,058	63,365,187
Revaluation surplus		44,649,596	45,817,467
		<u>688,063,274</u>	<u>637,263,286</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Deferred Revenue	11	421,231,961	383,129,689
Payables	14	35,717,512	13,753,900
Subscription in Advance	8	-	160,000
		<u>456,949,473</u>	<u>397,043,589</u>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>1,145,012,747</b>	<b>1,034,306,875</b>

The financial statements on pages 20 to 49 were authorised for issue by the board of directors on 09-07-2024 and were signed on its behalf by.

Ms. Pili Mtambalike  
Chairperson

Mr. Onesmo Olungurumwa  
National Coordinator

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Details	NOTES	2023 TZS	2022 TZS
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donor Receipts	15	2,703,383,542	3,019,175,658
	12	27,300,000	24,900,000
Member Subscription			66,235,092
Other Revenue	13	135,992,684	22,900,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>2,866,676,226</b>	<b>3,110,310,750</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Preventive Protection and Security Management.	16	1,354,996,627	1,855,483,983
Members' Empowerment and Public Engagement.	17	430,576,505	246,805,609
Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability.	18	994,586,906	954,305,060
Depreciation charge	5	86,178,188	53,378,098
Amortization of Intangible	5	338,000	338,000
<b>Total expenditures</b>		<b>2,866,676,226</b>	<b>3,110,310,750</b>
Surplus for the period		-	-

## Make fair rulings to deserve clients' trust, FCT urged

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM regional administrative secretary Dr Toba Nguvula has challenged the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT) to be fair in handling appeals brought before it to address conflicts and win trust of its clients.

He threw the challenge in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when opening a seminar aimed at providing awareness to the tribunal's stakeholders about its activities.

He said that if businesspeople are aware of the duties of FCT, it will be easy for them to appeal if they are not satisfied with the decisions made by regulatory authorities that handle business issues.

"Therefore, FCT should do justice so that it wins the trust of stakeholders; let's also educate stakeholders regularly by visiting businesspeople and inform them of the rules to follow," he said.

He said FCT is responsible for providing solutions to various issues brought by clients and asked businesspeople to use the tribunal to get their rights.

Renatus Rutta retired registrar of the tribunal, said FCT is an independent judicial body established by the government under Competition Law No. 8 of 2003.

He said that FCT has the responsibility to receive, hear and decide quickly on appeals arising from competition proceedings resulting from the decisions made by the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) and other regulatory authorities.

He said that since the establishment of the tribunal, it has already gone through 442 complaints and among them, 429 have been determined which is equal to 97 percent.

Martin Mbwana, Kariakoo Business Association Chairman, said the seminar organized by FCT enlightened them on business competition and how to get their rights.

Dar es Salaam Region Businesspeople Chairman Yusuph Yenga said that the seminar was important because they gained useful information about the tribunal.

Gloria Mattoke, Machinga Complex Business Women's Union Secretary, said the education they received will help them become good ambassadors for their colleagues to make them understand the tribunal's work in ensuring fair competition.

*"Therefore, FCT should do justice so that it wins the trust of stakeholders; let's also educate stakeholders regularly by visiting businesspeople and inform them of the rules to follow"*



# Plant trees to remember your special days, Tanzanians told

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi



Moshi Urban constituency legislator Priscus Tarimo addresses girls attending a gala held at the Moshi Cooperative University grounds yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIANS have been urged to mark special days such as birthdays and wedding anniversaries by planting trees to protect the environment.

Prof Aidan Msafiri, an environmentalist and academician said here at the weekend that lavish parties to celebrate special days end after the last bite of a meal or a sip of drink but trees remain for many years to come.

Prof Msafiri is chief executive officer of Kilimanjaro Consortium for Development and Environment (KCDE) which plants a total of 1 million trees annually in Kilimanjaro Region to promote environmental conservation.

He made the remarks during tree planting at Mawenzi High School in Moshi Municipality. KCDE teamed up with other development stakeholders in the region to restore vegetation cover in the area.

"Each person should plant trees during their special days. For example; one can plant 50 trees to celebrate their 50th birthday. Doing so will make our world green," he said.

Prof Msafiri who is also the UN Climate Change Ambassador for Tanzania said it is important for Tanzanians to be reminded about the importance of environmental protection and conservation for sustainability.

He stressed the importance of afforestation, arguing that trees are the lungs of the world.

He said that they created environmental and development awareness to the public in schools, mosques and churches this year and they will continue to do so.

KCDE also provided seminars on the importance of environmental protection and conservation and ethics to school pupils to mark 60 years of the union.

The tree planting event was

graced by representative from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania-Northern Diocese Jeremiah Chaki.

Chaki spoke of the importance of advocating for the use of environmentally-friendly cooking energy instead of charcoal and firewood, particularly in public institutions for sustainable environmental protection and conservation.

"We have introduced a new project of using modern electric cooking stoves from Norway that use little electricity power for our customers and the general public so as to protect and conserve the environment," he said.

James Mtui, headmaster of Mawenzi High School applauded the role played by KCDE in collaboration with other development stakeholders in environmental protection and conservation at one of the oldest schools in Tanzania which was established in 1956.

# India education fair attracts hundreds of pupils, parents

By Correspondent Beatrice

Philemon

OVER 600 Tanzanian pupils, parents and educators attended the 'Study in India Education Fair 2024' to explore diverse opportunities and facilities available for Tanzanians seeking higher education in India.

A statement issued yesterday by Manoj Verma, Charge d'Affaires at the High Commission of India, stated that the event took place on April 30 and was organized by Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCIL), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Education of India.

Verma said the event witnessed participation of 11 renowned universities and institutes from India to showcase what India offers in terms of the education and scholarship schemes they have for international students to allow Tanzanians to get high-quality education at affordable costs.

"Through engaging discussions with representatives from Indian institutions, attendees were able to explore the diverse opportunities and facilities available for Tanzanian students seeking higher education in India," he said.

Also, expert guidance provided at the fair helped resolve queries and alleviate concerns, paving the way for informed decisions regarding higher education.

According to Verma, the event served as a platform to promote educational ties between India and Tanzania and empower Tanzanian students with opportunities for higher education.

Currently, India is the fastest-growing major economy, the world's third largest higher education system and most of the higher education programmes are delivered in English which can offer an ease of communication.

"Tanzanian students keen to study in India can get a world-class education that is

affordable; we encourage schools in Tanzania to tell pupils about studying in India or education offered in India because we offer a scholarship programme for their education," he said.

He said education has always been a foundation of progress and development and events like exhibition play an important role in promoting awareness and understanding about the partnership in education sector and people-to-people relations.

Appropriating the EdCIL and the participating 11 Indian universities and educational institutions, he said that their presence here demonstrated India's commitment to promoting educational opportunities beyond its borders.

High Commission of India also hosted

a round table on advancing higher education partnership between India and Tanzania with the participation of over 100 stakeholders, including government officials, Tanzanian alumni, representatives of Indian universities and education consultants.

Prof James Mdoe, deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, graced the event as chief guest.

He spoke about the robust educational ties, cultural exchange and people-to-people connections between the two nations.

Tanzanian alumni shared inspiring tales of their educational journey in India, highlighting transformational impact of cross-border education.



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## Consultancy: Development of Advocacy Strategy to Influence the Government and other Stakeholders for adoption of Policies and Legislation that recognize and secure rights of Communities in Mangrove Management

WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) through the RUMAKI Seascape Plus is currently implementing a project titled "Mangrove Management for Climate Risk Resilience and Improved Livelihoods" funded by the Norwegian NORAD and regionally implemented in Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar. In Tanzania the project is implemented in six (6) villages across three districts namely Kibiti district (Mchungu and Msindaji villages), Mafia district (Jimbo and Kanga villages), and Kilwa district (Somanga and Malendego villages). WWF supported the review of national policy and legal frameworks on mangroves conservation and development of recommendations for promoting community user rights management systems in Tanzania which was carried out in a very recent past. The study identified policy and legislation gaps around mangrove conservation, and developed recommendations including on the socio-economic issues of community's adjacent mangrove areas. An advocacy campaign is required for awareness raising to the wider stakeholders particularly the decision and policy makers to support implementation of the policy study recommendations.

WWF Tanzania is therefore looking for a consultant(s) to develop a Policy Advocacy Strategy by involving extensive stakeholder consultations with government agencies, civil society organizations, community representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. This inclusive approach ensures that the advocacy efforts are informed by diverse perspectives and priorities, increasing the likelihood of their effectiveness and sustainability.

### HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and specifications through the following websites:  
[https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/)

All applicants should direct their soft copy of application to the procurement: e-mail at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org). Deadline for submission is 21st May 2024 at 10:00AM - EAT.

WWF TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason. Late application shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to [fcci@wwftz.org](mailto:fcci@wwftz.org).

Only successful applicant will be contacted.



## VACANCY

Position : Driver and Logistics Assistant

Job Location : Dar es Salaam

Reporting to : Procurement and Logistics Lead

### Background:

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is a diaconal organization mandated by churches and Christian organizations in Norway to work with people around the world to eradicate poverty and injustice. In Tanzania, NCA works mainly with Faith Based Organization to uphold human dignity, promote human rights, and accompany poor and marginalized communities in their struggles for economic and social justice. NCA implements programs that are aligned with NCA global strategy, people's needs in Tanzania and the Government of Tanzania's development policies. NCA's focus areas include strengthening interfaith civil society and building social cohesion, fighting inequality, improving agricultural production in a climate change environment, and increasing market access as well as ensuring gender justice. NCA is Core Humanitarian Standard certified.

NCA is seeking a for a dynamic, experienced, driver and Logistics Assistant to support our country programme in Tanzania.

### Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure the vehicles are in good working condition and that they are road worthy and maintained up to the established NCA safety and security standards.
- Operate NCA vehicles as per NCA policy (carry authorized passengers/luggage as per its capacity and it is driven at allowable speed, meet and drop passengers at required locations).
- Adherence to NCA safety and security standards together with other Routines and guidelines.
- Ensure fuel and maintenance tracker is updated with necessary information.
- Ensure that vehicles undergo routine quality service, any mechanical problem is reported for repair/parts replacement approval.
- Assist Procurement and Operations Lead in managing the assets of the Organisation by ensuring that office equipment is in working order.
- Support Procurement and Operations Lead to source quotations from prequalified suppliers, follow up and delivery of approved orders.
- Together with the Procurement and Operations Lead maintain Fixed Asset register and tag all assets in the Country Office and carry out asset verifications as per need.
- Assist Procurement and Operations Lead to reconcile fuel and prepared fuel expenses reports.
- Provide administration support to the procurement and operations lead, including preparing reports and maintaining records.

### Qualifications

- Minimum Secondary school (Form IV Certificate) or vocational training with NIT Advanced Driving Certificate
- Valid driver's license with a clean driving record
- More than 5 years' experience of driving in Tanzania, and two years of experience in logistics
- Demonstrate knowledge in motor vehicle mechanics.
- Good written and spoken English.
- Good experience of using computers packages, especially Microsoft Excel and Word.
- Basic Vehicle servicing and maintenance skills
- Strong organizational, time management and multitasking skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Experience of working in multi-cultural and diverse teams and working in marginalized communities.
- Understanding and commitment to child protection and safeguarding and other vulnerable populations.
- Personal commitment to working as a reliable, honest, & trustworthy member of a team.
- Uphold NCA Values always.

### Personal qualities

- Trustworthy and Reliable
- Energetic and enterprising
- Team player with good collaboration skills
- Good relationship building and relationship management skills with internal and external actors.

### Remuneration

An attractive compensation package based on performance and consummated with the responsibility will apply to the successful candidate.

### How to apply:

Please submit your application to the Email address [ncatz@nca.no](mailto:ncatz@nca.no). Only electronic applications are considered. In the subject line of your email, please clearly state the position you apply for. The application should consist of a brief motivation letter and CV, compiled into one document of maximum 4 pages. The document name should start with your name and include the position applying for. E.g., <Asha Baraka Shantoma - Driver and Logistics Assistant>. Certificates are not of interest at this stage but should be brought during the interview. Applications failing to meet these requirements or sent to other email addresses will not be considered. Interviews will take place in June 2024. If you do not hear from us, please consider your application unsuccessful. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) reserves the right not to make an appointment/contact.

Application deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024.



## Tanzanians off to India under ITEC programme

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 39 Tanzanian public servants are in India to participate in a special capacity development programme aimed to enhance their skills by enabling them to execute their duties effectively.

A statement availed to the media yesterday Indian High Commission said that the servants attend the training at the National Centre for Good Governance in Mussoorie, India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

The advisory said that the High Commission of India hosted the participating officers for a pre-departure orientation on 3 May 2024.

Judith Shoo, assistant director at President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), led the Tanzanian officers during the pre-departure orientation.

Speaking during the event, Shoo expressed appreciation to the government of India for providing the

opportunity and affirmed that this is a reflection of close and friendly ties between India and Tanzania.

She underscored the transformative impact of the training received, noting its instrumental role in enhancing skills of Tanzanian Public Servants, thereby enabling them to execute their duties effectively and contribute to achieving government objectives.

She lauded the commitment, efforts and investment made by the government of India, ensuring that Tanzanian officials remain abreast of global technological advancement and knowledge.

Addressing the officers, Charge d'Affaires at Indian High Commission Manoj Verma said that the tailor-made course on 'Project and Risk Management for Public Works' has been organized on request from President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance).

He emphasized that the recent state visit by President Samia Suluhu

Hassan elevated bilateral relations between the two nations to strategic partnership. As a result of this, development partnership with Tanzania will see further boost in the coming days. Verma reaffirmed the High Commission's commitment to collaborating with the President's Office in organising more customized courses in coming months.

He urged the departing civil servants to make full use of the opportunity and return with new insights and ideas thereby enabling them to better perform their duties and responsibilities in their respective department.

ITEC Programme is the flagship programme of the Ministry of External Affairs of the government of India, serving as a premier capacity building platform since its inception in 1964. With a legacy of training over 200,000 officials from over 160 countries, both in the civilian and defence sectors, ITEC remains a beacon of international capacity development partnership.



Efforts under way on Monday to rescue people on board a Selous Express bus that overturned near Miesi River in Masasi District on Monday, leaving 15 passengers hurt. It was on routine travel from Mtwara to Ruvuma Region. Photo: Correspondent Hamis Nasri

By Getrude Mbogo

## Join forces to cash in on carbon trading, local companies urged

LOCAL companies in the clean cooking energy value chain have been urged to form joint ventures and invest in forestry to seriously participate in carbon trading whose market has continued to grow globally.

Carbon trading, also known as carbon emissions trading, is the use of a marketplace to buy and sell credits that allow emitting companies or other parties to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide and compensate for the same.

In a high-level policy dialogue held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, stakeholders in the value chain underscored the importance of increasing public awareness and encouraging more people to engage in the carbon trade which have a number of positive impacts to the environment, health and economy.

Themed 'Clean Cooking and Carbon Finance', the dialogue organised by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) through the European Union (EU)-funded CookFund Programme.

Speaking during the session, Dr Paulo Lyimo, a biodiversity conservationist at the Tanzania Carbon Monitoring Centre (TCMC) said it was time for Tanzanians explored and tapped opportunities in carbon trade as the country has been blessed with vast forests.

He said that reducing greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide is a key element in the fight against climate change.

Dr Lyimo said the government has put in place a conducive environment, including policies and regulations to help companies chip in and help reduce emissions through carbon trading.

"By trading carbon credits, we have the potential to foster innovative solutions, encourage technological advancements and protect our planet for future generations," he said.

He urged those who are in the trade already to ensure that they engage local communities by participating in participatory processes and receive tangible benefits, ranging from shared revenue to enhanced livelihoods.

Styden Rwebangira, assistant commissioner of electricity and renewable energy in the Ministry of Energy, highlighted the importance of increasing awareness to stakeholders as many of them lack adequate technical knowhow on the trade.

"I am grateful to see cooperation between the Ministry of Energy and CookFund through UNCDF and the EU facilitating carbon trading

facilities to ease challenges with approval and certification," he said.

He said producing and selling carbon offsets is finally becoming a lucrative business in Tanzania and the government has continued to attract companies.

He noted that the revenue generated from carbon credit sales typically translates into community investments such as upgrading critical infrastructure, expanding educational opportunities for youth, creating economically sustainable jobs and offering training and capacity building initiatives.

Lois Kassana, policy analyst at the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), said with over 50 percent of the land covered with forests, Tanzania has a unique opportunity to capitalize on the rich natural resources. "We need to embrace renewable energy solutions and implement environmentally friendly projects that will attract investment, create jobs and contribute to our economic growth," she said.

CookFund programme manager Imanuel Muro said the dialogue aimed at discussing ways to create an enabling environment for companies and enterprises in the clean cooking value chain to viably participate in carbon trading.

swisscontact

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) EXTERNAL AUDIT

#### Background

Swisscontact is an international NGO registered in Tanzania under the NGO Act number 24 of 2002 with registration number I-NGO/R/0841. Currently, our offices are located in Morogoro and we are implementing the Skills for Employment Tanzania (SET) project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) under the bilateral agreement with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). In late 2023 we also started a new project funded by a private donor in Switzerland. The project is entitled "Empower Her Through Skills". The annual turnover for both projects is at present around CHF 2.5 million.

Both projects aims at improving the prospects of gainful youth (self) employment by contributing to improved access, relevance, and quality of Vocational Skills Development (VSD) for vulnerable youth and women. The projects are implemented in Morogoro, Iringa and Pwani region through public and private training providers. Further information about the work of Swisscontact can be found on our website [www.swisscontact.org](http://www.swisscontact.org)

#### Scope and requirements

We require a comprehensive audit that is in accordance with international auditing standards and group auditors local audit instructions, providing an independent assessment of the organisation's financial statements and compliance with the NGO requirements in Tanzania which will also provide assurance to our group auditors on the accuracy and completeness of the expenses and income of Swisscontact Tanzania. In addition, the auditor should assess the level of compliance with any grant conditions and the financial procedures set out by Swisscontact Tanzania. The appointed firm will also need to confirm that any grants awarded to participating local entities have been applied for the purposes intended.

#### Duration of the audit:

The engagement of the successful audit firm will be through a framework contract for up to 3 years. A letter of engagement will be issued every year by Swisscontact Tanzania for the audit exercise with payments made annually as per the terms of the contract. The audit and reporting shall be carried out for two periods. The interim audit covering the period from 1st January to 30th June and the year end audit for the entire year.

#### Summary details

<b>Work to be performed:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide an opinion as to whether the figures presented in the Financial Reporting Package submitted to Swisscontact present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of and the results of operations in accordance with the procedures contained in Swisscontact's "Field Manual for Business Administration" and in the generally accepted accounting principles (local GAAP). <i>Separate financial statements of each project and the entity will be prepared and an opinion thereof.</i></li> <li>Verification of the implementation status of measures and action plans defined in the former Management Letter from previous audits.</li> <li>Review the design, existence, and effectiveness of the controls of Entity Level Controls (ELC), IT General Controls (ITGC), Payroll, Fixed Assets and Closing Process.</li> <li>Work closely with Swisscontact group auditors and report results and findings of work to our group auditors in line with overall reporting timetable.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Knowledge and Experience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive professional competence and experience in conducting audits for NGOs and/or other entities.</li> <li>Proven evidence to provide timely and accurate audit reports.</li> <li>Knowledge of the regulatory framework for NGOs in Tanzania.</li> <li>Familiarity with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation Criteria:</b>	<p>Quotations will be evaluated based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant experience and expertise in auditing non-profit organizations and/or other entities.</li> <li>Cost-effectiveness and clarity of the proposed fee structure.</li> <li>Proof of timeliness and efficiency in delivering audit reports.</li> <li>References from previous clients.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Professional Fees:</b>	The proposed Audit firm should quote the Audit/Professional fees and other related costs for the Audit of Swisscontact Tanzania financials. A reasonable reimbursements costs should be included and detailed what it covers. Fees should be quoted either in TZS or in US\$.
<b>Submission:</b>	Interested vendors should submit their proposals electronically by email at <a href="mailto:tz_info@swisscontact.org">tz_info@swisscontact.org</a> or hard copies to.  Swisscontact INGOI Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation P.O. Box 48   Morogoro   Tanzania Plot 105 Pamba Street Tel: 0765459916 <a href="http://www.swisscontact.org">www.swisscontact.org</a>  Deadline for submitting proposal is 20th May 2024 at 1700HRS EAT.

#### Please note that:

- Swisscontact respects gender equality and female-owned organizations/companies are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered.
- The selection process will be done by an independent evaluation committee.

swisscontact

### REQUEST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE

#### Background and Context

The Skills for Employment Tanzania (SET) project is a 12-year project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The current, second phase of SET started on 1 July 2022 and will end on 30 June 2026. The overall project goal for SET across all phases is: "Improve the prospects of gainful youth (self) employment through a contribution to improved access, relevance, and quality of Vocational Skills Development (VSD)".

The three project outcomes for the second phase are as follows:

**Outcome 1 (Relevance):** Improved collection and analysis of labor market and skills needs, involving private sector, workplace practitioners and other labor market stakeholders, leading to improved, relevant and flexible VSD curricula.

**Outcome 2 (Quality):** Improved motivation and adaptive teaching techniques and teaching environment allows for improved delivery of non-formal and formal programs and training throughout the network of Folk Development Colleges (FDCs).

**Outcome 3 (Access):** Increased access of youth, and young mothers, to relevant non-formal VSD.

#### Summary details

<b>Objective of the assignment:</b>	To clarify the various options for youths to access loans and or other financial products with a focus on the Swisscontact project regions (Morogoro and Iringa) and discuss their features in the context of youth and young mothers
<b>Further information</b>	For further information visit our website: <a href="http://www.swisscontact.org/en/about-us/jobs">www.swisscontact.org/en/about-us/jobs</a> (Search Tanzania)
<b>Deadline for proposal submission:</b>	The consultant is requested to forward their proposal under the attention of Swisscontact Admin, <a href="mailto:tz_info@swisscontact.org">tz_info@swisscontact.org</a> , <b>May 25th 2024</b>

#### Please note that:

- Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered





Tanzania Red Cross Society secretary general Lucy Pande speaks at a press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the society's 62nd anniversary celebrations scheduled to be held in Dodoma city on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

## Stakeholders want tax grace period for youth who start new businesses

STAKEHOLDERS have called on the government to consider a tax grace period for youth who start new businesses or self-employment.

They argue that youth-run ventures should be given a grace period of at least one year before they start paying the required taxes to enable them to stabilize their enterprises.

Speaking in Dodoma during closure of the Opportunities for Youth Employment (OYE) project yesterday, some of them stated that youth in the country face challenges of getting capital and need more time before they are taxed.

Linus Katonto, country director of Restless Development Tanzania, a local youth organisation, observed that taxation on youth-run enterprises is one of the hurdles in youth development and self-reliance.

"It is unfortunate that once youth start working on their projects, they are forced to pay taxes immediately, a situation that kills most of youth initiatives" he said.

Dr Alice Mumbi, country director, Colleges and Institutions Canada-

Tanzania, echoed the similar concerns, saying it is important for all players to solidify youth employment and see how to support them.

She underscored the need for an enabling environment for small industries to prosper and postharvest management, especially agricultural products.

Raphael Malonga of the Singida-based Malonga Poultry Farm argued that youth need financial empowerment at the start of their projects, noting that the private sector too can play a role in doing this.

The meeting saw the end of a project that benefited over 5,000 youth in nine local government authorities in Morogoro and Singida regions by encouraging female youth participation.

OYE was implemented with support from the Swiss and Danish embassies through SNV in Tanzania and was designed to equip young people with appropriate technical and life skills to make them attractive to employers and prepared to undertake self-employment

and entrepreneurial activities.

Bonavitha Gahaini, OYE deputy project manager at SNV Tanzania said that 4,393 youth were trained on basic skills whereas 3,329 females were trained on business development while 3,273 were given technical skills.

At least 94.9 percent of youth gained self-employment skills, an increase from 49.2 percent of youth who were unemployed or did unpaid labour at baseline.

She said there was a 19.5 percent increase in income for female youth to \$51.40 per month and a 33 percent increase in male youth income to \$81.50 per month despite the challenging post-Covid economic environment.

Officiating at the closing of the project, Eliakim Mtawa, assistant director - coordination and mobilisation in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) expressed the government's gratitude for the support to Tanzanian youth.

## Africa fertiliser summit set to address soil health crisis

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE African Union's Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (AFSH24) kicked off yesterday in Nairobi, Kenya, drawing together over 4,000 participants including eight heads of state and government, 25 ministers of agriculture, 32 ministers of foreign affairs, government officials, scientists, representatives of civil society and partners.

The summit is co-organized by the African Union and Kenyan government with support from various partners. It aims to foster crucial discussions on enhancing the value of land as a pivotal asset for farmers.

Over the next three days, participants will engage in dialogue to steer Africa's agricultural transformation, while setting the agenda for its future food systems, a key item in the 50-year development plan, Agenda 2063.

Notably, AFSH24 seeks to evaluate progress since the 2006 Abuja Declaration, which aimed to elevate fertilizer use for agricultural growth to a minimum of 50t/ha, a target that remains largely unmet, highlighting the urgency for innovative approaches to address the continent's deteriorating soil health and its related unsustainable expansion of croplands.

Fertiliser consumption (kilograms per hectare of arable land ranges from 0.03 in Sudan and 1.04 KG in Somalia to 542.47 in Seychelles and 542.57 in Arab Republic of Egypt, the highest figure recorded by an African country.

A total of 10 countries met or surpassed the 2006 Abuja declaration. These are: Morocco 55.29, Eswatini 57.77, Botswana 59.27, Kenya 60.66, Zambia 63.90, Malawi 96.74, South Africa 104.64, Mauritius 186.50, Seychelles 542.47 and Arab Republic of Egypt 542.57.

"Where fertilizer uptake has increased, the yield gains in relation to input efficiency remain unpredictable, especially in rain-fed agriculture. Uganda's current fertilizer use is at 2kgs/ha," said Frank Tumwebaze, Uganda's Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and Chair of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. Conversations at AFSH24 seek a holistic approach to agricultural sustainability, which prioritizes climate change mitigation, land restoration, and biodiversity conservation in agricultural practices.

Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable

Environment at the African Union Commission (AUC), emphasized the need for collaborative action and innovative solutions.


"Despite Africa's soils being among the oldest globally, they have become the poorest in the world, losing over US\$4 billion worth of soil nutrients each year and severely risking Africa's ability to feed itself. Urgent action is needed now and this year's Summit will define the next action for Africa," she said.

Mithika Linturi, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, expressed optimism that critical decisions will be arrived at during the summit, to drive an immediate transformation in Africa's soil health for the attainment of food security and economic growth. "Several AU member states are lagging in achieving the 50Kg/ha target of the Abuja Declaration. The AFSH Summit is the continent's largest soil health forum and I believe it will set the pace to quickly reclaim Africa's degraded soils," he said.

This year's Summit is held under the theme 'Listen to the Land' which seeks to evaluate the state of Africa's soil health, while reviewing the progress made since previous commitments by African leaders to boost fertilizer use for agricultural growth in Africa. The theme is a call to Action for stakeholders to pay attention to the needs of the land in terms of soil nutrients, soil moisture, essential minerals, soil organisms, impact of climate change and consider adopting regenerative practices, policies and approaches that will improve the long term value of land as a critical asset for farmers. The goal is to unlock the potential of Africa feeding Africa, and Africa feeding the world.

Expected outcomes from the event include the drafting and endorsement of the Nairobi Declaration on Fertilizer and Soil Health, a comprehensive document delineating commitments, strategies, and actionable directions aimed at enhancing the sustainability of fertilizer use and other soil health practices at both the regional and continental levels.

A 10-year action plan and mechanisms to finance it are also anticipated from the summit, offering concrete guidelines on new policies and investments to drive soil health transformation across Africa. Notably, a significant \$ 15 billion of private sector investment will be needed to increase the local manufacturing of mineral fertilizers. For accelerated impact, the target is to triple the local production of organic and inorganic fertilizers by 2033.



World Food Programme  
Programme Alimentaire Mondial  
Programa Mundial de Alimentos  
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT NGOs AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**  
WFP COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2027


**A. Background**  
World Food Programme (WFP) Tanzania is seeking for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from competent national and international NGOs with presence and operations in Tanzania, who specialise in Gender equality and women empowerment.

**B. Eligibility Criteria**

1. The EOI is open to any national and international Non-Government Organization (NGO) with appropriate authorization to operate in Tanzania as a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization (submission of certificate of registration).
2. Letters of recommendation from last 3 donors/partners
3. Provision of Cover letter introducing the organization
4. Demonstratable experience in implementing GEWE interventions.
5. Submission of Project evaluation reports useful if available. (Refer to Section D: Submission requirements for more details)
6. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for further information and Due Diligence and capacity assessment. This process involves submission of several documents to WFP.


**C. Submission Requirements**  
The prospective Partner is requested to submit using your own template for a narrative proposal (in simple format) showing their experience and capacities in value of gender transformative approach, address the root causes of gender inequalities, building capacity for grassroots level on gender equality, support networking and learning between farmers and national stakeholders in agriculture value chains and experience in monitoring, reporting and learning.

Presence in the Roster does not guarantee that the NGO will be selected to implement GEWE interventions, rather presence in the roster means that as and when funds become available, NGOs in the Roster (and who will be invited to register in UN Partner Portal if not yet there), will then be invited to respond to a specific RFP and submit a specific Proposal and budget for a specific geographic area and caseloads and activities. Hence the EOI does not translate into a partnership agreement. The Expression of Interest should not exceed 15 pages.



Full details of the EOI can be accessed by scanning this QR Code (Filter by Tanzania and WFP) it will direct you to download the EOI from the UN Partner Portal without login.

**D. Submission and Contact Information**  
Interested organizations should submit their expressions of interest electronically to the WFP Dar es Salaam through [Tanzania.partnership@wfp.org](mailto:Tanzania.partnership@wfp.org) or in the UN Partner Portal (for organizations already registered in the UNPP), specifying Expression of Interest - WFP EOI - Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in the subject line. The deadline for submission is **20<sup>th</sup> May at 23.59** (Midnight EAT). Only short-listed NGOs will be contacted.



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WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Spoon feeding won't uplift small firms, loans not new liquid assets

THE government is understood to be making efforts to make soft loans available to small companies, known by the imprecise tag 'micro, small and medium' enterprises (MSMEs) even as the three categories are vastly different things on the ground.

Micro may include a shop employing up anything between three and five people, with a medium sort of enterprise employing upwards of 50 people and above.

A major commercial bank in which the government has shares is set to issue 18.5bn/- in loans total strictly speaking meant for the micro-group.

That the loans will fetch an interest of 7.0 per cent makes them fairly manageable compared with prevailing commercial rates.

It is by no means the best of conditions, though, as the government itself seeks zero-rated long-term loans from multilateral lenders.

Nor is it likely to quench the thirst that will be raised among numerous MSMEs, depending on what the bank or perhaps the government will give as the criteria for the issuance of the loans.

This operation in part arises from repeated solvency difficulties for specialised loan issuers, and then as they lend to industrial, large farms and other commercially viable entities.

This loans scheme was much like an extension of bank cluster operations in that beneficiaries form a sort of bond that makes them liable for repayment. Here the Treasury is the issuer.

The problem is that this sort of channelling money into the economy seldom uplifts those landing the funding as they first have a burden of repaying it, and so the scale of activities they can take up with the cash they will be loaned is different.

It isn't the same as someone selling

a plot of land or a dilapidated house for millions of shillings with which he or she purchases various items and places a significant amount into an income-generating venture.

There is a real increase in the flow of money into the economy, primarily as it will not be rapid, while bank loans are revolving and can uplift individuals, making them more competitive while the degree to which the economy is altered depends on other factors.

Assume the government obtained a US\$1bn loan from, say, the International Monetary Fund to sink into banks to finance land purchases opened to those in the EAC and the Tanzanian Diaspora.

If major sectors opened up for investment and share purchasing, there might be an economic revolution in a matter of years.

Jobs would be multiplied largely thanks to increased demand and thus success of businesses, as it is the demand side that really matters in growth.

The government (ministry) says that 18.5bn/- is a lot of money to start with but more funds will be needed in the future to make the new loans scheme sustainable. But is that likely?

The idea that borrowers would likely fully repay the loans so that the new cycle of credit can benefit more people is somewhat illusory as everyone will be aware of the circumstances in which the loans will have been issued, with either a wink or a glance.

As the source bank is a large commercial entity and it is only managing Treasury money, there are few risks it is taking, but getting the loaned individuals to pay may take the same outlook as those of targeted banks for industries or agriculture, with plenty of non-performing loans.

That isn't surprising as we want to help people not merely a fashionable economic strategy.

## Removing oppressive by-laws is well beyond administrative detail

THERE is no doubt that, in large measure, by-laws passed by local authorities are supposed to operate within the wider context of laws and extant regulations without hurting people.

The fact that there are scores of instances of devising - and imposing - multiple levies and charges is of particular concern to representation and in relation to good governance as a whole.

This is because it is central government that ends up blamed - rather than local authorities. Yet there is an extent to which the government lets local authorities tie up their expectations and budgeting without rushing to narrow or plug expected revenue gaps.

The need to supervise the systematic alleviation of excesses in respect to both levies and other features of administrative conduct was the subject of interaction at a working session just the other day between Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and regional commissioners (RCs) and regional administrative secretaries.

The PM specifically directed RCs to supervise the adoption of recommendations of the Criminal Justice Commission which, after being presented to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, are largely part of official policy.

The working session was thus aimed at enabling the regional administrators obtain clear understanding of improvements expected in the country's criminal justice procedure, without this involving the need for new laws.

Where the shoe pinches is on citizens' complaints about some by-laws in the regions, while in actual fact the issue is districts, as districts are relatively autonomous from regions

in plenty of what they do.

There is no equivalent of a district executive director at the regional level and, for such an official to be there, it would mean altering job descriptions and indeed the mode of operations of districts and their representation mechanisms.

Issues listed for consideration during the working session were likely to be complicated, among them conflicts related to land ownership and use.

Police use of excessive force in arrests was also cited, where the cases may differ as to where a 'velvet glove' sort of arrest is warranted and where a suspect has to be suppressed.

There were less substantial issues like taking security detail and having scores of officials in official tours, which the commission said prevent people from expressing whatever ails them for fear of exposure to - and 'reprisals' from - some entourage members. But if those officials aren't there, who will answer citizens' questions?

Items like the need for regional secretariats to allocate buildings and other infrastructure for criminal justice institutions in new districts were by and large obvious and not demanding a working session to be sorted out.

Nor would the President's Office wing overseeing regional administration, despite vowing to supervise the implementation of directives and instructions given during the working session, find it easy to resolve some specific challenges.

Reports by the Controller and Auditor General time and again refer to districts, not regions, as the accounting offices. There are also discrepancies in sentiments, as national representation is perceived as better paying than local election wins.

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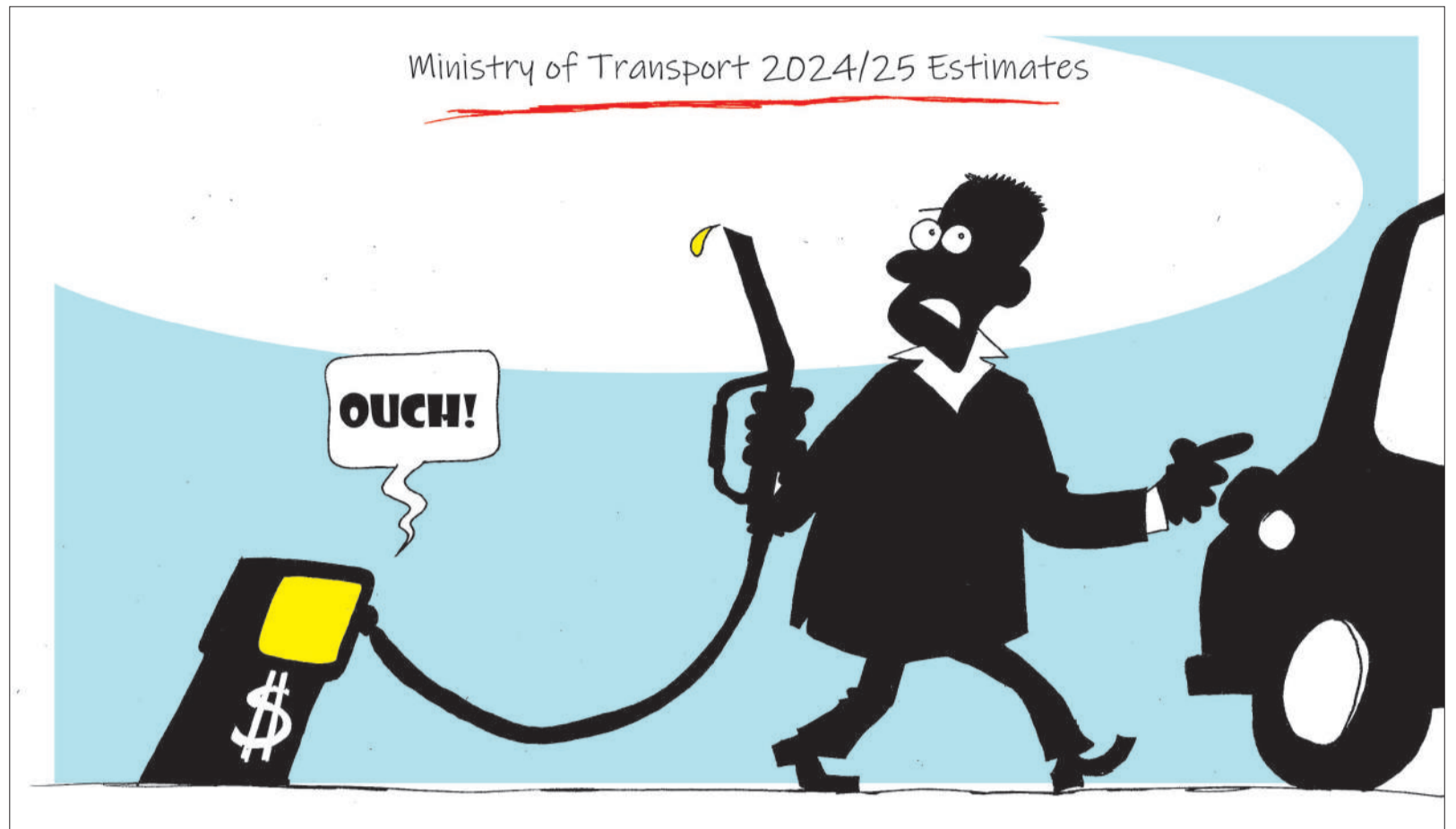
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By Enoch Randy Aikins and Maram

Mahdi

THIS is a crucial election year for Africa, with 180 million eligible voters making their mark in 17 polls across the continent. Over the past three decades, many African countries have transitioned to multiparty liberal democracies - and political power is generally now garnered through the ballot box rather than the barrel of a gun.

However, despite decades of democracy, many countries still struggle to have free, fair and transparent polls, and seamless power changes. While a highly contested election is a sign of a working democracy, five concerning trends undermine the integrity of Africa's electoral processes and quality of elections.

First is the lack of trust among political parties and voters in election management bodies. According to Afrobarometer, the number of citizens in Africa with little or no confidence in their national electoral commission rose from 41% to 55% between 2011/13 to 2021/23.

This mistrust is deeply rooted in how election management bodies are constituted. Their appointment processes are often not consultative and largely exclude opposition parties and other stakeholders. For example, the bodies in Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia and Zimbabwe have been accused of being dominated by ruling party loyalists.

Second, polls in Africa are undermined by weak transparency surrounding electoral processes. Electoral management bodies' inability to build consensus across political divides on key aspects such as timelines, campaign restrictions and party funding raises suspicion and mistrust. This is worsened by incumbents' control of these processes.

In countries that have experienced electoral disputes, e.g. Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, concerns are often sparked by allegations of abuse of power by those in office and accusations of electoral commission bias against opposition parties. Mistrust is usually exacerbated by the ruling party's influence over dispute resolution mechanisms or courts.

The third concerning trend is cost. The average price of an election in Africa (\$4.20 per capita) is twice the world's average and higher than the \$4 spent in Europe, North America and Australia. Estimates show that sub-Saharan Africa spent almost US\$50 billion on polls from 2000-2018.

Coupled with expensive election filing fees, excessive campaign budgets and funds used to buy illicit

## Trust, hope in short supply: Five worrying signs of poor quality of Africa's elections



A man casts his vote at a polling station set up on a street for the presidential elections in N'Djamena, Chad, on Monday. Photo: EPA-EFE/Jerome Favre

votes, these high costs undermine the integrity of polls. In Ghana, the estimated cost of running for president is \$100-million - a major limit on less-resourced political parties and individuals wishing to contest elections.

The fourth factor is fierce presidential and legislative campaigns that increase the threat of electoral violence. The rise of militant and armed vigilantes associated with political parties, such as in Ghana, has become a significant disruption to free and fair voting and the integrity of election outcomes. These armed groups are often used to intimidate voters and suppress their choices, especially in opponents' strongholds.

In some cases, ruling parties use the state security service to intimidate voters, as witnessed in the 2023 elections in Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Madagascar, among others.

Finally, using misinformation and disinformation to undermine elections is a growing global trend, exacerbated by fake news and its links to artificial intelligence. For instance, ahead of South Africa's election on 29 May, various disinformation campaigns on social media have used artificial intelligence. Previous polls in Kenya, Nigeria and other parts of Africa have witnessed similar incidents.

These negative trends jeopardise democracy across the continent.

In countries such as Gabon and Guinea, the lack of free and fair elections has been used as a justification or decoy for military coups. In others, the poor quality of elections often leads to protracted election petitions affecting the smooth running of the state.

Afrobarometer reveals that the number of African citizens who believe elections effectively ensure adequate representation has dropped by seven percentage points since 2008. Similarly, although elections are still widely preferred, citizens' support for polls as a way to choose leaders has dwindled by an average of eight percentage points since 2011 across 29 African countries. And the number of Africans who didn't vote in their recent national elections rose from 18.2% in 2001 to 24.7% in 2023.

To improve election quality, election management bodies must be truly independent of external control and manipulation. This can be achieved by appointing competent people through consultative processes, ensuring their security of tenure, and providing them with adequate resources needed to function.

The bodies themselves should work on securing public trust and confidence by building consensus on electoral reforms across the political divide in a transparent manner.

To avoid accusations about

election management bodies' lack of independence, best practices could be drawn from cases such as Mozambique, where the law provides for equitable representation of political parties in the election management body. Interventions would of course need to take each country's context and history into account.

Curtailling the rising cost of polls means enacting and implementing laws on campaign periods and expenditure ceilings, prohibiting and punishing vote-buying, and ensuring election management bodies are judicious about their spending.

To deal with electoral violence, governments must ensure that professional police and national security services are adequately resourced to perform their duties. Apolitical leaders are needed for these institutions, along with parliamentary oversight to help reduce executive interference.

Finally, African countries must raise awareness about misinformation and disinformation in the digital age among the media, the public and state communication departments. Laws dealing with the problem also need to be enacted and enforced.

**Enoch Randy Aikins, Researcher, African Futures and Innovation and Maram Mahdi, Researcher, Africa Peace and Security Governance**



By Giannis Moschos

# International Workers' Day: Three ways trade unions are driving social progress

SOME 135 years ago, workers were achieving monumental progress towards what we now recognize as an eight-hour working day. During that time, factory workers (and in many cases children) endured grueling 14-16 hour shifts days in appalling working conditions that would in often lead to a series of health issues and high mortality rates among the working class.

Celebrated around the world – in the US Labor Day is celebrated in September – International Workers Day, or May Day, signifies the labour movement's struggle for better working conditions, fair wages, the rights of workers and efforts in driving social progress.

The 1st of May commemorates the Haymarket affair in Chicago in 1886, where a demonstration for an eight-hour working day turned violent, leading to the deaths of several workers.

Today, while working conditions have improved globally and after a year of heavy industrial action, workers are amidst various transitions as the imperative to shift towards more sustainable industries and economies is combined with rapid technological advancements and geopolitical fragmentation impacting supply chains. These transitions require more collaboration between stakeholders in order to be managed successfully and in ways that promote shared prosperity.

As Atle Høie, General Secretary, IndustriAll Global Union puts it "Major changes and transformations need strong unions and constructive cooperation between unions, governments and employers as equals."

Here are three perspectives from trade unions on driving social progress today:

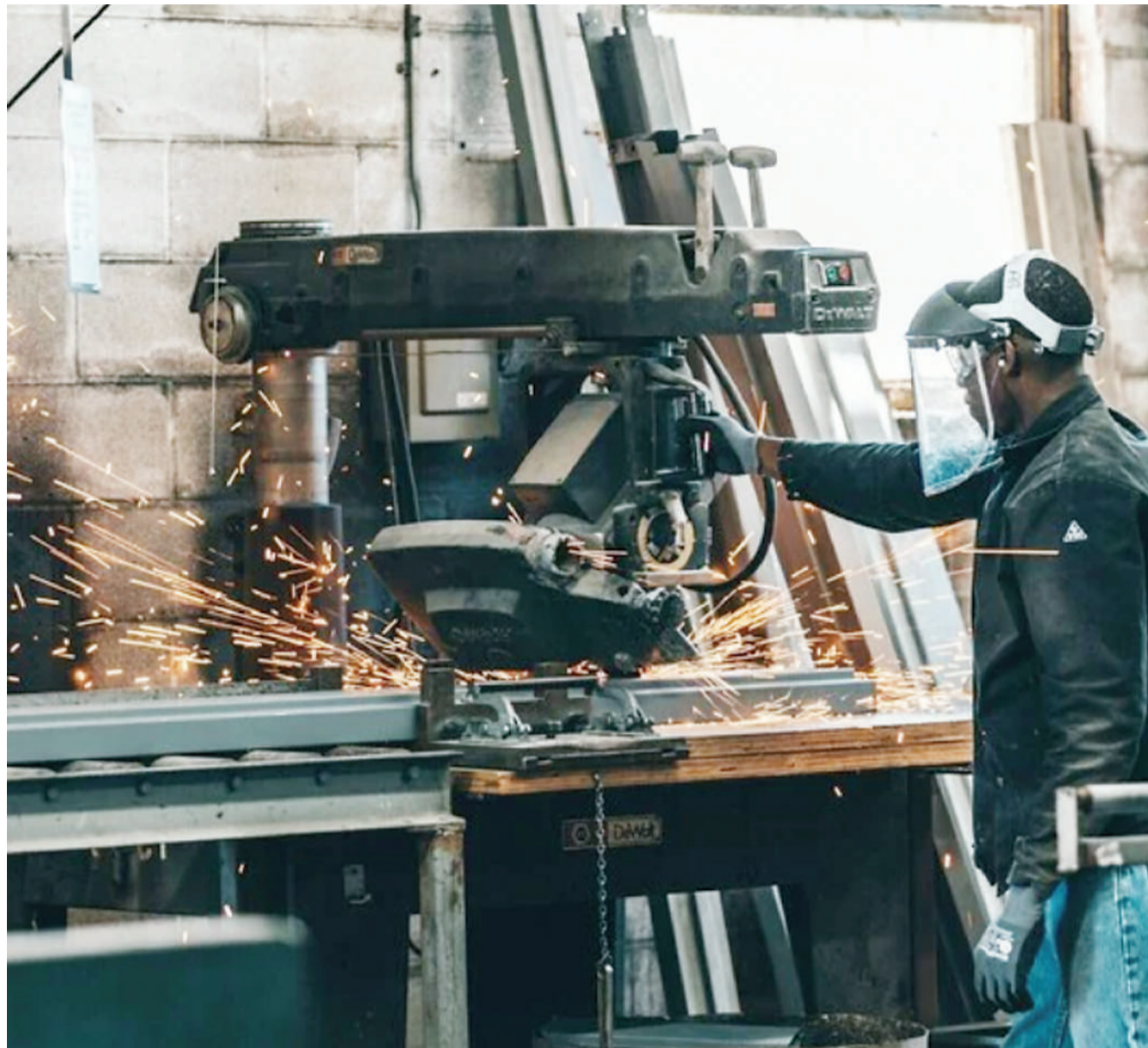
## Upholding democratic values

With over 4 billion eligible voters worldwide, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is making democracy a cornerstone of its agenda this year. Recognizing democracy as pivotal to addressing five critical challenges facing working people – climate change, sustainable peace, public health, technological advancement, and economic precarity – the ITUC further underscores the significance of promoting democratic principles within workplaces. Here, trade unions stand as bastions of participatory processes like collective bargaining, ensuring fair wages, improved working conditions, and equitable treatment.

Since March 2024, the global labour movement has been standing behind the For Democracy campaign spearheaded by the ITUC, which prioritizes three key areas: democracy within workplaces, democracy within societies, and democracy on a global scale.

Moreover, trade unions are often hailed as "schools for democracy" for their role in fostering political engagement. They facilitate participation in voting on various issues and candidates encourage collective decision-making and deliberation, and nurture the development of argumentation skills – all essential components of meaningful democratic participation.

In fact, evidence from the US suggests that areas with high union membership also boast higher voter turnout rates, indicating a correlation that transcends typical get-out-the-vote (GOTV) initiatives. What's equally noteworthy is the spillover effect observed in these areas, where even non-union members exhibit elevated turnout rates. In essence, higher union density appears to positively influence the political engagement of entire communities, extending beyond union members to their families and



Water stored in a small reservoir allows the Guzmán siblings to maintain vegetable production on their 40-hectare plot of land, of which only 10 percent is planted due to a lack of resources. It is one of the few surviving family farms in the municipality. Photo: IPS

beyond.

## Leading innovative partnerships around AI and technology

In January 2024 at The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, Christy Hoffman, General Secretary of UNI Global Union, emphasized that "If we don't want anxiety to preclude progress around AI and its impact on jobs, workers must be included in the process around its risks and deployment through collective bargaining."

Similarly, SAG-AFTRA's National Executive Director and Chief Negotiator, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland when talking about his reflections around the year of strikes in the US maintained that businesses should talk to their employees to navigate the AI transition together and effectively.

Less than a month before that, Microsoft had announced a ground breaking partnership with the American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), representing 12.5 million workers in the US

This partnership aims to maintain neutrality in future worker organizing efforts while integrating worker perspectives into AI development and advocating for public policies

that address the technological needs of frontline workers. While the partnership is still in its early stages and its practical implications remain to be seen, it underscores the movement's commitment to innovation, ensuring that workers actively engage with and shape industry changes.

Likewise, amidst the booming semiconductor industry, the American Federation of Teachers, in collaboration with Micron Technology, the Governor of New York, and other educational organizations, is preparing to revolutionize high school education. They're creating a direct pathway for students into the semiconductor industry.

Their collaboration is exemplified in the New York Advanced Technology Framework, a \$4 million programme, which aims to equip students with the skills needed for high-tech careers through immersive, industry-focused curriculum and hands-on learning. Starting later this year, the pilot programme will launch in 10 strategically selected school districts, catering to students from diverse backgrounds. From semiconductor manufacturing to data analytics and robotics, students will access various opportunities, preparing them for the modern workforce.

Ultimately, the initiative aims to expand this model statewide, providing countless more students with the skills

for lucrative careers in the semiconductor industry. By doing so, it not only supports workforce development but also addresses broader social and economic justice concerns.

## Ensuring a just transition

As economies and industries shift toward environmentally friendly production models, it's no secret that unions have long advocated for a successful and just transition, emphasizing the creation of more and better jobs alongside a focus on equality.

Veronica Nilsson, General Secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD, contends that if managed effectively, the green transition can indeed generate improved employment opportunities. Luc Triangle, General Secretary of ITUC, underscores the crucial role of developed countries in financing climate action in developing nations to prevent exacerbated inequalities and the emergence of winners and losers.

The internationally endorsed concept of a "just transition" highlights the necessity of government and business collaboration with unions to ensure fair change management. This entails social dialogue on regional and industrial policies, employment and education strategies, and collective bargaining regarding restructuring at both company and workplace levels.

Policies promoting a just transition encompass investments in education and skills, enhanced social protection, and active employment initiatives. A socially equitable transition to a climate-friendly and digital future is vital for instilling public confidence in the prospects of improved and plentiful employment opportunities for future generations.

Brazil's CUT, the largest trade union centre in Latin America which represents 7.4 million workers in Brazil, in partnership with ITUC's Just Transition Centre, has developed a guidebook contextualizing Just Transition in Brazil in an effort to stress the significance of upholding both workers' rights and environmental protection, underlining their interconnectedness. According to Stephen Cotton, General Secretary of International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) "The exclusion of workers from high-level decision making erodes trust and undermines the legitimacy and the potential for success of decisions being made."

In practice, Canada has committed to establishing Sustainable Jobs Partnership Council to foster the sustainable job creation and support workers nationwide with the participation of both unions and industry. Similarly, in Spain, the government, trade unions, and the Federation of Coal Mining Businesses inked an agreement to gradually eliminate coal production. Meanwhile in Italy, ENI has reached an agreement with unions to jointly navigate the transition process.

# Blue economy: Tanga seaweed farmers to benefit from the aquaculture sector

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

SEAWEED farming is booming in Tanga Region with more people engaging in the economic activity. Farmers are mostly from the districts of Tanga, Muheza, Mkinga and Pangani.

The government has always been keenly committed to explore the huge potential by deploying experts on the aquaculture sector to see the possibility of engaging more Tanzanians.

Historically, seaweed farming was recognised in Tanzania in early 1950s when wild seaweed was exported from Zanzibar. Seaweed farming has become an established aquaculture industry in Tanzania. It is a significant export earner as well as an income and employment generator in coastal communities where it practised.

Seaweed farming is one of the largest export industries in the country, employing over 25,000 farmers, 80 percent of whom are women.

During a recent a recent meeting with seaweed farmers, investors and traders from across the region, Tanga Regional Commissioner, Dr Batilida Buriani underscored the need for farmers to enter into contracts with investors to successfully tap the available potential in the sector as well as being sure of the markets.

Dr Buriani was optimistic that by forging partnerships with investors and traders, traders will benefit more from the economic activity compared to now as most of them still struggle to access markets and capital.

The Regional Commissioner assured farmers that the government is determined to see farmers benefiting from the economic activity whereas plans are underway to assist them to access bank loans as well as local and international markets.

"We are aware of the various challenges that seaweed farmers are facing including difficulties in accessing

bank loans to expand your investment. Most of you are also lacking modern tools to practice agriculture more commercially and efficiently. When you enter into contracts with investors, it becomes their responsibility to ensure you have all the required tools," said the Regional Commissioner as she urges investors to abide by the law and respect all the terms specified in the contracts.

She said efforts are on-going in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to empower seaweed growers with modern tools including boat.

Dr Buriani said talks are on-going with banks such as the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) to provide seaweed farmers with loans at an interest rate of between 3 and 4 percent. She said with the support, farmers are likely to purchase all the needed tools, thus cultivate productively.

The RC also provided free seaweed growing tools to farmers, assuring them that the government is planning to start purchasing the crop through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, insisting to offer a good price. On 22nd September 2023, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the 280bn/- Kilwa Masoko Fishing Port project whereas she also laid a foundation stone and handed over 160 boats to fishermen and seaweed farmers in Kilwa district.

The Head of State noted that introduction of the Building Better Tomorrow Initiative project (BBT-YIA) would also benefit seaweed farmers and fishermen.

In Tanzania mainland, seaweed farming is practiced in 11 regions along the Indian Ocean coastline. The crop is exported to China, Spain, France, Denmark, Chile and the United States of America.

Seaweed has the unique ability to improve ocean health by providing benefits to water quality and providing habitat for wild fish, in addition to providing a low



impact form of jobs in rural coastal communities. International buyers predict increased demand for seaweed since it is a raw material used in a wide range of increasingly popular products as diverse as confectionary, yogurts, and cosmetics.

When done sustainably, seaweed aquaculture also provides co-benefits to the planet, including improved water quality and conservation of wildlife habitats.

Two key factors are driving the growing interest in seaweed utilization, heightening attention to sources of food that are nutritious as

well as sustainable and versatility in terms of applications of seaweeds in several industries, such as pharmaceuticals and cosmetics in addition to food and animal feed. Some of these benefits are described below.

Various varieties of seaweeds not only grow fast, but their cultivation also does not require fertilizers, land degradation or deforestation. In addition, seaweeds provide a number of environmental benefits, some of which are described below.

2020 data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicates that the current market value

of the global seaweed crop is around \$5.6 billion, of which sale for human consumption make up the greatest share. The main market for seaweed is in Asia and the Pacific, but there growing demand in Europe and North America.

Globally fresh seaweed supply comes from two source, wild stocks and aquaculture. Between the two, aquaculture supplies the greater share. In 2018, farmed seaweeds represented 97.1 percent by volume of the total of 32.4 million tonnes of wild-collected and cultivated aquatic algae combined.





## DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC

### COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024" (ALL AMOUNTS IN TZS) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Current Quarter Group	Previous Quarter Group	Previous Year Quarter Group	Current Quarter Company	Current Quarter Subsidiary
	31st March 2024	31st December 2023	31st March 2023	31st March 2024	31st March 2024
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Non Current Assets</b>					
Property and equipment	158,307,044	144,296,817	168,655,266	139,321,752	18,985,292
Non-current prepayment	3,964,441,537	3,119,671,834	2,819,584,220	3,964,441,537	-
Intangible asset	213,488,625	149,823,062	109,548,739	213,488,625	-
Leasehold land	169,021,238	169,021,238	169,021,238	169,021,238	-
Deferred tax asset	23,736,870	12,864,152	12,864,152	-	23,736,870
Loan to DSE SACCOS	94,691,291	107,142,947	136,974,147	94,691,291	-
Investment in Government Securities	10,371,833,718	9,881,550,328	9,964,250,416	10,371,833,718	-
Investment in Subsidiary	-	-	-	227,867,476	-
	14,995,520,323	13,584,370,379	13,380,898,179	15,180,665,637	42,722,162
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Trade receivables	1,531,687,343	1,654,947,592	1,150,961,214	995,267,212	536,420,134
Prepayment & Other Receivables	746,288,002	383,533,571	552,698,870	571,068,178	175,219,824
Corporate Tax Receivables	90,240,189	37,695,494	83,781,090	-	90,240,189
Investment in short term deposit-Amortized Cost	18,632,590,450	19,181,987,062	17,076,743,149	17,372,126,068	1,260,464,382
Cash and cash equivalents	292,043,294	155,981,205	152,820,166	171,078,595	120,964,698
	21,292,849,278	21,414,144,925	19,017,004,489	19,109,540,053	2,183,309,227
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>36,288,369,602</b>	<b>34,998,515,305</b>	<b>32,397,902,667</b>	<b>34,290,205,690</b>	<b>2,226,031,389</b>
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Shareholders' Funds</b>					
Ordinary Share Capital DSE	9,529,608,000	9,529,608,000	9,529,608,000	9,529,608,000	-
Share Premium DSE	1,850,374,351	1,850,374,351	1,850,374,351	1,850,374,351	-
Ordinary Share Capital to Subsidiary	-	-	-	-	227,867,476
Retained Earnings	20,792,886,546	20,069,829,138	18,015,815,115	19,501,069,779	1,291,816,767
Car Loan Fund	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	35,000,000	-
Revaluation Reserve	108,229,200	108,229,200	113,838,000	108,229,200	-
<b>Total Shareholders' Funds</b>	<b>32,316,098,097</b>	<b>31,593,040,689</b>	<b>29,544,635,466</b>	<b>31,024,281,330</b>	<b>1,519,884,243</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>					
Capital Grants	1,079,489,982	1,113,134,432	1,157,163,073	1,079,489,982	-
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Contract Liabilities	1,064,915,847	1,138,367,329	597,382,953	899,522,851	165,392,996
Trade Creditors and Other Payables	1,804,878,228	1,153,972,855	1,098,721,176	1,286,911,525	517,966,703
Corporate Tax Payable	22,987,446	-	-	-	22,987,446
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,892,781,522</b>	<b>2,292,340,184</b>	<b>1,696,104,129</b>	<b>2,186,434,377</b>	<b>706,347,146</b>
<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>36,288,369,602</b>	<b>34,998,515,305</b>	<b>32,397,902,667</b>	<b>34,290,205,690</b>	<b>2,226,031,389</b>

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS) FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024 (AMOUNT IN TZS)

	Current Quarter Group	Previous Quarter Group	Previous Year's Quarter Group	Year to Date Cumulative Group	Previous Year Cumulative Group	Current Quarter Company	Current Quarter Subsidiary
	31st March 2024	31st December 2023	31st March 2023	31st March 2024	31st March 2023	31st March 2024	31st March 2024
<b>Revenue</b>							
Lising Fees	917,808,213	1,123,705,567	1,068,453,053	917,808,213	1,068,453,053	917,808,213	-
Transaction Fees	484,952,977	593,399,183	338,496,737	484,952,977	338,496,737	484,952,977	-
Registry & CSD Fees	384,326,774	652,773,778	305,726,980	384,326,774	305,726,980	-	384,326,774
Investment Income	873,632,480	903,945,068	806,159,625	873,632,480	806,159,625	836,018,033	37,614,447
Other Revenue	52,444,609	50,346,533	83,743,584	52,444,609	83,743,584	97,777,460	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,713,165,053</b>	<b>3,324,170,129</b>	<b>2,602,579,979</b>	<b>2,713,165,053</b>	<b>2,602,579,979</b>	<b>2,336,556,683</b>	<b>421,941,221</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,713,165,053</b>	<b>3,324,170,129</b>	<b>2,602,579,979</b>	<b>2,713,165,053</b>	<b>2,602,579,979</b>	<b>2,336,556,683</b>	<b>421,941,221</b>
<b>Operating Costs</b>							
Staff Costs	1,030,833,686	992,379,375	918,380,859	1,030,833,686	918,380,859	783,500,885	292,665,652
Administrative Expenses	192,681,306	219,853,569	183,915,403	192,681,306	183,915,403	161,182,512	31,498,794
Operating Expenses	239,215,216	394,533,932	253,139,589	239,215,216	253,139,589	195,984,118	43,231,098
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,462,730,208</b>	<b>1,606,766,875</b>	<b>1,355,435,851</b>	<b>1,462,730,208</b>	<b>1,355,435,851</b>	<b>1,140,667,515</b>	<b>367,395,544</b>
<b>Profit Before Tax</b>	<b>1,250,434,845</b>	<b>1,717,403,253</b>	<b>1,247,144,128</b>	<b>1,250,434,845</b>	<b>1,247,144,128</b>	<b>1,195,889,168</b>	<b>54,545,677</b>
<b>Tax Provision</b>	<b>16,363,703</b>	<b>69,073,128</b>	<b>3,735,858</b>	<b>16,363,703</b>	<b>3,735,858</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,363,703</b>
<b>Profit After Tax</b>	<b>1,234,071,142</b>	<b>1,648,330,125</b>	<b>1,243,408,269</b>	<b>1,234,071,142</b>	<b>1,243,408,269</b>	<b>1,195,889,168</b>	<b>38,181,974</b>
Basic Earning Per Share	52	69	52	52	52	52	-
Diluted Earning Per Share	52	69	52	52	52	52	-

### STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW (COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS) AS OF 31ST MARCH 2024 (AMOUNT IN TZS)

	Current Quarter (Group)	Current Quarter (Company)	Current Quarter (Subsidiary)
	31st March 2024	31st March 2024	31st March 2024
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Profit before Tax</b>	1,250,434,845	1,195,889,168	54,545,677
<b>Adjustments :</b>			
Interest received	(873,632,480)	(836,018,033)	(37,614,447)
Depreciation and Ammortization of Intangible Assets	36,385,701	33,946,007	2,439,695
Tax Paid	(37,500,000)	-	(37,500,000)
<b>Operating Cashflows Before Changes in Working Capital Items</b>	<b>375,688,066</b>	<b>393,817,142</b>	<b>(18,129,075)</b>
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Receivable	123,260,249	51,335,319	71,924,930
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments and other receivables	(407,977,316)	(277,683,719)	(130,293,597)
Increase/(Decrease) in short term deposits	549,396,612	600,444,844	(51,048,231)
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan to DSE Saccos	12,451,656	12,451,656	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Grants	(33,644,450)	(33,644,450)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in contract liabilities	(73,451,482)	(238,844,478)	165,392,996
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Payables and other payables	650,965,374	636,531,920	14,373,454
Increase/(Decrease) in investment in government securities	(490,283,390)	(490,283,390)	-
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>706,345,320</b>	<b>654,124,844</b>	<b>52,220,476</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Interest Earned	873,632,480	836,018,033	37,614,447
Acquisition of Fixed Assets	(955,554,194)	(950,215,210)	(5,338,983)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(81,921,713)</b>	<b>(114,197,178)</b>	<b>32,275,464</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>136,062,068</b>	<b>51,566,148</b>	<b>84,495,940</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD</b>	<b>155,981,224</b>	<b>119,512,447</b>	<b>36,468,758</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>	<b>292,043,293</b>	<b>171,078,595</b>	<b>120,964,698</b>

Signed By	Date
Mary S. Mniwasa Acting Chief Executive Officer	30-APR-24
Lucas Sinkala Head of Finance	30-APR-24
Mecklaud Edson Chief Internal Auditor	30-APR-24



### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VOLVO SPARE PARTS TO GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying suppliers for the Supply and Delivery of Volvo Spare Parts and is, therefore, inviting eligible and interested suppliers to submit expressions of interest as detailed below.

**NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THIS SUPPLY. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE ANGLGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.**

#### Scope of Supply:

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
GGME01836	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VOLVO SPARE PARTS

#### II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	<b>20%</b>
Company Profile and updated organogram	3%
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics	2%
Copy of Current Business License	3%
Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.	3%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate	3%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	2%
Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan.	4%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION</b>	<b>5%</b>
Applicants audited financial statements for the latest three years.	3%
Bank statements of the Applicants active bank accounts for the past 6 months.	2%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	<b>5%</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.50%
Environmental compliance certificate	1.50%
Workers' compensation fund certificate	1%
Safety and Environmental policy	1%
<b>OTHER POLICIES</b>	<b>5%</b>
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>5%</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	5%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01836)</b>	<b>60%</b>
Proof of valid dealership of Volvo equipment spare parts from OEM (Volvo)	20%
Proof of ability and evidence to provide warranty on Volvo equipment spare parts to be supplied	10%
Technical Capability – CV of Technical Staff (competence/certification) and Product catalogues.	10%
Evidence having a stock management system - MRP (SAP, PRONTO, MAINPAC etc.)	5%
Evidence of quality assurance, certification/accreditation-QAQC	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

III. Interested Applicants must submit their Expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting "GGME01836 – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VOLVO SPARE PARTS" on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL. Applicants must also submit supporting information to the Company, which states the full name, address, telephone, and e-mail address of the company, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline why the Company is of interest to work with, what the company has to offer and how the skills and experience are valuable to the Company.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30AM (EAT) on 21st May 2024**. (the "EOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

V. Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days should consider themselves unsuccessful.

**=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=**



## UNHCR raises alarm as thousands displaced by heavy rains in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THOUSANDS of people, including refugees, have been displaced from their homes due to heavy rains in Central and East Africa, the UN refugee agency has said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed concern for the thousands of refugees and other displaced individuals who have been washed away by the ongoing El Nino-triggered heavy rains and severe flooding in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania.

"Without help to prepare for, withstand and recover from climate-related shocks, they face an increased risk of further displacement," the UNHCR said in a statement.

The Climate Prediction and Application Center of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development said recently that Kenya is among countries in the Horn of Africa that is experiencing abnormally heavy rains this season. The others are Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

"Temperatures in the countries are also warmer than average, with episodes of elevated levels of heat stress in northern South Sudan and southern Somalia," the

center said in a recent update.

According to the UNHCR, nearly 20,000 people in Dadaab refugee camps in northeastern Kenya, which host more than 380,000 refugees, have been displaced due to the rising water levels. Many of them are among those who arrived in the past couple of years after fleeing severe drought in neighboring Somalia.

Some 4,000 people are currently sheltering in six schools with facilities that have been extensively damaged, the UNHCR said.

"The others are staying with friends or relatives in other parts of the camp. Several latrines have collapsed, putting refugees at risk of deadly water-borne diseases," it said.

The refugee agency said that around 32,000 refugees, nearly half of the refugee population in Burundi, are living in areas affected by the floods, with 500 of them requiring urgent assistance.

"In the capital, Bujumbura, refugee families along with many Burundians, including elderly people, have had to relocate multiple times as water levels continue to rise," it said.

The agency said access to food and other necessities is increasingly difficult as prices have risen due to high fees to use canoes to transport goods.



Flash floods caused by ongoing heavy rains on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

According to the UNHCR, other countries in the region where the displaced are among the hardest hit include Somalia, where over 46,000 internally displaced persons in five locations in the south of the country have been forced to relocate due to flash floods.

In Tanzania, more than 200,000 refugees, pri-

marily from the DRC and Burundi and hosted in the Nyarugusu and Nduta camps, have been affected.

"The UNHCR is working closely with local authorities and partners, rushing crucial aid and providing protection services to refugees and affected communities living nearby," it said.

The UN agency said that these floods expose gaps

in preparedness and early action, noting that the funding available to address the impacts of climate change is not reaching those forcibly displaced or the communities hosting them.

## Powering climate, ecosystem resilience through community engagement

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale, Sumbawanga

DISASTER loomed over many villages of Sumbawanga Rural District and beyond. People were worried.

The Lyamba Iya Mfipa Forest landscape that provides thousands of villagers with water, mushrooms, fruits and wild vegetables and other forest products as well as fuel and was bleeding from deforestation, agricultural encroachment, overgrazing and wanton destruction of natural resources.

In fact some villagers had a taste of the dire situation to come when water supply was strained during the dry season.

It was a not so common experience. Nkwilo Village, for example, lost part of its land after it was submerged in water mainly due to the impacts of climate change.

In Kalumbaleza A, during last year's rainy season human bodies from relatively new graves were sent rolling downhill due to strong run off that could not be retarded because the ground around the cemetery was barren and devoid of any soil cover and natural vegetation. Community members were stressing ecosystems in many ways and this was leading to ecological collapse.

Yet people could not take action because their hands were tied down by ignorance, irresponsibility, lack of leadership and accountability as well as despair, among other things.

"Everything pointed to a disastrous future and it was only a matter of time that it would strike. Forests, wildlife, water resources, land.....all were deteriorating. Opportunities to sustain lives that were being provided by ecosystems were becoming fewer and conflicts escalated due to diminishing resources. Community participation in conservation activities was also lacking," explains Nicholas Mchome, Rukwa Regional Natural Resources Officer.

He adds that the situation was a result of weak supervision of natural resources extraction at all levels of government, ignorance on the part of those who enjoy ecosystem benefits and lack of commitment and guidance to rational and sustainable use of natural resources.

Highlighting the state of the environment in Rukwa Region generally, the Programme Officer for Rukwa Sustainable Development Organisation (RUSUDEO) Ignas Weluka explains that community members did not participate in conservation activities. They thought that it was



government's matter. A small number of people took to planting trees on their compounds and farms but this had no bearing towards building a healthy environment as the Lyamba Iya Mfipa Forest continued to be degraded. There was also a problem of accountability as public servants and local government did not give room to be questioned on their deeds thus creating a barrier between themselves and the public. This attitude was brought about by their fear of being investigated and exposed for their irresponsibility and negligence. Land based conflicts were also growing over the years, ranging from those between families to those between villages.

Perhaps the major problem was the severe degradation of forests by large herds of livestock with herders obstinate in their decision to graze in fragile ecosystems. Forests are important as they provide pathways to a future with a stable climate. Sustainable forest management is a key nature-based solution that helps to mitigate climate change and support community-level climate adaptation. Inaction was making communities more vulnerable to impacts of climate change and reducing their resilience.

"I would say the apex of the problem was lack of supervision of how natural resources should be used. It seemed as if there were no policies, laws, rules and regulations. So forests were degraded through illegal and unplanned harvesting as well as overgrazing. Water sources were degraded through farming and other activities. As natural vegetation disappeared, land was exposed to impacts of climate change and be-

came less productive. Communities began to experience the impacts of climate change which, however, they could not adapt to," explains Ignas Weluka.

That was the situation four years ago. However things have since changed after introduction of the Usimamizi Endelevu wa Maliasili Project which is implemented by Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT), Rukwa Sustainable Development Organisation (RUSUDEO), villagers as well as district and regional governments.

The Project which is being implemented in a total of 18 villages in Nkasi and Sumbawanga District Councils took off in year 2020. It focuses on conservation of land, forests and wildlife and water resources by building resilience of local communities and ecosystems in Rukwa Region through improved governance of natural resources.

In a broad sense the project seeks to build the habit and capacity of community members to conserve the environment because their lives are directly linked to natural resources. It is thus imperative that they use the resources in a rational and sustainable manner for the benefit of current and future generations. It all amounts to building climate resilient communities and ecosystems. This is a holistic approach towards raising the quality of lives of rural communities who own abundant natural resources but are unable to use the same for climate change adaptation and poverty reduction.

Questions arise as to why communities that have been endowed with such abundant natural wealth

have remained vulnerable to the vagaries of climate change and have instead taken backward steps into poverty. "It is a matter of ignorance. We did not know how to conserve the environment and use our natural resources with due concern for the future. We did not also realize that in destroying the environment we were also destroying our own lives. Someone had to wake us up," explains Lepsis Sangu, Kizungu Village Executive officer.

The wakeup call came through education and awareness campaigns conducted during the initial stages of project implementation. People had to understand why they were experiencing reduced water flows in rivers, why the Lyamba Iya Mfipa Forest was no longer providing quality ecosystem services and benefits and what they can do to halt and reverse the existing environmental degradation. Education was the starting point of project implementation.

"Villagers had to get basic education on conservation. This would enable them to initiate alternative sources of income instead of depending directly on natural resources for their daily needs and ultimately reduce pressure on the Lyamba Iya Mfipa Forest," explains Hana Lupembe, the project's supervisor.

Then came the practical stage during which people were taught how to plant and take care of trees. Women and men alike learned how to make wood fuel efficient stoves so as to reduce consumption of trees whether from natural forests or woodlots on their compounds or farms. In a bid to raise individual and family in-

comes, community members, particularly women, were taught entrepreneurship skills so that they could run small businesses.

They also learned how to add value to foodstuffs so that they could earn more money than if they sold unprocessed foodstuffs. "Women are now conducting small businesses, selling various food stuffs including fish, vegetables, fruits and cooking oil. Some of them have embarked on valued addition and sell flour instead of maize grain. The project is also addressing problems of nutrition as women have learned to make small gardens in which they grow various vegetables. Generally, the lives of many villagers have changed," explains Florence Magambo of Nkwilo village.

Perhaps a key change among community members is their ability to question the deeds of village government officials in managing natural resources and ensuring that people realize maximum benefits from conservation. This was rather obscure before project implementation. Now government leaders and other functionaries have become accountable following the formation of Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) committees who monitor the activities of the said leaders and prepare reports that are sent to district governments for action.

Members of the SAM committees themselves take a leading role in conservation activities including planting trees around water sources and degraded areas. Conservation activities address climate change and food security issues.

Another significant development is that villagers now demand infor-

mation from their leaders. It could be about income and expenditure of revenue earned from fines slapped on illegal traders in forest products or progress made in activities such as tree planting. On the other hand, leaders have learned to offer information on various issues of interest to the villagers without waiting for people to demand it. As a matter of transparency, village government leaders display financial and other reports on notice boards so that people can access the information they want.

But behind this new landscape of accountability and governance stand efforts made by Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) committees whose work includes but not limited to making follow up on implementation of plans agreed upon by general assemblies, assessing action taken leaders regarding various activities and ensuring transparency in the running of village government affairs.

"The social accountability monitoring committees have inspired leaders to be transparent in running the affairs of the village and availed themselves for interrogation by community members. On the other hand, community members now feel free to ask questions and where they don't get satisfactory answers they take leaders to task. The result is that many people now attend village assembly meetings, say about 80 percent, as opposed to when hardly ten percent of the villagers attended the assemblies," explains Edgar Meriko, secretary to the SAM committee at Kalumbaleza A Village.

By December 2023, the project had distributed 385,000 tree seedlings to a total of 18 villages in Nkasi and Sumbawanga Districts Councils. Village government officials and SAM committees supervised planting of the seedlings. Production of fuel efficient stoves had grown roots in some villages as besides saving energy, the stoves contribute to improving the health of women. The use of fewer sticks of firewood produces less smoke and thus become less effective on women's health.

The environmental disaster that had loomed over communities four years ago is slowly being averted. What remains to be seen is how village governments, communities and their partners work to ensure that the benefits of the project are sustained and communities and ecosystems become more resilient to impacts of climate change.





TANZANIA, KENYA, UGANDA



**GA INSURANCE TANZANIA LIMITED**  
704, 7TH FLOOR, IT PLAZA  
OHIO STREET/GARDEN AVENUE  
DAR ES SALAAM  
ARUSHA | MWANZA | DODOMA | ZANZIBAR

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF GA INSURANCE TANZANIA LIMITED FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023 PURSUANT TO SECTION 41 (1) OF INSURANCE ACT 2009 (AS PER IFRS 17)**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023.**

	2023 Tshs'000	Restated 2022 Tshs'000
Insurance Services Revenue	11,743,359	9,705,967
Insurance service expenses	(7,418,337)	(8,077,263)
Net expenses from reinsurance contracts	(4,515,988)	(1,795,170)
<b>Insurance service result</b>	<b>(190,966)</b>	<b>(166,466)</b>
Interest Revenue calculated at effective interest rate	861,241	802,153
Net impairment loss on financial assets	(599)	(3,454)
<b>Investment Returns</b>	<b>860,642</b>	<b>798,699</b>
Net finance expenses from insurance contracts	(217,433)	(299,090)
Net finance income from reinsurance contracts	174,059	223,995
<b>Net financial results</b>	<b>817,268</b>	<b>723,604</b>
Other Income	133,294	40,681
Administrative expenses	(49,065)	(40,451)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>710,531</b>	<b>557,366</b>
Income tax	(200,599)	(193,903)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>509,932</b>	<b>363,463</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>509,932</b>	<b>363,463</b>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023.**

	Share capital Tshs'000	Contingency reserve Tshs'000	Accumulated losses Tshs'000	Total Tshs'000
<b>At 1 January 2023</b>	4,500,000	619,263	(459,426)	4,659,837
Profit for the year	-	-	509,932	509,932
Contingency reserve movement	-	162,032	(162,032)	-
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>4,500,000</b>	<b>781,295</b>	<b>(111,526)</b>	<b>5,169,769</b>
<b>At 1 January 2022 Restated</b>	4,500,000	473,423	(677,049)	4,296,374
Profit for the year	-	-	363,463	363,463
Contingency reserve movement	-	145,840	(145,840)	-
<b>At 31 December 2022 Restated</b>	<b>4,500,000</b>	<b>619,263</b>	<b>(459,426)</b>	<b>4,659,837</b>

**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023.**

	2023 Tshs'000	Restated 2022 Tshs'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Profit before taxation	710,531	557,366
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortization	163,633	163,631
Interest income – government securities	(215,171)	(220,887)
Interest income – deposits with financial institutions	(646,070)	(582,228)
Interest expense on leases	8,183	15,523
<b>Operating cash flows before working capital changes</b>	<b>19,136</b>	<b>(66,595)</b>
Changes in reinsurance contract assets	844,219	(396,610)
Changes in other receivables	(527)	(206,355)
Changes in insurance contract liabilities	(519,428)	(1,509,900)
Changes in accounts payable	513,222	(11,851)
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>856,622</b>	<b>826,842</b>
Tax paid	(359,191)	(139,611)
Withholding tax suffered at source	(63,077)	(42,265)
Payment for interest portion on lease liability	(8,185)	(15,523)
<b>Net cash generated from (utilized in) operating activities</b>	<b>426,169</b>	<b>629,448</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest received from deposits with financial institutions	147,244	218,050
Interest received from government securities	616,202	534,137
Purchase of property and equipment	(27,488)	(88,775)
Investment in government securities at cost	(150,009)	(297,170)
Maturity of government securities	161,100	300,007
Investment in deposits with financial institutions	(8,950,789)	(7,581,891)
Maturity of deposits with financial institutions	8,383,986	5,608,393
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>180,846</b>	<b>(1,307,246)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payment of lease liability – principal portion	(119,768)	(99,124)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>487,247</b>	<b>(776,927)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	845,658	1,622,585
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at year end</b>	<b>1,332,905</b>	<b>845,658</b>

Sachit S. Shah  
Chairman

Haroon Pirmohamed  
Director

Amit Srivastava  
Chief Executive Officer

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

	31 Dec 2023	Restated 31 Dec 2022	Restated 31 Dec 2021
<b>CAPITAL EMPLOYED</b>			
Share capital	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000
Accumulated losses	(111,526)	(459,426)	(677,049)
Contingency reserves	781,295	619,263	473,423
Shareholders' funds	<b>5,169,769</b>	<b>4,659,837</b>	<b>4,296,374</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
<b>Assets</b>			
Property and equipment	134,458	174,454	150,991
Right of use assets	116,370	94,179	191,802
Intangible assets	-	-	897
Deferred tax	136,950	161,939	151,559
Reinsurance Contract Assets	5,338,729	6,182,948	5,786,339
Other receivables	628,519	627,992	421,636
Tax recoverable	304,421	57,763	80,170
Investments at Amortized Cost	10,189,763	9,528,653	7,515,266
Cash and cash equivalents	1,332,905	845,658	1,622,585
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>18,182,115</b>	<b>17,673,586</b>	<b>15,921,045</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Insurance contract liabilities	9,184,134	9,703,562	8,193,661
Other payables	3,680,459	3,159,036	3,180,735
Lease liability	147,753	151,151	250,275
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>13,012,346</b>	<b>13,013,749</b>	<b>11,624,671</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>5,169,769</b>	<b>4,659,837</b>	<b>4,296,374</b>



**TANZANIA INSURANCE  
BROKERS ASSOCIATION**

**NOTICE OF 15<sup>TH</sup> TIBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TO: ALL TIBA MEMBERS.**

In terms of section 24.3 of the TIBA Constitution, An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of May each year.

The Governing Council hereby serves upon **TIBA Members** a notice for the Annual General Meeting as follows;

**DATE** : Wednesday, 29th May, 2024

**TIME** : 8:30 AM

**VENUE** : ONOMO Hotel, Ghana Avenue (Opposite Exim Tower) Dar es salaam.

**AGENDA**

- 1) Opening of the Meeting
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda
- 3) Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting
- 4) Matters arising from Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting
- 5) Presentation and Approval of the Audited Accounts for 2023
- 6) Governing Council Report/report on operations of the association
- 7) Election
- 8) Any other business

All TIBA members are kindly requested to second its **Principal Officer or one senior staff** to attend this meeting as the forum will offer opportunities to interact, exchange ideas as well as discuss a number of issues impacting our fraternity.

**ALIASGHER SOMJI**  
HONORARY SECRETARY - TIBA

7th May, 2024

1st Floor NIC Building Kisutu | Plot No. 9 Block A Olympic Street, Upanga | P.O Box 77042 | Dar es Salaam - Tanzania

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the European Union**



**REQUEST FOR TENDER - RFT  
SUPPLY OF BRAND-NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, MOTOR CYCLES, PATROL BOATS, DRONES &  
RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

**1. Introduction**

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Conservation-NGO with the mission to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The goal of the WWF Tanzania strategic plan is to ensure that by 2030, Tanzania's outstanding and globally significant natural wealth and biodiversity are sustained and support equitable and gender-sensitive local livelihoods and national economic development for present and future generations. Energy and Climate Change Program is among the five WWF Tanzania thematic practice programmes. The programme is advocating for the government to set ambitious policies and regulatory frameworks that favour climate resilient, low carbon development, energy efficiency and renewable energy for all. It is investing to support communities to adopt to the impact of climate change in areas such as agriculture and food production, forestry and water resources.

WWF Tanzania through Energy and Climate Change Program has received grants from EU to support implementation of **"Integrated Approach for Transformation of Tanzania Fuel Wood Value Chain Project-TFVVC"**. This is 3-year project that intends to strengthen capacity of Tanzania government and public institutions to promote sustainable forest management and wood-fuel production in rural areas with an overall aim of enhancing environmental sustainability, particularly the sustainability of the wood-fuel value chain. The project is being implemented in six regions of Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tabora, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions. To this end, the project has planned to use parts of funds to purchase various equipment to support government entities in undertaking effective forest management while promoting sustainable cooking energy solution.

2. WWF Tanzania Country Office, invites submission of tender from competent, qualified, reputable, reliable and experienced service providers preferably, Manufacturers, Assembler, wholesalers and distributors (for goods) who are willing to submit their tender to supply as per the above tender categories.

LOT NO.	Description	# Qty/Units	Brief Requirements
Lot 1	Supply of a Brand-New Motor Vehicle for WWF	03 units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4WD Standard Station Wagon. Diesel Engine. not more than 12 months from date of manufacture. suitable for conducting patrols</li> <li>Front seat capacity should be 3 (1+2 bench arrangement. Rear benches and rail guards to support longer field team</li> </ul>
Lot 2	Supply of a Brand-New Motor Cycles	10 units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 CC – heavy duty capable of supporting patrols</li> <li>Maximum attainable speed 102kph</li> </ul>
Lot 3	Speed Marine Boat	01 unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per the detailed specifications provided in the lengthy ToR (in WWF Website)</li> </ul>
Lot 4	Supply of Drones.	03 units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed wings with the specification provided in the detailed advert</li> </ul>
Lot 5	Procurement of Radio Communication system	03units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per the specifications provided in the detailed advert</li> </ul>

3. The tenders prepared by the Applicant, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Application exchanged by the Applicant and WWF shall be written in English and currency used shall be a combination of USS and EUROS and not any other. Supporting documents and printed correspondents provided by the Applicant shall be in English

**4. VAT & OTHER RELATED TAXES**

This project is exempted from taxes. WWF will facilitate to provide the VAT exemption certificate, for the imported goods, price will be CIF Dar es salaam and WWF will facilitate the clearance

**5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Tenders should submit their tender electronically. The electronic tendering submission procedures shall be:

- 5.1 The Tenderer shall submit electronic bids to the procurement email provided in para # 5.3 all to include technical (if any), the company profile, eligibility in the tender applied for and financial in a single document
- 5.2 Tender subject depends on the Lot(s) applied for, eg. Tender application Supply of brand-new motor vehicles, supply of brand-new patrol boats etc.
- 5.3 The Tenderer shall then scan the completed original documents, forms in PDF files with appropriate filename and serve as PDF (Adobe Acrobat) version 4.0 or above.
- 5.4 Electronic tenders shall be sent to the procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org; addressed to The Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania; Off Mwai Kibaki Street Mikocheni, P.O. Box 63117 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077; website: wwftz.org.tz
- 5.5 All tenders should reach us by or before 10am, Tuesday, 21st May 2024 – EAT Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) through the following websites: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/)
- 5.6 WWF TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof. The late application shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.
- 5.7 Each of the tenders above are independent of each other (each Lot stands and is applied separately). Only successful tenderers will be contacted. Late Tenders, portion of Tenders, Tenders not submitted Shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- 5.8 WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to [fccl@wwftz.org](mailto:fccl@wwftz.org)



Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative



# BUSINESS

## Small-scale miners trained on proper uses of mercury

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) is collaborating with the office of Chief Government Chemist to train small-scale miners in the Mwakitolyo mines within Mwakitolyo ward of Shinyanga municipality on proper use of mercury.

Through Environmental Health and Pollution Management Project (EHPMP) project funded by World Bank (WB), small-scale miners are taught on how to reduce harmful effects of unprofessional handling of mercury towards human beings and the environment.

The initiative will also be implemented in several regions, including Geita, Mbeya, Singida, Mwanza, Mara, Songwe and Shinyanga.

Speaking during the training yesterday, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer from NEMC, Hassan Maalim said the vision behind the training is to ensure mining areas across the country are maintaining the quality of the environment as recommended by Minamata Convention on mercury.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is the most recent global agreement on environment and health, adopted in 2013.

It is named after the bay in Japan where, in the mid-20th century, mercury-tainted industrial wastewater poisoned thousands of people, leading to severe health damage that became known as the "Minamata disease."

"Most of the miners within the country are operating under complicated and unwanted risk conditions as they're not adhering to required standards,"

"For instance during pre-processing of gold, which is often done by hand, most of them are not wearing hand-gloves, which is very risky," Maalim revealed.

On his part, Audit and Registration

from the office of Chief Government Chemist Magdalena Mtenga explained that some of the side effects that often affected the workers in the mines due to poor use of mercury as destruction of the kidney, conscious system, as well as craziness.

Other side effects include memory loss, stress all the time, loss of eyesight, shaking hands, reduced male power, miscarriage and children born with cerebral palsy.

Mtenga challenged them to develop the habit of doing regular tests to know the levels of mercury in their body and when it exceeds they should follow the advice of the doctors they will be given.

One of the miners, Juma Daudi said that he did not know the effects of mercury as it can cause miscarriage and loss of sight because he came to confirm this after seeing one of them affected by mercury and having two colors in his body and promised to take precautions all the time he is at work.



## Harvests slow prices of maize to three-year low

By Guardian Reporter

CONSUMERS are continuing to experience eased retail prices of maize flour, the main staple; following the decline of the commodities' wholesale prices, thanks to the new harvests season.

Data by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and the ministry of industry and trade show that the commodity's wholesale price dropped by nearly 50 percent annually to 70,468/- per 100 kilogramme during the end of March this year, the sharpest decrease to be recorded over the last three years.

During the end of March 2023, the report shows that the wholesale price of maize recorded the decline of 25 percent, before climbing by 115 percent between July and November 2022.

The sharp decrease of the commodity, which is mainly consumed by both rural and urban areas, resulted from the government's efforts to increase production, which boosted supplies in different markets.

However, ongoing rains and floods, recorded in different areas of the country, which have also destroyed roads infrastructure from maize producing regions, continue to challenge supply logistics of the commodity to different area, which were previously facing the commodity's shortages.

The markets survey in Dar es Salaam have shown that the slowdown of wholesale maize

prices has also trickled down the commodity's retail price to at least 1,300/- per kilogramme, from 2,000/- recorded between July 2022 and March 2023.

The increase of maize price during last year caused by shortages of supply and increased demands for exports markets, specifically Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Zambia.

Maize production in Tanzania will increase to 6.1 million tonnes in the 2023-24 marketing year, as farmers respond to higher prices for the grain, but expensive fertilizer and armyworm outbreaks likely will keep it below historically average harvests, according to a Global Agricultural Information Network report from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Drought-related production shortfalls in 2022-23 more than doubled maize prices to \$51.40 per 100 kilograms (kg) in December 2022, compared to \$25 per 100 kg during the same month in 2021. Area harvested is projected to increase from 4 million hectares to 4.2 million as more farmers make the move to maize.

Poor yields are expected to hamper 2023-24 output, USDA notes. However, USDA reported that yields are anticipated to be negatively affected by an outbreak of fall armyworm in most corn-producing regions and limited access to sub-

sized fertilizer, as the retail fertilizer prices have increased due to disruptions associated with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In December last year, the government initiated the second phase of its maize purchasing program, offering a rate of 700/- (US\$2.90) per kilogram in order to stabilize the maize market and ensure food security.

This price significantly surpassed the previous market rate of 500/-, representing a substantial boost for maize farmers.

The first phase, which started in June 2023 and concluded in December of the same year, witnessed the government disbursing a total of 194bn/- (US\$80 million) to maize producers across the country.

Farmers in seven key regions – Makambako, Sumbawanga, Mpanda, Songwe, Babati, Songea, and Dodoma – sell their maize at government-operated purchasing centers, to significantly help farmers who have been struggling with low market prices.



**Mtenga challenged them to develop the habit of doing regular tests to know the levels of mercury in their body and when it exceeds they should follow the advice of the doctors they will be given**

## Africa loses \$4bn worth of soil nutrients annually

By Guardian Correspondent, Nairobi

AFRICA is losing over US\$4 billion worth of soil nutrients each year, severely risking its ability to feed its people, with nearly 282 million people (about 20 percent of the population) being undernourished, an increase of 57 million people since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

This was said yesterday during the opening of African Union's Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (AFSH24), drawing together over 4,000 participants including 8 heads of state and government, 25 ministers of agriculture, 32 ministers of foreign affairs, government officials, scientists, representatives of civil society and partners.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission (AUC), emphasized the need for collaborative action and innovative solutions.



Prime Cabinet Secretary of Kenya Musalia Mudavadi (5th L front row, stands in a group photo of various heads of states, ministers, government officials, scientists, representatives of civil society and partners during the opening of African Union's Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (AFSH24) at Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

She said, "Despite Africa's soils being among the oldest globally, they have become the poorest in the world, losing over US\$4

billion worth of soil nutrients each year and severely risking Africa's ability to feed itself. Urgent action is needed now and this year's

Summit will define the next action for Africa."

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Mithika Linturi expressed optimism that critical decisions will be arrived at during the summit, to drive an immediate transformation in Africa's soil health for the attainment of food security and economic growth.

He said, "Several AU member states are lagging in achieving the 50kg/ha target of the Abuja Declaration. The AFSH Summit is the continent's largest soil health forum and I believe it will set the pace to quickly reclaim Africa's degraded soils."

Co-organized by the African Union and the Government of Kenya, with support from various partners, the summit aims to foster crucial discussions on enhancing the value of land as a pivotal asset for farmers. During the three days meeting, participants are engaging in dialogue to steer Africa's agricultural transformation,

while setting the agenda for its future food systems, a key item in the 50-year development plan, Agenda 2063.

Notably, AFSH24 seeks to evaluate progress since the 2006 Abuja Declaration, which aimed to elevate fertilizer use for agricultural growth to a minimum of 50t/ha, a target that remains largely unmet, highlighting the urgency for innovative approaches to address the continent's deteriorating soil health and its related unsustainable expansion of croplands.

Fertilizer consumption (kilograms per hectare of arable land ranges from 0.03 in Sudan and 1.04 KG in Somalia to 542.47 in Seychelles and 542.57 in Arab Republic of Egypt, the highest figure recorded by an African country.

10 countries met or surpassed the 2006 Abuja declaration. These are: Morocco 55.29, Eswatini 57.77, Botswana 59.27, Kenya 60.66, Zambia 63.90, Malawi 96.74, South Africa 104.64, Mauritius 186.50, Seychelles 542.47 and Arab Republic of Egypt 542.57.

## Three-wheeler financing for cleaner vehicles unveiled

By Guardian Reporter

WATU Credit (Tanzania) Limited announced an initiative to expand its asset financing support for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)-powered three-wheelers across Tanzania.

A statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday and made available to this paper, indicated that this initiative is part of Watu's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, with the goal of financing at least 1,000 CNG-powered three-wheelers by the end of 2024, intensifying efforts to transition the transport sector to cleaner energy sources.

The initiative was officially

launched in the presence of the Ilala District Commissioner, Hon. Edward Mpagolo, who highlighted the collaborative efforts of the government and private sector through public-private partnerships.

"These efforts align with Sustainable Development Goal No. 7, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, including that every Tanzanian can access affordable and clean energy by 2030," stated Edward Mpagolo.

"Transitioning to cleaner energy is essential, and we are dedicated to financing this project to help the commuters, drivers, and the community adopt clean,



Ilala District Commissioner Edward Mpagolo (3rd-L) joins other officials for the launch of an environmental conservation initiative supported by Watu Credit (Tanzania) Limited. Photo: Guardian Photographer

safe, and sustainable transport. This commitment helps safeguard our environment because the future of our entire planet depends on the actions we take today," said Rumisho Shikonyi, Country Manager at Watu in Tanzania.

Watu has been working towards this goal, financing over 200 CNG-powered three-wheelers worth Tshs. 2.2 billion in the past two months alone. This campaign will further amplify their impact, helping them achieve the target of financing at least 1,000 more vehicles and advancing the clean mobility agenda across the continent.

The event also featured prominent stakeholders from the energy and environmental sectors, including Eng James Mologosho (Principal Engineer Natural Gas -

Distribution & Supply at EWURA), Tajiel Urioh, expert in climate policy, carbon markets and energy transition, and Dr Esebi Nyari (Mechanical Engineering Lecturer & CNG Project Coordinator at DIT).

Watu is an asset financing company revolutionizing financial inclusion across Africa. The company is building an ecosystem for unbanked and underserved individuals by providing access to mobility and connectivity tools that enhance digital literacy, economic growth, quality of life and opportunity.

So far, Watu has provided over 1 million loans across 7 countries and has positively impacted the lives of more than 4 million people. In addition, Watu actively promotes financial literacy and independence, as well as increased regulatory and safety compliance.



## Local institutions team up to develop improved cassava seeds for farmers

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

CASSAVA experts and stakeholders have already started to take some useful strategies that will enable farmers to access improved seeds that will enable an increase of yields and income.

Dr. Regina Kapinga, Head of Advocacy and Resource Mobilization from International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) told The Guardian that through the strategies, key research institutions will produce certified cassava seed varieties to help farmers to overcome the challenge of diseases.

"The vision of the on-going efforts is to develop disease-resistant cassava varieties and establish an economically sustainable seed system to provide farmers with high-quality planting material," Dr Kapinga

unveiled.

She disclosed the institutions involved in the initiative as IITA, Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), and the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI).

"In the major initiative, the agricultural pundits from the mentioned institutions are working to address a number of challenges, including those based on pests and diseases, as well as limited access to improved varieties," According to Dr Kapinga. She cited major initiatives to address these challenges which include strengthening Early Generation Seed (EGS) production at Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) using high-ratio propagation technologies such as Semi-Autotrophic Hydroponics (SAH). "This is just among



Emanuel Sonda, agricultural scientist from the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute Ukiriguru Centre, conducts training sessions for Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs on a technique known as '2 nodes cutting' in Mwanza Region. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo.

the most successful methods used to efficiently propagate cassava planting material in a controlled environment," she said.

Dr Regina emphasized that, to achieve the last mile seed delivery to smallholder farmers, stallholders have been building the capacity of business-minded farmers called Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) and they are registered by TOSCI.

"According to a thorough research con-

ducted by IITA in collaboration with TARI, certified cassava seed has a yield advantage of at least 81 percent over recycled seed, which is a strong incentive," Dr Kapinga unveiled.

The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with key stakeholders including, the Tanzania Cassava Producers and Processors Association (TACAPPA), IITA, and AGRA - Sustainably Growing Africa's Food

Systems, recently hosted a significant Cassava Business and Investment Forum in Dodoma Capital City.

The gathering which attracted at least 150 delegates representing various sectors, including investors, policymakers, government officials, farmers, seed entrepreneurs, researchers, and development partners focused to discuss, reflecting on, and deliberating the business opportuni-

ties and challenges within Tanzania's cassava sub-sector.

The event was graced by Dr. Hussein M. Omar, the Deputy Permanent Secretary on behalf of the Agriculture Minister, Hussein Bashe.

Dr Omar acknowledged the pivotal support of development partners such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Cornell University in the efforts to spur the performance of the sector.

He observed that, the initiatives like BASICSII, Muhogo Bora, and Next-Gen have significantly contributed to bolstering the country's cassava seed systems, ensuring the availability of 25 high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties, and facilitating the emergence of 1,000 youth and women-led cassava seed entrepreneurs who provide last-mile seed delivery to smallholder farmers.

In 2023, they sold 69 million cuttings with approximately 3bn/- and was planted at least 7,000 hectares. On the other hand, he cited key challenges in meeting targets outlined in the National Cassava Development Strategy (NCDS) 2020 - 2030.

By 2030, the plan is to distribute at least 3.5 billion cassava cuttings, and 30 percent of the total area under the cassava crop should be planted with improved varieties.

# Experts boost access to affordable payments in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent, Nairobi

LAST year saw promising advancements in the availability of inclusive instant payments in Africa through six new or expanding public Instant and Inclusive Payment System (IIPS) initiatives.

During the year, AfricaNenda began providing technical assistance for new instant payment system exploratory projects in Guinea, Cabo Verde and South Sudan, in addition to collaborating with Rwanda switch operator to expand use cases and supporting efforts in the CEMAC and SADC regions to enhance the inclusivity and interoperability of their cross-border payment systems.

AfricaNenda is an African-led team of experts committed to unlocking the potential of digital financial services for the financially excluded across the continent by accelerating the scale-up of instant and inclusive payment systems.

Through these efforts, AfricaNenda is helping expand the reach of safe and affordable financial solutions to everyone on the continent.

Payments are the most popular financial service for account holders in Africa and serve as a key entry point for end-users to adopt other financial services, including savings and credit.

Yet, as of 2023, only half of the countries in Africa had a national instant payment system enabling access for all end-users, including underserved customers such as women, youth, and lower-income households.

When payment capabilities are part of a country's digital public infrastructure, more end-users benefit from the increased safety, speed, and convenience of digital transactions.

Dr Robert Ochola, the CEO of AfricaNenda, said, "AfricaNenda is supporting central banks, and digital financial service providers to



Dr Robert Ochola, CEO of AfricaNenda

accelerate expansion of inclusive instant payment systems. When digital transactions are seamless and affordable for everyone, it motivates more end-users to connect to the formal economy, ultimately fulfilling our mission of achieving universal financial inclusion in Africa by 2030. We are proud of the progress we have made in recent years, though more still

needs to be done by all players working together as an ecosystem."

Over the last decade, the number of live instant payment systems in Africa has grown to 29 domestic and three regional systems.

Over that same period, the share of adults on the continent with a financial account has also more than doubled from just over 20 per cent in 2011 to about 55 per cent as of 2021, according to the Global Findex. Despite this progress, more than 400 million adults across Africa are unbanked and therefore unable to receive or make digital payments. AfricaNenda's work aims to change that by expanding access to digital payments, which are shown to provide an on-ramp to other financial services.

Dr Ochola called for investment in a robust network of public and public-private open loop payment systems across the continent to serve as a transaction layer for Africa's digital public infrastructure, so that everyone can connect to the

formal economy.

In addition to its technical project work, AfricaNenda also enables the IPS ecosystem with advocacy and knowledge sharing.

The organization launched the second edition of the State of Inclusive Instant Payment Systems (SI-IPS) in Africa report in Addis Ababa in November 2023, in collaboration with the United Nations Commission for Africa and the World Bank Group.

The report defines the payment landscape and identifies inclusivity gaps. AfricaNenda also partnered with the African Union Commission (AUC) to enhance collaboration within the payment ecosystem and mobilized USD 1.5 million to support the AUC's advocacy program for policy harmonization to facilitate cross-border digital payments in Africa.

AfricaNenda also contributed to the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area Digital Trade Protocol.

## Expanding credits issuance spurs money supply growth

By Guardian Reporter

EXPANSION of credits issuance to private sector aligning with economic activities is continuing to push up the growth of the money supply.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for April has reported that the extended broad money supply (M3) grew by 13.8 percent, slightly higher than 13.1 percent registered in the preceding month, but lower than 15.9 percent in the corresponding month in 2023.

The growth was largely on account of the sustained expansion in credit to the private sector, the central bank review notes.

Private sector credit growth remained strong, with an annual growth of 16.6 percent, close to the previous month.

The strong growth of private sector credit continues to be backed by high demand for loans attributable to the improving business environment.

Credit to agricultural activities maintained the highest growth, at 51.5 percent associated with ongoing policies and measures to improve the sector's productivity followed by mining and manufacturing activities.

To intensify agriculture financing, the African Development Bank Group approved a \$66 million loan to the government of Tanzania for additional equity in Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) in December last year to enable the bank to strengthen its capital and enhance the structure and effectiveness of financial and non-financial services it offers to entrepreneurs in the agriculture and related value chains.

The Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank Phase II project will also receive \$950,000 in technical assistance from the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative to boost access to finance and related support to women in identified agriculture value chains.

In January this year, the U.S nonprofit IESC announced the launch of the new three-year USAID Agri-Finance Project to improve access to finance for smallholders, women, youth, and micro, small, and medium (including large) enterprises (MSMILs) in Tanzania.



The \$3 million project had a particular emphasis on expanding investments in priority technologies, including climate-smart irrigation, inputs, storage, and value addition. The Project aims to enhance agricultural finance, promote lending and investment, and boost agricultural productivity and incomes in a more inclusive ecosystem.

The bank's and BoT computations shows the growth of credits to mining and quarrying increased to by more than three times to 26 percent during the end of March 2023, compared to 8.1 percent recorded at the end of March 2023.

The annual growth of credits to manufacturing sector reached 24 percent at the end of March this year, from 17 percent recorded in March 2023, while personal loans, mainly for micro, small, and medium-sized enter-

prises (MSMEs), which hold the largest portion of total credit to the private sector, at 38.2 percent grew by 20.2 percent.

In a meantime, interest rates on loans charged by banks broadly declined compared with rates recorded in March 2023.

The outturn owes to improvement in credit risk, as reflected by a decrease in the ratio of nonperforming loans which was 4.3 percent in March 2024, below the Bank of Tanzania tolerable threshold of 5 percent.

During the month, the short-term interest rate eased to an average of 16.17 percent, while the 12-month deposit rate increased to an average of 8.94 percent. As a result, the spread between the one-year lending and deposit interest rates narrowed to 7.23 percentage points from 8.73 percentage points in March 2023.

## Mobile money firm extends 3.9bn/- to active customers

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCIAL inclusion has taken its place as Airtel Money Tanzania has disbursed more than 3.9bn/- to Airtel Money customers and agents nationwide.

Andrew Rugamba, Airtel Money director unveiled this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking to journalists on the telecom's performance.

He said that the amount disbursed will be distributed to all Airtel Money customers and agents who have utilized Airtel Money services between July and December 2023.

He said that the Airtel Money interest disbursement is a testament to their dedication to providing innovatibest-in-class, and affordable services.

According to him, customers benefit from interest disbursements every quarter. The interest is calculated based on the balance in the Airtel Money wallets/accounts at the end of each day.

"The more frequently customers use Airtel Money services and keep balance in their account the more the interest," he says.

Airtel Money Customers have the flexibility to buy airtime, withdraw the earned interest from Airtel Money Agents, transfer it to their Airtel Money savings account, or utilize it to pay bills such as DAWASCO, and LUKU, among others.

Since the inception of the Airtel Money interest initiative in 2015, Airtel Tanzania has distributed a total of 52bn/- to Airtel Money customers and agents countrywide, reflecting the company's ongoing commitment to rewarding its loyal customer base.

"Airtel Tanzania remains steadfast in its mission to provide accessible, reliable, and affordable money services to its customers while at the same time rewarding them for using mobile money services," he said, adding: "The services are undeniably important and cut across all segments and all walks of lives for both rural and urban areas. We'll continue to expand our agent network to ensure that Airtel Money services are readily available to the majority of the population."

Airtel takes pride in its extensive Airtel Money distribution infrastructure, which spans over 4,000 Airtel Money branches and comprises over 250,000 Airtel Money agents nationwide.

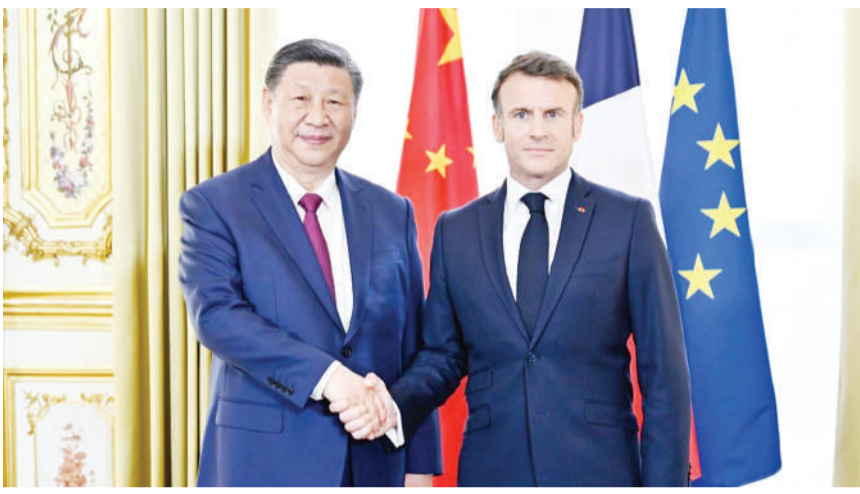
In addition to widening its Airtel Money agent footprint, Airtel Tanzania has integrated its Airtel Money systems with various payment platforms, including e-government, allowing customers to make multiple government payments seamlessly from the comfort of their homes. Airtel Money is also connected to over 40 banks in the country, enabling customers to conveniently perform instant money transfers from their bank accounts to their Airtel Money wallets while enjoying sending money to Airtel customers at no cost.







## WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, hold talks at Elysee Palace, in Paris, France on Monday. XINHUA

## Xi: China and France should uphold independence, fend off 'new Cold War'

PARIS

AS the world goes through transformation and turbulence not seen in a century, China and France should uphold independence and jointly prevent a "new Cold War" or bloc confrontation, Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Monday.

Xi made the remarks during talks with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, at Elysee Palace.

The Chinese president expressed his delight in making the third state visit to France on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-France diplomatic relations.

The two sides should stay committed to the spirit that guided the establishment of their diplomatic ties, namely, independence, mutual understanding, long-term vision and mutual benefit, and enrich it with new features of the new era, Xi said.

The two sides should continue to understand each other, jointly promote harmonious coexistence in a colorful world, stick to taking a long view and work together for an equal and orderly multipolar world, he said.

They should pursue win-win cooperation and jointly oppose decoupling, cutting off supply chains, he said.

Xi stressed that China is willing to maintain strategic communication with France, respect each other's core interests, and consolidate the strategic stability of bilateral relations, tap the vast potential of mutually beneficial cooperation and facilitate growth and balance in bilateral trade.

China is willing to import more quality products from France, push for more practical results from the "French farm to Chinese dining table" mechanism, and hope that France will export more high-tech and high value-added products to China, Xi said.

The two sides should enhance the docking of development strategies, deepen cooperation in traditional areas such as aerospace and aviation, strengthen cooperation in nuclear energy, innovation and finance, and expand cooperation in emerging areas such as green energy, smart manufacturing, biomedicine and artificial intelligence, he said.

China has fully liberalized access to its manufacturing sector and will speed up market access in telecommunications, medical and other services, Xi said.

We welcome more French com-

panies to invest in China, he said, adding that China hopes that France will provide a sound business environment and stable development expectations for Chinese companies to invest and cooperate in France.

Xi stressed that both as major countries with a rich culture, China and France should speed up people-to-people and cultural exchanges, continue to hold various activities of the China-France Year of Culture and Tourism, and actively promote cooperation in the joint protection and restoration of cultural relics and pairing between world heritage sites.

Welcoming more French friends to visit China, Xi said that China will extend the visa-free policy for short-term visits to China by 12 countries, including France, until the end of 2025.

China also looks forward to hosting more than 10,000 French students in the next three years and doubling the number of European youth exchanges in China, Xi said.

China supports France in hosting a successful Paris Olympic Games and will send a high-level delegation to France, said the Chinese president.

China is willing to deepen cooperation with France in climate change, biodiversity and other fields, support France in hosting a successful UN Ocean Conference, and encourage the pairing of relevant national parks and nature reserves of the two countries, Xi said.

China is also willing to strengthen dialogue and communication with France in such areas as artificial intelligence governance and reform of the international financial system.

For his part, Macron said that France and China will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations this year, noting that the two countries enjoy a friendly relationship and productive cooperation regarding not just cutting-edge technologies but also global issues such as climate change and marine biodiversity.

During Xi's visit, the two sides signed many cooperation agreements, which again showcased the potential and prospects of France-China cooperation.

The world now faces many pressing challenges, and the profound and rich France-China relationship is at a critical juncture of building on the past and looking to the future, he said.

The two sides, through mutual respect, a long-term perspective and strengthened cooperation, will play an important and positive role in addressing global challenges and opposing any logic of bloc confrontation, Macron said.

France would like to have closer economic ties and multilateral communication and collaboration with China, and work for more outcomes in the France-China strategic partnership, he said.

Xinhua

## Putin formally takes office as Russian president for six-year term

MOSCOW

VLADIMIR Putin has formally taken office as Russian president for another six-year term, Constitutional Court Chairman Valery Zorkin announced.

Putin took the oath to the people. Zorkin handed him the symbols of presidential power, including the presidential insignia, that is, the golden cross of St. George, depicting the Russian coat of arms and a gold chain with the words "Virtue, Honesty and Glory."

After being sworn in, the head of state delivered a speech.

The ceremony marks the start of Putin's fifth presidential term. His first two terms in



office lasted four years each. However, the presidential term was later extended to six years based on constitutional amendments.

Putin's first six-year presidential term began in 2012 and the

second one in 2018. In 2020, the Constitution was changed to make it possible for him to run for president in 2024.

Putin won the election, garnering an unprecedented 87.28% of the vote.

## Report: At least 20 killed as Israeli army pounds Rafah

JERUSALEM/GAZA/CAIRO

ISRAEL'S military said yesterday that it had started "a precise counterterrorism operation" in Rafah city in the south of the Gaza Strip and assumed "operational control" over the Rafah crossing in Gaza.

The crossing, which has served as a passage for humanitarian aid from Egypt to war-torn Gaza, was out of service.

Since the beginning of the assault overnight Monday, Israel said it has taken control of the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing, with the Israeli forces killing at least 20 militants.

Israel targeted at least four residential buildings in Rafah, injuring dozens of people, according to the report, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said in a press statement on Tuesday that their militants "attacked Israeli soldiers stationed around the Rafah crossing".

Israeli forces attacked the Rafah city from the ground and air, the military said, as residents reported heavy and relentless bombardments. The military said it had struck "military structures, underground infrastructure, and three operational tunnel shafts."

Palestinian sources confirmed Xinhua that Israeli tanks stormed the Rafah border crossing and Israeli forces have taken control of it, preventing Palestinians from moving through the crossing.

"The movement of travelers and humanitarian aid has stopped in both the Rafah border crossing and Kerem Shalom," the General Authority for Crossings and Borders in Gaza said in a brief statement sent to Xinhua.

The Israeli army shared videos showing a tank storming the area of the border. Meanwhile, other pictures released on social media platforms showed an Israeli flag being raised



A Palestinian wounded in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip is brought to a hospital in Rafah yesterday. AP

at the entrance of the Rafah border.

The Rafah border crossing is the only outlet for more than 2.3 million Palestinians in the war-torn besieged coastal enclave.

Earlier on Monday night, Israel's military said it was carrying out large-scale airstrikes in Rafah, hours after Hamas announced acceptance of an Egyptian-Qatari proposal regarding a ceasefire in the strip.

Egypt informed the Palestinian side that Israel's security operation in the vicinity of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing would end on Tuesday morning, a high-ranking security official told Xinhua.

"Egypt has inquired about the Israeli incursion in the vicinity of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing, the only link between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, and Israel responded that the operation will end on Tuesday morning," the source said on condition of anonymity.

**Crossing closed for aid, individual passage**

The Rafah crossing is closed for aid and individual passage indefinitely after an Israeli military operation close by from the Palestinian side early Tuesday, a high-ranking security source told Xinhua.

Bombing and strikes have not stopped in the eastern area of the Palestinian city Rafah that accommodates the crossing, and all workers in the crossing have left amid direct targeting by the Israeli forces, the source said on condition of anonymity because he was unauthorized to speak to the media.

"The movement of passengers and delivery of aid completely stopped to the Gaza Strip since yesterday evening," the source added. He believed that the Israeli op-

eration in search of Hamas tunnels and Israeli hostages might take a few days.

Hamas's Al-Qsa TV channel reported that Israeli tanks stood at a close distance from the crossing in southern Gaza.

"Three Israeli tanks are positioned 200 meters far from the crossing and bombarded the crossing wall. Meanwhile, sounds of firing and strikes were heard near the crossing."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, meanwhile, said the ceasefire proposal is far from meeting Israel's "core demands", and that the government will send a delegation to Cairo to exhaust every possibility of reaching an agreement acceptable to Israel.

Also, a Qatari delegation will head to Cairo on Tuesday for indirect negotiations on the Gaza truce between Israel and Hamas through mediators, according to a spokesperson for the Qatari Foreign Ministry.

**Hamas nods to Gaza truce proposal**

Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh has told the Egyptian and Qatari sides that his movement approved their proposal regarding a ceasefire in Gaza, the Gaza-ruling Palestinian faction said in a statement on Monday.

"We agreed on the proposal that meets our demands of ceasing fire, reconstructing the strip, the return of the displaced to their areas of residence, and a deal on a prisoner swap," the statement said.

Immediately after Hamas's announcement, joy spread in the streets and shelters of the coastal enclave.

## West plotted aggression against Russia on eve of special military operation – top brass

MOSCOW

THE West plotted aggression against Russia on the eve of the special military operation to inflict a strategic defeat on it like it did on the eve of the Soviet Union's 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War against Nazi Germany, Russia's Military Intelligence Chief Igor Kostyukov said on Monday.

Earlier, Moscow's Victory Museum received declassified documents on the activity of the Soviet military intelligence on the eve and during the period of the Great Patriotic War. The documents particularly reveal that the German military command planned to achieve a final victory within three weeks after the start of the Great Patriotic War and capture Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

"History repeats itself," Chief of the Russian General Staff's Main Intelligence Department, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Hero of Russia Admiral Kostyukov said.

"In the pre-war years, like on the eve of the special military operation, the West plotted aggression against our Fatherland with the aim of inflicting a strategic defeat on it.

Our Motherland's friendly aspirations and attempts to establish a really collective system of security for all countries both in the pre-war years and on the eve of the special military operation did not crown with success due to the unconstructive stance of Western countries," he said.

"In 1945, the enemy was defeated, even though the industry of the entire Europe worked for the Wehrmacht.

This will also be the case now, despite the military-technical support for Kiev by the United States and its minions (overall, 50 countries)," the military intelligence chief stressed.

Hundreds of thousands of military intelligence officers fought against German invaders during the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War. Of them, 621 officers were bestowed with the title of the Hero of the Soviet Union and two of them, Captain 2nd Rank Viktor Leonov and Lieutenant General Afanasy Shilin, were twice awarded this title.

Nine other military intelligence operatives were subsequently bestowed with the title of the Hero of the Russian Federation after an evaluation of their activity based on archive documents.

As many as 751 people became Full Cavaliers of the Order of Glory, he said.



**In the pre-war years, like on the eve of the special military operation, the West plotted aggression against our Fatherland with the aim of inflicting a strategic defeat on it**

ANKARA

TÜRKIYE'S decision to freeze trade ties with Israel marks a decisive step in ties between the two non-Arab states of the Middle East as trade remained largely untouched despite ups and downs in bilateral relations in the past two decades.

Analysts said Ankara is aware that cutting trade ties with Israel will hurt Türkiye's ailing economy but wants to show that supporting the Palestinian cause goes beyond the money that exports generate. Türkiye announced the suspension of

## Türkiye's move to cut trade with Israel new blow to strained ties

all trade with Israel last week after the country imposed export restrictions on Israel in early April, covering products from iron to jet fuel.

Batu Coskun, a political analyst who specializes in Turkish affairs at Libya's Sadeq Institute, told Xinhua that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is taking a different approach to Türkiye's relationship with Israel, noting that trade relations once remained unaffected even during times of political strain. For

Coskun, the current position of Ankara on the Gaza conflict is to address all aspects of its ties with Israel without separating political and economic issues, even if it means that Türkiye will also suffer from a suspension of trade ties.

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, Türkiye reported 5.4 billion U.S. dollars in exports to Israel in 2023 and 1.6 billion in imports. The bilateral trade volume is largely in favor of Türkiye, and its companies

are expected to take a hit from a ban on exports, especially those specializing in construction materials.

Erdogan has been a vocal critic of Israel's military operations in Gaza since last year. In Coskun's view, the Turkish leader may want to continue the escalation with Israel as he resonates with his ruling Justice and Development Party's religious and conservative grassroots. The Turkish president faced backlash at home from its

allies and the opposition for not cutting all trade ties with Israel while the humanitarian crisis deepened in the Palestinian enclave.

Erdogan on Friday said his government's move to halt trade with Israel aimed at pushing the country to a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. "We have taken some measures to force Israel to agree to a ceasefire and increase the amount of humanitarian aid to enter" Gaza, Erdogan told a group of busi-

nessmen in Istanbul, Türkiye's economic hub, semi-official Anadolu Agency reported.

Türkiye and Israel restored diplomatic relations in mid-2022 following years of strained relations. However, the Gaza crisis led to renewed tensions and mutual accusations. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan also announced last week that his country would join South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the Hague-based International Court of Justice. Time

will tell how Ankara's decision will affect Israel's economy, and seeking alternative partners in times of crisis is not something new for the country, Serkan Demirtas, an Ankara-based foreign policy analyst and journalist, said to Xinhua. "With a trade embargo, Türkiye is essentially seeking to set a precedent for other nations to twist Israel's arm for a permanent truce in Gaza," he pointed out. "We will have to see the extent of the impact of the Turkish embargo on the Israeli economy and whether other countries will follow suit," he added. Xinhua



# Xi Jinping, 'a sincere friend of Serbia'

BELGRADE/BEIJING

SITUATED by the scenic Danube River, the Smederevo Steelworks had long been hailed as the pride of Serbia before it slid to bankruptcy more than two decades ago.

Thanks to the deepening of the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation between China and Serbia, the century-old factory made a remarkable comeback in 2016 when its Chinese partner arrived.

In just a couple of months, the steel mill started turning a profit. It has now become one of the world's largest iron and steel makers and integrated service providers measured by production capacity.

The rebirth of the steel mill stands as a key epitome of the broader practical cooperation between the two countries.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping pays his second state visit to the European country in the coming days, expectations are running high that the ironclad friendship between the two nations will be further enriched and strengthened.

Many big Chinese investment projects here were brought about by President Xi, former Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic said. "He is a sincere friend of Serbia."

## AN ICON REBORN

During his first state visit to Serbia in 2016, Xi offered a strong helping hand to the Smederevo Steelworks, ushering in a wave of Chinese support.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic clearly remembers how he, then as prime minister, approached Xi during the latter's visit with the idea of saving the struggling company. Xi assured him with a famous Chinese saying that "promises must be kept, and actions must be resultful."

"What we pledge to do, such as introducing cutting-edge technology, ensuring local employment, and benefiting the wider community, must be achieved without fail," Xi told the workers when visiting the factory.

Vladan Mihailovic, executive director for production at the steelworks,



Passengers take a selfie at Novi Sad station in Serbia, May 6, 2023. The 80-km-long, Chinese-built Belgrade-*Novi Sad* high-speed railway has been carrying passengers at speeds of up to 200 km per hour since March 2022. Xinhua

described Xi's visit as a turning point. With Xi's support, China offered sustained assistance to Serbia to revive the factory.

"The president's commitments, especially regarding the modernization of production facilities, have become a reality," said Mihailovic.

About 60 km away to the northwest of the steelworks nestles the Belgrade Centre railway station, the starting point of another Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation project Xi cares about -- the Belgrade-*Novi Sad* high-speed railway.

As a segment of the Serbia-Hungary railway, it began operations in March 2022 and has since been shuttling passengers between Serbia's two largest cities at speeds of up to 200 km per hour. Vucic dubbed it "a gift for future generations."

The flourishing cooperation between Beijing and Belgrade within the framework of the BRI epitomizes the growing synergy between development strategies of the two countries, which has significantly bolstered bilateral economic and trade relations.

According to Chinese customs statistics, the total trade volume between China and Serbia in 2023 reached 4.35 billion U.S. dollars, an increase of 23.7 percent compared to the previous year.

In October last year, witnessed by Xi and

Vucic, China and Serbia signed a free trade agreement in Beijing, the first one inked between China and a Central and Eastern European country. After the deal takes effect, more than 60 percent of taxable items will become tariff-free immediately, and the final import volume proportion of both sides with zero-tariff items will reach about 95 percent.

"China is one of the most important partners for Serbia's economic development," said Nenad Stekic, a research fellow with the Institute of International Politics and Economics, a Serbian think tank.

"Since we elevated our relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2016, the relationship has been really going on an upward trajectory across the board," he added.

## A FRIEND IN NEED

Both the steel mill and the iron rail bear witness to the special rapport between the two nations, which has been forged with blood and lives. In the face of difficulties and challenges, the Chinese and Serbian people have always supported each other through thick and thin.

When the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc across the world, China extended timely help to Serbia. Providing Serbia with protective equipments, medical in-

struments and vaccines, China also dispatched a team of medical professionals to help it better contain the pandemic.

It was already late night hours when Chinese medical team landed at Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport. Vucic headed a group of senior officials to greet the experts. While handshaking was not advisable during the outbreak, the Serbian leader chose to elbow-bump with every member of the Chinese team. He also kissed a Chinese national flag in a show of gratitude for China's timely support.

An ironclad friendship, comm The Chinese people "have proven as friends in the most difficult times when we fight for lives of Serbian people," Vucic said.

In the following month, Serbia awarded its most prestigious military awards to the Chinese medical team members, recognizing their invaluable contribution to the country's battle against the pandemic.

When China was facing difficulties, Serbia also rushed to help. After a massive earthquake flattened China's Wenchuan county in 2008, Serbia offered speedy assistance to China and provided a large amount of relief supplies to the people in the affected areas.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed. That's a great sentence," Vucic told Xinhua.

## A BOND IRONCLAD

"An ironclad friend" is how Xi describes Serbia in China's foreign relations. In Chinese diplomatic discourse, the term conveys a special meaning.

Serbia is proud of its ironclad friendship with China, and China has always treated Serbia as equal, Vucic told Xi during his visit to China to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October last year.

ent Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at Renmin University of China, implies close relations, close communication and close cooperation on the basis of true respect for each other's core interests. All these features apply to the China-Serbia relationship.

Taking a stroll through Belgrade's Kalemegdan Park, a symbol of Serbia's resilience, heritage and natural beauty, during his 2016 visit, Xi expressed his profound respect for the country and its people.

Xinhua

## Macron's aggressive rhetoric baffles even his allies – diplomat

MOSCOW

EVEN French President Emmanuel Macron's allies are at a loss as to where his aggressive statements are coming from, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman told TASS.



Commenting on the summoning of the French ambassador to the Russian Foreign Ministry the day before, the diplomat said: "Neither France nor its closest allies can understand what Macron and his inner circle, formed not long ago, including, if we are talking about the diplomatic service, people who are quite green, are constantly saying."

"Very often France's allies from the UK and Germany, as we understand, try to get clarifications as to what the French leadership means, without getting a direct answer," she pointed out. "Nevertheless, these statements are not only controversial, I mean the statements from Macron and the top defense official, the top diplomat, they are also very aggressive, which was the reason for the summoning of the ambassador," Zakharova said.

"Another series of strange and aggressive actions and statements," the spokeswoman emphasized.

The French ambassador in Moscow was summoned to the ministry the day before and told that Paris' line was destructive. The ministry pointed out that France's attempts to create "strategic uncertainty" for Russia with statements about possible troop deployments to Ukraine will not succeed.

Agencies

## India firm and fair: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Tuesday emphasised India's stance as a principled yet robust nation highlighting the country's evolving approach towards challenges such as terrorism and border disputes.

In his address, the EAM also underscored the nation's commitment to integrity and resilience.

"The image of India is of friendly but fair... If you look at a challenge like terrorism, the world recognises that today's India deals with terrorism very differently from how it used to," remarked Jaishankar at the Viksit Bharat 2047 programme held at Hansraj College in the national capital.

"The comparison is very simple. What happened in the Mumbai attacks and what happened in Uri and Balakot... That's a comparison they make. We have a challenge at our China border.

They look at these people (India) standing up and sending the troops. They are staying firm... We came under pressure not to buy oil from Russia... India said my interests require that I buy oil and I am not hiding it... We were very open and honest about it... We were very courageous about it. The sense today is that India is a firm country but it is also a fair country," he added drawing a juxtaposition between past and present responses to security threats.

Touching upon India's technological advancements, Jaishankar lauded the nation's rapid digital transformation. "Today if you look at the range, how digitised India has become. How many of you today anymore use cash?" he queried, pointing out India's dominance in cashless transactions compared to global counterparts.

ANI

## World trying to influence our elections...won't be successful: PM Modi

NEW DELHI

IN a stark acknowledgement of foreign powers trying to influence Lok Sabha elections in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi (pictured) in an interview with Times Now said that the world is trying to do "more than just giving opinions" and asserted that such endeavours would ultimately remain "unsuccessful".

"I think this opposition will be only till June 4, after that these people will neither have the power nor exist. Only the power of my nation and our radiant democracy will exist. World will watch India's democracy with a new point of view. I can see that there is an attempt that the world is trying to influence our elections. They are not just giving their opinions but trying to influence our elections but they will not be successful," he said.

"People of India will not get in-

fluenced. After Emergency, people of India, including the poor, have showed the beauty of India's democracy. Such people will not be successful. The lamp flickers before it extinguishes. This is the flickering, as they know they will soon be left in the dark," he added.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar slammed Western media, emphasising that they criticise our democracy because they think they are also political players in our election and not because they lack information.

Addressing a forum for nationalist thinkers in Hyderabad, EAM said, "I get a lot of these noises from the Western press and if they criticize our democracy, it's not because they lack information. It is because they think they are also political players in our election."

Further, Jaishankar said that in an article by the Western media, they stated that in such a heat-



wave in India, why are they holding elections? "Now I read that article and I wanted to say listen, in that heat my lowest turnout is higher than your highest turnout in the best run," Jaishankar said.

He added that these are games that are being played with us.

"These are politics. These are our domestic politics which is going global, global politics which

feels they must now intrude in India. How can these chaps decide who should be ruling them without consulting us?" he said.

The Lok Sabha Elections 2024 is underway across the country in seven phases. Voting for the first phase took place on April 19, while that for the second phase happened on April 26. Now, the third phase of polling will take

place on May 7. The results for all the seven phases will be declared on June 4.

The third phase of the Lok Sabha elections will be held on May 7 with voting to be held in 94 parliamentary constituencies across 12 States and Union Territories.

By Tuesday evening, over 280 constituencies will have gone to polls, meaning that more than half of the total seats in Lok Sabha will have been decided. Therefore, the remaining of 543 constituencies will go to polling over the rest of the four phases.

The state of Gujarat and the Union Territories of Goa, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu will complete polling in a single phase on Tuesday.

Among the other constituencies voting in the third phase are four in Assam, five in Bihar, seven in Chhattisgarh, eight in Madhya Pradesh, 11 in Maharashtra, 10 in Uttar Pradesh and four in West Bengal.

ANI

## China's new energy industry provides world with high-quality production capacity

TODAY, countries around the world are facing the challenges brought by climate change. Over 130 countries and regions have set carbon neutrality targets, and the development of new energy industries and the achievement of green and low-carbon transformation are common aspirations.

In Thailand, Chinese electric vehicle brands are known by more and more people, and several Chinese car companies are expected to achieve localized production. In Kazakhstan, Chinese enterprises have turned wind into a resource, enabling the small town of Zhanatas with a population of only about 20,000 to catch up with the wave of new energy development. In Brazil, Chinese companies

are investing in solar photovoltaic, onshore wind power, and hydropower projects, providing a stable source of clean electricity.

China's continuous provision of high-quality new energy products is effectively promoting global green and low-carbon transformation.

China is an important participant, contributor and trailblazer in the global climate governance process. It is also a significant producer of green products and a key engine driving global energy transformation.

China has been vigorously promoting the development of ecological civilization and actively developing the new energy industry, demonstrating its determination and action in addressing climate

change. The export of electric vehicles, lithium batteries, photovoltaic products, and more from China has not only enriched global supply and alleviated inflation but also provided significant support for countries to achieve carbon reduction goals and accelerate green transformation.

According to the International Energy Agency's 2023 market report on renewable energy, global annual renewable capacity additions reached 510 gigawatts last year, growing at a faster rate than any other time in the past 30 years, and China was the largest driving force for the growth.

Data released by China's National Energy Administration last year showed that over the past decade, China contributed over 40 percent to the

growth in the world's non-fossil energy consumption. In 2022, China's exports of wind and solar power products helped other countries reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 600 million tons.

World Meteorological Organization secretary-general Celeste Saulo pointed out that comprehensive participation from major countries like China is necessary in addressing climate change.

China adheres to open development and shares advanced green technologies with the world, significantly improving the accessibility of technology.

From a global perspective, green and low-carbon development is a major direction of the innovation in energy technology. Through continuous research and efforts, China

has become a global leader in several new energy technologies and equipment manufacturing. It has built the world's largest clean power supply system, with its hydropower, wind power, solar power, and biomass capacities consistently ranking first in the world for years. China's new energy generation technology is at the forefront globally, effectively driving down the costs of wind and solar power generation.

Tim Gould, chief energy economist at the International Energy Agency, said that China possesses unique advantages in the development and application of clean energy technologies. China has achieved fruitful results in a number of major engineering projects, providing strong technological support for global energy

transformation.

China is actively promoting international cooperation in the field of new energy, aiming to build a new model of green and low-carbon energy transformation for mutual benefit.

So far, China's overseas investment in non-fossil energy has surpassed that in fossil energy, leading to the successful completion of several landmark projects in clean, efficient, and high-quality green energy cooperation.

China is steadily advancing the development of a green Belt and Road and has engaged in green energy project cooperation with over 100 countries and regions, providing strong support for their green and low-carbon energy development. China has proposed the Belt and Road Energy Partner-

ship and has set up six regional energy cooperation platforms, promoting the establishment of global clean energy partnerships.

These efforts have played an important role in promoting global clean energy transformation and ensuring global energy security.

Erik Solheim, vice chairman of the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition and former under-secretary-general of the United Nations, believes that China has made significant contributions to global renewable energy development, bringing innovation that drives economic development and green and low-carbon transformation to other developing countries.

People's Daily



# SPORT



Barrick Runners Club's Sarah Cyprian is pictured jubilating after finishing the 21km race of the 2024 Dar es Salaam City Marathon held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Mgunda shifts focus to Azam FC after NBC PL victory over Tabora United

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC secured a crucial 2-0 victory over Tabora United in a tightly-contested NBC Premier League match played at Azam Complex Stadium, Chamazi in Dar es Salaam early this week.

This win keeps the Msimbazi Street squad in the hunt for second place and a coveted CAF Champions League spot next season.

Simba SC's interim head coach, Juma Mgunda, acknowledged the difficulty of the match, noting: "Tabora United is a good team and put up a lot of opposition, they shouldn't be criticized- they showed a lot of fight."

While celebrating the win, Mgunda is already setting his sights on the next challenge, remarking: "Today's game is over. We are going back to training to prepare for the next match against Azam FC, every game has its preparations."

"The upcoming clash with Azam FC holds significant weight, this is an important match because it will decide who sits on top of the other," Mgunda explained.

"They are in second place, only four points ahead of us, and we have a game in hand. A win would put us in a very good position."

He added: "Don't forget, this is a derby, it will bring together the best teams fighting for the top honour. It won't be easy, but we are prepared."

The match between Simba SC and Tabora United began at a measured pace, with most of the action concentrated in the midfield. Clear-cut chances were scarce for both sides.

The deadlock was broken in the 19th

minute when midfielder Sadio Kanoute rose above Tabora United's defense to head home a corner kick by Ladaki Chasambi.

This goal momentarily jolted Simba SC into a higher gear, but they struggled to capitalize on their momentum.

Tabora United, meanwhile, tightened up their defense, making life difficult for the Simba SC attackers.

The second goal finally arrived in the 76th minute. Edwin Balua capitalized on a pinpoint pass from Mzamiru Yassin to double Simba SC's lead and secure three points.

This victory propels Simba SC to 53 points, whilst still sitting third after 24 matches. However, their work is far from over.

They need to secure wins in their remaining matches to overtake Azam FC and secure the coveted second-place finish that guarantees a spot in the CAF Champions League.

Key upcoming fixtures include matches against Azam FC, Kagera Sugar, and Dodoma Jiji FC.

For Tabora United, the picture is much bleak. They find themselves precariously positioned in the relegation zone, sitting 15th with just 23 points from 25 games.

To avoid dropping to the NBC Championship League, they need to win at least three of their remaining matches.

Their upcoming schedule features challenging encounters with Mtibwa Sugar, Young Africans SC, and Namungo FC.

Tabora United will need to dig deep and pull off some unexpected victories to ensure their survival in the NBC Premier League next season.

## SPORTS

# Press query on Kibu to Mangungu a pointer to systemic dysfunctions

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

AN illustration of how beleaguered city soccer giant, Simba SC, is organized was visible towards the end of the week when a discussion was heating up on radio and online television stations' talk shows about the future of flamboyant forward Kibu Denis.

As everyone heard from this or that grapevine, it seemed to be important that the issue is cleared by the relevant authorities, who perhaps needed more time to get the issue settled, or at least in a usable picture for the fans.

An entanglement of authorities was soon visible, as some radio stations' sections opted to ignore at least one response from an administrator, by opting to take the high road to the club chairman, not the board chairman, but one who represents the fans and members.

He did not fall into the trap laid out, refusing to discuss the matter and responding that those who have talked on the issue suffice. They wanted a fans' position heard, refusing such an exit.

The speculative sports media was awash with reports that the future of Clatous Chota Chama as well as Denis is uncertain despite that their contracts run out at the end of June, which meant two or at most three months remaining if one adds a few weeks to finish the haggling or procedural endings to staying or departing.

On account of the distraught atmosphere about both the technical bench and the squad, not to speak about the leadership, and the fact that the side has a caretaker coach until the end of the season, it is difficult to see where decisions on the squad will be made as this has to do with technical advice.

No one has a map of the playing strategy for next season or say the needs of the squad based on such a strategy, outside summary sentiments on good, bad, and worse players, etc.

Some of the discomfort appeared to arise from the fact that upper and upper-middle premier league sides are also in the hunt for players from the top cream of the league, such that a side like Ifeju SC



Simba SC Chairman, Murtaza Mangungu. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

is said to be knocking on Yanga and Simba SC doors for this or that player, not to speak of Azam FC.

In previous years it would be the city rivals who at the end of the season would be on a shopping spree for the best players during the season, but increasingly they face local and regional rivalry.

The previous season's top scorer from Geita Gold FC moved to a club in Lubumbashi, FC Lupopo, while another top striker, Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu', ditched the archrivals to get playing time at Azam FC.

This situation was more visible when Feisal Salum dared the Jangwani Street outfit on a departure contract clause.

In that sense, the fan base and membership are increasingly worried about whether the leadership at Msimbazi Street outfit will be able to retain their best players, not to say who will decide who the best players are and on what terms they can stay.

Were former head coach Abdelhak Benchikha still around, everyone would know who is going to make the relevant decisions, in which case there would be less soul-searching on whether anyone in the leadership cares about retaining this or that player.

Thus a kind of spontaneous or voluntary concern with that issue was coming up or had to come up on account of a sort of vacuum in the club, so the fan base takes the role of trying to guide the leadership on the issue, or at least register concerns which can play a part in how decisions are finally made, etc.

What may have been somewhat surprising was the extent to which the prospects of Denis leaving the side disturbed the fan base or voluntary spokesmen for the fans, while this wasn't exactly the case for pundits or a range of discussants of the issue.

The player in the Msimbazi Street squad they seemed to value most was Chama, while the fans appeared to be more concerned with Denis, whether it was due

to how the departure prospects were relayed, or from some other focus since one is a professional with years at the club and the other is a relative newcomer.

The fans could be worried that it is due to not valuing the player that he would be leaving, whereas that issue is two-sided, as to what other clubs are ready to offer in case he has been sufficiently impressive.

With six to seven matches remaining on the calendar, chances that these issues remain under cover are few as each player has to make decisions, though perhaps not hurried decisions as the registration period runs up to the end of August.

There is also a question of techniques on the part of registration management as to what is the best time to talk to players when it is at the start of the end season period when they have offers they may be considering, or leaving the matter to early August when they know much better the value of extant offers on the market, and those they would discard or have skipped already.

Usually, club leaderships are more forthcoming on players it will drop for the next season - keeping it under wraps until the end of the season - while being less available as to players it will sign. Hence if a player is not dropped right away, as Kibu doesn't look like one, the fans have a while to wait.

## Singida Fountain Gate FC interim coach optimistic about NBC PL survival

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC interim head coach, Ngawina Ngawina, has said the club's main focus is now on holding on to a spot in the NBC Premier League.

He issued his comments following his team having initially struggled and experienced competition in the past four games.

Ngawina was, previously, the outfit's former assistant coach and has been promoted to the interim head coach role,

having replaced Jamhuri Kihwelo 'Julio' who left the team after allegedly falling out with the bosses over contractual issues.

Last week, Ngawina, for the first time, led the team to defeat Dodoma Jiji FC 2-0 and climbed to the ninth place in the Premier League standing with 29 points, keeping hopes of staying safe next season alive.

Singida Fountain Gate FC, now based in Mwanza, has five games left- the ones against Coastal Union, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, JKT Tanzania, Geita Gold FC, and Kagera Sugar to ensure league survival.

Ngawina said the win over Dodoma Jiji FC has boosted his confidence and urged his players not to be complacent, given the job is not finished.

He said that after going through a difficult period of poor results which disrupted their plans, they are now fighting to avoid relegation, adding he has been impressed by forward Habib Kyombo's performance.

"We were under a lot of pressure, but the players showed their ability. We are going to regroup and focus on the remaining matches and our target is to avoid the embarrassment of relegation," he said.

"In these remaining games, we are playing against teams, some of whom have ambitions of a top-four finish and others are fighting relegation like us, we have to know the magnitude of these games and make sure we collect many points for survival."

"The second phase of the league has not been pleasing for us. The whole team knows the situation, we are here trying to make sure it all works in our favour so that the team can start afresh next season," Ngawina noted.

The gaffer poured praise on his outfit's in-form striker Kyombo, a footballer Ngawina said the squad has invested its trust in. "For us, he is our talisman, we expect him to turn up in the remaining matches and show us his worth and why he deserves to start in all of our remaining games, the good thing is, he scored in our previous match against Dodoma Jiji FC, I hope he delivers," the former forward for DRC's TP Mazembe said.

# Simba SC eyes Ibenge and Guinean midfielders

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC is in a prime position to land Congolese coach Florent Ibenge, who has requested to leave Sudanese club Al Hilal despite the team's efforts to retain him.

The Msimbazi Street club is further in the process of signing two midfielders from Hafaa FC of Guinea, 21-year-old Mohamed Damaro Camara and 23-year-old Ousmane Fernandez 'Drame'.

According to a trusted source, Ibenge has met twice with Al Hilal's leadership, which expressed trust in him.

However, Ibenge is adamant about leaving, citing his desire to coach in the Premier League and compete for titles.

"The leaders assured the coach of their trust in his performance and requested

him to stay, but he refused because Al Hilal is currently not playing in the domestic league due to the ongoing unrest in Sudan," the source revealed.

Even though Al Hilal's request to participate in the NBC Premier League was accepted by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Ibenge appears unmoved.

Ibenge is reportedly a top contender for replacing Algerian Abdelhak Benchikha as Simba SC's head coach following the latter's departure.

The Congolese's decision to leave Al Hilal suggests that a potential agreement with Simba SC might already be in place.

Simba SC has shown interest in hiring Ibenge, who hails from the Democratic Republic



of Congo, as the squad's head coach before. The Msimbazi Street squad missed out on Ibenge in 2022, ultimately

appointing Zoran Maki. In addition to pursuing Ibenge, Simba SC has turned its attention to Guinea to

bolster the outfit's midfield. Camara and Drame are seen as replacements for midfielders who are

rumoured to be leaving the Msimbazi Street outfit at the end of the season.

Camara is a holding midfielder, while Drame offers versatility, capable of playing in both defensive and box-to-box midfield roles.

Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, assured the side's fans that things are progressing well.

However, he emphasized that discussing either the coach or player signing is premature. The club's current focus is securing a top-two finish to qualify for next season's CAF Champions League.

"We are committed to bringing in a top coach and making significant signings this time around," Ally reassured fans.

"We urge our fans to remain patient. Now is the time for unity and focus on securing a CAF Champions League spot."

Ally acknowledged the need for tough decisions to improve the team and promised signings that would satisfy the fans.

He also stated that a review of the technical bench's performance under Juma Mgunda will be conducted alongside the technical committee. These assessments will guide areas for improvement at the end of the season.

"I assure the fans that next season, we will make changes that will leave everyone speechless, we are determined to regain our former glory," Ally remarked.



## Crime deterring return of South American footballers

BOGOTA

A WAVE of crimes against South American footballers has underscored the risks faced by players loath to return home from overseas clubs to a region where they, or their loved ones, risk being kidnapped, blackmailed or targeted by gangs with a message to send.

In recent months, the sport has been rattled by threats against the family of Argentine forward Angel Di Maria, the kidnapping in Colombia of Luis Diaz's father, and the blackmailing of Peruvian striker Paolo Guerrero's mother in a region of the world ravaged by drug trafficking and gang violence.

"These type of violent actions directly threaten the economy and sports success of the clubs," Argentine club Rosario Central has said of the threats against Di Maria, who opted to remain in Portugal.

### - Drug gangs -

In March, family members of Di Maria received a note threatening their lives if he returned home to play for any club in the city of Rosario -- Argentina's third largest city that has recently seen an explosion in drug-related crime.

The 36-year-old winger for Benfica in Portugal, had earlier stated his desire to play once more for his boyhood club, Rosario Central, and win a Copa Libertadores before he retires.

Argentine authorities said at the time the note contained a threat from "criminal organizations" putting on a show of strength.

The footballer has not spoken about the incident in public, but an Argentine sports TV channel cited sources close to Di Maria saying he had ruled out a return to "prioritize the safety and health of his family." Di Maria is now reportedly in talks to pursue a career in Major League Soccer.

Also in Rosario, gunmen opened fire last year on a shop belonging to the family of World Cup-winning Argentine captain Lionel Messi's wife.

They left a threatening message for the footballer in what was also interpreted as gangs flexing their muscle.

Further north, in gang violence-torn Ecuador, 34-year-old forward Enner Valencia has recently abandoned plans for a return to home team Emelec from Brazil, where he plays for Porto Alegre club Internacional.

"I would love to go to Emelec... try to help the team that gave me everything, but I would not bring my family to Ecuador," he told an Argentine journalist last year.

Valencia's once-peaceful home-

land is grappling with a shocking rise in violence and homicides as narco gangs have grown ever stronger and fight bloody turf wars.

### - Kidnapping -

In 2022, Valencia's sister was taken and held hostage for more than a week near the Colombian border until she was rescued by an anti-kidnapping and anti-extortion unit of the national police.

Last October, guerrilla fighters in Colombia kidnapped the father of Liverpool footballer Luis Diaz.

He was held for 12 days before being freed under pressure from the government negotiating a peace deal with the ELN guerrillas.

The group described the kidnapping by members under its command as a "mistake."

Colombia's top scorer Radamel Falcao Garcia (38) subsequently announced he had renounced plans to return to Bogota club Millonarios from Spain.

"You have to see the situation of the country as it is at the moment, a little complex...", he said in an interview after the Diaz incident.

In March this year, Colombian police reported that criminals tried to trick former Colombian international Carlos Bacca into paying a ransom for his sister and brother-in-law.

They had somehow led the couple into an area without cellphone reception, then when they were off-line and unreachable, called Bacca to demand a ransom for their "release." Media reports say Bacca paid a relatively modest ransom of \$250.

### - Extortion, threats -

Extortion, one of the most common crimes perpetrated by criminal groups in Latin America, is ravaging Peru in particular.

In February, striker Paolo Guerrero, 40, became a target after signing with the club Cesar Vallejo.

Soon, members of the gang "Los Cachacos de Yolin" began extorting his mother, Petronila Gonzales.

They were arrested, and Guerrero decided to stay on after demanding security guarantees from his new club.

And then there are the threats that regularly befall footballers in the region.

In at least one case it prompted a player -- the attacker known as Willian -- to leave Brazil.

Soon after returning from Arsenal in 2022 to play for home side Corinthians, Willian opted to go back to England after he and his family received threats from supporters unhappy about his contribution to his new team.

AFP

## Infantino says MLS must attract best players to grow

LOS ANGELES

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Monday Major League Soccer needs to sign more top players in order to boost the profile of the sport in the United States.

Infantino, speaking at a conference in Los Angeles, said he told MLS officials recently that bringing in the world's best players would take football to the next level.

"I told them you have to be a bit more bold, a bit more in the game," Infantino said at the Milken Institute Global Conference. "Bring in the best players." Infantino said Inter Miami's signing of Lionel Messi, and the club's acquisition of other big-name players such as Luis Suarez and Sergio Busquets, had proven the demand for top talent amongst US fans.

The FIFA chief alluded to the record 65,612 crowd who flocked to the New England Revolution's recent home game against Miami at Gillette Stadium, home of the NFL's New England Patriots.

"The 'Messi effect' if we want to call it that way, you see Messi and Inter Miami filling stadiums, and not MLS stadiums but NFL stadiums," Infantino said. MLS salary and roster restrictions mean that teams are unable to spend freely when it comes to signing top players.

However the league has faced growing calls -- not least from broadcast partner Apple TV -- to relax those rules in order to enable clubs to target more top talent.

Infantino said bringing in top talent would ultimately reap dividends at grass roots level in North America, encouraging young players to believe they could forge a career in soccer.

"We want to see the best so we need to bring them the best players, but also the best game, and the best spectacle," Infantino said.

"For this we need to invest in the players because we want to show to the kids who play soccer when they are at school or when they are very young, that there is a path in soccer to glory to become one of these world stars.

"This is what maybe they don't see yet. They see it in basketball, American football, in baseball and ice hockey. But in soccer, it's still kind of far away. You have to go to Europe. And is there really a great American soccer player?"

AFP

# Erik ten Hag's hopes of staying at Man United vanishing after Crystal Palace humiliation

By Daniel Zeqiri

FOR Manchester United, a crumbling team led by a sinking manager, this was a night that provided so many snapshots of chaos that, by the end, it was hard to keep track of it all.

Where to even start with an occasion such as this, one of the great humiliations in this club's recent history? With the goals scored by Crystal Palace, all four of them, or the sight of Erik ten Hag standing helplessly on the touchline as they flew in? With the lack of organisation at the back, or the total absence of any plan in attack?

Or we could begin with the United players, dishevelled and disinterested, and the individual moments that demonstrated how badly they were beaten. The image of Casemiro lying face-first in the turf, for example, as younger men ran away from him. Or of Antony screaming at his team-mates, in a fruitless attempt to deflect from his own errors.

So many small moments of ineptitude, all adding up to paint the most damning of pictures for Ten Hag. This was already a bad season for United but now, as it approaches its end, it is becoming a disastrous one. The Premier League table has them in eighth, outside of the European places and with a goal difference of minus three. This was their 13th loss of the Premier League campaign, a club record.

Such is the scale of United's injury crisis, there is little hope that anything might change for the better in the remaining weeks. The list of absentees remains the primary excuse for Ten Hag but nothing could justify this performance. Oliver Glasner's Palace dominated every aspect of the game and, in truth, should have scored more.

Ten Hag must know that his hopes of remaining in the job are vanishing, if they are not already vanished. And that is assuming he even wants to remain at Old Trafford. Few would blame him for feeling otherwise, especially amid suggestions in the German press that Bayern Munich are interested. This is a shell of a United team and the consequences of failing to qualify for Europe are serious.

## Madrid must 'improve' to overcome Bayern in Champions League

MADRID

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti is searching for the formula to take his team's performance up several notches to get past Bayern Munich today and reach the Champions League final.

The Italian admitted after the 2-2 semi-final first leg draw last week in Bavaria that Real failed to find their consistent best despite earning a decent result, with the German giants largely on top.

"Bayern are very dangerous, they were at their best and we weren't -- we have time to improve for Wednesday," Ancelotti told reporters at the Allianz Arena, after Vinicius Junior's brace secured Madrid a draw.

Madrid come into the match on the back of sealing the La Liga title after a 3-0 win over Cadiz on Saturday, but with the Champions League second leg in the forefront of their minds, celebrations were put on ice.

Los Blancos players reported for training on Sunday morning and the players did not join fans at Plaza Cibeles, where they would usually party together after earning major titles.

Record 14-time Champions League winners Real Madrid instead had their sights firmly set on extending their European domination.

"We would like to celebrate with all the fans, but they understand because on Wednesday we have a very important challenge," said Ancelotti.

"It's contained joy -- we have the most important game of the season coming up."

Madrid captain Nacho Fernandez agreed with his coach.



Erik ten Hag is under mounting pressure after Manchester United's 4-0 defeat at Crystal Palace. Agencies

No one who saw this collapse at Selhurst Park was thinking of the club's financial prospects but their failures this season could ultimately hit them where it really hurts, and the planned rebuild would be made even more complicated without European football next season.

It says so much about the current United that Palace were regarded by many as the favourites before this game, and that they went out and played like it. It was Palace, not United, who produced the big-team football. It was Palace's players, not United's, who had the confidence to express themselves and the ability to hurt their opponents.

The best of them all was Michael Olise, who scored two fabulous individual goals and played with a swagger that embarrassed United's defenders. It is no surprise that United are among Olise's admirers. Clearly, their recruitment team will admire him even more after this, although which recruitment team would not want a player of Olise's obvious class?

There were similar flourishes from Eberechi Eze, who floated in midfield while United trundled, and

from Jean-Philippe Mateta in attack. Palace were strong, skilful and disciplined. In a few months, Glasner has done what Ten Hag has been unable to do in two years: impose a clear style of football, with the full buy-in of each of his players. "We played great football," said Glasner. "The players had a lot of fun on the pitch."

It must be said that Ten Hag's case has not been helped by all the absences. The loss before the game of Bruno Fernandes, for the first time in 2024, represented the 63rd case of injury or illness that United have suffered this season.

Into his position came Mason Mount, perhaps still hoping to make a late run for the England squad after finally recovering from his own fitness issues. This was Mount's first start since early November, which feels so long ago that it almost belongs to a different chapter of United's history. This club's world - on and off the field - has changed enormously since then.

Back at the start of the season, for example, Casemiro was still regarded by many as one of United's more reliable performers. A seasoned pro, and a leader. These days, playing as a

makeshift centre-back, he moves like a man swimming against the tide. Time catches us all and, on this evidence, it has Casemiro in the tightest of grips.

When the Brazilian found himself face-to-face with Olise, after just 12 minutes of action, he made the fatal error of watching the Palace winger's hips instead of the ball. Olise feinted left, then went right. Casemiro jumped in, and then found himself eating grass. Off went Olise, strolling towards goal and then rolling his finish into the corner.

With Will Hughes and Adam Wharton controlling the midfield, Palace kept pushing. Mateta struck the second with venom, after cruising past the struggling Jonny Evans, and Tyrick Mitchell buried the third from close range after an in-swinging cross caused more chaos in the United penalty area.

For the fourth, it was once again Casemiro at fault. He was thrown to the floor by Daniel Munoz, who then fed Olise again, and the 32-year-old's demise summarised this United performance: tired, broken and totally outclassed.

THE TELEGRAPH



Real Madrid snatched a 2-2 draw in Munich thanks to Vinicius Junior (L) netting twice but Carlo Ancelotti needs his team to step it up. Agencies

"We're on the verge of reaching another final, we're going to give our all to get there -- that's why we can't celebrate too much," he said.

Madrid's target is achieving a fifth La Liga and Champions League double.

Ancelotti has won 12 trophies at Madrid and is close to catching the club's all-time leader Miguel Munoz on 14, secured between 1960 and 1972.

To reach the final at Wembley Ancelotti must find a way to restrain Bayern's wingers Leroy

Sane and Jamal Musiala, who caused Madrid a constant headache in the first leg.

"Team effort" -

Dani Carvajal will return from suspension at right-back to try and shackle Musiala, while stopping former Manchester City man Sane might require Jude Bellingham and others tracking back to help Ferland Mendy.

"It was important when we began to defend with collective commitment," Ancelotti reminded his players when speaking about the

side's improvement this season.

"The big effort was made by the forwards, rather than the defenders -- injuries helped us understand that it wasn't about individuals but a team effort."

Ancelotti only started Nacho against Cadiz from the line-up he deployed in Munich, so his players will be fresh and chomping at the bit to reach the final.

Madrid kept Bayern's prolific striker Harry Kane quiet for the most part but the England international netted from the spot after Vazquez clumsily felled Musiala.

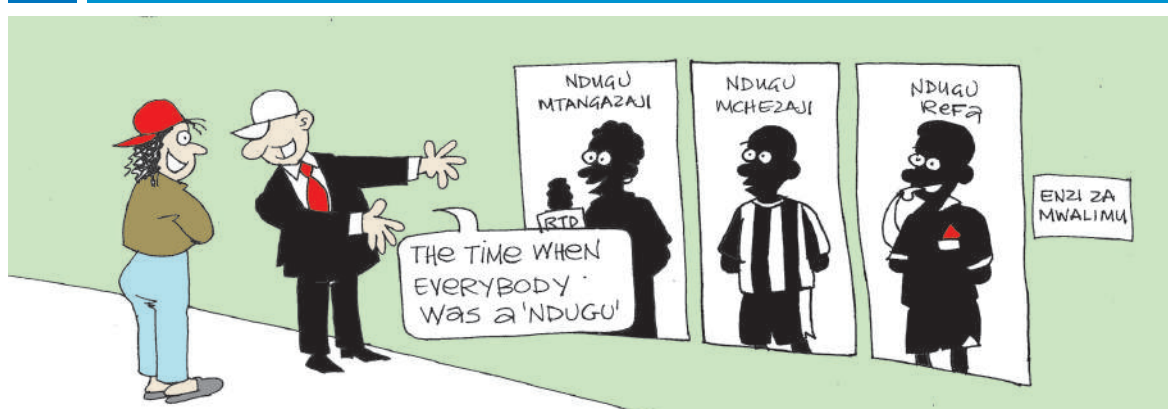
The coach could also bring in Eduardo Camavinga to add energy and disrupt Bayern's build-up, stopping them pinning Madrid back as they did in Munich.

If Ancelotti's planning fails, Madrid always have the "magic" of the Santiago Bernabeu to fall back on.

Their remarkable string of home comebacks to reach the 2022 Champions League final is fresh in the memory, with players quick to highlight the stadium's legend and mystique.

"It's time to have a magical night at the Bernabeu," said Vinicius after the Bayern draw, of the kind 'Madridistas' have enjoyed so many times before.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Erik ten Hag's hopes of staying at Man United vanishing after Crystal Palace humiliation**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Mashujaa FC's footballers warm up before facing Yanga in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League tie which took place in Kigoma last Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MASHUJAA FC

## Mashujaa FC continues survival battle, faces KMC FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IN this midweek NBC Premier League clash between Mashujaa FC and Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, both teams are poised for a crucial encounter as they navigate their respective ambitions in the league.

Hosts Mashujaa FC's chances of survival were further dented by a 1-0 defeat to league leaders Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, last time out, extending their winless run to five matches.

With 23 points from 25 matches, Mashujaa FC is sitting 14th in the NBC Premier League table, just four points from safety heading into the final five games of the season.

Having lost two of their last four home games, including the last two, Mashujaa FC will be hoping to avoid successive defeats in front of their home fans.

The match against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is a do-or-die for them as another defeat will see them fall further behind their direct rivals with four games to go after this.

It would not get any easier with tough matches to come against Tabora United, Tanzania Prisons, Mtibwa Sugar, and Dodoma Jiji FC before they conclude the season.

Adam Omar has seven goals in what has been a stellar personal campaign and it is expected the former JKT Tanzania and Mtibwa Sugar striker will spearhead Mashujaa FC's attack once again.

He should be joined in the final third by Relians Lusajo and David Ulomi, while Omary Abdallah and Zubeir Dabi should form the two-man midfield anchor once again.

At the defensive end of the pitch, an unchanged back four of Omary Kindamba, Ibrahim Ame, Mpoki Mwakinyuke, and Baraka Mtui is slated to be maintained, with Patrick Munthali starting between the sticks once again.

For Kinondoni Municipal Council FC though, they are sitting fifth in the league coming into this game and trail fourth-placed Coastal Union by just a point.

Despite a tough run of ten matches without a victory through February threatening to disrupt their top-four ambitions, two wins and two draws in their last five have kept them firmly in the race.

Moallin's men will face Mashujaa FC for only the second time in history, having won their first-ever meeting earlier this season by a score of 3-2.

Kinondoni Municipal Council FC is winless in the side's last two matches, losing and drawing.

However, securing a victory on their first visit to Lake Tanganyika Stadium would be crucial to their top-four chances in what has been an inconsistent but still good season for the tax collectors.

Waziri Junior, who is third on the top goal scorer's chart with 11 goals, is expected to lead the attacking line once again.

“

It would not get any easier with tough matches to come against Tabora United, Tanzania Prisons, Mtibwa Sugar, and Dodoma Jiji FC before they conclude the

## Salum's goal vs Mtibwa Sugar boosts battle for Golden Boot

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC midfielder Feisal Salum, nicknamed 'Fei Toto', scored a goal against Mtibwa Sugar, bringing his tally to 15 goals in the NBC Premier League.

This ties him with Young Africans SC's midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki for the lead in the race for the Golden Boot.

Salum has been instrumental for Azam FC, not just as the league's leading goal scorer, but also by contributing to 22 of the team's 52 goals so far this season.

Both Salum and Aziz Ki have been consistent performers, with Ki recently named Player of the Month for April due to his strong contributions to Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

Azam FC's 2-0 victory over Mtibwa Sugar on Monday solidified their grip on the second place in the league with 57 points.

League leader Yanga holds a lead of eight points with 65 points, though the top two teams have played 25 games apiece.

Mtibwa Sugar's loss puts them in a precarious position, facing relegation with 16 defeats in 25 games. They have only managed four wins and five draws, collecting a meager 17 points.

This is not the first time Azam FC has dominated Mtibwa Sugar this season.

Azam FC previously won 5-0 in the first-round matchup at the Azam Complex Stadium in November 2023.

Mtibwa Sugar also suffered a 4-3 defeat to Azam FC in last season's match played at the Manungu Stadium in Morogoro in November 2022.

Mtibwa Sugar head coach Zubeir Katwila acknowledged his team's struggles, attributing the loss to individual mistakes despite their best efforts. They vow to fight for better results in upcoming games to avoid relegation.

Azam FC head coach Youssouph Dabo commended his players for their performance, particularly in the first half.

He acknowledged that the rain in the second half slowed down the game's pace, but expressed optimism for continued success in their next match.

With only five games remaining in the season, the title race remains tight. Both Salum and Aziz Ki will be vying for the Golden Boot while contributing to their respective teams' NBC Premier League title aspirations.

Yanga has upcoming matches against Kagera Sugar, Mtibwa Sugar, Dodoma Jiji FC, Tabora United, and Tanzania Prisons.

Azam FC will face key challenges against Simba SC in the battle for second place, followed by matchups against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, JKT Tanzania, Kagera Sugar, and Geita Gold FC.

## Yanga seeks to strengthen NBC PL title pursuit, hosts Kagera Sugar



Yanga's midfielder, Pacome Zouzoua (R), seeks to get the better of Kagera Sugar midfielder when the clubs met in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League clash in Kagera recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE reigning NBC Premier League champion, Young Africans SC, will aim to take another step towards defending the club's crown when it entertains Kagera Sugar at the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam this Wednesday evening.

The host, alias Yanga, has an eight-point lead at the top of the table with five matches left and will edge closer to the title with a win.

Yanga extended the club's winning run in the league with a narrow 1-0 victory over Mashujaa FC at the Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma last Sunday.

A front three of Stephane Aziz Ki, Kennedy Musonda, and Joseph Guede is expected to start once again.

Khalid Aucho, Mudathir Yahya, and Maxi Nzengeli are the midfield three that should provide support for the attack while also protecting the back

four.

Kagera Sugar extended their unbeaten run to five games with a goalless draw away to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC at the same venue last Saturday.

Consequently, Fred Minziro's men maintained their seventh position on the table and are looking likely to secure a top-half finish this campaign.

With just two away wins in this campaign, Kagera Sugar will hope that it does not get worse when they face the best side in the league.

However, they could draw inspiration from their goalless draw when the two sides met in the reverse fixture played at Kaitaba Stadium in February as they look to have a say in the title race.

Obrey Chirwa is the man expected to lead the line once again for Kagera Sugar, while Mbaraka Yusuph and Moubarak Amza provide support.

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
14:00 SSPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandao Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall 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 timely, 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 shapping process.

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

