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## 'MCC acted to aid Samia reforms, cut poverty risk'

*"Gains will depend on what terms Tanzania defines in executing the project and make sure that it reduces US control of the project. We should raise local content"*

By Henry Mwangonde

FUNDING for Tanzania has recently been reinstated by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) due to

reforms involving a clear commitment to democratic governance, while taking into account the significant development and poverty reduction challenges the country

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Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) nutrition officer Husna Faraji providing nutrition instruction to nearby residents at Siha District Hospital, Kilimanjaro Region, before diagnosis and eventual start of heart treatment services yesterday. Photo: JKCI

## SPORTS

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Simba SC boosts hopes of qualification for CAF CL last eight

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Jose Mourinho: Manchester United still have the deadwood from my era

By Guardian Reporter

WHILE public investments have played a crucial role in narrowing Tanzania's infrastructure gap, in the absence of a more private sector-driven and inclusive growth, fiscal exposure emanating from these investments can be costly, the World Bank has declared.

Harun Onder, World Bank senior economist and co-author of the country economic memorandum titled: 'Privatising Growth,' stated at the launch of the report that there is a slow structural transformation and persistent poverty.

He said that in the absence of a stronger domestic market, one that facilitates a more qualified participation (for example,

## 'Tanzania has to switch to private sector-led growth'

*"This change has made the country more reliant on a smaller number of products, which makes it more vulnerable to changes in the global market,"*

with better skills and jobs) of a greater number of Tanzanians, a shrinking export orientation will likely constrain Tanzania's development trajectory.

This view was echoed by Nathan Belete, the country director for the World Bank, who said that Tanzania will in the coming years need to switch gears towards a more private sector-driven growth.

He said that in the past two decades, Tanzania has exhibited robust economic growth, surpassing many developing

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L) receives special award from cabinet minister Haroun Ali Suleiman, in charge of Constitution, Law, Public Service and Good Governance in the President's Office, at the climax of the Ethics and Human Rights anniversary event in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

## Clerics praise healthcare insurance, caution on formulating regulations

By Getrude Mbago

RELIGIOUS leaders have urged the government to closely engage stakeholders when developing regulations of the just endorsed Universal Health Insurance (UHI) Act in order to ensure that its implementation benefits all social groups.

Members of the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC), issued this appeal at their meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday, where religious leaders and other stakeholders hailed the government for coming up with the legislation.

They said the new law is aimed at ensur-

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## 'MCC acted to aid Samia reforms, cut poverty risk'

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Robert Raines, the deputy chief of mission at the United States Embassy, said in a statement yesterday that selecting Tanzania recognizes the reforms undertaken by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, with expectation that the reforms will be maintained.

"Since 2008, the MCC funding has been working to improve infrastructure in Tanzania," he said, expressing the view that the US looks forward to a more advanced partnership.

The reinstating was done at the MCC quarterly meeting on December 13 as newly eligible to develop a compact enhancing regional economic integration, the fund stated.

The MCC board also selected Tanzania and the Philippines to develop threshold programmes, described as smaller grant programmes designed to support policy and institutional reforms that address economic growth constraints.

Alice Albright, the MCC chief executive officer, said the board's selection of Cabo Verde, the Philippines and Tanzania advances MCC's mission to forge strong partnerships with countries that have demonstrated a commitment to democratic governance, investing in their people and economic freedom.

"In recent years, both the Philippines and Tanzania have demonstrated renewed commitments to advancing critical reforms to strengthen democratic governance,

protect human rights and fight corruption," she stated.

In recognition of these efforts, the board selected the Philippines and Tanzania to partner with MCC in the development of threshold programmes that focus on the policy and institutional reforms, she said, asserting that countries can undertake to reduce poverty while generating economic growth.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation is an independent U.S. government agency working to reduce global poverty through economic growth, created in 2004.

It provides time-limited grants and assistance to countries that meet rigorous standards for good governance, fighting corruption and respecting democratic rights, the MCC executive noted.

Aneth Mwaipanya, deputy chief executive officer for the Economic Society of Tanzania, said the fund should emphasize rural infrastructure (roads and power) to boost market integration, as well as agriculture and social infrastructure (education and health) to enhance human capital.

"Gains will depend on what terms Tanzania defines in executing the project and make sure that it reduces US control of the project. We should raise local content," she emphasized.

MCC suspended funding Tanzania in March 2016 on several grounds including shrinking democratic space. This denied the country a grant of \$472m intended to help bolster its power sector.



Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) Umy Nderiananga (2nd L) sings the workers solidarity slogan with the National Electoral Commission workers' council chairman who is also NEC director Ramadhani Kailima (2nd R) at the workers meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Right is the council's secretary Livini Avith. Photo: NEC

FROM PAGE 1

countries, even weathering the COVID-19 pandemic fallout remarkably well.

However, for this trajectory to remain viable, and for Tanzania to reach its full development potential, the model it operates has to change to be more private sector driven, enhancing its wider economic potential.

The report says that the country's growth over the past two decades has been characterized by a noticeable shift towards increased reliance on public infrastructure investments to fuel growth.

It has slowed structural transformation and has experienced a diminishing role of exports, he said, underlining that despite Tanzania's growth having been impressive it needs to be faster, better and more inclusive.

"This requires complementing the public investment push with strong reforms that help local businesses compete and grow, along

## 'Tanzania has to switch to private sector-led growth'

with robust social programmes that help people get ahead and stay resilient, and boost export orientation," he stated.

The report shows that Tanzania's structural transformation has slowed in recent years and the economy has not been able to create enough jobs in higher-productivity sectors, making it harder for people to escape poverty.

In addition, while Tanzanian exports experienced substantial growth until 2012, they have since shrunk as a share of GDP and their composition has shifted from agricultural products towards extractives, primarily gold.

"This change has made the country more reliant on a smaller number of products, which makes it more vulnerable to changes in the

global market," the report noted.

To achieve a more balanced and inclusive growth pattern requires the privatization of growth by accelerating the implementation of business climate and investment promotion reforms, it said, urging the removal of current obstacles without erecting new ones.

This is critical for more sustainable and private sector-driven growth in the country, the co-author intoned, pointing at the need to boost inclusion and resilience by aligning social policies with the domestic market orientation of the current growth model.

This calls for scaling up social protection with a more institutionalized approach and promoting adequate access to healthcare, he said, a point taken up by the gov-

erning authorities, plus marginal structural reform push, observers noted.

Improving productivity and resilience in agriculture by addressing the drivers of low productivity, identified as limited access to technology, finance and skills is equally vital, as is the rapid scaling of adaptation efforts.

Leveraging the upside potential of Tanzania's tourism by addressing several long-standing regulatory and infrastructure bottlenecks to attract and mobilize private investors was also recommended.

Harnessing regional integration to unlock Tanzania's export potential that is hindered by low productivity and high trade costs including logistical and procedural challenges is equally vital, the report added.

## Clerics praise healthcare insurance, caution on formulating regulations

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ing that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.

Bishop Nelson Kisare, the ISCEJIC chairman, was pleased that the quest for universal health coverage (UHC), has finally got its law, affirming that the government has shown that it is committed to implement recommendations issued by the public.

He said that religious leaders are always ready to collaboratively work with the government in various matters for the development and welfare of the nation.

The meeting brought faith leaders and non-state actors for reflections on the effort and collective future action on UHI, where the bishop appealed to the government to ensure that stakeholders are closely engaged during the formulation of regulations.

This is vital to ensure that there is no group which is left behind, he said, underscoring the need for increased public awareness on UHI to ease adhesion to the mass enrolment scheme when it starts.

The regulations need to identify more tax ring-fencing mechanisms from various sources such as extractive industries tax resources, apart from the current ones, in order to finance health insurance for Tanzanians, he declared.

The special fund to finance health services for vulnerable groups need more sources of revenues in order to ensure that the groups access quality medical services without challenges.

"The new universal coverage scheme requires citizens to pay a fee depending on their income, with special measures to finance healthcare for 15.8m Tanzanians (26 per cent of the population) who are unable to pay," he reflected.

These measures will include taxes on fizzy drinks, alcohol, cosmetics, gambling, and certain electronic transactions, as well as a fee on motor vehicle insurance, he said, affirming that these sources are not enough "and we cannot see commitment here. We want to see more sources of revenues to finance these groups," the cleric intoned.

Sheikh Khamis Mataka, the work-

ing committee chairman, said that a study conducted on the issue showed that there are many Tanzanians who are unable to access health care as they live in extreme poverty.

"We realized that there is a great need for every Tanzanian to be enrolled into a health fund in order to save their lives, because many are sick but they fail to access health care due to poverty," Sheikh Mataka explained.

Praising the government for working on the faith actors' recommendations on the legislation, he stated that this will guarantee access to quality health care services for all people.

Gloria Mafole, an interfaith technical advisor, said that religious leaders understand the magnitude of the problem and how it affects society. That's why they were tirelessly pushing for UHC, she asserted.

"Stakeholders are happy that their voices have been heard after more than five years of advocating," she elaborated, noting that the faith leaders would like to see their recommendations being considered when developing regulations for operationalizing the legislation.

Participants noted that religious leaders have been in the forefront pushing the campaign on healthcare social security since 2018 for ensuring that everyone regardless of economic status, has access to quality health services.

In 2018, clerics directed the holding of a research exercise on "making it possible," focusing on how tax commitments can move Tanzanians towards universal health coverage.

There was an earlier study, 'One Billion Dollar Question Revisited; (2017) which similarly aimed at showcasing how much Tanzania is losing in potential tax revenue. It provided recommendations to improve tax collections to finance social services delivery including realizing universal health coverage, the meeting was told.

The interfaith standing committee is a nationwide platform engaging major faith communities, hosted jointly by the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA), the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) and the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT).



Deputy Speaker who is also Ilala MP Mussa Azzan Zungu speaks at the Tanzania women's economic empowerment forum meeting organised by Ilala Municipal Council in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

By Guardian Correspondent, Nzega

OVER 964m/- have been spent in construction of a secondary and primary school in Mwasala ward, Nzega District in Tabora Region thus addressing challenges which have been facing students for years including long distance walking.

A report issued by district planning officer, James Raymond stated that a total of 603m/- spent in construction of the secondary school thus helping students who have been walking over 20kms every day to reach the schools in a nearby ward thus affecting attendance and academic performance.

Raymond said construction of Mwandu primary school will cost 331m/-.

He said the construction of the

## 'Over 964m/- spent to construct secondary and primary school'

school has brought huge relief to the citizens and many children who were unable to continue their studies due to long distance walking.

He said that more than half of the students were unable to complete Standard Seven and those graduating failed to continue with secondary education due to the school being located more than 20 kms away.

Jonas Kwiyera, Mwasala head teacher said that approximately 50 to 100 children were dropping out of school every year due to long

distance walking and crossing the river which was too dangerous for them.

"For example, out of 320 students who started standard one in 2017 in our school, only 147 finished standard seven, so we thank the government for adding a new school," he said.

District education officer, Magesa Mgeta said construction of the new schools has really helped control absenteeism as the situation was bad where this year out of the 187 children who started form one last

year only 47 sat for the Form Two exams.

Modest Apolinary, district executive director thanked President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her sincere commitment of addressing challenges facing various sectors in the district.

He said the council has received over 2bn/- for the construction council's office and 1bn/- for the new hospital which is constructed at Lubisu village in Utwigu ward which is in the final stages of completion.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents an award to Nida Textile Mills Ltd director general Hamza Hajj Rafiq after his firm emerged the Best Producer in Khanga vitenge and bed sheets at the 17th President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards (PMAYA) organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## President Samia appoints, fires and transfers officials

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has appointed various leaders and transferred others.

A statement issued by the Director of Presidential Communications, Zuhura Yunus early yesterday stated that President Samia has appointed Ambassador Major General Paul Kisesa Simuli as Tanzanian Ambassador to Uganda.

She also appointed Selwa Abdalla Hamid as the Igunga District Council executive director. Hamid replaces Athman Francis Msabila who has been suspended and before the appointment, Hamid was project manager, Medical Stores Department (MSD).

According to the statement, President Samia also appointed Mariam Chaurembo to be the Tunduma Town Council executive director.

Chaurembo replaces Lena Martin Nkya whose appointment has been revoked.

Before the appointment, Chaurembo was the chief administrative officer in the Ministry of Energy and served as Nanyumbu District Commissioner

and the Nyang'wale District Council executive director.

Samia has also appointed Fabian Manzo Said as the Momba District Council executive director.

Said replaces Butamo Nuru Ndalaha whose appointment has been revoked and before the appointment, Said was the chief examinations officer at the Mkwawa University of Education and has been the Meatu District Council executive director.

She also appointed Dr Khamis Hassan Mwinimvua to be chairman of the Board of Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA).

Dr Mwinimvua is a senior lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam and replaces Prof. Longinus Rutasitara whose tenure has been expired.

On transfer, President Samia has transferred Dr Peter Maiga Nyanja, Muleba Council executive director to become the Wanging'ombe District Council executive director.

Nyanja replaces Maryam Ahmed Muhaji who was recently appointed as the Manyara Regional Administrative Secretary.

"The appointments and transfers were effective from December 18, 2023," the statement reads in part.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

SKY seems to be the limit for the Arusha Technical College (ATC) which is currently constructing a special hospital set to go into operation in February 2024.

ATC rector, Dr Musa Chacha explained that though the hospital is intended to be a practical learning therapeutic centre for students undertaking biomedical studies, the facility will also operate as a fully-fledged medical centre for treating patients suffering from

# ATC building hospital, becomes operational February next year

various ailments.

"Once completed the hospital will provide medical services such as eye treatments, mother and child care, respiratory problems, various forms of surgeries, dental care and ear infections," stated Dr Chacha while addressing students, parents and other guests during the

college's 15th graduation ceremony held at the ATC premises.

Other than the hospital which is nearing completion, the Arusha Technical College has also accomplished the construction of female students' dormitory building, a four storey structure set to ease the girls from problems

of seeking accommodation outside the campus.

The facility will be able to accommodate more than 400 students.

Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Omari Kipanga lauded the ATC for the great stride that the college is

currently making.

"I would like to commend the Arusha Technical College for introducing eight new curricula that go in sync with modern times to address emerging challenges such as negative effects of climate change," said the deputy minister.

In realizing the importance of

technical and vocational training, the government has allocated over 100 billion/- for the establishment of vocational education training centers in 64 councils that were yet to have such facilities, including the new Songwe Region in the Southern Highlands.

During the ATC graduation a total of 833 graduates were awarded with merits of completing their studies at the technical institution.

The students were undertaking studies in electricity, engineering, information technology, aerospace, computer engineering and hydroelectric, among others.

## Exciting Job Opportunity Chief Executive Officer Ref 32626 Dar es Salaam

Our client, an internationally funded environmental trust, is looking to recruit a **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** to head the Trust's Secretariat and oversee the day-to-day operations of the Trust under the authority of the Board of Trustees. The CEO is the senior-most employee of the Trust, responsible for planning, budgeting, revenue generation, compliance and fiscal accountability, oversight of grant making and evaluation, and the maintenance of a respectful professional environment. The position is full-time, with an initial commitment of three years; an attractive compensation package will be provided, commensurate with experience.

### Responsibilities

The CEO oversees the day-to-day operations of the Trust; in consultation with the Board he or she develops and implements medium and long term plans which ensure the Trust stays viable by offering clear value to clients, funders, civil society partners and the government. The CEO is responsible for ensuring the Trust's operations and finances are efficient and accountable and that the Trust is in compliance with Tanzania laws and regulations and the terms of contracts with clients and funders. The CEO reports to the Board of Trustees and is entitled to attend meetings of the Board, as specified in the Trust Deed. The CEO is bound by the Trust's policies with respect to conflict of interest, financial management and personnel management. The CEO may be called upon to serve as the Secretary to the Board of Trustees. In this case, the CEO is responsible for the duties of the Secretary as specified in the Trust Deed. As CEO, his or her specific responsibilities include:

- **Operations** - Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Secretariat.
- **Strategy & Planning** - engage in long and medium-term strategy development and implementation.
- **Financial Viability & Sustainability** - Serve as Chief "Revenue Generation" officer for the Trust's services.
- **Grant Making** - Ensure the Trust has credible, efficient and accountable grant making policies, procedures and systems in place and ensure the Trust employs Program/Field Officers with necessary qualities and experiences.
- **Personnel** - Oversee senior personnel directly and ensure that senior personnel exercise appropriate oversight over their assigned direct reports.
- **Communication & Representation** - Serve as the chief spokesperson for the Trust.
- **Reputation & Risk** - Ensure that the Trust's reputation for integrity and accountability are maintained.

### Qualifications

- A Tanzanian with at least 5 year's experience in a senior leadership position with a budget of more than USD \$1M, experience working with and reporting to a Board of Trustees or Directors, a background in conservation and/or environmental work and a commitment to the mission and aims of the trust.
- Advanced degree in a field relevant to the Trust
- Demonstrated skills and experience in revenue generation with an emphasis on raising funds from multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, foundations, and corporations. Revenue generation will be a key responsibility of the CEO.

### To Apply

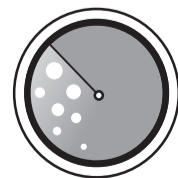
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[jobs@radarreruitment.com](mailto:jobs@radarreruitment.com)

Stating the reference number **32626**.

For a full job description go to [www.radarreruitment.com](http://www.radarreruitment.com) and search for the job by reference number. The closing date for applications is **Friday 29th December 2023**.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



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Tender documents can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com). The closing date for submission is per indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified, and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

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

# Set aside 2pct of revenue collection to assist the needy people, LGAs urged

By Beatrice Philemon

LOCAL government authorities have been challenged to set aside two percent of revenue collection from their own sources as no-interest empowerment loans and later on provide funds to vulnerable groups—women and youths.

Fortunata Manyerese, executive director of the Tanga based organization 'Tree of Hope Organisation made the call in Dar es Salaam when speaking to members of civil society organisations (CSOs) have called upon who attended training on feminist principles and climate change.

Meant to discuss financial resources and women participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation, the training was organised by Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED). She said that the district councils should also formulate a new Act that will guide them before they start to provide funds to the target people.

"The funds should be issued to all people without discrimination of any kind for both men and women, respect human rights to enable them assist the government in its efforts to address the climate change issues within the country, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat with the effects of climate change," she said.

Highlighting on what has been done so far to address climate change and curb its long-term effects in Tanga Region, she said right they have begun to sensitize communities to utilise clean cooking energy solutions usage that includes alternative charcoal and d gas.

"We aimed at reducing deforestation, conserve water sources and cope with the climate change, saves forests by avoiding the over-use of green natural resource which results into saving water sources and reduced level of carbon emissions," she said, noting

that improved health to users by avoiding health problems caused by smoke and other hazardous emissions from combustion of biomass.

"To start with, we have been able to sensitize people in Tanga city and next year we will visit in Pangani District to educate people about the usage of alternative charcoal, gas and construct Multipurpose Youth Training Centre for youth and people with disabilities," she said.

The centre will provides training for youth and people with disabilities on how to make alternative charcoal, briquettes, batik, tie and dye, soap making and food processing through Empower Community Project funded by the Australian High Commission.

"As 'Tree of Hope Organisation, we want to help women to shift from the use of firewood and charcoal that contribute to deforestation which has a negative impact on climate change and engage in environmentally economic generating projects that are not destroying the environment in their localities," she said.

Women are now engaging in sisal farming and have been able to allocate 20 acres of land for the sisal farming.

She also urged CSOs to come up with effective collaborative strategy for what they carry out in addressing the climate change issues and other projects.

Maria Matui, WATED coordinator added that the organisation will continue to provide more training to reach more people.

"Right now we invite different stakeholders who are interested to work with us so that we can reach more communities in areas where they are because climate change continue to affects people and is expected to cause malnutrition, diarrhea, heat stress because of droughts, flood and other issues if we are not taking serious measures," she said.

# President Mwinyi decries indiscipline

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has directed public leaders to stop misusing their positions instead they should invest more in helping good governance and abide by ethics.

He made the call yesterday here when addressing a rally at the National Day of Ethics and Human Rights held at the Sheikh Abdul Wakil hall.

He said that the Zanzibar government is led by adhering to the constitution principles and the law where it implements all the basic issues that will ensure the rights of the people are protected by fighting oppression.

According to him, there are some public leaders who are violating leadership laws by misusing their power, oppressing people with others abandoning their families.

He cited an example of the Ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Departments by having a lot of departments which have dishonest leaders who misuse their positions and power.

He said the Ethics Commission has received 19 complaints of abuse by public officials, of which 15 are related to public officials who have been entrusted with leadership responsibilities.

He urged all officials and departments mentioned in the report to evaluate themselves, warning that stern measures will be taken against those who have committed such uncouth behaviour.

Dr Mwinyi hailed the good job implemented by the Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) in fighting the challenges where between January and October, 2023, the authority has rescued properties worth 2.3bn/-.

"A total of 9.7m/- have been reimbursed to the people while 2.2bn/- have been returned to the government for various activities," he disclosed.

He further said that a total of 509 corruption related cases have been received in the period including 341 cases of economic sabotage.

"The authority is also currently investigating 49 development projects worth 652bn/- to know its actual value," he said.

President Mwinyi also wanted leaders who have been mentioned in the ethics form to ensure that they fill all the required information before December 31, this year before stern legal measures are taken.

He was shocked to hear that until December 18 this year, only 36 percent of the leaders successfully completed the process of submitting property information in the Ethics Commission.

Assa Ahmad Rashid, chairperson of Zanzibar Public Leaders' Ethics Commission (ZAPLEC) also emphasized that leaders should fill and submit the forms before the end of the year saying that only 922 public leaders have done so.

Zanzibar's Minister for Constitution, Legal Affairs and Public Service Haroun Ali Suleiman commended the Ethics Commission for investing in public education, something which has brought positive outcomes.



Tanzania Railway Corporation Engineer Kusyama Lameck briefs Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Capital Investment (PIC) regarding the high-speed rail (SGR) cooling plants at the Pugu station in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Parliament

By Carlos Banda

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam don has suggested the need for the public to know the importance of early warning messages issued by responsible authorities in building resilience to weather extremes.

Dr Paul Limbu, lecturer and meteorologist from the University of Dar es Salaam physics department made the suggestion recently in an interview, saying: "There are numerous reasons behind the public's perception and consumption of the severe weather warnings." "No one has definitive answer to explain why people do not take forecast warnings seriously. There are a number of reasons including fear of losing land which is their permanent settlement area," Dr Limbu said.

He noted that some individuals

# Don says early warning messages crucial in building resilience to weather extremes

have become critical of relocating to safer areas away from their permanent homes in low terrain areas. And noting that the effects of the previous rains may have not been that hazardous, some of them prefer to stay and disregard the safety directives given to them," he said.

Limbu also added: "the public's attitude and poor reaction to such warnings is attributed to the media's over exaggeration of updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA). Weather updates come in three specific categories, watch - which is an observational detail of the weather trend, Advisory - which is a call to take

caution of possible weather changes which may have high impact and lastly, Warning category - where the authority is certain by 70 per cent that the climatic changes and trends will happen and that people must consider taken safety measures."

With the media lacking the required understanding of this kind of information flow, it is prone to mislead the community hence determining the general disregard to possible rainfall or weather developments."

On the measures taken to address the impact of weather-related disasters, Dr Limbu said the government had made considerable strides by investing heavily in

weather warning systems across the country to improve climate change predictions by the weatherman and enhance disaster management preparedness.

He also mentioned that efforts should also be geared at engaging the media through weather reporting training programs, and employing measures to engage the community through accurate dissemination of weather outlook information, reports and data via bulk messaging to reach people without access to smart devices hence bridging the information gap, citing that, such efforts should not sideline collaborations between private and public institutions.



Hanang' District Commissioner Janeth Mayanja (2nd R) receives part of the donation for mudslide victims in Katesh from the Tigo north regional manager Victus Valerian in Manyara Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

THE Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND) in collaboration with the Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania (NCA-Tanzania) has provided capacity building workshop on agribusiness to the youth farmer's groups in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

The move is meant to ensure sustainable post-harvest management and processing of cereal crops, fruits and vegetables among small entrepreneurs.

Rev. Andrew Munisi, ELCT and NCA coordinator of projects unveiled this yesterday when speaking recently here during business forum and agriculture and livestock keeping including poultry farming.

# Youth farmers' groups empowered with post-harvest management skills

He said that apart from promoting agribusiness, value addition and food security, the special forum also aims at promoting youth to engage in agriculture activities for sustainable income generations among youth as well as food security.

"As you know, there a problem of unemployment among many youths in Tanzania now that's why we came up with this project to inspire youth to employ themselves individually or in groups through agriculture sector by implementing methods of modern farming and agribusiness for sustainable income generations among them as well as food security in the country," he

said. He said apart from providing agribusiness skills to the farmers, ELCT-ND in collaboration with NCA -Tanzania has also sponsored other crucial projects including Micro financing to eradicate poverty, and interfaith meeting, among many others.

Anderson John, ELCT-ND/NCA projects said that, apart from providing modern farming skills to their farmer groups, they also provide them with a special drip irrigation system for better production.

"To date we have reached more than 16,000 small farmers in Moshi, Hai, Karatu, Vunjo, Babati and

Siha districts, and we expect to more than 1200 with the new drip irrigation system technologies by the end of this year," he explained.

Eng. Lilian Materu, Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) technical officer said that, the government under the 'Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance Support Programme (MIVARF) has rehabilitate and equip the centre in Kilimanjaro region where small entrepreneurs will improve their knowledge as well as processing their products.

She asked the youth farmer's groups in northern Tanzania to use the opportunity.

# TRA in Manyara registers 620 tax payers for its ETS system

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) in Manyara Region has in the past five years, registered 620 tax payers in its Electronic Tax Stamp (ETS) system.

The stamps are envisioned to reduce the wave of importation of counterfeit alcoholic beverages, including alcohol and wine.

Speaking yesterday here, ETS manager from TRA headquarters, Abyud Twelve said that since the system was introduced on January 15, 2019, it has greatly helped to increase production of alcoholic beverages.

“The major goal of this system is to manage and heighten control of stamps so that the system remains productive for producers and exporters,” Twelve said.

He said that the system has helped them to reduce the number of dishonest traders who sell

smuggled goods where those who are found guilty are dragged to court.

The ETS manager said the law requires industrial producers to install stamps on their products and sellers to have products with stamps as well as provide electronic receipts (EFD) to their customers.


“Those who are found violating the Income Act, are confined to fine of not less than 5m/- and not exceeding 50m/-, or three years in prison,” he added.

Richard Ngalewa, executive director of Twiga General Traders Limited commended TRA for educating traders on the importance of the ETS as it has greatly helped control smuggling and selling of counterfeit beverages.

*“Those who are found violating the Income Act, are confined to fine of not less than 5m/- and not exceeding 50m/-, or three years in prison”*



Nkende ward resident in Tarime District Mwita Juma (R) airs his grievances to Mara Regional Commissioner Said Mtanda (2nd L) at the Lands clinic held in Tarime over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

**Manufacturing and Supply of Pumps and Submersible Sump Pumps for the Rising Main Project**  
**Tender at North Mara Gold Mine**  
**Tender Ref: NM036/2023**

Qualification Criteria			
No	Reference no	Description of work	Qualification Criteria
1	NM036/2023	<p><b>Manufacture and Supply of Pumps and Sump pumps for the Underground Rising Main Project.</b></p> <p><b>Specifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. P&amp;ID: CC0296-100-PRO-PID-0002-01</li> <li>ii. Centrifugal Pump Datasheet with reference: CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0001 D</li> <li>iii. Submersible Sump Pump Datasheet with Reference: CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0004-C</li> <li>iv. Paint Specification: CC0296-000-MEC-SPC-0001-0 Paint specification.</li> <li>v. Barrick Prescribed Databook Index Requirements with Reference: CC0296-000-QUL-DAT-0001 Rev o</li> </ul> <p><b>Description:</b> Supply, Manufacture, Paint, FAT Test, and provide quality documentation of equipment as defined in the Bill of Quantities with reference: CC0296-000-MEC-B00-0001-C for the Sump pumps with the following characteristics: FLYGHT - BS 2670 HT 3- 255 - 18Kw, 415 V, 50 Hz, DOL, Portable pump. Flow: 57m3/h @ 42m head.</p> <p>Bill of Quantity with reference: CC0296-000-MEC-B00-0002-C Transfer pumps for the Transfer pumps. Transfer pumps characteristics: Supply voltage: 415V, 50 Hz, 355kW. 10 No to be provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Procurement, manufacture, and supply of transfer and submersible sump pumps for a similar sized project in Tanzania. Provide project profiles over the last three years for assessment.</li> <li>ii. Company Profile and capability statement. These should include photo of the fabrication workshop, confirmation of floor size and location.</li> <li>iii. Provide list of minimum in stock items and location of stock item in Tanzania.</li> <li>iv. Confirm minimum lead time to supply North Mara site with spares and critical parts.</li> <li>v. List of Personnel and organogram. Complete a side-by-side comparison of the transfer and sump pump pumps to be supplied to enable datasheet comparison of specified pump requirements versus the supplied pumps technical details. Datasheet references are as follows: CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0001 D and CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0004-C</li> <li>vi. Completed Bill of Quantities (B00) with reference CC0296-000-MEC-B00-0001-C for the Sump pumps as well as B00 with Reference: CC0296-000-MEC-B00-0002-C for the Transfer pumps. Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specifications with referenced: CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0001 D; CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0004-C; CC0296-000-MEC-SPC-0001-0; CC0296-000-QUL-DAT-0001 Rev o or clearly highlight non compliances for review.</li> <li>vii. Class two, weekly schedule in Excel format confirming the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. All Material Procurement completed, number of weeks after PO received.</li> <li>ii. Number of week after PO placement FAT Testing will commence for each submersible and transfer pump.</li> <li>iii. Completion of painting activities where required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iv. Provide Quality Control Plans and procedures governing the quality during the manufacturing process.</li> <li>v. Warranty &amp; Guarantee period to be provided for the equipment.</li> <li>vi. Provide a list of commissioning spares, two years operational Spares and Strategic spares and complete document with reference: CC0296-000-PRM-SPR-0001.</li> <li>vii. Provide a pricing schedule with items costed for two years operational spares.</li> <li>viii. Confirmation in writing to comply with Barrick Terms and Conditions.</li> <li>ix. Local Content Regulations Compliance</li> </ul>

**Submission of Proposals**  
If your company meets the qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the RFP package (B00, Technical Specs, etc.), send your request along with your company profile to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com)

Applicants must quote the tender description(s) and the respective package reference no.(s) in the subject line of the email.

**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a proposal through this advertisement.


Qualification of any company submitting a "proposal" shall be at the sole discretion of **NMGM**.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your submission unsuccessful.

**Key Dates**

Last Date to Submit RFP Package request
26 December 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



## BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified and qualified parties to provide the following goods:

**Manufacturing and Supply of Agitators for the Rising Main Project at North Mara Gold Mine**  
**Tender Ref: NM034/2023**

Qualification Criteria			
No	Reference no	Description of work	Qualification Criteria
1	NM034/2023	<p><b>Manufacturing and Supply of Agitators for the Underground Rising Main Project.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Procurement, manufacture, and supply of Agitators for a similar sized project in Africa. Provide project profiles over the last three years for assessment.</li> <li>ii. Company Profile and capability statement. These should include photo of the fabrication workshop, confirmation of floor size and location.</li> <li>iii. Provide list of minimum in stock items and location of stock items in Africa or preferably Tanzania.</li> <li>iv. Confirm minimum lead time to supply North Mara site with spares and critical parts.</li> <li>v. List of Personnel and organogram. Complete a side-by-side datasheet comparison of the Agitator to be supplied versus the datasheet requirements provided. Datasheet reference is as follows: CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0002-D.</li> <li>vii. Completed Bill of Quantities (B00) with reference CC0296-000-MEC-B00-0003-C for the Agitator                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Confirmation in writing on company letterhead that the Bidder will comply to the technical specifications with references: CC0296-100-PRO-PID-0001-01; CC0296-100-MEC-DAT-0002-D; CC0296-000-MEC-SPC-0001-0; CC0296-000-QUL-DAT-0001Rev D or clearly highlight non compliances for review.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. Class two, weekly schedule in Excel format confirming the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. All Material Procurement completed, number of weeks after PO received.</li> <li>ii. FAT Testing completed, number of weeks after PO placement per equipment supplied item.</li> <li>iii. Completion of painting activities where required number of weeks after PO placement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iv. Provide Quality Control Plans and procedures governing the quality during the manufacturing process.</li> <li>v. Warranty &amp; Guarantee period to be provided for the equipment.</li> <li>vi. Provide a list of commissioning spares, two years operational Spares and Strategic spares as well as complete document with reference: CC0296-000-PRM-SPR-0001.</li> <li>vii. Confirmation in writing to comply with Barrick Terms and Conditions.</li> <li>ix. Local Content Regulations Compliance</li> </ul>

**Submission of Proposals**  
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26 December 2023

North Mara Gold Mine Limited





Tanga Regional Commissioner Waziri Kindamba (C) presents ignition key to Muheza District Administration Secretary Mohammed Mfaki (L) for Muheza health department on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

# Huawei awards Tanzanian students who participated in SFTF programme

By Guardian Reporter

CHINA'S tech giant Huawei held an award ceremony to award Tanzanian students participating in Huawei's Seeds for the Future (SFTF) programme in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology lauded Huawei's support in nurturing youth talents in information, communication and technology, saying these are the main drivers for the country's digital transformation and knowledge-based economy.

Nnauye made the remarks in Dar es Salaam when awarding certificates to university students under the SFTF programme, one of Huawei's global flagship programs dedicated to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and non-STEM students.

In Tanzania, the programme was launched in 2016 under the support of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, contributing to the development of ICT talent and aligning with the vision of a digital economy strategic framework for the country.

Nnauye also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Huawei and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology that seeks to leverage cutting-edge technologies and international best practices to enhance the nation's digital ecosystem and propel it toward becoming a smart nation where technology and innovation empowers the growth of the digital economy.

Chu Kun, counselor at the Chinese embassy in Tanzania, said through initiatives like "Seeds for the Future," Huawei is actively nurturing local communication talents, supporting Tanzania in achieving technological self-reliance and deeply engaging in the country's telecommunications development.

Damon Zhang, the managing director of Huawei Tanzania, said the programme continuously empowers the youth and has brought extensive influence among universities in Tanzania.

**In Tanzania, the programme was launched in 2016 under the support of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, contributing to the development of ICT talent and aligning with the vision of a digital economy strategic framework for the country**

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

## '2 people dead after eating poisonous mushrooms'

TWO people from separate families in Mabatini Street, Nyamagana District, Mwanza Region have died and seven others admitted to hospital for allegedly eating poisonous mushrooms.

The people are claimed to have purchased the mushroom on December 17, 2023 in a neighbourhood shop as their daily normal habit but this time, the vegetable (mushroom) they purchased brought negative impact.

Mwanza Regional Police Commander, SACP Wilbroad Mutafungwa named the deceased as Maua Mwilikwa (10) and Thomas

Thomas (18).

The victims are from the family of Zuberi Msabaha (70), a resident of Mabatini North and Eva Jonas (47), a resident of Mabatini East who soon after eating the mushroom started to experience diarrhea and vomiting.

"Seven family members of Eva Jonas (47) from Mabatini East started having diarrhea and vomiting were rushed to the

Mabatini Police Health Centre where after their condition not stable they were taken to the Sekou-Toure hospital for further treatment where Thomas died at the hospital," said SACP Mutafungwa

He also named those who continue to receive medical treatment in Bugando as Maua Ibrahimu (56), Eva Jonas (47), Edina Thomas (20), John Thomas

(15), Tomision Thomas (13), a Form One student at Mtoni secondary school, Grelious Simon (1) and Alfani Selemani (14) and their conditions are doing well.

However, he said the Force continues to search for the trader who sold the mushroom for further explanations on where he got the vegetable and thus advise the public to be careful with some unhealthy foods.

By Tom Jackson

## Kenyan fish farming startup Aquarech raises \$1.7m funding

KENYAN fish farming startup Aquarech has raised US\$1.7 million in equity funding to help it improve outcomes for small-scale fish farmers in Kenya through its mobile app platform.

Founded in 2019 and led by Kisumu-based founder and CEO Dave Okech, alongside co-founders James Odede and Joseph Okoth, Aquarech is working to streamline the production behind fish farming with a mobile app platform that allows manufacturers, farmers, and buyers to trade, buy, and sell quality fish-feed, as well as learn best aquaculture practices and how to improve their incomes.

Local farmers often face lack of resources and access to high-quality feed. Aquarech's mission is to help increase production, improve small-scale farmer economics, and promote the overall growth of the aquaculture industry in Kenya. To achieve this, Aquarech supports small-scale farmers from all angles - by providing quality feed and climate smart precision fish feeding techniques, market access, technical training and financial access, including a 90-day credit period to pay for feed.

The startup has now raised US\$1.7 million in equity funding to hire talent, acquire more feed, and set up infrastructure to support more vertical integration of its technology. The investment was led by Netherlands-based global aquaculture investment fund Aqua-

Spark, with additional capital from Acumen, Katapult and Mercy Corps Ventures.

"The proverb says, 'If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime,' and that's what we've set out to do, starting by improving by improving the aquaculture value chain," said Okech. "The funding and partnership provided by our investors will promote the growth of our mobile-enabled platform, which is unlocking barriers faced by smallholder fish farmers and bringing the various

value chain actors together while remaining farmer-centric."

Christiaan Lensvelt, head of new deals at Aqua-Spark, said Aquarech was committed to improving local livelihoods by supporting smallholder to medium farmers to become commercially and environmentally sustainable.

"We look forward to supporting Dave and his team in achieving great things for the industry as one of the few aquaculture startups in Africa with a unique combination of field experience and digital tools," he said.



**MKOMBOZI COMMERCIAL BANK PLC**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

**RELOCATION OF THE HEAD QUARTERS**

We are pleased to announce that our Head Office has been reallocated to St. Joseph's House (Ground, First and Second Floor) located at Plot. No 40, Mansfield Street, Behind St. Joseph Cathedral.

Please take further notice that the main address and contact details remain unchanged.

**Mkombozi Commercial Bank PLC**  
**Plot No. 40. Mansfield Street,**  
**P.O. Box 38448.**  
**Dar es Salaam Tanzania.**

**We apologize for any inconvenience caused.**

**Issued by Management.**

# The Guardian Limited

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## Kenya, European Union sign partnership accord that Nyerere had advocated in 1997

ONE among least publicised speeches of Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, is a speech delivered to the Parliament of South Africa in October 1997, a speech the retired president later delivered at the University of Dar es Salaam, December 1997. Even for those who believe they are aware of what is spoken about Nyerere in the mass media, and especially with the state broadcasting facility, there was scarcely a reference to that speech, or either speech, for most of the time after he died. It was partly to Mwalimu's reluctance to dwell on that theme, as during 1998 he had a lengthy interview with the editor of 'The New Internationalist.' The issue wasn't raised; the Arusha Declaration was the focus.

What Mwalimu said in the speech to the South African legislature and at the Nkrumah Hall was that experience had shown the need for economic union of poor countries and rich countries in order that poor countries industrialise and create enough jobs. That is the only way the youth will adopt a positive spirit on their countries of domicile instead of embarking on perilous journeys to look for an environment where they can work and live a 20th century dream. That is now the case, large numbers of people wishing to move to the United States, Europe.

Mwalimu had two or three vital examples in the two speeches, one the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) that enabled Mexico to stabilise and industrialise, reducing migration pressures. The other example was Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Berlin Wall as those countries rushed to join the European Union. Back in 1947, after World War II, the United States came up with the Marshall

Plan, enacted in 1948 and provided more than \$15bn to help finance rebuilding efforts on the continent. The loan was a revolving fund that was massive by exchange rates of that time, and as Europe had well-structured market economies, it was used efficiently and led to sustained growth since then.

Nyerere was not in doubt that economic union with Europe would yield good dividends for Africa, as history shows no such cases where poor countries suffer from being joined with the rich. Wealth drifts from rich to poor nations even if profit seems to drift in inverse order, as those in rich countries transfer savings, converted into capital, when they are free to settle and establish themselves in the poor countries. This aspect has taken decades to start being understood, as poor countries mostly wish for transfers of public resources to help them grow.

It is this business link that Kenyan President William Ruto emphasized in the signing ceremony attended by the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Kenya status is not the same as other EAC members at the EU as it long attained middle income status, losing poor country treatment.

For clear reasons, it is evident that we are now reaching a stage where the 1997 speech by Mwalimu needs to be taken up more closely, even if policy has not arrived at its tenets directly. But it shows why the thrust for reform, inviting capital, transfers wealth to our countries and propels us to growth, instead of relying on loans from multilateral agencies for projects handed to inefficient state companies. And with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in place, chances that the Kenyan accord may disrupt the region are minimal.

## Business idea competitions achieve results in fully liberalised economies

NURTURING or incubating business ideas and then providing some start up capital has been gaining headway among science-related public agencies for a few years now, if not for longer than a decade. In the past few years there are more events and more substantial funding for such ideas. One thing however is the likely discrepancy between the number of ideas being put across and the ability to take them up; this limited ability is tied to the paucity of financing, and beyond that, the market. It is almost a lottery to create a novel idea and succeed.

Centres of higher learning, at times linked with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and this time with a bilateral aid agency, have been doing what they can to nurture such ideas and guide them to creation of a business entity.

Reports say that three out of six student groups presenting business ideas were selected for the final stage, where winners will be supported to register the idea as a startup. Each of these selection instances is laudable, but we don't enough track of those who treaded the path earlier, see their successes.

Entrepreneurship and innovation is being embedded in curriculum at business schools, which treasures the ideas of the young innovators, but finally just a few of them are either quite new or actually usable in the market.

At times the ideas enable networking for small groups of people, using other online applications for conveyance of a new product.

Being guided up to start up position is quite encouraging, but

there is a risk policy makers become satisfied with that achievement, whereas the issue is really the level of failures later registered.

In addition, not having won a competition does not mean that the ideas created were not good, but more specifically underlines the capacity to absorb such ideas at an institutional level.

That is why the guarantee about young people succeeding in innovation and creation of usable products is the market itself, since the more it is liberalized and private companies can offer any services they feel they can, such innovations can work.

But when most public needs are under the thumb of public agencies protected by law against competition. Innovators fail. That is why celebrations about selecting winning ideas are just inadequate.

When higher learning institutions organize competitions with the aim of equipping students with the skills needed to pursue innovation and entrepreneurship, that is altogether positive but it also bespeaks of another weakness. That innovation itself isn't adequate but the brilliant youths need to also learn business to guide themselves in what is potentially a rough market reality, where no one else appears to be interested in their innovations but themselves.

If public services had a wide range of private sector players, it would definitely be able to use such ideas for instance to cut costs, whereas public sector service providers need certain inefficiencies to use them to gain a bigger portion in budget allocations. Outages are often deliberate; TANESCO was once asked during a blackout why it repairs two power stations at once.



## More austerity is the wrong medicine for our public health crisis

By Matshidiso Lencossa and Dominic Brown

Brown

IN the context of weak economic growth, lower-than-expected tax revenues, and the implementation of measures to reduce public spending, there is "rising panic" ahead of this year's Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS). The concern for health care provision is palpable as anticipated budget cuts threaten the country's already fragile and understaffed public healthcare system. There is only one nurse for every 224 patients in the public health system, and over 5 000 nursing posts remain unfilled (something primarily attributed to funding constraints).

In times of poor economic performance, difficult policy choices and trade-offs arise, and it may be tempting for fiscal policymakers to slash public health spending. However, without meaningful consideration of the impact of these decisions on our people and our constitutional right to access healthcare, the MTBPS risks exacerbating the hardships faced in our country.

## Austerity context

South Africa's economic outlook has been riddled with challenges permeating our healthcare system. Over the past decade, the country's economic growth has underperformed, falling in real terms from 2.3% in 2013 to 0.1% in 2023. National Treasury has responded to this with cuts to social spending, including healthcare. Public health is receiving fewer resources in real terms, and our government spends more on debt-servicing (R340.5 billion in the 2023/24 Budget) than on healthcare (R259.2 billion in the 2023/24 Budget).

Moreover, healthcare's allocation of R259 billion in 2023/24 was the same as last year's allocation, meaning that the value of resources allocated to healthcare this year is eroded by Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation, which was projected to be 4.9% at the time of the Budget Speech in February this year.

Worse, this allocation needed to account for the rising demand projected for public healthcare services. Currently, about 84% of the population relies on the public health care system. This figure is projected to increase in response to population growth and rising unemployment making medical aid inaccessible for many in the country.

According to the Public Economy Project, after accounting for inflation and population growth, the spending per healthcare user fell from approximately R4 600



in 2012 to R4 300 in 2018. Based on current budget estimates, it is projected that real per capita public health spending will fall below R3 900 by 2024/25.

## Implications for health care staffing

Although the 2023/24 budget proposed a meagre 1.5% nominal increase to the public sector wage bill, President Cyril Ramaphosa approved a 3.8% increase for this year. However, Treasury's cost containment measures have stipulated a hiring freeze for the rest of the 2023/24 financial year and no further allocations towards personnel expenditure.

This is despite the Department of Health's 2030 Human Resources for Health Strategy quantifying that 96 586 additional health workers are required to bolster the healthcare of all provinces to the same standard as the third-ranked province by 2025. This requires an additional cost of nearly R40 billion in total.

The real-life implications for South Africans are dire. Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital - the largest hospital in Africa and the third largest hospital globally - faces significant staff shortages, cancelling almost 900 surgeries in 2022. The underpaid and overworked Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital nurses have reported "pooling funds to buy patients bread." Doctors at Nelson Mandela Bay's Livingstone Tertiary Hospital have attributed "suboptimal, undignified patient care" to budget shortages and forecast higher medico-legal claims, which National Treasury described as a "sub-national risk". However, budget measures that impede public health care's ability to address staff shortages exacerbate the likelihood of errors by overstretched staff, worsening the medico-legal claims bill for health departments.

## Gender and budget cuts

Health budget cuts disproportionately burden women. This burden is evident in the inordinate risk and prevalence of HIV that women face in the country. It is exacerbated by women's higher and differentiated health needs (including those for reproductive and maternal health). Women-led households are 40% poorer, and unemployment is most prevalent among women.

These socioeconomic factors make women more dependent on the public health system.

Budget cuts and underspending clearly have implications for gender equity in the country.

Furthermore, the Department of Health has recognised the healthcare workforce as a critical driver of inclusive economic growth and a means to create decent work for women, especially in rural and underserved communities. Over 90% of nurses in our public health system are women, and in our society of unequal gendered norms, it is also women who carry the care work burden in the home. Many will likely interpret any proposed MTBPS cuts without factoring gender equity implications as an under-appreciation of women's labour in making a fragile healthcare system and society work.

## A case for human rights budgeting

Although improving the country's economic outlook is imperative, without consideration of the power that fiscal policy has in advancing human rights in the country, there is a likelihood of tabling an MTBPS that impedes the realisation of constitutionally guaranteed human rights in the country.

More than ever, our health system requires inculcation of human rights impact assessments as recommended by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which South Africa is a party. These assessments could compel policymakers to outline how the resources allocated will protect the right to access healthcare for all in the country, especially when budget cuts are considered. Including these considerations in budget policy may further advance meaningful public participation processes in fiscal policy.

Furthermore, a gender-responsive MTBPS is long overdue and a powerful means to protect the most vulnerable people in the country from reduced social investment. The health budget could be tagged to identify programmes with gender as a principal or significant objective and areas which would need to be protected and consideration of the gendered experience of healthcare to prevent fiscal policy from worsening gender

inequities in the country. Budget policymakers should further promote the collection of gender-disaggregated data and establish indicators and benchmarks on gender and other socio-economic factors to advance a more equitable funding allocation.

Lastly, authentic public engagement will allow National Treasury and budget policymakers to solicit and table more equitable fiscal expansion alternatives. Increased public consultation could include extending the pre-budget consultations with the public.

Moreover, civil society organisations like the Institute of Economic Justice and the Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC) have proposed alternative approaches to fiscal constraints that could ensure sufficient resources to protect our frail public health system from threats to resource availability. These alternatives should be explored.

One strategy proposed is strengthening the country's capacity to halt the significant revenue losses owing to corporate tax abuses, including illicit financial flows (IFF) and base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS). IFF refers to the cross-border movement of illegally sourced funds while BEPS refers to when multinational companies shift the profits generated in South Africa to another jurisdiction that has lower or zero tax rates in order to minimise their tax burden.

The Financial Intelligence Centre estimates that between \$15 billion and \$25 billion is shifted out of our country to tax havens yearly. We call for greater urgency towards implementing publicly disclosed beneficial ownership registries based on country-by-country reporting and the automatic exchange of information, strengthening capital and exchange controls, and increasing South African Revenues Services (SARS) capacity to investigate corporations suspected to be involved in IFF and BEPS. These essential measures can contribute to curbing profit shifting, resulting in more than R100 billion in revenue each year.

The upcoming MTBPS will find National Treasury in a challenging position where various trade-offs will likely be made. In this harsh economic climate, if something has to give, it cannot be the constitutional right to health care for all in this country.

Lencossa is a Budget Researcher at SECTION27 and Steering Committee Member of the Budget Justice Coalition. Brown is Director of the Alternative Information and Development Centre and member of the Budget Justice Coalition.



# Boeing 767 freighter: The ball is now in our exporters' court



By Mark Mapambano

AIR freight is undoubtedly the most valuable form of transport when it comes to moving express shipments around the globe, especially perishable goods that turn bad and lose value even with minimal delay. Also known as air cargo, it is a trade facilitator that contributes to global economic development and creates millions of jobs. The global economy depends on the ability to deliver high-quality products at competitive prices to consumers worldwide. Air cargo transports over USD 6 trillion worth of goods, accounting for approximately 35 percent of world trade by value, according to International Air Transport Association



**With the delivery of our first Boeing 767-300F to ATCL in June this year, the government has played its part and the ball is now in the exporters' court.**

(IATA). Folks in the horticulture export in Tanzania have for decades been relying heavily on a neighbouring country for shipment of merchandise abroad which meant more cost of transportation and hence less profit. This was not good news for Tanzania's horticultural industry which largely depends on small-holder farmers who own less than two hectares of land. According to Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), yields of fruits and vegetables have increased by between 200 and 300 percent and exports have grown to over USD 779 million since 2021. Also notable is the fact that this subsector is growing at a rate of

11 percent per year which is much higher than four percent for the overall agriculture sector. But things change for the better on June 3rd this year when Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL), took delivery of its first Boeing 767-300F freighter aircraft, which arrived at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam. This milestone delivery marked the first 767 freighter aircraft to be delivered to an African carrier directly from Boeing. Other airlines, such as Royal Air Maroc and Ethiopian Airlines, also fly the type, but as converted freighters at the end of their passenger service life. President Samia Suluhu Hassan led other leaders at a ceremony of receiving the plane at JNIA and thanked Tanzanians for their patience support, stating that the delivery marked the new beginning in the country's international trade in general and exports in particular. ATCL Managing Director, Ladislaus Matindi, said the aircraft was expected to significantly reduce costs for exporting cargo, mainly agricultural, fisheries and livestock products, adding that the plane can carry up to 54 tonnes of freight. It has a range of 11,070 km, fuel-efficient (90770 liters) and a speed of 850km/h. Matindi said the evaluation of the company's performance in the air cargo transport market has shown great potential as well as high demand for more cargo planes, add-

ing that ATCL also transports cargo from other African countries to other continents, especially Asia. The Boeing 767-300F has been highly popular among air cargo operators, and despite being succeeded by the Boeing 777-F, it is still efficiently used by many carriers around the world for cargo operations. The aircraft is capable of flying 3,255 nautical miles (6,028 km), carrying a maximum revenue payload of over 54 tonnes which makes it the right aircraft for the national carrier whose aim is to help grow the region's commerce and support the export and import markets. While previously Air Tanzania transported cargo, the airline had to use the belly hold of its passenger aircraft and thus was limited to the carrier's passenger route network. However, with the arrival of the airline's first dedicated freight aircraft, the carrier can now expand its cargo operations in capacity and reach. It should be remembered that ATCL boasts passenger aircraft to destinations within the African continent and Asia with a fleet of 11 aircraft comprising of Dash 8-Q400s, the Airbus A220-300s, and two Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners. With the addition of the 767 freighter to the carrier's fleet, the national carrier now has new markets open to serve. But people who should be laughing are exporters who had to rely on a neighbouring country for lack of direct cargo flight from Tanzania. Despite being first introduced as a passenger aircraft in 1982 and due to its popularity, converted to a freighter version in 1993, the type is still in production. The 767 freighter is the cargo version of the manufacturer's popular Boeing 767-300 passenger aircraft. Boeing states that the 767-300F is still "the best fit in the mid-sized freighter market." With the delivery of our first Boeing 767-300F to ATCL in June this year, the government has played its part and the ball is now in the exporters' court. The author comments on current affairs. He can be reached on 0655 522 922.

## The late Maalim Seif through the lenses of Ali Hassan Mwinyi

By Andrew Bomani

A FEW weeks ago saw the third Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad Memorial Conference in Zanzibar. Various positive things have been talked about the late politician although I find myself struggling to put my finger on what Maalim meant for Zanzibar and Tanzania. This is attributed to him being around for donkey's years such that his politics seemed to have been consumed by navel-gazing. In attempting to probe Maalim, I found it quite illuminating what the second head of state of Tanzania, Mzee Ali Hassan Mwinyi, has to say extensively on him in his autobiography. Mwinyi is also an ex-president of Zanzibar albeit for a short period of time.



The late Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad

The first section of the Kiswahili book on Maalim reads as follows in my own unofficial translation. "When I was forming my government as acting president and later president of Zanzibar, there were already colleagues who had doubts about Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad. I decided to have him as chief minister since in my heart I like reconciliation, toleration and unity. His presence in that position helped stabilise Zanzibar after the climate had been contaminated. When he was chief minister in the government I was leading, he had a positive stance on the Union that wasn't concerning. For instance, on the 17th January 1985, whilst at his Dar es Salaam residence, he was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), where he said that all Tanzanians, mainland and Zanzibar, were happy with their Union which they see as fulfilling their demands and expectations and that even when problems arise they know that they will be dealt with and ended on a good understanding. By his own words, he said that those questioning the legitimacy or benefit of the Union were engaging in distortions, malice and had lost hope. He

went on to say that the Union had helped eliminate any discrimination on the basis of religion, race, part of the Union one came from or ideology. He said the fifth-phase government of Zanzibar, unlike the one before, had good relations with their Union counterparts and where a problem arises, discusses and finishes it in a transparent manner instead of dealing with it by hiding. I think it is only Maalim Seif who can explain what befell him to the point that his position changed in the manner that it did. The time he was chief minister in the government I led, I had no problem with him. But, it should be understood that I am a very tolerant person and that it takes a lot of ef-

fort to stir up. And possibly this gave him hope that after me will be him. It is possible that after missing the presidency after me it angered him; it is possible that he lost hope and settled on political animosity. It is sad as he was a young man and possibly had he been patient, he may have become president after Sheikh Idrissa Abdulwakil, who voluntarily served for one-term only. But he himself and his fellow youth who were in a hurry to capture power were being accused of various types of inflammation. They were said to lack respect and enough loyalty to their President Sheikh Abdulwakil. This matter troubled me a lot since I personally was involved three times to urge

Abdulwakil to continue with Maalim Seif as chief minister. It was clear that Sheikh Idrissa didn't like it but accepted out of respect to me. He was also aware that Mwalimu Nyerere liked Maalim Seif and saw him as one of the young leaders of CCM who could rise to national leadership. The need for Maalim Seif to continue as chief minister arose also out of the electoral environment of 1985. But Maalim Seif at that time did not see far. Although he was only 42, he was in a rush. He refused to withdraw his name from the race to be named as the CCM candidate for president of Zanzibar in order to allow Abdulwakil who was above 60. Just compare him with the chief minister after him,

Omar Ali Juma, who in 1990, with the right to seek the presidency of Zanzibar, decided to withdraw and state that he was still young and that he needed more preparation before becoming president. Let's go back to 1985. Maalim Seif refused to withdraw his name; it meant nomination votes being cast for them in CCM whereafter Seif got eighty per cent of the vote from Pemba and Abdulwakil received almost the same from Unguja. Abdulwakil would top the votes and become the party nominee and later president. And in the general election, the victory of Abdulwakil wasn't much different from the party pattern of voting, a sign of disaffection from Pemba that Seif

wasn't the CCM candidate. In that environment, it appeared that in order to help unify Zanzibar's, Maalim Seif should continue as chief minister. In order that that goal is attained, it was important that Sheikh Abdulwakil and Maalim Seif have an understanding, they cooperate sincerely, there is mutual respect and they work together as one team to unite Zanzibar's. But Maalim Seif believed he deserved to be the president of Zanzibar, and didn't give his president the respect and cooperation as was supposed to be. After tolerating each other for about two years, the situation was bad. Acts of incitement started to be heard from the month of July 1987. The highest point of their misunderstanding was January 1988 and it became apparent that there was a plot by Maalim Seif and his colleagues, within and outside the government, which gave Idrissa Abdulwakil much concern. He condemned this situation with the expectation Maalim Seif will rectify himself. It wasn't the case. On the 12th January 1988, during the Revolution Day celebrations, Abdulwakil announced that he had information of preparations to invade Zanzibar using mercenaries on the pretext of liberating Zanzibar from foreign rulers, meaning mainland Tanzania. President Abdulwakil wanted them to know that Zanzibar is part of the United Republic of Tanzania and that an invasion of Zanzibar is an invasion of the whole of the United Republic of Tanzania. The situation didn't change and ten days later, Abdulwakil was forced to dissolve the cabinet. On the 25th January he appointed Dr Omari Ali Juma, who was also a young man from Pemba, to be chief minister in place of Maalim Seif...To be continued. Andrew Bomani is a political scientist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at a\_bomani@yahoo.com

# Peru's Andean peoples 'revive' water that climate change took from them



By Mariela Jara

“THE rich world has caused the climate change that is drying up our water sources, and here we are doing everything we can to recover them because otherwise we will die,” said Juan Hilario Quispe, president of the small farming community of Muñapata, just over 50 kilometers from the Peruvian city of Cuzco.

Located in Urcos, one of the 12 municipalities of the Cuzco province of Quispicanchi, the community is in an endless struggle against the permanent water shortage, one of the most devastating impacts of the climate crisis for those whose livelihoods depend on subsistence agriculture.

Peru, whose population of 33 million people is distributed along its coastal strip, the Amazon rainforest, and the Andes highlands, is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, and particularly Cuzco, the region known worldwide for being the cradle of the Inca empire.

In Cuzco, the population is close to 1.4 million and almost 40 percent of the people live in rural areas where family agriculture is one of the main economic activities and the lack of water is a direct threat to their livelihoods.

“Before, when it didn't rain in the summertime, we children used to pray to God to send us water from the heavens, and the rain would come. But now it's different; the climate has changed and no prayers work,” Quispe told IPS in the community center of Muñapata, located at 3,100 meters above sea level.

Peru is home to 68 percent of the planet's tropical glaciers, more than half of which have been lost in the last 60 years due to climate change. The ones located in Cuzco have been among the hardest hit.

In addition, the southern Peruvian Andes highlands region of Cuzco has been experiencing a severe drought for the last two years, aggravated by the El Niño climate phenomenon, which is intensifying due to the global climate crisis.

In the face of the tangible consequences of climate change,

Community leader Juan Cuti looks with satisfaction at a green path where crystal-clear water runs along the edge of an area forested with queuña trees in the highlands of his community, Sachac, in the southern Peruvian department of Cuzco, protected by a wire fence. It is an example of work carried out collectively by villagers to cope with the impacts of climate change. Credit: Mariela Jara/IPS

the people of Muñapata decided to recover their water sources through the revival of ancestral Quechua practices known as sowing and harvesting water, which generate the conditions for part of the rain to be captured, stored, and infiltrated into the soil, preventing the water from running off and being lost.

This recharges aquifers that feed the diversity of natural water sources such as the ojos de agua—small natural pools of spring water—which in turn regenerate wetlands and pastures where animals can drink.

“We have planted more than 20,000 native plants that capture water in the headwaters of the watershed, and we have built infiltration ditches, or amunas (in the Quechua language), age-old irrigation ditches that allow water to seep into the subsoil, and recharge canals,” said Yolanda Haqqehua, leader of the community's agroecological producers, affiliated with the Provincial Association of Agroecological Producers of Quispicanchi (APPEQ).

While pointing to the area where they planted queñuas (*Polylepis* spp), a small tree native to the Andes highlands that is highly drought-resistant and valuable for trapping water from fog that then seeps into the soil, Haqqehua expressed her satisfaction with the first results of the work of her community, where some 300 families live.

“The seedlings are growing well, and we are bringing water from the ojo de agua for our own consumption with a hose. We are also going to be able to improve our crops after two very difficult years. But we have to keep fighting because the water problem will continue as long as we have this climate change issue,” she said.

## A community response based on equality

To learn about the community water revival projects, IPS accompanied members of the non-governmental Flora Tristán Peruvian Women's Center on a tour of the trails of the Quechua small farming communities of Muñapata and Sachac, the latter located in the municipality of Quiquijana, also in the Cuzco province of Quispicanchi.

These are two of the three communities where the NGO provided technical assistance to the efforts

of the local population to respond to the challenges of rising temperatures, which, according to the sixth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), will hit Latin American countries hard in the coming years, despite the fact that the region is responsible for only five percent of global emissions.

“Climate justice is a path to be taken in our countries and specifically in rural and poor communities such as the ones we are visiting, where the populace is in a situation of greater vulnerability due to the characteristics of the territory they inhabit, poverty and neglect by the state, and gender inequality,” said Katherine Pozo, with the Flora Tristán Peruvian Women's Center's Rural Development Program.

She argued that in addition to ensuring that at climate summits such as the one held in Dubai this December, the richest countries give guarantees of their commitment to provide the funds required by the countries of the South, it is necessary to ensure that these resources are available to population groups according to their needs, differentiated by gender, age, territorial location, and other elements.

“There can be no climate justice without equity, without rights, without gender equality,” she said.

Hence, women, particularly those involved in the production of vegetables and herbs using agroecological techniques, have played an important part in the development of the practices of planting and harvesting water.

It was women who played the strongest role in motivating the local governments in their communities to get involved in the revival of water sources, in an effort supported by the Basque Cooperation Agency and the Mugen Gainetik institution from the Basque country in northern Spain.

## Agriculture is impossible without water

After two years of drought that led the Peruvian government to declare the department in a state of emergency due to water stress, Cuzco has been receiving steady rains since the end of November. The traditionally sunny skies of the Andean highlands are often now suddenly covered by dense curtains of gray clouds.

This is good news for the people of Muñapata and Sachac, as they

expect the cochas—the Quechua name for small earthen ponds—infiltration ditches, amunas and recharge canals to fill with water, allowing infiltration into the soil (water planting) and direct use for irrigation or daily consumption (water harvesting).

David Quispe, a community member from the Cunucunca area, near Muñapata, is president of the Forestation Committee and gets excited during a tour of the area when he sees little ponds full of water, huge mushrooms at the base of a ficus grove, and, above all, when he sees that the queuña trees are growing well.

“Community members have worked in a coordinated fashion to dig on the hillsides, to cut ditches across the altiplano, and to plant our native plants to revive the water that climate change is drying up with global warming,” he told IPS.

He said he was born in 1978 and that when he was a child, he was able to graze the family's sheep in different places because he could always find active springs and ojos de agua. “But they dried up little by little, and that is very bad for those of us who make a living from agricultural and grazing livestock,” he lamented.

He lives with and takes care of his elderly mother and father, works as a farmer, and is a community leader. His wish is that latent territorial disputes over water do not break out, and he is convinced that the solution is to ensure supplies for irrigation and domestic use. “That's on my mind now,” he remarked.

## A consequence of climate change

Juana María Quispe was born in the community of Sachac and raised her family there with Julián Cuti. They have six children, three boys and three girls, ranging in age from four to 19. She speaks only Quechua and talks to IPS through interpretation by bilingual engineer Janet Nina, a member of the Flora Tristán Center.

At more than 4,000 meters above sea level, in the highest part of the community, she and her husband proudly show off the work done in long communal tasks, efforts in which all able local residents take part.

“The streams were drying up; climate change was leaving us without water, but now we are reviving

it,” she said happily.

In Sachac, home to some 200 families, the population has planted 10,500 queuña, chachacomo (*Escallonia resinosa*) and qolle (*Buddleja coriácea*) native water-collecting trees in an area that the community members have protected with a wire fence.

They have also built nearly 5,000 linear meters of infiltration ditches using local materials such as stones and mud blocks called champas.

“In the town council, we have made the commitment to maintain in good condition the works we have carried out and to demand that the authorities invest in forestation throughout the headwaters of Sachac and build more ditches, amunas, and cochas,” said Cuti, who is now secretary of the local community and was previously its president.

He reflected on the problem of not having rainfall when most of his agricultural production is on non-irrigated land and depends on rain.

“We know that this is a consequence of climate change and that it is up to us to be prepared so that life continues, not only for us but also for our children and grandchildren, and it is with them in mind that we are working so hard now,” added the community leader.

Quispe, his wife, pointed out that it was women farmers, as members of APPEQ, who demanded that the town council act in response to the climate change that deprived them of irrigation water for their biogardens. She also said that with persistence, they overcame the initial resistance to women's participation in communal work.

“We women have carried the champas (roots), the stones, and the rocks; we have used the shovels and dug the soil as equals; we have dug the holes and planted the plants; and now it is only fair that we are also on par in the irrigation committees. Without discrimination and working together, we will be stronger in the face of climate change,” she said.

## Enormous, permanent challenge

Engineer Flavio Valer, with 15 years of experience in the development of natural infrastructure for the recovery of water sources in the Andes highlands of Cuzco, said climate change has given rural communities a new, enormous, and permanent challenge.

In addition, he said it comes on top of other challenges that must be assumed as a result of the lack of public policies focusing on the sustainable development of these communities neglected by the state.

He stressed the importance of the local populace organizing themselves in contexts of poverty, disadvantage, and inequality to carry out work that, although it adds to their already heavy workdays, spells the difference between having a fundamental means of livelihood and not having one at all.

“With the planting and harvesting of water, which recovers the knowledge of our ancestors' cultures, we make the water stay in the upper parts so that recharge occurs. We also make infiltration ditches where the soils are bare and thus retain the moisture, and water will sprout from the springs or increase its flow,” he explained. And he remarked, “What we say to the water is don't go down the hillside; stay here; the aquifers need you.”

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IPS UN Bureau Report

# Experts call for application of Juncao technology to promote sustainable agriculture in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

EXPERTS attending a high-level workshop on Juncao technology here are calling for concerted efforts on the application of Juncao technology to advance sustainable agriculture in Africa.

The two-day high-level workshop, which was co-hosted by the Chinese Mission to the African Union (AU), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and China National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU), opened Monday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The workshop gathered representatives from the UN, Chinese diplomats in Ethiopia, agricultural experts and officials from different African countries and China, among others.

Josefa Sacko, the AU commissioner for agriculture, rural development, blue economy and sustainable environment, in a message presented on her behalf, expressed the AU's strong support and readiness to partner with China in the application of the Juncao technology across Africa.

Noting the AU's ongoing efforts to promote medium-term options that improve the promotion of low-cost options toward food security, the commissioner underscored the application of Juncao technology as a viable initiative.

"The Juncao technology is a low-cost technology that will help us realize food security and reduce poverty among the rural poor in Africa. The technology's proven application in mushrooms production and animal feed, if taken into scale, will contribute to fighting malnutrition in the continent, which is rampant among the resource-poor house-



Hu Changchun, head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union, speaks during a workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

holds," she said.

The AU commissioner said the technology's ecological protection contribution complements the AU's efforts to create resilience against climate change.

The workshop, which was held under the theme: "Application of Juncao technology and its contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa," also features panel discussions on mobilizing Juncao technology in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs as well as strengthening capacities to access and use local resources for Juncao technology.

Hu Changchun, head of the Chinese Mission to the AU, said the workshop on Juncao Technology envisaged accelerating the implementation of the Global Development Initiative and deeply connecting with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU's Agenda 2063.

Juncao technology has been applied to many African countries such as South Africa, Madagascar, Tanzania and Nigeria. At present, Juncao technology demonstration bases have been established in Rwanda, Lesotho and the Central African Republic, according to the Chinese Mission to the AU.

Noting that the Juncao technology was officially included in the AU agricultural technology promotion framework in November this year, Hu expressed China's readiness and commitment to working with partners to promote the technology throughout the African continent.

He said to implement and effectively promote the application of Juncao technology in Africa, China is ready to strengthen cooperation in three major areas including supporting the implementation of Juncao "small yet smart" livelihood projects in Africa, innovating the mode

of Juncao technology cooperation, and strengthening cooperation in capacity-building.

"China is willing to work with the UN DESA among other agencies to support the AU and African countries in building capacity in Juncao technology. We are willing to invite African officials and experts to China for training, send Chinese experts to Africa to provide field guidance, and promote direct cooperation between agricultural institutions of two sides," he said.

The workshop also featured special sessions on youth and women initiatives and stake-

holders mapping in agriculture, science, technology and innovation, highlighting the promotion of youth and women engagement in the application of Juncao technology in Africa and beyond.

Ramiz Alakbarov, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Ethiopia, underscored the need to exert concerted efforts among concerned actors toward the expansion of Juncao technology in Africa.

He said the technology offers a much-needed potential for African farmers to improve their food security while also creating income opportunities to improve their livelihood.

Alakbarov further underscored the crucial role of the workshop as it linked to issues that are important to developing countries, including eradication of poverty, reduction of hunger, use of renewable energy, promotion of employment, protection of the environment and responsiveness to climate change.

Developed by FAFU of China, the Juncao technology has allowed smallholder farmers to grow mushrooms from dried, chopped grasses, without cutting down trees and damaging the environment. The environmental-friendly technology helps small-scale farmers and communities to develop a low-cost, commercial-scale mushroom cultivation industry that can provide sustainable livelihood options for family farmers and rural entrepreneurs along agri-food value chains.

During the meeting, experts underscored that besides substituting for wood to grow mushrooms, Juncao grass is increasingly being used as livestock feed and in environmental protection, energy and fertilizer production. Juncao technology has also led to the emergence of a new industry that uses Juncao grass to produce fibreboard and paper.

## UN prepares the early departure of the blue helmets in The DRC

KINSHASA

DESPITE concerns about violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the UN Security Council is expected to launch on Tuesday an early but gradual withdrawal of peacekeepers from the country from the end of 2023, as requested by Kinshasa.

On the eve of high-risk elections in the country, which coincide with the expiration of the annual mandate of the peacekeeping mission, according to the draft, "the tensions between Rwanda and the DRC" in the east and "concern regarding the escalation of violence" of the United Nations (MONUSCO), the Council should underline its

Despite this situation, the Congolese government has been calling for months for an "accelerated" withdrawal of Blue helmets, from the end of 2023 and not the end of 2024. He considers the UN force ineffective in protecting civilians against armed groups and militias that have been raging for three decades in eastern DRC.

An accusation similar to other African countries, notably Mali which imposed the emergency departure of the UN mission (MINUSMA).

Several members of the Council, notably the United States, have expressed doubts in recent months about the fact that the Congolese forces are ready to replace MONUSCO to ensure the security of the population.

But since UN missions cannot operate without authorization from the host country, the DRC also wants - but less directly than the Malian junta - to force the hand of the Security Council.

If the draft resolution is adopted

as planned on Tuesday, the Council will decide "to begin the gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal" of the mission, in accordance with a withdrawal plan concluded in November between Kinshasa and MONUSCO.

The first phase plans the complete withdrawal of peacekeepers from the province of South Kivu by the end of April 2024, a withdrawal which will begin "before the end of 2023".

From May 2024, MONUSCO will only be present in North Kivu and Ituri. From July 1, its workforce will be reduced by some 2,350 people (maximum authorized strength of around 13,800 military and police officers).

The possible continuation of the withdrawal will have to be determined on the basis of an evaluation report of the first phase, which the Council expects by the end of June 2024.

The UN peacekeeping force (MONUC, then MONUSCO) has been present in the country since 1999. For several years, the Security Council had already begun a cautious disengagement, setting broad parameters for transferring responsibilities from the Blue Helmets to the Congolese forces. With the aim of starting to withdraw by 2024.

In this context, MONUSCO had already focused on the three eastern provinces, North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.

Noting further the importance of "coordinating" the various peacekeeping operations in the country, the draft resolution considers the possibility of "operational and logistical" support from MONUSCO to regional forces present in the country.

## Coffee companies turning away from Africa as EU deforestation law looms

By Maytaal Angel

IMPORTERS of coffee to the European Union are starting to scale back purchases from small farmers in Africa and beyond as they prepare for a landmark EU law that will ban the sale of goods linked to the destruction of forests, a cause of climate change.

Industry sources said the cost and difficulty of complying with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which comes into force late in 2024, meant it was already having unintended impacts that could in time reshape global commodities markets.

Four cited a drying-up of orders in recent months for coffee from Ethiopia, where some 5 million farming families rely on the crop. They warned that sourcing strategies being adopted by companies in advance of the law risk increasing small scale farmer poverty and raising prices for EU consumers, while also undermining the EUDR's impact on forest conservation.

"I see no way of buying significant quantities of Ethiopian coffee going forward," said Johannes Dengler, an executive at German roaster Dallmayr, which buys about 1 percent of the world's exported coffee.

Because beans he orders now could find their way into coffee products sold in the bloc in 2025, they must be EUDR-compliant, he said - even though implementing acts for the law have yet to be finalised.

Under EUDR, importers of commodities like coffee, cocoa, soy, palm, cattle, timber and rubber - and products that use them - must be able to prove their goods did not originate from deforested land, or face hefty fines.



Coffee major JDE Peets said it might be forced to exclude some smaller producing countries from its supply chain as early as March if it hasn't "found and implemented a solution with them" by that date. Deforestation is the second leading cause of climate change after burning of fossil fuels.

The European Commission said it has several initiatives to help producing countries and smallholders comply with the EUDR, including one launched at COP28 where the EU and member states pledged 70 million euros (\$76 million) to that end.

It added that some smallholders see the EUDR as an opportunity, especially if accompanied by EU support measures, as it will help them meet growing global demand for sustainably sourced products.

The EUDR requires companies to digitally map their supply chains down to the plot where the raw materials were grown, which could potentially involve tracing millions of small farms in remote regions.

Moreover, because companies often don't deal directly with

farmers, they could be relying in part on data provided by multiple local middlemen, some of whom they also might not deal with directly or trust.

In some developing countries, patchy internet coverage makes mapping difficult, while traders and industry experts say land rights disputes, weak law enforcement and clan conflict can make it dangerous to even seek data on farm ownership.

"Nowadays from Europe no one is interested in our coffee," a representative from Ethiopia's Oromia Coffee Farmers' Cooperatives Union, told a recent World Coffee Alliance webinar.

He said most Ethiopian coffee farmers have never heard of the EUDR and that even educated villagers would struggle to collect the required data in time.

Coffee generates 30-35 percent of Ethiopia's total export earnings, with almost a quarter sold to the EU.

"Roasters are moving to big rich Brazilian farmers. It's really shocking," said a trader at one coffee trade major.

"In risky countries, there's

smallholders and middlemen who are illiterate - and we're coming to them with a law that even Europeans don't understand."

But cutting out small-scale farmers or whole countries will not be feasible if they are major commodity producers.

Ivory Coast and Ghana, for example, produce nearly 70 percent of the world's cocoa, while 60 percent of coffee comes from Brazil and Vietnam. Indonesia and Malaysia grow almost 90 percent of the world's palm oil, a commodity used in everything from pizza and lipstick to biofuels.

As such, some major companies say they will redirect raw materials they cannot reliably trace in those countries to non-EU markets, while sending compliant goods to the EU.

Golden Agri Resources, one of the world's largest palm oil companies, told Reuters "segregated supply chains will be required" to implement the EUDR. A source at palm oil major Musim Mas concurred.

To the extent this strategy comes to dominate, it would lessen the EUDR's impact on forest conservation because raw materials would still be grown on deforested land, just not for EU consumption.

Compliance costs throughout the supply chain are meanwhile expected to raise food prices in the 27-country EU.

Two of the world's largest coffee traders, Sucafina and Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) have already locked in future sales contracts that include a EUDR premium, according to a source at a commodities trade major.

# UN and partners in need of USD 46 billion for humanitarian assistance



CARE Somalia, a UN partner, could provide emergency services to drought-affected communities through humanitarian funding. Credit: OCHA-Yao Chen

By Naureen Hossain

FUNDING humanitarian programs will continue into the new year, but the funding cuts of the previous year may impact the prioritization of the most immediate and most life-threatening needs.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) for 2024. This annual assessment of the global humanitarian sector provides insight into the humanitarian action undertaken by the UN and its partners and reviews current and future trends in this sector.

Major crises have been the result of violent conflicts or global climate disasters. The economic impact of these crises has been a contributing factor to the increasing humanitarian needs in places like Afghanistan and Syria, or indicative of greater economic instability. The need for food, water, shelter, and health services, have also contributed to the assessment of needs among affected communities. As a result of these crises, 1 in 73 people have been forcibly displaced. Over 258 million people have experienced acute food insecurity. Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, has remarked that the international community has not been "keeping pace with the needs" brought on by these crises.

For this year, there was a reported decrease in funding from the



**We need to get better at acting on gender-specific analyses that strengthen our ability to meet the diverse and distinct needs of all the people we serve. We need far greater investment in protection and other services in humanitarian settings that are tailored for women and girls.**



Two women together in a 'friendly space', a woman-only zone in an IDP site in Unity State, South Sudan. Credit: OCHA-Alioune Ndiaye

year prior. In the previous year, in spite of efforts and repeated calls from UN officials to increase funding, the UN received only one-third of the requested USD57 billion for 2023. In 2024, the UN and its humanitarian partners are calling for USD 46.4 billion to assist 180.5 million in 72 countries. The North Africa and Middle East region, which includes the Palestinian Territory, Syria and Yemen, will require USD 13.9 billion, which is the largest amount being asked. East and Southern Africa is next, requiring USD 10.9 billion, followed by Central and West Africa requiring USD 8.3 billion, and Asia and the Pacific,

which is calling for USD 5.5 billion.

The current plans from the UN and its humanitarian partners, as indicated by the report, will be to prioritize the communities dealing with the most life-threatening needs, and therefore require urgent action. The response plans that have been formulated promise a more stream-lined approach that will take into consideration the realities of the organizations' capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance. Given that funding—or the lack thereof—was a particular concern over the last year, and resources were quickly dwindling, this pragmatic approach is found-

ed. Even with this focus on immediate needs, the predicted funds required for certain regions would suggest that protracted crises with long-term impacts are among the issues that will be addressed. The tragedy of humanitarian work seems to be that with multiple situations and escalations to address, attention and assistance are only further divided between today's disaster and yesterday's crisis. The crisis may not have been fully resolved.

For instance, under the Rohingya Joint Response Plan, which will be led by UNHCR and IOM, USD

872.7 million has been requested to fund this plan that will provide ongoing humanitarian support to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. It is six years since the Rohingya refugee camps have been set up. The need for food, shelter, and protection, and the pressure to keep these camps running have only exacerbated and may continue to do so the longer it persists. The prolonged presence of the camps, and the number of people still seeking refuge by crossing the border, will only leave them more vulnerable to the risks of abuse, exploitation, disease, and other security issues that developed within the settlements.

The GHO attests that humanitarian organizations will aim to deliver better results. This will include acknowledging and supporting local and national humanitarian groups through funding, increasing accountability and people-centered responses, and engaging in humanitarian diplomacy. There is also a call to promote inclusive responses that acknowledge the unique, intersecting, and complex needs of vulnerable peoples, including those from marginalized communities.

Women and girls, for instance, are particularly vulnerable during humanitarian crises. OCHA Director, Coordination Division, Ramesh Rajasingham, remarked on this during a high-level event in Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia. He stated that women are fourteen times more likely to be killed during climate disasters. Women and girls are also at a greater risk of gender-based violence; only 53 percent were able to access GBV services through groups like UN Women. Women and girls also face barriers in receiving life-saving healthcare, especially when it comes to reproductive health. Humanitarian organizations, and the international community that supports them, should be expected to improve their response to the gender-specific needs.

"We need to get better at acting on gender-specific analyses that strengthen our ability to meet the diverse and distinct needs of all the people we serve," he said. "We need far greater investment in protection and other services in humanitarian settings that are tailored for women and girls."

What is evident in the GHO is that the compassion and urgency to help those in need remain a driving force for the UN's humanitarian actors. Yet, one cannot help but lament at the adjusted funding request, which is lower than last year's. When it is now, more than ever, that millions of people are living through dire situations, through conflict or displacement, and many more are at risk of falling.

IPS UN Bureau Report

**RADIO One** **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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

## Insurance pays N1.7bn to more than 42,000 failed banks customers

LAGOS

THE Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has paid N1.7 billion to over 42,000 customers of failed banks.

Managing Director/Chief Executive NDIC, Bello Hassan, disclosed this while addressing journalists at the sidelines of the NDIC Editors Forum with the theme "Stocktaking of Deposit Insurance Practice: Assessing the Past, Evaluating the Present and Forecasting the Future."

Hassan said: "In terms of the insured amount paid today, we have paid more than N1.7 billion to more than 42,000 customers and we are calling on customers that had no BVN attached to their account in those microfinance banks to come forward and reach out to us at our offices across the six geopolitical zones so that they can get themselves verified so we can pay the insured amount."

"We appeal to those depositors to come forward so that they can be verified and paid the insured amount and it would form the basis of subsequent payment when we realise the assets be it physical or risk asset to begin the liquidation dividend subsequently."

Hassan explained that the Editors Forum was part of the Corporation's efforts to deepen close and cordial relationships with the leadership of the media industry to ensure partnership for the successful implementation of the Deposit Insurance System in Nigeria.

Elaborating on the rationale for theme for the forum, Hassan said: "The NDIC at various times has had to confront the same challenges as other financial safety-net players affecting the nation's financial system as a result of the impact of macroeconomic factors and the changing dimensions of the financial services industry which is constantly evolving. Though some of the challenges are universal, others are of course unique and domesticated."

"It is within this context that the NDIC aligns itself with the Central Bank of Nigeria's efforts towards strengthening the banking industry through enhancing prudential thresholds and other regulatory instruments while deepening engagement and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in the Nigerian financial system to effectively address challenges and implement solutions. "It is this background that informed the choice of the theme of this year's interaction: "Stocktaking of Deposit Insurance Practice: Assessing the Past, Evaluating the Present and Forecasting the Future".

"As such, the key issues to be put in perspective in the course of this interaction include the adequacy of the deposit insurance coverage; faster reimbursement of depositors in the event of bank failure; and of course, the roles of the media in promoting the stability of the financial system amongst others. To this end, there's no gain saying the fact that your meaningful and constructive contributions are highly expected."

## Minister commend Huawei's contribution to Tanzania's technologies advancement



Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye (centre) with graduates of the Seeds for the Future program during the awarding ceremony held on Monday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of Huawei. End.

By Francis Kajubi

MINISTER of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye has commended Huawei for its relentless efforts in nurturing local talent and advancing technological capabilities in the country.

Nnauye expressed his recognition to Huawei Tanzania on Monday in Dar es Salaam at the awarding ceremony of the best students who graduated from the 'Seeds for the Future Program' organized by Huawei.

The programme featured students from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), the University of Dodoma (UDOM) and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT).

"Huawei solidified its commitment to Tanzania's talent development cultivation through its various programs including the Seeds for the Future," said Nnauye.

According to him, the government-Huawei partnership intends to sow seeds of knowledge, to cultivate the minds of today and harvest the innovation of tomorrow. Seeds for the future are the small beginnings that lead to big transformation.

He said in realizing the fourth industrial revolution, it's not only about technological transformation but should be regarded as an opportunity to shape a better and more inclusive future for all.

During the event the two partners signed an MoU marking a crucial step toward fostering collaboration on digital transformation initiatives including 5G, AI, ICT Talents and Cyber Security, etc. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Mohammed Khamis Abdullah said the MoU, underlines the joint commitment to driving technological innovation and development.

He asserted that the collaboration aims to leverage Huawei's expertise to enhance digital infrastructure and capabilities within the country.

"I extend my gratitude to Huawei for their collaboration and express confidence that this partnership will yield fruitful results for the advancement of Tanzania's digital landscape," said Abdullah.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Franklin Rwezimula praised Huawei's contribution to edu-

cation through initiatives like Seeds for the Future.

He said the company's commitment to skill development aligns with the government's efforts to equip the youth with the necessary tools for the digital age.

Damon Zhang, Managing Director Huawei Tanzania, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, outlining specific initiatives that will contribute to local innovation, skills development, and sustainable digital growth.

Zhang said Huawei remains dedicated to supporting Tanzania's journey toward becoming a technological hub in the region.

"As our Slogan says, In Tanzania, For Tanzania, we remain committed to supporting digitalization of Tanzania. We will continue to Contribute in innovation, digital transformation, and contribute to the socio-economic development of Tanzania," said Zhang.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Dodoma, Prof. Lughano Kusiluka highlighted the significance of industry-academic partnerships.

Prof Kusiluka commended Huawei's role in providing students with practical experiences and opportunities through

programs like Seeds for the Future.

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor University of Dar es Salaam, Prof. Nelson Boniface said that the partnership with Huawei signifies a shared commitment to prepare the students to address the evolving challenges of the digital landscape.

The Seeds for the Future is Huawei's flagship corporate social responsibility (CSR) program at the corporate level.

By selecting young talents from around the world to participate in short-term trainings, global competitions and ongoing alumni activities centered around digital technology, it provides them with an important platform to understand industry innovation, experience cross-cultural exchanges, and cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit.

The program embraces diversity of nationality and inclusivity as its core values, and has committed to a participation rate of at least one-third for female students.

Since its inception in 2016 in Tanzania, 240 students from more than 15 high learning institutions across the country have benefited from the program.

## BoT envisages bold economic growth in 2024

By Francis Kajubi

THE country's economic performance has been satisfactory through 2023 setting stage for further improvement in 2024 following the government's implementation of growth-enhancing policies and increased private sector investment.

The central bank's Monetary Policy Statement (MPC) released yesterday shows growth in the first and second quarters of 2023 was 5.4 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively, bolstered by the diversified nature of economic activities.

Given this performance, combined with leading economic indicators for the second half of 2023, growth outturn for the entire year might be above the projection of 5 percent.

Inflationary pressures remained muted, evolving below the target of 5 percent, owing to the smooth coordination of monetary, fiscal, and structural policies.

"As a result, the downward trend of inflation observed since the beginning of 2023 continued, reaching 3.2 percent in October and November from 3.3 percent which persisted for three months consecutively, primarily driven by moderation in food prices," reads the MPC in part.

Owing to the implementation of a less accommodative monetary policy, the growth of monetary aggregates slowed in November 2023.

The extended broad money supply grew at 13.7 percent compared with 14.5 percent recorded in September 2023, driven by private sector credit growth, which slowed to 18.3 percent from 19.5 percent.

However, the growth of private sector credit was still above the projection of 16.4 percent by the end of December 2023. The high investment appetite strengthened by improving the business environment and supportive policies is expected to persist.

In the first four months of the current fiscal year, it states, revenue performance was 96 percent of the target and expenditure continued to be aligned with the available resources.

The deficit narrowed to \$3,265.5 million in the year ending October 2023 compared with \$4,990.1 million in the corresponding period in 2022 and is expected to continue improving.

Foreign exchange reserves remained adequate at about \$5 billion in November 2023, sufficient to cover more than 4 months of imports. The exchange rate depreciated by around 7.8 percent, year-on-year, reflecting the short-

age of foreign currency liquidity. The foreign reserves are projected to remain adequate.

The banking sector was adequately capitalized and liquid. Asset quality continues to improve, as reflected by a decline in non-performing loans to 5.3 percent in October 2023 from 7.2 percent in the corresponding period in 2022.

The MPC noted with satisfaction the measures implemented by the Bank of Tanzania in addressing the shortage of foreign currency and observed the implementation of policies.

In the context of the expected low inflationary environment and improving business conditions, the MPC decided to sustain the implementation of a less accommodative monetary policy in December 2023. This conclusion was also reached after considering the unfavourable global economic condition.

The MPC states that recovery in economic activities was also observed in Zanzibar, owing to a remarkable improvement in tourism and public and private investment. As a result, growth was 5 percent in the second quarter and is expected to reach an annual target of 7.1 percent in 2023.

Inflationary pressures were also subdued, with an outturn of 6.5 percent in October 2023

from 7.5 percent in the preceding month.

The decline was driven by both food and non-food inflation. In both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, inflation is expected to remain stable and consistent with the medium-term target of 5 percent.

Revenue performance in Zanzibar was almost on target. The performance was observed in all revenue categories, except tax on imports and non-tax. The current account improved slightly, mainly on account of an increase in foreign exchange earnings from traditional export crops and tourism.

The island's current account deficit widened to \$447.7 million compared with a deficit of \$362.8 million, mainly on account of an increase in imports, which outweighed the improvements in exports.

MPC met on Monday to review the conduct of monetary policy and performance of the economy.

During deliberations, the MPC observed that the less accommodative monetary policy continued to keep monetary and financial conditions at the level required containing inflation below the target of 5 percent while continuing to support economic activities and financial sector stability.

Supported by fiscal policy and



BoT Governor, Emmanuel Tutuba

an improvement in proceeds from exports and tourism, the policy stance lessened the pressure on demand for foreign currency in October and November 2023.

The MPC went further to discuss the global economic outlook and noted that the situation has been relatively weak for most of

2023, largely due to geo-political tensions, tightened financial conditions, and high energy prices.

The MPC anticipates that the condition might improve in 2024, conditional on the fading of geo-political conflicts, decline in energy prices in the world market, and easing of monetary policy tightening in advanced economies.

# Mastermind Tobacco lays off 1,000 after bank takeover

NAIROBI

**T**ROUBLED Mastermind Tobacco (K) Ltd has issued notice of termination of contracts of about 1,000 employees four days after the cigarette maker was pushed into administration by I&M Bank over undisclosed debt.

The firm owned by the estate of the late tycoon Wilfred Murungi stopped cigarette production six months ago (June) and was later put under administration from December 14, adding to a growing list of struggling businesses hoping for rescue under the formal insolvency process in a difficult operating environment.

"We hereby notify all employees that on the placement of the company under administration all existing contracts of employment stand automatically terminated, in accordance with the provisions of the law," joint administrators Swaroop Rao Ponangipalli said in a notice to all employees dated December 18, 2023.

According to the notice, employees interested in continuing their employment with the company are required to submit their applications in writ-



ing but such re-employment will be subject to Joint Administrators' approval and in accordance with the newly negotiated terms and conditions.

"Any such re-employment will be communicated only after the initial assessment of whether the operations can continue at a financially viable level, which determines the number of employees required to be re-employed by the Joint Administrators," said Ponangipalli.

"Any employee, who is not re-employed, in writing, ceases to be the employee of the company with effect from the date of appointment of the Joint Administrators (December 14)."

The notice did not disclose the number of employees affected but the firm through its website puts the total number of its employees at more than 1,000.

"We are an indigenous company employing more than 1,000 people throughout East and Central Africa," the firm says on its website.

I&M Bank appointed Mr Ponangipalli as the joint administrator for Mastermind Tobacco, Kenya's second-largest cigarette manufacturer whose signs of financial distress began manifesting in 2018 through delayed salary payments.

Latest data from the Office of the Official Receiver shows

an increasing number of firms sliding into financial distress, failing to survive the administration process and eventually being liquidated.

In the last two fiscal years (2020/2021 and 2021/2022) the High Court allowed a total of 75 firms to be liquidated and in the first four months (July, August, September and October) of this financial year the High Court has approved nine firms to be liquidated, according to the Office of the Official Receiver.

Kenya introduced the Insolvency Act in 2015, marking a paradigm shift from the previous requirement that insolvent companies be wound up immediately for the benefit of credi-

tors.

Currently, the law requires that insolvent companies be first put under administration to help in efforts to steer them back to profitability.

Only where an insolvent company is determined to be unsalvageable should liquidation apply.

Mastermind, which imported more than half of its raw materials (semi-processed tobacco leaf) from Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has been embroiled in court battles against its employees and the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

In 2019, Mastermind and the KRA signed a deal with the taxman to put its prime assets on forced sale to settle Sh2.9 billion tax arrears.

The firm earlier this year lost a Sh517 million suit against the KRA after the High Court denied the company a chance to admit new evidence in court to support its case.

The case arose after the Tax Appeals Tribunal was called upon to determine whether cigarette consignments in issue were exported and hence zero-rated. Mastermind presented certificates of exports before the tribunal.

## Ghanaian officials visit Kaspersky centre

ACCRA

THE National Communications Authority of Ghana recently visited Kaspersky's Kaspersky Transparency Centre in Zurich, Switzerland, to review the company's code, software updates, threat detection rules, and other technical and business processes.

The visit was part of the Global Transparency Initiative (GTI) of Kaspersky.

GTI covers a number of precise and actionable procedures for collaborating with the larger cybersecurity community and stakeholders in validating and certifying the trustworthiness of Kaspersky products, internal processes, and business operations.

Kaspersky welcomes state authorities, regulators, business and academic partners from around the world to visit the Transparency Centres under the aegis of GTI.

The Ghana National Communications Authority was represented by Brian Nii Martey Martey, assistant manager at the information technology division, and Etonam Yao Dotse, officer at the cybersecurity division.

Genie Sugene Gan, Kaspersky's head of government affairs and public policy for Asia Pacific, Japan, the Middle East, Turkey, and Africa, welcomed the delegation.

"Such visits are critical in building trust across our cybersecurity solutions." Transparency Centres allow partners and government stakeholders to conduct independent reviews of source code, software updates, and threat detection criteria," said Genie Sugene Gan.

According to Kaspersky Security Network, Ghanaian authorities' visit comes at a time when African countries are rapidly becoming focal centres for cyber-attacks.

Kenya is ranked 35th, Nigeria is ranked 50th, and South Africa is ranked 82nd in the global top 100 for internet risks.

The company recently revealed the realities of cyber dangers in Africa.

Backdoor and spyware attacks were the most common threat kinds in South Africa in the first quarter of 2023, according to Kaspersky, with 106,000 attack attempts.

Similar attack attempts totalled 46,000 in Nigeria, while the same attacks peaked at 143,000 in Kenya.

According to Kaspersky, it is critical to gain the finest security procedures because the landscape of cyberthreats around the world is continually expanding.

According to the company: "It's important to have the opportunity to examine the solutions and technologies used by your cybersecurity vendor."

The Transparency Centre in Zurich, Switzerland, is one of eleven such centres in Kaspersky's global network. The first of them opened it in 2018.

Kigali (Rwanda), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Madrid (Spain), Rome (Italy), So Paulo (Brazil), Singapore, Tokyo (Japan), Woburn (the United States), Utrecht (the Netherlands), and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) are the other centres.

## Safaricom, KCB handles 90pc Hustler Fund cash

NAIROBI

Safaricom and the KCB are emerging as some of the biggest beneficiaries of the Hustler Fund after handling about 90 percent of the Sh12 billion released for lending.

Out of the Sh12 billion the Treasury disbursed for the Financial Inclusion (Hustler) Fund seed capital late last year, KCB received Sh10.46 billion, and Sh1.54 billion was handled by Family Bank.

The two lenders were to distribute the cash among telecom firms for onward lending to millions of Kenyans through mobile phones.

"Subsequently, the State Department for Co-operatives disbursed an amount of Sh9.46 billion and Sh2.54 billion to KCB and Family Bank, respectively, for onward transmission to three telecommunication companies for onward lending to eligible persons.

Records provided by KCB indicated that an additional amount of Sh1 billion was received from Family Bank, bringing the total funds at KCB Bank to Sh10.46 billion," a special audit by the Auditor-Gen-



Kenya Commercial Bank branch along Mama Ngina Street in Nairobi County.

eral notes.

The audit reveals that while KCB handled 87.2 percent of the funds released by the government for the Hustler Fund, Safaricom also dominated other telcos in lending to Kenyans.

Out of the Sh9.6 billion that KCB released to telcos, Safaricom handled Sh9 billion, equivalent to 93.8 percent of the cash released.

"Out of the total amount received by KCB, the amounts of Sh9,042,979,000, Sh540,349,661, and Sh51,692,891 were transmit-

ted to Safaricom, Airtel, and Telkom, respectively, all totalling Sh9,635,021,552, leaving a balance of Sh824,978,448 in the KCB account," the Auditor-General stated.

"Family Bank confirmed having received an amount of Sh2.54 billion out of which an amount of Sh1.54 billion was transmitted to Safaricom while an amount of Sh1 billion was transmitted to KCB," the report notes.

Kenyans have been accessing Hustler Fund loans charged at eight percent

through the telcos that act as the link between banks and borrowers.

Equally, the funds a bank receives from the government give it leverage to lend more, thus raising its revenues.

The Fund was established in November last year to offer financial services and products that are affordable, accessible, and appropriate for the underserved and underserved.

Cutting the Hustler Fund budget by almost half to Sh5 billion means that poor Kenyans who have become reliant

on the money are in for tougher times.

Borrowers have been taking out the new loans offered by the financial inclusion initiative to invest in micro-businesses or settle personal bills.

In the previous financial year ended June, the Hustler Fund, one of President William Ruto's campaign promises, was allocated Sh20 billion. However, government austerity measures and high default rates of 29 per cent have apparently prompted a change of tack.

If the government still believes the cheap loans offer Kenyans at the bottom of the economic pyramid a way out of poverty and joblessness, it should seek ways of making it work and tie the loose ends that have led to high default rates.

However, if the Ruto administration has since reviewed its position on extending the cheap credit to the low-income Kenyans it should consider either gradually phasing the Hustler Fund out or winding it up instead of sinking taxpayer funds into a bottomless pit.

## Standard Chart, Coris bank enter agreement on sale of banking arm

LAGOS

Standard Chartered has entered into an agreement with Coris Group for the sale of its Consumer Banking business in Côte d'Ivoire.

Subject to regulatory approvals and the transfer of business, this marks the completion of the divestment process from various markets, first announced in April 2022.

The agreement was announced by Sunil Kaushal, CEO of Standard Chartered Africa and the Middle East (AME), and Idrissa Nassa, Coris Group Chairman.

Kaushal said: "This agreement marks a milestone in Standard Chartered's journey in the AME region towards streamlining the business and providing further impetus to our delivery of best-in-class services and expertise to our clients." "The

successful conclusion of the Bank's strategic divestments will see us double-down on growth opportunities in AME by leveraging our long track record in the region. Alongside Coris Bank International, we are confident that this transition will be executed seamlessly as part of our commitment to prioritise the satisfaction of retail customers, the wellbeing and stability of our people."

Nassa welcomed the finalisation of this agreement saying, "The acquisition of Standard Chartered Bank's retail segment in Côte d'Ivoire is strategic to further strengthen Coris Bank International's positioning in this emerging country. We will continue the satisfaction of this privileged clientele through our offers reinforced with new products and innovative services."

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc has received



a \$175 million funding facility from Africa Development Bank (AfDB) Group.

The facility comprises a \$100 million in long-term senior debt, \$50 million of trade finance medium-term senior debt and a \$25 million risk participation program.

This was announced at the weekend by the AfDB having been approved by its Board of Directors.

A statement from the bank said the long-term senior debt will enhance UBA's capacity to finance projects in Nigeria in the key sectors of infrastructure, agriculture and related value chains, as well as manufacturing, energy, and SMEs.

The statement added: "The facility will be complemented with technical assistance from the Affirmative

Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative to boost access to finance and technical assistance to women SMEs.

"The trade finance senior debt will provide UBA with much needed countercyclical dollar liquidity to support SMEs and local corporates involved in export-import related activities in the short to medium term.

"The unfunded Risk Participation Agreement UBA UK aims to strengthen UBA UK's role as regional confirming bank and by extension expand access to international markets for largely excluded African issuing banks."

The African Development Bank and UBA UK, a subsidiary of UBA PLC, will share 50/50 the default risk on a portfolio of eligible trade transactions originated by African issuing banks and indemnified by UBA UK."

Speaking after the Board approval, AfDB's Group Director General for Nigeria, Lamin Barrow, said, "We are pleased to support UBA with this package, which aligns with four (4) of the African Development Bank's High 5 priorities namely Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Integrate Africa, and Industrialise Africa.

"This intervention will address unmet demand for

trade finance in Nigeria and Africa respectively by providing medium term finance to support exports and the importation of intermediate goods required to sustain vital economic sectors. It will also unlock stable and affordable funding for SMEs who are the engine of Nigeria's economic growth and employment generation," Ahmed Attout, African Development Bank Acting Director for Financial Sector Development, further said.

Also commenting, the Group Managing Director/CEO, UBA, Oliver Alawuba said, "This facility will further deepens our support, which has been very considerable, to the critical sectors of Nigerian economy and especially to Women-owned businesses and small and medium enterprises, which we consider as the engine of any country's economic development."

## Rwanda and EIB agree on new critical raw materials investment partnership



**During the visit, Vice-President Vigliotti also confirmed EIB support for the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, attended the inauguration of Africa's first mRNA vaccine production plant and met political and development finance leaders.**

KIGALI

RWANDAN President Paul Kagame and European Commission President von der Leyen witness agreement; Rwanda first country in Africa to partner with EIB to unlock critical raw materials investment; New cooperation will strengthen cooperation to identify investment opportunities, scale up investment in critical raw material supply chain and increase recycling.

Rwanda and the European Investment Bank (EIB) yesterday signed a Joint Declaration enabling a strategic alliance to enhance investment in critical raw material value chains. This landmark agreement will strengthen technical and financial cooperation to identify critical raw material sector investment that creates skilled jobs, supports economic development, and ensure environmentally and socially responsible development of critical raw material resources.

The signature of the partnership by European Investment Bank Vice-President Gelsomina Vigliotti and Dr Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning was witnessed by Rwandan President Paul Kagame and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Dr Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning emphasised the positive impact on the nation's development, stating, "This Joint Declaration with the European Investment Bank aligns with Rwanda's commitment to sustainable economic development. We look forward to leveraging this exciting new partnership to create skilled jobs, support our economy, and ensure the responsible utilization of critical raw materials."

Vice-President Gelsomina Vigliotti highlighted: "This new partnership represents an important step in line with the CRM Act. It is important to secure access to the critical raw material value chain in accordance with the required ESG standards and without which the green and digital transition is not possible. By working together, Africa and Europe can unlock new investment, create new jobs and contribute to the responsible development of essential resources."

This is the first critical raw materials agreement between the European Investment Bank, the world's largest international public bank, and an African partner. Today's agreement follows agreements between the European Commission and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia.

With the newly formed partnership, the European Investment Bank actively supports the implementation of the European Critical Raw Materials Act, a crucial step toward securing an affordable and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. This Act, announced by the European Commission in March 2023 and adopted by the European Parliament in September 2023, sets the stage for a sustainable and resilient raw material value chain.

Following today's agreement, EIB Global technical and financing teams will increase cooperation with critical raw material partners to explore new investment opportunities and increase access to finance for environmentally sound projects that contribute to the sustainable long-term economic development.

The collaboration signifies a collective effort to foster sustainable development, strengthen economic ties, and address the growing global demand for critical raw materials, including base metals, battery materials and rare earths.

The Joint Declaration was signed by European Investment Bank Vice-President Gelsomina Vigliotti during a two-day visit to Kigali.

During the visit, Vice-President Vigliotti also confirmed EIB support for the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation, attended the inauguration of Africa's first mRNA vaccine production plant and met political and development finance leaders.



## 'Catalysing East Africa's economic boom calls for financial inclusion and global connectivity'

THERE are various indicators which could be used to determine the economic health of a country, whether it be gross domestic product (GDP), gross national income (GNI) or inflation (CPI).

Whichever way you lean on the economic theory spectrum, what matters the most to taxpayers across the continent is that they get an adequate return on their investment (taxes) - East Africa's economic growth provides a suitable ROI environment, and banks have an important role to play in enabling residents in the region to reap the rewards of this strong momentum.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has recently released its East Africa Economic Outlook report which paints a bullish medium-term picture of the region's prospects.

The publication notes that the region's medium term economic growth is expected to outpace that of Africa and all other regions of the continent. It adds that economic growth in East Africa will accelerate to 5.1 percent in 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024, largely driven by growth in Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and Tanzania in that order.

The most obvious question from a glance at the Development Bank's forecast is the likelihood of this growth materializing. But what is equally important to consider is how this potential growth will filter down to the man on the street, the entrepreneur, farmer, civil servant, pensioner, and their dependents.

As a global business [whose founders] set out to transform the African financial services sector by changing the narrative of the continent and creating a globally connected community and ecosystem bank, Access Bank is committed to collaborating with stakeholders across the region to reverse the 'paradox of plenty'. East Africa is a region richly endowed with minerals such as fluorspar, titanium and zirconium, gold, oil, gas, cobalt and nickel, diamonds, copper, coal and iron ore.

Our aim is therefore to create a carriageway which enables the region to extract maximum value from its resources. We seek to achieve this by providing the requisite access to trade finance,



**AFA is the sole regulator of the macadamia sub sector, but it appears like the officers have gone to bed with the processors, leading to a compromise instead of fighting for the farmers.**

treasury, international payments, and loans via the wider distribution network of Access Bank's presence in the key trade corridors.

We recognize that East Africa's success story (in trade, mining and beyond) will continue to be underpinned by entrepreneurship and we have, to this end, developed a strong banking proposition that is aimed at encouraging and supporting SMEs' strong growth ambitions across the region.

With over 36 branches across the region, customers continue to benefit from a wide network which provides best in class, seamless and consistent service experience that is aligned to the customer promise of speed, service, security and sustainability.

Our recent foray into Tanzania, which has seen us acquire a majority equity stake in African Banking Corporation (Tanzania) Limited ("BancABC Tanzania"), as well as Standard Chartered Bank's Consumer Private and Business Banking (CPBB) unit, reinforces our commitment to the region's growth and prosperity.

As soon as this is concluded, Access Bank's presence in the region will span Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and DRC, servicing in excess of 315,000 customers. If one considers that as recently as 2017, the World Bank reported that 7 percent of Burundi's population had a bank account, then it becomes immediately apparent that a lot of work needs to be done to accelerate financial inclusion.

By expanding our retail presence across the region and evolving into a digital sales and service platform by 2027, we seek to enable enhanced financial inclusion across our East African operations.

Being one of Africa's leading banks and its largest by customers, we recognize the enormous responsibility bestowed on us to help accelerate East Africa's economic growth.

Anchored by a robust capital base, unparalleled customer service and governance structures, we will play our part and continue to leverage our scale to ensure that our global franchise serves as a gateway for payments, investment, and trade within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world.



The author is Access Bank Regional Managing Director, Samuel Addae Minta.





## Putin submits paperwork to Central Election Commission to run for head of state

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has submitted all the necessary paperwork to the Russian Central Election Commission (CEC) to run for head of state in 2024, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS.

"Yes, he did," the spokesman said when asked by TASS whether the head of state indeed submitted paperwork to the CEC today.

Putin is running as an independent candidate. According to presidential election law in Russia, he had to gather 500 registered voters who support his campaign. The group met on December 16, and the participants unanimously supported Putin.

The set of documents submitted to the CEC includes an application to register the group with the personal data of the candidate and all participants, the protocol of the meeting, a list of the group's commissioners, the candidate's declaration of consent to run, and a number of other documents.

## UNICEF seeks 1.4 bln USD to help 45 mln children at risk of poor health in Africa

NAIROBI

THE United Nations children's fund, UNICEF, on Monday appealed for 1.4 billion U.S. dollars to avert a humanitarian crisis in eastern and southern Africa, where 45 million children are at risk of poor health, malnutrition, displacement and learning loss.

UNICEF also sounded the alarm on a looming climate-induced humanitarian crisis that it said is also taking a toll on the health of children in the region.

Etlewa Kadilli, UNICEF's regional director for eastern and southern Africa, said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, that the climate crisis is not a distant threat but an immediate danger to the well-being of children in the region.

"The impact of climate change on children is a stark reminder that urgent action is needed to address the root causes of the crisis and facilitate sustainable solutions to help children through this," she said. "Our collective responsibility is to protect the most vulnerable and build a sustainable future for all."

According to UNICEF, needs are escalated by projections indicating a strong likelihood of robust El Nino impacts such as floods lasting through early 2024 and drought that is forecasted to persist through most of 2024.

It said the strength of El Nino is expected to be comparable to the top six strongest events in recorded history, increasing the likelihood of extreme weather and climate hazards.

UNICEF said the 1.4 billion dollars will enable it to continue funding its humanitarian response in 2024, which includes preventing and treating waste through a continuum of care of children and mothers, and prevention, early detection and treatment of diseases through health facilities. It said droughts, erratic rainfall, and water scarcity are compromising water sources, leading to inadequate sanitation facilities and hygiene practices.

"The time to act is now. As the climate crisis intensifies, it threatens the well-being and survival of children and young people," Kadilli said.

UNICEF said the region is grappling with decreased crop yields, affecting the availability and affordability of nutritious food.

"Children face an increased risk of malnutrition, stunting, and developmental issues, further perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality," UNICEF said.

Between January and September this year, 24 percent more children were treated for severe wasting compared to the same period in 2022, according to UNICEF.

## Ahead of general elections, former Pak PM Imran Khan addresses supporters using AI from prison

ISLAMABAD

USING artificial intelligence (AI) to construct a voice clone, the former Pakistan prime minister, Imran Khan, addressed his supporters as part of his campaign months ahead of the much-anticipated general elections in the country, CNN reported.

Khan (pictured) was convicted of corruption in August and has been imprisoned ever since.

In addition, he is charged with disclosing classified material, a charge that the former politician and cricket player has refuted time and again and claims are meant to prevent him from running in the February general elections.

The government shut down the internet for three days after Khan's brief incarceration in May provoked fatal rioting, causing the country's media regulator to forbid television stations from airing Khan's talks, according to CNN.

Khan has been the subject of private legal proceedings. Since his arrest in August, no public image of Khan in custody or in court has been released.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party held an online rally on Sunday that lasted about seven hours, during which it released a roughly four-minute clip that used AI technology to mimic Khan's voice. The audio was overlaid with old footage and photographs of the country's former leader.

According to CNN, the caption on the video read, "AI voice of Imran Khan based on his notes for Jalsa (a rally) from jail."

"My fellow Pakistanis, first, I would like to praise my social media team for this historic attempt," the AI voice said, adding, "Perhaps you are wondering what my condition is in jail ... My determination for real freedom is strong."

"Our party is not allowed to hold public rallies ... Our people are being kidnapped and families are being harassed," the AI voice said, according to CNN.

In 2018, Imran Khan swept to power. However, opposition leaders accused him of driving the nation to the verge of economic catastrophe four years into his term.

In April 2022, a legislative no-confidence vote resulted in his removal from office.

Tens of thousands of people attended nationwide demonstrations against Khan's removal for months afterward.

In an attempt to overcome an 'unspoken ban' on public gatherings and rallies, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) organised a "virtual power show" on Sunday through social media to energise its supporters ahead of the upcoming polls, Dawn reported.

However, the online event encountered disruptions, with users reporting difficulties accessing social media platforms in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad after 8 p.m. Internet services were also reported to be slow, the report added.

NetBlocks, an internet tracking agency, observed a "nation-scale disruption to social media platforms across Pakistan, including X, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube."

The online gathering, primarily broadcast on YouTube, garnered viewership of 72,487 within minutes of commencement, reaching 89,190 half an hour later. The viewership fluctuated between 70,000 to 80,000 for an hour before dropping to 53,000 after two hours, Dawn reported.

ANI

## Thousands flee as RSF enters Sudan's aid hub Wad Madani

CAIRO/DUBAI

AT least 250,000 to 300,000 people have fled Sudan's El Gezira state since Dec 15 as a result of clashes between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudan's army, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Monday.

The RSF, at war with the army for the past eight months, has been advancing on El Gezira's state capital, Wad Madani, and its fighters entered the city earlier on Monday, witnesses said.

The takeover of Wad Madani, a city packed with displaced people and an aid hub during the current conflict, could be a turning point in the paramilitary RSF advance through western and central regions of Sudan.

The city lies about 170 km southeast of the capital Khartoum in El Gezira state, an important agricultural region in a country facing worsening hunger.

The RSF and the army had shared power with civilians after the 2019 overthrow of former strongman Omar al-Bashir before staging a coup together in 2021 then coming to blows over an internationally backed political transition plan.

Videos posted by the RSF showed fighters in pick-up trucks driving along streets in Wad Madani and over a bridge across the Blue Nile that it had been fighting over with the army. Witnesses said they also raided nearby villages.

In one video, RSF fighters carrying



Displaced people fleeing from Wad Madani in Sudan's El Gezira state arrive in Gedaref in the country's east on Monday. AFP

rifles stood with their arms around Coptic priests, who said they had not been able to flee but asked the RSF for help leaving the city.

The videos were not verified by Reuters. The army did not comment.

Local pro-democracy activists said the RSF had set up checkpoints throughout the city and were looting homes and cars, with no army or police present.

The war between the army and the RSF has forced more than 7 million people to flee their homes, left the capital in ruins, caused a humanitarian crisis and triggered waves of ethnically driven killings in Darfur.

In Khartoum, the RSF has been accused

of looting homes, raping women, and arbitrary killings and detentions.

### Families fleeing

While half a million people had sought refuge in the wider El Gezira state, at least 85,000 were living inside Wad Madani, with more relying on the city for healthcare, aid, and government services that began shutting down in recent days.

"Fleeing again will completely deplete our resources," said Heba Abdelrahim, who had come to Wad Madani with her family from Khartoum. "Thinking logically we will wait until we don't have any other choice." Several neighboring families had left to-

gether on a large truck, she said. Abdelrahim said gunshots could be heard while army warplanes were flying overhead, with air strikes heard before sundown.

The United States, which on Sunday urged the RSF not to attack Wad Madani, has with Saudi Arabia led mediation efforts to broker a ceasefire in Sudan, without visible progress. While regional mediators IGAD said the army and RSF agreed to a ceasefire last week, both sides quickly distanced themselves from the claim.

Taking control of central Wad Madani, a hub for national highways, would give the RSF greater control of trade and allow it to hobble army supply routes, said researcher Reem Abbas, a fellow at the Tahrir Institute.

"This gives them time to organize themselves, and they can start going east ... They will continue to hold people hostage, putting pressure on the communities, on the army, and the international community," she said.

The RSF in a statement said it sought to oust Bashir loyalists in Wad Madani and pre-empt an attack by the army, which it accused of racial killings and indiscriminate air strikes.

Pro-democracy group Emergency Lawyers said the RSF on Monday killed two people when it raided Ruffa hospital north of Wad Madani.

Separately, the group criticized racially-motivated killings and torture in El Gezira state, and said at least 10 people had been killed by air strikes in RSF-controlled Nyala in recent days.

## COP28 enhances international collaboration, seeks green development

THE 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP28, concluded in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

During the session, the Chinese delegation set up China's pavilion, and hosted over 100 side events focusing on China's policies and actions in response to climate change, international cooperation on climate change, green and low-carbon development, coordinated pollution and carbon reduction, just transition and sustainable development, energy transition, digital development, and green finance.

These events aimed to showcase China's philosophy and achievements in ecological civilization construction, and to forge consensus on jointly addressing climate change.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). At multiple side events, participants highly valued the fruitful achievements of the BRI in promoting international cooperation and peaceful development, praised China's significant role in driving global green development, and looked forward to increasing green cooperation within frameworks such as South-South cooperation.

At the 11th High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change held on Dec. 8, Dima Al-Khatib, director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, emphasized the significance of South-South cooperation in addressing climate change for developing countries to achieve green and low-carbon transition.

She said the BRI proposed by China has provided a favorable platform and opportunity for developing countries to strengthen cooperation on climate change, serving as a good example.

Bounkham Vorachit, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Laos, stated that China has become a global leader in utilizing green and low-carbon energy, and it has actively practiced and supported South-South cooperation.

The minister called the Vientiane Saysettha Low-Carbon Demonstration Zone, jointly built by Laos and China, a model of environmentally friendly and sustainable development. It has achieved significant results in reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions, and fossil fuel usage, she added.

At the Seminar on Belt and Road Green and Low-



A model of China's first million-ton carbon dioxide capture, utilization and storage project is exhibited at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. (People's Daily/Zhang Zhiwen)

carbon Transition hosted by the BRI International Green Development Coalition on Dec. 8, Erik Solheim, vice president of the coalition and former United Nations under-secretary-general, noted that green development is a distinctive feature of the joint building of the BRI. He said China has made tremendous contributions to the development of global renewable energy, and it has also brought innovative driving forces to economic development, as well as the green and low-carbon transition of other developing countries.

During a side event on China's latest progress in carbon capture, utilization and storage, representatives from multiple Chinese companies and research institutions introduced China's actions and progress in the field.

During a side event on supercomputing for climate and environmental prediction, experts from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences showcased research results of numerical simulation in combining supercomputers

and Earth system models, providing new perspectives and methods for predicting climate change and related disasters.

During a side event on wind, solar, and hydrogen storage, participants engaged in extensive discussions on topics such as energy transition driven by innovative wind power technologies, contributing their wisdom to the development of the new energy industry.

Tim Gould, chief energy economist of the International Energy Agency, said China possesses unique advantages in the development, manufacturing and application of clean energy technologies.

Such advantages, coupled with the support from and cooperation with international financial institutions, are of great significance in accelerating the development of clean energy in other regions, he added.

Abid Qaiyum Suleri, executive director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan, said that China actively collaborates with other developing countries within the framework of South-South cooperation,

## This is not only our war but, in many ways, yours because, says Netanyahu

TEL AVIV

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reiterated Israel's aim of achieving "total victory" against Hamas, stating that the war is not just Israel's but also the US's, as it is also a battle against the "Iranian axis."

He said that the Iranian axis of terror is threatening to close the maritime strait of Bab el-Mandeb and is presenting a threat to the freedom of navigation for the world.

Netanyahu was speaking at the joint press conference with US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin on Monday and he thanked Washington for their continuous support of Tel Aviv amid the ongoing war with Hamas and thanked the US for

their support.

Speaking to the reporters, Netanyahu said, "We are fighting a war of civilization against barbarism. I can say that when we spoke, I expressed again our commitment—Israel's commitment—to achieve total victory against Hamas. And we think this is not only our war but, in many ways, your war, because you are leading the forces of civilization in the world."

"This is a battle against the Iranian axis, the Iranian axis of terror, which is now threatening to close the maritime strait of Bab el-Mandeb. This threatens the freedom of navigation of the entire world," he added.

He further thanked Washington for their continuous support of Tel Aviv

amid the ongoing war with Hamas.

"I appreciate the fact that you're taking action to open that strait. It's not only our interest; it is the interest, I think, of the entire civilised community. I want to thank you for the support that you have shown consistently, and I welcome the opportunity to talk about what else we're doing to have our common interests served," Netanyahu further said.

Meanwhile, Lloyd Austin, who is his second visit to Israel after the October 7 attacks, underscored the US' "unwavering" and "unshakable" support for Israel and further warned any "individual, group or state" from testing Washington's resolve.

"I'm here to underscore what President Biden has said again and again: our

commitment to Israel is unshakable. I know that Israel is a small, tight-knit country and I know that all Israelis were touched by the vast evil committed by Hamas. So I'm here to mourn with you for the innocent souls taken from you on October 7 and I'm also here to stand alongside the families of those still missing in Gaza, including US citizens," Austin said at the joint presser.

He further affirmed that the US will continue to support Israel with all the equipment it needs to defend itself and secure the release of hostages. Austin, however, also added that for achieving "lasting security", the two leaders are also discussing allowing more humanitarian aid into Gaza.

ANI

# Year in Review

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

WITH the festive season now nigh, millions of people around the globe are reflecting on the past year as it draws swiftly towards a close.

Seeing as we are now at this juncture in the year, it seems only fitting that we should reflect on the momentous happenings in the moneymaking sporting industry that took place this year.

Let us begin with the earnest battle to lift the 2022-23 Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League trophy, which as usual was mainly a two-horse race between those usual suspects Yanga and Simba SC.

Unquestionably, the 2022-23 domestic football season enjoyably served up loads of exciting thrills and spills with devastatingly lethal attackers like former Yanga forward Fiston Mayele consistently running rings around defenders on opposing teams.

Despite exerting tremendous efforts, Simba SC ultimately came a cropper last season as the club's fierce foes Yanga fantastically claimed their second consecutive league title.

Let us switch our focus now to the immensely challenging and taxing realm of international marathon running which saw two Tanzanians in particular stealing the show at this year's Boston and Berlin marathons.

Indeed, earlier this year, our very own Gabriel Geay took on the globe's foremost marathoners in the internationally renowned Boston Marathon and he impeccably finished second in what was a decidedly jaw-dropping as well as splendid display.

It should also be noted here that Geay finished ahead of the greatly heralded Kenyan marathoner, Eliud Kipchoge, in the final standings at the end of the epic race.

So, it appears that apart from Alphonse Simbu, we now have



Tanzania's Yanga center-back Bakari Mwamnyeto (L) outfoxes Algeria's USM Alger attacker, Aymen Mahious, during the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup final which took place in Dar es Salaam on May 28, 2023. Yanga lost 2-1 to USM Alger. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

a new gifted marathoner in the form of Geay whom we can pin our medal hopes on at grand sporting events like the Paris Olympics in the New Year.

Impressively, there was another star turn by a Tanzanian marathoner in the women's category of this year's Berlin Marathon, one which made all of us sit up and take notice.

Indeed, to the utter astonishment of the athletics world, Magdalena Shauri fearlessly held her own against the globe's leading runners to finish third at one of the most treasured marathons of the year.

Encouragingly, in the immediate aftermath of her amazing coup, Magdalena noted that she was now setting her sights on securing a medal at the Paris Olympics next year, which must have sounded like ominous news to her rivals. Let us now return to Yanga, which earlier this year bowled over all Tanzanians as the club went on a storybook run through the CAF Confederation Cup up to the final.

And, in what was an engrossing two-legged affair, the final turned out to be an absolute nerve-shredder as Yanga's opponents, the Algerian club USM AL-

ger, narrowly emerged as the victors on the away goals rule.

Naturally, Yanga's failure to lift the CAF Confederation Cup was a gut-wrenching blow for all of the club's teeming supporters, especially when one recalls their wafer-thin loss in the competition's gripping finale.

To sum up, apart from the aforementioned events, other major talking points also emerged as sporting highlights of the year.

But that will be a discussion for another day.

## Multiple tasks for top coaches: Is it defect or optimal asset use?

By Correspondent John Kimbute

A minimum of controversy is being heard among soccer pundits in the city of Dar es Salaam on the multiple roles that have been assigned to national women's soccer teams' coach Bakari Shime, handling either one or two youth teams as well as the senior side, Twiga Stars.

Part of the debate has centered on whether it is good for one person to hold two jobs or three, as a matter of principle, while a rival sentiment has it that so long as such teams either do not camp or play at the same time, there is no harm in that arrangement. A contested view held that the players themselves want it that way.

For one thing, the matter should possibly come up except as an issue of why some people are not getting jobs while others appear to have too many slots reserved for them.

It is only this aspect that is worth debating, as any real technical issue would have been noticed by those who assigned the coach to the different tasks, that maybe he is not performing because he has too many responsibilities in that area.

That can scarcely happen as, strictly speaking, it is entirely the same responsibility that is scaled out in either two or three instances of its being conducted.

That is why there is even this claim that key stakeholders, in this case, players of the various sides - and predictably the

senior side more significantly - wish to remain with the same coach.

The reason would be that they are used to his methods, and if this matters, he can guide players of various stages and make the needed distinctions on the tasks handed to them, the pressing the technical staff would make on the young women, etc.

There may be a difference in continuing with one teacher from one level to another, as such a trainer would be aware of the 'syllabus' he followed instead of starting to 'experiment'.

Bakari Shime is not the first coach to have handled junior and senior sides at either the same time or at different moments and, at present, he is at least one of the most suited to handle such a role.

It is possible that looking at the current technical needs for either of those teams, U-17, U-20, and the fully senior side, no one seems to be able to fit the bill like himself, with a rather unique experience in that area for several years.

His mission has also been crowned with tangible success, but the federation is reluctant to invite someone else.

An illustration is the way Simba SC is trying out coaches for Simba Queens, with veteran tactician Juma Mgunda assigned that role lately, which he can do but is unlikely to be a specialist.

His experiences center more on senior soccer sides, and in another sense, he has been with young men whether it is with his



Senior national women's football team head coach, Bakari Shime. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

old Coastal Union or with the Msimbazi Street outfit, and will have things to learn in taking over the young ladies' side.

No one can say outright he isn't likely to find it easy but many more will be happy with someone who knows the ropes in handling young lady footballers at different ages, this can make a difference in play, and results.

At times the departure of experienced trainers is hard to fill, the way veteran Kim Poulsen, who took the youth sides from one level of success to another, was finally asked to take up the senior national team, in their incessant search for new coaches.

His stay there wasn't crowned with success, and if the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) knew it could come to that, in the sense of not being able to ensure TFF a win they direly needed for the AFCOM or CHAN finals qualification plans, they could have left him with the junior teams. Here his performance was less constrained by eagle (not eager)

eyes.

Since the departure of the veteran trainer, not much is being heard of the once famous Serengeti Boys, at any rate, they are no longer a household name, a street talk fancy, as was the case before.

Whether there is indeed a problem since the Danish tactician left, or he may not have been enthusiastic enough with the junior side if he was acutely disappointed with how he was treated as senior side head coach is not public knowledge in a day-to-day sense of the term.

In that case, retaining Shime is an effort to avoid instability by unwise coach shifting.

Indeed let it be demanded if the strictly self-interest aspect of the issue is worth debating, that others can fill that position, so why should one person fill either two or three coaching positions?

This demand is in a sense entirely irrelevant as the issue of getting a job should not be anywhere near the task of planning work for women's teams of various grades or age groups.

The reason why the matter is being discussed is because someone raised it, not for fear that effective training is lacking as the coach is too busy, but that someone is being denied a job.

Surely there are young women's teams the jobless fellow can seek out and coach, and if indeed no club has noticed that he or she is the right person, precisely why should such a person believe he or she is valuable material for Twiga Stars?

This question was something that did not have the merit to be discussed, but as is often the case, it is pointless issues that charge up feelings, not thoughtful, technical issues.

Those in charge are still waiting for arguments to the contrary.

## Government urges artists to value ethics

By Guardian Correspondent

PERMANENT Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Gerson Msigwa has warned artists who violate Tanzanian ethics and hinder the music sector's progress in the country.

The official stated when he presided over the Rising Star Online Competition which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Msigwa said the music sector is growing rapidly, contributing 19 percent to the economy, but some artists are violating ethics and driving away investors.

"You may engage in acts of ethical violations on stage and be praised by your fans but, after a while, the National Arts Council imposes a ban on you. Who will incur the loss then? I urge musicians to adhere to ethics," Msigwa disclosed.

He added: "Music is business, culture, identity, and security. We must strategically look at music and build the economy and employment."

"We must adhere to all rules and regulations to achieve our goals," he stated.

Freddie Manento, Radian Limited's CEO, expressed his joy at providing opportunities for young musicians to participate and showcase their talents.

Manento said the competition would be held annually, urging the National Arts Council to re-

view permit fees to give promoters opportunities to organize more events.

National Arts Council Executive Secretary Kedmon Mapana commended the event's organizers for expanding the scope of artistic events in the country, now reaching 77.

Up-and coming artist Sailas Mwakabana 'Boy Cylla' emerged as the winner of the first edition of the Rising Star Online Competition. Mwakabana, a Hip Hop artist, emerged victorious after defeating two finalists, Christian Job from Iringa and Dar es Salaam's Yusuph Hussein.

The competition, organized by nPOINT Online TV, initially featured a total of 86 artists, who were screened by a panel of judges led by 'P-Funk Majani'.

The competition was sponsored by Radian Ltd, Letshego Faidika Bank, CRDB Bank, FASTHUB, Print-Pro, Tanzania General, MMDT, and Giraffe Hotel.

'Boy Cylla' was awarded 1m/- in cash and a recording deal worth 9m/- at the famous Bongo Records studio owned by renowned music producer, Paul Matthyse 'P-Funk Majani'.

"I am very happy to win first place, the competition was tough. I congratulate all my fellow participants for bringing a challenge that made me work hard and emerge as the winner," the musician said.



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports Gerson Msigwa (R) presents an award to artist Sailas Mwakabana 'Boy Cylla' at the Rising Star Online Competition held in Dar es Salaam recently. The competition was organized by nPOINT Online TV. Standing (L) is Radian Limited's CEO, Freddie Manento. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Sikinde Ngoma ya Ukae set to launch new album

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM'S Sikinde Ngoma Ya Ukae Band is set to launch its new album in Dar es Salaam on Saturday to bid farewell to the 2023.

According to the band's secretary Juma Choka, the launch of the album, titled 'Maadili', is expected to take place at Kisuma Bar, located at Temeke Mwembe Yanga in the city.

Some of the songs making the album are 'Kikao Cha Familia', composed by the band's manager Rajab Kissy, 'Kazi Yangu', composed by drummer Ally Jamwaka, and 'Apare Yeye' by singer Said Msakala.

"All songs have been completed, we are now left with performing them on December 23 during the official launch of this album which bids farewell to the 2023," Choka revealed.

The artist noted that the album's

launch will take place alongside the introduction of the band's leader, Habib Jeff, as 'Sikinde's Chief'.

Choka said the band has opted for the move given that Jeff, a popular drummer, has served the troupe for 45 years after joining the troupe in 1978.

"Jeff is Sikinde Ngoma ya Ukae Band's drummer, the only veteran musician who has served this band for 45 years, he has not left the troupe since he joined it in 1978," he said.

Choka disclosed even though some people have been claiming that the band will perish after some of its musicians left and started a band known as Super Sikinde, it will continue to be strong.

"You should help us tell them that this band is old, it cannot perish the way they wish. Sikinde Ngoma ya Ukae still exists and continues to entertain its fans," he said.

# Silva: Players are exhausted by calendar that will harm football

By Sam Wallace

BERNANDO Silva has admitted that he and fellow leading players in European football are starting to feel exhaustion at the punishing match calendar - to which Fifa have just added a new 32-team summer Club World Cup in 18 months' time.

The Manchester City playmaker and winger was speaking ahead of his team's Club World Cup semi-final against Urawa Red Diamonds of Japan in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday night - the last time this competition will be played in its current shorter format.

Bernardo said: "I am not going to lie, sometimes I feel tired. All of us, we feel tired for some games as well because we play every three days. We don't rest. We have no Christmas. We have no summer. But that's the price you pay for being at a top club and fighting for all competitions and our dream was to play at this level."

The Fifa Council agreed the qualifying format for the new 32-team Club World Cup to be played every four years starting in June and July of 2025. The competition is a major new revenue driver for Fifa in its battle with Uefa, the wealthiest football governing body, for global broadcast revenue. Fifa has stressed that all clubs have agreed to the new format, which Bernardo and his manager Pep Guardiola both acknowledged.

Bernardo said: "We play and we obviously earn a lot of money, and all these kinds of things. But in my opinion - for the people who love the game and are entertained by the game, if we have this many games, those games will lose the energy, will lose the intensity. It's just my opinion."

Bernardo did add that he was looking forward to the 2025 tournament, no doubt mindful that he was at a Fifa event.

Guardiola also expressed concerns about the lack of rest elite players would be afforded as the Champions League expands, along with Fifa's newly expanded World Cup finals which will feature 48 teams from the 2026 edition onwards.

"I think Fifa took a decision and all the clubs support that decision," Guardiola said. "I am part of the clubs. What I would say is that when I was a little boy, I didn't organise the competition. When I was teenager neither, a footballer neither, and now - neither."

He was reluctant to criticise the new Club World Cup outright, but he outlined his concerns about the likely effect on the players.

"I am not against new competitions. I am against the lack of time to recover between years [seasons]. This is what I'm complaining about. For me it doesn't matter to play every three days, six days, seven days. It is OK. But it is really, really tough to finish the season and in three weeks you have to restart again."

He said that the game had to examine the burden it was placing on players. Especially summers that required them to "go to Asia to be financially stable [earn extra revenue from summer tours], or go to the States, or wherever. It's really tough for myself, but especially for the players and I think this should change".

The new 32-team tournament, which will feature City and Chelsea from the Premier League, will be played after the international fixtures that will follow the end of the 2024-2025 season - and will require a reconvening of participating clubs' squads. Guardiola suggested that City's players would take their families with them to the US, where the 2025 tournament will be played. They will play seven games if they reach the final.

# Jose Mourinho: Manchester United still have the deadwood from my era



During his time at Old Trafford Mourinho questioned Marcus Rashford's personality and character. Agencies

By James Ducker

JOSE Mourinho has revealed there are still players and staff at Manchester United whom he had warned the club more than seven years ago were never going to be successful at Old Trafford.

Anthony Martial, Luke Shaw, Marcus Rashford and Scott McTominay are the only survivors at United from the first team squad Mourinho inherited at the club in May 2016.

United refused Mourinho's request to sell striker Martial in the summer of 2018 and the Portuguese was a vocal critic of left back Shaw during his two-and-a-half years in charge at Old Trafford.

Mourinho also questioned the "character" and "personality" of Rashford while at United although he was a fan of McTominay and handed the Scotland midfielder his debut for the club.

"There are still people in that club, and when I say people I mean some players but also some other people that are not players, that are still there when I told [United] after two months: with these people, you are never

going to do it [be successful]," Mourinho told John Obi Mikel's Obi One podcast. "And they are still there."

**\*What else did Mourinho Jose say about United...**

The Portuguese won the League Cup and Europa League in his first season in 2016-17 at Old Trafford but was sacked after two-and-a-half years at the helm with United mired in toxicity.

Mourinho's criticism echoes remarks made a few months ago by his now departed successor, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who claimed some United players believe they are better than they actually are.

"Some weren't as good as their own perception of themselves," Solskjaer had told The Athletic in September. "I won't name names, but I was very disappointed when a couple turned down the chance to be captain."

Erik ten Hag is countering many of the difficulties Mourinho and Solskjaer, his two immediate predecessors as permanent manager, faced as he bids to stop United's season from unravelling.

A hard-fought 0-0 draw away to Liverpool on Sunday eased

some of the pressure after a torrid campaign to date in which United have crashed out of the Champions League and lost 12 of their 25 matches.

Mourinho - who claimed he was once accused of "bullying" after substituting an unnamed United player at half-time in a game - also appeared to take a thinly veiled swipe at the club's former executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward.

The former Chelsea and Spurs manager seemed to imply he would have been better off working with Richard Arnold, who took over as chief executive in the wake of Woodward's departure but who has now left the club himself.

"They still have a CEO who is an amazing person, who I would love to have had during my time there, that's Richard Arnold, who is probably now leaving," Mourinho said.

"I had him as a commercial director, not a CEO, and I would love to have had him on my side in my time there, but the club wasn't easy. I don't have regrets because I gave everything."

"The Man United fans

know I gave everything, they know how much I love the club. I went there once with Sky, I was in the box giving my comments and the whole stadium turned to me applauding and singing for me."

**\*Mourinho on his time at Tottenham**

Jose Mourinho has taken a swipe at former club Tottenham for the "ridiculous" decision to sack him less than a week before the Carabao Cup final against Manchester City three seasons ago.

Tottenham dismissed Mourinho after 17 months in charge just six days before the final in April 2021, which they lost 1-0.

Mourinho said the timing of his sacking by Tottenham remained the most unfathomable of all decisions he encountered while employed at a Premier League club.

"The most ridiculous one was a club that has an empty trophy room sacks me two days before a final," he said. "That was the one that was... come on!"

"Tottenham have never won for 50 years. I don't remember when. I am two days before a final and I couldn't do the final. It's the one which doesn't smell well."

"I had a plan but sometimes it doesn't work. But the reality is every time I went to Wembley with Chelsea I won. I went there with Man United three times, I won twice.

"So the record was good. It was a stadium and atmosphere which I dominate well, because when you go into these big matches you need to feel comfortable, you cannot go to these matches and feel the stadium is too big."

Mourinho, who chose not to acknowledge the club's 2008 League Cup final victory, does not insist Tottenham would have beaten City had they stuck with him but believes they could have overcome Pep Guardiola's side having beaten them 2-0 the previous November.

"I had the experience to try and help the team but the final was against Man City so I would be an idiot right now to say we would have won."

"But a few weeks [five months] before that, we won against them 2-0 at our stadium, so the feeling was positive. But it is what it is."

**\*Mourinho on his time at Chelsea**

Mourinho says he did not want either Kevin De Bruyne or Mohamed Salah to leave Stamford Bridge but that they "were just kids who couldn't wait" for opportunities.

De Bruyne left Chelsea for Wolfsburg in 2014 and 18 months later joined Manchester City for £55 million and went on to win five Premier League titles and the European Cup with the club. Salah joined Roma from Chelsea in 2016 after loan spells there and at Fiorentina before returning to England with Liverpool a year later and went on to win the Champions League and Premier League with the Merseyside club.

Both players have established themselves as two of the greats of the modern Premier League era but Mourinho harbours no regrets over the situations that saw them leave Chelsea.

"To be honest, they left because they wanted to leave," he said. "They left

because they didn't want to wait. History proves that their option was good because they've had the careers they have and reached a high standard, but sometimes kids make decisions like that because they can't wait, or they don't have the patience to be calm and to wait for the right moment. Sometimes their career goes in the wrong direction."

Of Salah, Mourinho said: "When people say I let Salah go, I say exactly the opposite. I bought Salah. I was the one who said buy that guy. He was going from Basel to Liverpool, and I made a fight, I made a war, to make him come to Chelsea."

"Then comes the part when, to be a Chelsea player, you have to perform, or you need to wait. He didn't want to wait, he wanted to go on loan. And then Chelsea, at a certain point, decided to sell. He went to Fiorentina and Roma, and that was not me deciding to sell. I was saying let him go on loan if he feels he needs to play every minute of every game."

Mourinho said he wanted to keep De Bruyne but that the player was determined to go.

"I told the club no, I don't want him out on loan, I want him with me," he said. "He stayed with me, and he began the Premier League season playing in the starting XI."

"After that, we played the European Super Cup in Prague against Bayern and he didn't play that game. Then, the next day, he wants to leave."

"We played the second Premier League game of the season against Manchester United at Old Trafford and we drew 0-0. He was on the bench and he played some minutes, but it wasn't enough for him, so he wanted to leave."

"When you are at Chelsea and you want to leave, go and another one comes. They were just kids who couldn't wait, and their careers say they were right, but it wasn't down to me. Probably other guys will say I pushed them out, but not them."

THE TELEGRAPH

# Old heads now lead Fluminense into 2023 Club World Cup final

JEDDAH

FLUMINENSE coach Fernando Diniz credited his side's experience for riding out an Al Ahly storm to reach the final of the Club World Cup with a 2-0 win on Monday.

Two goals in the final 20 minutes in Jeddah by Jhon Arias, from the penalty spot, and then John Kennedy carried the Brazilians into Friday's final against European Champions League winners Manchester City or Japanese side Urawa Reds.

Al Ahly were left to rue a number of missed chances as the African champions failed to find a way past 43-year-old Fluminense goalkeeper Fabio.

But he was not the only veteran to shine for the Copa Libertadores

champions.

At the age of 40, Felipe Melo became the oldest outfield player in Club World Cup history, while ex-Real Madrid captain Marcelo, 35, won the decisive penalty.

Former Brazil international Ganso, 34, and striker German Cano, 35, also played their part.

"Did the age of our players help? I think it absolutely did," said Diniz, who has combined his roles as Fluminense boss with a spell as interim Brazil manager.

"Marcelo was decisive, especially for the penalty."

Marcelo also believes it is a mix of youth and experience that has led Fluminense to an all-time high this year as they won the Copa Libertadores for the first time.

"They call us the 40-somethings, but we

aim to help the younger players with this experience," said the left-back. "I think it is this mix of young players and experience that has helped Fluminense a lot."

The last 10 Club World Cups have been won by European sides.

But if the gulf is growing between Europe's elite and the rest of the world at club level, the gap between South America's best and the rest of the world has narrowed significantly.

Twice in the past three years, the Copa Libertadores winners have failed to qualify for the final and Fluminense could easily have followed suit.

Al Ahly had dumped out a star-studded Al-Ittihad featuring Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante and Fabinho on their home patch in the previ-

ous round.

And roared on by thousands of travelling fans from just across the Red Sea, they were the more energetic and enterprising side throughout.

"We should have conceded goals, they played really well and our goalkeeper saved us several times," added Diniz. "But we have a very strong characteristic: we never give up."

Fluminense still came closest to scoring before half-time as Arias twice hit the post. But Al Ahly should have made their first-half ascendancy count when Kahraba headed a glorious chance straight at Fabio.

The chances continued to come and go for the Egyptians after the break.

Kahraba fired too close to Fabio before the veteran keeper denied Emam

Ashour.

Al Ahly were made to pay for that profligacy when a rare moment of quality from Marcelo lured Percy Tau into a mistimed challenge inside the box.

Mohamed Elshenawy had saved a penalty from Benzema in the quarter-finals, but this time was beaten by Arias' accurate

spot-kick into the bottom corner.

Tau had an immediate chance to make amends but headed straight at Fabio.

Substitute Taher Mohamed was next to waste a big opportunity to equalise, but Al Ahly failed to find a way through despite having 18 attempts on goal.

Kennedy, whose goal won the Copa Libertadores final against Boca Juniors last month, then showed the poise Al Ahly had been missing in front of goal by coolly turning inside his marker and slotting into the far corner.

Diniz has previously described his style of football as the opposite

of Pep Guardiola's.

The Manchester City boss was to begin his quest to win the Club World Cup with a third different club later yesterday.

But on this evidence there is little for Guardiola's City to fear in the final should they see off Asian champions Urawa.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



**Jose Mourinho: Manchester United still have the deadwood from my era**

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## Yanga's coach lauds players ahead of CAF CL match vs Medeama SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach Miguel Gamondi has expressed satisfaction over his players as they prepare to come up against Ghana's Medeama SC in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D duel at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

The Argentine coach opened up on how he is confident ahead of the decisive fixture that will portray Yanga's future in the premier continental showdown.

Gamondi explained how his confidence is high after rotating the majority of first-team players in a convincing 4-1 victory over Mtbwa Sugar in an NBC Premier League tie that took place in the city last Saturday.

"I am delighted to see all players show their prowess as we prepare to play against Medeama SC, I have all my important players," the Argentine disclosed.

The gaffer said: "The players are doing an amazing job to show how hungry and ready they are to help the team, the key point is all players are important and the team comes first in results."

Gamondi said picking maximum points against Medeama SC is Yanga's main focus, adding they have moved past their 4-1 victory over Mtbwa Sugar, much as it boosted their morale.

"We played three international games in a row without a win, to win in the local league retains the rhythm and morale back although Medeama SC is a different test," the Argentine revealed.

"I have huge decisions on players who are going to make the first eleven against Medeama SC," the tactician stated.

"We are confident in ourselves against Medeama SC, we play at home and we have to make the most of it and make sure we pick positive points in this fixture," Gamondi said.

"Medeama SC is a good team. They are very resilient and pose a threat against us, thus, we have to approach this game with great caution," he pointed out.

Mathematically, Yanga has to win to revamp the outfit's chances of going beyond the Group Stage of the continental competition.

As it stands in Group D, Al Ahly leads with five points, followed by CR Belouizdad with four points, as is the case with third-placed Medeama SC, whereas Yanga is languishing at the bottom with two points.

Yanga has the side's sponsor, GSM Group owner Ghalib Said Mohamed, dedicating the match against Medeama SC to his name.

It will be known as 'GSM Day', given he has reportedly purchased all ordinary seat tickets for the game.

However, those who will accommodate VIP A, B, and C seats will pay 30,000/-, 20,000/- and 10,000/- respectively.



Yanga's midfielder, Farid Mussa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

# Simba SC inches closer to CAF CL quarterfinals



Wydad Athletic Club's keeper, Youssef El Motie, makes a save when the club took on Simba SC in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B encounter that took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday and ended in a 2-0 victory for Simba SC. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S Simba SC has boosted its pursuit of progression to the last-eight stage of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League after commanding a 2-0 win over Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The outcome has seen Simba SC move to the second spot in Group B after collecting five points from four ties, whereas Wydad Athletic Club has moved back to the bottom of the group after amassing three points from the same number of matches.

Simba SC managed the first shot on target in the ninth minute of the Group B clash, in which the club's winger Willy Onana attempted from outside Wydad Athletic Club's penalty area and goalie Youssef El Motie saved the effort.

Wydad Athletic Club was presented with a good opportunity in the 12th minute but wasted it given an effort by midfielder, Saïfeddine Bouhra, was blocked by two Simba SC defenders.

In the 21st minute, Simba SC threatened when left fullback, Mohammed Hussein, whipped in a cross from the left but none of the outfit's attackers could exploit the opportunity, and Amine Aboulfath dealt with the threat.

Wydad Athletic Club pressed and went close in the 27th minute as a 30-meter shot by forward, Bouly Sambou, flew a few centimeters over Simba SC's crossbar.

A minute later, Simba SC's keeper Ayoub Lakred was forced to make a double save to keep Wydad Athletic Club's forwards at bay, following a defensive blunder committed by the home side's defenders.

In the 32nd minute, Lakred was again forced to make a save, blocking a shot by Montasser Lahtimi from inside the penalty area.

Simba SC went 1-0 up in the 36th minute when Onana found Wydad Athletic Club's back of the net with a shot from outside the area

following a back pass by attacker, Kibu Denis.

The home side was 2-0 up two minutes later, in which Onana finished superbly a pass executed by midfielder, Mzamiru Yassin.

Wydad Athletic Club had an opportunity five minutes from the breather, when Simba SC's central defender, Che Malone Jr, handled the ball a few meters outside the area. The Moroccan outfit's effort was blocked by Simba SC's defenders.

Wydad Athletic Club's attacker, Sambou, was shown a yellow card in the 43rd minute for committing a foul on one of Simba SC's defenders.

Simba SC midfielder, Clatus Chama, created a good chance inside Wydad Athletic Club's area in the 45th minute but the opportunity was wasted by the forwards.

Lakred turned out to be Simba SC's hero in the opening half, having denied Wydad Athletic Club five clear chances.

Wydad Athletic Club made two tactical substitutions in the second period and hit the ground running, having brought in striker Mohamed Ounajem and midfielder Ismail Moutaraji who replaced Haimoud and Lahtimi.

Kibu failed to score in the 50th minute after he was set up by Chama inside Wydad Athletic Club's penalty area and, a minute later, forward Jean Baleke wasted another chance for the home side after Wydad keeper El Motie had

blocked the attacker's effort from inside the area.

In the 60th minute, the home side made tactical substitutions as experienced striker, John Bocco, replaced Chama and Israel Mwenda was brought in to replace Onana.

Five minutes later, El Motie made a save, having denied Kibu by punching away the attacker's shot from outside the penalty area. Another defender, David Kameta, was brought in for Kibu in yet another tactical substitution by Simba SC.

Simba SC made more substitutions, as defenders Kennedy Juma and Hussein Kazi replaced forward Baleke and midfielder Yassin.

Wydad Athletic Club also made substitutions, as forward Charki El Bahri was brought in for midfielder Anas Serrhat.

There was a yellow card shown to defender Mwenda for misconduct in the 75th minute and, 10 minutes later, Sambou wasted one of the best chances for Wydad Athletic Club when the muscular forward shot over Simba SC's crossbar after Lakred had failed to clear a cross whipped in by Ounajem.

Simba SC continued dominating the proceedings and held on for a convincing 2-0 victory.

Before yesterday's tie, Wydad Athletic Club was occupying third place in Group B with three points from three ties, whereas Simba SC was languishing at the bottom of the group with two points from three outings.

In the group's other match slated for later the same day, Ivorian outfit ASEC Mimosas- the group leader- was slated to lock horns with the now third-placed Jwaneng Galaxy of Botswana at Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium in Abidjan.

## Yanga entertains Medeama in crucial CAF CL clash

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA'S football giant, Yanga, is today set to come up against Medeama SC of Ghana in a pivotal 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D encounter, marking the decisive moment in the former's campaign to reach the tournament's quarterfinals.

The clash, scheduled to take place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, kicks off at 4 pm East African time and is anticipated to be highly challenging.

Apart from the Medeama SC vs Yanga match, the other Group D fixture between CR Belouizdad and Al Ahly that was set to take place in Algiers, Algeria, has been postponed.

This decision was reached to allow Al Ahly to battle it out in the FIFA Club World Cup semi-final, which ended with



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Gamondi (L), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday ahead of the club's 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D tie against Medeama SC of Ghana which will be played in the city today. Sitting (R) is the outfit's left fullback, Nickson Kibabage. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

the Egyptian outfit succumbing to a 2-0 defeat to Brazil's Fluminense.

In the reverse fixture which took place at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi on December 8, 2023, Yanga came

from behind to secure a 1-1 draw with Medeama SC.

Despite these hurdles, Medeama SC- currently placed second in Group D- is determined to secure at least a point in to-

day's crucial encounter.

The Ghanaian club's head coach Evans Adotey acknowledged his squad's poor performance in the first leg and his hopes for a turnaround reflect the club's

determination to address previous shortcomings.

The fact that Yanga has yet to secure a victory in the premier continental club showdown could serve as motivation for the Ghanaian champions.

Home-field advantage and the support of local fans can play a significant role in Yanga's performance, particularly in a crucial match like the CAF Champions League.

The atmosphere created by passionate supporters can inspire and energize the home team while creating a challenging atmosphere for Medeama SC.

Yanga's head coach, Miguel Gamondi, expressed the team's focus on the international stage, emphasizing the need for a positive result.

Despite recent setbacks, he highlighted the morale boost gained from success in the NBC Premier League.

Concerning player selection, Gamondi emphasized the need for flexibility, acknowledging that decisions would be made based on the players' condition after the last practice.

Rédouane Jiyed from Morocco will officiate the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League Matchday 4 tie between Yanga and Medeama SC, with support from assistants Lahsen Azgaou, Mostafa Akarkad, and Karim Sabry.

The Confederation of African Football has appointed Makur Majok Kariom Majok Mabil from South Sudan as the Match Commissioner, while Alberto Daniel Razafitsitamy from Madagascar will serve as the referees' assessor.

Uganda's Ali Mwebe is the general coordinator, and Siyabulela Andisiwe Gantsho from South Africa will take on the role of security officer.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

