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# TRA: Stop EFD inspections, no arrests

*“Experts of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and TRA together have been directed to complete the revision of the information technology system by end of July”*

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has been instructed to suspend all operations involving arresting traders as well as put on hold inspections on electronic fiscal device (EFD) receipts for at least one month.

Thobias Makoba, the chief government spokesman, said late yesterday that this was the first point in 15 resolutions from the meeting between the government and leaders of traders associations.

The resolutions directed at the revenue authorities for compliance, came in the wake of a countrywide stoppage of wholesale businesses in key urban centres, and took up previous negotiations and unfinished business especially



**All this work needs to be completed by July 10**

with Kariakoo traders, the nerve centre of wholesale business.

The government has halted an exercise to inspect electronic fiscal device (EFD) receipts all over the country as it works on good procedures to use such devices.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa headed the government team after the Treasury had earlier rejected demands to stop EFD receipt inspections saying the system was working as expected.

The talks were held intermittently for four days, where the traders submitted 41 substantial complaints, and in the wake of an inconclusive dialogue with responsible ministers, namely for Finance, Planning and Trade.

The government has thus instructed TRA to work out and present an improved system to facilitate issuance of purchase documents for importation of goods, starting from the new financial year, he said.

The traders have been instructed to present three monthly reports on implementation of the agreed resolutions, contrary to the past where government instructions remained a dead letter.

The TRA has also been directed to invest efforts in a public awareness drive on tax issues, legal requirements for traders and the public at large, also preparing a list of eight products liable for indicative prices as in used car products, he stated.

The products are printed fabrics, shirts, other clothes, cosmetics, precious stones,

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi cuts the ribbon yesterday to launch Oryx Gas's first liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) terminal - at Mangapwani in North Unguja Region, Zanzibar. With him are Vigor Group chairman Toufiq Salim Turkey and CEO (5th-L, front row), Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Benoit Araman (6th-L, front row), Zanzibar government Chief Secretary Zena Ahmed Said (R), Zanzibar Water, Energy and Minerals minister Shaib Kaduara (3rd-L), North Unguja regional commissioner Rashid Hadid Rashid (2nd-L) and CCM Political, Ideology and Publicity Secretary (Zanzibar) Khamis Mbeto. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Mwinyi launches oil, gas storage terminal

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has indicated that Zanzibar can sell oil and gas products to needy countries in the neighbourhood.

Gracing the inauguration of the first liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) terminal at the port in North Unguja Region, the president urged companies to chip in and build more supporting infrastructure including oil and gas depots at the port.

The Oryx Energies terminal will facilitate LPG supply in a reliable and seamless manner to the Zanzibar population, he said, highlighting wider use of the new port facilities.

The government expects to see enough oil and gas storage reserves for sale to firms that can use Zanzibar port instead of going abroad, based in nearby countries.

Gas firms need to put in place robust strategies to help reduce costs of gas in order to enable people to access the product easily, he said, noting that the

Mangapwani area is designated as a new oil and gas tank farm for loading and transfer of fuel and gas products.

It is important for stakeholders to back the efforts by constructing enough storage terminals, he said, elaborating that Mangapwani Port needs involve the con-



**The wider plan is to reduce gas prices in Zanzibar by 20 percent by July 1 and later by 30 percent from current prices**

struction of berths for liquid bulk goods, containers, fishing vessels and natural gas offshore services.

There will also be backup infrastructure for the rehabilitation of marine vessels, he said, seeing it as a solution to the problems at Malindi Port, while the new terminal enables big ships to dock and spend a short time offloading.

The terminal will stimulate the use of clean cooking energy to help achieve the pivotal goal of bringing 80 percent of households to use clean energy by 2032, he said.

Benoit Araman, the Oryx Energies (T) managing director lauded the Zanzibar authorities for creating a good environment for doing business, in solving challenges faced by businessmen. This is illustrated by making the Mangapwani first LPG terminal a success, he said.

The terminal commenced operations early last month, with the capacity to store 1,300 tonnes of LPG, receiving its first shipment of 1,200 tonnes on May 2.

Tanzania's gas market has witnessed an increase in imports from abroad by more than ten times in the past decade, from

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# Ministry sets graduate teachers' skills testing

By Getrude Mbago

STRICT measures of competence will from next year be conducted on graduate teachers for years waiting to join the public service.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, made this observation at the 2024 English digital teaching skills competition among primary school teachers in Dar es Salaam late on Tuesday.

He said that the teachers will have to go through special recruitment interviews in the wake of a new recruitment procedure, with the interview method meant to select the best teachers.

Their skills will be aligned with global standards acceptable in developed countries as the framework for the provision of quality educa-



**We all need to value and respect teachers as they are good bridges producing a lot of experts doing marvels in the country**

tion, he said, noting that the measure is in response to criticism of the current employment system.

Successful applicants report directly to schools, a method criticized for inefficiency in hiring incompetent teachers and its susceptibility to favouritism, he said.

The new measure starting early will see all teacher candidates undergo testing, including those who have been waiting for employment for years. The latter group needs to continually update their skills and knowledge to excel in the interviews, the minister stated.

The government has invested efforts to transform the education sector, with reforms in policies, laws and curriculum, in-

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# 'RCs should not wait for state intervention'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

REGIONAL commissioners must adopt appropriate leadership models of solving problems facing the public and not wait for interventions from above, the President's Office has instructed.

Mohamed Mchengera, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-

RALG), issued this directive when launching the regional and local governments strengthening programme (RLGSP) here yesterday.

"You have been entrusted by the president to lead the regions, and thus you must trust yourself and take sober decisions and actions in solving all problems that are brought up," he said.

He reminded the key administrators

that President Samia Suluhu Hassan was injecting large amounts of money to support different socioeconomic sectors in all regions, and thus it is prudent for leaders in local governments to ensure the patriotic use of the funds.

Local officials should improve service delivery in addressing challenges and grievances facing the public in areas of their jurisdiction, he said, underlining that President Samia wants to see improvements in solving diverse problems facing the communities from the regional level to districts, wards and villages.

The minister said the Head of State was impressed with the improvement in service

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## TRA instructed: Stop inspections of EFD receipts

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lingerie, handkerchiefs and vests, he elaborated, noting other instructions to the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA).

It needs to quickly increase the number of inland container depots (ICDs) to facilitate cargo delivery in ways that don't involve consolidation, he said.

In the medium term the government will review prevailing tax rates to enable traders to pay taxes in harmony rather than adversity with law enforcement, while also reflecting the value of their businesses, he explained.

TRA also needs to complete improvements on the Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) to include an auto valuation module making the tax calculation transparent and fair by early January 2025.

"Experts of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and TRA together have been directed to complete the revision of the information technology system by end of July," the spokesman affirmed.

Cargo entering the country

through container sharing will be registered with the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the owner of the cargo instead of the TIN of the agent, without incurring additional costs for the taxpayer, he spelt out.

The Treasury will coordinate an exercise to conduct an analysis and assessment of the entire charging and collection system plus service levy rates, to provide advice on an alternative method that is friendly to businesspeople.

This will protect capital and business growth in the country, with ministers responsible for the business sector holding exchanges with businessmen to hear their challenges and views on how to solve them.

This will improve the business environment in the country in a stable manner, meanwhile as customs experts liaise with the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture to sort out sticky issues in customs procedures, especially the valuation and sorting of cargo.

All this work needs to be completed by July 10, the spokesman added.

## One-third of adults globally not amply active physically, at big risk of disease

By Special Correspondent

A NEW study has found that nearly one-third (31 percent) of adults worldwide did not meet the recommended levels of physical activity in 2022.

This puts them at greater risk of cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes, type 2 diabetes, dementia, and some cancers.

It also has a negative impact on mental health and wellbeing.

In addition, the study by the World Health Organization together with academic colleagues, found that levels of inactivity continue to rise.

The authors say the findings show a worrying trend of adults becoming less physically active, with this trend increasing by about 5 percentage points between 2010 and 2022.

If this continues, countries will not meet the global target to reduce physical inactivity by 15 percent by 2030.

"We must renew our commitment to increasing levels of physical activity and prioritizing bold action, including strengthened policies and increased funding, to reverse this worrying trend," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

People are least active in the eastern Mediterranean region and South-East Asia, with levels of physical inactivity in these both regions at 40 per cent.

In contrast people are much more active in other regions, with levels of inactivity in the Western Pacific region (28 percent), European region (25 percent) and African region (16 percent).

Disparities also remain between

gender and age, with women and people over 60 generally less physically active.

The WHO recommends that adults have 150 minutes of moderate-intensity, or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity, or equivalent, per week.

On a positive note, almost half of the world's countries have made some improvements in reducing physical inactivity over the past decade.

And 22 countries may reach the global target of reducing inactivity by 15 per cent by 2030, if their efforts in reversing the trend continue at the same pace.

The WHO is calling on countries to strengthen policy implementation to promote and enable physical activity through grassroots and community sport and active recreation and transport (walking, cycling and use of public transport), among other measures.



**We must renew our commitment to increasing levels of physical activity and prioritizing bold action, including strengthened policies and increased funding, to reverse this worrying trend**

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delivery and instructed leaders in the public service sector to embrace a spirit of patriotism.

The launched programme started to operate two years ago and is expected to take up 400bn/- in implementation ending in 2030, with 16bn/- so far spent, he said.

RLGSP is guided by objectives and intervention that collectively facilitate key ambitions of deepening and widening decentralization, meant to improve public services and socioeconomic con-

## 'RCs should not wait for state intervention'

ditions generally, he explained.

The programme involves the government and a wide range of interested development partners, with experts developing its financing strategy and communication during the outgoing financial year, he elaborated.

Dr Fredrick Mwakibinda, a senior Treasury official, said the government is working on a financial strategy to obtain the 400bn/- for taking the programme to the hilt.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday viewing a sample of coal from Mchuchuma mine in Ludewa District, Njombe Region. It was at the region's mining pavilion at the just-ended Mineral Week 2024 exhibition held in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

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volving hiring competent teachers to provide positive outcomes as a matter of paramount importance, he explained.

"We cannot hire teachers out of sympathy and instead we want to defend the teaching profession like any other," he asserted, citing examples like Singapore, the United States and Germany where they use such interviews thus doing well in the education sector.

"In these countries, competency exams, practical assessments and psychological tests ensure that only the most capable people enter the teaching profession," he emphasized.

The new interview-based recruitment process aims to eliminate these problems and ensure that only the most qualified teachers are

## Ministry sets graduate teachers' skills testing

responsible for educating the country's children," he further noted.

In the competition, 10 early childhood and primary education teachers were awarded for exemplary skills, receiving cash prizes and certificates.

Celebrating their dedication to improving their teaching skills, Jenifer Chuwa and Sophia Moses from Enaboishu Academy won the first two prizes, and a Tuvaila Primary School in Meru also in Arusha Region took third place.

Dr Aneth Komba, the Tanzania

Institute of Education (TET) director general, said that the awards will motivate teachers in recognizing their contributions.

"These awards involve teachers from public schools in all municipalities of the country and this year, more than 3,700 teachers participated in the contest," she said.

Preetie Arora from the World Bank country office commended the government for coming up with an initiative of recognising teachers' contributions, encouraging others to heighten efforts and crea-

tivity.

"We all need to value and respect teachers as they are good bridges producing a lot of experts doing marvels in the country," she said.

World Bank projects in the sector include 'boost primary pupil learning,' tied with the school-based teachers' continuous professional development (TCPD) initiative.

The global lender intends to enhance its support for government initiatives to improve teaching and producing positive school outcomes, she added.



Shinyanga acting Regional Police Commander Kennedy Mgani shows journalists in Shinyanga municipality on Wednesday what he said were fake 10,000/- banknotes with a street value totalling 420,000/- impounded during a one-month police crackdown that also saw 25 people held in connection with alleged involvement in crime. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Mwinyi launches oil, gas storage terminal

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20,000 tonnes in 2010 to 293,000 tonnes last year, he pointed out.

Shuwekha Khamis, the Oryx Gas (Z) Ltd general manager, said the firm has teamed up with TP Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of the Vigor Turkey Group, to strengthen LPG supply and distribution in the islands.

Salim Turkey, chairman of Vigor Group said the initiative will help improve standards of health and welfare in Zanzibar and will also help protect the environment by providing a safe and reliable alternative to charcoal and wood.

The wider plan is to reduce gas prices in Zanzibar by 20 percent by July 1 and later by 30 percent from current prices, he stated.

Omar Ali Yusuf, the Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority (ZURA) director general, said that for many years the energy sector relied on Malindi port compelling importers to use small boats and other vessels which are not safe to transport oil. Now the situation has changed, he added.



**There will also be backup infrastructure for the rehabilitation of marine vessels**

programme which commenced two years ago.

The EU will work closely with the government to ensure implementation of the programme leads to projected results, he said, citing collaboration with the UN agency, UNICEF.

The agency has been working to support the government to strengthen the performance of health, nutrition, education and child protection fields, he added.

Denis Londo (Mikumi), who chairs the Local Government Affairs standing committee of the National Assembly, said that RLG-SP plays a meaningful role in helping stimulate economic development in various areas.

It has been unlocking fresh economic niches as well as enabling effective monitoring of human resources at the local government level, he said.

Anthony Mtaka, the Njombe RC,

presented a collective position of his colleagues, hailing President Samia for implementing diverse interventions meant to rectify the performance of local governments.

Ally Mwinchande, standing in for the European Union (EU) delegation as development partners, said the EU has so far bankrolled implementation of vital projects, hailing the government for initiating the constructive pro-



## Air Tanzania set to start direct flights to Muscat

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is putting final touches to its plan to introduce direct flights between Dar es Salaam and Muscat, Oman.

This was said in Dar es Salaam yesterday by ATCL, Managing Director Ladislaus Matindi when he met and held talks with Ambassador of Oman to Tanzania Saud bin Hilal Alshaidani at Oman Embassy offices in Dar es Salaam. "Air Tanzania has identified the main sales agent to handle ticket sales in Oman and we have already appointed the manager of the centre," he said.

He said that what remains is to complete arranging the crew, the plane that will be used for the route together with other travel arrangements.

Ambassador Alshaidani said that his talks with Matindi were productive, adding they discussed opportunities available in both passenger and cargo handling

between the two countries.

"With the large number of Omani citizens present here in the country and as business between the two countries continues to grow, it is my expectation that Air Tanzania will benefit from this opportunity," he said.

"We can also focus on export of three types of fruits that are in high demand in Oman namely mangoes, pineapples and avocados. This will benefit both sides."

Air Tanzania currently operates domestic flights to more than 10 routes. For regional and international trips it flies to Dubai (UAE), Mumbai (India), Guangzhou (China), Bujumbura (Burundi), Entebbe (Uganda), Hahaya (Comoros), Harare (Zimbabwe), Lusaka and Ndola (Zambia), Nairobi (Kenya) and Lubumbashi (DRC).

Its domestic routes are between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma, Mwanza, Songwe, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Ruvuma, Katavi, Zanzibar, Mtwara, Tabora and Kigoma.



Air Tanzania Company Ltd (ATCL) managing director Ladislaus Matindi (L) has an audience with Oman's Ambassador to Tanzania, Saud bin Hilal Alshaidani, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Govt engages two contractors to upgrade Arusha-based TGC

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has signed a 33.4 bn/- contract with two local companies for the expansion of the Arusha-based Tanzania Gemmological Centre (TGC) into eight storey building.

Lumocons Company Limited and Skywards Company Limited have entered into agreement with the Ministry of Minerals to undertake the construction within three years starting yesterday.

Speaking after a brief signing ceremony at the ministry's office in Dodoma yesterday, Deputy Minister

for Minerals Stephen Kiruswa said the project is aimed at expanding the centre in efforts to offer more advanced courses.

He explained that the government decided to strengthen provision of training at TGC by expanding its infrastructure to produce many graduates with expertise in matters of value addition to gems and metals in the country.

"The government has released 33.4 bn/- for construction implementation activities to start any time after today's signing of the agreement", he said

If this step is completed,

according to the deputy minister, it will enable the centre to provide training at international level and thus enable processed minerals from Tanzania to access foreign markets.

He said that the government's goal in establishing the centre was to implement the Minerals Policy of 1997 and increase the value of minerals in the country by providing training.

Minister Kiruswa said in order to increase the benefits of mineral resources in the country, the government has continued to take various measures in mining

activities to create a friendly environment for investors in the country.

He explained that the measures taken have enabled an increase in mineral exploration activities, mining, mineral value addition, and mineral businesses to thrive, thus creating employment and commercial opportunities for Tanzanians.

Speaking about the challenges in the mining industry, he said that the government recognizes the issue of access to capital for establishment of mineral processing facilities and laboratories.

Speaking on behalf of the other contractor, Lumocons Company Limited Director Andrew Shirima thanked the government for having trust in local companies, noting that such massive projects were initially offered to international firms only.

He noted that the project will help catalyse competition among local companies that seek government big tenders. "On behalf of our implementing partners, I promise to implement the project timely and professionally as expected by the government", he said.

TGC boasts of being a beacon of excellence in the field of gemmology

and jewellery craftsmanship.

Established in 2003 as Arusha Gemstone Carving Centre (AGCC) and later rebranded as TGC in 2009, the institution has been at the forefront of nurturing talent and fostering innovation in the gem and jewellery industry.

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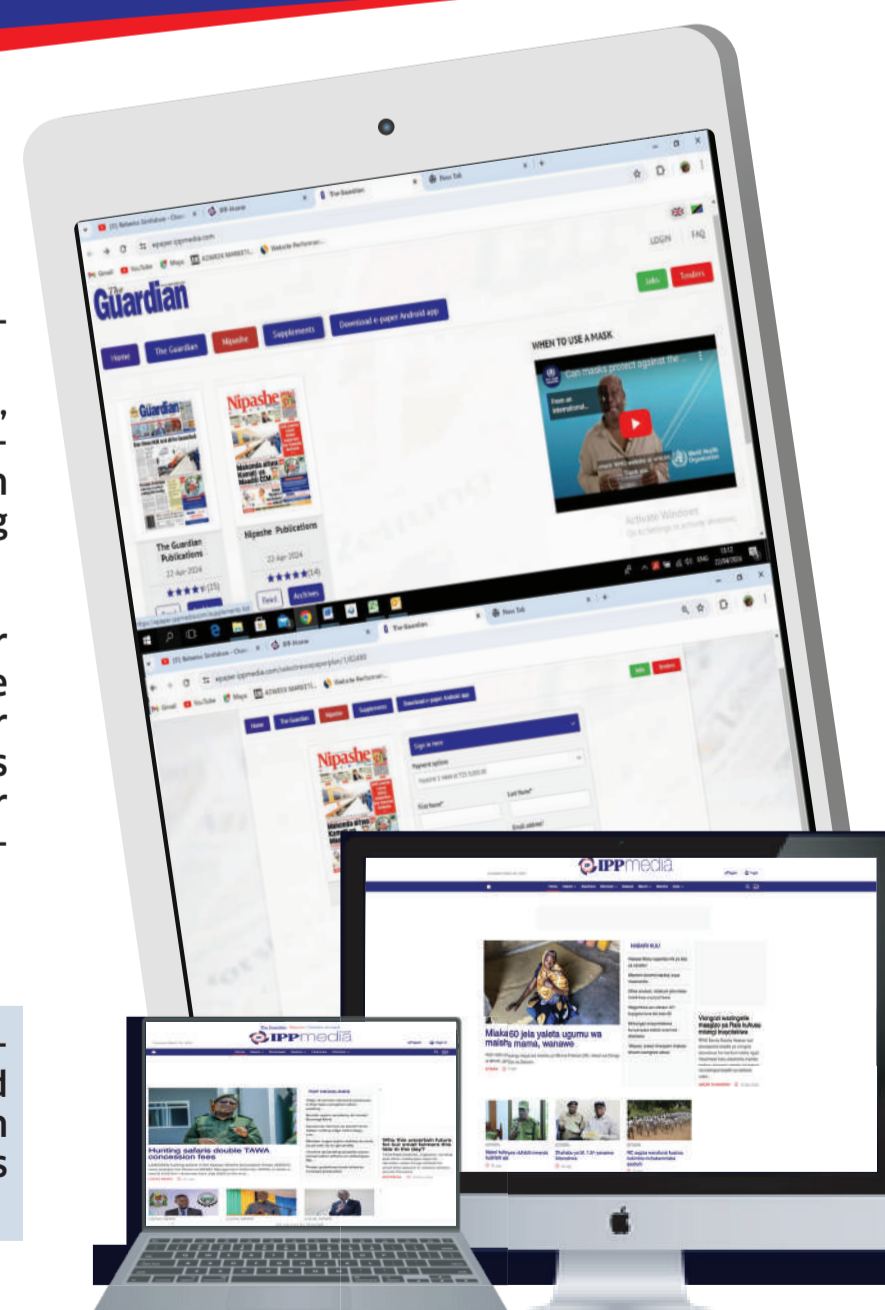
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## Local contractors make case for expanded role in big national projects

By Getrude Mbagu

LOCAL contractors have appealed for the government to increase trust and provide them with more opportunities to participate in various strategic construction projects to bolster employment and development.

According to the Tanzania United Contractors and Allied Services Association (TUCASA), the country has enough and competent contractors as well as engineers who can implement mega projects and at required quality standards.

Samuel Marwa, TUCASA Chairman, made the appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of a two-day annual general meeting of the association.

He said that many local contractors have requisite expertise and have joined forces to form strong companies which are able to implement mega projects but still there is a growing negative attitude which regards local contractors as inferior and incompetent.

"It is not true that local contractors have no competency needed to implement mega projects; we have all the qualities to do so if trusted, many contractors who have been given sub-contracts in mega projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project (NJHPP) perform very well," he said.

He urged the government to continue to review laws and policies to facilitate more participation of local contractors in various projects.

He said that the majority of the big tenders are being executed by foreign companies while the country has enough and competent contractors.

According to him, participation of local contractors in big projects has remained low for years, something

which denies locals an opportunity to benefit from skills transfer.

Marwa said that the association wasn't happy to see all strategic construction projects being executed by foreign companies while the country has a number of experts who can produce quality work and contribute to the economic development.

"The government also takes a long time to pay our arrears. This affects us as we find ourselves in a hard situation. Our capital remains the same for years as we are not paid on time thus affecting our relation with financial institutions as we delay to repay loans but we are happy that this year the budget for paying contractors' arrears has increased," he said.

He further urged contractors to join the association because it is important for all constructors to unite and have one voice which will help to make a difference in the construction industry.

Geoffrey Mkinga, Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) Dar es Salaam Regional Manager, said that the agency was finalising steps to sign contracts with contractors to implement road projects under the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDDP) phase II.

He said that TARURA implements a strategic plan for construction and rehabilitation of roads in the region to guarantee that the roads remain easily accessible throughout all seasons, thereby fostering economic growth and ensuring convenient access to essential social and economic services.

He further urged contractors to always adhere to professional ethics and whenever given tenders, should implement them effectively and efficiently in order to be trusted in future projects.



A technician with the Electrical Transmission Distribution Construction and Maintenance Company (ETDCO), a subsidiary of the Tanzania Electricity Supply Company Ltd (Tanesco), pictured yesterday installing a 132-kilovolt transformer as the implementation of the Tabora-Katavi electrification project continues. Story on Page 7. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Minister defends plan to fund universal health with 'sin tax'

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma

FINANCE minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba yesterday sought to defend the government's decision to increase taxes on cigarette, betting, alcohol and gambling to raise revenue for the envisaged Universal Health Coverage.

This came after Iringa urban MP Jesca Msambatavangu expressed disagreement with the idea, arguing that it is not proper for Tanzanians, including women and children to be treated by money raised through the so-called sin taxes.

Msambatavangu made the argument in the National Assembly when contributing to the Finance Bill 2024 which was read in the house yesterday.

She said it was not ethical for pregnant women to be treated by funds that are generated from alcohol and cigarettes.

"There is no way we should depend on alcohol, cigarettes and gamblers to treat our people; let us look for other channels," she said.

After the request by the legislator, Minister Nchemba called for the speaker's guidance, saying the government's idea behind the proposal was to discourage smoking, alcohol drinking and gambling.

MP for Kalambo Josephat Kandege (CCM) commenting on the same said the government's move to deduct 382/- per kilo of gas discourages efforts by the country to shift to gas usage.

Kandege said gas usage will be beneficial to the country saying introducing the levy to the sector will derail efforts by the country to shift to clean energy.

The legislator advised that all government vehicles purchased henceforth should be converted to natural gas so that the country moves from using foreign currency in purchasing fuel.



**There is no way we should depend on alcohol, cigarettes and gamblers to treat our people; let us look for other channels**

## Up-to-date patrol boat to control illegal fishing in Mkinga District

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkinga

IN efforts aimed at heightening the fight against illegal fishing and protection of marine resources, Coastal Community Network Tanzania has donated a modern boat which will benefit nine villages in Mkinga District,

Tanga Region.

The boat worth 40m/- purchased with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) has been handed over to Collaborative Fisheries Management Area (CFMA) to boost patrols.

Speaking during the handing over

of the boat yesterday here, Ahmad Salim Omar, Coordinator of Coastal Community Network Tanzania in Tanga, said the boat is equipped with important tools such as mobile phones, radio recorders, self-rescue equipment, first aid kit as well as a telescope.

"We purchased this boat to fight

blast fishing as well as help strengthen patrols to boost protection of marine resources because some fishermen have been engaging in unsustainable fishing using explosives and other dangerous tools which pose a serious threat to fish stock and other marine species," he said.

He urged residents of coastal areas to protect the ocean and stop engaging in illegal fishing to increase production of fish and income.

Parango Abdul, Mkinga District Administrative Secretary, thanked the organisation for the support which he said will help strengthen protection of the ocean and its resources.

He said the government will continue to implement initiatives to ensure that marine resources are protected for sustainable development.

Tanzania has suffered significant losses due to illegal fishing, amounting to about 15.2bn/- between 2019 and 2023, according to the latest report by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG).

The report, covering the period 2022/2023, said that most of the illegal fishing activities were carried out using unregistered and unlicensed vessels in the Indian Ocean, as well as Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa.

Auditing the management of fisheries resources in Tanzania, the report reveals that a concerning 72.99 percent of operating fishing vessels in the country are unregistered and unlicensed.

Out of a total of 28,615 vessels engaged in fishing activities across various water bodies in Tanzania, 20,885 vessels have not been registered or licensed, according to the report.



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**TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.**



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### ADVERTISEMENT

**PURCHASING SCHOOL KITS MATERIALS FOR PUPILS WHO ARE REPATRIATING TO BURUNDI FROM NDUTA AND NYARUGUSU REFUGEE CAMPS.**

27<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Right To Play is planning to purchase and distribute school learning kits for 2,000 students who will repatriate from both camps. This will support students with necessary learning materials for easy integration into the Burundian school system and continue with their studies when they arrive in Burundi. The school learning kits include school bags, exercise books, ball pens, pencil, rulers, and mathematical sets. Lot No 001, and Purchase and provision of reusable sanitary pads for girls, female coaches and teachers who are repatriating to Burundi from Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee.camps. Lot No 002

1. Right To Play now invites sealed tenders from eligible National suppliers and registered Companies.
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3. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information at **Right to Play Tanzania, Dar es salaam** through email [Tzprocurement@righttoplay.com](mailto:Tzprocurement@righttoplay.com) from **08.00 am to 17.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays** inclusive except on public holidays.
4. All Tenders in one original copy properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be addressed to **Right to Play Tanzania, Dar es salaam** July 2024 delivery acceptable at **Right to Play office** Locate at **Mikocheni Regent Estate, Darui Street Plot No 446 House No 15**, before Day of **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 11:00 am** and the tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the **Right to Play Conference Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.
5. The soft copy of tender document will be sent to interested Tenderers through our email address [Tzprocurement@righttoplay.com](mailto:Tzprocurement@righttoplay.com)

RIGHT TO PLAY TANZANIA





Students of the Tanzania Assemblies of God Church's Lake Zone Bible College pictured in Mwanza city yesterday donating blood in part of the run-up to the commemoration of the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the church in the country on June 28. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

## Tests disclose huge potential for potato farming in Ruvuma

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) has described Ruvuma as a region with fertile land suitable for round potato farming that can transform the lives of residents.

Geoffrey Kirenga, Managing Director of SAGCOT, said here yesterday that this potential has been proven scientifically through soil tests conducted in various parts of Songea, Namtumbo and Madaba districts. This was followed by demonstration farming that pleasantly surprised many.

"As SAGCOT, we are committed to ensuring that round potato farming is successful and sustainable to bring about positive outcomes that change the lives of farmers," he said.

Research conducted by SAGCOT in Songea District from 2020 to 2024 for instance showed promising results in round potato production, whereby one acre yielded potatoes worth over 10m/-, he said.

Mayor of Songea Municipality Michael Mbano said it was encouraging to learn that one acre

of round potato farm could yield up to 200 bags.

"I now believe in the saying that there are many job opportunities in agriculture. I thank SAGCOT and its partners for opening our eyes and showing us hidden opportunities," he said.

SAGCOT has been promoting commercial agriculture development by connecting small and medium-sized farmers with training opportunities and linking them to financial institutions and reliable markets for their produce.



**As SAGCOT, we are committed to ensuring that round potato farming is successful and sustainable to bring about positive outcomes that change the lives of farmers**

## Govt promises to support growth of financial sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE government has expressed commitment to collaborating with the country's banking sector to enhance efficiency in delivering services to the public.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), made the pledge here yesterday when speaking at the 8th Mwalimu Commercial Bank (MCB) Annual General Meeting.

Mchengerwa emphasized the government's desire for substantial growth of the country's financial sector, saying: "It's the true partner in the country's socio-economic development."

In a speech read on his behalf by Iringa Municipality Mayor Ibrahim Ngwada, the minister noted that the strength of banks like MCB would significantly contribute to the nation's economic development and individual prosperity.

MCB has defied the odds in a challenging financial landscape, reporting significant progress and a remarkable post-tax profit for the financial year ending 31 December 2023.

This achievement comes despite liquidity issues and other sector-wide challenges, showcasing MCB's resilience and strategic acumen.

In 2023, the global economy showed signs of recovery, even as volatile energy and food markets, weak business growth and stringent financial conditions posed obstacles.

The Bank of Tanzania's economic report for the quarter ending September 2023 highlighted these hurdles, yet MCB emerged stronger.

Francis Ramadhani, the bank's Chairman of the Board of Directors reported that MCB recorded a post-tax profit of 11m/-, a significant turnaround from a post-tax loss of 331m/- in 2022. This milestone was underpinned by a 3 percent increase in total revenue.

Interest income surged by 20 percent, driven by strategic investments in long-term loans to short-term borrowers, while non-interest income grew by 3 percent, he said.

"We must indeed take pride in this new direction in managing our bank; these are no small achievements, they are significant steps towards greater profitability in the future to enable dividend pay-outs," he said.

However, the liquidity crunch in 2023 limited the bank's ability to issue loans, resulting in a 2 percent decrease in the loan book. In response, MCB has developed strategies to address this challenge in the upcoming period.

Efforts to maintain a quality loan portfolio paid off, with the year closing with a non-performing loan rate below 1 percent. Moreover, the customer deposit book grew by 1 percent despite liquidity constraints.

MCB concluded the year with two service branches in Dar es Salaam, supported by eight regional offices in Morogoro, Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma, Arusha, Kigoma, Rukwa and Mtwara.

Beyond these physical branches, customers accessed services through alternative channels such as Umoja Switch and Visa ATMs as well as mobile banking.

MCB's customer base grew from 58,378 to 60,008 in 2023, reflecting its ongoing efforts to enhance service delivery through modern means.

Looking ahead, MCB aims to accelerate business growth to meet the targets set in the 2021-2025 strategic plans, focusing on strengthening operational systems.

MCB was registered in 2012 in Tanzania under the Companies Act No. 212 of 2002 as a limited liability company. It transformed into MCB in 2025 when it was

listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange under the Enterprise Growth Market (EGM) segment.

A year later, it obtained a license to provide financial services under the Banking and Financial Institutions Act 2006.

# MEGA SUPPLEMENTS



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### 1. POSITION: CAPTAIN - (30 POSTS)

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- Must have flown with more than 3500 flying hours with an Airline Transport Pilot License, Multi Engine and Instrument Rating.
- Must have 1000 hours as a Pilot in Command and an experience of handling a minimum of 20 tons equipment or above with a good performance.

#### 1.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Determine the achievement of commercial aspects of flights safety is not impaired to obtain additional revenue load for the Company.
- Ascertain that Flight Plans, Notam, Fleet Notices, Weather and any pertinent documentation and service items that flight may require are briefed.
- Verify that the loading of aircraft being performed in accordance with laid down procedures.
- Report all incidents and accidents.
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- Report any Flight delays of flights.
- Accept and sign for diplomatic mail, precious cargo and supervise stowage aboard the aircraft and handover to destinations.
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

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- Must have flown with more than 250 flying hours or above with Commercial Pilot License, Multi Engine with Instrument Rating.
- Must be with an experience of handling a minimum of 10 tons' equipment with good performance.

#### 2.2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To participate in the Pilot-in-Command's crew briefing, and make himself aware of all relevant aeronautical and meteorological information as well as relevant papers documenting the aircraft technical status and its anticipated load.
- To prepare the OFP and when necessary, file the ATS Flight Plan with the appropriate Authority. If stored plans are used then he should ensure that the correct plan has been activated
- To carry out such duties concerning the flight in accordance with the SOP, including procedures, limitations and performance related to the specific aircraft type, as allocated to him by the Pilot-in-Command;
- To confirm the safe navigation of the aircraft, maintaining a continuous and independent check upon both the geographical position of the aircraft and its safe terrain clearance
- To safely and properly conduct the flight in compliance with the current flight plan and the Pilot-in-Command's instructions when the Pilot-in-Command is not at the controls. Any change to the current flight plan has to be notified to the Pilot-in-Command.
- To provide advice, information and assistance to the Pilot-in-Command, as may contribute favorable towards the safe and efficient conduct of the flight.
- To assist the Pilot-in-Command in administration duties related to the flight and
- To seek and receive information and/or explanation from the Pilot-in-Command, as may be necessary to enable fulfilment of functions.
- To assist the Flight Safety Department for all Technical related matters
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

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- Two recent passport size photographs
- Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.

### 5. CLOSING DATES:

Applicants should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of this announcement.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO,  
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,  
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Issued on 28th June, 2024**

ATCL is an equal opportunity employer. Women are encouraged to apply. Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other information on application shall warrant legal consequences.

## Researchers challenged to help ease NCDs burden, other pressing issues

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has challenged researchers in the country to come up with effective ways to deal with various challenges, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) to reduce treatment burden.

Prof Carolyne Nombo, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when officially opening the 12th Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Scientific Conference that brought together over 400 foreign and local researchers.

She said other pressing issues are to improve ethics at the workplace and the use of technology such as artificial intelligence (AI) in the health sector.

She said that researchers should provide solutions and best approaches to resolve problems, adding that without taking measures, diseases will have a direct negative impact on families as well as the government.

Prof Nombo said that this year's conference theme 'Science as a story of Life: The Power of Research,

Innovation and Collaboration in Improving Resilient Health System' was purposely chosen to honour contribution made by MUHAS former Chancellor, the late Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

"We want researchers to come up with recommendations on how to deal with the above three challenges. Recommendations from the conference must be submitted to the committee tasked to prepare development vision 2050," she said.

"The government is proud of the remarkable success achieved by MUHAS since its inception two years after independence," she added.

According to her, MUHAS research has contributed a lot to positive changes in health guidelines, treatment and policy formulation.

She called on policy makers to collaborate with researchers to work on disseminated research findings to solve problems facing the country.

Dr Harrison Mwakyembe, MUHAS Governing Council Chairman, said that the board will ensure domestic sources of

revenues are improved to make a bigger contribution to research.

MUHAS Vice Chancellor Prof Appolinary Kamuhabwa said that the institution has improved research environment and therefore attracts more organisations seeking collaboration.

"The conference must remind us to assess our researchers' contribution towards improving treatment, policy formulation and consultancies," he said.

"We have every reason to honour the contribution made by former President the late Ali Hassan Mwinyi on best ways to prevent NCDs," he said.

Prof Kamuhabwa said that MUHAS implements a total of 150 research projects, a number that has never been recorded in the institution's history.

He said that plans are underway to establish a new cardiovascular hospital at MUHAS Mloganzila, adding that oral health will follow later.

"Our future plan is to have MUHAS academic city. We currently build infrastructure and train experts," he said.



Community-level activist Selemani Bishagazi (R) pictured on sensitises women with land at Nkuu Sinde village in Kilimanjaro Region's East Machame ward on the importance formalising their claims to such property. It was all in implementation of a 'stand for your land' campaign run by more than 20 civil society organisations. Photo: Correspondent

## Tanroads to scrap bumps on Airport Road after setting up of traffic lights

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) in Mwanza Region plans to remove all bumps dotting Airport Road after erection of traffic lights that control vehicles and facilitate pedestrian crossing.

The agency will continue identifying other areas in Mwanza city where bumps cause disturbance to road users for removal.

This was said here recently by Richard Ruyango, acting Tanroads

Mwanza regional manager, when speaking to this writer in an interview.

Ruyango said that the bumps were needed to serve the purpose of speed control when the road had no traffic lights but that is no longer the case.

"The bumps currently cause unnecessary nuisance to road users," he said.

Citing an example, he said that when traffic lights indicate for vehicles to pass, drivers find it difficult to do so speedily because of the bumps, noting that situation does not allow effectiveness of the

lights.

Ruyango said that motorists should stop when lights indicate for pedestrians to pass and use the road comfortably when the green light is on.

He said that the government strives to ensure that people use roads without disturbance throughout as they move from one point to another for socioeconomic development.

"It is true that bumps are important for road safety but they are not needed where there are traffic lights and pedestrian crossings," he said.

## DITF 2024: 60 women-run SMEs to take part after quality justification

By Henry Mwangonde

A TOTAL of 60 women traders are set to take part in this year's Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) which kicks off today under the umbrella of the Equal Opportunity for All Trust Fund (EOTF).

Speaking during closing of training for prospective participants in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, EOTF Executive Director Stephen Emmanuel said this year's number is low because most women-run SMEs still conduct businesses informally.

He said the fund booked 38 booths for women-run SMEs under a capacity building programme dubbed 'Women in Poverty

Eradication' to exhibit and sell their products.

"We conducted a vetting process from SMEs applications and considered various criteria such as product quality in line with both national and global standards and we were able to get these 60 who will participate in the exhibition," he said.

The women-run SMEs that got the opportunity to participate at DITF this year, according to Emmanuel, are those with quality certificates from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

He added that through Tantrade, the fund has enabled 20 women traders to sell their products abroad through capacity-building training they received.

Prof Dorcas Kibona, a researcher and specialist in natural foods, said EOTF training enabled her company to improve the quality of its products that are sold outside of Tanzania.

"One of the products we sell abroad is banana flour, which is good for diabetic and overweight people; we have been able to deliver authentic products to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom," she said.

At the event, EOTF issued 250 certificates to those who participated in the programme fully.

EOTF has been operating for 27 years since 1997 and until recently, the fund managed to enable 6,800 women-run SMEs to generate 1trn/-.



## UN experts accuse Sudan warring parties of weaponising starvation

KHARTOUM

HUMAN rights experts working for the United Nations on Wednesday accused Sudan's warring parties of using starvation as a war weapon, amid mounting warnings about imminent famine in the African nation.

Sudan plunged into chaos in April last year when simmering tensions between the country's military and a notorious paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

Fourteen months of fighting have killed more than 14,000 people and wounded 33,000 others, according to the United Nations, but rights activists say the toll could be much higher.

There were widespread reports of rampant sexual violence and other atrocities that rights groups say amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The conflict created the world's largest displacement crisis with over 11 million people forced to flee their homes.

"Both the SAF and the RSF are using food as a weapon and starving civilians," the experts said, using initials for the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. "The extent of hunger and displacement we see in Sudan today is unprecedented and never witnessed before," they said.

Neither the military nor the RSF returned phone calls seeking comment.

The experts warned that famine has become imminent in the country as humanitarian aid has been blocked and harvest season was disrupted because of the war. They added that more than 25 million civilians in Sudan and

those who fled the country are being starved and need urgent humanitarian assistance.

A report by Clingendael Institute said last month that around 2.5 million people in Sudan could die from hunger by the end of September, with about 15 percent of the population in the regions of Darfur and Kordofan being likely the worst affected.

The independent experts said local efforts in response to Sudan's hunger crisis have been hampered by unprecedented violence and targeted attacks on civil society and local responders. Dozens of activists and local volunteers have been arrested, threatened and prosecuted in recent weeks, they said.

"The deliberate targeting of humanitarian workers and local volunteers has undermined aid operations, putting millions of people at further risk of starvation," they said. "Local responders are risking their health and lives and working across battle lines."

They urged both sides to "stop blocking, looting and exploiting humanitarian assistance."

The experts are part of the Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the United Nations Human Rights system.

The fighting has in recent months centred around el-Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur province, trapping hundreds of thousands of civilians. At least 143,000 people have been forced to flee el-Fasher over the past three months, according to the U.N.

The U.N.'s Security Council earlier this month demanded the RSF to immediately end its siege of the city, which is the military's last stronghold in the sprawling Darfur region.



Muheza district commissioner Zainab Abdallah (facing camera) has an audience on Wednesday with members of the district's elders' council on various concerns from the public. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE Electrical Transmission, Distribution, Construction and Maintenance Company (ETDCO)- a subsidiary company of Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco)- has said that the 132 kv strategic project transmitting electricity from Tabora to Katavi Region is set for completion this year.

The project which is expected to end power woes in Katavi has reached 67 percent of implementation, according to ETDCO. The region currently depends on generators for its

## Katavi Region to be connected to national grid this year - ETDCO

electricity.

Sadock Mugendi, acting ETDCO General Manager of, said yesterday that the goal of the strategic project is to ensure that Katavi Region is connected to national grid for reliable electricity.

Mugendi said that ETDCO has been implementing electricity infrastructure projects since its establishment in 2016, adding that the Tabora-Katavi project covers a length of 383 kilometres.

He said that completion of the project will end the cost incurred by Tanesco to buy diesel used to run generators used to generate electricity in Katavi Region.

Mugendi said that the company implements projects of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) which are in various stages across the country.

He said ETDCO connects electricity to 5,000 houses at Msomera village Handeni, District, Tanga Region, adding that the

project is expected to be completed next month.

He said the company also implements another electricity infrastructure project from Njiro power station to Arusha meant to strengthen availability of electricity in the region.

Mugendi said in Mbeya Region they implement another strategic REA project which has already reached 90 percent and is set for completion next month.

## Police lob teargas as angry protesters return to streets

By Basillioh Rukanga, Nairobi

KENYAN police fired teargas to disperse protesters in the capital, Nairobi, who turned up yesterday to express their anger against the government and mourn people killed in earlier protests.

Security forces, including the military, have been heavily deployed, and roads are blocked around key buildings in the city.

This comes two days after 22 people reportedly lost their lives in protests against tax hikes, which saw part of parliament set alight.

The next day, President William Ruto bowed to pressure and said he would withdraw the finance bill containing the unpopular tax proposals.

Demonstrators had vowed to gather again in Nairobi's city centre to mourn those killed. Some have been demanding the president's resignation.

But the turnout in the capital yesterday was much lower than in the previous protest when people stormed parliament.

Groups of protesters have been trying to enter the city centre but most have been repelled by the police.

Ahead of the protests some had vowed to march to the president's official residence, State House.

But prominent people linked to the protests warned against this because of the risk of further violence.

Roads leading to State House have been blocked, with officers turning away some motorists and pedestrians.

Earlier on Thursday, local television stations showed empty streets in the central business district, with many security forces on patrol.

There have also been protests in towns around the country.

In Mombasa, Kenya's second-biggest city, large crowds turned out chanting "Ruto must go", with businesses having to close because of some looting and stone throwing.

President Ruto's hometown of Eldoret, which on Tuesday experienced violent clashes, was calm.

But there were some clashes in Migori in western Kenya, where police lobbed teargas as they engaged with demonstrators.

Crowds of demonstrators confronted security officers in Kisumu, also in the west.

Ahead of yesterday's protests, Auma Obama, the half-sister of former US President Barack Obama, told the BBC that young people were going to the streets again because "they still want their voices heard."

Obama, who was tear-gassed as she joined Tuesday's protests, said that the youth were still aggrieved.

Ruto had promised to enter into dialogue with them, but this has not yet happened, she said.

"The grievances are not over. It is way beyond the finance bill now, so a conversation has to happen. There has to be a dialogue. I hope that will happen. We do not want more bloodshed," Obama added.

Ruto won the presidency in 2022 after campaigning to champion the interests of the "hustler" - the ordinary citizen struggling to earn a living.

But since then he has introduced a slew of taxes and raised others, making him unpopular as people complained that they could not afford to pay more when they were already struggling because of the cost-of-living crisis.

The finance bill outlined plans to introduce new taxes this year, including on bread and cooking oil, triggering the mass protests.

The government bowed to pressure and dropped some of the taxes but it did little to assuage the concerns of people, who demanded that the bill be withdrawn entirely.

On Wednesday, the president gave in to their demand, saying that "the people have spoken."

But he defended the finance bill, saying his government had made the tough choices necessary to stabilise the economy and to help ease Kenya out of a debt trap which forces it to spend 61 cents of every tax dollar on repaying its loans.

Ruto now intends to balance the books by introducing a new programme of public austerity, including a cut to spending in his office.



Same district commissioner Kasilda Mgeni addresses a public meeting in Mamba Miyamba ward on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Ashrack Miraji

WASHINGTON DC

IT was a family drama that inspired a young American girl, Guiliana Demma, to bring some cheer to children fighting cancer.

In 2017, her one-year-old cousin, Giada, was hospitalised for treatment of brain cancer, and Guiliana remembers seeing her lying in the hospital bed, her body swimming in a drab green hospital gown.

"I noticed that the gown was boring, dull colours, and boring patterns. And it wasn't really nice," she said.

The scene was so sad that her family had a seamstress make a special Disney princess gown for little Giada.

It was a thought that came back to Guiliana several years later.

## Sisters make colourful hospital gowns for children in US, Africa

She had developed an interest in sewing and told her mother she wanted to make cheerful gowns for other children with life-threatening illnesses.

The 13-year-old began making her original brightly coloured hospital gowns for them.

"There's always something small you can do to make a difference. It doesn't have to be anything big, it can just be something, really simple," she said.

Guiliana is helped by her 11-year-old sister, Audrina whose speciality is sewing small pillows for the young

patients.

These are sent with boxes of markers so that the recipients can colour them as they like while they are in hospital.

"I feel great. I love when I can help out because I like seeing the smile on the kids' faces, even though they're going through such a hard time," said Audrina.

A women's group at a nearby housing development and a church youth group help out with about 40 volunteers to cut fabric for the girls. The basement of their New Jersey home has been taken over by

sewing operations.

To date, the two sisters have sewn and donated over 1,800 gowns to hospitalised children across the US and in Uganda, with three other African nations set to get them soon.

The young patients are not charged for one Guiliana's gowns, which are paid for by donations of both money and material.

Some of the recipients write back to thank the girls for the gowns and pillows. Guiliana said she loves hearing back from them.

She hopes to become a cancer surgeon someday.



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## Carbon credits tied down to trees, while more is needed

REPORTS that the government has registered 9,061 environmental projects with potential to earn 37.55trn/- while 50 such projects focus on the carbon trade are taking some conservation quarters by storm.

While the timeframe for the colossal earnings was unclear, it was evident that the sums aren't minor if eight village communities and the Tanganyika District Council in Katavi Region alone received a cheque for 14.25bn/- over a two-year period as it appears.

The reports say the revenue came from selling high-quality, certified carbon credits on the voluntary carbon markets (VCM), a novel global CSR pay-out, as it were.

Land forest reserves can now be pledged by villagers for comfortable amounts that could go a long to ending voluntary departure from villages with woodlands nearby, or make any resettling of villagers.

All village members now by definition partake of the cash, apart from social installations in water, health and education, which could in future move to biogas units, apart from making gas cylinders available, subsidy on local prices of gas, etc.

The sky is the limit for the sort of amenities that villages can push with, if 1bn/- is casually handed to a village government - with no compulsion upon it than a usable accounting of it.

There was a note of significance in ministerial remarks regarding where projects are cleared and then lodged with district councils, when contributing to the conclusion of debate on the Finance Bill 2024/25 in the National Assembly.

It is indeed noteworthy that the government has registered 1,340 energy projects that enhance availability of clean cooking energy.

Accordingly, the public ought to get more involved in the

conservation and general care of the environment in the wake of climate change challenges.

With village communities having large surplus sums and this situation being reflected in other spheres of public expenditure, there are pluses and minuses that come with it.

Outside the singular obligation to keep woodlands intact, it is not easy to map out genuinely transformative uses with that kind of money.

Ordinarily, there is no compulsion to invest among village communities, except at an individual level, so directing 1bn/- as collective investment instruments is off the table.

On the other hand, the funds could hasten the modernisation of farm equipment and appropriate inputs in relation to irrigation and modern farm equipment, from tractors to robots - really mouth-watering prospects here.

It is still early days in the carbon trade and environment projects disbursements. But there is real potential that it promises capital for modernising Africa's agriculture without a change in the ownership system to attract capital. That would rewrite agro-sector economics, even reducing the pressure for people to migrate.

We are not there yet, and it is unclear how far all this is part of a laborious and hypothetical exercise at what beckons for the national economy in the next 25 years.

There is an expression that life is stranger than fiction, in which case what intellectuals start planning on the next 10, 20 or 25 years is soon undercut by the sort of dynamics arising from local opportunities tied with global momentum.

All this looks like nirvana: it could beef up demands for radical decentralisation so that there is little or no central government control in how the money is spent.

## Exam cheating controls designed by students could have a hidden button

AN irony of sorts was being aired at midweek as students at the University of Dodoma (UDOM) were reported to have innovated a number of systems, or applications, to control examination leakage and facilitate selection of courses using artificial intelligence (AI).

The development was reported at a week-long symposium among students and faculty members for computer studies, informatics and virtual education, where an innovative programme was unveiled.

The student innovators said their design came in response to a series of challenges facing students, and it is thus clear it faces lecturers or tutors as well.

It is unclear how far even the UDOM authorities were on record as having applauded that innovation, even as definitely no one wants exam cheating to mar the respectable holding and marking of examinations.

Yet there will be people in virtually any field who would wish there are loopholes upon which one could gain by their careful use, without upsetting the appercart as it were.

That is the big issue in shifting to computer-based communication in various areas, as at times hideous drawbacks have been noticed as well.

The key issue is removing face-to-face interaction, now showing negative aspects in clearly faulty electronic billing and receipt issuance.

What electronic billing involves comes to virtually destroying evidence as to who is actually

responsible for a faulty receipt, as it boils down to who was on duty and how error came about.

It takes a lot of time to sort that out, unlike in a situation where a revenue officer hands a receipt to a customer or client.

Presumably, no one would go home with a 3m/- tax receipt whereas the proper amount paid was 24m/-, as a regional commissioner reported having witnessed in a key urban centre recently.

That was in part why there was room for doubting whether students can design a totally fool-proof control app for exams, as universities design fool-proof apps for academic standards - and that sort of thing.

There is a street expression that 'boys will be boys' and thus the hide and seek one may see at play in governance or the corporate world will never be sorted out by designing new tools.

Governance will always have its part in probity, links to the fear of losing one's job or being black-listed, as no one wants headlines, or rumours all over the place, for the wrong reasons.

So, there are some societal safeguards where people will try to do their best so long as someone is checking and won't smile at deliberate errors or falsehoods.

Trouble may be that it isn't the system - yes, system - that people want, but being free to do whatever they want while those on the outside talk as much as they want.

It might be seen as 'democracy' while it is, in fact, anarchy that could breed a disgruntled Generation Z. Showcasing exam leakage controls sounds nice, but we must guard against being overly optimistic.



## Unable to back down, Israel and Hezbollah move closer to all-out war

By Lucy Williamson

ISRAEL has been striking back hard against Hezbollah, killing senior Full-scale war between Israel and Hezbollah would be "a catastrophe", the UN Secretary-General says. But to David Kamari, who lives under near-daily fire on the Israeli side of the border, it would be a solution.

Last month, a Hezbollah rocket fired from Lebanon landed in his front garden in the border town of Kiryat Shmona, cracking his house in several places and filling it with rubble.

He points out the gaping holes where shrapnel sliced through the walls, missing him by inches. And then to the hills above us, where Hezbollah-controlled territory begins.

"Every day, every night: bombs. [It's a] problem," he said. "And I was born here. If you live here one night, you go crazy."

David is still living in his rubble-filled house, pieces of shrapnel entangled with the remains of his television set. Outside is the blackened relic of his car, burned by the fire that swept through his front yard after the rocket hit.

Most of the population of Kiryat Shmona was evacuated after the 7 October Hamas attacks, as Hezbollah rockets began raining down in support of their Palestinian ally.

David is one of the few who stayed. "I've lived here 71 years," he said. "I won't go. I was in the army, I'm not afraid."

His solution? "War with Hezbollah; kill Hezbollah," he says. Hezbollah has sent larger volleys of drones and missiles across the border this month, and threats on both sides have increased. Earlier this week, the group published drone footage of military installations and civilian infrastructure in the Israeli city of Haifa.

Tough talk has long been part of a mutual strategy of deterrence, with both sides seen as wary of all-out war.

But as the tit-for-tat conflict grinds on, and more than 60,000 Israelis remain evacuated from their homes in the north, there are signs that both Israel's leaders and its citizens are prepared to support military options to push Hezbollah back from the border by force.

The mayor of Kiryat Shmona, Avichai Stern, shows me the site where a rocket hit a street near his office last week.

"I don't think there is any country in the world would accept daily fire



"Every day, every night: bombs. [It's a] problem," David Kamari told the BBC

against its citizens," Mayor Stern said.

"And sitting here like lambs to slaughter, waiting for the day they will raid us like we saw in the south, that's not acceptable. Everyone understands that the choice is between war now or war later."

The dangerous stalemate here hinges largely on the war Israel is fighting more than 100 miles (160km) to the south in Gaza.

A ceasefire there would help calm tensions in the north too, but Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is keeping both conflicts going, mortgaged by his promise to far-right government allies to destroy Hamas before ending the Gaza War.

Earlier this week even the Israeli military spokesman said this goal may not be realistic.

"The idea that we can destroy Hamas or make Hamas disappear is misleading to the public," Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told Israeli TV.

On the Lebanese side of the border, where more than 90,000 people have been evacuated, the mood among those who have stayed is similarly grim.

Fatima Belhas lives a few miles (7km) from the Israeli border, near Jbal el Botm.

In the early days, she would shake with fear when Israel bombed the area, she says, but has since come to terms with the bombardments and no longer thinks of leaving.

"Where would I go?" she asked. "[Others] have relatives elsewhere. But how can I impose on someone like that? We have no money."

"Maybe it is better to die at home with dignity," she said. "We have grown up resisting. We won't be

driven out of our land like the Palestinians."

Hussein Aballan recently left his village of Mays al Jbal, around 6 miles (10km) from Kiryat Shmona, on the Lebanese side of the border.

Life there had become impossible, he said, with erratic communications and electricity, and almost no functioning shops.

The few dozen families left there are mainly older people who refuse to leave their homes and farms, he told the BBC.

But he backed the Hezbollah assault on Israel.

"Everyone in the south [of Lebanon] has lived through years of aggression, but has come out stronger," he said. "Only through resistance are we strong."

As difficult as this border conflict is for people on both sides, a full-scale war would lift the crisis onto a different scale.

Some residents of Beirut are keeping suitcases packed and passports ready, in case of all-out conflict, and the Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, said this week that nowhere in Israel would be spared.

Hezbollah is a well-armed, well-trained army, backed by Iran; Israel, a sophisticated military power with the US as an ally.

Full-scale war is likely to be devastating for both sides.

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, said it would be a "catastrophe that goes [...] beyond imagination".

The problem for Israel is how to stop the rockets and get its people back to the abandoned northern areas of the country.

The problem for Hezbollah is how to stop the rockets when its

ally, Hamas, is being pounded by Israeli forces in Gaza.

The longer that situation grinds on, the more the risks of a miscalculation increase, and the more Israel's government is under pressure to resolve the situation.

The Hamas attacks on 7 October changed security calculations in Israel. Many of those with homes near the border - and some of those in positions of power - say the kind of agreement made with Hezbollah in the past is no longer enough.

om Perry lives in kibbutz Malkiya, right up against the Lebanese border fence. He was out drinking with friends when a Hezbollah rocket slammed through the front of his house earlier this month.

"I think the Secretary-General's warning is right - [war] will be a catastrophe to the area," he said.

"But unfortunately it looks like we have no other option. No agreement lasts forever, because they want death for us. We are doomed to wars forever, unless Israel can eliminate Hezbollah."

Israel's leaders lost all credibility after the 7 October attacks, he says, and don't have a strategy to deliver peace.

"They need to quit - all of them. The biggest failure of our army and our country was 7 October, and they were our leaders. We don't need these leaders."

Demands for political change are likely to increase when Israel's conflicts end.

Many believe Israel's prime minister is playing for time: caught between growing demands for a ceasefire in Gaza, and growing support for a war in the north.



# Worse than genocide: Killing truth

ATLANTA, Georgia

There have been many genocides throughout history, but the first to be displayed on TV in all its sickening horror before the entire world is the Israeli genocide against the civilians of Gaza.

Truth is the first casualty of war, so it's no surprise that the slick Israeli propaganda machine has managed to make Israel's slaughter of 37,000 Palestinians in Gaza, including more than 15,000 children, acceptable to multitudes of Americans.

With the exception of the widespread campus protestors, most Americans are by now convinced that Gaza's 2.3 million inhabitants are all fanatical Islamists who deserve to be killed like vermin. That's not only a lie—it is a damnable lie.

There is an even bigger atrocity in this war, and a more unbearable one than killing children, if that is possible—and that's when the truth is killed. When your good is labeled evil, it's maddening.

Today the decency and moral outrage of millions of US youth is being slandered by ranting propagandists like MS-NBC's Joe Scarborough, and of course the entire FOX News crew, label-



Destruction in northern Gaza. Credit: UNRWA

ling the campus protest movement anti-Semitic. The claim is false and must be exposed as another damnable lie.

It's more than illogical, it's silly, to say that anti-Zionism equals anti-Semitism. The vast majority of campus protesters are not anti-Semites and have no trouble separating the actions of extreme Zionist

ideology as played out in Gaza from their classmates and friends who happen to be Jews.

"The naming of things is the rectification of things," Confucius taught. Antisemitism is Antisemitism. Zionism is Zionism. The two are not the same. Otherwise, how could Senator Bernie Sand-

ers, a Jew, attack the Netanyahu's extreme Zionist government so strenuously, and how could so many of the student demonstrators who are against Zionist Israel's Gaza campaign themselves be Jewish?

When Republican Congresswoman Elise Stephanic, a Jew, attacked George Soros, a celebrated progressive Jewish

philanthropist on CNN recently for supporting the protesters, wasn't she herself being an Anti-Semite?

Neither George W. Bush nor Joe Biden are Jews. They are Christians—but are certainly bigtime Zionists. Bush by leading America into the morass of the Iraq War primarily designed to protect Israel, and Biden in Gaza, by giving Israel all the money and bombs it needs to kill so many thousands of civilians.

"Don't kill children, but here's money and ammunition to do it with." Nobody is fooled by that, still less university students who have had to display their critical thinking skills before they could even get into college.

Increasing numbers of Jewish organizations are rejecting Israel's descent into doctrinaire Anti-Arab racial policies that echo Nazism's extreme philosophy. They know that race-hatred is racism, but that doctrinaire racial superiority vs. inferiority is racial-ism, which is far worse.

The situation in Gaza is unbearable for a civilized world to witness. Painting an entire generation of idealistic American college youth with the slander that they are racists is unbearable. If anything is worse than Genocide, it is claiming that those who oppose it are the greater cause of evil.

Nottingham, England

At 59, Brian is living a very different life from the one he expected. He used to be an electrician making a good living. "Everyone needs an electrician," he says.

But Brian can no longer work. He has a tremor that shakes his body uncontrollably, caused by a brain condition similar to Parkinson's Disease. In his south Manchester flat, he sits surrounded by the model aeroplanes that he used to paint as a hobby but no longer can. His curtains are drawn to give him privacy from the road outside.

He needs help with the simplest tasks, such as feeding himself and dressing, but the care system he and many others rely on has been in crisis for years.

He says the shaking is exhausting. He also has epilepsy.

Perhaps like most people, Brian never expected he would need social care. But in a population that is ageing and living longer with complex conditions, many of us will.

About a million people in England receive services that support them in care homes as well in their own homes, according to the King's Fund think-tank. Many who rely on the care system want to know why the major political parties aren't talking about it more.

An open letter has been sent to politicians signed by 24,000 people and more than 50 organisations warning it would be a betrayal of the public if a new government ignored social care. A second letter from another 20 bodies, including council groups and care workers, urges politicians to use the remainder of the campaign to be ambitious about reform.

- Organisations warn parties against social care 'betrayal'
- Your Voice, Your Vote: Tell us the election issues that matter to you

And the care system is among the issues most commonly raised by people contacting the BBC's Your Voice Your Vote - which lets you suggest stories for BBC News to look into.

Some older and disabled people are left having to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds towards their care.

Age UK estimates that a further 2.6 million people need support with day-to-day tasks like washing, dressing and medication, but aren't able to get that help.

In short, the system is outdated, unfair and crying out for reform - and on that there is broad political agreement.

But the two main political parties have steered away from detailed plans. In the first televised leaders' debate of the general election campaign, Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer spent a total of 36 seconds on the subject - neither challenging the other on what they said.

You can perhaps understand nerves among Labour and the Conservatives as in previous elections both parties have seen campaigns crashed by the issue of social care.

In 2010, Labour's plans to pay for

## Why aren't politicians talking about social care?



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer (left) take part for the BBC's Prime Ministerial Debate, in Nottingham, England, on Wednesday. AP

universal long-term care were dubbed a "death tax" by the Tories. Then, in turn, the Conservatives' 2017 proposals for social care funding were branded a "dementia tax" by Labour.

Boris Johnson's government did set a timetable for introducing an £86,000 cap or limit to an individual's care costs over a lifetime. Originally due in 2023, its introduction in England was delayed until October next year.

Labour and Conservatives have said they would go ahead with this care cap, but experts say the money allocated is already being used to prop up the existing system.

Both manifestos say they will improve pay and conditions for care staff. Labour also pledges to set up a National Care Service within 10 years.

But there is little detail -

particularly when it comes to how care will be funded.

Smaller parties have been more ambitious. The Liberal Democrats and the Green Party have both said they would make personal care free.

The care systems in the rest of the UK have seen some change. They are more generous, and in Scotland there is already free personal care.

But delays in tackling the care system's deep-rooted problems in England have consequences - both human and economic.

Brian, for instance, gets four care visits a day. Although the council pays for most of this, he still has to contribute £500 a month towards the total bill. He is on benefits and is now in debt.

"I'm behind on my gas and electric and other bills with paying so much for the care. It is stressful,"

he says.

He's not sleeping at night because of the stress. He believes it is making him more poorly and increasing his shaking, so he now needs more care.

But the council can't provide it, and he couldn't afford to pay more towards it anyway.

As things currently stand in England, anyone with savings and assets of more than £23,250 has to pay for all of their care. The value of their family home is counted if they move into a residential home.

People who fund themselves can end up paying between £1,000 and £2,000 a week for a care home place. Many of them are far from asset-rich. It can devour savings and lead to family homes being sold.

At a care home in the Wirral, 86-year-old Imelda dances around her room with her daughter Nicola

Hurst.

In the background, Frank Sinatra croons "I've got you under my skin" as they sway to the familiar music.

Imelda has dementia and has lived in the home for about four years.

She is part of a large, close family and her daughter or one of her other relatives visit her most days.

Imelda had no savings and didn't own her own home, so in theory her council pays for all her care.

But in reality, the amount provided by the council doesn't cover the care home's £1,200 weekly fees, so Nicola and her brother pay a £2,200 top-up each month to allow their mother to stay in the place she is familiar with.

"What keeps me awake at night is the thought that I now won't have enough in my savings pot to pay if I ever need to go into care," says Nicola, who is retired. "And therefore, that financial burden will pass to my children."

She is involved with the group Rights for Residents and campaigns for more recognition of the importance of families in social care.

"Successive governments accept that this is crisis," she says. "They accept that this is something that has to be addressed. And yet, they do nothing."

But in England, at least, money continues to be a stumbling block, according to Sally Warren, Director of Policy at the King's Fund. She used to be a civil servant and helped draw up plans for the care cap.

"Political parties are really anxious about making any commitment to improve the system and having to find the money," she says.

Last year £28bn was spent on social care in England and reform would cost several billion pounds more.

There has been some mention during the campaign of cross-party talks to agree a way of funding social care in the long term. Sally Warren sees that as a red herring that would slow things down.

"What you need is a government that's prepared to take action, that will legislate when it is needed, and will follow through and implement," she says.

Whoever wins the general election there will be tough choices about money and the danger is that once again social care is placed on the "too-difficult-to-handle" pile.

But continuing to do nothing is also expensive, leaving the under-pressure NHS and families picking up the pieces.

And so when it comes to the election, Brian has little time for politicians.

"I don't think they support us, I don't think they care," he says. I ask him if he feels angry about this.

"Yeah," he replies, then quickly tells me he's getting agitated. "They don't treat us right."

Nicola Hurst is even blunter. She wants politicians to "do their job".



# Youth-led protests force Kenyan president's hand of tax bill

NAIROBI

In a historic first, Kenya's youth have mobilized in large-scale protests to demand that the political establishment listen to them. The Finance Bill 2024, which proposed new taxes across several sectors, was the catalyst for the protests, igniting outrage among a youth demographic that feels betrayed by decades of political promises. These protests, driven by economic and social grievances, escalated dramatically, culminating in clashes with police that led to numerous deaths and widespread unrest.

The streets of Kenya's major towns and cities became battlegrounds, showcasing a remarkable display of youth agitation. Hundreds of demonstrators faced illegal arrests and detentions, with many others sustaining injuries in the chaos.

Amidst these tumultuous scenes that gripped Kenya, young female protesters emerged as a force to be reckoned with, standing shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts in defiance of punitive tax measures. Their presence in the chaotic protests was not just significant; it was transformative, as they marched fearlessly into the fray, determined to have their voices heard.

ThWanjiku Stephens, donning a luminous green raincoat, became an emblem of bravery as she marched towards a police water cannon. Her act of standing in solidarity with a fellow protester shocked many.

"I was somewhere behind when I saw a young guy hit by the water cannon. A young and energetic guy who not only believed in himself but in the people. That is when I said I have to speak up as a woman," she recounted, her voice tinged with a mix of fear and resolve. Wanjiku couldn't pinpoint where her courage came from, only that she found herself on the frontlines, unwavering.

Shakira Wafula boldly confronted the anti-riot police, mirroring Wanjiku's spirit.

"I am here for Kenya, for my people. I am here for your rights. Push me," she declared defiantly, clad in black, raising her fist up and holding a Kenyan flag.

Shakira's frustration was palpable as she described her encounter. "The police tried to control how I was moving. This raised my pressure," she explained.

Wanjiku also highlighted the specific grievances of women regarding the Finance Bill. "If you look closely at the Fi-



**Youth demonstrate on the streets of Nairobi, adjacent to the national parliament, while legislators rush to pass the Finance Bill 2024. Credit: Robert Kibet/IPS**

nance Bill, a lot of things are affecting us as women. From sanitary towels to anything involving the household, which is the woman's responsibility," she pointed out.

"In other countries, sanitary products are free, so why not in Kenya? Why are we being charged for having periods, something we didn't choose?" she asks.

The current government claimed that the previous administration had borrowed heavily from foreign governments, so the Finance Bill sought to increase and introduce new taxes to pay off this debt while simultaneously making Kenya less reliant on foreign debt. This was to

bridge the debt gap and also raise revenue to finance the government's move to subsidize agriculture inputs. The taxes on basic necessities, such as bread and sanitary towels, infuriated the youth and Kenyans.

Unlike previous demonstrations marked by stones and crude weapons, these Gen Z protesters opted for peaceful chants, documenting their protests on their phones and even live-streaming to reach a wider audience. Their approach was a testament to a new wave of activism, one that harnessed technology and peaceful resistance to amplify their message.

As these relentless women took their stand, they not only fought against economic injustice but also redefined the role of women in Kenya's fight for a fair and just society. Their courage and determination became a powerful symbol of the youth uprising, inspiring countless others to join the cause.

The proposed Finance Bill is seen by many as a burden on ordinary Kenyans, deepening their financial struggles, while expanding government spending. The youth, already facing high unemployment despite being educated, view this bill as a direct assault on their economic prospects. Their frustration is palpable, and their actions speak volumes about their desperation and determination.

In a bid to suppress the protests, law enforcement officers resorted to firing live ammunition, wielding batons, deploying water cannons, and using tear gas grenades. This heavy-handed approach resulted in a significant number of deaths and injuries, though the precise count remains uncertain.

According to the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (1979) and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990), only the minimum force necessary should be used for legitimate law enforcement purposes during an assembly. These international standards highlight the excessive nature of the force used against the Kenyan protesters, raising serious human rights concerns.

The anger and determination of the youth reached a peak as they occupied the parliament precincts, one of the most protected zones in the country. They managed to breach security and gain entry into the bicameral house, leading to chaotic and unprecedented scenes.

At least four protesters were shot dead as police struggled to disperse the rioters. The situation escalated further

as protesters vandalized windows and set fire to the new wing of the parliament building, causing significant damage and forcing MPs and parliamentary staff to scramble for safety.

The use of live ammunition to quell the riots, along with reports of arbitrary arrests and the intimidation of activists, has drawn sharp criticism from lawyers and human rights groups. They argue that such measures are not only excessive but also violate the fundamental rights of the protesters.

President William Ruto's response to the protests has been equally controversial. In a Tuesday 9 pm national address, he condemned the protesters as criminals and called for military intervention, failing to acknowledge the deaths caused by police action.

As the dust begins to settle, the broader implications of these protests for Kenyan society and politics become clearer. The targeting of businesses perceived to be aligned with politicians supporting the Finance Bill underscores the deep-seated frustration and mistrust among the youth. The potential for future unrest looms large as the young generation continues to demand justice and economic fairness.

In a surprising turn of events, Ruto succumbed to mounting pressure from Gen Z, millennials, and the public, leading him to make an unprecedented decision. The president announced the withdrawal of the contentious 2024 Finance Bill, a move that the protesters, who flocked to the streets in record numbers, had fiercely demanded.

"Listening keenly to the people of Kenya who have said loudly that they want nothing to do with this Finance Bill for 2024, I concede. Therefore, I will not sign the 2024 Finance Bill, and it shall subsequently be withdrawn. I have agreed with these members that this becomes our collective position," Ruto declared in a nationally televised address on Wednesday.

However, this decision sparked a debate on its legality. Rarieda Legislator Paul Otiende Amolo, who played a key role in crafting the 2010 constitution, pointed out that the president cannot unilaterally withdraw a bill since he is not a member of parliament.

"To constitutionally nuance this, the legal way is for the president to register reservations on all aspects of the bill, including the title, then send the bill back to parliament within seven days. Parliament then votes to adopt each reservation, effectively nullifying the bill," explained lawyer Waiko Wanyoike.

Human rights advocates quickly weighed in on the matter. Wangeci Grace Kahuria is the Executive Director of Independent Medical Legal Unit (IMLU) and convener of the Police Reforms Working Group.

"It's not the protesters who are treasonous but the president's acts. Ac-

ording to Article 241/2/c of the constitution, which requires the National Assembly's approval but never did, the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) deployment was illegal and made the killings worse," according to Kahuria.

Joshua Changwony, Executive Director of Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRECO), noted the widespread nature of the protests, emphasizing that 67 towns across the country participated, making it a national movement rather than a localized Nairobi issue.

Speaking to IPS on the phone, legal expert Willis Otiemo commented on the political implications, stating, "Parliament, as it were, already stands impeached in the eyes of the people of Kenya. This is a response to the people exercising their Article 1 right to the constitution by demanding a rejection rather than withdrawal."

He argued that the people had effectively 'impeached' parliament, rendering it powerless in this context. The Finance Bill is revenue-raising legislation, which means the amendments made last year will remain in effect. This forces the government to return to the drawing board and reduce the budget."

For Otiemo, the two press conferences done by the president and his deputy in different locations confirm that "we do not have a functioning government."

"The legislators refused to listen to the people who gave them their views. The same legislators clapped when the president withdrew the bill, yet they are the ones who passed it," remarked Otiemo.

Deputy President Gachagua blamed the National Intelligence Service (NIS), yet the people did not elect the security spy agency.

"They should not play blame games and must take ultimate responsibility. The president and his deputy owe Kenyans one duty: to vacate their offices and resign because, by their admission, they are shirking responsibilities to others whom the people of Kenya did not elect," reiterates Otiemo.

As Kenya navigates this critical juncture, the voice of its youth continues to echo through the corridors of power, signaling a profound shift in the nation's political landscape. The collective action of a generation has not only forced a significant policy reversal but has also sparked a broader conversation about accountability, governance, and the power of the people.

IPS



**An anti-riot police officer escorts an arrested female protester outside the Kenya Supreme Court in Nairobi during the demonstrations. Credit: Robert Kibet/IPS**



**A police vehicle set on fire by angry protesters as they sought entry into the national parliament in Nairobi. Credit: Robert Kibet/IPS**



By Correspondent Azil Ricco

## A call to ethical journalism: President Samia's vision for Tanzanian media



LAST week, Tanzanian media practitioners met in Dar es Salaam during the second Conference on the Development of the Information and Communication Sector that marked a significant moment in the dialogue between the government and the media. The well-attended conference was graced by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

At the important forum President Samia called on Tanzanian journalists to uphold professional ethics, emphasizing the importance of factual reporting, impartiality, and national loyalty.

Her message arrives at a critical juncture, underscoring the crucial role that media plays in national security and independence.

At the conference, Samia celebrated the accomplishments of distinguished Tanzanian journalists who have brought international recognition to the country.

Among those honoured were Beatrice Bandawe, Executive Editor of Nipashe, who received a prestigious award for leading women in the newsroom in Africa by the World Publishers Association (WAN-IFRA); Deodatus Balile, Executive Editor of Jamhuri, elected President of the East African Editors Association; Ernest Sungura, the first Chairman of the Free Councils Network in Africa; and Kajubi Mukajanga, leader of the East African Media Council.

President Samia highlighted the delicate balance between media freedom and national security. "Journalism plays a crucial role in our society, but this freedom comes with great responsibilities," she stated.

"We must ensure that we protect the secrets of our country and avoid revealing information that could jeopardize our security." Her words resonate deeply in a time when the rapid dissemination of information can have profound consequences on national stability.

She called on journalists to practice their profession with integrity, prioritizing the nation's interests. She stressed the importance of using media freedom wisely and patriotically, urging against the disclosure of sensitive information that could harm Tanzania's security and prosperity. This plea for ethical journalism reflects a growing concern over the potential consequences of leaking classified information and internal affairs to foreign entities.

President Samia's remarks aim to foster a sense of duty and patriotism among journalists, reminding them that their work should benefit the public rather than serve personal or external interests.

Ethics in journalism serves as the foundation upon which trustworthy and responsible reporting is built. Ethical journalism ensures that the information disseminated to the public is not only ac-

curate but also fair and respectful of all individuals involved. The adherence to ethical standards is what distinguishes professional journalism from mere information sharing.

Fact-checking is a cornerstone of ethical journalism. Journalists are responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information they report. This involves cross-referencing multiple sources, consulting experts, and being diligent in the pursuit of truth. In an era where misinformation can spread rapidly through social media and other digital platforms, rigorous fact-checking helps maintain public trust and prevents the dissemination of falsehoods that could have harmful consequences.

Impartiality is another critical aspect of ethical journalism. Journalists must strive to report news without bias, presenting all sides of a story fairly. This objectivity allows the audience to form their own informed opinions. When journalists allow personal biases or external influences to color their reporting it undermines the credibil-

ity of the media and can lead to public mistrust.

While impartiality is essential, journalists must also consider the national interest in their reporting. This does not mean engaging in propaganda or suppressing unfavourable news, but rather being mindful of the potential impact of their stories on national security and unity. Ethical journalists balance the public's right to know with the need to protect sensitive information that, if disclosed, could harm the country.

To maintain credibility, journalists must avoid conflicts of interest. They should be transparent about any potential conflicts and ensure that their reporting is not influenced by personal or financial interests. This transparency is crucial for building trust with the audience and ensuring that the news remains an unbiased source of information.

Ultimately, the primary duty of journalists is to serve the public interest. This involves prioritizing the community's needs and providing informa-

tion that helps citizens make informed decisions. Ethical journalism empowers the public by offering a truthful and comprehensive view of events and issues, fostering an informed and engaged society.

President Samia's commendation of award-winning journalists highlights the exceptional talent within Tanzania's media landscape.

Bandawe's recognition as a leading woman in the newsroom is a testament to her dedication and excellence in journalism. Her achievement, as the first Tanzanian to receive such an honour from WAN-IFRA, sets a high standard for her peers.

Balile's election as President of the East African Editors Association signifies the respect and trust he has earned from his colleagues across the region. His leadership is expected to strengthen the role of journalism in promoting transparency and accountability.

Ernest Sungura and Kajubi Mukajanga's appointments further underscore the influence of Tanzanian journalists in

shaping media practices across Africa. Their leadership roles reflect a commitment to ethical standards and the development of a free, responsible press.

President Samia's appeal to journalists is a reminder of the power and responsibility that comes with media freedom. As Tanzania continues to navigate complex national and international dynamics, the role of journalists in safeguarding the nation's interests becomes increasingly critical.

Her commitment to maintaining media freedom while protecting national interests sets a clear directive for the future of journalism in Tanzania. It is a call for journalists to embrace their roles as watchdogs of society, champions of truth, and guardians of the nation's well-being.

In response, journalists have expressed their dedication to upholding the values of their profession. By focusing on accurate, unbiased reporting and prioritizing the public good, they can contribute to Tanzania's development and stability.

President Samia's message is both a challenge and an inspiration, urging journalists to rise to the occasion with integrity and patriotism. As they navigate the complexities of their work, the guiding principles of fact-checking, impartiality, patriotism, and public service will be essential in shaping a resilient and trustworthy media landscape in Tanzania.

The significance of this moment cannot be understated. As the media landscape evolves with new technologies and challenges, the call for ethical journalism remains steadfast. President Samia's vision for Tanzanian journalism is not just about maintaining standards, but about elevating the role of the press in national development and security. Her appeal serves as a guiding light for journalists, illuminating the path towards a more informed, united, and secure Tanzania.

The journey toward ethical journalism in Tanzania, as highlighted by President Samia, is fraught with challenges but also ripe with opportunities. The digital age presents both a boon and a bane for journalists. While technology has democratized information and provided platforms for diverse voices, it has also made the spread of misinformation easier. Journalists must navigate this landscape carefully, leveraging technology to enhance their reporting while combating the pitfalls of fake news.

Training and continuous education in ethics are vital. Media houses should invest in regular training programs that keep journalists updated on the best practices in ethical reporting. Collaboration with international bodies that set standards for journalism can also provide valuable insights and frameworks for maintaining high ethical standards.

Public support and engagement are crucial. The audience plays a significant role in holding journalists accountable. Media literacy programs can help the public understand the importance of ethical journalism and recognize credible sources of information.

President Samia's call to action for Tanzanian journalists is a powerful reminder of the vital role the media plays in society. By adhering to ethical standards, journalists can foster a more informed, cohesive, and secure nation. The recognition of outstanding journalists serves as an inspiration for the entire media community to strive for excellence and integrity in their work. As Tanzania moves forward, the commitment to ethical journalism will be key to navigating the challenges of the modern information landscape and ensuring a brighter future for all.

By Special Correspondent

## Flamingos under threat: Climate impact risking delicate balance of Lake Natron



MILLIONS of pink flamingos transform the alkaline waters of Lake Natron in northern Tanzania into a dazzling sea of fluttering feathers every day.

This enchanting display, however, is under threat. Human activities and changing weather patterns are threatening the world's largest migratory bird colony, prompting environmentalists to issue a warning.

Africa's Great Rift Valley is home to some of the world's most dangerous lakes. Lake Natron in Tanzania and Lake Bogoria in Kenya are hostile to most forms of life, with surface temperatures soaring up to 40 degrees Celsius. However, these are perfect habitats for flamingos.

These lakes, filled with caustic soda and hypersaline water, deter most predators but provide an unexpected haven for fascinating migratory birds.

Lake Natron, a Ramsar site on the Tanzania-Kenya border, has a unique composition of warm waters and salt, caustic soda, and magnesite deposits that provide ideal conditions for flamingos to thrive. However, this delicate equilibrium is increasingly being upset.

Several factors, including agriculture, pollution, and climate change, are threatening the beauty of this unique ecosystem, according to John Sule, a senior ecologist.

"Climate change is altering water levels and salinity, making it harder for flamingos to find suitable nesting sites. The population of flamingos on Lake Natron is steadily declining as fewer birds return each year due to extreme weather and encroachment," he said.

Extreme weather is causing frequent flooding, compromising the lake's salin-

ity, according to the ecologist. "The reduction in salinity disrupts the growth of specific algae that serve as a food source for flamingos. The birds' feeding patterns and breeding success are being adversely affected, posing a serious threat to their population," said Sule.

Conversely, prolonged dry seasons are also causing water levels to drop dangerously, concentrating the lake's salinity beyond what algae can tolerate and resulting in flamingo food shortages.

In 2006, an Indian company

proposed a soda ash extraction project at Lake Natron, which sparked global outrage and was ultimately abandoned in 2008. The threat, however, persists.

"Flamingos are incredibly sensitive to changes in their environment," said Edmund Shayo, an environmental activist specialising in bird habitats. "The rising water levels are diluting the soda lakes, which drastically affects the cyanobacteria that flamingos feed on."

According to Shayo, min-

ing activities near the lake are detrimental to the birds. "The disruption caused by mining activities would most likely force them to abandon the lake. Flamingos need a quiet and undisturbed environment for nesting and any significant disturbance could drive them away, threatening their ability to reproduce and sustain their population," he said.

### Community efforts

Despite the challenges, local communities are actively working to protect their pink-

feathered neighbours. Yohana Mlai, a resident of Magadini village, believes that education plays a crucial role in these efforts. By teaching pastoral communities about sustainable water practices, they aim to ensure that the lake remains a viable habitat for both flamingos and the people who depend on it.

This initiative is helping to balance the needs of wildlife with those of the local human population, fostering a sense of stewardship and coexistence.

"The importance of Lake Natron's flamingos extends beyond their ecological role. They are a major attraction, drawing thousands of tourists every year," Mlai said. Tourism accounts for 17.2 per cent of the country's gross domestic product and 25 per cent of foreign exchange revenues.

Flamingos' struggle for survival in Tanzania is part of a broader global pattern. Across Africa's Great Rift Valley, flamingos face similar threats at other critical breeding sites. Rising water levels and invasive plant species, fueled by climate change, are disrupting these habitats.

"These birds are vital environmental indicators," said Flower Msuya, a marine biologist at the University of Dar es Salaam. "Their well-being is a reflection of the overall health of the ecosystem. When flamingos face difficulties, it indicates larger environmental issues that must be addressed."

To protect Tanzania's flamingos, comprehensive and coordinated efforts are required. Conservationists advocate for stricter environmental regulations and increased public awareness.

"Protecting these birds requires a holistic approach," said Msuya. "It's about preserving their habitat, controlling pollution, and ensuring that any development around the lake is sustainable. Communities must be at the forefront of conservation efforts. Their involvement and cooperation are crucial for any long-term success."

We must act now, urged Sule. "If we don't address these issues, we risk losing one of nature's most spectacular phenomena," he said.



# Age anxiety hangs over first Biden-Trump debate

By Kayla Epstein

For Joe Biden and Donald Trump - the two oldest candidates ever to seek the US presidency - age is an election issue neither can escape.

On Thursday, the current Democratic president, 81, and his Republican predecessor, 78, will face off in Atlanta, Georgia, for the first of two debates ahead of November's vote, offering Americans a rare, split-screen comparison of the two men's physical and mental strength.

For 90 minutes, under the glare of the high-definition cameras, President Biden and former President Trump - who remain nearly tied in national opinion polls - will spar on issues ranging from the economy and foreign wars to immigration and the future of democracy. One slip-up, stumble or verbal miscue could cement concerns about their advanced age, with the potential for reshaping an already tight presidential race as voters begin to pay attention.

But delivering a vigorous performance may be more critical for Mr Biden, the nation's oldest president who has been dogged by questions about his stamina and mental fitness since he took office.

"There's no hiding the fact that Biden's 81, there's no hiding the fact that Trump's basically the same age," said Jim Messina, a Democratic strategist who managed Barack Obama's 2012 presidential campaign. "It's not a contest of age, it's a contest of policy and character."

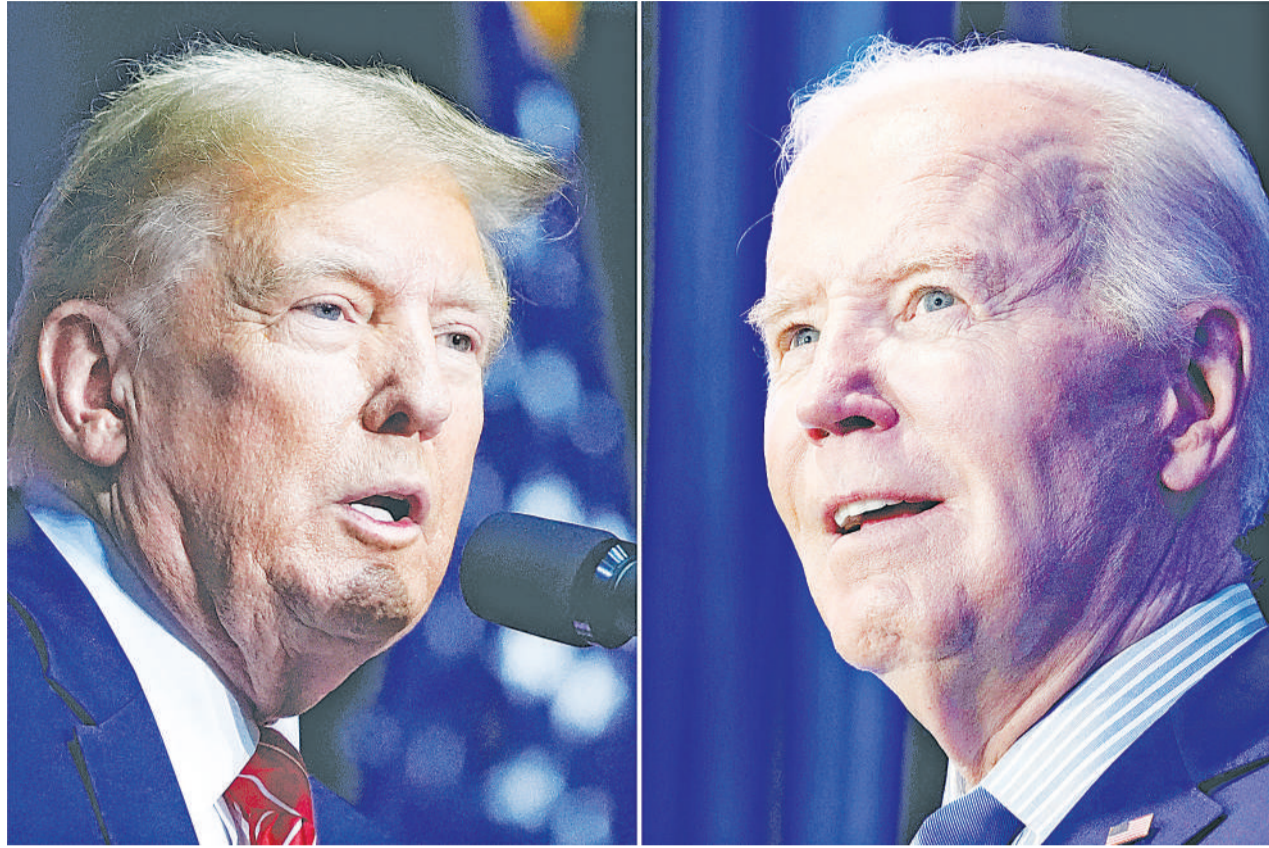
"Part of what needs to happen on Thursday night is just to begin the conversation about the differences between them," Mr Messina said.

Polling shows that voters are far more concerned about Mr Biden's age than his opponents. But if Trump wins, he would break Mr Biden's record as the oldest president before the end of his term.

A March New York Times/Siena College poll suggested 73% of registered voters believed Mr Biden was "just too old to be an effective president". Voters of all age groups expressed these concerns about the president's fitness for office, including those 65 and older, according to the survey.

Just 42% of registered voters said the same about Trump, despite a mere three-and-a-half-year age gap.

"It ought to be about both of them, but Biden looks his age," said Larry Sabato, the director of the University of Virginia Center



This combo image shows Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump (L) and President Joe Biden (R). AP

for Politics.

Mr Biden was declared "fit for duty" earlier this year by a White House physician, but concerns about his age have persisted since he took office. Signs of his aging have become more notable in recent years, including a softer speaking voice, occasional memory lapses and a "stiffened gait" which his doctor partly attributes to arthritis.

As president, he is "covered almost every moment he is out in public" which means he endures more scrutiny than his challenger, Mr Sabato said.

Videos of routine actions - walking up and down Air Force One's stairway, crossing a stage at public events - are watched closely on-line and in conservative media.

When Mr Biden tripped and fell at an Air Force Academy graduation in June 2023, the tumble made national news. After being helped to his feet, he continued to

stand and walk as normal. His team said he had tripped on a sandbag on the stage, and the president later told reporters at the White House, "I got sandbagged!"

Some Democrats have publicly and privately expressed reservations about the president's age, but they rallied around him in February, when justice department special counsel Robert Hur released his investigation into Mr Biden's handling of classified documents after his term as vice-president.

The report did not recommend prosecuting him, but Mr Hur's description of the president as an "elderly man with a poor memory" made headlines.

But when Mr Biden gave his annual State of the Union address a few weeks later, pundits gave him high marks for an energetically delivered speech.

"The president always delivers in big moments," Congressman

Ro Khanna, a Biden campaign surrogate, told NBC News last week. "He did in the State of the Union. And people are going to see the difference."

The Biden campaign is hoping Thursday's debate will be another moment in which the president demonstrates he can endure the rigours of governing, drawing a sharp contrast with Trump on policy and temperament.

Ahead of the debate, Donald Trump suggested his opponent could exceed expectations, telling the All-In podcast in a 20 June appearance that he assumed Mr Biden was "going to be somebody [who] will be a worthy deliverer".

"I don't want to underestimate him," he added. Trump has separately spread unsubstantiated claims that the president will take performance-enhancing drugs to put in a good performance, which the Biden campaign has described as "desperate lies".

While the scrutiny around Trump's age is not as intense, the former president has faced questions about his own fitness for office.

At a January rally, Trump appeared to confuse his Republican primary rival, Nikki Haley, with former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, for several minutes during his speech.

He claimed, incorrectly, that Ms Haley had been "in charge of security" at the time of the 6 January attack on Congress. Ms Haley, Trump's former UN ambassador, called for "mental competency tests" for politicians over

75 during her own unsuccessful presidential run.

Trump's personal physician issued a statement in November attesting that his "cognitive exams were exceptional".

At a Saturday rally in Pennsylvania, Trump complained of a double standard between the media's treatment of himself and Mr Biden.

"If I say one word slightly out, they say, 'He's cognitively impaired,'" Trump told supporters. "Whereas Biden can run into walls. He can fall off the stage. He can fall up the stairs. He falls up."

Both campaigns have sought to shape the narrative around their opposing candidate through social media, amplifying video snippets of verbal gaffes, memes and in some cases, deceptively edited footage.

More recently, Republicans and rightwing media have intensified attacks on Mr Biden's mental competence, circulating a flurry of edited video clips including one of the president appearing to wander off during the G7 summit of world leaders in Italy. The unedited footage showed Mr Biden was walking to greet paratroopers during a skydiving demonstration.

Days later, conservative critics shared footage online of the president at a Los Angeles fundraiser, standing on stage before Barack Obama reaches for his arm and they walk off stage together. Donald Trump and other Republicans claimed it was evidence that Mr Biden had frozen up and had to be led off stage. But allies of the president pointed to longer clips that appeared to show Mr Biden smiling and taking in the crowd's applause.

The Biden campaign has responded with a rapid response effort on social media, sharing content that appears to similarly raise questions about Trump's mental acuity. They've posted clips of Trump appearing to walk off stage before he is supposed to and being redirected by others including former Vice-President Mike Pence and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

### Young voters won't like what they see

Yet even as some of these videos are easily disproved, voters' reservations around Biden's age continue to be one of his biggest vulnerabilities.

This is particularly true

for younger voters, who are traditionally a more important demographic to Democrats than Republicans in national elections, organisers say.

Watching the debate could be an "eye-opening experience" for younger voters, said Amanda Litman, a Democratic strategist and founder of Run For Something, an organisation that trains and supports the next generation of Democratic candidates.

"I think it is indicative of a structure of politics that has privileged an older generation to stay in power for a long time," Ms Litman said of the candidates' ages. "It is one of many reasons why, especially younger voters, feel disengaged. They don't see themselves reflected in leadership."

Brandt Williams, a 23-year-old accountant from Connecticut, said he will support Mr Biden again in 2024. He sees Mr Biden as a statesman who has a strong handle on foreign policy, and he supports the president's economic policies.

"The one issue is pretty common," Mr Williams said. "His age."

Though he planned to tune into Thursday's debate, Mr Williams said he wished that he could vote for a "younger person, not only for vitality, but to represent all Americans, both young and old".

In the critical battleground of Georgia, where the first debate will take place, Democrats told the BBC they sense apathy among their party's young voters, with age a sticking point for many.

"Biden is stuck in a position where the younger generation wants action... they don't want a speech about how we're better as a nation," said Titus Nichols, a 39-year-old attorney who is active in the Cobb County Democratic Party.

While the president "is the more mature, steady person, that's not what people are looking for", he added.

On Thursday evening, millions of people will be tuning in not only to hear the candidates' ideas and arguments, but to judge the nominees' stamina for themselves.

For Mr Biden, delivering a punch is critical if he wants to quell fears about his age, according to Ms Litman, the Democratic strategist.

"I think he needs to show competency and confidence," she said. "And a little bit of fight."

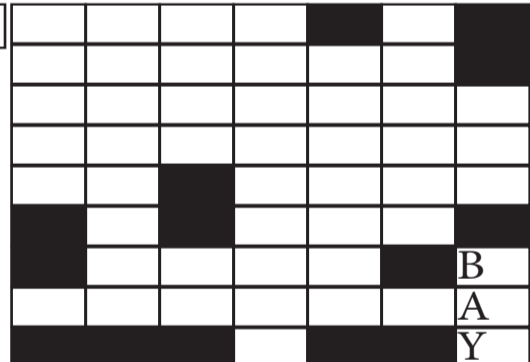
## THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 121

Across:

- black wine grape from France
- edible Pacific seaweed used in Japanese cookery
- not in a straight or level position
- the beginning of something
- Spanish lady
- put in a specified place
- the doer of an action
- frightened

Down:

- a defender
- people inhabiting S.Tanzania
- level area surrounded by seating
- a contagious tropical disease caused by a bacterium that enters skin abrasions
- used for sitting
- Wife of Adam
- talented performer in a play
- care for or look after



In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

- CHIT
- EN ROUTE
- ADAGIO
- BAY
- HA, LEL
- CHANETA
- DRESS
- OUT PUNCH
- DIEL
- ONRUSHING
- HUO
- SOIL
- SPLURGE
- ETERNAL
- RUIED
- DODO

Yesterday's solution

M A R C H E R I E N D S  
I E R A S E R I D T A  
N O S E S A I D E A T E D  
O T A T A R D E A R L  
R O O M I A R S E N A L  
T O K E N E Y N O  
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# RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One





By Special Correspondent

# PAN-AFRICAN BANK EXPANDS URBAN FUNDING PROGRAMME TO SIX CITIES

**T**HE African Development Bank's (AfDB) Urban and Municipal Development Fund (UMDF) has expanded its African Cities Programme to cover six new cities across the continent.

The expansion, approved by the Fund's 13th Oversight Committee, will help bolster urban development and address critical challenges faced by rapidly growing African cities.

The newly included cities are Kolwezi, the Democratic Republic of Congo: a mining town grappling with rapid urban growth and environmental issues, Grand Nokoué, Benin: an economic hub with over two million inhabitants, Buffalo City, South Africa: a coastal city prioritizing climate resilience, Joal, Senegal: A medium-sized city focusing on integrating environmental and social issues into economic development, Juba, South Sudan: Prioritizing essential services for a growing, vulnerable population; Nouakchott, Mauritania: Planning to combine projects on climate resilience, urban mobility, and sustainable energy.

AfDB launched the UMDF in 2019 in response to growing demand from countries and cities for urban development support. It receives contributions from the



A view of Dar es Salaam city

Nordic Development Fund and the governments of Denmark, Spain, and Switzerland, as well as the Walloon Export and Foreign Investment Agency.

The Fund provides financial and technical assistance to national and local governments for improving governance, and planning, and to prepare investments in sustainable urban development for more climate resilient, resilient, liveable, and productive cities, underpinning national socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

UMDF will provide funding for each of the six cities over several months, including a detailed analysis of the strengths and vulnerabilities, especially regarding economic, social, climate, and gender issues. The goal is to identify transformative infrastructure projects that can attract public and private sector investments.

The committee also reviewed the Fund's progress and approved its 2024 work program, allocating over \$4.7 million to identify and

develop urban infrastructure projects and bring them to maturity.

Mike Salawou, Director of the African Development Bank's Infrastructure and Urban Development Department, committed to strengthening the Fund's operational effectiveness and capacity to mobilize more funding and partnerships for greater impact.

"The question of urban development is at the heart of the Bank's new ten-year strategy for 2024-2033, of which the Urban and Municipal Development Fund is a strategic implementation mechanism," he emphasized. The Bank's ten-year strategy 2024-2033 includes data and research from publications financed by the Fund and its partners.

It is hoped that the Fund will act as a catalyst in boosting access of African municipalities to public and private finance, a priority defined by the President of the AfDB Group, Akinwumi Adesina, at the Africa Investment Forum 2023 Market Days in Morocco.

## Practitioners seek removal of impediments to Africa's real estate

By Special Correspondent

EXPERTS have advocated removal of impediments to cross border transactions and collaboration among real estate professionals in Africa as a means to grow the sector.

They also stated the urgency to implement accessible and affordable mortgage rates in the continent, while calling for the removal of other critical impediments to free movement of trade and real estate services across the regions.

The experts spoke at a Pan-African Real Estate Webinar series 2024 entitled: "Cross Border Collaboration in Promoting Real Estate Practice across Africa" organised by the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV), Lagos branch, also made case for the utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure sustainable real estate development.

Leading the call, a fellow of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Mr Chudi Ubosi, argued that professionals in the continent need governments to provide an enabling environment for affordable mortgage as the issue of high mortgage



rate appears to be a general development in Africa.

He lamented a situation whereby mortgage in Nigeria is limited as commercial loans range between 30 to 35 per cent and fewer years. He, therefore, stressed the need for a change through collaboration and advocacy by the professionals alongside the government to make housing accessible to the citizens as witnessed in advanced nations.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Abri Group of Companies, Mrs. Vicky Sampah, observed that mortgage loans in Ghana are unaffordable as only those working with the government and private sector benefit, while the informal sector is locked out. She disclosed that the mortgage rate in Ghana is within 12 to 20

per cent based on dollar and local currency (Cedis) rates.

Sampah said practitioners in Africa must embrace Property Technology (Proptech) and AI to enhance property listing by real estate agents and proper description of available homes for purchasers.

She added that the technologies will give extra service to make the industry better and won't threaten available jobs. Sampah, however, warned that there must be ethical considerations in deploying the tools in real estate activities.

According to her, there was a need to engage in regular discussions, collaboration and actions that are critical to grow the African real estate sector, as well as learn from experi-

ences from the global market. To her, one crucial way to remove impediments to cross border transactions is through education and advocacy with relevant stakeholders.

The Chairman, Governing Council, Real Estate Institute of East Africa, Uganda, Mr Vincent Agaba, explained that cooperation, building trust among professionals is key to grow real estate service, adding that this will further help the continent to develop momentum for harmonious legislation.

He also lamented the high mortgage rate of 10.5 per cent (for foreign currency) and 22.5 per cent (for local currency) in Uganda.

The Managing Director, Lansdowne Property Group, South Africa, Mr

Jonathan Kohler, said the current political landscape in Africa makes it impossible for property investors to travel to do business; it discourages growth of real estate business and services in the continent. He, therefore, called for easy access to visas for travels, building of relationships and trust among professionals to enhance the real estate industry.

He noted that the penetration of Proptech is high in South Africa, especially in marketing real estate products, and property management. However, he said, people still prefer physical inspections and one-on-one transactions of property.

NIESV President, Johnbull Amayaevbo, expressed concerns that most countries in the continent have refused to sign the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) services agreement in the treaty, which seeks to enable free movement of professional services.

He lauded the Lagos branch for organising the forum and the panelists for charting courses to enhance the real estate industry in Africa.

Earlier, Chairman, NIESV Lagos branch, Gbenga Ismail, said the essence of the forum was to enhance cross border relationships among real estate professionals and grow practice across the continent.

## EU requests easing of S. Korea's automobile certification procedures

By Jung Min-hee

THE European Union (EU) automobile industry asked the South Korean government to simplify the complex automobile certification procedures and establish measures to promote trade.

The European Union (EU) automobile industry asked the South Korean government to simplify the complex automobile certification procedures and establish measures to promote trade.

The Korea-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Automotive and Parts Working Group meeting was held in May this year, bringing together relevant South Korean ministries such as the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, and the Ministry of Environment. During this meeting, the European Union (EU) automobile industry asked the South Korean government to simplify the complex automobile certification procedures and establish measures to promote trade.

The EU pointed out that the current certification system for vehicle safety standards, emission and noise standards, and fuel efficiency standards is burdensome and lengthy, limiting the development of automobile trade. "The certification system for vehicle safety standards, emission and noise standards, and fuel efficiency standards is burdensome and lengthy, limiting the development of automobile trade," stated an EU representative during the meeting.

In addition to simplifying certification procedures, the EU requested that South Korea implement trade

facilitation measures that could expand EU automobile exports. Essentially, the EU is asking South Korea to relax related regulations to increase automobile exports to South Korea.

Another issue raised by the EU was the predictability of South Korea's electric vehicle subsidy guidelines. The Ministry of Environment annually sets and announces the criteria and amounts for electric vehicle subsidies. This year, the vehicle price threshold to receive the full subsidy was lowered from 57 million won (approximately \$42,200) to 55 million won. However, few electric vehicles from EU automobile brands in South Korea are priced below 55 million won. For instance, Volkswagen set the price of its ID.4 model at 54.9 million won, 2 million won lower than before, to meet the criteria for receiving the full subsidy.

The EU raised concerns about the difficulty of immediate response, as the subsidy criteria for the year are only announced in January or February each year. Furthermore, the EU criticized the criteria related to charger installation for subsidy payments. The government provides 200,000 won for electric vehicles from manufacturers that have installed more than 100 fast chargers in the past three years and 400,000 won for electric vehicles from manufacturers that have installed more than 200 fast chargers.

Meanwhile, the Korea-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which came into effect in 2011, aims to reduce trade barriers and promote economic cooperation between South Korea and the European Union.

## World leaders launch programme to boost vaccine production in Africa

PARIS

INITIATIVE has been announced in Paris will incentivise and offset start-up costs for vaccine manufacturing in the continent.

French President Emmanuel Macron has joined several African leaders to kick off a planned \$1.1bn project to accelerate vaccine production in Africa, after the COVID-19 pandemic exposed inequalities in access to inoculation.

The launch of the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator at an event in Paris on Thursday will provide financial incentives

to boost local vaccine manufacturing in the continent.

African Union Commission chief Moussa Faki Mahamat welcomed the initiative, saying that it "could become a catalyst for promoting the pharmaceutical industry in Africa and fostering collaboration between member states".

Africa imports "99 percent of its vaccines at an exorbitant cost", he said. Macron said the programme "will be an essential step towards a genuine African vaccine market".

The European Union said the bloc and its member states will contribute \$800m to the vaccine

manufacturing scheme. It said the programme will offset start-up costs and ensure demand for vaccines made in Africa.

"Importantly, it will also support the sustainable growth of Africa's manufacturing base and contribute to the African Union's ambition to produce most vaccines required by African countries on the continent," the EU said in a statement.

Many African leaders and advocacy groups say Africa was unfairly locked out of access to COVID-19 treatment tools, vaccines and testing equipment - which many richer countries bought up in huge quantities -

after the pandemic was declared in 2020.

Helen Rees, Executive Director of Wits RHI at the University of the Witwatersrand, said the COVID pandemic revealed the lack of equity in access to vaccines.

"By the time we got really good access to vaccines here [in Africa], many countries had already experienced COVID outbreaks, many people had immunity from natural infection. The impact of the vaccines was much less here simply because we got them too late," she told Al Jazeera.





## SPECIAL REPORT

## UNEASINESS RAGES OVER MUSHROOMING OF URBAN FILLING STATIONS

By Francis Kajubi

**M**aimuna Hussein (26) a Dar es Salaam resident, has found herself repeatedly relocating from one part of the city to another owing to the mushrooming of fuel filling stations which she claims to disturb her respiratory system.

The mother of a son told this journalist early last month that with her husband were forced to relocate to Goba Street in Ubungo district in April this year from Sinza Street in Kinondoni district following the commencement of a petrol filling station construction project next to the house they rented.

Maimuna said that the relocation was the third one from the second in August 2023 when she relocated from Banana Street in Ilala district and the first in March 2023 when she relocated from a rented house at Tabata Bima Street in Ilala district of Dar es Salaam due to construction of new fuel stations nearby the houses she rented.

"I have been trying to get healed from asthma for six years now. I face difficulties in breathing when I smell petrol or diesel. I can't survive places with a heavy smell of petroleum products," she said.

According to her, she always puts her car's air conditioner on for full time fresh air when she is driving to and from her working place at Posta central business district in the city.

"I don't know until when I will be relocating from one place to another escaping the mushrooming fuel stations. I wonder what the government is doing to control the increment of fuel stations within human residents," said Maimuna.

She asserted that pollution is taking shape through the establishment of fuel stations within human settlements thus interfering with the right to a healthy environment.

Maimuna's complaints come



A filling station in the Mbezi Beach suburb in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

at the time when NEMC and officials from land use planning departments in district councils blame each other on the issuance of permits as conflicts of safety and health interests increase between people and the government that seeks to earn handsome revenues in taxes from investors in the petroleum products business.

This journalist has learned that the mushrooming of fuel stations within people's residence is against Section 4(1) of the Environment Management Act No. 20. 2004 which states: 'Every person living in Tanzania shall have a right to a clean, safe and healthy environment.'

However, the scenario jeopardizes Section 6 of the same Act which states: 'Every person living in Tanzania shall have a stake and duty to safeguard and enhance the environment and to inform the relevant authority of any activity and phenomenon that may affect the environment significantly.'

The scenario further goes against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 which emphasizes on access to clean energy supplies and transformation.

Nehemiah Nnko, Medical Doctor at Magu District Hospital in Mwanza region said inhalation of excessive air filled with the smell of fuel can cause throat irritation, stomach ache, and nausea and sometimes leads to vomiting and difficulty breathing.

"If this situation continues for a long time, the person becomes at risk of suffering from diseases of the respiratory system such as TB, Asthma and severe flu," said Nnko.

Musa Thabiti (24) a bachelor's degree student at the Institute of Social Work in Dar es Salaam expressed his worries on human lives and property safety with the mushrooming of the petrol filling stations in the city.

He said that just two months ago, a traditional food restaurant adjacent to the Institute was demolished to pave the way for construction of a new petrol station.

He said the demolition has triggered disturbances for students who used to have their lunch at the restaurant and are now forced to walk to Aficasana Street about half a kilometer to get the traditional

meal.

"This petrol station has been constructed in a space of two months. As you can see it is very close to the Institution's buildings;

I'm just imagining what will happen in case of a fire outbreak. This is not safe anymore. I wonder if the government really cares about environmental issues?" said Thabiti while pointing at the new petrol station.

The writer has learned that the prevailing scenario blamed by Thabiti contradicts the Petroleum (Retail Operations) Rules 2012 made under Section 5(3) of the Petroleum Act Cap 392, as administered by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA).

Rule 6(2) states that the authority shall, while making a decision whether to grant or deny a construction approval, consider the following: (a) applicant's compliance with license application obligations; (b) applicant's compliance to land use laws; and (c) applicant's compliance to health, safety and environmental requirements.

According to the environment Act 2004, the minister

of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) has powers to issue the Environment Impact Assessment Certificates for development of petrol station projects after the investor had obtained the change of land use permit from the respective district council.

Speaking to this reporter late April this year, Titus Kaguo, EWURA's Public Relations Manager said that the authority issues projects development licenses after investors had gone through all procedures at the district councils and the NEMC.

Jamal Baruti, NEMC Manager for Review of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment said that district councils have been ignoring NEMC in the process of issuing change of land use permits and title deeds to investors seeking to establish fuel stations.

On the other hand, Aquilinus Shiduki, Head of Communication at Kinondoni Municipal Council said that for Kinondoni, all procedures are observed before the change of land use permit issuance.

Shiduki said the municipal office has been working hand in hand with NEMC to ensure that environmental laws are observed in setting up petrol station projects.

According to the latest EWURA's report as of March this year 2,522 petrol and diesel fuel stations were licensed countrywide to run fuel businesses up from 2,297 in March 2023 an increment of 9.8 percent.

The report shows that of the total fuel stations, 434 are in rural areas increasing from 287 (51.22 percent) in March 2023.

The report states that through the Bulk Procurement System (BPS) by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) 6.28 billion liters of petroleum products were imported into the country between July 2023 and March 2024.

Of the imported petroleum products, diesel accounted for 3.77 billion liters, petrol 2.29 billion liters while Jet A-1 or Kerosene accounted for 224 million liters.

However, of the 6.28 billion liters, 3.37 billion liters (53.7 percent) were destined for the domestic market while the remaining was for transit to landlocked countries.

EWURA states that there are 75 OMCs of which 18 are pre-qualified in the bidding process through BPS where only five are active and effective in the bidding process.

Joshua Kweka (34) Mwanjelwa resident in Mbeya city told this journalist that he remembers the government had halted issuance of permits for construction of fuel stations in 2022.

"I wonder when the government resumed the issuance of the permits without thorough screening. Petrol stations are flooding the streets;

My house is next to a fuel station and I have no other option but to stay though I'm worried of possible fire incidents outbreaks," said Kweka.

On November 10, 2022 the government suspended the issuance of filling stations construction permits for the period of three months to January 2023.

The government also suspended issuance of residential houses building permits to owners of plots or pieces of land, who didn't match the city, municipality and town councils' plans.

The then minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlement Development, Dr Angeline Mabula said that the decision targeted to improve the planning process and better manage urban growth moving forward.

She also said that the decision aimed at ensuring city, town and councils' master plans are observed.

Anastasia Masare (27) resident of Kwa Mrombo Street in Arusha city was of the view that far from safety and health risks posed by fuel filling stations in people's residence, tankers have been destructing street roads most of them are meant not to be used by vehicles with the weight that exceeds ten tons.

"Roads don't last longer and are being regularly repaired in this neighborhood because heavy long vehicles on transit stop by for filling fuels," said Masare.

## 'Govt move to achieve clean energy by 2034 remains intact'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government intent towards achieving clean energy strategy by 2034 remains intact, calling various stakeholders to cheap in and realise the dream.

Kinondoni District Commissioner, Saad Mtambule made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at the launch of special programme that offers discounted prices on gas cylinders for university students.

The initiative is part of the Dar-based gas company-Taifa Gas's efforts to support the government's goal of ensuring that 80% of the population uses clean cooking energy by 2034.

Held in Changanyikeni area on outskirts of the city, the launch coincided with the opening of a dedicated store to serve students with the discounted pricing. To mark the occasion, 300 gas cylinders were distributed free of charge to students and local residents to generate enthusiasm for the program.

The event was attended by representatives from various universities, including the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), the Statistical College, the Ardhi University, and the Water Institute.

DC Mtambule said: "As government, we're determined to ensure that our mission of having clean energy all over the country realised within the scheduled time frame. So I welcome all players who want to join in this journey."



Kinondoni District Commissioner, Saad Mtambule (2nd- R), hands over one of the parts of gas cylinder cooker to one university students and residents of the Changanyikeni area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

He praised the launch of the initiative as it aligns with the government's efforts to ensure citizens, including various groups, can easily access clean energy.

"It is a great comfort for us as a government to see that while we continue to work towards achieving the strategy of achieving clean energy by 2034, stakeholders like Taifa Gas have already started devising various social and marketing strategies that will help us as a nation achieve this goal," he said, expressing his approval of the proactive approach.

Joseph Nzumbi, gas firm's sales manager revealed the substantial discounts availa-

ble to university students with valid identification cards.

"As gas company we're committed to ensuring every Tanzanian who wishes to use clean gas energy has the opportunity to do so," said Nzumbi.

He added: "We are developing various strategies to cater to the unique needs of different social groups, and the discounted pricing for university students is a testament to our dedication."

Stakeholders and beneficiaries alike praised the program, recognizing its profound impact on the lives of university students.

Wenslaus Richard, the Assistant Dean from the University

of Dar es Salaam, eloquently summed up the sentiment: "Students are a group that has not yet started generating their own income, so they are very careful about the prices of the products they use, especially those who cook in their own places. The arrival of this program of discounted gas cylinder prices from Taifa Gas will be a lifesaver for them to be able to save their money."

The launch event also included educational sessions on the proper and safe use of gas cylinders, ensuring that the beneficiaries are equipped with the necessary knowledge to maximize the benefits of this transformative initiative.

## Equip women with entrepreneurship skills, government, stakeholders told

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

WOMEN entrepreneurs in Tutuo Ward, Sikonge District, Tabora Region have asked the government to capacitate them with entrepreneurship skills to enable them produce quality products to compete both in national and international markets.

Doroth Mgombela, Chairperson of Tutuo Ward Businesswomen Association made the call yesterday here during the public awareness campaign conducted by officials from the Ministry of Finance.

The experts are in the region to provide financial literacy education to people of various groups, including civil servants and traders.

According to Mgombela, due to various challenges many women traders fail to upgrade themselves with required skills to improve their products thus calling for support from the government as well as stakeholders.

"We need education in production processes, packaging and branding to ensure that products have a good appearance to attract buyers, this will help us increase income and bolster lives," she said.

Mgombela said that many women traders in the ward have failed to grow due to lack of proper business education as well as personal branding causing them to spend a lot of time producing products which do not perform well in the market.

"As we all know that the business world is flooded with companies that offer similar products or ser-

vices, so if businesswomen are told how to improve their products and brands, will greatly increase their penetration in the market," she noted.

Katoko Kasigiro, District Acting Head of Community Development Department commended the Ministry of Finance for reaching people with business and financial education to stimulate development.

She said that the department will continue to supervise and monitor projects of various groups reached by education to ensure that they grow and achieve intended goals.

Alexander Mushongi, Tutuo Ward Executive officer (WEO) also thanked the government for the programme which has enlightened many in the area of finance management and access to credit encouraging many to invest in income generating projects.

Limi Bulugu, Financial Management Officer, Financial Sector Development Department in the Ministry of Finance, said that they have provided financial literacy education to people from various groups in Uyui, Urumbo, Sikonge districts as well as Tabora Municipality and have received a positive response.

"I commend the people of Tabora for continuing to show up in large numbers to get financial literacy education which helps them plan proper use of the money they get," Bulugu said.

She said so far, the team has reached eight regions including Kagera, Manyara, Singida, Kigoma, Rukwa, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Tabora.



## CONSTRUCTION

By Francis Kajubi

**T**HE prevalence of unplanned settlements in urban areas of the country has been cited by the Fire and Rescue Force as among huddles in responding to fire outbreaks that claim human lives, loss of wealth and properties.

In its 2023 annual report, the Force underscore that far from operational ineffectiveness attributed to lack of fire rescue and fighting equipment, unplanned settlements have been a major challenge when it comes to containing fire outbreaks in slums and quartered residents.

"Land use planning must be a key priority for authorities regulating the development of new settlements for such places to be passable in case of fire outbreaks," reads part of the report.

The report states that fire incidents caused deaths of 38 people and injuries to 146 victims in 2023 up from 32 deaths with 66 injured people as recorded by the Force in 2022.

The report emphasizes that the planning of residential and commercial properties must be designed in a manner that provides easy access for the Fire and Rescue Force in all areas.

The report shows the Force had attended 2,076 fire incident outbreaks in 2023 compared to 1,854 fire outbreaks recorded in 2022. The Force had approved 2,431 drawings of construction maps in 2023 doubling the 2022 approved maps.

The Force had conducted 728 radio and television programmes to sensitize communities on fire-fighting know bouts compared to 602 programmes conducted in 2022.

The Fire and Rescue Force has been facing shortage of operation equipment but this time around this journalist has discovered from the Force's annual reports that unplanned settlements also jeopardizes operations for containing fire outbreaks.

This publication dated April 2, 2024 had published a special report that highlighted the Force's

## REVEALED: UNPLANNED SETTLEMENTS JEOPARDISE FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS



A view of Manzese suburb in Dar es Salaam. File Photo.

struggle to effectively respond to fire incidents.

Following the widespread dissemination of this report, on April 4, 2024, Geoffrey Pinda, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Land, Housing, and Human Settlements Development informed the parliament on measures that the Ministry of Home Affairs is taking to address the problem.

However, in a session held on June 6, 2024, the National Assembly convened for nearly two hours to discuss solutions to the challenges faced by Force and came up with five resolutions on the way forward.

This is the case when just last month a residential house of 12 rented-rooms burnt to ashes on May 2nd, 2024 at Tabata Kisiwani suburb in Dar es Salaam

city as the fire tender couldn't make its way to the burning house due to unplanned settlements that have blocked street roads.

Mabusu Peter, Ilala Regional Senior Assistant Commissioner of the Fire and Rescue Force said that the patrolling fire tender had arrived within ten minutes at the incident scene but couldn't make it to the burning house because there were no passable roads.

"Most populated areas in Dar es Salaam are unplanned thus challenging operations by the Fire and Rescue Force in case of fire outbreaks," said Peter.

According to him, Section 22 (2) of Fire and Rescue Force (Amendments) Act Cap 427 R.E 2021 and Article 14 (1) of the Fire and Rescue Force Regula-

tions 2014 obligates regions and districts residential planning authorities to consult the Force to verify land planning prior to issuance of housing development projects but it is done the opposite way.

Alfred Mbyobyo, Dar es Salaam Residence Planning Officer said that it is unfortunate that the most populated areas of the city are still unplanned and there is no way the government can forcefully evict people from their own lands without compensation.

"We have been working closely with the Fire and Rescue Force in sensitizing people to observe land planning before they set up residential and commercial properties. This is obviously done prior to issuance of project development permits,"

said Mbyobyo.

Jerry Silaa, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, when tabling the 2024/25 ministry's budget in the National Assembly last month said that as of earlier May this year, 4,024 villages (32.67 percent) of the 12,318 total country's villages had been approved with land use planning permits.

According to Silaa, the ministry through the Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) has set targets of preparing 1,667 land use plans during the said financial year.

"During 2023/24 a total of 407 villages were surveyed of which 320 have been granted land use plans. However, a total of 62,200 plots of land were regularized in Dodoma city, Chalinze district, Kigoma municipality, Nzega town, Kahama municipality and Shinyanga municipality," said Silaa.

He asserted that the government has since 2023/24 allocated 8.2bn/- for the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) to execute land use plans across the country as at the end of 2025.

This is the case when the Population and Housing Census 2022 results by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that Tanzania Main land has 13,907,951 properties.

According to NBS, of these properties, 4,132,438 an equivalent of 29.7 percent are in urban areas and 9,776,513 an equivalent of 70.3 percent are in rural areas.

However, of the total properties, 12,717,893 an equivalent of 91.4 percent are residential properties, while 470,476 an equivalent of 3.4 percent are both residential and commercial properties.

The remaining 719,582 properties, an equivalent of 5.2 percent, are used for other various pur-

poses. The census results further state that the country's human population grew to 61.74 million, a 27.23 percent increase from the 2012 population that stood at 44.93 million.

The writer of this article has learned that the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for Local Government Authorities 2019/20 reveals that during the audit on land ownership it had found out that 27 district councils were possessing land valued 1.14trn/- which had not been surveyed and granted land use plans thus didn't own title deeds as required by the law.

"The negligence of not surveying, planning and formalization of land can lead into conflicts especially on land owned by district councils against host communities," recommended CAG Charles Kichere in the report adding:

"I suggest that the respective district councils survey their land, so that it can be owned legally."

On the other hand, 57 percent of Tanzanians do not own the land they live on as per findings of the FinScope Tanzania 2023 Survey administered by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT).

In other words, as per the Population and Housing Census 2022 results 57 percent means that 35.17 million Tanzanians live on the land that they don't legally own.

The findings of the survey conducted in an interval of every six years dubbed 'Insights that drive innovation' shows that in 2017 an estimated 56 percent of Tanzanians didn't own the land they lived on.

According to the survey only 37 percent of interviewed respondents said that they personally own the land they live on. In 2017, 30 percent of respondents said that they personally own the land they lived on.

Of the total respondents picked from a sample of 10,005 aged 16 years and above conducted across 667 enumeration areas (EA) with 15 interviews per EA, shows that only six percent of Tanzanians own the land with someone else. In 2017, 15 percent of Tanzanians owned the land with someone else.

## KIGALI

Rwanda continues to witness accelerated urbanisation, and as a result, the country has attracted a sizable number of mega real estate projects mainly in the capital Kigali.

According to the Rwanda Housing Authority, Kigali was expected to achieve 15,000 housing units by 2024, with the majority of the projects to be built in the medium-term.

However, affordability remains a key concern, but this has not prevented the country from maintaining its position as one of leading destinations for business, leisure, and residence.

According to Damien Murwanashyaka, CEO of Ultimate Developers Ltd (UDL), one of the largest real estate developers in the country, the government is prioritising companies projects aimed at building affordable housing, so that residents can get homes at a cheaper and affordable price.

"UDL, in particular, is developing several projects, one of which is an affordable housing project called Vision City Two, which will be the first estate to incorporate green, smart, and wellness concepts," he said.

UDL, a subsidiary of Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB), is the developer behind Vision City, arguably considered one of the high-end residential estates in the country.

Below, The New Times' Jessica Agasaro highlights some of the major residential and commercial real estate projects.

Located in Gacururo, a suburban neighborhood, it will comprise of more than 1,500 units, and it is expected to be three times the size of the phase one, according to the developers.

The development of the project is currently underway.

This will be Rwanda's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold-rated and mixed-use complex, with 29 retailers and the tallest skyscraper in the country.

The construction area will be 67,041 square metres, with multipurpose space including a bank, retail space, office space, and 430 parking spaces.

The project is located near Kigali's main roundabout, opposite the Kiyovu



An artistic impression of the proposed Bugesera airport's terminal building, terminal parking, runway, and aircraft parking. Photo: Aviation Travel and Logistics.

## Top seven real estate projects are in the pipeline in Rwanda

area in the central business district.

The Zaria Court project in Kigali is a Giants of Africa (GOA) basketball development project in Africa that is now underway in Gasabo District.

Located in Kigali's new sports and entertainment zone, next to the newly constructed BK Arena and the under-construction Amahoro National Stadium.

President Paul Kagame and Masai Ujiri, President of the Toronto Raptors and co-founder of the Giants of Africa, laid a foundation stone at the construction site whose development is slated to be completed in November 2024, with activities beginning in February 2025.

Zaria Court will have an 80-room boutique hotel, restaurants, a rooftop club, a fitness center, wellness areas, co-working spaces, and a podcast studio. A multi-purpose court in the center of the property will host

sporting events, festivals, performances, markets, and other activities.

This is a Chinese government-funded building project to restore and enlarge Masaka District Hospital, which will also serve as the new home of Kigali University Teaching Hospital (CHUK).

It is one of the megaprojects to be launched in Rwanda's health development hub, Masaka sector, which also houses the Africa Research Institute against Digestive Cancer (IRCAD Rwanda).

The Masaka hospital project will be finished by July 2025, and it includes the scaling up of the hospital capacity to accept 2,000 patients per day.

Construction of the multi-million-dollar shopping mall Inzovu Mall is underway and projected to be completed in September 2025, making it the largest shopping center in the City of Kigali.

The commercial mall, being built by French firm Groupe Duval through Duval Great Lakes, is located on the old Ministry of Justice premises in Kimihurura, opposite the Rwanda Parliament.

The project is expected to cost around \$68 million (approximately Rwf81 billion), and a multidimensional structure will be developed to complement the Kigali Convention Center and surrounding shopping centers such as Kigali Heights (KH) and Kigali Alliance Business Centre.

The development of the modern Kigali International Finance and Business Square (KIFBS) in the heart of Kigali's core business area began in June 2022.

The construction, a twin tower by Equity Bank Group, will cost \$100 million and will be completed within 24 months, implying that Kigali would have another high-rise skyline structure by the end of this year.

## Understanding basic hygiene and its role in public health

## KIGALI

Personal hygiene aims to promote standards of cleanliness within the setting of the conditions where people live. Personal hygiene includes bathing, clothing, washing hands after the toilet, care of nails, feet, and teeth; spitting, coughing, sneezing, personal appearance, and other healthy habits.

Hygiene, as defined by the WHO refers to the conditions and practices that help maintain health and prevent the spread of diseases. This means more than just keeping ourselves clean. This means shunning all practices that lead to bad health. Throwing garbage on the road, defecating in the open, and many more. By adopting such a practice, we not only make ourselves healthier but also improve the quality of our lives. As is commonly said, cleanliness is next to Godliness.

Personal hygiene involves several key practices to maintain cleanliness and health. Hand hygiene, such as washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, is essential to prevent illness. Oral hygiene includes brushing, flossing, and regular dental visits to avoid cavities and gum disease. Daily bathing, using soap and water, and wearing clean clothes ensure body hygiene. Hair hygiene involves regular washing to prevent dandruff and maintain scalp health, nail hygiene focuses on keeping nails short and clean to avoid infections. Clothing and laundry hygiene require wearing and washing clothes regularly. Respiratory hygiene, like covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, helps prevent the spread of germs.

Maintaining good hygiene doesn't require much, it just needs access

to water, and soap—cleanliness is a mindset. Clean clothes, trimmed nails, and covering your mouth while coughing or sneezing are simple yet effective practices. Regular washing of clothes and ensuring they are properly cleaned contributes to overall cleanliness. Good hygiene is more about a consistent mindset and attention to basic practices rather than complex routines or expensive products.

Studies in developing countries evaluating interventions to promote personal and domestic hygiene in addition to safe water and food practices have documented improved health outcomes with improved hygiene practices. If we think of public health as a toolbox, then access to safe water and sanitation, along with the practice of good hygiene, are public health tools that can be leveraged to achieve the goal of good health and well-being for all.

Other tools in this toolbox include vaccinations and proper nutrition. A study in Rwanda examined the association between sociodemographic factors and diarrhoea in children under five years using the data of 7,474 households in the 2014-2015 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey.

The overall prevalence of diarrhoea in this study was 12.7% in children under five years of Age. Another study showed that diarrhoeal disease is ranked as the third leading cause of mortality in children under five years and was responsible for 18.3% of childhood deaths in 2015 in Rwanda. A study on factors contributing to diarrhoeal diseases among children less than five years old in Nyarugenge District showed that lack of clean water and inadequate hygiene and sanitation were the biggest contributors.



## WORLD

## Sunak and Starmer clash in testy final UK TV debate

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour leader Keir Starmer went head-to-head on Wednesday in their last debate before an election next week, with both launching highly personal attacks over their and their parties' credibility.

With Sunak's Conservatives trailing Labour by around 20 points in the polls, the prime minister went on the attack, accusing Starmer of not being straight with the country on migration, tax and women's rights, and urging voters not to "surrender" to the Labour Party.

Starmer responded that Sunak was too rich to understand the concerns of most ordinary Britons. A snap YouGov poll said the debate had been a tie, with both on 50

percent. On immigration, one of the top concerns for British voters, Sunak rejected Starmer's argument that he would seek to return migrants to their home countries, saying many had arrived in Britain from Iran, Syria and Afghanistan.

"Is he going to sit down with the Iranian Ayatollah? Are you going to try and do a deal with the Taliban? It's completely nonsensical. You are taking people for fools."

Polls indicate that Labour's Starmer is on course to win the election with a large majority, ending 14 years of Conservative rule. The two leaders have met at several debates or public sessions with voters, increasingly focusing on who was better suited to lead the country.

Starmer argued the country was exhausted after 14 years of Conservative



Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak (R), and Labour Party leader Keir Starmer attend a live TV debate, hosted by The BBC, in Nottingham, on June 26, 2024, in the build-up to the UK general election on July 4. AFP

"chaos", and that he would better understand the challenges of many families who have struggled under soaring inflation and a cost of living crisis.

"Part of the problem we have with this prime minister is that his lived world is millions of miles away from the lived worlds of individuals across the country, the businesses and the families that they're trying to support," he said.

## Heavy criticism

Sunak's campaign has struggled since the beginning. He launched the election in pouring rain in Downing Street and was heavily criticized for failing to at-

tend a D-Day memorial event.

He has also had to contend with a betting scandal after five party officials, including two candidates, were investigated over bets that were placed on the timing of an early election.

Starmer has also faced criticism at public events, being accused by voters of sticking to a script and being robotic, and failing to give enough information on how he would fund much-needed improvements to public services.

One questioner, Robert, seemed to speak for much of the audience when he set out his feelings. He called Sunak a "pretty mediocre prime minister" and

## CPC leadership to hold reform-themed plenum on July 15-18

BEIJING

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) will convene the third plenary session of its 20th central committee on July 15 in Beijing.

The plenum, which will primarily examine issues related to further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization, will last until July 18, according to a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee yesterday.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, chaired yesterday's meeting.

The meeting decided to submit a draft decision on further comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernization to the plenum for deliberation.

At the meeting, Political Bureau members were briefed on comments on the draft, which were solicited from both within and outside the Party. The draft will be updated after discussions at the meeting.

The draft has thoroughly analyzed the new situations and problems in advancing Chinese modernization and scientifically planned the overall arrangements for further deepening reforms, according to the meeting.

It was noted at the meeting that the draft serves as a programmatic document guiding deepening reform across the board on the new journey and demonstrates the resolve of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core to open up broad prospects for Chinese modernization through further deepening reform.

Elaborating on the goals and objectives of further reform, the meeting said China will complete building a high-standard socialist market economy by 2035.

The system and capacity for governance will be basically modernized and socialist modernization will be basically achieved by 2035, it added.

## President's address presented roadmap of progress, good governance - PM Modi

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said that President Droupadi Murmu's address to both the House of Parliament presented a roadmap of progress and good governance.

PM Modi shared a post on X and called the President's address comprehensive adding that it covered the strides India has been making and also the potential that lies ahead.

"Rashtrapati Ji's address to both Houses of Parliament was comprehensive and presented a roadmap of progress and good governance. It covered the strides India has been making and also the potential that lies ahead. Her address also mentioned some of the major challenges we have to collectively overcome to ensure a qualitative change in the lives of our citizens," the Prime Minister wrote on X.

Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary said that the President gave a message of solidarity, of taking the country forward and how can we make it a developed country by 2047.

"It's a very good, positive message and it's a special occasion. The President gave us a message of solidarity, of taking the country forward and how can we make it a developed country by 2047. There's a clear vision and a clear path that she laid down. Our democratic institutions are strong. We take pride in them. We have faith in them," he said.

"She spoke about the excellent role the Election Commission has played, the way common people have come out and voted, the way women have decided their future by coming and voting for a government and a representative of their choice," the Union Minister added.

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale said, "President's Address mentions the decisions of the government. The new schemes will come through the Budget but there is no meaning in the Opposition criticising it. President's Address was good...There is no fact in the allegations of the Opposition."

Earlier, President Murmu on Thursday assured the nation that in the upcoming Parliament sessions, major economic and social decisions, and historical steps will be announced during the Union Budget.

"A stable government with a complete majority has been formed in the country after six decades. People have shown trust in this Govt for the third time. People are aware that only this Govt can fulfil their aspirations. The 18th Lok Sabha is historic in many ways. This Lok Sabha was formed in the early years of the Amrit Kaal. This Lok Sabha will also be a witness to the 56th year of adoption of the Constitution of the country," she said.

ANI



## Xi meets Vietnamese Prime Minister

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh in Beijing on Wednesday. Chinh is in China to attend the 2024 Summer Davos.

Xi asked Chinh to convey his cordial greetings to Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and to Vietnamese President To Lam.

Xi said that during his visit to Vietnam at the end of last year, he and Trong announced the building of a China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, ushering bilateral relations into a new stage.

Over the past half a year, the two parties and the two countries have enjoyed close exchanges among high-ranking officials and smooth cooperation in various fields, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples, he said.

Noting that the world today is going through changes unseen in a century, Xi said both China and Vietnam have maintained rapid economic development and long-term social stability, demonstrating the strengths of the socialist system.

He said the building of a China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance is in line with the modernization needs of the two countries, and is conducive to maintaining regional peace and stability and to promoting the development of the global socialist cause.

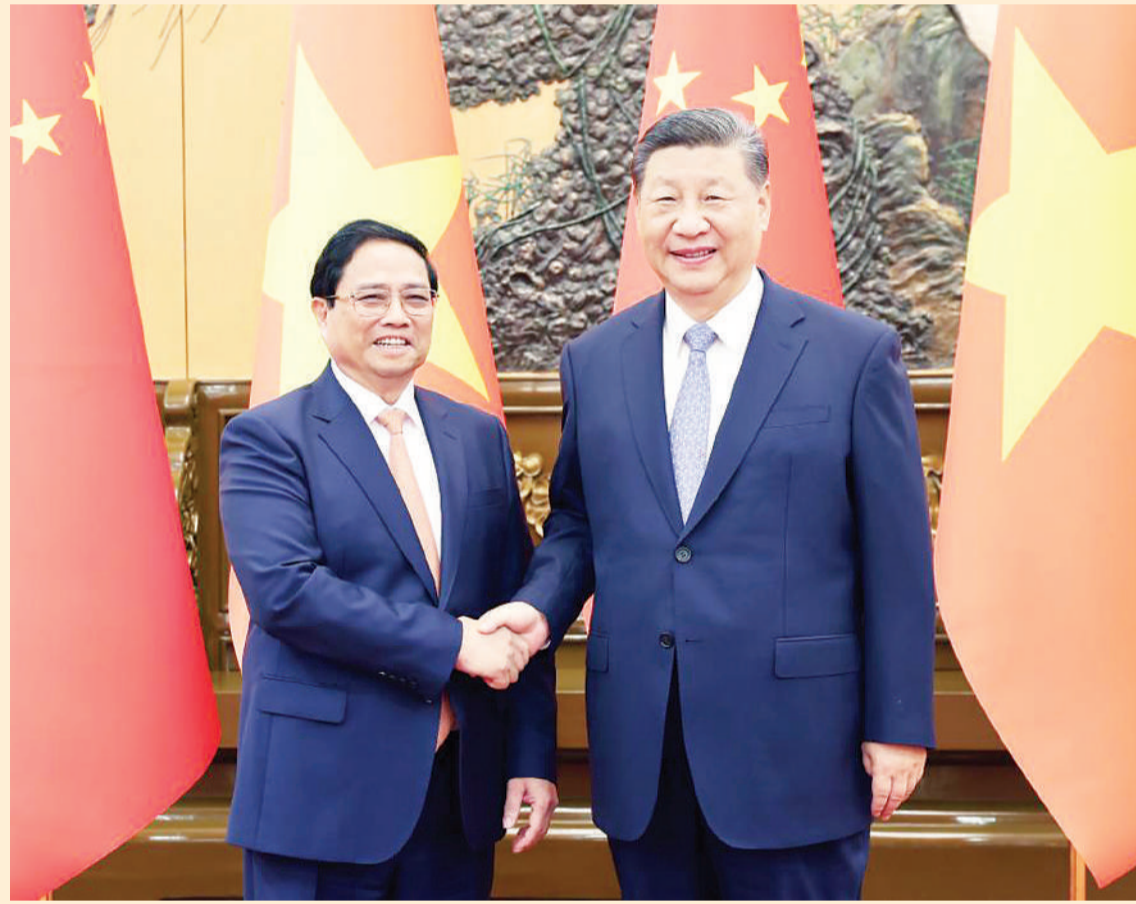
China is willing to work with Vietnam to maintain solidarity and friendship, consolidate mutual support, and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said, adding that China also stands ready to join hands with Vietnam to march toward modernization and make greater contributions to world peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Xi stressed that China is committed to comprehensively deepening reform and promoting Chinese modernization, which will bring new opportunities for the two sides to expand cooperation in such fields as economy and trade, connectivity and digital economy.

He called on the two sides to maintain high-level exchanges, jointly promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, enhance connectivity, and promote the high-quality development of practical cooperation between the two countries.

China is willing to encourage more Chinese enterprises to increase investment in Vietnam and hopes that Vietnam can provide a fair, just and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises, he said.

He said the two sides should make good use of the friendly exchanges between the two parties, support border provinces in strengthening exchanges, implement livelihood projects on agriculture, education and medical care, and consolidate public support for China-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on Wednesday. Chinh is in China to attend the 2024 Summer Davos. Xinhua

Vietnam friendship through a good use of people-to-people and youth exchange platforms.

The two sides should properly handle maritime issues, speed up joint maritime development and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability, Xi added.

Chinh conveyed cordial greetings from General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and President To Lam to Xi. He said that Vietnam and China, both as socialist countries led by the communist party, have a tradition of good-neighborliness and friendship.

Hailing China's great achievements on all fronts, Chinh said the Vietnamese side thinks highly of China's important role as an engine and ballast for global economic

growth, and supports China's development and prosperity and the realization of its Second Centenary Goal as scheduled.

Vietnam supports China's accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and opposes the politicization of economic, trade and sci-tech issues, Chinh said.

Vietnam hopes to learn from China's new theories, practices and achievements in party and state governance, and to stick to the path of socialism along with China to achieve common development, he added.

Noting that Vietnam supports China's position on the Taiwan question and firmly adheres to

the one-China principle, Chinh said that it is the top priority and strategic choice of Vietnam's foreign policy, which will not be disrupted by external interference, to deepen strategic mutual trust and pragmatic cooperation with China, and build a Vietnam-China community with a shared future that carries strategic significance.

He added that Vietnam will join hands with China to continue enhancing political mutual trust, deepening pragmatic cooperation, encouraging youth exchanges, consolidating public support, strengthening multilateral coordination, and properly handling differences, to earnestly promote the Vietnam-China community with a shared future that carries strategic significance. Xinhua

## Security Council hears first-hand account of war's impact from former child soldier

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Security Council on Wednesday heard a personal testimony from a former child soldier, shedding light on the brutal reality of war in conflict zones like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Speaking anonymously and through an interpreter, the 16-year-old recounted harrowing experiences of abduction and forced conscription into an armed group. The child urged the council to enhance protection and security in conflict areas to ensure that children are safeguarded from the horrors of war.

"I was born into a country

already plagued by armed conflicts," the child began. "I was forced to join an armed group while walking to school."

Two months ago, the child said, armed attacks on nearby villages targeted children for abduction, forcing them into armed groups or holding them for ransom. Schools and hospitals, the child said, are frequently attacked and repurposed as military bases.

Describing personal ordeals, the child spoke of being kidnapped and forced into an armed group, enduring beatings, looting, and the constant threat of death. "We cried and begged to return home, but they wouldn't lis-

ten. They whipped us and kept us in the bush, heavily guarded, with orders to kill anyone attempting to escape," the child recalled.

Girls, the child added, were taken as "wives" by soldiers, while survival depended on meager rations of dry cassava.

After three years, the child managed to escape and found support through the Congolese Government's child demobilization program. Now back in school, the child advocates for children's rights through the children's parliament. "I urge the UN Security Council to provide assistance to children affected by conflict," the child said.

"This will help protect them, ensure access to education and healthcare, and shield them from violence."

The testimony was part of the Security Council's open debate on children and armed conflict, which reviewed the UN secretary-general's annual report. The report revealed extreme levels of violence against children, with unprecedented numbers of killings and maimings in 2023.

Virginia Gamba, special representative of the secretary-general on children and armed conflict, reported 32,990 grave violations against 22,557 children in 26 conflict zones in 2023, mark-

ing the highest annual number in nearly a decade.

The most affected regions included the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the DRC, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan. Violations detailed in the report encompass abduction, killing, maiming, recruitment, attacks on schools or hospitals, sexual violence, and denial of humanitarian access.

Gamba emphasized the necessity of cooperation, solidarity, and political will to end these violations, calling for respect for international law as a fundamental prerequisite for protecting children.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, speaking

as deputy chair of The Elders, and Ted Chaiban, deputy executive director of the UN Children's Fund, also addressed the council.

Ban stressed the need for accountability for crimes against children, while Chaiban called for sustained diplomacy and peace efforts to protect children and end conflicts.

China's permanent representative to the United Nations, Fu Cong, urged the international community to effectively eliminate armed conflicts to ensure children are kept away from the ravages of war.

"The Security Council must remain committed to

politically resolving hotspot issues, invest in diplomatic mediation efforts, and actively promote ceasefire and violence cessation in areas such as Gaza, Sudan, the DRC, and Ukraine," he said. Fu stated that actions harming children "must be severely punished."

Xinhua



**I was born into a country already plagued by armed conflicts the child began. I was forced to join an armed group**



## NATO won't be part of Ukraine conflict, it won't cross this line, says Scholz

BERLIN

NATO is not and will not be part of the conflict in Ukraine, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz said.

"The NATO summit will discuss the strengthening of its role in coordinating support for Ukraine and training [the Ukrainian armed forces]," Scholz said at the Bundestag in regard to the EU and NATO summits, due to be held on June 27-28 and July 9-11 respectively.

"It is simultaneously obvious and I find it important to state that due to what we are doing, NATO will not be part of the conflict. We will not cross this line and we are not crossing it," he said.

The chancellor claimed that NATO was unanimously concerning this issue.

"Transatlantic security is of central importance, including when we think about



Ukraine's security prospects," Scholz said.

The next NATO summit will be held in the US capital on July 9-11. US officials have repeatedly stated that Kiev will not receive an invitation to join the North Atlantic Alliance

at the Washington summit.

On July 11, 2023, the NATO summit in Vilnius adopted a final statement asserting that Ukraine's future is in the alliance, but adding that the invitation to Kiev to join NATO could be extended "when Allies agree and conditions are met." However, no possible timeline for admission was specified.

Prior to the Vilnius summit, Kiev had been making persistent statements about its aspiration to receive the membership invitation. Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky even said that he might not attend the summit if it made no decision to invite Kiev, but afterwards he still opted to travel to Vilnius.

In September 2022, Ukraine applied for fast-tracked admission to NATO. The alliance has repeatedly said that it is impossible to join NATO as long as the country is in a state of an armed conflict.

Agencies



## Bolivian general accused of terrorism after failed coup

LAPAZ

THE attorney general's office of Bolivia has accused former general commander of the Army Juan Jose Zuniga of terrorism and armed rebellion, following a failed coup against President Luis Arce on Wednesday, according to media reports.

The office issued a warrant for Zuniga's arrest after he was detained in the city of La Paz in an operation coordinated and presided over by Deputy Interior Minister Jhonny Aguilera.

Arce also reportedly named new heads of the military. At least 9 people were wounded by bullets in the attempted coup, local media quoted the country's Interior Ministry as saying.

The Prosecutor's Office for the Department of La Paz immediately formed a commission of prosecutors to thoroughly investigate the attempted coup. Jose Luis Tarquino, head of communication of the Attorney General's Office, announced the beginning of a criminal investigation against Zuniga and others involved in the attempted coup.

"Given the latest events that occurred in the city of La Paz, the Attorney General ordered the initiation of all legal actions that correspond to the criminal investigation against Gen. Juan Jose Zuniga and all other participants in the events," Tarquino said, adding that an immigration alert was issued against Zuniga to prevent his possible escape from the country.

Amid the tension and uncertainty, Arce and his cabinet reaffirmed their

firm stance against any attempts at destabilization, and pledged to maintain peace and order in the country.

Arce, flanked by his cabinet and Vice President David Choquehuanca, also called on the Bolivian people to mobilize against an attempted coup and defend democracy on Wednesday.

Zuniga, led the troops at Plaza Murillo and other groups of uniformed men who forcibly entered the old Government Palace, adjacent to the government headquarters.

Wearing a war uniform, the military leader got out of an armored vehicle and told journalists at the scene that the move was in response to an alleged atrocity against the Armed Forces.

"Enough of impoverishing our country, enough of humiliating the military. We have come to express our annoyance," he said.

The incident happened just hours after a rumor circulated that Zuniga was being relieved of his position as commander of the Armed Forces for having made controversial political statements against former president Evo Morales.

The presence of armed troops has generated a strong response from citizens, who have begun to gather in the streets surrounding Plaza Murillo, the epicenter of Bolivia's political power, to denounce the military move.

Representatives of social organizations in different parts of the country also demonstrated in defense of democracy, joining the president's call to protect the constitutional order.

Xinhua

## US surgeon general declares firearm violence a 'public health crisis'

HOUSTON

US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued a landmark advisory on Tuesday, declaring firearm violence in America a "public health crisis".

"Our failure to address it is a moral crisis. To protect the health and well-being of Americans, especially our children, we must now act with the clarity, courage and urgency that this moment demands," Murthy (pictured) said in a video announcement posted on YouTube.

The advisory marked the first time the nation's leading voice on public health – the same office that in the 1960s highlighted the lethal consequences of cigarette smoking – has issued an urgent pronouncement on deaths related to firearms.

Murthy said the impetus for the advisory stems from the increase in gun violence, especially mass shootings since 2020, which he said exact a profound toll on the nation's well-being.

"I want people to understand the full impact of firearm violence in our country, and I want them to see it as a public health issue," Murthy said in an interview with The Washington Post. "I know it's been polarizing, and I know it's been politicized, but if we can see it as a public health issue, we can come together and implement a public health solution."

Murthy said that as a doctor, he has witnessed the consequences of firearm violence up close, and the 40-page advisory he put out "outlines the urgent threat firearm violence poses to the health and well-being of our country".

While many applauded the advisory, gun rights groups and individuals attacked it with profanities in their social media posts.

The Firearm Policy Coalition also used profanities and called the advisory "a joke" under the



headline "Second Amendment alert".

According to the advisory, firearm-related injuries have experienced a sharp rise since the pandemic. They have surpassed car accidents to become the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 19 since 2020. More than 4,600 young people died of firearm violence in 2022, 1,000 more than in 2019 and earlier.

In 2022, a total of 48,204 people died from firearm injuries, including suicides, homicides and accidents. That was 8,000 more than in 2019, and 16,000 more over 2010, according to the advisory.

"Fifty-four percent of adults in America report that they or a family member have experienced a firearm-related incident, whether they've been personally threatened with or injured by a firearm, lost a family member, witnessed a shooting, or shot a firearm in self-defense," said Murthy. The findings are from a recent survey.

Murthy said that firearm-related trauma and fear are contributing to mental health challenges. "Nearly 6 in 10 US adults say they worry about a loved

one being a victim of firearm violence," he said.

Across all firearm-related deaths in 2022, more than half – 56.1 percent – were from suicide, while 40.8 percent were from homicide.

While the numbers fluctuate year to year, the overall trend is worrisome, according to the advisory. It noted that when measured over a decade from 2012 to 2022, children and the young populations experienced a staggering increase in firearm-related suicide rates: 43 percent for 25-34-year-olds, 45 percent for 15-24-year-olds, and 68 percent for children ages 10-14. Overall, firearm suicide increased by 20 percent across the population.

The advisory compared US firearm violence with 28 other high-income nations and said that in 2015, the overall firearm-related death rate in age groups across the 29 countries was 11.4 times higher in the US.

In that year, 83.7 percent of all firearm-related deaths across the countries studied occurred in the US, which accounted for about 31 percent of the combined population.

Mass shootings and school shootings create collective

trauma and fear, the advisory said. It cited data by the Gun Violence Archive that the US experienced more than 600 mass shooting incidents each year between 2020 and 2023, up an average of less than 400 annual mass shootings between 2015 and 2018.

As a result, 51 percent of US teens ages 14-17 said they worry about a shooting happening at school, and 79 percent of adults said they experienced stress from a possible mass shooting, while a third said the fear of a mass shooting kept them from going to certain public places or events.

Of all firearm-related incidents, active shootings result in a large number of deaths and injuries in one incident. According to the FBI, such incidents are also on a sharp rise based on data from the past decade.

The agency released data on Monday showing that 229 active-shooter incidents occurred from 2019 to 2023, representing an 89 percent increase over the 121 such incidents from the previous five-year period of 2014-2018.

The FBI recorded 48 active shooter incidents for 2023. Although the incidents decreased by two over 2022, the number of active-shooter incidents increased 60 percent since 2019, when there were 30 incidents.

The 48 active-shooter incidents in 2023 occurred across 26 states and happened in five location categories, including open space, commerce, education, healthcare and residence, according to the FBI.

Overall, 244 victims were shot by active shooters last year, with 139 injured and 105 killed. The worst 2023 active-shooting incident happened in Maine in October, which left 18 people dead and 13 injured.

Agencies

## Zimbabwe on course to end cholera outbreak

HARARE

ZIMBABWE may soon declare an end to the cholera outbreak that has affected all 10 provinces if the current trend of declining cases continues, Minister of Health and Child Care Douglas Mombeshora said Tuesday.

At least 87 people have been confirmed to have died from the waterborne disease since an outbreak was first reported in February 2023, according to the ministry. Some provinces have not reported any cases of cholera for more than a month, which is a good sign that the country is on course to end the outbreak, said Mombeshora in an interview with Xinhua over the phone.

"If we have zero cases for a month,

then we declare the outbreak over. So yes, in some provinces we can say we have no problem anymore. We have areas that have gone more than six weeks with no cases," he said.

The latest cholera situation report published by his ministry Monday showed that nine provinces had not reported any cases of either suspected or confirmed cholera that day, while Harare Province had one suspected case. As of Monday, the country has recorded a cumulative total of 34,547 suspected cholera cases and 4,217 laboratory-confirmed ones.

In November 2023, Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, declared a state of emergency following an upsurge in cholera cases.

Xinhua

## Exhibitors seek opportunities at China-Eurasia Expo

URUMQI

BUSINESSMEN from many parts of the world have gathered in northwest China's Xinjiang, displaying exquisite goods such as French wine, Serbian coffee, Australian chocolate and Ghanaian drums.

The 8th China-Eurasia Expo, held at the Xinjiang International Convention and Exhibition Center at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains, commenced Wednesday in the regional capital of Urumqi.

Themed "New Opportunities of Silk Road, New Vitality for Eurasian Cooperation," the expo will run until Sunday. It has drawn over 1,900 participants from 50 countries, regions and international organizations, showcasing over 6,000 varieties of products.

The expo, which has been successfully held seven times, has become an important channel for economic and trade cooperation between China and Eurasian countries, said Gao Yunlong, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, at the opening ceremony.

China and Eurasian countries are highly complementary in economy and have close connections in industrial and supply chains, he said, expressing the hope for the two sides to enhance strategic synergy, deepen cooperation and jointly create a new chapter in Eurasian collaboration.

"This is our first time participating in the China-Eurasia Expo, and we hope to achieve fruitful results here in Xinjiang," said Nebojsa Terzic at the Serbian pavilion. He expressed the belief that the event will further cultivate Chinese consumers' appetite for high-quality



Two buyers communicate with a staff member from the booth of Ghana at the 8th China-Eurasia Expo in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, June 26, 2024. (Xinhua/Ding Lei)

Serbian products.

Covering an area of 140,000 square meters, this year's expo encompasses four major exhibition zones including investment cooperation, international exhibitions, special industries and equipment manufacturing.

"We have brought multiple exhibits, including

lightweight construction machinery, recyclable construction elevators, and a 5G tower crane simulation cockpit," said Zhang Heng, general manager of the Xinjiang branch of China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Group Co., Ltd.

Attributing their rapid overseas expansion to the deepening of the Belt and Road Initiative,

Zhang expected more collaboration with overseas clients. "We're already close to finalizing a project in Kazakhstan," Zhang added.

This year's expo has also set up a special pavilion for the China (Xinjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ), aiming to showcase its unique features, progress and achievements of three areas in Urumqi, Kashgar and Horgos.

As the first pilot FTZ in China's northwest border areas, Xinjiang FTZ was officially established in November 2023. The FTZ has since embarked on an array of reform initiatives, marking a robust start to its development.

From January to April this year, the total import and export volume of the Xinjiang FTZ reached 38.5 billion yuan (about 5.4 billion U.S. dollars), accounting for 27.92 percent of the total import and export volume of Xinjiang.

Frances Wu, an exhibitor from Australia, spoke highly of Xinjiang's geographical advantage of being close to Central Asia. The company hopes to

leverage this expo to gain in-depth understanding of the policies of the Xinjiang FTZ, and intends to invest and establish factories in Xinjiang, with the aim of processing high-quality Kazakh camel milk powder.

"Being close to the source of raw materials, if we can establish production facilities in Xinjiang, the market prospects for our products will undoubtedly be very promising," he noted.

Li Xuan, an official at the regional department of commerce, stated that Xinjiang will fully leverage the platform of the China-Eurasia Expo to develop public service products that facilitate exchanges and collaboration among countries in Asia and Europe.

Since 2011, seven sessions of the China-Eurasia Expo have been successfully held, yielding fruitful results. During past expos, more than 12,200 domestic and foreign exhibitors from more than 70 countries and regions exhibited, attracting a total of 2.16 million visitors.

Xinhua





Duan Davis (R), who has been charged with killing Tupac Shakur (L), in court in Las Vegas. Photo: AP

## Nevada judge denies release of ex-gang leader ahead of trial in 1996 killing of Tupac Shakur

LAS VEGAS

AN ailing former Los Angeles-area gang leader has been denied release from a Las Vegas jail ahead of his trial in the 1996 killing of music legend Tupac Shakur, despite a bid by a hip-hop music figure to underwrite his \$750,000 bond.

A Nevada judge rejected house arrest with electronic monitoring for Duane "Keffe D" Davis, 61, saying she wasn't satisfied with assurances that Davis and his would-be benefactor – Cash "Wack 100" Jones – weren't planning to reap profits from the sale of Davis' life story.

A Nevada law prohibits convicted killers from profiting from their crime.

Clark County District Court Judge Carli Kierny said in her ruling issued Wednesday that a review of Jones' financial records also did little to address her concerns that Jones might be a "front" or "middleman" for the true bond poster.

Davis has sought to be released since shortly after his arrest last September made him the only person ever charged with a crime in the killing, which has drawn intense interest and speculation for 27 years.

Prosecutors allege the gunfire in Las Vegas that killed Shakur stemmed from competition between East Coast members of a Bloods gang sect and West Coast groups of a Crips sect, including Davis, for dominance in a musical genre known at the time as "gangsta rap."

Davis has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder. His trial is scheduled for Nov. 4. If convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in prison.

After a 45-minute hearing Tuesday, Kierny said she was left with more questions than answers after Davis' legal team tried to demonstrate the source of the funds.

Prosecutors have argued that Da-

vis intends to benefit from retelling his story about the killing of Shakur and played a recording of a jailhouse phone call in which Jones describes to Davis a plan to produce "30 to 40 episodes" of a show based on his life story.

"It is an illegal benefit, profiting from this crime," prosecutor Binu Palal told the judge. Palal didn't respond to an email seeking comment Wednesday on the judge's decision.

Jones, a music record executive who has managed hip-hop artists including Johnathan "Blueface" Porter and Jayceon "The Game" Taylor, offered sworn testimony Tuesday by video from an unspecified place in California.

He said he paid 15% of the bail amount, or \$112,500, as "a gift" from his business accounts to secure Davis' release.

Davis' attorney, Carl Arnold, didn't respond to emails or phone calls left at his office Wednesday seeking comment. A spokesperson for Arnold didn't immediately have comment when reached by email.

The judge said in Wednesday's 2-page order she wasn't convinced the bail money was not being paid "out of profits from Mr. Davis discussing the killing of the victim in this case."

While Jones testified he was bonding out Davis because Davis was fighting cancer and "had been a pillar of the community," previous interviews "suggested another motive," Kierny wrote.

She said Jones indicated there were "stipulations" on the bond and "that Mr. Davis would be signing a contract regarding the rights to his life story, ostensibly including the shooting of Mr. Shakur."

She said that was supported by a recorded phone call at the jail when Jones "insisted that a contract be signed before the bond premium was paid." AP

## The areas Simba's rebuild must address

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

LAST season when Fabrice Ngoma, Luis Miquissone and others were signed, Simba assumed they were winning the league already. One fast season forward they are rebuilding.

Rebuild. That's the buzzword following Simba around wherever they go at the moment as they desperately try to put another dismal season behind them and build towards reclaiming their lost glory.

Deadwood are currently being cast aside and replaced with new names that will seamlessly click together and take the club back to the summit of the domestic game.

This time there can be no failure. Things have gotten so bad for Simba that real change is needed now, throughout the entire football club.

There is a lot for the club to consider and that's why the club investor, Mohamed 'Mo' Dewji, is back again at the front and center as they look to put building blocks in place to get back to the top.

Simba have got plenty of work to do to return to their competitive best. The priorities to get the club back on track next season start with sorting the technical bench as soon as possible.

It is perhaps a cause for concern that Simba are still no closer to appointing a successor for coach Abdelhak Benchikha, who exited the club almost two months ago.



Simba SC's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mohammed 'Mo' Dewji. Agencies

Getting the head coach appointment right and as soon as possible is a necessity if Simba are to kick start their pre-season in the best shape possible. Hiring the right coach is an immeasurably important first step in the arduous battle ahead.

It is not hard to see where the squad needs an upgrade. The spine of the team - Che Malone Fondoh, Ngoma, Clatous Chama and Denis Kibu - is actually decent in the Premier League.

However, Young Africans possess a level of depth and quality in all areas of the pitch that Simba simply does not have. The Msimbazi Street-based side had weaknesses in many areas, which made it tough for them to sustain the pace of Miguel Gamondi's team throughout the season.

Simba's recruitment from 2018 to 2021 was almost flaw-

less, but since then it has come in for some criticism as the squad depth has not been well covered pushing the club to over-rely on players at the wrong end of the age spectrum.

The unexpected exit of Inonga Baka has left more for the club to do. Lameck Lawi is an exciting addition but he is one of the future. Ideally, the player who replaces Baka in the squad from 2024/25 onwards will be somebody capable of partnering with Che Malone on the biggest of occasions.

Mohamed Hussein certainly needs more competition in his left-back role. Duchu, who was brought back last season, is not close to pushing Tshabalala to improve.

Defensive midfield remains one of the most important issues for Simba to get right. How they have not bought an

upgrade on Taddeo Lwanga in the last two years speaks to a big recruitment problem highlighted by three underwhelming seasons.

For all his quality, Ngoma is not the man that shields his side's defence from attacks. That is the most pressing issue for Simba in this transfer window.

Babacar Sarr came in during the last transfer window and has been a fine addition. However, the team still lacks a first-team defensive midfielder who is capable of shielding the defence singlehandedly.

The attacking force also needs some polishing. While the jury is still out on Freddy Koublan, the team certainly needs a striker who can bail them out of trouble consistently.

It is probably around more than seven players that Simba needs. But the real task will be merging them with what is already there and integrating them into the kind of system the incoming coach wants to play.

There have been plenty of cautionary tales concerning a drastic squad overhaul in the past that Simba would do well to remind themselves of. That suggests that patience is required, along with a coordinated and strategic plan of attack in the transfer market.

It will not be easy and it almost certainly won't be cheap, but Mo Dewji and Co will need to deliver possibly their biggest transfer window yet if they are to get Simba back to where they need to be.



Vijana basketball team's Evaresti Matiko goes to the basket during a training session at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

## Vital'O FC withdraw from CECAFA Kagame Cup 2024

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

BURUNDIAN champions Vital'O FC have announced that they won't take part in the forthcoming CECAFA Kagame Cup 2024 slated to take place in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar from July 6-22, this year.

Under coach Parris Sahabo, Vital'O will now represent Burundi in the 2024/2025 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League.

Sahabo's team finished with 72 points from 30 matches, while Flambeau du Centre, who put up a good show, came second with

69 points and will play in the CAF Confederations Cup.

Vital'O have decided to withdraw from the tournament to concentrate on their own pre-season schedule which involves preparations for the continental competition.

The Kagame Cup tournament returns after a four-year hiatus since 2021 when it last took place in Dar es Salaam.

Vital'O is the latest club to withdraw after Congolese giants TP Mazembe, Tanzania's Azam FC and Malawian side Nyasa Big Bullets also pulled out of the tourna-

ment.

The quartet's withdrawal has seen the number of participants reduced to 12 down from the initial 16 teams that had been expected to participate.

CECAFA could consider replacing teams that have withdrawn from the competition, with Police FC of Rwanda said to be the latest addition by the organizers.

With more teams withdrawing from the tournament, Singida Black Stars have also been included in the tournament to replace Azam.

The tournament could also be short of Young Africans and Simba as their pre-season schedules are slated to begin in the first week of July outside Tanzania.

The two sides' participation has not been confirmed yet despite receiving invitation letters from the organizers.

Young Africans are expected to play in Europe, South Africa, and Kenya during their pre-season preparations.

As the Msimbazi Street-based side is gearing up for a significant overhaul of their squad preparing for the upcoming season, the

team is set to head to Egypt for an intensive pre-season training camp.

The camp will include both current squad members and new signings, alongside the technical bench led by their new coach.

Organised by the Council for East and Central African Football Associations (CECAFA), the tournament was rebranded to CECAFA Kagame Cup in 2002, when President Paul Kagame began sponsoring the competition. It is contested by clubs from East and Central Africa.

The cancellation of the CECAFA

Senior Challenge Cup 2024 underscores the focus on preparing players adequately for the prestigious Kagame Cup, setting the stage for an exhilarating football spectacle.

Remaining teams for CECAFA Kagame Cup 2024: El Merreikh, Al Hilal, Hai El Wadi (all from Sudan), Young Africans SC, Simba SC and Coastal Union FC (all from Mainland Tanzania), Gor Mahia FC (Kenya), SC Villa (Uganda), JKU SC (Zanzibar), El Merreikh FC-Bentiu (South Sudan), APR FC (Rwanda) and Red Arrows FC (Zambia).



## Belgium advances to last 16 at Euro 2024 after 0-0 draw, Ukraine eliminated

STUTT GART, Germany

BELGIUM got the best out of a 0-0 draw at the European Championship on Wednesday, advancing to the last 16 while Ukraine became the first team with four points in a group to be eliminated.

The downside for the Belgians at Euro 2024 is they will next face France and Kylian Mbappe on Monday in Dusseldorf.

"We go to win. We are here and qualified for this Euro to be part of the best teams. Now, we face a top team," Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco said. "That's why we qualified, otherwise we could stay at home. These are the games we're looking for, and everything is possible."

All four teams in Group E finished with four points. Romania ended up first, followed by Belgium and Slovakia. Ukraine was last on goal difference.

Romania and Slovakia drew 1-1 in Frankfurt and both advanced to the knockout stage.

Playing at Euro 2024 against the backdrop of Russia's invasion, Ukraine came agonizingly close to advancing and will finish with more points than at least one of the four best third-place teams. The 3-0 loss to Romania in the team's opening game proved to be decisive.

"In the last two games, we showed the character of our nation. But this is life, you make some mistakes, but then it's important how you react," Ukraine coach Serhiy Rebrov said. "I'm very proud of the players. Of course, everyone is unhappy with the result, but there are no questions for the players."

There was nearly a different ending when Ukraine substitute Ruslan Malinovskyi tried to score directly from corner late in the match. Belgium goalkeeper Koen Casteels managed to save the effort at the near post.

The third-ranked Belgians had another scare when Georgiy Sudakov ran into the box but shot right at Casteels.

Belgium, which lost to Slovakia in its opening game, struggled to get its offense going again with Romelu Lukaku failing to make the most of his team's best chance in the first half.

The Belgian fans booed their players at the end of the game at Stuttgart Arena, while Ukrainian supporters, who earlier held up a banner of a fallen soldier named Nazariy Hryntsevich, showed their appreciation to the national team.

"We wanted to bring them joy, to make them proud. We left it all on the field, but it wasn't enough," Ukraine defender Oleksandr Tymchyk said.

Belgium will likely need to improve against France, which was the runner-up at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

AP

## Venezuela advances to Copa America quarterfinals with a 1-0 win over Mexico on Rondón goal

INGLEWOOD, Calif.

ARRIVING at Copa America seeking redemption after disappointing performances in the World Cup and in the CONCACAF Nations League, Mexico is on the verge of an early exit.

Salomón Rondón scored on a penalty kick in the 57th minute, and Venezuela advanced to the Copa America quarterfinals with 1-0 victory over Mexico on Wednesday night.

Venezuela, which opened with a 2-1 win over Ecuador, is assured finishing among the top two in Group B. Venezuela faces already eliminated Jamaica on Sunday at Austin, Texas.

"I'm happy that we were able to give some joy to the people in Venezuela, we played for that, but we need to remain calm and with our feet on the ground," Venezuela coach Fernando Batista said. "We are going to enjoy this tonight, but tomorrow we are going to be focused on Jamaica."

Mexico began with a 1-0 victory over Jamaica and has three points along with Ecuador, which defeated the winless Reggae Boyz 3-1 earlier Wednesday. Mexico plays Ecuador at Glendale, Arizona, on Sunday, and needs a victory to advance.

"It's a learning experience, but I'm proud of the team because they never stopped fighting. Now it's up to us and we just talked about it in the locker room," Mexico coach Jaime Lozano said. "The next game will put us in the next round, we are hurt now, but playing like this, it's going to be hard for us to lose another game."

Meanwhile, in Las Vegas, seventeen-year-old Kendry Páez scored in first-half stoppage time, Alan Minda added another goal late in the second half and Ecuador beat winless Jamaica 3-1 on Wednesday night in the Copa America.

Ecuador, which rebounded from a 2-1 loss to Venezuela, won its first Copa America game since a 4-0 victory over Haiti in 2016, stopping an eight-game winless streak.

Jamaica became the first team eliminated from the 16-nation tournament when Venezuela beat Mexico 1-0 later Wednesday.

AP

# Kvaratskhelia's Georgia upsets Ronaldo's Portugal 2-0 to reach the last 16 at Euro 2024

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

A PRE-GAME chat with Cristiano Ronaldo inspired Kvaratskhelia and Georgia to one of the biggest upsets in European Championship history on Wednesday, beating Portugal 2-0 and advancing to the last 16.

Georgia's No. 7 has admired Ronaldo for years and had spoken before the game of how much he wanted his hero's shirt. He got it, along with a goal and a slice of soccer history, on a frustrating night for Ronaldo and Portugal.

"Before the match there was a meeting and he wished me success and it was so much for me because I would never imagine that he would come to me and say something to me," Kvaratskhelia said in translated comments. "I realized that I could do and we could do so many things today because it gave me inspiration."

For Napoli forward Kvaratskhelia, the win even surpasses his club's historic Italian title last year.

"This is the best day in my life because it was more difficult to do it with the Georgian team than with Napoli," he said.

A banner at the Georgian fans' end of the stadium said "Believe," and they did.

The Georgians needed a win to reach the knockout stage at Euro 2024 and got their opening goal after only 93 seconds.



Georgia's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia scores his side's first goal during a Group F match between Georgia and Portugal at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Wednesday, June 26, 2024. (Photo: AP)

Georges Mikautadze intercepted a poor pass and set up Kvaratskhelia to score with a low shot.

António Silva gave away the ball before the first goal and gave away a penalty for the second, tripping Luka Lochoshvili inside the penalty area. Mikautadze hit the spot kick low and past Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa in the 57th minute.

Georgia advanced in its debut at a major tournament as one of the best third-place teams. Portugal had already qualified from Group F after winning its first two games.

The Georgians will next face

Spain on Sunday in Cologne, while Portugal plays Slovenia on Monday in Frankfurt. Slovenia is another defense-first team and it upset Portugal 2-0 in a March friendly.

Ronaldo is still without a goal at Euro 2024. He felt he deserved a penalty in the first half and kicked away a water bottle when he was substituted in the 66th minute.

Ronaldo was given a yellow card for his protests after his penalty appeal was turned down. He wanted the decision after his shirt was pulled in the area by Lochoshvili as a cross came in. No foul was given.

With Portugal already quali-

fied, Ronaldo was one of only three players kept in the lineup from the previous 3-0 win over Turkey, along with Costa and midfielder João Palhinha.

Portugal created little in the second half as Georgia's defense sat deep, but the 2016 champions had chances in added time. Goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili kept Georgia's two-goal lead intact with saves from Nelson Semedo and Diogo Dalot, while Francisco Conceição narrowly missed the target.

Portugal coach Roberto Martinez criticized "very inconsistent" video reviews but denied his team had underes-

timated Georgia.

"This was a game where Georgia was playing to be part of history and we didn't match their intensity," he said.

At the final whistle, Georgia's players sprinted off the bench to embrace Mamardashvili in a huddle and leapt with joy in front of their raucous fans.

Turkey beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in the other group match. The Turks also advanced while the Czechs were eliminated.

Georgia's victory also eliminated Hungary, which finished third in Group A.

AP

## Turkey reaches Euro 2024 knockout round and eliminates Czech Republic in 2-1 win

HAMBURG, Germany

CENK Tosun finally ended the tension when he scored in stoppage time to send Turkey into the knockout stage of the European Championship with a 2-1 win over 10-man Czech Republic on Wednesday.

With the Czechs chasing a goal that would have put them through at Turkey's expense, Tosun, a substitute, eluded two exhausted defenders on the left and fired a fierce shot inside the far post.

"This is just the start," Tosun said. "I'm delighted with my goal. We spoke about it beforehand, how this is exactly the time for it."

It set off a wave of celebrations among most of the fans in Hamburg's Volksparkstadion, though it also led to a flare-up between players and substitutes who had run onto the field. Czech forward Tomas Chory was shown a red card after the tumult, and team captain Tomas Soucek and Turkey's Arda Guler were both shown yellow.

It had been a busy night for Romanian referee Istvan Kovacs, who sent off Czech midfielder Antonin Barak in the 20th minute and showed 18 yellow cards altogether. Barak earned the first for a tactical foul in the 11th, then the next for a stamp on Salih Ozcan's foot.

"I only saw him in the break," Czech coach Ivan Hasek said of Barak. "He was sad, with his head in



Turkey's forward #09 Cenk Tosun (L) shoots and scores his team's second goal during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group F football match between the Czech Republic and Turkey at the Volksparkstadion in Hamburg on June 26, 2024. (Photo: AFP)

his hands. He really punished himself by beating himself up about it."

The sending off encouraged Turkey to attack in waves. Kenan Yildiz, Hakan Calhanoglu and Guler were causing serious problems for the Czech defense.

The Czech attack was without star player Patrik Schick, who failed to recover from a calf muscle injury. Schick was booked for protesting on the bench. It was to be his only contribution.

Yildiz was booked for a stamp on Robin Hranac in the 37th, then escaped another yellow after catching Vladimir Coufal in the face with his elbow. The referee missed the second incident.

Calhanoglu broke the deadlock with a low shot

inside the far post in the 51st. Czech goalkeeper Jindrich Stanek had made a brilliant save to deny Mert Muldur but wasn't able to stretch for Calhanoglu's powerful strike.

Stanek was unable to continue with an apparent shoulder injury from his initial save. Bayer Leverkusen reserve goalkeeper Matej Kovar went on in his place.

Soucek equalized in

the 66th after a goal-mouth scramble in which the ball was cleared off the line. A VAR check found goalkeeper Mert Gunok was not unfairly hindered.

The Czechs needed

another goal to progress, but Tosun's late strike ended their hopes.

"It's disappointing. We all wanted to advance. We had a goal to beat them from the start but we didn't make it, that's disappointing," Soucek told the Czech public broadcaster. Soucek said it was "very tough" to play with a player less and he rued the goals his team conceded. "We all did the maximum," he added. "I have to thank all my teammates. It's just a sad end."

The Czech Republic finished bottom of Group F behind Georgia, which surprised group winner Portugal with a 2-0 win to progress as one of the best third-place teams.

Turkey finished runner-up with six points and will next face Austria in Leipzig on Tuesday.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





## SPORT

Kvaratskhelia's Georgia upsets Ronaldo's Portugal 2-0 to reach the last 16 at Euro 2024

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Tanzania senior women's national football team (Twiga Stars) head coach Bakari Shime. Agencies

## Twiga Stars coach names squad for high-profile friendlies

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA senior women's national football team (Twiga Stars) head coach Bakari Shime has announced his squad for two friendly matches against Botswana and Tunisia.

The two build-up matches are being used to keep Twiga Stars sharp towards the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations edition in Morocco as Shime continues to build depth in his squad.

The Confederation of African Football has announced that the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) will occur in July 2025.

It means, Twiga Stars will have to wait another year to make a second appearance in the CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations.

The 21-day event will start on July 5 and end on July 26, 2025.

This decision comes after a period of uncertainty following the completion of the qualifiers last year.

The tournament, originally planned for this year in Morocco, has been postponed due to CAF football calendar congestion.

The decision was made at a meeting of the CAF Executive Committee last Friday.

Twelve teams have already qualified for the tournament - Zambia, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Algeria, Tunisia, Mali, Ghana, Senegal, Nigeria, defending champions South Africa as well as hosts Morocco and Tanzania.

The 20-women squad is dominated by players from JKT Queens who have contributed seven players.

There are also seven foreign-based players led by the striking trio of captain Oppah Clement, Clara Luvanga, and Aisha Masaka.

The team will assemble for camp on Monday to prepare for the two international friendlies.

### Full Squad:

#### Goalkeepers:

Najat Abasi (JKT Queens) Asha Mrisho (Amani Queens) Lidya Maximilian (JKT Queens)

#### Defenders:

Protasia Mbunda (Fountain Gate Princess) Enekia Kasonga (Eastern Flames, Saudi Arabia) Julietha Singano (Juarez, Mexico) Vaillet Mwamakamba (Simba Queens) Anastazia Katunzi (JKT Queens) Joyce Lema (JKT Queens)

#### Midfielders:

Janeth Christopher (JKT Queens) Ester Maseke (Bunda Queens) Diana Lucas (Ame S.FK, Turkey) Aisha Juma (Simba Queens) Stumai Athuman (JKT Queens) Winifrida Gerald (JKT Queens) Maimuna Kaimu (ZED FC, Egypt) Elizabert Charles (Alliance Girls)

#### Forwards:

Aisha Masaka (Bk Hacken, Sweden) Oppah Clement (Besiktas, Turkey) Clara Luvanga (Al Nasr FC, Saudi Arabia)

# FIFA lifts transfer ban on Yanga, clearing path for new signings

stemmed from unpaid wages to ex-player Lazarous Kambole, who had terminated his contract due to non-payment.

The TFF explained that FIFA's decision came after Young Africans settled their issues with Kambole. The resolution came after the club failed to resolve the matter internally within the 45-day deadline set by the governing body.

Initially, Young Africans' information officer, Ally Kamwe, had indicated that the club had finalized the settlement with Kambole, but the delay was due to awaiting FIFA's confirmation that the payment had been successfully received by the Zambian player.

With the ban now lifted, Young Africans are poised to make significant moves in the transfer market during the current registration window.

Unconfirmed reports suggest the Jangwani-based side have already completed signings of several key players, including goalkeeper Khomeiny Abou-

bakar from Singida Black Stars, defender Chadrack Boka from FC Lupopo of the Democratic Republic of Congo, midfielder Clatous Chama from Simba SC, and striker Prince Dube from Azam FC.

Kamwe also announced that Young Africans will begin unveiling new signings and releasing players starting in July. This strategic move is expected to bolster the squad as they prepare for the upcoming season.

One notable development is the contract extension of Young Africans captain Bakar Mwamnyeto, who has signed a two-year deal to remain with the club.

Mwamnyeto, who joined Young Africans from Coastal Union, has been instrumental in the team's recent successes, leading them to three consecutive Premier League titles since the 2021/2022 season.

The club is said to have rewarded his loyalty and performance with a substantial registration fee of Sh300 million.

Mwamnyeto's future with Wananchi had been uncertain, with rumors circulating about a potential move to their rivals Simba. Additionally, there were reports of interest from clubs abroad. However, the management allowed Mwamnyeto the freedom to decide his future, ultimately leading to his decision to stay at Jangwani.

Under the leadership of head coach Miguel Gamondi, Young Africans have seen remarkable success, including winning the Premier League for the three time in a row, finishing in quarter-final of the CAF Champions League and winning the Federation Cup last season, and the club's strategy of retaining key players while adding new talent has been crucial to maintaining their dominance in Tanzanian football.

Looking ahead, Young Africans have ambitious plans for the pre-season. The team is set to tour South Africa, where they will face Kaizer Chiefs in a

friendly match in July. Following this, the side will head to Kenya for the grand opening of a new stadium, marking a significant milestone in the club's preparations for the upcoming season.

The lifting of the transfer ban marks a new chapter for Young Africans, providing an opportunity to further strengthen their squad and continue their pursuit of domestic and continental glory.

With a blend of experienced players and new signings, Young Africans are well-positioned to build on their recent achievements and solidify their status as a football powerhouse in the region.

As the transfer window progresses, all eyes will be on Young Africans to see how they navigate this critical period and what impact their new signings will have on the team's performance in the forthcoming season.

The club's supporters remain optimistic, eagerly anticipating the unveiling of new players and the continuation of Young Africans' legacy of excellence on the field.

## Alliance Caravans now hammer Econo Lodge Lions in 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament hosts, Alliance Caravans, have opened their campaign impressively having trounced Econo Lodge Lions by 111 runs in the showpiece's clash which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

In what turned out to be Alliance Caravans' opening match of the tournament, the cricketers - who settled for the runners-up spot in the past edition of the showdown - were all out to begin grandly and turn into strong contenders for this year's title.

With several new cricketers brought in to strengthen the side, Alliance Caravans were asked to bat first by Econo Lodge Lions who won the toss.

The batting squad's key performers - Adersh Dileep and Kassim Nassoro - had to depart early having been dismissed by Econo Lodge Lions' Rehaan Atif and Abdullah Imtiaz respectively.

The two quick dismissals somewhat instilled fear in the hearts of the capacity crowd but wicketkeeper-cum-batsman Prakash Nair then had a debut to remember, scoring 105 runs in 61 deliveries for Alliance Caravans.

He was supported by stand-in captain Akhil Anil 27 (18) and Jerry Mathew 33 (16). At the end of the allotted 20 overs, Alliance Caravans registered a mammoth 194/6.

Youthful cricketer Dylan Manish had a notable contribution when Econo Lodge Lions fielded, ending his bowling spell with 2-42 in four overs. He was responsible for the crucial dismissal of Alliance Caravans' fearsome



Alliance Caravans' cricketer Prakash Nair (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award from Alliance Insurance's Group Managing Director, KVA Krishnan, once the player's outfit locked horns with Econo Lodge Lions in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup match that took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

opener Nair.

Fellow bowlers Atif Salim, Wickson Costa, Imtiaz, and Rehaan wound up with a wicket each for the Econo Lodge Lions.

In return, it seemed like a mismatch with Econo Lodge Lions failing to chase their opponents' mammoth figure, managing to notch 83 runs all out in 19.1 overs.

Econo Lodge Lions' opener Manish was the only glimmer of hope - registering double figures after scoring 25

runs in 32 deliveries.

Alliance Caravans, in the end, won the match by a massive 111-run margin and got their aspirations for the title chase underway in good fashion.

Undoubtedly, Nair clinched the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize for his 105 in 61 deliveries.

Mathew's quickfire 33 off 16 was regarded as the Medinova Specialised Polyclinic Moment of the Match.

At the end of the second game week of the tournament showdown,

Aurobindo AKSC's Abhik Patwa still leads the Colourflex Orange Cap rankings with 122 runs in two games.

There has however been a change in the Automark Purple Cap holder ranking - with Flashnet Strikers' Jatin Darji now leading the way with six wickets in three matches.

The recently concluded TCA Dar 30 Overs Cup's Division B final ensured that the 10th team for this year's Petrofuel TCA Caravans Cup is found with Generics Gymkhana earning the much-coveted spot.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Seaciff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.

**APOLOGY:** In the sports page of the Thursday edition of The Guardian newspaper, we carried an article concerning this tournament, which erroneously mentioned that Harab Motors Pak Stars had secured victory over Aurobindo AKSC. The correct information, though, is that Aurobindo AKSC had beat Harab Motors Pak Stars by six wickets. We apologize for any inconvenience the article has caused.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

