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# 'Normal flow of development project funds returning'

## CSOs pushing for 'front seat' in EAC process of integration

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIAN civil society organizations (CSOs) are working to champion greater engagement among civil societies in the East African Community (EAC) integration process.

Adamson Nsimba, executive director of the Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO) expressed this intention here at the conclusion of the CSOs Week here at the weekend, where an auxiliary forum was convened to address the role of NGOs in integration efforts.

The forum focused on enhancing national and regional policy and legislative frameworks to integrate Tanzanian CSOs into the EAC's evolving networking and decision making structures.

He said the high attendance at the meeting highlighted rising public interest in EAC matters and the regional integration process as a whole, also given Tanzania's unique position in hosting EAC headquarters.

TANGO is committed to ensuring that Tanzanian civil society voices are heard and considered, setting a standard for our regional peers, he said, pointing at the need for transparency, consultation and respect for public opinion are crucial for legitimacy of the integration process.

TANGO expects to work closely with the relevant ministries to address issues raised by the CSO community, he asserted, while Generose Minani, the principal gender and community development and stakeholder engagement officer at the EAC secretariat, underlined the importance of national dialogues.

She applauded Tanzanian CSOs for initiating regional discussions on the issue, affirming that these dialogues are pivotal for defining citizen roles in regional integration, to ensure that the process is truly people-centered.

CSOs need to actively channel public concerns to the EAC secretariat through various available forums, including the upcoming secretary general's forum, she said, while David Sigano, the East Africa Law Society executive director, said that

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Tanzania Episcopal Conference Secretary General Father Dr Charles Kitima (L) introduces ruling CCM Secretary General Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi (2nd-L), opposition Chadema Vice Chairman (Mainland) Tundu Lissu (2nd-R) and Chadema Secretary General John Mnyika at Tanzania's Fifth National Eucharist Congress held at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Democracy Day' forum re-ignites independent candidates campaign

By Getrude Mbago

DEMOCRACY stakeholders have underscored the urgent need for an amendment to the country's constitution to allow

independent candidates in the general election late next year.

John Cheyo, a veteran opposition leader, led in the chorus of appeals during a dialogue held to commemorate International

Democracy Day, organised by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

He stated that permitting independent candidates would

enhance participation by youthful and women aspirants in leadership roles.

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By Guardian Reporter, Misungwi

NORMAL flow of development project funds is expected soon following delays in implementing a number of development projects arising from a slowdown in the disbursement of funds, the Treasury has declared.

Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, remarked on the matter as he started a seven-day tour of Mwanza Region, noting that disruptions were linked to disasters that disrupted the entire flow of the 2023/24 budget plan.

He was responding to Johari Samizi, the Misungwi district commissioner, who queried delays in water projects and the district's community development college.

Various disasters including floods caused by El Niño rains and landslides in at least four districts, disrupted the flow of funds allocated during the 2023/24 fiscal plan, he said.

The government had to prioritize areas hit by floods or landslides, to rebuild roads, bridges and social facilities, even assisting to rebuilding homes, in expenditure that wasn't planned for, he said.

Liaison was being made with the Water ministry ahead of funds being disbursed to complete the stalled projects, he said, pointing at strategic projects like the standard gauge railway (SGR), the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydropower Project which is over 98 per cent complete, and the long J.P. Magufuli Bridge at Kigongo-Busisi, as having been prioritized for funding.

Power rationing was now becoming history, electric train services have already started, he said, affirming that the massive investment made in these areas are yielding fruits, "and the bridge will soon be completed."

Prioritizing these projects demanded the reallocation of funds from other projects

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Tanzania's Ambassador to The Netherlands, Caroline Kitana Chipeta (C), leads Tanzanians dressed in traditional 'coastal zone' attire at the 2024 edition of the Tanzanian Embassy Festival held in The Hague at the weekend. The event is reported have attracted over 50,000 spectators. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Regional media councils technical team sits today

By Guardian Reporter

THE Network of Independent Media Councils in Africa (NIMCA) is convening its inaugural strategic meeting today at the UNESCO offices in Dar es Salaam.

Ernest Sungura, the NIMCA chairman and Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) executive secretary, said in a statement yesterday that the gathering brings together the technical team and board members to establish an operational framework for the network, like basic terms of association, and set the ground for the highly anticipated 2025 NIMCA conference slated for Dar es Salaam.

The technical team, confirmed by NIMCA's board members, was assigned specific roles and responsibilities in getting the network off the ground, including completing several key deliverables by the end of the one day workshop.

Its work will emphasize the importance of clarifying NIMCA mission goals, as its vision, mission and core values must be clearly defined to guide its actions and decisions. "This foundational step is crucial for aligning the network's efforts and ensuring a unified direction," he stated.

The strategic focus areas include impact, outcomes and outputs, while the team is tasked with providing input for NIMCA operational plan and budget, he said, elaborating that the NIMCA needs a detailed plan that outlines its activities and indicative budget lines.

This plan will serve as a roadmap for NIMCA's initiatives and ensure that resources are allocated in an effective manner in pursuit of its goals, he said, highlighting the critical task of the team as drafting essential constitution clauses.

These clauses will form the backbone of NIMCA's governance structure, ensuring transparency and accountability, he said, noting

that a robust constitution is important for maintaining the integrity and credibility of the network.

Preparations for the 2025 NIMCA conference is the focus of the workshop, with the technical team laying the groundwork for this event, likely to bring together media professionals news administrators from across Africa, he pointed out.

"The 2025 conference will be a landmark event for NIMCA, and we must start planning now to ensure its success," the national contact officer stated, detailing that the team will compile a comprehensive workshop report detailing roles and timelines. "This report will show who is responsible for which task and when it needs to be completed, thus ensuring that team members are aligned and accountable," he said, intimating that by the end of

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Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemani Jafo (gesturing) holds talks with officials of Bagamoyo Sugar Factory at the facility's premises at Makurunge in Bagamoyo District at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## CSOs pushing for 'front seat' in EAC process of integration

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it is vital to create structured engagement channels for citizens in EAC policy making organs.

Formalizing these channels through a consultative dialogue framework will enhance the participation of the private sector, civil society and other interested groups in the integration process, he stated, asking the EAC to

initiate legislation in that direction for CSOs to "gauge and ensure effective citizen engagement."

Lilian Alex, the East African Civil Society Organization Forum (EACCSOF) executive director, was optimistic about enhancing the role of CSOs in raising public awareness and facilitating regional integration efforts.

Jonnia Mollel, the East Africa Health Platform (EHP) executive

director, underscored the need for mutual recognition of professional organisations in the EAC zone as a critical step in accelerating integration.

Marius Weist, component lead for organization development and outreach at the German cooperation agency (GIZ), stressed the organization's support for EAC integration, pointing at enhancing legislative and

policy frameworks to create more opportunities for CSOs.

GIZ supports CSO-led innovation and is currently inviting applications to further this initiative, as the concerted efforts of Tanzanian CSOs reflect a growing commitment to ensuring that the EAC integration process is inclusive, transparent, and representative of all voices within the region, he added.

## Regional media councils technical team sits today

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the workshop the technical team expects to have a clear and actionable plan to drive forward NIMCA efforts.

"This workshop is a critical step in our journey, and I am confident that our team will rise to the challenge and deliver outstanding results."

The meeting was expected to field a distinguished group of media professionals and consultants, with the NIMCA chairman liaising with Ziada Kilobo, the MCT institutional sustainability specialist also leading the NIMCA secretariat.

Izak Minnaar, a press representative and NIMCA invited member representing the South Africa Press Council, has been instrumental in media self-regulation in South Africa.

Kennedy Mambwe, the Zambia Media Self-Regulatory Council chairman and a NIMCA board member, was contributing from his vast knowledge in media self-regulation and governance, the group team leader noted.

The consultancy team from Altadvisory.Africa, based in South Africa, includes Michael Power and Wendy Trott, having a wealth of experience in media consultancy and strategic planning. Their insights are considered invaluable to the development of the NIMCA strategic framework.

Several MCT consultants feature in the technical team, like Elizabeth Wachuka, Derek Murusuri, Josephat Mwanzi and Bryan Tosh, each bringing unique skills and perspectives to the table, he further noted.

This will ensure a comprehensive approach to NIMCA strategic planning as their roles are crucial in shaping operational and strategic directions, while Victor Bwire, the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) director of training and a NIMCA technical team member, adds his expertise in media training and development, further enriching the team's capabilities, the coordinator added.



Kai Mollel (L), Head of the Business Incubator Division at Stanbic Bank Tanzania, speaks at this year's edition of the Civil Society Organisations Week conference in Arusha city on Saturday. It was during a panel discussion on "The Role and Importance of Financial Investment in Economic Growth in Tanzania and Africa". She is with Hilda Lyimo, a UTT Asset Management and Investor Services Plc representative. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Normal flow of development project funds now returning'

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to these key areas but soon the normal flow of funding will be in place again, he said.

The minister inspected the construction of the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA) Lake Zone campus, being built at the cost of over 7.8bn/- since early 2022.

Prof William Pallangyo, the

TIA executive director, said the campus project is in the main complete, and soon enabling the institute to stop renting facilities, as the campus is set for inaugurated on October 12.

It will have the capacity to serve over 24,300 students at once, he said, while the minister expressed his satisfaction with the quality of the work

done as the infrastructure meets the necessary standards. It also accommodates needs of students living with disabilities, he pointed out.

Addressing local residents later, the minister focuses on addressed water supply draw-backs. The Treasury will be working to quicken the flow of funds for water projects, he added.

## 'Democracy Day' forum re-ignites independent candidates campaign

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The weekend event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to evaluate the state of democracy in the country and propose recommendations for improvement, with the veteran UDP (United Democratic Party) chairman asserting that one of the main barriers for women and youth is the requirement to join political parties.

"In these parties, securing a position often requires significant financial resources," he said, intimating that "elections have become auctions," in which case allowing for independent candidates would mitigate this difficulty.

This approach would offer an alternative to depending solely on political parties, he said, urging President Samia Suluhu Hassan to revive the process of drafting a new constitution to achieve this objective, or by amendment.

Prof Anna Tibajjuka, a former cabinet minister, said that while the government is reviewing various law provisions to strengthen democracy, it is equally helpful to address barriers impeding various individuals from seeking leadership positions.

"Our constitution mandates that to vie for a position, one must join a political party. This creates a party dictatorship under the guise of democracy. Why shouldn't independent candidates be allowed?" she demanded in a keynote address.

She urged President Samia to prioritise this reform as a significant step for reform and reconciliation in the governance agenda, acknowledging significant challenges women and youth face in seeking leadership roles.

She all the same encouraged them to persevere, hinting that aspirants often face abuse

within political parties as they are only able to run through the parties.

"Our political parties operate with a Soviet-style central committee," she told the audience, so if a candidate's name is removed by the central committee, there is nowhere they can turn as independent candidacy is barred.

Management by committees in our parties can compromise individual liberties and freedoms, she stated, while Dr Anna Henga, the LHRC executive director, said that becoming an independent candidate is a right. "Forcing people to join political parties to run for office infringes on their rights."

Allowing independent candidates will create more opportunities for women and youth and reduce sycophancy in politics, which often occurs when individuals feel the need to please party leaders for nominations, the top activist declared.

Catherine Ruge, the Chade-ma Women Wing (Bawacha) secretary general insisted that the low participation of women in seeking various positions is tied by lack of enabling legislation and regulations.

Women face additional challenges in electing leaders, she said, demanding that the new constitution consider a more conducive environment for women to vie for various positions without obstacles.

In an afterthought, she remarked that abductions and killings threaten women and youths from participating in seeking leadership roles, while Rehema Omary, the CCM Youth Wing (UVCCM) vice chairperson noted the legal and institutional obstacles that hinder various groups from participating in elections and obtaining leadership positions.

Societal attitudes often undermine trust in women's leadership capabilities, the mobiliser intoned.

## Emergency meet in South Sudan after polls deferral

JUBA

THE government of South Sudan held an emergency cabinet meeting at the weekend hours after it announced that long-delayed national elections would be postponed by two years.

The polls were due to take place this December.

A 2018 peace deal that ended a civil war allowed president Salva Kiir to remain in charge of a tran-

sitional government with his former foe Riek Machar serving as his deputy.

South Sudan, the world's youngest country, has not held national elections since independence in 2011.

The decision to postpone the vote by another two years has not come as a great surprise.

The political leaders of South Sudan have not exactly been racing to get ready for a vote.

# Govt unveils business reports to boost investor confidence

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has launched a series of investment reports showcasing progress in creating a more favourable environment for investment and business in the country, Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) has said.

The reports are part of the ongoing implementation of the seven-year (2018-2024) strategy for improving investment and business environment, TIC said in a statement yesterday.

The launch of the reports highlighted the government's commitment to ensuring that Tanzania continues to be a top destination for investment in sectors such as manufacturing, transport, tourism, construction and agriculture, paving the way for a prosperous and competitive economy, the statement said.

According to the statement, in 2023, Tanzania registered 9,678 projects valued at \$8.658 billion, compared to 8,401 projects worth \$5.558 billion in 2022, a 56 percent increase in investments.

The statement said the government's ongoing efforts to foster in-

novation, enhance efficiency and strengthen public-private partnerships are expected to build investor confidence further and drive Tanzania's economic growth.

Since 2019, Tanzania has taken considerable steps to streamline regulatory frameworks, making it easier for both public and private sectors to thrive, the statement added.



**According to the statement, in 2023, Tanzania registered 9,678 projects valued at \$8.658 billion, compared to 8,401 projects worth \$5.558 billion in 2022, a 56 percent increase in investments**



Members of the Parliamentary Water and Environment Standing Committee pictured at the weekend inspecting Tanga Urban Water Supply Authority's Mowe water treatment plant at Pande village on the outskirts of Tanga city. They were out to review the implementation of water projects funded by the government. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

# Initiative out to plant 10,000 trees in Kazimzumbwi forest

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale, Kisarawe

THE Tanzania Landscapes Restoration Organisation (TaLRO) has unveiled plans to plant 10,000 indigenous trees within the Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserve in the next six months to promote nature.

The initiative will engage residents of Maguruwe Village in Kisarawe District, Coast Region and will also incorporate efforts to strengthen

savings and credit groups in partnership with financial institutions while promoting poultry and bee-keeping activities.

Dr Elikana Kalumanga, a volunteer technical advisor for TaLRO, shared details of the project here at the weekend, saying that the initiative is funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through small grants under the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP).

"This forest is one of the 25 major biodiversity hotspots globally and one of the eight key areas in Africa, specifically within Coastal East Africa where it forms part of the Pugu Kazimzumbwi region," he said.

"It is crucial to leverage our expertise and work with the government and environmental stakeholders to restore the area's natural state by planting only indigenous trees. We will only plant non-native species such as fruit and timber trees in

residential areas to boost household income."

Dr Kalumanga emphasized that the project is focused on the district due to its rich native forests and stressed the importance of shifting the perception that such areas are solely the responsibility of public institutions.

"UNDP has assigned us three main objectives: to plant indigenous trees, to promote an inclusive economy through village savings and credit

groups (Vicoba) and to develop a poultry farming initiative," he said.

Shaban Said, one of the residents of Maguluwe Village expressed optimism about the project's potential to enhance local livelihoods by reducing reliance on charcoal and firewood which contribute significantly to environmental degradation.

"Protecting indigenous forests is vital but people often cut down trees in protected areas due to lack of education and economic alternatives.

They need viable options for cooking because many cannot afford alternatives like gas," he said.

Huruma Jacob, Msimu Ward Community Development Officer, said that the project would economically benefit residents and is designed for sustainability.

Kisarawe District Administrative Secretary Bupe Mwakibete said that the initiative supports government efforts in environmental protection, including tree planting.



Young Scientists Tanzania Board chairman Prof Yunus Mgaya briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for the national YST exhibition expected to be held in Dar es Salaam on September 19. He is with YST representative Dr Gozibert Kamugisha (L) and Karimjee Foundation executive officer Caren Rowland. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Arusha city set to host World Tourism Day later this month

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA is set to host the World Tourism Day celebrations and East Africa's premier indoor travel and tourism show by the end of this month.

The event, organized by Rethinking Tourism Africa (RTA) in collaboration with the Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA), will take place from September 26 to 27.

The significance of this event is underscored by the presence of a high-ranking official from UN Tourism, formerly known as UNWTO, who will preside over the proceedings.

John Saragu, RTA Coordinator, told a press conference at the weekend in Arusha that the UN-Tourism would deploy Marcel Leijzer, the Technical Cooperation Manager, to represent it to the crucial events in tourism industry.

Additionally, American celebrity Michael Ruggiero, renowned for his influential work in media and tourism, will be a major highlight.

Ruggiero's involvement is part of his ongoing mission to produce a groundbreaking documentary aimed at elevating global awareness on Tanzanian tourism.

The documentary, tentatively titled 'Wings Over Tanzania' is being produced in collaboration with his partner Haley Jackson.

Inspired by the legendary flying safaris of Osa and Martin Johnson from the late 1920s, the film is expected to be broadcast on major US television networks, promising to showcase Tanzania's rich tourism offerings on a global scale.

Themed 'Tourism and Peace,' this year's event promises to be a dynamic platform for discussing and promoting global harmony through tourism.

With nearly 600 delegates and exhibitors expected, the event is set to surpass last year's attendance of 450.

Saragu said the exhibition space is nearly fully booked, reflecting the high level of interest and anticipation surrounding the event.

# Campaigners want endorsement of national action plan to cater for people with albinism

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ACTIVISTS and Human Rights bodies have called upon Tanzania to endorse the National Action Plan for people with albinism which still remains a draft.

Speaking to journalists in Arusha at the weekend, the campaigners pointed out that as per the latest 2022 census data, the total number of persons with albinism in Tanzania is 75,000.

Peter Ash, Chief Executive Officer of the Under the Same Sun (UTSS), said the country has seven-times more people with albinism than Kenya, its closest neighbour across the northern border.

UTSS is a non-government organization advocating for the rights of people with albinism in Tanzania.

Ikponwosa Ero, Director of Human Rights Advocacy at UTSS, said the 2019 data indicates that Kenya had around

10,000 people with albinism, but already the country has set aside an annual budget of \$1 million to cater for them.

"But Tanzania with eight times the number of persons with albinism is still dragging its feet in endorsing the country's National Action Plan for persons with albinism," she said.

"So far there are only seven countries in Africa with their national action plans in place, including Angola which actually came up with its own plan after attending a conference in Tanzania, yet the latter doesn't have any, at least yet."

Other countries with National Action Plans for people with albinism are Kenya, Malawi, Togo and Mozambique while the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa have theirs stuck in draft stages.

The action plan seeks to see people with albinism and similar skin disor-

ders get state support on education, health, protective gear and employment.

Meanwhile, in a historic development, a lawsuit has been filed against the government of Tanzania concerning a person with albinism.

Brought by applicants including Centre for Human Rights (University of Pretoria), the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), and the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), the case was heard on September 10 and 11, 2024 at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in Arusha.

The applicants advocate for comprehensive compensation and reparation for survivors of violent attacks against persons with albinism.

They also demand significant improvements in the right to health, particularly in preventing skin cancer and enhanced educational sup-

port through provision of essential tools such as monocular to people with albinism.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF KINONDONI AT  
KINONDONI  
CIVIL CASE No. 59839 OF 2024  
JOVIN BALTAR KAVISHE.....PLAINTIFF  
VERSUS  
YASINI JUMANNE HASSAN.....1<sup>ST</sup> DEFENDANT  
SIMIONI JOHN MLAY.....2<sup>ND</sup> DEFENDANT  
TO:  
YASINI JUMANNE HASSAN - 1<sup>ST</sup> DEFENDANT  
SIMIONI JOHN MLAY - 2<sup>ND</sup> DEFENDANT  
DAR ES SALAAM.

Since the applicant has brought applications which the application instructions are described in the copies of applications which may be available in this court, therefore you are required to appear in this court, by the personal Resident Magistrate or attorney or authorized representative before the date 20th September, 2024 at 09:00am. Therefor matter for mention you are required to bring all document concerned this matter.  
This document is issued by my order and seal of the court this date 13th September, 2024

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT  
REFERENCE IMM/PW/756/29

**APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP  
CLIMENT MAXINE MUHIRE**

Whose photograph provided above, is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. His nationality at present is BURUNDIAN. Country of his origin is BURUNDI. He is Employers of address is P.O.Box 30000, he has been living in Tanzania since 1995

Anyone who knows any reason why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement of facts to the commissioner General of Immigration, P.O. BOX 512, Dar es salaam. User reference: DN.755177

KATIKA BARAZA LA ARDHI NA NYUMBA  
WILAYA YA KINONDONI  
MWANANYAMALA  
SHAURI LA MADAI NAMBAJI 178 LA 2024  
BUILD DSM (T) LTD.....MUOMBAAJI/WAOMBAAJI  
DHIDI YA  
EMMANUEL LUCIAN DAFAY.....MDAIWA/WADAIWA

**WITO KUITWA SHAURINI  
EMMANUEL LUCIAN DAFAY  
POPOTE ULIPO/MLIPO**

BUILD DSM (T) LTD amefungua/wamefungua shauri mbele ya Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba lililopo Kinondoni (mwananyamala). Shauri husika limepangwa kutajwa tarehe 16/10/2024 saa 03:00 asubuhi/mchana mbele ya Mh. J.W. SILLAS Hivyo unamriwa kuhudhuria mbele ya Baraza siku hiyo bila kukosa.

Imetolewa na kutiwa Saini na Mhuri wa Baraza hili leo tarehe 09 Mwezi 09, 2024

## Govt hands over 20 breeding bulls to Farmers' groups at Msomera Village

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Abdallah Ulega has handed 20 high-quality breeding bulls to livestock keeper groups at Msomera village in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

The bulls are expected to help produce a generation of cattle that can yield more meat than the indigenous breeds currently found in the country.

Speaking shortly after handing over the bulls yesterday, Ulega stated that the event marked the fulfilment of the ministry's plan to bring changes to the livestock sector by improving livestock breeds through artificial insemination and providing livestock farmers with high-quality bulls.

"Tanzania is estimated to have a total of 36.6 million cattle, of which 97 percent are indigenous breeds. Therefore, a large portion of meat and milk production in the country relies on these indigenous cattle," he said.

"Our indigenous cattle are resilient to diseases and can withstand the environmental conditions of many areas in Tanzania. However, despite these qualities, these cattle have low productivity in terms of meat and milk. To increase production, one method is to breed hybrid cattle and improve management conditions, including nutrition. Indigenous cattle can produce between 80 to 120 kilograms

of meat, but with improvements, they can produce between 150 to 200 kilograms."

The minister also highlighted the efforts of the government to secure international markets, which have resulted in a rapid increase in demand for products such as meat from Tanzania. For example, meat exports have increased from 10,415 tonnes valued at \$42.5 million in 2021/2022 to 14,701.10 tonnes valued at \$61.4 million in the 2022/2023 financial year.

"To sustain the market and meet meat quality standards, the ministry is taking steps to improve livestock, nutrition, access to water and animal health, aimed at increasing production and meat quality. This includes ensuring that farmers have access to high-quality breeding stock," he said.

He noted that in the 2023/2024 financial year, the ministry purchased 200 Boran bulls worth 511.2m/-, with Msomera Livestock Village receiving 20 bulls.

Moreover, in the 2024/2025 financial year, the ministry plans to purchase 66 American Brahman bulls worth 990m/-. "The bulls will be loaned to farmers interest-free for two years through the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB). This loan arrangement is designed to ensure sustainability of the initiative by using the funds to pur-



Bumbuli District Council chairman Amiri Sheiza (2nd-R) presents a tablet to a councillor at the weekend. Financial year 2023/2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024) saw the council spend its own funds on the purchase of 42 tablets, valued at a total of 10.5m/-. Out of these, 24 were issued to councillors and the rest to the council's heads of department - all for official use. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

chase more bulls," he said.

Ulega encouraged all livestock keepers in the country to shift from traditional farming methods and embrace commercial livestock farm-

ing. A key step towards this is using high-quality livestock breeds that can produce more yields. According to him, the government will continue to ensure that Msomera Village becomes

a model livestock village. The government will provide all essential services for livestock, including dips, markets, milk collection centres, slaughterhouses, feed and water.

## Govt chooses dialogue to resolve conflicts between pastoralists, Ruaha National Park

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) has launched a new strategy to address conflicts between pastoralists and Ruaha National Park.

The approach involves holding joint meetings with park officials, pastoralists and government leaders to discuss potential solutions.

Godwell Ole Meing'ataki, Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner

at Ruaha National Park, said this at the weekend during a meeting held at TANAPA Southern Zone offices in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region. It was attended by Mbarali District Defence and Security Committee, representatives of the pastoralists, park rangers, TANAPA Southern Zone officials and officials from 11 wards bordering the park.

Ole Meing'ataki noted that the Usangu Basin within the park has been

flooded by livestock, hence threatening the park's ecosystem.

He explained that the basin is a crucial water source for the Great Ruaha River, which supports the park's wildlife and provides water for electricity generation at the Mtera, Kidatu and Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project.

He warned that ongoing livestock intrusion could result in the spread of dangerous diseases such as anthrax, Rift Valley fever and foot-and-mouth

disease between livestock and wildlife.

Additionally, the presence of livestock in the park has led predators like lions and leopards to prey on livestock rather than wild animals, increasing the likelihood of the predators entering human settlements.

Mbarali District Commissioner Colonel Maulid Surumbu commended TANAPA's initiative, expressing hope that the meetings would lead to

peaceful resolutions of the conflicts.

He urged TANAPA officials to use the meetings as an opportunity to educate pastoralists on the importance of preserving the park and advised pastoralists to follow the guidance for their benefit.

Surumbu also recommended that pastoralists familiarise themselves with the livestock policies, laws, regulations and guidelines from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to

prevent conflicts.

Barick Julius, Secretary of Mbarali District Pastoralists' Association, proposed the formation of a special committee to manage livestock found inside the park before imposing severe penalties such as legal action or confiscation.

He emphasised that providing education is crucial to avoid the harsh penalties that pastoralists have faced in the past.

## Tanzania to start producing surplus sugar, export by 2027, says minister

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA will no longer import sugar but export surplus sweetener by 2027, the government has announced.

Dr Selemani Jafo, Minister for Industry and Trade, made the affirmation at the weekend in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, when visiting Bagamoyo Sugar factory which sits on 10,000 hectares of land.

Dr Jafo said that with the state of sugar production and factories that are being built in various places, by 2027 the country will be self-sufficient in sugar.

"Our consumption per year is 800,000 tonnes and by 2027 we will produce that capacity and surplus. So, we will no longer have a reason to import sugar from abroad; we will be selling it to those who have a sugar gap," said Jafo.

He said he had already visited the Kilimanjaro Sugar factory that produces an average of 120,000 tonnes of sugar per year.

Jafo said Bagamoyo Sugar factory which produces 80,000 tonnes per year will increase production to 100,000 tonnes after expansion.

"Kagera sugar produces between 130,000 to 150,000 tonnes, Kilombero produces 131,000 tonnes and they are conducting expansion to produce 270,000 tonnes," he said.

"So if you combine all these tonnes by 2027, if there are no disasters, that means we will not have a shortage of sugar and we will have no reason to import sugar."

He said the government will continue to protect the factories to ensure that they continue to perform well and produce a lot of sugar that will meet the needs of the country and sell surplus abroad.

Minister Jafo said the government owns shares in some sugar factories, so it must focus on providing them with a good environment so that they can continue to produce sugar in abundance.

Hussein Sufiani, Bakhresa Group Company Public Relations Director, said the factory has the capacity to process 1,500 tonnes of sugar cane per day and its construction was completed in 2022.

He said the factory is expected to produce 30,000 tonnes of sugar in the first phase and when all phases of the project are completed, it will have the capacity to produce 100,000 tons of sugar annually.



Iramba district commissioner Suleiman Mwenda addresses a meeting at Kisana village in Kisiriri ward late last week, the focus being on ways to resolve challenges commonly experienced in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## Campaigners want more done to raise awareness about sickle cell

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government and health stakeholders have been urged to continue raising awareness about sickle cell anaemia to enhance understanding and prevent under-five deaths that occur due to inadequate treatment.

Sanyu Senga, an activist and sickle cell warrior, made the appeal at the weekend during a campaign aimed at educating the public about the disease.

She highlighted a significant challenge in the country: the lack of a strong advocacy voice for sickle cell disease, which has led to misconceptions among some parents.

"Some parents, upon discovering their children have sickle cell disease, turn to traditional healers instead of hospitals yet others rely on prayer services, forgetting that while faith has its place, professional medical advice is even more crucial," she said.

"We have a responsibility to

further educate the society so that when one finds out their child has this condition, they will seek medical care. I am a sickle cell warrior at 47 years old with a child and this has been possible because I received proper education."

Senga noted that educational efforts have been directed towards various groups, with September dedicated to raising community awareness.

"This is an inherited disease passed down from parents. We advise those who

want to start a family to get tested for their genetic traits, just as we do with HIV testing. Let's apply the same diligence to sickle cell disease to break the cycle," she said.

Arafa Said, founder of Sickle Cell Disease Patients Community of Tanzania, stated that their goal was to raise awareness in the community and ensure proper treatment for those affected by the disease.

"We recognise the challenges we face and believe that you can't wear shoes that don't fit you. We are here to mark

this awareness month, and stakeholders have chosen to support us by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro on behalf of the patients to spread the message," she said.

Dr Allan Anderson, executive director of Sickle Forward, a US-based organisation, said he was leading a group of over 20 activists who will climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for those affected by sickle cell disease in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Our goal is to enhance early identification of newborns so

that treatment can commence promptly in sub-Saharan Africa. During this awareness month, we are collaborating closely with governments and other stakeholders," he said.

He added that they understand the critical need for diagnostic tools to test for the disease to save lives of young children affected by it. So far, they have raised over \$1.2 million to support countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Edna Ntulwe, coordinator of Non-Communicable Diseases in Arusha region, said

that reports show that over 10,000 children are diagnosed with the disease in the country each year, underscoring the importance of continued public education to break the cycle of children being born with sickle cell.

Dr Deogratias Matanda, chief executive officer-Tanzania Sickle Cell Disease Alliance, said of the more than 10,000 children born with the condition, if not identified early and treated, between 70 percent to 90 percent of them die before reaching the age of five.

# Prioritise service to patients over personal gain, health workers told

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Medical Officer Dr Thomas Lutachunzibwa has urged health workers to work hard, observe ethics and always shun selfishness.

Dr Lutachunzibwa made the call in Dodoma at the weekend when closing a two-day training meant to enhance capacity of health workers to control chemical accidents that was organized by the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA).

"Health profession prioritises dignity and serving people and money should not be the criteria when providing health services. Everyone has a duty to use the knowledge to prevent and control chemical accidents," he said.

He thanked GCLA through National Poison Control Centre (NPCC) for assisting to build the

capacity of health workers and enhance control of chemical, biological and radiology risk mitigation.

Yohana Goshashy, Head of NPCC, said that the aim of the training was to enhance the capacity of doctors, laboratory technicians and nurses to control chemical incidents.

"An increase in number of chemical incidents is one of the reasons that pushed the authority to conduct the training to increase awareness of health workers to control chemical incidents. Initially, there was not chemical incidents reported but the region has now been listed among top 10 regions with chemical incidents," he said.

Dr Misana Yango commended GCLA for the training that will enhance efficiency in preventing and controlling chemical incidents in the region.

Tanzania enacted the Industrial and Consumer Chemical (Management & Control) Act, 2003 to man-

age and control chemicals.

The law introduced measures for the control of production, importation, exportation, transportation, storage, handling and placing on the market of industrial or consumer chemicals or chemical products and provides for the carrying out of such controls.

According to data published last year by the Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters, over 825 hazardous chemical incidents - including fires, explosions and harmful chemical releases - occurred since the beginning of 2021, and over 270 incidents occurred last year alone.

"Preventable chemical incidents happen far too often across the country," said Maya Nye, Federal Policy Director of Coming Clean, a member of the Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters.

"Hazardous facilities must be required to do more to protect workers and communities."



Singida municipal director Joanfaith Katarai (L, in specs, holding card) makes remarks in the municipality yesterday moments after a demonstration on the use of voters' cards. It was in the course of two-day training relating to the ongoing countrywide updating of the national Permanent Voters' Registry lined up for Dodoma and Singida regions from September 25 to October 1. Photo: Independent National Electoral Commission

## Zimbabwe to cull elephants to tackle drought, food shortages

HARARE

ZIMBABWE has allowed the culling of 200 elephant for the first time since 1988 amid concerns about food shortages after an unprecedented drought.

The southern African country has "more elephants than it needs," Zimbabwe's environment minister Sithembiso Nyoni, told a parliamentary hearing late last week.

According to local media reports, hunters have been ordered to kill 200 animals.

The elephant hunt will take place in areas where "there have been clashes with humans," including Hwange, home to Zimbabwe's largest game reserve, the head of the Parks and Wildlife Authority, Fulton Mangwanya, said.

Citing the experience of neighbouring Namibia, which has previously culled elephants for human consumption, officials plan to dry the meat, pack it and deliver it to communities that are food insufficient.

The World Food Programme says Zimbabwe is enduring its worst drought in over 40 years. It means there is little to eat in many areas as crops wither away and harvests are poor.

A number of experts and animal rights activists believe the elephant cull could negatively affect the country's image and discourage tourists from visiting Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is home to about 100,000 elephants, the second largest population in the world after Botswana.

The World Wildlife Fund estimates that there are only about 415,000 elephants left on the continent, down from three to five million at the start of the 20th century. Asian and African elephants are considered endangered, with the exception of populations in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, where they are classified as "vulnerable."

## Zanzibar adds halal tourism to enchant more religious visitors

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR is set to host Halal Tourism Exhibition next month as part of efforts to promote a new product that aligns with the island's customs and values.

The exhibition which is conducted for the first time is organized by Zanzibar's Ministry of Tourism and Heritage.

Speaking to reporters here at the weekend, Minister for Tourism and Heritage Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga said that halal tourism is expected to spur growth growth, with revenues projected to rise from \$245.78 billion in 2022 to \$324.96 billion by 2030.

Recognising the potential, Zanzibar government works on initiatives to establish the island as a key destination for halal tourism.

The exhibition will bring together buyers, sellers, service providers and stakeholders in the halal tourism subsector, showcasing Zanzibar as an ideal location. The event will also feature expert panels with speakers from South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Croatia and Malta.

Additionally, on 12 October, there will be a historic event dubbed: "Light upon Light" at Amani Grounds in Unguja, featuring the renowned religious leader Mufti Ismail Ibn Musa Menk.

Zanzibar's Deputy Mufti, Mahmoud Musa Wadi, confirmed that halal tourism is in line with the island's cultural and religious values.

Hafsa Mbamba, Secretary-General of the Zanzibar Tourism Commission, assured that preparations are well underway to ensure the event's success.



### USAID Heshimu Bahari (Respect the Ocean) Project

#### Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 1/2024

#### For support implementation of USAID Heshimu Bahari Project Activities in Target Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar Seascapes

The USAID/Tanzania Heshimu Bahari (Respect the Ocean) Project is a five-year project that aims to improve the ecological resilience and productivity of Tanzania's high marine biodiversity areas. Tanzania's coral reefs are among the world's fifty most climate-resilient reefs based on biological and oceanographic characteristics, and Tanzania's marine and coastal ecosystems support a diverse range of coral reefs, seagrasses, open-ocean pelagic habitats, and mangroves. Not only do the ecosystems support species such as dugongs, sea turtles, and sharks and rays, but they also support a variety of livelihoods such as artisan fishing, aquaculture, and marine/coastal-related tourism activities. Overfishing, poorly planned infrastructure projects, and climate change all threaten not only these ecosystems and their fauna and flora, but also livelihoods and food security. These obstacles, together with the lack of a functional marine management area (MMA) framework, underdeveloped governance systems, insufficient funding, and an unincorporated private sector, severely limit effective management and measurable impact in marine biodiversity conservation.

To help address these challenges, Heshimu Bahari aims to establish an enabling environment and science-driven framework for sustainable MMA and wild-caught fishery co-management by government, communities, and the private sector. The Activity has four integrated objectives:

1. Strengthen an enabling framework for a network of MMAs and fishery replenishment zones (FRZs) for resilient biodiversity conservation, climate resilient communities, and enhanced wild-caught fisheries production.
2. Community co-management of MMAs/wild-caught fisheries and climate resilience strengthened.
3. Private sector investment in MMAs and wild-caught fisheries expanded.
4. Integration of relevant science to MMA and fisheries policy and management improved.

#### Objective.

Heshimu Bahari seeks to award a grants to companies, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, and other organizations to undertake implementation of activities that will enhance sustainable biodiversity conservation and socio-economic outcomes from Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) in Tanzania. In particular, the Project aims to collaborate with the private sector, local communities, Marine Protected Area (MPA) management, and key stakeholders to establish and strengthen Fisheries Replenishment Zones (FRZs). Additionally, it seeks to provide supplemental livelihood opportunities that reduce pressure on marine resources and enhance community resilience to climate change and empower women and youth.

#### Eligible Recipients:

Applicants must be a registered NGO, companies or organizations, whether for-profit or non-profit formally constituted, recognized by and in good standing with appropriate United Republic of Tanzania authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.

- Applicants may only submit one application per prime organization under this APS.
- Applicants from the private sector must include the value of funds they will contribute towards the activity.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of integrated development programs related to Heshimu Bahari priority areas.
- Applicants must have established outreach capabilities with linkages to the beneficiary group(s) identified in the program description. This should be reflected by the incorporation of the beneficiary perspective in the application.
- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. Heshimu Bahari will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind, equivalent to \$25,000 USD or more, and has no anticipated subawards, grantees will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. Heshimu Bahari will assist successful applicants with this process.
- The Project will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.
- Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.
- Applicants must sign the required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications are attached to this solicitation (Annex B) for informational purposes only; Heshimu Bahari will review them with applicants selected for a grant award.
- Applicants will also be required to provide a list of their current USG funding sources.

USAID Heshimu Bahari encourages applications from new organizations who meet the above eligibility criteria.

#### Funding:

It is anticipated that each grant award may range from between Tanzania Shillings 50M-400M, but the final amount will be dependent upon grant activities, number of themes applied, and Seascapes applied, however final negotiation and may be lower or higher than that range. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than two years. The estimated start date of grants awarded under this solicitation is variable, depending on when grantees are selected. Heshimu Bahari anticipates that grant implementation will begin within 45 days following grantee selection. The types of grants awarded will be determined during the negotiation process with selected grantees

#### Application and Submission Information.

Interested agencies are invited to request the APS, along with additional materials, via email at [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com). The additional materials include the concept paper template, list of seascapes, list of required certifications, and the self-assessment form.

The Concept Paper must be submitted in English and must follow the guidelines for page limits included within the template. The Concept should be submitted in electronic to USAID Heshimu Bahari via [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com) and should reference APS No. 1/2024.

Applicants should note the important dates in the schedule of events below:

Submission Period	Due Date	Activity	Due Date
Cycle 1	September 16, 2024 - October 17, 2024	Written Questions Submitted	September 23, 2024
		Responses to Questions	September 30, 2024
		Proposal Evaluations	October 21-30, 2024
		Notification of Applicants	October 30, 2024
Cycle 2	March 1, 2025 - March 30, 2025	Written Questions Submitted	March 10, 2025
		Responses to Questions	March 15, 2025
		Proposal Evaluations	April 1-7, 2025
		Notification of Applicants	April 10, 2025
Cycle 3	June 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025	Written Questions Submitted	June 10, 2025
		Responses to Questions	June 15, 2025
		Proposal Evaluations	July 1-7, 2025
		Notification of Applicants	July 10, 2025

Heshimu Bahari will continue to accept concept papers through **05:00 pm local time, on each cycle closing date (October 17, 2024, March 30, 2025, June 30, 2025)**, or until funds are no longer available. Late or unresponsive applications will not be considered.

#### Applications will be evaluated in a two-step evaluation process:

- The first step is for applicants to submit a concept paper.
- If the concept paper is accepted, successful Applicants will be asked by USAID Heshimu Bahari to submit more detailed application.

Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of Heshimu Bahari, nor does it commit Heshimu Bahari to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, Heshimu Bahari reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the applicants.



Small-time artist Majaliwa Lubeje of Semngano village in Kilulu ward, Muheza District, paints traditional motifs adorning various items – as found late last week. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## New 14-kilometre road billed to augment businesses in Mufindi

By Guardian Correspondent, Mufindi

CONSTRUCTION of the 14-kilometre Mtili-Ifwagi-Mkuta road in Mufindi District, Iringa Region is expected to boost local business growth, it has been said.

The road currently nears completion, with paving scheduled to begin soon and connect Mtili, Ifwagi and Mkuta villages which previously struggled with poor infrastructure.

During his visit to the area recently, Mufindi North legislator and Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Exaud Kigahe said that once completed, the road would create new economic opportunities for residents.

He assured residents that the project progressed well and was on track for timely completion.

Kigahe underscored the road's significance for local farmers and traders who need reliable infrastructure for their economic activities.

He also pointed out that this is the first phase of the project, with the second phase extending from Mkuta, Mdabulo to Ithemi Ward, further facilitating transport of goods.

Lameck Igungi, resident of Mtili Village, expressed optimism that the road's completion will boost trade and agriculture.

Igungi commended the government for the efforts to improve infrastructure which is crucial for rural development.

# Firm to erect gas tank at Dar's Ferry Fish Market

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has reached a legal agreement with Oryx Gas Tanzania to commence construction of a modern gas tank worth 300m/- at Ferry Fish Market in Dar es Salaam.

Ilala MP and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mussa Azzan Zungu, unveiled this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when introducing the project.

Zungu stated that fish fryers at the

market have been experiencing losses due to use of gas cylinders, with only 45percent of the gas purchased is used and the rest is lost.

He explained that the loss prompted the decision to develop a bulk gas tank system where each person would have a pre-paid meter, making gas usage more efficient and affordable.

"Above all, we support the government's efforts to protect our environ-

ment. The smoke from wood and charcoal damages our environment and we stand with the government and our stakeholders," he said.

"We are very grateful to Oryx Gas which has agreed to collaborate with the Dar es Salaam City Council to assist this group of fish fryers in accessing clean and safe energy at affordable cost."

He further said that legal procedures for the project are 90 percent

done, following the government's directive to support citizens and ensure everyone can run their business affordably.

"All Ilala Municipality leaders made efforts to ensure the project's implementation and secured land for this project which benefits traders, the environment, and the nation as a whole," he said.

Ashelly Mbasha, Oryx Gas Tanzania's acting managing director said

the project's implementation is expected to start soon, requesting for the protection of the infrastructure.

"We are installing expensive infrastructure because gas requires high security. Therefore, we ask for protection of this infrastructure for it to benefit all traders," he said.

According to him, Oryx will continue to collaborate with the government and thanked Ilala MP for the innovation that will create a clean

and safe market.

Dar es Salaam City Mayor Omar Kumbilamoto said: "These efforts follow the government's directive to shift from firewood and charcoal use to gas at major markets in Tanzania."

"I urge traders to accept the changes; even though change can be challenging, I believe they will adapt soon. We thank Oryx for providing over 300m/- for the project," he said.

## USADF releases 267m/- to boost sunflower production

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE United States African Development Foundation (USADF) has provided a grant of \$100,000 (267m/-) to Mbungwe Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) to enhance sunflower production for 206 members and over 1,000 non-members serviced by the AMCOS.

Gilliad Nkini, USADF National Coordinator in Tanzania, unveiled this at the weekend during the signing of a two-year contract between Mbungwe AMCOS and USADF for a project running from August this year until August 2026.

Nkini noted that the project is meant to help address the challenge of sunflower oil shortage.

He promised farmers that if they perform well, USADF would provide an additional \$250,000 to continue supporting sunflower production, warning that the funds should not be used as collateral for loans, stating that any tractors purchased would not be used to secure loans until the terms were lifted.

Jessica Ash-Piper, grant and governance expert at USADF, said they are focused on increasing production in 20 African countries.

Eileen Mwakisese, USADF programme manager, explained that the project's goal is to promote economic growth and improve production and quality by focusing on sunflower crop standards.

She added that they would assist farmers by hiring agricultural, business and financial experts, and providing equipment such as motorcycles, office supplies, scales, moisture meters and establishing a seed nursery to combat climate change.

Lomayan Mollie, Mbungwe AMCOS chairman, thanked USADF for the grant, saying that during the 2023/24 farming season, the AMCOS distributed 800 kilogrammes of sunflower seeds worth 30,450,000/- to farmers on credit from Digital Mobile Africa (DMN).

Babati District Commissioner Emmanuela Mtatifikolo pledged to use government experts to supervise the farmers and assured the donors that Mbungwe AMCOS will succeed and secure the additional \$250,000.

Mtatifikolo stated that if the farmers work hard and get more funds, they can become millionaires.



Technicians with the company building the 53.2-km Ruangwa-Nanganga road to tarmac level as well as Lukuledi Bridge – in Lindi Region – busy at work on the strategic bridge at the weekend. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

# Kenya SGR operator, varsity partner to host China's crucial traditional holiday

NAIROBI

AFRICA Star Railway Operation Company (Afristar), the operator of Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi have partnered to host the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival, one of China's most important tradi-

tional holidays.

The event brought together more than 200 participants and featured activities, including traditional Chinese music, dances, drama and poetry as well as the preparation of moon cakes and jigsaw puzzle competitions.

Wang Xinyu, a lecturer at the Confucius Institute, said

the event was organized to promote cultural integration between the two countries. "Through sharing cultural festivals, China and Kenya will enhance understanding of each other."

The Mid-Autumn Festival, taking place annually on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar,

will be observed on Sept. 17 this year. It is a time for families to get together, share moon cakes, and watch the full moon.

Nelson Asienwa, head of corporate and culture at the Afristar, said there is growing awareness among Kenyans of Chinese festivals due to deeper commercial and cultural

ties between the two countries.

Asienwa added that Kenyans really enjoy celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival because it centers on giving thanks for harvests collected by farmers, which is also a common practice among African communities.

Alexander Mwaniki, a student at the Confucius Institute,

said the celebration helped him gain a deeper understanding of the Chinese language and culture that he learned in class.

Joseph Njane, training officer at Afristar, who entertained the audience with Chinese songs together with other colleagues, said he enjoys music from the Asian country because they are

rich in melody while spreading messages of social harmony.

Damaris Mutinda, a construction dispatcher at Afristar, said there is rising popularity of the Chinese language among Kenyans because Chinese investments have created numerous job opportunities for locals.

## Germany signs agreement with Kenya to take in skilled workers

BERLIN

GERMAN and Kenyan officials have signed an agreement in Berlin to promote recruitment of skilled workers who can fill gaps in Germany's labour market and facilitate repatriation of Kenyans who don't have the right to stay in Germany.

The agreement was signed during a visit to Germany by Kenyan President William Ruto at the weekend who met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Scholz told reporters after a signing ceremony that it was an important agreement that marks an effort by Germany and Kenya to cooperate more closely on migration.

"This can help us to compensate for a shortage of skilled workers," Scholz said, adding that Germany is already feeling the impact of such a labour shortage and that it "will be with us for years and decades to come."

Germany has grappled for years with the need to attract more skilled workers from outside the European Union. Experts say the country needs about 400,000 skilled immigrants each year as its aging workforce shrinks.

"On the other side of the coin, so to speak, the agreement provides for effective return procedures for those who have come to us from Kenya but do not have or cannot acquire the right to stay here. They can now return home more easily and quickly," Scholz said.

Ruto said the agreement benefits both sides because it brings together the potential of educated young Kenyans and German technology and resources.

He said that he wasn't worried that the departure of some Kenyans could hurt his own nation's development, noting that Kenya has a large population of young people, with the median age being around 20. He said there were enough to support the further development of both Kenya and Germany.

Scholz said Germany would benefit from the large number of Kenyan IT specialists.

Germany has already signed similar agreements with India, Georgia and Morocco, and will sign one this weekend with Uzbekistan during a visit there by Scholz, according to the German news agency DPA.

The agreement was signed by



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba pictured in Mwanza city yesterday inspecting computers lined up for use by students of the Mwanza campus of the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy. He is on a tour of Mwanza Region. Photo: Vitus Audax

## Help boost participation of special needs groups in leadership roles, CSOs urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

CIVIL society organizations (CSOs) have been urged to collaborate with the government in increasing participation of special need groups in representative levels and empowering youth to access various economic opportunities.

Mercy Sila, Board Chair for the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), made the call here over the weekend when wrapping up the CSO Week which was attended by over 900 participants

within and outside the country under the theme 'Voice, Vision, and Value'.

"It's time for CSOs to become economically independent instead of relying on donors. We must work together with the government to grow national economy, including helping our counterparts from special need groups to secure various representative opportunities," she said.

According to Sila, during the week, over 40 topics were presented by experts, including the National Vi-

sion Plan 2025-2050, inclusive economy, the role of CSOs in boosting the national economy, innovation in reaching communities and youth involvement in accessing various opportunities.

She stated that CSOs have developed a six-year strategic plan 2025-2030 aimed at enhancing efficiency and accountability to yield positive outcomes. "CSOs meet every year to review past plans and establish new strategies and how to implement them for the benefit of the society,"

she said. Judge Iman Abood, President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, emphasized a sustainable strategy for environmental protection and addressing climate change so that future generations can benefit from the natural environment. She said that effective policy implementation and inclusive participation would benefit citizens and drive their development.

"We as civil society organizations continue our advocacy efforts in collaboration with the government and

the private sector to enable communities to take ownership of their development," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the group of people with disabilities, Nemes Temba, a project manager for children's support in Tanzania, said that contribution of CSOs has been significant, bringing about major changes in society and eliminating misconceptions about this group.

"When I was born, there was no light for people with disabilities. Society had misconceptions about a child

born with disability. But today, things have changed; we are trusted, and we can lead," he said.

"I hope that in the next general election, people with disabilities will be among the candidates. I ask for trust and votes because we can make a difference in society in terms of development." Additionally, he urged young people to learn from previous leaders who succeeded in maintaining unity, cooperation and integrity which helped preserve society with good values.



Muheza District Traffic Police commander Leonard Bandola (L) sensitises school bus drivers and various other motorists in Muheza town yesterday on the importance of observing road safety regulations. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Ghana inaugurates new China-aided fishing port

ACCRA

GHANAIAN President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on Friday inaugurated a China-aided fishing port complex in Jamestown, a coastal community in Accra.

Constructed by CRCC Harbor and Channel Engineering Bureau Group Co., Ltd., a Chinese firm, the Jamestown Fishing Port Complex features a range of facilities, including a two-storey office building, a fish market, an ice-making plant, shops, cold storage, a kindergarten, a fire station and a ship repair station.

During the commissioning ceremony, Akufo-Addo expressed his delight at the project's completion, saying it will bolster Jamestown's fishing industry and reduce post-harvest losses.

"The government prioritized this project due to the important role artisanal fishing plays in Ghana's economy and the livelihoods of the people," Akufo-Addo said.

He noted that the new port will create jobs, stimulate the local economy and transform the fishing community.

"It will inject new energy into the heart of this community, with ripple effects across the entire nation," he said.

The president also expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for its longstanding support of Ghana, including its assistance with the harbor project and other key infrastructure developments.

Chinese Ambassador to Ghana Tong Defa officially handed over the port complex, affirming China's commitment to supporting Ghana's socio-economic progress.

"It is a significant infrastructure project aimed at boosting Ghana's fishing industry, enhancing local economic development, and improving the livelihoods of local communities that rely on fishing," Tong said. He said that China considers its solidarity and cooperation with African nations, including Ghana, a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

The project is a symbol of the two nations' joint efforts toward modernization, and a testament to the Global South's confidence in unity and collaboration, Tong said.

## Second-hand shop promotes eco-friendly living in Namibia

WINDHOEK

THE second Hand Concept Store in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, is bringing new life to previously loved, used items and promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle.

Christina Bohm, an architectural designer in her 50s, established the store in 2018 to sell second-hand items, including a selection of quality household

goods, utensils, books, accessories, home decorations, furniture, art, and cultural items, after noticing that many people throwing away items that could still be used.

"Buying second-hand products reduces the demand for new products, minimizes waste, and protects the environment," she said at the weekend.

Initially, she sourced a few

items from friends and relatives and set up a small shop in Windhoek. With demand growing due to customer referrals and social media marketing efforts, she has the current store located in the southern industrial area of Windhoek, where she has been operating since 2020. Her stock now stands at an average of 1100 items, a sharp increase from about 100 items in 2018.

Her business model is simple. People bring the used items to the store. The team assesses the quality and buys them. The items are then cleaned, refurbished, and sold in the store. The most popular are vintage items and Chinese tea sets.

"It's a space of second-hand treasures waiting to be discovered and find a new lease on life," she said. "There is something for everyone."

Over the years, her clientele has grown as more people embrace second-hand shopping.

"In the early stages, we had an average of three customers visiting the shop, but we now receive about 10 walk-ins or more on a good day," she said. "With more walk-ins, it's evidence of a shift toward conscious consumption and sustainable living."

For Bohm, the shop is not

just about shopping; it also aims to drive sustainable living and conscious consumption in the country, promoting the beauty and value of second-hand shopping. She posted educational material on social media to reinforce the message.

The store also packs items in used bags and boxes. It uses innovative upcycling techniques to transform old pieces into unique and stylish creations for

the store's decorations.

Locals laud the store for inspiring a shift in mindset toward shopping.

Selma Tomas, 37, from Windhoek, said she only started buying second-hand items last year after seeing a Facebook post about the store and other items in Namibia. Before that, she considered second-hand items untidy.

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MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## School feeding already grasped, requires administrative harmony

RELUCTANCE to take up scientific solutions alongside inability to spare enough cash for generalised assurance of school feeding programmes to uplift the primary school learning environment in particular remain a problem.

That is why promises to that end have been made for nearly a decade but amid hesitant implementation as in many cases parents have to contribute significant amounts while their means are uneven.

Thus, when the government reaffirms its commitment to providing free primary school education, inability to ensure the supply of school meals for all is still an issue.

Well, yes, the removal of school fees eased burdens on the part of parents. However, the contributions demanded for meals aren't too dissimilar to fees, and the reluctance at times said to be due to inability to pay up remains.

It is well known that after a boy or girl is 15, not too many parents living with bare means of survival are troubled much if their son or daughter leaves school. In fact, many families pick up opportunities like paying for midday meals or morning porridge to tell their children to happily remain at home. The idea of closing out their dreams is often faulty as to the real content of 'dreams'.

It isn't clear that any real progress was made at a midweek national school feeding conference, where reports talk of the presence of a wide range of stakeholders, including teachers, students, researchers, international organisations, policymakers, civil society groups and private sector representatives.

The organisers sought to enhance awareness, share best practices and foster collaboration on the critical issue of school feeding as a critical issue. That was a clear challenge as, on the basis of the current policy set-up, there wasn't much of cross-fertilisation of ideas really anticipated. As a sort of contrast, the contact person was a pro-

gramme manager at HarvestPlus, coming in as a panelist highlighting the work of HarvestPlus Tanzania, a company marketing improved seeds. It is a bit ambiguous these days what improved seeds are all about, as often there is plenty of research on yield boosting for local seeds as well as adding protein into seeds, apparently from the outside.

It appears that this is what was being discussed under integrating bio-fortified crops into school meals. The panelist had less use of the range of stakeholders, focusing instead on ways to direct more private sector input to the supply chain and for schools outreach.

It is meanwhile reported that these recommendations align with HarvestPlus' efforts in Tanzania through the firm's 'advancing availability of bio-fortified foods for institutional markets' project.

This is said to be funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and to be working with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), while the meaning of 'green' is locked in contest. It first traverses improving local seeds and bio-fortification to removing pest attracting sugars by genetic modification while merely citing 'genetic' elicits hypersensitivity in local activist groups.

The good thing is that Harvest Plus and its financial support context are aware of these prerogatives, and so they come up with a three-year initiative to improve value chains for bio-fortified iron and zinc-enriched beans and vitamin A maize. They also wish to promote locally grown school feeding in the project, targeting 400,000 schoolchildren, for regular supply of biofortified crops in school feeding programmes.

It appears magnificent but success depends on precisely how implementation will be executed, with the stumbling blocks similar initiatives have come across over the decades providing useful lessons.

## Developing a start-up ecosystem now leagues away from the past

ENTERPRISE development is now going in tandem with the adoption of various information technology skills to work harmoniously with the wider environment.

Yet plenty of this environment is still a matter of guesswork as to what is possible or available, in which case regulatory agencies are thinking of ways to fill yawning gaps.

It is in that direction that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has entered into an agreement with the technology 'hierarchy' for an information technology start-up ecosystem enhancement project. Nearly everything in the formulation is new.

Countries have different environments in which information technology finds conditions to develop. One online entry aptly describes a start-up ecosystem as a network of resources like investors, public institutions and companies working together to create conditions for newcomers in the information technology industry to thrive.

While chances are that this can hardly ensure that the start-ups will thrive or even merely survive, many will survive if conditions are optimal.

Yes, a start-up ecosystem can be a physical or online space, while the project being mooted is not sufficiently centralised to say that Tanzania is developing a clearly visible information technology hub.

It is also unclear if such a situation is still possible, as in the real start-ups period one had to be close to the technology hub some expertise, networking group or innovators

working at a small workshop down some urban street, etc.

The question comes up as to what it means to create or enhance a start-up ecosystem in the Eastern Africa region, except merely to say that the Japanese agency targets the wider region for similar efforts, not bringing it together under a sort of umbrella facilities.

In these days when regional thrusts or expectations are embedded in some particular project design, the idea of a hub is tempting to many departmental stakeholders.

Hence the talk of the likes of the idea of Zanzibar as a trading hub, Dar es Salaam port as an oil hub, Muhimbili National Hospital or its cardiac centre specifically as a medical tourism hub being in vogue at the moment.

It is thus not surprising that even as the government made a request for such project to be initiated mid last year, it is only now that things are taking shape, with a provisional three-year rollout starting early next year. Scanning the report appeared to indicate that no funds have been committed as yet even as there is considerable goodwill in that direction.

JICA is quoted as having said it is committed to addressing challenges facing the start-up ecosystem while seeking to ensure that the project's outcomes are beneficial to the breadth of the population.

That means the availability and deployment of a usable network of innovators with a vocation to assist start-ups, not just endorsing the projects and that's it.

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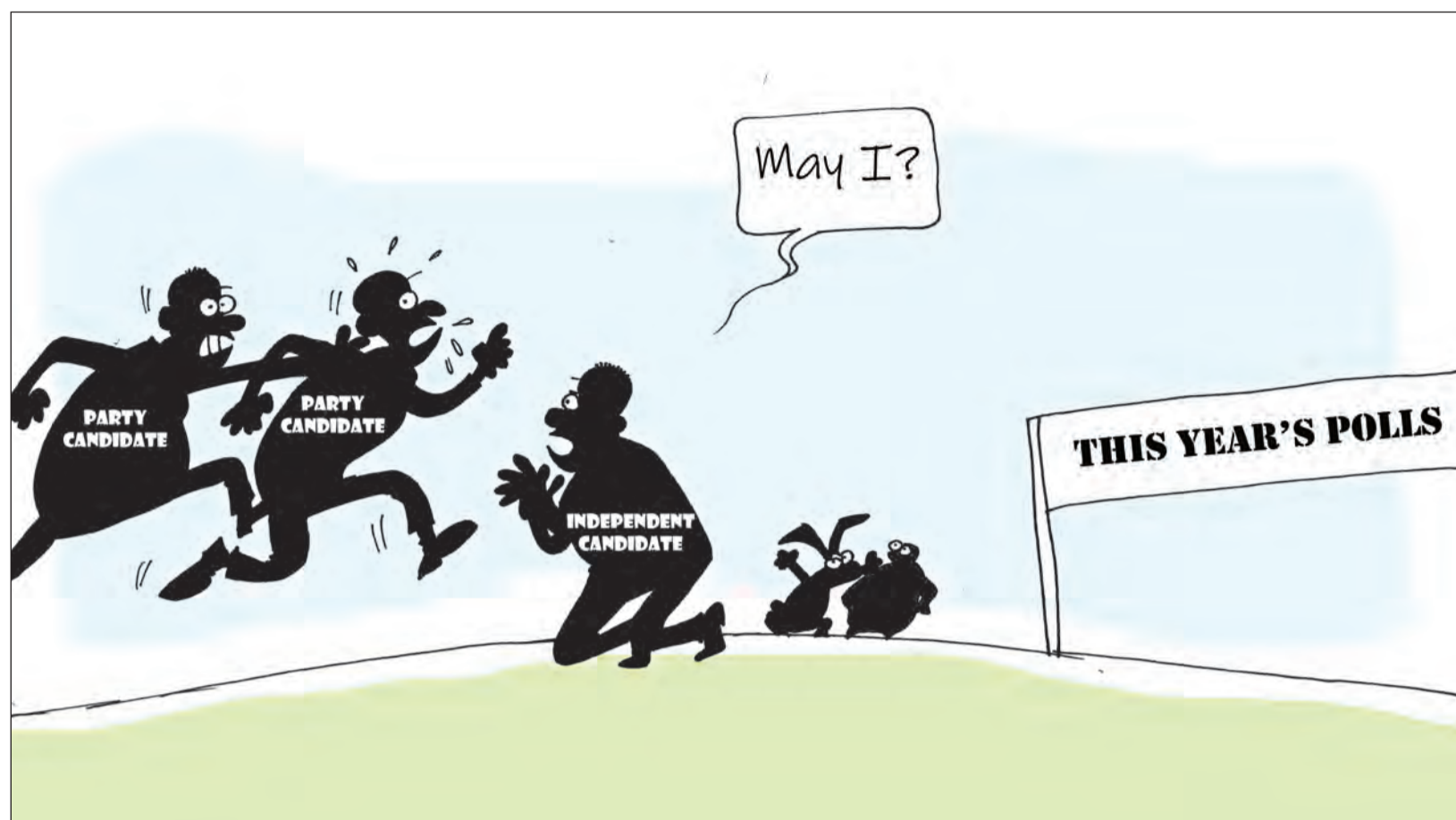
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# What it takes to love your job

By Peter Kovalsky

MY therapist asked me recently - almost in passing, just as small talk - what I like about my job. The answer they were expecting to hear - the answer I was expecting to give - was something vague about helping people or solving puzzles. And it's certainly true, as far as it goes, that I do like helping people and solving puzzles.

"I don't know, because I've never done any work that didn't feel coerced," I found myself saying.

Then we both kind of sat there and looked at each other for a minute while I thought through the implications of what had just come out of my mouth.

I tried to think through the people I know, and know of, who seem to love their jobs. Many, though not all, of them are what I would consider "rich" - not megayacht rich, but they go grocery shopping without checking price tags.

Some have spouses or partners or other family arrangements that put them in this bracket, even if their own individual earnings wouldn't. Most of those who aren't rich but still love their jobs instead live in houses they paid off or inherited.

Now, I know it's both trivial and uninteresting to say that people who are more financially secure are generally happier and better positioned to enjoy their work.

And we're all familiar with diminishing returns - the observation that finding an unexpected US\$100 would have a much bigger impact on me than it would on, say, businessman and investor Elon Musk.

There are also all the truisms about how money can't buy happiness, all the talk about the investment banker who makes a killing but can't find meaning in his life or the lawyer who works so many hours that she never finds time to actually live. So this isn't what I'm saying.

What I'm saying is this: we all have to earn a living, and part of what this means is that we live in a society in which merely staying alive is a thing that has to be earned, and not just once but all the time.

It's Maslow's pyramid, but we're building it on a swamp and it's always gradually sinking. In a world in which the alternative to labour is death, the cost of living is always inherently extortionist.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is an idea in psychology proposed by American psychologist Abraham Maslow in his 1943 paper entitled "A Theory of Human Motivation" in the journal *Psychological Review*. Maslow subsequently extended the idea to include his observations of humans' innate curiosity.

Key takeaways: Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a motivational theory in psychology comprising a five-tier model of human needs, often depicted as hierarchical levels within a pyramid. The five levels of the hierarchy are physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem and self-actualisation.

What it costs to stay alive varies from

person to person and circumstance to circumstance. Some places make staying alive more expensive. Being old or unwell makes staying alive more expensive. Being disabled or chronically ill makes staying alive more expensive. Being poor makes staying alive more expensive. Having children or other dependents makes staying alive more expensive.

To make things a little more concrete: it costs me approximately US\$2,000 per month to stay alive. That's rent and food and bills and health insurance: non-discretionary expenses, fixed costs. (This doesn't include taxes, or mythical things like "saving" for "retirement" that people on TV always seem to be talking about.)

I'm self-employed, and my earning potential is high - I charge, and people regularly pay, US\$300 per hour of my labour. I'm very good at what I do, and my clients are happy with my services. I don't hate the work. How is it, then, that I'm always just barely scraping by, at best?

The problem isn't that there's some part of my job I don't enjoy enough. It's not an issue of drive or motivation. It's that the first US\$2,000 worth of work is always coerced. That coercion is so costly to endure - cognitively, emotionally, energetically, whatever - that it takes me all month to get through it and then I just don't have anything left in the tank to pursue more work.

The really destructive thing here is that because I struggle so much to do that first US\$2,000 worth of work, nearly 100 per cent of my time spent working is also time spent feeling coerced and bearing the costs of that coercion.

Of course, I know intellectually that my resistance is to the coercion and not to the work itself. But because all of my experience of work is also experience of coercion, the emotional association is strong and very hard to overcome.

I would like to think that if I woke up tomorrow and had double or triple the amount of work to do, I would do it and - by doing it - start chipping away at the association.

If I had a really good month such that next month all my work was optional, I could start training myself to regard work as something I was choosing to do.

But, of course, doing the work to create double or triple the amount of work - doing the work to give myself a really good month - is also work and it's also vaguely beyond my reach.

While the mechanics of my work don't change between the first and the 2,001st dollar I'm earning, the emotional stakes are fundamentally different. And the threat inherent in earning each of those first 2,000 dollars is so stark that by the time I've earned them, I'm emotionally spent. By that point, there's no motivation left in the tank. I'm stuck with the productivity analogue of wet feet.

This isn't terribly surprising. Studies have found autonomy to be one of the greatest predictors of job satisfaction. So it stands to reason that, just like people require some amount of autonomy within their work to experience job satisfaction, we would also require some amount of autonomy about our work.

With this in mind, I think the real answer to my therapist's question is: "I like the parts of my job that earn me every dollar after the ones I'm required to spend on keeping myself alive."

I like the parts of my job I can choose to do, and not the parts that are chosen for me. I like the parts of my job that earn me the money I don't need, and resent the parts that earn me the money that I do need, even though the actual work is exactly the same for both.

This has me thinking in a very different way about all those "nobody wants to work anymore" laments. If we think of the ratio of discretionary to mandatory labour as a sort of baseline measure of job satisfaction ... well, of course no one wants to work, because wanting is only possible in the absence of need.

Let me say that part again: the question of whether or not you want something cannot be coherently asked while you need the thing. Need is mutually exclusive with want.

As rising costs of living - and let's take a moment here to observe what a deeply ominous phrase this really is - outpace wage growth, an ever greater proportion of people's labour becomes mandatory. They need to work, which inherently means that they can't want to work.

Which brings us back to the initial question: what does it take to love your job, and who gets to do it? I don't think it's quite as simple as "rich people get to be happy and poor people don't", though that's probably a fine rule of thumb.

I think it's a function of the ratio of total labour to mandatory labour. The reason rich people get to love their jobs is that a relatively small portion of their labour is sufficient to meet their material needs, and therefore a relatively large portion of their labour is discretionary. More (or most) of their time is spent chasing wants.

That's certainly not to say that all people with high incomes (or very low fixed costs of living) love their jobs; rather, it's to say that those people have jobs it is possible for them to love or not love. For those of us stuck

in circumstances where labour is mostly or entirely about meeting basic material needs ... loving or not loving the work isn't even an option.

At the end of the day, an unmet want is energising: it encourages, entices and motivates. But an unmet need is enervating: it depletes, distracts and breeds resentment. Satisfying a want feels like joy or pleasure or meaning, while satisfying a need feels at best like mere relief.

It should come as no surprise that there's no room for loving a thing that, even in its best case scenario, boils down to "well, at least things haven't gotten worse".

Inimitable American actor, television host and former football player Terry Alan Crews teaches us that "it is impossible to love someone and control them at the same time". But the inverse is also true: it is impossible to love a thing that controls you.

I think it's worth striving for a world in which everyone who works at least has the opportunity to love one's job.

I don't know that it's possible to create a world in which everyone's basic needs are met before one ever punches in for the day, but it wouldn't take an enormous stretch to get a lot closer to that world than we are now. We may not be able to eliminate need, but we can certainly nudge the ratios towards want.

Whether we like it or not, we live in a culture in which our work is deeply entangled with our sense of self, with our meaning-seeking and our meaning-making in the world. Our work is the primary socially sanctioned path toward self-actualisation.

The danger here is that, by placing work at the apex of our hierarchy of needs, we make it so easy to forget that it must also be the base.

But, of course, you can't put a capstone on a vacuum; no amount of meaning at the peak is meaningful if the base has sunk into the swamp. You cannot want a thing if you need it; you cannot love a thing if you can't live without it.

Or maybe you can, but I certainly cannot. I imagine that I'm not alone in this. I know that my personal situation could be improved just by working harder - the possibility of job satisfaction exists for me, if I can just get over that hump.

However, I also know that there are a lot of people out there who share the fundamental "if I must, then I don't wanna" wiring and whose material conditions prevent them from simply clocking more hours. These people, too, deserve at least the possibility of loving their jobs.

• **A medium-com dispatch. Peter Kovalsky is a Brain Labs lawyer and translator of legalese into plain English.**



By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

# HakiElimu virtual reality pilot project empowers teachers for the digital era

ONE thing worth noting, which many might not be aware of, is that the world is changing rapidly, with technology playing an increasingly central role in every aspect of our lives, including education.

As the world embraces the digital age, it is crucial that teachers are equipped with the necessary tools and skills to stay ahead, ensuring they can provide the best possible learning experiences for their students.

Technology has introduced interactive learning tools such as educational apps, virtual labs, and simulations. The tools make learning more engaging and hands-on, helping students better understand complex subjects through visualization and experimentation.

Recently, HakiElimu launched a pilot project, financed by the government of Finland that aimed at developing professional teachers' capabilities in a digital environment using virtual reality (VR).

The initiative is part of a collaborative effort between Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) and 3D Bear Oy, with a strong commitment to making the project a reality.

HAMK is leading another initiative, the TVET@WORK project, where the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA), 3D Bear, and HakiElimu are key partners.

Funded by the European Union (EU), the project facilitates teachers training as well as providing essential equipment, such as VR tools, for the Mwanza Teachers Training College (MVTTC).

Godfrey Boniventura, Head of Programmes at HakiElimu, highlighted that the project aims to transform teaching and learning in Tanzania's education system through modern simulation technologies.

"We appreciate the government of Finland for providing financial support for this innovation. The kick-off of this project and its implementation over the next two years marks a pioneering effort to integrate cutting-edge technology into classrooms, enhancing the teaching and learning process," he said.

Boniventura added: "Though I'm not an expert in VR, after viewing several documentaries on YouTube and experiencing 3D Bear's demonstrations during the project induction, I now believe that adopting Virtual Reality will offer our teachers an interactive, engaging, and highly effective learning environment."

He stressed that it's high time Tanzania embraces Virtual Reality and other technological solutions to foster creativity, critical thinking, and address skills gaps in the country.

Boniventura also emphasized the importance of the pilot project's successful implementation to measure its effectiveness and relevance within the Tanzanian context.

"Any positive outcomes will serve as strong evi-



Godfrey Boniventura, HakiElimu Head of Programmes, speaks at the launch of the pilot project meant to enhance teachers' capabilities in a digital environment using virtual reality (VR). Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke.

dence to attract stakeholders to support the scaling of this innovation across more educational institutions, benefiting many

Tanzanian learners," he noted. Dr Bakari Silima, Executive Director of VETA Zanzibar, expressed excitement about collab-

orating with 3D Bear, a leading Finnish educational technology company.

"We are also thrilled to work

with Häme University of Applied Sciences, a community dedicated to making a difference. Our goal is to transform vocational training centres into more interactive, practical environments while reducing workshop costs," said Dr Silima.

He said the collaboration focuses on developing trainers' capacity to use augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) learning environments and provide trainees with access to these immersive learning tools. The project also aims to align AR/VR learning environments with labour market demands and conduct joint research on their effectiveness.

Dr Silima explained that digitalizing learning content in three-dimensional technology, alongside the use of ICT infrastructure, will enable instructors to train numerous students simultaneously across different locations. Recorded class sessions or developed simulation environments can also be accessed by trainees at any time, promoting flexible learning.

"The advent of VR and AR in education has ushered in a new era of immersive learning, allowing students to explore the world without leaving the classroom," he said adding the technologies provide interactive environments that engage students, improve knowledge retention, and enhance vocational training at its centres.

VETA Director, Abdallah Ngodu reiterated the government's commitment to providing equitable and quality vocational training across Tanzania. He noted that the on-going efforts to construct 65 new training centres, bringing the total to 145 nationwide, aim to ensure that every district has access to vocational education.

"It's exciting to note that the project we are celebrating today will benefit children, young people, and adults alike through XR-based learning content. Additionally, it will provide valuable training for teachers in various vocational fields. VETA remains fully committed to supporting these initiatives and is eager to collaborate in achieving our shared goal of delivering quality vocational education," Ngodu stated.

"Our doors are always open, and we look forward to working together to build a brighter future for our country and the world, making it a better place for all to live," he affirmed. "Together, we can equip our teachers and students with the modern skills and knowledge required in today's labor market. Let's stay focused on creating opportunities and making a lasting, positive impact for future generations."

## Investing in school girls' ICT education for inclusive, innovative and equitable future

By Beatrice Philemon

ENCOURAGING school girls to engage in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is of great importance as it helps to build a skilled workforce capable of driving innovation and fostering the country's economic growth.

By making quality digital education and resources accessible to girls, we are helping to close the gender gap in technology. When girls develop their digital skills, they become agents of change, contributing to a more sustainable future.

Engaging girls in ICT also helps in bridging the gender gap, promote equality, and empowering more women to pursue successful careers in technology. The sector offers a wide range of career opportunities that are in high demand globally. Skills in coding, data analysis, cyber security, and digital design can open doors to well-paying jobs and professional growth.

ICT provides girls with tools to create solutions for community challenges, influence society through technology, and express their ideas. It can boost their confidence and enable them to participate fully in the digital economy. When girls join ICT, they contribute diverse ideas that can lead to more inclusive and user-friendly technologies.

The Arusha based E3empower Africa has taken significant steps in this effort by training 500 female students at Arusha Girls High School (AGHS). The training, part of the three-year 'ICT Education for Female Youth Capacity Development Project' funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), is designed to equip students with valuable ICT skills that will benefit them in both academic and professional settings.

Speaking at the University of Dar es Salaam Academic Staff Assembly (UDASA), Ji-Young Rhee, CEO of E3empower Africa, emphasized that the project aims to bridge the digital gender gap, empower young women with critical technological skills, and create an inclusive learning environment.

In addition to ICT training, students also received lessons in computer lab maintenance, software and hardware updates, network setup, STEM subjects, leadership skills, entrepreneurship and counselling.

Teachers at AGHS also benefited from the project whereas they receiving training that allowed them to enhance their lesson content using the ICT lab's resources. They participated in both the installation of the lab and the teaching process to ensure the sustainability of the project.

The impact of the ICT training has been substantial, leading to significant improvements in the academic performance of the students. Since the project's launch in 2021, the number of students achieving top scores (Division 1) increased from 9 in 2019 to 37 in 2022, and



ICT Education equips students with valuable skills that will benefit them in both academic and professional settings.

further to 63 in 2024.

Most of the graduates have pursued higher education, with solid aspirations for their future careers. The school's leadership is committed to maintaining ICT training as a foundational subject, and the number of Form Five students enrolled in 2024 has more than doubled compared to the previous year.

Looking ahead, the school aims to introduce a Computer Science program and dedicate a full-time ICT teacher to ensure continued success. The focus will be on promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and tracking the long-

term impact of the project on academic performance and career development.

Learning STEM subjects empowers girls by giving them the skills to innovate, create, and contribute to solving real-world problems. This knowledge fosters confidence and independence, encouraging girls to break barriers and pursue leadership roles.

Through STEM, girls can contribute to technological advances, environmental solutions, medical breakthroughs, and more. Their diverse perspectives are critical in creating inclusive, innovative solutions.

Students like Jillmagreth Bahendwa and Krishna

Merere, who benefited from the project, expressed their excitement about using ICT skills to further their passions and careers. The project has also provided gender training to empower students with knowledge about their rights and how to navigate legal and cultural challenges.

Despite some challenges, the project has laid a strong foundation for continued progress in bridging the digital divide and serves as a model for similar initiatives in the future. On-going support from the school administration and teachers will be crucial to sustaining the project's success.

# 'Data on extreme human ageing is rotten from the inside out'

By Saul Justin Newman

FROM the swimming habits of dead trout to the revelation that some mammals can breathe through their backsides, a group of leading leftfield scientists have been taking their bows at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the 34th annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony. Not to be confused with the actual Nobel prizes, the Ig Nobels recognise scientific discoveries that "make people laugh, then think".

We caught up with one of this year's winners, Saul Justin Newman, a senior research fellow at the University College London Centre for Longitudinal Studies. His research finds that most of the claims about people living over 105 are wrong.

How did you find out about your award?

I picked up the phone after slogging through traffic and rain to a bloke from Cambridge in the UK. He told me about this prize and the first thing I thought of was the lady who collected snot off of whales and the levitating frog. I said, "absolutely I want to be in this club".

What was the ceremony like?

The ceremony was wonderful. It's a bit of fun in a big fancy hall. It's like you take the most serious ceremony possible and make fun of every aspect of it.

But your work is actually incredibly serious?

I started getting interested in this topic when I debunked a couple of papers in Nature and Science about extreme ageing in the 2010s. In general, the claims about how long people are living mostly don't stack up. I've tracked down 80 percent of the people aged over 110 in the world (the other 20 percent are from countries you can't meaningfully analyse). Of those, almost none have a birth certificate. In the US there are over 500 of these people; seven have a birth certificate. Even worse, only about 10 percent have a death certificate.

The epitome of this is blue zones, which are regions where people supposedly reach age 100 at a remarkable rate. For almost 20 years, they have been marketed to the public. They're the subject of tons of scientific work, a popular Netflix documentary, tons of cookbooks about things like the Mediterranean diet, and so on.

Okinawa in Japan is one of these zones. There was a Japanese government review in 2010, which found that 82 percent of the people aged over 100 in Japan turned out to be dead. The secret to living to 110 was, don't register your death.

The Japanese government has run one of the largest nutritional surveys in the world, dating back to 1975. From then until now, Okinawa has had the worst health in Japan. They've eaten the least vegetables; they've been extremely heavy drinkers.

What about other places?

The same goes for all the other blue zones. Eurostat keeps track of life expectancy in Sardinia, the Italian blue zone, and Ikaria in Greece. When the agency first started keeping records in 1990, Sardinia had the 51st highest old-age life expectancy in Europe out of 128 regions, and Ikaria was 109th. It's amazing the cognitive dissonance going on. With the Greeks, by my estimates at least 72 percent of centenarians were dead, missing or essentially pension-fraud cases.

What do you think explains most of the faulty data?

It varies. In Okinawa, the best predictor of where the centenarians are is where the halls of records were bombed by the Americans during the war. That's for two reasons. If the person dies, they stay on the books of some other national registry, which hasn't confirmed their death. Or if they live, they go to an occupying government that doesn't speak their language, works on a different calendar and screws up their age.



Okinawa, Japan is famous for having one of the highest concentrations of over-100s in the world

According to the Greek minister that hands out the pensions, over 9,000 people over the age of 100 are dead and collecting a pension at the same time. In Italy, some 30,000 "living" pension recipients were found to be dead in 1997.

Regions where people most often reach 100-110 years old are the ones where there's the most pressure to commit pension fraud, and they also have the worst records. For example, the best place to

reach 105 in England is Tower Hamlets. It has more 105-year-olds than all of the rich places in England put together. It's closely followed by downtown Manchester, Liverpool and Hull. Yet these places have the lowest frequency of 90-year-olds and are rated by the UK as the worst places to be an old person. The oldest man in the world, John Tinniswood, supposedly aged 112, is from a very rough part of Liverpool. The easiest explanation is that someone

has written down his age wrong at some point.

But most people don't lose count of their age...

You would be amazed. Looking at the UK Biobank data, even people in mid-life routinely don't remember how old they are, or how old they were when they had their children. There are similar stats from the US.

What does this all mean for human longevity?

The question is so obscured by fraud and error and wishful thinking that we just do not know. The clear way out of this is to involve physicists to develop a measure of human age that doesn't depend on documents. We can then use that to build metrics that help us measure human ages.

Longevity data are used for projections of future lifespans, and those are used to set everyone's pension rate. You're talking about trillions of dollars of pension money. If the data is junk then so are those projections. It also means we're allocating the wrong amounts of money to plan hospitals to take care of old people in the future. Your insurance premiums are based on this stuff.

What's your best guess about true human longevity?

Longevity is very likely tied to wealth. Rich people do lots of exercise, have low stress and eat well. I just put out a preprint analysing the last 72 years of UN data on mortality. The places consistently reaching 100 at the highest rates according to the UN are Thailand, Malawi, Western Sahara (which doesn't have a government) and Puerto Rico, where birth certificates were cancelled completely as a legal document in 2010 because they were so full of pension fraud. This data is just rotten from the inside out.

Do you think the Ig Nobel will get your science taken more seriously?

I hope so. But even if not, at least the general public will laugh and think about it, even if the scientific community is still a bit prickly and defensive. If they don't acknowledge their errors in my lifetime, I guess I'll just get someone to pretend I'm still alive until that changes.



Life expectancy goes to the heart of the global economy

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

## Bridging digital divide via internet hubs in Uganda

**KAMPALA** ONE tech-led charity organization is working in central Uganda to address digital gaps in hard-to-reach communities of Africa by creating internet hubs.

Daniel Okello is a very busy nurse at this health facility located 26 kilometres south west of Uganda's capital Kampala.

He attends to at least 100 patients every day but Daniel is not limited by knowledge when managing their cases.

"If I have a challenge with a patient and I am not seeing the best answer I want from the book, the clinical guide that we keep referring to, I can Google the condition of the patient or the clinical presentation or the symptoms that the patient has told me. And then after Googling, it will show me a variety of options or diagnosis or impressions and possibly even the lab tests required or requested for that patient."

Daniel's work is better thanks to a wireless internet connection, from this innovation called

a Hello Hub.

It is a solar-powered booth built by Hello World with support from partners and host communities

"Our founder Katrin Macmillan paid a visit to Nigeria and some parts of Uganda and realized there is a very big digital gap between the rural and urban set-up. So in the communities that she visited, she realized that one in six children do not have access to education. They do not have access to tablets or digital devices. So bringing this set-up, it is meant to bridge that gap between communities in the rural set-up and those in urban areas," says Jolly Acha, Regional Manager, Hello World.

About three out of 10 people use the internet according to the Ugandan government

Here, each hub is equipped with eight tablets which have educational software for children and adults

The hub's impact to this community has been significant over the past 18 months.



Internet hub in central Uganda

"One boy told me that in two weeks, he got a job using these tabs and internet. The hub has also helped, using these solar panels, to extend the power into our maternity wards. So the mid-

wives are getting it easy whenever the power is off, they just use solar light to continue with their work. Even security wise outside, we have security lights," explains Christine Nantongo, Area Leader.

Uganda has 85 hubs and demand for more is on the rise.

The innovators say they spend about 20 thousand dollars over a five-year period to set up and operate a hub.

They hope that by training people to build their own hubs, more communities will become digitally empowered in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Nigeria.

## Chinese-made machines boost production for African farmers

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

**I**N the heart of Naro Moru, about 173 kilometers from Kenya's capital, Nairobi, a Chinese-made plough has transformed how farmer Peter Kimani cultivates his land. Kimani, who owns the machine, said it has not only made his work easier but has also significantly boosted his harvest.

"I bought this machine a few months ago after searching for an affordable and suitable plough. My search led me to a Chinese company in Nairobi," Kimani said. After visiting the supplier, China's Sincerity International Group, and inspecting the machine, he decided to purchase it for \$1,000.

Kimani was particularly impressed by the machine's features. It runs on diesel, can be linked to a chaff-cutter for cutting fodder, and has sturdy steel wheels, qualities that matched the needs of local farmers.

Kimani, who grows Irish beans and garden peas for export, as well as carrots for the local market, now uses the machine to plough his four-acre farm. "This is my second crop since I started using the plough," he said in a recent interview, adding that he previously relied on oxen to till the land.

Dylan Zhang, sales manager at Sincerity International Group, said that the company provides a range of machines that handle tasks such as tilling, sowing, irrigation, weeding and harvesting, helping Kenyan farmers improve labor efficiency and increase production.

"Our goal is to ease the burden on rural labor and improve production efficiency," Zhang said. "For many years, farming relied heavily on manual labor, making the work arduous for farmers. With advancements in science and technology, we are integrating mechanization into agriculture to enhance productivity."

Zhang said that Sincerity International has distributors across Kenya, making it easy for both small- and large-scale farmers to access quality machinery at affordable prices. "Our prices range from as low as 54 dollars to 1,163 dollars for general, sowing, irrigation, semi-processing and micro-tillage machines," he noted.

The company's efforts align with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013, which aims to support Africa's agricultural sector by investing in infrastructure, research and mechanization to boost food security. Cooperation within this framework is expected to increase agricultural productivity in Africa and drive Chinese imports of farm products from the continent.

In Kenya, the BRI has facilitated knowledge exchange and the adoption of modern agricultural technologies, with Chinese research institutions collaborating with local universities such as Egerton and Jomo Kenyatta University. These partnerships have led to the development of high-yielding seed varieties and strategies to combat crop diseases.

Experts at a forum in Nairobi on August highlighted the importance of international cooperation in advancing agricultural modernization, tackling hunger and reducing rural poverty. Ye Yujiang, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said that partnerships between China and Africa could enhance food security and improve rural incomes.



Dylan Zhang (5th L), sales manager at Sincerity International Group, poses for a group photo with local farmers at a general machine dealer promotion event in Nakuru county, Kenya.

"As a Chinese agricultural machinery company, we are proud to contribute to Kenya's agricultural modernization, and we are committed to doing even more," Zhang said.

Felister Makini, deputy director general of Research and Partnerships at the Kenya

Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, praised China's efforts in training, technology transfer and innovation, which have helped small-scale farmers increase crop yields.

Kimani said that mechanization among Kenyan farmers

remains low due to high costs. However, he believes that Chinese companies can change this by providing affordable solutions. Before purchasing machines from Sincerity International Group, farmers receive training on usage, repair and maintenance, ensuring

they can operate the equipment efficiently on their farms.

"These Chinese machines are intelligent, automated and precise, which helps improve labor productivity and reduce agricultural production costs. We are very satisfied with the results," Kimani said.

## Africa's youth 'losing faith in authority'

By Special Correspondent

A civil sector 'white paper' on the hopes and aspirations of Africa's youth across 16 Sub-Saharan states, including Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa, has shown declining trust in nearly all figures and institutions of authority.

The recently published African Youth Survey 2024 by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, a private research institute headed by South African entrepreneur and philanthropist Ivor Ichikowitz, surveyed views and opinions of 5,604 Africans, half male and half female, aged 18-24.

In face-to-face interviews, almost exclusively conducted in country nationals' home languages, the survey - the third conducted by the foundation since 2020 - found a marked loss of trust in almost all authorities, formal and informal, with the partial exception of some religious leaders.

Traditional and political leaders across the spectrum were among those who have increasingly lost favour with the surveyed group, the interviews revealed.

Africa's youth constitute the fastest growing demographic on the planet, said the survey overview.

"One of the most important demographic shifts happening across the world today is Africa's burgeoning youth population," commented Ichikowitz in his summary assessment.

"Our continent's total population stands at 1.4 billion - by 2050, it will add (over) another billion people, by which time young Africans will constitute the world's largest source of labour.

"By the end of the century, the population in Africa is projected to reach 4.2 billion -40 percent (of the global total) - and most of them will be in their twenties," added Ichikowitz.

In its investigation of African youth attitudes and views, the survey observed that there is a "remarkable transformation" taking place in Africa, the total continental population nearly doubling to 2.5 billion over the next 25 years.

"This change will not only revo-

lutionise many African nations but also significantly alter their global relationships," it states.

While wealthier country birth rates are falling, Africa's reproduction rate remains high, "driving the most youthful and rapidly expanding population worldwide".

Already, Africa boasts the world's youngest population, with 70 percent of those living in the Sub-Saharan region under 30 years of age. By 2050, African youth are expected to account for over a third of the world's youth and will make up 75 percent all Africans under 35 years of age.

"This considerable youth population offers significant opportunity to drive the continent's current and future growth, but only if these emerging generations are sufficiently empowered to maximise their full potential," says the survey.

There are also problems embed-

ded in Africa's burgeoning youth contingent.

The key difficulty is the loss of faith of the African youth in their leadership, systems of governance and prospects for their own futures, the survey's overall findings show.

But, on the positive side, "the respondents painted a picture that was the polar opposite of the prejudices of the developed world ... showing that Africans, especially the next generation of leaders, actually believe in themselves and their continent."

Claiming to be an "important" and "accurate" indicator of trends, from domestic to global politics, the survey says conditions in a disrupted geopolitical order, with increased volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity, have made African youth perspectives more than merely "important".

"Against this backdrop, the voice

of the African youth becomes even more significant since the continent once again is becoming a proxy battleground for the competing ideologies of an increasingly multipolar world.

"Where do the loyalties of the next generation of African leaders lie; are they blindly pro-American or slavishly pro-Russian? Is it as simple as a binary concept or is it more nuanced? What is the effect of China's extensive Belt and Road initiative?" were among the questions put before survey respondents.

The answers are "fascinating" and "fly in the face of accepted beliefs."

"There is much to warm the hearts of Africa's supporters (in Africa) and abroad, as confidence returns to pre-pandemic levels. But there is much that continues to vex today's youth," it adds.



## BUSINESS



Minerals minister, Anthony Mavunde (R), launches the Tanzania Mining Industry Suppliers Association in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is the association's chairman, Peter Kumalilwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanzania mining suppliers create their association

By Guardian Reporter

In a landmark development for Tanzania's mining industry, the Tanzania Mining Industry Suppliers Association (TAMISA) has officially launched, setting a new standard for local content and supplier empowerment.

The pivotal organization aims to revolutionize the mining supply and service sector by creating meaningful connections among companies, advocating for supplier interests, and advancing local content policies that promote sustainable economic growth.

TAMISA's launch marks a significant step forward in integrating Tanzanians into the mining sector.

The initiative aims to ensure that the country's mineral wealth directly benefits local communities, while fostering innovation and business sustainability



**Integrating Tanzanians into the mining sector through local content is essential for sustainable growth. TAMISA's formation as the official collective voice of mining suppliers will enhance our efforts to address local content challenges and ensure that our mineral wealth benefits our citizens directly,**

within the sector.

Speaking at the launch event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Minister of Minerals, Anthony Mavunde, praised TAMISA's dedication to local content policies.

"Integrating Tanzanians into the mining sector through local content is essential for sustainable growth. TAMISA's formation as the official collective voice of mining suppliers will enhance our efforts to address local content challenges and ensure that our mineral wealth benefits our citizens directly," Mavunde stated.

"We envision Tanzanian companies not just participating in the mining sector but actively manufacturing mining equipment and products. By prioritizing domestic employment and using locally produced goods and services, we aim to foster economic growth, reduce dependency on foreign inputs, and stimulate job creation and skills development. TAMISA's establishment under the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation provides mining suppliers with a crucial platform to advocate for their rights and contribute to a more robust business environment," he added.

Peter Kumalilwa, Chairman of TAMISA, emphasized the organization's goals, stating: "Today marks a significant milestone for the mining industry in Tanzania. TAMISA is committed to empowering mining suppliers, advocating for their interests, and enhancing the business environment. Our core goals include advocating for suppliers, improving trade facilitation, defending supplier rights, and promoting research and technology transfer. By driving innovation and sustainability, we aim to position our members as leaders in the industry."

Kumalilwa further noted, "The mining sector has long been a cornerstone of our economy. To fully harness its potential, we must extend the benefits of mining to the broader economy through the development and empowerment of the local supply chain. TAMISA was created to champion the growth and success of mining industry suppliers, ensuring they thrive in a supportive and dynamic environment."

# BoT records net sale of \$2.50m in forex for July

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) recorded a net foreign exchange sale of US\$2.5 million in July 2024, a sharp increase from the US\$0.25 million recorded in June 2024.

This rise in forex sales was driven by heightened activity in the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM), where commercial banks sold US\$77 million during the previous month.

The BoT actively participated in both buying and selling operations in the forex market, following its intervention policy directives.

The increase in foreign exchange transactions was largely attributed to seasonal factors, including a boost in tourism and crop exports, which lifted market activity.

"Foreign exchange transactions surged in July, driven by a seasonal boost in tourism and crop exports," noted BoT in its August 2024 Monthly Economic Review.

Additionally, steady gold



Tourism, tobacco and gold are the leading sources of Tanzania's foreign exchange earnings. AI generated illustration.

exports continued to play a crucial role, with gold remaining Tanzania's top export commodity, generating US\$3.1 billion in the year leading up to July 2024.

While exports increased, a slight decline in imports helped improve the overall current account balance.

The volume of transactions in the IFEM rose

to US\$15.3 million in July from US\$9.3 million in June 2024.

The Tanzanian shilling saw some depreciation, with the average exchange rate standing at 2,663.76/- per US dollar in July, compared to 2,626.07/- in June.

On an annual basis, the shilling depreciated by 12.6 percent, although the BoT reported no significant misalignments in the

exchange rate.

Looking ahead, forex inflows are expected to further increase, driven by high global gold prices, a rise in tourism, and stronger exports of key cash crops such as cashew nuts, tobacco, coffee, and cotton, as well as food exports to neighboring countries.

The BoT's domestic gold purchase program is also expected to bolster foreign reserves, which exceeded US\$5 billion at the end of June 2024, sufficient to cover over four months of projected imports.

Gold's role in the economy remains crucial, supported by stable mining output and favorable global prices.

Together with traditional exports and tourism, the gold sector continues to anchor Tanzania's foreign exchange earnings.

Foreign currency liquidity showed slight improvements towards the end of June, aided by inflows from gold, tobacco, and tourism.

As one of Tanzania's key cash crops, tobacco exports saw an increase

during the month, benefiting from favorable market conditions and increased demand from international buyers.

Provisional data by BoT show that the exports earning of tobacco reached US\$445 million during the year ended in July this year, more than double of US\$214 million recorded during the year ended in July 2023.

The BoT also plans to diversify its foreign reserves portfolio by purchasing gold from local markets.

This effort, alongside measures to reduce dollarization in domestic transactions, is expected to ease pressure on foreign exchange liquidity.

Despite some depreciation in the second quarter, with a 2.2 percent decline in the IFEM exchange rate compared to a 1.8 percent decline in the first quarter, foreign exchange liquidity pressures eased as inflows from gold and tobacco increased.

The retail exchange rate also saw a 3.2 percent depreciation, up from 1.9 percent earlier in 2024.

## AFDB launches \$2 billion social bond due 2029

By Guardian Reporter

The African Development Bank (AfDB), has launched and priced a new US\$ 2 billion 5-year Social Benchmark transaction due 18 September 2029, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the continental bank.

The bond was launched on Tuesday 10 September and pays a coupon of 3.500 percent with a re-offer yield of 3.574 percent and a reoffer price of 99.664 percent.

The new 5-year USD transaction, issued in a social bond format under the Bank's Sustainable Bond Framework, marks AfDB's second US\$Global Benchmark in 2024 following the 3-year US\$2 billion social benchmark transaction issued in January.

The new transaction brings an on-the-run reference point in the 5-year part of the USD curve, extending AfDB's outstanding curve, and demonstrating the issuer's commitment to maintain liquid lines at key benchmark maturities.

With the final order book closing in excess of US\$3.7 billion (including US\$150 million of Joint Lead Managers (JLMs) interest), and 66 investors participating, the success of this 5-year transaction is a clear vote of confidence from investors in AfDB's AAA credit.

The strong participation from ESG investors representing 25 percent of the final order book



also highlights investors' confidence in the Bank's Sustainable Bond Framework and development mandate.

The African Development Bank's mandate for a new 5-year USD Social Benchmark was announced last week.

Initial Pricing Thoughts (IPTs) were released thereafter at 12:53 UKT at SOFR Midswaps + 42 basis points (bps) area.

Investor demand was strong from the outset as Indications of Interest (IoIs) from AfDB's high

quality investor base accumulated at a rapid pace, exceeding US\$2.5 billion (including USD 150 million JLM interest) overnight.

Books officially opened the following morning, on Tuesday 10th September at 8:01 UKT, with price guidance tightening by 1bp to SOFR Midswaps + 41bps area.

The order book continued to grow throughout the morning, with investor demand approaching US\$3.3 billion (including US\$150 million JLM interest) by 10:19 UKT, and the issuer set the

spread at SOFR Midswaps + 41bps.

At 13:52 UKT, the quality of the order book allowed the issuer to set the size at US\$ 2 billion, as the final order book closed in excess of US\$3.7 billion (including USD 150 million JLM interest).

At 15:58 UKT, the transaction officially priced at SOFR Midswaps + 41bps, equivalent to a reoffer yield of 3.574 percent and a spread of 11.27bps vs the on-the-run 5-year US Treasury (UST 3.625 percent Aug-29).

The geographical distribution highlights a diversified investor base with Americas (47 percent), followed by Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) (32 percent) and Asia (21 percent).

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has become a significant player in the issuance of social bonds, which are financial instruments designed to fund projects that generate social benefits. These bonds align with the bank's goals of promoting inclusive and sustainable growth across Africa.

AfDB issued its first social bond in 2017 and has since raised billions of dollars to support various social projects across the continent.

The bond proceeds are directed towards projects that aim to reduce poverty, healthcare projects, education, gender equality and affordable housing.

## Business leader admires President's pro-business agenda

By Guardian Correspondent

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's pro-business agenda and her iconic 4Rs doctrine are said to contribute in transforming the country into an economic powerhouse and a destination of choice by investors.

The 4Rs stands for reconciliation, resilience, reforms and rebuilding.

Ziad El Khalil, Executive Director of SBC Tanzania Ltd made the remarks over the weekend when speaking at a farewell party for the company's departing CEO and Director Avinash Jha.

He also introduced the new CEO, Paul Richards who has taken over from Avinash, effec-

tive August 1st 2024.

"Tanzania has been an incredible host to our company and the entire business sector, providing a pro-business environment that has allowed companies like ours to thrive. The partnership between public and private sectors has been a model of success. This partnership has never been stronger than it is now with the current administration led by the President Samia," he said, adding: "We are grateful for the support and cooperation that has been extended to us over the years by the government and all its state institutions."

He said the company, being amongst the top 20 taxpayers in Tanzania has since its incep-



SBC Tanzania Ltd staff at a farewell gala in honour of departing CEO and Director Avinash Jha (4th R), presented by Ziad El Khalil in Dar Es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

tion paid over 750bn/- in taxes to the sovereign cut across various categories such as Net VAT, import duty, excise, payroll and income taxes.

"We have proudly increased headcount for full time jobs almost threefold from 545 full time family members in 2001 to 1350 in 2024 and part timers from 350 in 2001 to almost 1500 in 2024. We have created hundreds of thousands of commercial opportunities for individuals and small and medium enterprises to trade with our products across Tanzania," he said.

El Khalil said the departing CEO-Avinash's joined the company in January 2001, a journey marked by dedica-

tion, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

From his early days in 2001 as a Plant manager in Arusha, to his rise to Finance Controller in Dar Es Salaam in 2003, then to Chief Financial Officer in 2006 and ultimately to Chief Executive Officer in 2014 and later invited to join the board of SBC in 2015, Avinash has been a driving force behind SBC's success, who have grown the 2001 sales volume 25 times in 23 years.

His strategic insight and financial acumen, coupled with his ability to inspire and lead, have transformed the company into what it is today.

# NFRA to spend 35bn/- on new cereal storage towers

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Songwe

The National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) of Tanzania is set to invest 35bn/- in the construction of modern warehouses and the renovation of existing cereal storage facilities across the country.

The project will include the building of 12 new warehouses with a capacity to store at least 50,000 tons of cereals, as well as the renovation of six existing storage towers located in zones such as Sumbawanga, Dar es Salaam, Songea, and Arusha.

Dr. Andrew Komba, CEO of NFRA, disclosed that the Tanzanian government has allocated 36.7 billion shillings in the current fiscal year to help the agency increase its food storage capacity.

NFRA currently holds the capacity to store 365,000 tons, but the completion of this project is expected to boost its storage capacity to 700,000 tons by June 2025.

"We're looking forward to being in a position to reserve 500,000 tons in our own warehouses and a total of over 700,000 tons when including additional hired storage facilities," Dr. Komba stated during a visit to the Songwe region, accompanied by the NFRA's Chairman of the Ministerial Advisory Board, Ambassador John Ulanga.

The Tanzanian government's broader goal is to increase the country's food storage capacity to 3 million tons by 2030.

To help achieve this, NFRA has also acquired 19 warehouses from the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC).

Additionally, the agency plans to resume construction of modern silos in regions such as Ruvuma, Songwe, Shinyanga, Dodoma, and Makambako.

Dr. Komba emphasized the importance of the ongoing maize and paddy purchasing program, which President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched to ensure farmers receive competitive prices for their crops—700 shillings per kilogram of maize and 900/- per kilogram of paddy.

The NFRA will continue purchasing ce-



The chairman of the NFRA's Ministerial Advisory Board, John Ulanga (C), admires maize grains during a visit to the agency's Kakozi centre in Songwe over the weekend. With him are NFRA's Quality and Food Storage Manager, Mnadi Talibo (L), and Songwe zone manager Geoffrey Lupenza.

Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Songwe.

reals through February 2025 and may extend the buying season until the next agricultural harvest.

The NFRA's purchasing target includes 650,000 tons of maize for Zambia, 500,000 tons for Congo, and 100,000 tons for the World Food Programme (WFP), bringing the total to 1,850,000

tons. Additionally, the agency aims to buy 100,000 tons of paddy and 50,000 tons of sorghum.

NFRA's Investment and Estate Management Manager, Eng. Imani Nzobonaliba, announced the installation of storage shades to address the current shortage of grain storage facilities.

One such project at the Kakozi center in Songwe will create storage space for 15,000 tons, costing 450m/-.

Currently, NFRA operates 72 purchasing points in eight regions across Tanzania: Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Njombe, Songwe, Rukwa, Arusha, Shinyanga, and Songea.

# Court to hear testimonies about thefts through EFDs

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Kinondoni Resident Magistrate's Court is next week scheduled to hear testimonies from 40 witnesses and review 480 exhibits in an economic sabotage case involving a trader Frank Kalage and three other defendants.

The accused are electronic fiscal devices (EFD) technician Awadhi Mhavile (39), garage manager Ally Msesya (37), and Sinza resident Salma Ndauka (38).

They face a total of 574 charges, including allegations of causing a loss of 917.9m/- to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

During a preliminary hearing before Magistrate in-charge Is-haq Kuppa, the prosecution presented evidence indicating that the accused had been unlawfully issuing false fiscal receipts and manipulating electronic budgetary devices.

State Attorney Tumpale Lawrence, accompanied by Senior State Attorney Emmanuel Medalakini and State Attorney Auni Chilamula, detailed how Meshack Athanas, a motorcycle driver, was found in possession of seven electronic fiscal receipts valued at 128.5m/-, which were allegedly provided by Msesya.

Investigations led to the arrest of Msesya on July 8, 2023, followed by the arrest of Mhavile the next day, who was found with false fiscal receipts and suspected stolen fiscal devices.

Mhavile implicated Kalage as the owner of the electronic devices used to issue the false receipts. On July 19, 2023, Ndauka, the fourth accused, was arrested with ten electronic fiscal devices belonging to Kalage.

Kalage later confessed to using these devices to issue false receipts, leading to substantial tax evasion. The case has uncovered a large-scale criminal operation involving numerous fraudulent fiscal transactions, resulting in a total loss of 971.9m/- for TRA.

The case has been adjourned to September 24, 2024, when the court will begin hearing the prosecution's witnesses.

# Kingolwira health centre receives 20m/- donated facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Morogoro District Commissioner Musa Kilakala has received the various facilities donated by employees of the Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Company through their saccos for the Kingolwira Health Center, located in the district.

Speaking at the event held at the health center, the district commissioner congratulated Alliance One workers for their generosity towards the needy community in their neighborhood.

The workers' donation included 40 mattresses, a washing machine, 200 bed sheets and two laptops, all worth 20m/-.

"I really congratulate the staff of Alliance One for this donation, it is part of your support to the community, especially at this time when you are celebrating 20 years since the establishment of your saccos," he said.

He advised the employees that their dedication to extend a helping hand to the community should not be the last and that they should not wait until another 20 years to pass before they provide such help, adding that charity always begins

at home and the company's home is Kingolwira.

He has advised the employees to develop the culture of helping the surrounding community around them at least on yearly basis, especially when they have made a profit in their lending association," he said.

"The government of President Samia until now has built many health centers and hospitals in many districts in the country, including the Morogoro district, which is going to significantly reduce the number of patients at the Regional Referral Hospital," he said.

He has advised the employees of other companies in the country to borrow a leaf from the saccos at Alliance One by giving aid to the communities around them, because by doing so they become important stakeholders in the country's development in line with the six-phase government that takes at heart the problems of its citizens.

The company's spokesperson, Advocate John Magoti, said that his company had allowed its employees to establish the Saccos 20 years ago and that it also provides them with any necessary support in every step they take.

"The company believes in the power cooperatives such as Saccos, which produce positive results and improve its members' lives economically, and that is why the company always supports these employees, whenever they take steps to move forward to grow their capital.

He said that his company always believes that everything done by the company is for changing the lives of people and the whole society, so that it can live in a better world, that is why the company has accompanied the employees to hand over the aid at Kingolwira Health Center.

The Secretary Cum Manager of Dimon Morogoro Workers Saccos, George Msangya said that the workers have given the support through their saccos and added that the company was previously called Dimon, before it changed its name to Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania Limited.

"This assistance of Alliance One employees supports the efforts of the sixth phase government of President Samia Suluhu Hassan which aims to improve overall health in the country," he said.

Msangya said apart from the aid



Morogoro DC Musa Kilakala(3rd L) receives a washing machine from the Director of Human Resources of Alliance One, Blasius Lupenza(4th R) as part of 20m/- worth donated items by Dimon Saccos. Looking on are the Company's Spokesperson John Magoti(L), the Morogoro regional cooperatives registrar Cesilia Sosthenes (2nd L), Morogoro District Medical Officer, Dr Focus Maneno(3rd R), Chairman of Dimon Saccos Dickson Sika(R) Clinical Officer Incharge of Kingolwira Health Centre Hemedi Kiduba(2nd R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

donation, the workers have also participated in the blood donation exercise held at the health center on the previous day with the aim of saving the lives of patients admitted to the facility including expectant mothers who give birth by cesarean

In his vote of thanks, the Clinical Officer in Charge of Kingolwira Health Center, Hemedi Kiduba thanked the company for the donation saying it was a stitch on time.

"We will now no longer travel long distances to go and wash bed sheets

like before, thanks to the donated washing machine," he said, adding that the center had only one computer for record keeping, and the donated laptops will greatly boost medical record keeping at the facility.

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Speaker of the National Assembly Mussa Zungu has said construction of a 300m/- gas tank at the popular Ferry fish market in Dar es Salaam will increase efficiency and protect the environment.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the launch of the project, Zungu, who doubles as Ilala Member of Parliament said the project will be implemented in collaboration with the Dar es Salaam City Council and Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited.

"We have agreed to collaborate with the Dar es Salaam City Council and OGTL to ensure traders access clean and safe energy at a cost they can afford," said Zungu, adding that they have already reached 90 percent legal agreement with the LPG distributor.

He said traders, especially those frying fish at the market, have been incur-

# Dar Ferry fish market to start using cleaner cooking energy

ring losses from buying gas cylinders, with only 45 percent of the gas being usable due to the gas freezing.

"This is the reason we have decided to construct a bulk gas tank where every trader will have his/her own meter. With the new system, gas consumption will be more efficient and affordable," said the Deputy National Assembly Speaker.

Zungu noted that all these are being done in support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts in environmental conservation. He added that smoke from wood and charcoal damages the environment, and that the gas tank project aligns



with the President's agenda. "We are grateful to the gas selling firm for accepting to col-

laborate with the Dar es Salaam City Council to ensure fish traders have access to clean, safe

and affordable energy," said Zungu.

OGTL Acting Managing Director, Ashelly Mbasha said implementation of the project, which will cost over 300m/- upon completion will begin soon, insisting the company is prepared to ensure protection of the constructed infrastructures.

Mbasha commended the MP for coming up with the idea as well as authorities at Ilala Municipal for supporting the project which will ensure the market remains clean and secure.

Mbasha said that initial agree-

ments have been reached, and they are now finalising processes to start implementing the project.

Earlier, Dar es Salaam Mayor, Omar Kumbilamoto urged traders to embrace the changes, as there might be some challenges.

He commended the Dar es Salaam City Council Director, Elihuruma Mabelya for facilitating signing of the contract for the gas tank project, emphasizing that all necessary permits have been completed.

The City Mayor called upon traders to cooperate with the LPG distributor as they work to support the President's initiatives in promoting the use of clean energy.

As many Tanzanians die each year from respiratory illnesses caused by the use of firewood and charcoal, President Samia is determined to ensure 80 percent of Tanzanians use clean energy by 2034.



## WORLD

## Israeli army: Ballistic missile from Yemen hits central Israel

JERUSALEM / GAZA

A long-range surface-to-surface missile fired from Yemen struck an unpopulated area near Israel's international airport outside Tel Aviv on Sunday, Israeli sources said.

The missile triggered sirens in Tel Aviv and other cities in central Israel, sending residents running to shelters during the morning rush hour.

The Israeli military said in a statement that interceptors were launched but failed to shoot down the missile, which landed in an open area.

Israel's state-owned Kan TV news reported that the missile fell in Kfar Daniel, about 6 km from Ben Gurion Airport. A fire broke out in the area.

Magen David Adom, Israel's national rescue service, said five people were injured while running to shelters.

There were no changes to the Home Front Command's defensive guidelines for civilians.

The incident marks the second time a projectile from Yemen has reached central Israel, following a drone attack by Houthi forces in July that killed one person in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, at least 21 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, said Palestinian security and medical sources.

An Israeli warplane struck a residential house in the al-Tuffah neighborhood east of Gaza City with at least one missile, Palestinian security sources told Xinhua.

The raid killed 10 Palestinians, including three children and a woman, said Palestinian medical sources.

In addition, the Palestinian Civil Defense said in a press statement that at



A displaced Palestinian child carries water containers in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on Saturday, amid the ongoing war between Israel and the Hamas militant group. AFP

least five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike near a school northwest of Gaza City.

Six other people were killed in an Israeli shelling of a tent housing displaced people in the al-Mawasi area west of Khan Younis city in the southern Gaza Strip, according to local sources and eyewitnesses.

The Israeli army has not yet commented on these incidents.

Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip

to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and about 250 taken hostage.

The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip has risen to 41,182, Gaza-based health authorities said in a statement on Saturday.

In addition, Gaza-based health authorities announced in a press statement the death of Palestinian paramedic Hamdan Abu Anaba inside an Israeli prison after the Israeli army arrested him in December 2023.

Palestinian medical sources told Xinhua that Abu Anaba once worked at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis and was arrested at the Netzarim checkpoint in the central Gaza Strip.

Also on Saturday, Hamas issued an urgent humanitarian appeal to save two million displaced people in the Gaza Strip before winter arrives.

are issuing an urgent humanitarian appeal to save two million displaced people in the Gaza Strip before it is too late, as winter approaches, weather conditions worsen, and the displaced people's tents deteriorate," the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said in a statement.

The statement noted that there are 543 shelter and displacement centers in the Strip due to the Israeli military's "forced displacement by compelling citizens to evacuate their homes and safe residential neighborhoods, which is a violation of international law."

According to the statement, 74 percent of the displaced people's tents have become unusable, and 100,000 out of 135,000 tents need immediate replacement.

It confirmed that these tents are completely dilapidated as they are made of wood, nylon, and fabric and have deteriorated due to the sun's heat and the climatic conditions in Gaza, becoming completely out of service.

The statement urged the international community and relevant organizations to act urgently and provide immediate relief to the displaced people.

## Scholz says he won't allow Ukraine to use German weapons for strikes deep inside Russia

BERLIN

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz ruled out supplying Ukraine with long-range weapons in the future, as he fielded questions from people in the east of the country.

Speaking to a gathering of people in the city of Prenzlau, he reiterated his refusal to provide Ukraine with long-range Taurus missiles over concerns that could seriously escalate the situation.

"I said 'no' to that," Scholz said, the DPA news service reported.

According to the chancellor (pictured), permission for Ukraine to strike deep inside Russia would be a problem and he won't allow that.

"This also applies to other weapons, if we were to supply them, that could strike at such a long distance," Scholz said. "That's the way it will remain."

"That's why I'm holding on to my position, even if other countries decide otherwise," he continued. "I will not do that because I consider it a problem."

Commenting on reports that the United States could lift the existing restrictions, he noted that not all assumptions are correct.

Previously, the White House, following a meeting between US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, did not announce that Washington greenlighted strikes with Western weapons deep inside Russian territory.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier told reporters that Ukraine is unable to deliver strikes inside Russian territory without Western assistance because it needs satellite intelligence and flight input data to do so.

According to the president, the current debate among NATO countries is not just about Kiev's potential use of Western long-range weapons, but also whether to get directly involved in the Ukrainian conflict. Putin said Moscow would respond to threats that would be created for Russia.

Agencies



## PM Modi, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince hold meeting, discussions to focus on bilateral ties

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Hyderabad House in Delhi on Monday.

Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the two leaders will hold discussions on entire spectrum of ties between India and UAE.

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and other officials were present in the meeting.

Taking to X, Randhir Jaiswal stated, "A warm welcome for a close friend. PM @narendramodi received HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi at Hyderabad House. Discussions on entire spectrum of India - UAE bilateral relations and future areas of cooperation lie ahead."

PM Modi welcomed Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the two leaders greeted each other with a warm hug. The two leaders shook hands and interacted with each other before proceeding to hold a meeting.

Sheikh Khaled bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in New Delhi on September 8 on his first official visit to India, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, received the Crown Prince upon his arrival. He was also accorded a ceremonial welcome after he landed here in the national capital.

"A new milestone in a historic relationship. His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in Delhi on his first official visit to India. Warmly received by @CimGOI @piyushgoyal and accorded a ceremonial welcome," Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

In the pictures shared by Jaiswal, Piyush Goyal can be seen greeting Sheikh Khaled bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the former receiving a ceremonial welcome. ANI



A Palestinian man rides a donkey-pulled cart in front of buildings heavily damaged in Israeli bombing, in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday, amid the ongoing war between Israel and the Hamas militant group. AFP

## Russia warns of potential nuke reply to Western moves in Ukraine

MOSCOW / PRAGUE

RUSSIA'S patience regarding a nuclear response to Western actions in Ukraine is wearing thin, warned Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's security council, in a message posted on his Telegram channel on Saturday.

Medvedev said while "a nuclear conflict is in no one's interest," Russia has thus far exercised restraint in utilizing its nuclear capabilities in response to Western involvement, particularly concerning high-precision strikes deep into Russian territory. However, he cautioned that "even the greatest patience has its limits."

This warning came following recent US discussions regarding the provision of Army Tactical Missile Systems to Ukraine, which could enable strikes deeper into Russian territory.

The Kremlin has also signaled its awareness of the escalating threat, with the Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov noting that Russia is preparing countermeasures.

'No restrictions'

Meanwhile, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee Chair Rob Bauer said that, from a military perspective, Ukrainians should not be re-

stricted in using delivered weapons.

Speaking after a meeting of the NATO Military Committee in Prague, Bauer said lifting the restrictions on the use of sup-



In this pool photograph distributed by Russia's state agency Sputnik, Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's former president now serving as deputy chairman of the country's Security Council, gives a speech during a concert and a rally of members and supporters of the United Russia political party in Volgograd on March 12, 2024.

plied weapons to Ukraine would be logical from a military point of view.

However, he noted that countries providing these weapons to Ukraine have the right to put limits on individual weapons, adding that there is a political discussion on the matter.

According to the Czech News Agency, debates on restrictions on the use of weapons supplied to Ukraine are taking place at various levels. Italy has introduced them, while countries such as the Czech Republic, Sweden and the Netherlands do not set any conditions for the use of weapons.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned on Thursday that by providing Ukraine with long-range weapons, Western countries risk involving directly in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In such circumstances, Russia would be forced to make "appropriate decisions" based on the new threats, Putin was quoted by Russian media as saying.

According to Western media reports, Ukraine has been pleading with its Western allies for it to use their missiles, including long-range ones, to fire deep into Russian territory.

## Beijing develops China's first large model of atmospheric environment monitoring

ON the streets of Beijing, residents may notice a uniquely designed van with sampling tubes mounted on its roof and the words "Mobile Atmospheric Monitoring" painted on its sides in Chinese.

The van is equipped with a mass spectrometer that can analyze the air it takes in and measure volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the surrounding area within five seconds. It is reported that the VOCs data will be uploaded in real-time to the Supervision-Monitoring-Inspection (SMI) mechanism developed by the Beijing Mu-

nicipal Ecology and Environment Bureau.

The bureau has also developed a large model to support the SMI mechanism, employing advanced technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence. Supported by an innovative monitoring network, intelligent analysis techniques, and an efficient dispatching system, the model has contributed to the continuous improvement of air quality in Beijing.

Data quality is essential as it forms the cornerstone and foundation of large models. To enhance the quality of data, the

large model has created a multi-dimensional sensing system that boasts different functions such as aerial surveillance and ground patrols, and involves economic and social operation data such as electricity consumption. It combines over 200,000 smart sensing devices, collecting hundreds of millions of data points on a daily basis.

The large model has reportedly identified and flagged over 10,000 problems, offering effective assistance in pollution control and regular monitoring.

With the help of remote sat-

ellite sensing technology, the large model can intelligently identify more than 10 types of targets such as bare land, with an accuracy rate of 90 percent. Meanwhile, mobile monitoring vehicles can patrol the ground, measuring VOCs in real-time, achieving second-level response, intelligent traceability, and closed-loop regulation.

"The large model has incorporated over 50 types of databases, including data related to air quality monitoring and pollution sources. It also includes a database focused on environmental protection

knowledge, comprising more than 1 million documents such as environmental standards, regulations, research reports, and papers," said Shen Xiu'e, head of the Beijing Municipal Ecological and Environmental Monitoring Center. These data enable the large model to perform intelligent analysis, forecasting, precise tracing, and clue mining, Shen added.

"Using electricity monitoring technology, we have included over 1,000 key enterprises that emit air pollutants and more than 6,000 monitoring points into the system. If a

company's production facility uses electricity while its pollution control equipment is not in operation, the system will capture and record this anomaly," Shen explained.

On June 20, the model detected that the printing machines and other production equipment of a company were running day and night, but the pollution control facilities appeared to only operate during the day and were inactive at night. After a thorough analysis, the problem was flagged and sent to Beijing's district-level law enforcement depart-

ment for further steps.

In Beijing, there is also an air pollution control platform enabled by the SMI mechanism, which is a large screen showing real-time air quality and forecast results on the left, meteorological data, pollution source data, and dispatch information in the center, and four major categories of problems including mobile sources, industrial sources, dust sources, and environmental hot-spots, along with the results of targeted pollution control measures on the right.

People's Daily



# Huawei, Apple simultaneous debuts draw global attention

NEW YORK

APPLE and Huawei launched their new models almost at once earlier this week, drawing wide discussion about the innovations behind the two tech giants.

Huawei launched the world's first commercial tri-fold smartphone, the Mate XT, on Tuesday, with several technological breakthroughs such as a dual-hinge system and screen-bending features.

Huawei's new release came just hours after the launch of Apple's iPhone 16 and iPhone 16 Plus, both built for Apple Intelligence.

The iPhone 16 lineup's camera system features a 48MP Fusion camera with a 2x Telephoto option, while a new Ultra-Wide camera enables macro photography.

The two company's debuts commanded attention and discussions among media reports, experts, and consumers.

In an article titled "Apple's China rival Huawei just upstaged the iPhone 16 launch," AOL, an American online service provider company, reported that Apple is used to being the main act in the smartphone world each Fall when the tech giant launches its latest iPhones.

"This year, however, one of its top rivals in China has tried to rewrite the script." "It shows how confident Huawei is in taking on Apple in the smartphone game as the Silicon Valley firm faces a tricky period in its most important international market," it said.

Jamie MacEwan, senior research analyst at Enders Analysis, told Business Insider that despite the "eye-catching" Mate XT targeting a fairly small niche at the very top of the price range, it is a sign of "the return in force of Huawei."

"The close timing of Huawei and Apple's product launches signals the start of a new competitive wave in the Chinese premium market," Amber Liu, a research manager at market research firm



Huawei unveils the world's first commercial tri-fold smartphone, the Mate XT, in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, Sept. 10, 2024. (Xinhua/Liang Xu)

Canalys, told CNN. Key areas of competition will include high-end products, software capabilities, and AI deployment, she added.

Liu said Huawei's rapid recovery "directly challenges" Apple's performance in China, its second-largest market which accounts for over 20 percent of its global shipments.

It also comes after Chinese smartphone makers dominated the top five spots domestically quarterly for the first time, she said, pushing Apple to sixth place.

Since releasing its Mate 60 Pro smartphone series last August, Huawei has

outpaced Apple in the Chinese market, according to a report from Quartz, an American business news website.

In April, Huawei reported a rise in profit for the fourth consecutive quarter, showing resilience against U.S. sanctions.

Meanwhile, Apple's iPhone sales fell 19 percent over the same period – its worst performance in China since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, said the report.

Apple's share of China's smartphone market also fell year-over-year in the first quarter of 2024 from 19.7 percent to 15.7 percent.

According to the report, the company has had to cut prices on some iPhone models in the Chinese market as competition grows with Huawei and other home-grown smartphone makers.

Apple's smartphone shipments in China fell by 6.7 percent in the second quarter of this year, according to data from Canalys. As Washington barred companies like Google from providing Huawei with its Android OS, some analysts projected the ban would cripple the Chinese tech giant's smartphone ambitions and competitiveness. Now, the company (Huawei) is once again making its way back to the top. It's also venturing into new businesses," said a CNN report.

Apple's new iPhone 16 failed to excite investors with long-expected artificial intelligence (AI) features still in test mode even as an industry-first tri-fold phone from Huawei raised the stakes in a battle to dominate the global smartphone market, said a Reuters report. The rise of foldable smartphones reflects a growing consumer demand for more flexible and innovative form factors, said analysts.

In the coming years, foldable smartphones are likely to become more mainstream, potentially reducing the cost barrier and driving higher adoption rates across global markets.

"As screen technology advances and consumer expectations evolve, devices like the Mate XT showcase the future of mobile design – where functionality and aesthetics converge," said a report on technology.org, a science and technology news website.

AI integration is another key trend shaping the future of mobile technology. From image editing to real-time translations, AI is becoming a core differentiator in smartphones.

"The Mate XT's advanced AI features illustrate the growing importance of artificial intelligence in everyday devices, both for enhancing user experience and also for transforming how we interact with technology," said the tech news website.

Xinhua

BRICS is not a platform for settling political scores – Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

MOSCOW



BRICS is not a platform for settling political scores, said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Russia's Sherpa in BRICS Sergey Ryabkov at the photo exhibition "BRICS Family," which is being held as part of the association's media summit.

"BRICS is not a platform for settling political scores, sorting out relationships, even international ones. It is a platform designed to improve the lives of those countries that are part of it and interact with it," the senior diplomat said.

The Deputy Foreign Minister (pictured) stressed that the platform is designed to "be closer to people, closer to normal life, to healthy values."

"This is the task that we are solving by deepening cooperation, expanding BRICS," he added.

While welcoming the participants and guests of the media summit, Ryabkov noted that the event has become "a traditional component of the unification programs, originating from the initiative of Chinese friends who organized the first such forum in 2015."

The Deputy Foreign Minister added that the summit coincided with the celebration of the 120th anniversary of the TASS news agency.

"On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I would like to congratulate the leadership and the entire staff of this wonderful agency, which is the pride and glory of our country, on this amazing anniversary," he said.

"Let's take a look at the exhibition. These are moments in the lives of wonderful countries, each of which is a civilization in itself. We are glad that they are all united under the BRICS umbrella. I sincerely wish you a successful forum, which will be marked by interesting discussions, many meetings and, most importantly, impressions from your stay in Moscow, from your contacts," he added.

About the exhibition

The BRICS Family photo exhibition showcases works by photojournalists from the member countries of the association: Brazil, Egypt, India, China, UAE, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and South Africa. The exhibition reflects the cultural and religious characteristics of different peoples today.

About media summit

Moscow hosts the BRICS Media Summit on September 13-17. The event brings together the heads of leading media outlets from the group's member states and the countries that have applied to join BRICS. TASS is the organizer of the summit.

Agencies

## Kenya's nomadic women spearheading transition to green, equitable future

NAIROBI

MAYANAE Lemojong stands in the middle of her camels, the dry grass crunching underfoot as a gentle breeze stirs the dust around her. She looks out across the vast, sun-scorched landscape of Ngilal, northern Kenya, where the acacia trees stand resilient against the harsh climate.

To the outsider, this land may seem unforgiving, but to Lemojong, it is home – a place worth fighting for. In Ngilal, the fight is led by women like Lemojong, who have taken on new leadership roles to ensure the survival of their families and the larger community.

Once solely responsible for household duties and raising children, they are now stepping beyond traditional roles, advocating for change and shaping the future of their land and people.

Lemojong's biggest dream is to give her children the one thing she said she did not have the privi-



Samburu women sing in Samburu County, Kenya, Aug. 15, 2024. (Photo by Chrispinus Omar/Xinhua)

lege to experience – education. "Education opens your eyes. I want my children to know that the world is diverse, and so should their dreams. The legacy I want to leave for my children is education. I know it starts with being active in making our voices heard and creating a realistic vision for our community," Lemojong said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Ngilal's Samburu community, known for their colorful attire and nomadic lifestyle, has long lived in harmony with nature, grazing livestock across semi-arid lands. But the pressures of modern life, climate change, access to healthcare, and education have forced the community to rethink how they approach these challenges.

And it is the women who are leading the way. Four years ago, the Ngilal people began a partnership with Legado, an organi-

zation that helps indigenous communities articulate their vision for the future.

Together, they developed the Nkishon Supat e Ngilal Legacy Plan, a blueprint for enhancing the community's resilience and sustainability in the face of growing threats.

Women like Lemojong played a pivotal role in creating this plan, which integrates environmental conservation with gender equity and health. "Women have always been the caretakers of the land, but now, we are also the leaders. We are using our voices to ensure that our community not only survives but thrives."

Lemojong explained. For Khadija Lelesara, taking on a leadership role in a community where deeply entrenched culture and tradition sideline women from decision-making processes was a pipe dream.

Lelesara grew up knowing leadership was only a man's job.

"Before we came up with the legacy plan, I would never have imagined myself sitting at the table where decisions are made. Taking part in the Thriving Futures training deepened my perspective on leadership. I am now a committee member in one of our schools," Lelesara said.

One of the most striking changes in Ngilal is how women have transformed maternal health in the community. Maternal health is a key pillar in the legacy plan. For years, access to healthcare was limited, and traditional birth practices were often the only option for Samburu women.

As climate change and prolonged droughts impacted the community, however, it became clear that maternal health needed to be prioritized. In response, the women of Ngilal, with the help of Legado, built a maternity shelter that blends traditional Samburu birthing practices with modern medical care.

The shelter, designed by the community, is attached to the Lolkuniyani Dispensary and features warmer rooms and beds that allow for traditional birthing positions. "We wanted a space where women could feel safe and supported, where they would receive the care they deserve," said Purity Lekipila, one of the women who took part in constructing the shelter.

## Africa CDC calls for strong mpox detection, cross-border surveillance as cases surge

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has called for further strengthening mpox detection and surveillance measures as the total number of cases in Africa climbed to 26,543, including 5,732 confirmed cases and 724 deaths, since the start of 2024.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya, while addressing a special online media briefing on the multi-country mpox outbreak in Africa Thursday evening, said the African continent reported 3,160 new cases during the past week alone, including 434 confirmed cases and 107 deaths, eventually bringing the total number of cases reported this year to 26,543.

Noting that there has been an upward trend in the number of mpox cases since May, Kaseya said the recent upsurge in cases is mainly attributed to the increasing mpox detection capacity of African Union (AU) members. "With improved surveillance, community awareness, and disease management, we are beginning to detect more cases, which has resulted in a declining trend in the fatality rate," Kaseya told reporters.

Data from the AU's specialized

healthcare agency show that the cases were reported from 15 African countries across all five regions of the continent, with a case fatality rate of 2.73 percent.

It said children under 15 years of age accounted for 41 percent of all confirmed mpox cases reported on the African continent so far, and males account for 63 percent of all confirmed cases.

Noting that Eastern and Northern Africa regions are yet to report mpox-related deaths so far, the Africa CDC, in its latest mpox outbreak report issued Friday, said Morocco is the first country in the northern Africa region to report a confirmed case.

Central Africa is the most affected region with 23,761 cases, including 5,588 confirmed cases and 720 deaths, while Eastern African countries have reported 1,644 cases, of which 19 were confirmed.

Noting the rapid spread of the virus since May, mainly among countries neighboring the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country that has emerged as the epicenter of the outbreak, Kaseya underscored the need to further strengthen cross-border surveillance measures across the affected countries.

Xinhua

## CIFTIS to be built into world's most influential fair for services trade

THE 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) will be held from September 12 to 16 in Beijing. Since its inception in 2012, the CIFTIS has been successfully held for 10 sessions. This year's CIFTIS will continue to focus on the theme "Global Services, Shared Prosperity" and keep working to build itself into the world's most influential fair for services trade.

Highlighting its role as an open platform, this year's fair will see a high-level global trade in services summit and more than 100 forums and events, and authoritative reports will be released, said Tang Wenhong, China's assistant minister of commerce.

Since its inception, the CIFTIS has attracted over 900,000 attendees and exhibi-

tors from 197 countries and regions, becoming an important platform for deepening international cooperation on services trade.

This year, more than 80 countries and international organizations will hold exhibitions at the fair, with 13 of them, including Portugal and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, holding independent offline exhibitions for the first time.

France will be the guest of honor for the first time and will build a special pavilion to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and France.

So far, more than 420 Fortune Global 500 and leading enterprises have confirmed their offline participation in

the 2024 CIFTIS. Thirty-seven Chinese local trade delegations, as well as trade delegations of China's state-owned companies and state-owned financial enterprises, have been established. They are expected to facilitate targeted matchmaking and realize more practical achievements.

The latest developments in technology will be showcased at this year's CIFTIS, covering satellite internet, big data and computing power, energy conservation and carbon reduction. It will highlight new services and scenarios in digital culture and tourism, smart education, and intelligent sports.

Over 100 institutions and companies including the United Nations Postal Administration and Philips will present their achievements, unveiling

new technologies and innovations like an AI-assisted orthopedic surgery robot and the integration of the metaverse with real-world data, leading the industry's innovation trends.

Sima Hong, deputy mayor of Beijing, said that the 2024 CIFTIS will include a comprehensive exhibition and a thematic exhibition. The comprehensive exhibition is set at the China National Convention Center, showcasing new achievements and trends in services trade. The thematic exhibition is located in Shougang Park, which will display the latest achievements, technologies, and applications in the digital, intelligent, and green services trade.

According to Tang, in the first half of this year, China's services trade volume reached a historical high for the same period, to-

taling 3.6 trillion yuan (\$507.84 billion), a year-on-year increase of 14 percent. Among them, services exports amounted to 1.5 trillion yuan, up 10.7 percent, and services imports jumped 16.4 percent to over 2.1 trillion yuan.

Tang said that the proportion of services trade in China's total trade volume reached 14.5 percent in the first six months of 2024, an increase of 1 percentage point from the same period last year.

Traditional services such as travel and transportation have shown strong vitality. In the first half of the year, China's foreign trade in travel-related services surged 47.7 percent to surpass 961.7 billion yuan, becoming a key pillar of the country's services trade.

The import and export

of transportation services reached 925.8 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 4.2 percent. Trade in knowledge-intensive services also showed sound growth momentum. Overall, the development of services trade for the whole year is expected to remain stable and positive with the continuous improvement of the trade structure, Tang said.

Trade in services is an important area of international economic and trade cooperation, said Wang Dongtang, a senior official with China's Ministry of Commerce.

In recent years, China's Ministry of Commerce has actively enhanced the development mechanism of trade in services and promoted multifaceted and broad-ranging international cooperation to further expand

the "circle of friends" in services trade, Wang explained.

China has signed services trade cooperation agreements with 15 countries including the United Kingdom, Germany, Singapore, Brazil, and Argentina. It has reached and implemented cooperation documents related to services trade with BRICS countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states, and Central and Eastern European countries.

China strives to establish an open and mutually beneficial network of international cooperation in services trade for win-win outcomes. Moving forward, it will continue to strengthen policy coordination, project docking, and research cooperation with relevant trading partners.

People's Daily

## Judo championships return to Tanzania for sixth edition

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA is set to host this year's edition of the International Judo Club Championships in Dar es Salaam, scheduled for December 4-9, according to an announcement by Innocent Mallya, President of the Judo Association of Tanzania (JATA).

Mallya revealed that invitations have been extended to all African judo associations through the Africa Judo Federation, marking the sixth time Tanzania will host the prestigious event.

Previous editions were held in 2011, 2015, 2018, 2020, and 2022.

This year, Tanzania will be represented by ten clubs from the Mainland, as well as additional clubs from Zanzibar.

Mallya named the participating Mainland clubs as Prison, Police, Jeshi, Stars, JKT, Kinondoni, Kisutu, Budokani, Korogwe, Flamingo, and Okapi.

Judo, a modern Japanese martial art and combat sport, has been an Olympic discipline since 1964.

Developed in 1882 by Kan Jigor,

judo is distinguished from its martial art predecessors through its emphasis on grappling and throwing techniques.

The sport gained prominence after judo schools dominated established jujutsu schools in tournaments hosted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police. As a result, judo became the primary martial art for the Tokyo police force.

Judo practitioners are called "judoka," and they wear a uniform known as "judogi." In competitive judo, the objective is to throw or pin the opponent, or force submission via a joint lock or choke. While strikes and weapons are part of certain pre-arranged forms (kata), they are not trained for or allowed in competition.

The sport is governed internationally by the International Judo Federation (IJF), and top athletes compete in the IJF professional circuit.

With Tanzania preparing to host the championships once again, the event promises to showcase the best of African judo talent and bolster the sport's growth in the region.



## Crisis at Kagera Sugar: Three games, three losses, zero goals

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER a difficult 2023/24 season, Kagera Sugar would have hoped for a more positive start to the new Premier League campaign. However, just three matches into the 2024/25 season, the situation looks grim for the club.

With three straight losses, zero points, and no goals scored, Kagera Sugar finds itself at the bottom of the league table. The team has quickly garnered the reputation of being the Premier League's crisis club - if there can be such a thing so early in the season.

Coach Paul Nkata's side began their campaign with a 1-0 home defeat to Singida Black Stars. The loss was particularly harsh, as it came in the final minute of a match that looked

set to end in a draw.

Despite dominating possession with 55% and managing five attempts on target, Kagera Sugar couldn't find the back of the net.

Their misery was compounded when reigning champions Young Africans defeated them 2-0, inflicting a second consecutive home defeat.

Kagera Sugar's performance was lackluster, registering just 38% possession and a single shot on target, while Young Africans controlled the game.

In their third match, Tabora United handed Kagera Sugar a 1-0 loss, extending the club's winless streak.

As it stands, the Millers have conceded four goals and scored none, with just ten shots on target across three games.

They also hold a meager average of 44% possession, while

their opponents have racked up 23 shots against them.

Heading into matchday four, the team is facing immense pressure. Nkata (pictured), who took charge in preseason, must find a way to turn things around quickly, as another defeat could jeopardize his future at the club.

Kagera Sugar's position at the bottom of the table, coupled with a string of poor performances, has left them staring down the barrel of a difficult season.

The opening three games show that under Nkata, Kagera Sugar are clearly a work in progress. However, selling that idea to the fans is tough. Supporters have grown frustrated after witnessing three consecutive seasons where the team has flirted with relegation.

In the 2023/24 season, Kagera Sugar narrowly avoided

the drop, finishing just two points above the relegation zone. Similarly, in 2022/23, the team finished 10th but only two points outside the bottom four.

As a result, many are concerned that this season will be yet another battle for survival.

While it's still early days, the signs aren't encouraging. Kagera Sugar's slow start cannot be viewed in isolation - it seems to be part of a recurring trend of underperformance. If their form doesn't improve, the team could find itself in a prolonged relegation battle.

Namungo FC, who have also lost all three of their opening matches, are in a similar predicament. Both teams will need significant improvements to avoid being drawn into an early-season relegation scrap.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc Managing Director, Philip Besimire (L), presents a Vodacom jersey to African football legend, Nwankwo Kanu, from Nigeria, during a press event. The retired former Arsenal FC star is in the country to lend his support to the Twende Butiama 2024 cycling tour. Through his Kanu Heart Foundation, Kanu has teamed up with the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation to enhance healthcare services in the country as part of the Twende Butiama 2024 initiative. The event took place at Vodacom's headquarters in Dar es Salaam on September 13, 2024. Photo: Correspondent

## Aussems now urges Singida Black Stars to stay focused despite perfect Premier League start

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SINGIDA Black Stars continued their impressive form in the Premier League with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over KMC FC at CCM Liti Stadium last week.

This win marks their third consecutive triumph in the league, propelling them to the top of the table with a perfect nine points from three matches.

The match saw Josephat Bada open the scoring for Singida Black Stars in the 40th minute, followed by a second-half goal from Elvis Rupia. KMC FC managed to pull one back, but it wasn't enough to stop Singida Black Stars from securing the three points.

The victory places them above second-placed Simba SC, who have six points from two matches. Head coach Patrick Aussems was pleased with his team's performance but emphasized the need for further improvement.

"Since the start of the pre-season, we have worked a lot, and today we see the results of our efforts," Aussems said after the match. "We faced a quality team, and the match was quite open. However, I'm disappointed with the last 20-25 minutes after scoring the second goal. We relaxed too much, choosing to defend rather than pushing for a third goal."

Aussems stressed the importance of consistency throughout

the match.

"We need to be more solid and efficient. We conceded a goal, so we must work on our defense. We also had several opportunities to score more and need to be better in both attack and defense," he continued.

Singida Black Stars have started the 2024/25 Premier League season in excellent form. In their opening match, they secured a 3-1 victory against Ken Gold at Sokoine Mbeya Stadium, followed by a 1-0 win at Kaitaba Stadium against Kagera Sugar, before their latest triumph against KMC FC.

The team has now scored six goals and conceded just two in their three matches, showcasing a balanced approach on both ends of the pitch.

One of the standout players in the victory over KMC FC was midfielder Emanuel Keyekhe, who earned praise as the Man of the Match.

Singida Black Stars now face a challenging series of away matches, starting with Pamba Jiji FC, followed by fixtures against JKT Tanzania and Mashujaa FC. With their current momentum, they will be eager to continue their winning run and cement their position at the top of the table.

On the other hand, KMC FC's slow start to the season persisted with this loss. After earning just one point from their opening draw against Coastal Union, they

now find themselves with only one point after two matches.

KMC FC head coach Abdihamid Moalin acknowledged his team's poor performance in the first half but highlighted their improvement after halftime.

"The first half was very poor, but we improved significantly in the second half. We'll need to review the game to address the mistakes made in the first half," Moalin said. "It's still early in the season. We have three more games in the next nine days, so we'll head back to Dar es Salaam and prepare for the next challenge."

KMC FC will look to bounce back in their upcoming matches against Ken Gold FC, Azam FC, and JKT Tanzania. With only one point on the board, Moalin's side will need to quickly rectify their early-season issues if they are to climb the table.

As the season progresses, Singida Black Stars will aim to maintain their unbeaten streak. Their upcoming matches against Pamba Jiji FC, JKT Tanzania, and Mashujaa FC present them with an opportunity to continue their push for the Premier League title.

For KMC FC, the focus will be on improving their form and addressing the mistakes that have plagued their start to the season. The battle for supremacy in the Premier League is heating up, and both teams will be eager to prove their mettle in the coming weeks.

## Three wheelchair tennis players to attend South Africa camp and tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THREE Tanzanian wheelchair tennis players will travel to South Africa on Thursday to participate in a one-week training camp and tournament, the national wheelchair tennis team's coach, Riziki Salum, has announced.

The players - Monica Boniface, Omari Tumbo, and Aidani Edgar - will be accompanied by Salum, who will oversee their preparations.

According to Salum, the camp will help the players enhance their skills by learning modern techniques of the game.

"Our three players will leave on Thursday, September 19, for South Africa to join players from across Africa in the camp. After the camp, which ends on September 23, they

will participate in a tournament from September 23 to 25. The competition will select ten players to represent Africa at the World Wheelchair Tennis Championship in France next year," Salum said.

In other news, Salum confirmed that Rehema Suleiman, who traveled to Poland on Wednesday, has arrived safely and is preparing to compete in the VI Plock Cup. The tournament will run from Monday to Thursday next week.

Despite facing challenges, Tanzanian wheelchair tennis players have continued to perform well in international competitions.

Earlier this year, Novatus Temba and Hamisi Juma, along with coach Salum, represented Tanzania in the BNP Paribas World Team Cup qualifiers in Portugal, held at Vilamoura Tennis Acad-

emy from May 10 to 16.

The players were sponsored by BQ, which covered all expenses, while the International Tennis Federation (ITF) provided Salum's airfare.

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup is the ITF's flagship wheelchair tennis competition, where national teams qualify through zonal tournaments. The 2024 edition of the tournament will take place at the Olbia Sport Centre Geovillage in Sardinia, Italy, from October 4 to 10.

Salum expressed optimism about the future of wheelchair tennis in Tanzania, noting that despite the obstacles, the team continues to represent the country with distinction on the global stage.



Youth pictured recently during a hockey training session at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Liverpool 'not up to standard' Slot says after shock defeat to Nottingham Forest

LIVERPOOL, England

ALL good things come to an end. Few expected Liverpool's good thing to end on Saturday.

An uncommon perfect run of three wins to start the English Premier League without conceding a goal came to a stunning end at Anfield where Nottingham Forest won for the first time since 1969.

Forest had 30% possession, three shots on target – all after halftime – and only two corners but Callum Hudson-Odoi curled a shot beyond the reach of Alisson in the 72nd minute and it held up in a 1-0 win.

Liverpool's effort was scrappy as passes went astray and touches were often missed. The players looked like they hadn't seen each other for two weeks.

The international break took away 10 players but manager Arne Slot said that was no excuse.

"It's always difficult, but I don't think it had anything to do with it," Slot said.

"Players came back strong and I saw today a team that wanted to fight until the end. That wasn't to do with energy.

"If you look at the goals we scored until now, we scored quite a few from transition moments from winning the ball back, but the other team (Forest) played over our press a lot with a lot of long balls. "Too many individual performances in ball possession were not up to the standards that I'm used to from these players."

Liverpool's best chance was its first when Luis Diaz shot against the near post and the ball ricocheted across the face of the goal.

The amount of possession Liverpool had made the result that much more pitiful for Slot.

"We had a lot of ball possession but only managed to create three or four quite good chances. That's by far not enough.

"If you have so much possession and play so much in their half we need to be much better. We lost the ball so many times in simple situations.

"It is a big setback. If you lose a home game that's always a setback."

AP

## Lionel Messi returns and scores twice as Inter Miami defeats Union 3-1

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

LIONEL Messi made a successful return after a lengthy absence, scoring two goals and assisting on the third to lead Inter Miami to a 3-1 victory over the Philadelphia Union on Saturday night.

The Argentine star winger and eight-time Ballon d'Or winner had not played with Inter Miami since June 1 because of national team commitments and a right ankle injury sustained in a 1-0 victory over Colombia in the Copa America final on July 14.

"A little bit tired because of the heat and humidity of Miami but I wanted to return so much after such a long time away," Messi said in Spanish on the Apple TV broadcast after the game. "I started training with the group and began to feel better."

Messi, who resumed practicing three weeks ago, showed no rust or ill-effects from the injury with his performance. He scored twice in a four-minute span midway through the first half that negated an early goal by Philadelphia.

"What he did was more typical than other things that happened tonight," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said in Spanish. "I am happy that he finished the game and completed the 90 minutes. He felt fine.

Without Messi, Miami went 8-2 and clinched an MLS playoff spot. Miami (19-4-5) also took the lead in the Supporters Shield table with 62 points.

"It's nice to see that his injury has healed and that he's as effective as he was before," Inter Miami midfielder Julian Gressel said.

Luis Suárez had one assist and clinched Miami's win with a strike on Messi's assist during second half stoppage time. It was Suárez's 17th goal of the season.

Messi's first goal in the 26th minute evened it at 1-all. Suárez sent a short pass near the large area, where Messi retrieved it, outmaneuvered Union defender Kai Wagner into the box and converted a shot that landed inside the left post.

Four minutes later, Messi received a crossing pass inside the box and beat Philadelphia goalkeeper Andrew Rick with a 15-yard shot.

Suárez had a goal in the 44th minute overturned after a video review ruled an offside infraction.

"As the game progressed we ran the risk of not controlling the ball," Martino said. "From the last 30 minutes of the first half we managed to handle the ball better."

Messi's mended ankle absorbed a kick by Philadelphia midfielder Quinn Sullivan in the 67th minute as both battled for a loose ball. Messi fell to the ground and favored the ankle but quickly stood and continued playing. Match referee Sergii Boiko assessed yellow cards to Sullivan and Martino, who argued for a stiffer infraction against Sullivan.

AP

## Mbappé and Vinícius score penalties as Madrid gets help from woodwork in win at Sociedad

BARCELONA, Spain

KYLIAN Mbappé and Vinícius Júnior converted penalties to help earn Real Madrid a 2-0 win at Real Sociedad after the host was repeatedly denied by the woodwork in La Liga on Saturday.

Vinícius put the visitors ahead in the 58th minute after an unnecessary handball by former Manchester City player Sergio Gómez gave the Madrid forward the chance to break the deadlock.

Mbappé put the result beyond doubt in the 75th after a video review by the referee determined that Sociedad defender Jon Aramburu stomped on Vinícius' foot in the box.

But before the goals, Madrid had to weather a furious attack by the Basque club that found ways through the defending champion's defense only to be turned back by the goal-frame.

"We probably didn't deserve to win," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "But we knew how to dig in during the worst moments. I value that sacrifice that is often tough to see on a team with the talent that this one has."

Ancelotti's side drew its other two outings in the Spanish league. Its first away victory put it one point behind leader Barcelona before it visits Gi-



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé is tackled by Real Sociedad's Jon Aramburu. AP

rona on Sunday. Madrid opens its Champions League defense against Stuttgart on Tuesday.

Sociedad matched Madrid's pace and punch in a frenetic first half.

Luka Sucic hit the post twice, including a missile that rattled the crossbar in the 25th, and Sheraldo Becker also sent a ball off the crossbar.

On the other end, Madrid relied on Mbappé to provide its main threat, while Sociedad goalkeeper Alex Remiro did well to turn back an Antonio Rudiger header.

Sucic sent another ball off the post from a pass by Umar

Sadiq just seconds after halftime.

"We got lucky with the posts," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said.

But Sociedad was undone when Gómez raised his arm above his head and blocked a shot by Arda Guler, allowing Vinícius to go to the spot where he fired right past Remiro. Mbappé then beat Remiro when he shot one way as the goalie dove the other.

"We played a great game against the best team in the league and one of the best teams in the Champions League," Sociedad coach Ima-

nol Aguilcill said. "We are angry at ourselves because we were better than they were today."

Sociedad has lost all three homes games this season.

Madrid forward Brahim Díaz was substituted in the first half with a leg muscle issue.

"Veteran leadership

Jesus Navas rifled in a powerful shot from a tight angle to give Sevilla its first victory of the campaign after edging Getafe 1-0 at home.

The 38-year-old wing back won the European Championship with Spain this summer,

adding to his 2010 World Cup. Afterwards, he announced he was retiring from international soccer and he would likewise retire from club competition at the end of 2024.

His goal in the 23rd minute relieved some pressure on new coach Francisco García Pimienta.

Sevilla defender Marcão was substituted in the first half after taking a hard knock to the head.

"Espanyol treble

Javi Puado scored a hat trick to lead Espanyol to a 3-2 win at home over Alaves and secure a second consecutive win for the Barcelona-based club that spent last season in the second division.

Puado steered in a low cross to open the scoring in the 21st. He struck again with a glancing header to restore the host's lead in the 56th after Tomas Conechny equalized for Alaves.

The Espanyol forward took the winner from the spot after Nahuel Tenaglia pulled it even at 2-2. Puado converted the penalty earned after goalkeeper Antonio Sivera tripped Walid Cheddira in the area.

Also, Ayoze Pérez scored late for Villarreal to win at Mallorca 2-1. That was his third goal in five games since Ayoze joined Villarreal from Real Betis in the summer.

AP

## England 'could face Euros ban' over regulator plan

By Dan Roan

UEFA has warned ministers that England could be excluded from the European Championship if it is co-hosting in 2028 over "concerns" that a planned independent football regulator could lead to "government interference" in the sport.

A bill to establish a body to oversee the top five tiers of the men's game in England was reintroduced in July.

The UK government has said the football watchdog will "protect clubs" by "ensuring their financial sustainability".

But in a letter sent to Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy and seen by BBC Sport, Uefa general secretary Theodoridis wrote: "We do have concerns remaining... as normally football regulation should be managed by the national federation.

"One particular area of concern stems from one of Uefa's fundamental requirements, which is that there should be no government interference in the running of football.

"We have specific rules that guard against this in order to guarantee the autonomy of sport and fairness of sporting competition; the ultimate sanction for which would be excluding the federation from Uefa and teams from competition."

"Scope creep"

The previous government announced plans to appoint a regulator last year following a failed review, which said such a body was necessary for the long-term financial stability of the men's professional game after issues including mismanagement and plans for a breakaway



Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer met Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin at the Euro 2024 final in July. Agencies

European Super League. The regulator will oversee a licensing system to ensure clubs are run sustainably, take over a strengthened owners and directors test, and give fans a greater say in key decisions.

But Theodoridis warned Nandy: "Uefa is concerned about the potential for scope creep within the IFR [independent football regulator].

"While the initial intent of the IFR is to oversee the long-term financial sustainability of clubs and heritage assets, there is always a risk that, once established, the IFR may expand its mandate beyond these areas."

That "could undermine the established structures and processes of the sport, and amount to government interference", he wrote.

He added that it was "imperative to protect and preserve the independence of the FA", and that legislation that "compromises the FA's autonomy as the primary regulator of football in England" would not comply with the Uefa and Fifa statutes.

"It follows that the criteria defining and evaluating the IFR's independence must be meticulously crafted to

to ensure compliance with the Uefa Statutes and to prevent unwanted implications for football governance".

"Backstop power

The reintroduced Football Governance Bill will also give the new regulator "backstop powers", which could be used to intervene between the Premier League and the English Football League (EFL) after their failure to agree a funding deal. Talks over a so-called 'New Deal' collapsed in March, with the two organisations unable to agree a funding plan.

In his letter, Theodoridis told Nandy that "the concept of a backstop power introduces significant concerns regarding the balance of power within football governance".

He wrote: "Mandating redistribution which effects the competitive balance in the game and wider European competition would be of concern to us. We also fear that having a third party intervene in redistribution would likely prevent amicable solutions being found.

"As we see it, the 'backstop' power, while

intended as a safety net, should be carefully reconsidered to avoid undermining these fundamental principles."

In a statement, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said: "The Football Governance Bill will establish a new Independent Football Regulator that will put fans back at the heart of the game, and tackle fundamental governance problems to ensure that English football is sustainable for the benefit of the clubs' communities going forward."

Privately, officials are said to believe there is no risk of England being banned by Uefa.

"Scare story"

In May, David Newton, the FA's head of football operations, told MPs: "Uefa and Fifa have statutes of their own, which basically prevent state interference in the running of football and football competitions.

"We have worked closely with Uefa and Fifa, and with the DCMS... They have been taken through where we have got to.

"Although we have

not had a definitive view as such, it is reasonably clear that a tightness of the bill relating to football governance is not likely to present huge or significant problems, subject to any changes that may occur.

"However, anything wider would increase the risk of Fifa or Uefa intervention. That is obviously a place we do not want to be, because of the sanctions that may flow, in theory, from that."

Niall Couper, chief executive of football campaign group Fair Game, said: "This is nothing short of a scare story.

"With 58% of the top 92 technically insolvent and annual losses of £10m a year in the Championship viewed as 'a success', football is an industry in desperate need of financial reform. The government should not be derailed by such nonsense."

Last month, the Premier League said it "looked forward" to working with the new government, but that "it was critical that the regulation was proportionate and effective".

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Mbappé and Vinícius score penalties as Madrid gets help from woodwork in win at Sociedad**

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## Gamondi frustrated despite Yanga's 1-0 away victory over CBE



Young Africans attacking midfielder Stéphane Aziz Ki (C) fights for the ball against two CBE defenders during their CAF Champions League second round qualifier held at the Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa on Saturday. Young Africans won 1-0. Photo: Courtesy of YASC.

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

**Y**OUNG Africans Sports Club secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Ethiopian side CBE at the Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa, positioning themselves favourably for the second leg on home soil.

Zimbabwean forward Prince Dube's lone goal put Young Africans in a commanding position to advance to the group stage of the CAF Champions League.

While the victory was a positive outcome, Young Africans' head coach Miguel Gamondi expressed frustration with his team's inability to convert numerous scoring opportunities throughout the match.

Despite the win, Gamondi was left dissatisfied with the team's lack of clinical finishing, which could have provided a more comfortable lead heading into the second leg.

"I'm happy we won, but I'm not satisfied with how many chances we missed," the Argentine tactician stated. "We deserved a bigger victory, but we'll work on this problem. We should have left here with

a much more comfortable lead." Young Africans, who reached the CAF Champions League group stage for the first time last season, showed determination from the start. The match kicked off with an aggressive pressing game, seeking an early advantage, but a combination of missed chances and solid defending from CBE kept the game tight.

Dube was at the center of Young Africans' attacking efforts, with an early opportunity just two minutes into the game, only to be denied by CBE goalkeeper Firew Ge-

tahun Alemayehu.

Despite dominating possession and creating several chances, Young Africans struggled to find the finishing touch, with Dube hitting the post in the 12th minute after a well-delivered cross from Pacome Zouzoua.

CBE also had moments of promise, particularly when Adis Gebal's shot tested Young Africans' goalkeeper Djigui Diarra. However, the home side's attacks were limited, with Young Africans maintaining control throughout most of the first half.

Dube finally broke the deadlock in the dying seconds of the first half, slotting home a well-timed pass from Stéphane Aziz Ki to give Young Africans a deserved lead heading into the break.

In the second half, Gamondi made several substitutions to maintain control and search for a second goal. Key players like Dube and Aziz Ki were taken off early, with Clatous Chama and Clement Mzize coming on.

Despite continued pressure, Young Africans were unable to extend their lead, with Mzize and Chama both

missing crucial chances to put the game beyond doubt.

As the final whistle blew, Young Africans' 1-0 victory away from home gave them a significant advantage heading into the second leg. The return match will be held at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar on September 20.

With a home win or draw enough to secure progression to the group stage for the second consecutive season, Young Africans will approach the match with confidence but remain cautious of their Ethiopian opponents.



## KMC coach now targets improved attack as KenGold eye redemption in NBC Premier League showdown

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KINONDONI Municipal Council FC (KMC) coach Abdihamid Moalin is focused on improving his team's offensive performance in today's Premier League clash against KenGold FC.

KMC have struggled in their early matches, managing just two goals across two games - a 1-1 home draw against Coastal Union and a 2-1 away loss to Singida Black Stars.

Coach Moalin (pictured) is eager for a victory to lift the team's morale and rebuild confidence following a disappointing start to the season.

"Our defense has its issues, but if our attackers were performing their roles effectively and scoring a significant number of goals, we'd be talking about different things," he said.

Despite his frustration with the lack of finishing up front, Moalin remains optimistic about turning the season around.

Last season, KMC finished fifth in the league, collecting 37 points from 30 matches, with a balanced record of eight wins, 13 draws, and nine losses.

On the other side, KenGold FC will look to bounce back from a challenging start, having suffered back-to-back losses against Singida Black Stars and Fountain Gate.

Coach Fikiri Elias expressed hope for a turnaround in today's match at the KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam, emphasizing the importance of correcting defensive mistakes that have cost the team early in the season.

Elias believes his team has learned valuable lessons and is optimistic about their chances of securing a positive result.

"The team has the ability to possess the ball and create chances, but defending goals has been the problem. We've worked on this area, and the players are determined not to repeat past mistakes," he added.

Both coaches view today's match as critical for reviving their teams' campaigns, with KMC seeking to reignite their attacking potential and KenGold FC hoping to fix their defensive frailties and get their season back on track.

## Azam boss Rachid Taoussi rues poor finishing in goalless draw

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe



AZAM FC coach Rachid Taoussi has expressed frustration over his team's lack of finishing in their 0-0 draw against Pamba Jiji.

Azam dominated the early stages of the match, with Iddy Selemani coming close to scoring in the sixth minute, but Pamba Jiji goalkeeper Yona Amos made a crucial save to keep the game level.

Nathan Chilambo also had a good chance to put Azam ahead, delivering a cross that found Nassor Sadoun, whose header went off target at the half-hour mark.

Despite controlling much of the game, Azam couldn't find the breakthrough.

In the second half, coach Taoussi (pictured) made several changes to inject energy into his side. He brought on Feisal Salum and Lusajo Mwaikenda, who had just returned from national duty, to strengthen the attack.

However, Azam's momentum was disrupted when Senegalese defender Cheikh Sidibe was sent off in the 78th minute, leaving them a man down.

After the game, coach Taoussi acknowledged the need for improvement in the team's attack.

"Firstly, I want to say that we wanted

to win for our fans, supporters, and the board, but it's not easy. We've only been working together for five days. Our offence was strong in the first half, but we were unlucky not to score," Taoussi said.

He added: "We must work on our finishing because the opponent was very strong and aggressive. In the second half, I introduced Feisal, even though he hadn't worked with me yet because he is a good player."

"The red card made it difficult, and the opponent played a compact defense and counter-attacked with speed."

The result means both Azam and Pamba Jiji extended their winless runs in the Premier League.

Azam, last season's first runners-up, have now drawn both of their opening two matches, while Pamba Jiji have yet to secure a victory in their first three games.

With only two points from a possible six, Azam are under pressure to turn their season around as they prepare for their third league game.

Coach Taoussi, who recently replaced Youssouf Dabo, will be hoping to secure a much-needed win when they face KMC this Thursday.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

