



SMART MONEY

Global carbon trading market to hit \$0.17bn in 2024

Rapid growth of fintech needs effective management of anti-money laundering

Programme established to accelerating country's adaptation to climate change



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President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Ambassador Joseph Sokoine, one of Edward Moringe Sokoine's sons, press a knob in Dar es Salaam yesterday in launching a book on the late former prime minister. Photo: State House

Samia underwrites 34bn/- presidential memorials centre

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is projecting to use 34bn/- for establishing a presidential centre in the capital dedicated to preserving the records of former presidents and top national leaders for reference and study by the coming generations.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan profiled the project when gracing the launch of a publication by Uongozi Institute, a quasi-governmental unit establishing the memoirs of top national leaders in the past, a book on the deceased premier Edward Sokoine, on his life and work.

She said that 1bn/- was set aside in estimates for the current financial year, addressing former leaders, current government

officials, religious leaders, representatives from political parties, civil society organisations and the private sector.

"Let me assure you that we have already earmarked 50 acres for the construction of the presidential centre in Dodoma, where people can easily access information about

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Govt still slates \$6bn annual tourism sector earnings by end of 2025

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has not despaired in its projections to boost tourism revenues to \$6bn from five million tourists by end of next year.

Dunstan Kitandula, the Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister, reaffirmed this expectation when officiating at the opening of World Tourism Day commemoration here yesterday, affirming the government had already collected over \$3bn in this revenue category in 2023.

This was a clear indication that progress was being realised towards the target, he stated, noting that there are expectations that the goals "will be met and exceeded" by next year.

"Our plans involve developing areas that remain underutilised for tourism, particularly in the southern regions," he said, pointing at ongoing work to enhance airport infrastructure, improve roads and promote attractions in these areas.

This contributes to moving towards achieving those objectives, he stated, highlighting the emergence of new tourism markets in countries such as Brazil, China and India, alongside established markets in Europe and the United States.

He stressed the preservation and protection of the country's natural resources, chiefly forests, as they are vital for the welfare of current and future generations.

Upwards of 25 percent of foreign ex-

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Deputy minister hints at tougher traffic penalties

By Correspondent Francis Godwin, Iringa

THE government is finalising revisions to the country's traffic safety laws, to improve outdated regulations and heighten road safety.

Daniel Sillo, the Home Affairs deputy minister, set out this objective here yesterday at the 10th anniversary of inaugurating the national road safety ambassadors, where he pointed at the need for regulatory revisions to enhance law effectiveness.

This is vital in the effort to reduce road accidents, he pointed at road safety education as a crucial tool in minimising accidents, often attributed to human error.

He praised road safety ambassadors, who assist police in educating the public on safe road practices, while clarifying that they do not replace traffic

officers.

The ambassadors promote awareness of essential safety measures, such as wearing seatbelts, obeying road signs, and avoiding speeding.

He praised the ambassadors for their dedication, urging them to stick to promoting safer road behaviour, while stakeholders also need to keep their commitment and support for road safety initiatives.

Acknowledging the commemoration's theme focusing on involving women in road safety initiatives, he stated that women and children are often the most vulnerable in road accidents.

There is need for an expanded educational outreach to address this issue, he said, applauding the locally based Asas Company which received recognition for its initiative to provide health insurance for 50 underprivileged families.

This had showcased how

the private sector can partner with the government to tackle social challenges, including healthcare and road safety, he said, with ACP Michael Deleli, head of road safety education at the Traffic Police Department, stressed the role of the police in community education through officers stationed at the ward level.

He said road safety issues are tied to human error in the main, along with faulty vehicles for a quarter of all accidents, while poor infrastructure is an occasional explanation.

While calling for increased education to address these challenges, his colleague Augustus Fungo, executive director of the road safety ambassadors board, urged the government to revise outdated traffic laws.

Current penalties such as fines as low as 1,000/- are ineffective in deterring violations, he said, a stance that wasn't

echoed by other stakeholders vividly.

Salim Abri Asas, the regional road safety committee chairman and member of its National Executive Council (NEC), reaffirmed the company's commitment to societal initiatives.

These include road safety and healthcare since building a safe and healthy community is a priority, he stated, with beneficiaries of the health insurance provided by Asas expressing gratitude for the gesture of support.

SACP Allan Bukumbi, the regional police commander, commended Asas and NEC member Salim Abri for contributions to security and road safety in the region.

District Commissioner Kheri James, standing in for the regional commissioner, reaffirmed collaboration with the police force to further reduce road accidents in the area.

'Corporate executives should embrace artificial intelligence'

By Guardian Reporter

TOP level corporate executives need to embrace new technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) to improve institutional performances in the current digital age.

Dr Jabir Bakari, the Tanzania Communications Regula-

tory Authority (TCRA) director general, made this appeal at a roundtable organized by the Institute of Directors Tanzania in Dar es Salaam at the weekend.

He stated that institutions should not fear AI but instead leverage its transformative potential, explaining that AI

was not a new phenomenon, having evolved from developments in computing and internet systems.

"It was a theory for creating computer systems capable of performing tasks requiring human intelligence," he said, elaborating that AI involved more advanced algorithms

and logic, leading to situations where systems start behaving like human beings and even excel beyond a specific threshold."

This is just a more advanced form of the same set of instruc-

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SPORTS

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Gamondi pleased with 'clear win' despite narrow 1-0 victory against KMC

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Pamba Jiji coach disappointed after loss, eyes recovery against Yanga





Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has an audience in New York on Sunday with AMREF Health Africa executive director Dr Githinji Gitahi (L), an event also attended by Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollé (3rd-R), Health ministry permanent secretary Dr John Jingu (2nd-R) and Chief Government Medical Officer Prof Tumaini Nagu. Photo: PMO

'Corporate executives should embrace artificial intelligence'

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tions identified as software and programmes, "but we should always not forget that all these are made by human intelligence, which has to be prepared," he further noted.

Asserting that technological developments are historically determined, he pointed at the temporal sources of the current information age, suggesting that "it will live and pass just as the Stone Age, the Iron Age and the Industrial Ages."

He described digital transformation as cross-sectoral programmes in agriculture, transport infrastructure, mining, education and health, which need to exercise digital readiness and observe its standards.

All it takes is to plug the infrastructure and build applications, the software, the programmes which are then uploaded for use by all the sectors, he said, insisting that applying technologies in all sectors could transform economies.

He cited an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) report showing that a 10 per cent increase in the use of

technology in the various sectors pushes a rise in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2.5 per cent to reach clear initiative or systemic application.

He briefed the participants on TCRA's plan to push the teaching of subjects that facilitate the digital economy, namely science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

He similarly pointed at digital clubs from kindergarten to university, cautioning that "if we don't put the right dose at that level, we cannot have a mathematician at the university level, neither at advanced level, not even at the secondary school level."

TCRA sponsored five participants in this year's African secondary school mathematics competition held in South Africa in August, where three of them were awarded bronze medals.

They are Ambrose Rutashobya of Iyunga Technical School, Zakaria Mwita of Azania and Stella Maliti of Marian Girls, where the latter won two medals and was declared "Queen of Mathematics," he added.

Madagascar's model ship builders make country's craftsmanship shine

ANTANANARIVO

A Model boat-building team in Madagascar's capital makes the country's crafts industry shine.

The island of Madagascar is not renowned for its shipbuilding tradition, but things changed when a workshop known as "The Village" was launched in 1993.

Since then, it has hand-crafted ships for the King of Spain and even the Pope.

The Village will even have two of its ships being exhibited at the upcoming Homo Faber biennial fair in Venice on 30 September 2024.

HomoFaberisaninternationalcelebration

of the world's best craftsmanship.

Gregory Postel says: "Investing in people, pushing them to go above and beyond to make tailor-made models, and at the end, someone specialized in luxury craftsmanship, the best in the world, tells us "we can't make do without you, you have to come", for me it's a success. It's a first step, but it's such a fabulous success."

Postel is a model enthusiast and French investor. He became a co-owner of The Village last year.

His goal is to make Madagascar an international jewel of craftsmanship - it is one of the poorest countries in the world, so this type of investment and prestige is

important for growing the local economy.

32 craftspeople are employed at this miniature shipbuilding yard in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Some of them have been there since the foundation of the company and were trained by the founder. In turn the more experienced veterans have trained the newer recruits because there is no formal craftsmanship school in Madagascar.

Romy Henintsoa is an assistant manager at "The Village" and she explains all the steps necessary for the models' construction.

"It starts with the wood cutting, then the production of the deck, the production of the pieces, there are three types : the

sculpted, hand-made and turned pieces, then it's the deck fittings, then it's the finishing stage with the sail workshop," she says.

Each model takes between a month and ten months to produce - depending on the size and level of detail.

The Village obtains plans from museums, shipping associations or marine architects to reproduce accurate miniature versions.

It mostly makes boats from the age of sail because information about modern battleships is highly-sensitive and not shared by the various navies.

The boats are sanded, sewn, painted and varnished before being prepared for

shipping (albeit not by their own sails).

The price of the models starts at 150 euros but can reach upwards of 10,000 euros for the larger pieces.

All the raw materials come from Madagascar, like Anakaraka wood, and the sails are made from Malagasy cotton dipped in tea for colour and the iron and copper are made from recycled materials.

Like many companies relying on tourism, The Village suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pre-pandemic, The Village says it used to sell around 300 ships a year but now they hope to sell between 80 to 100 pieces in 2024.

Samia endorses 34bn/- vast presidential centre

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the lives of former leaders," she said.

She appealed to serving leaders to draw inspiration from Edward Sokoine's exemplary leadership to drive development, stressing the departed premier's trustworthiness and commitment in public service.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango asked the president to facilitate the provision of financial support to authors to ensure the preservation of the legacies of top national leaders who left office many years ago.

George Simbachawene, the Public Service Management and Good Governance state minister in the President's Office, described Sokoine as an iconic leader renowned for his unwavering commitment to accountability and integrity.

The book launch was not only a tribute but also a vital lesson for current political activists and aspirants, offering insights into the life and values of a remarkable national figure.

Kadari Singo, the Uongozi Institute chief executive officer, highlighted the institute's dedication to preserving the legacies of Tanzania's leaders, pointing at their work in the preparation and publication of autobiographies of former presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Benjamin Mkapa.

This will be followed up in their mission to inspire future generations through the stories of those who shaped the nation, he said, underlining that the launch serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of integrity in leadership and the enduring impact of leaders like Sokoine on the country's history.

Joseph Sokoine, son of the late

premier and currently high commissioner to Canada, hailed the centre as providing opportunities for people to read and review speeches and policy initiatives, making it a potential tourism asset as well.

"The idea of a presidential centre is vital for preserving the records of our leaders for future generations," he said, expressing gratitude to President Samia for initiating the late premier's biography. "After 40 years, the passion and family dream to write our father's biography has come true," he said, elaborating that the book's writing process began more than 15 years ago and has now been completed.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, the Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister, reflected on the profound impact of Edward Sokoine, describing him as a leader dedicated to his people and country during his tenure as premier.

He was a latter day version of his native Maasai culture as a devout Catholic, a patriotic leader committed to combating theft, corruption, laziness and poverty.

"One of the defining moments in Sokoine's life occurred late 1980 when he faced the agonising decision to resign as prime minister, immersed in an internal struggle as he was aware of the repercussions his choice could entail.

"Yet, guided by his principles, he understood that true leadership sometimes demands stepping aside for the greater good of the nation," he remarked, discounting often suggested views that the late Sokoine had ambitions to ascend to the presidency as founding leader Mwalimu Nyerere had already ruled out standing in the 1985 vote.



Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) deputy conservation commissioner, Massana Mwishawa (R) briefs Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (in jungle hat) on progress in the ongoing implementation of a Gate Complex project in Nyerere National Park in Namumbo District on Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Happy Shayo

Govt still slates \$6bn annual tourism earnings by late 2025

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change earnings derive from the tourism sector, which contributes 15 per cent of the national income, pivotal to economic growth and the welfare of its citizens, he said.

He praised the Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA) for organ-

ising the event, as marking World Tourism Day "facilitates new knowledge and exploration of how our country can collaborate with others to enhance the tourism sector."

Prof. Eliamani Sedoyeka, the IAA rector, noted that the institute

has five faculties, including one focusing on tourism, affirming that the conference to explore various themes related to the commemoration enabled stakeholders and scholars to intensely examine prospects in the sector, and areas needing to be researched upon.

"As stakeholders in the tourism business, the experience sold is paramount, and human resources play a crucial role. At IAA, we have developed a degree curriculum and provide students with practical skills to excel in the tourism sector," he added.

Dr Biteko urges parents to raise children with strong foundations

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Energy Minister, Dr Doto Biteko, has urged parents and guardians to ensure they raise their children with strong foundations to build a better nation and cultivate good leaders for the future.

Dr Biteko made these remarks during the launch of the "Today's Child is Tomorrow's Samia" campaign, which coincided with Education Week, held in Muheza District, Tanga Region.

He stated that if children are raised in environments of abuse, oppression, and discouragement, this will result in the emergence of future leaders who are cruel.

"I urge parents, guardians, and teachers to collaborate in educating children properly so that we can produce tomorrow's Samia (good leaders). If the teacher fulfills their responsibility and the parent fulfills theirs, we will be able to raise young people who will contribute positively to society," Dr Biteko emphasized.

He also noted that, despite the existing educational environment in the country, the responsibility of producing good students lies in the hands of

teachers, who play a crucial role in shaping a future generation that follows good traditions and customs.

Dr Biteko also mentioned that the campaign is built on a triad of ensuring that children receive quality education through the collaboration of parents, the government, and stakeholders, to improve educational conditions for students across the country.

Dr Biteko also received part of 200 desks from NMB Bank on behalf of 5 five schools in Muheza District, where he praised the lender for partnering with the government to improve the education sector in Tanzania.

Omari Kipanga, Deputy Minister for Education, Science, and Technology, said that the forum aimed to involve education stakeholders in supporting government efforts to improve the learning environment and ensure that children have a suitable place to study.

Tanga Regional Commissioner, Ambassador Dr Batilda Buriani, said the forum is part of efforts to raise the standard of education and address existing challenges.

Ambassador Dr Batilda stated that one of the challenges in the education sector in the region is the unsatisfac-



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (C) exchanges greetings with Muheza District officials yesterday upon his arrival at the venue from where he delivered an address to launch "Mtoto wa Leo, Samia wa Kesho" -literally, "Today's Child is Tomorrow's (President) Samia" - campaign. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

tory performance rate in primary schools, which stands at 74.4 percent while the pass rate in secondary schools is 89 percent.

"By working with various stakeholders, including NMB Bank, we are going to restore Tanga Region to the education map, especially in this Muheza District," stressed Ambassador Dr Batilda.

Doreen Joseph, bank's Chief Risk Officer (CRO), said that in support of the government's efforts, the bank donated educational supplies worth 60m/- to five primary

schools in Muheza District.

"In giving back to the community, we have focused on addressing challenges in the education sector in the country. This is our priority because we recognize the government's efforts in overseeing education, and thus we decided to offer this support," said Joseph.

"Alongside all the great things our government continues to do, as stakeholders, it is our joy to support these development efforts by assisting our community. This com-

munity has enabled NMB Bank to be where it is today and to become the most successful bank in the country. For this, I would like to thank you all," she added.

She also mentioned that the donated items include 200 desks for Kwemkabila, Masuguru, Mdot, Mwembeni, and Ngomeni primary schools, with each school receiving 50 desks. Additionally, 40 beds and 80 mattresses were donated to Ngomeni Primary School, and 32 beds and 64 mattresses were provided for Masuguru Primary School.

Tanzania's Skyleader 600 aircraft began operations

By Guardian Reporter

MOROGORO-based light plane manufacturer-Airplanes Africa Limited (AAL) has announced that the first three aircraft-Skyleader 600 have officially begun operations domestically and internationally.

The announcement was made by AAL Director, David Grolig, following the aircraft's maiden landing at Julius Nyerere International Airport.

Grolig confirmed that AAL received certification from the relevant authorities, allowing them to commence operations.

He stressed that the Skyleader 600 aircraft are modern, high-quality, and meet international standards.

"We have manufactured three Skyleader 600 airplanes in Tanzania, and they are now ready for sale. These aircraft provide an excellent transport solution for both Tanzania and Africa, and we invite

potential customers interested in becoming owners," said Grolig.

He explained that the decision to establish an ultralight aircraft manufacturing facility in Tanzania was influenced by the country's favourable investment environment and the willingness of its people to embrace new technologies and skills.

Designed to carry two passengers, including the pilot, the Skyleader 600 is well-suited for business travelers covering longer distances.

"We conducted extensive research on the needs of business travelers who frequently take long journeys," Grolig noted.

"As a result, we developed an aircraft that allows businesspeople to travel efficiently and attend various meetings outside their regions before returning to their cities."

As the first company in Tanzania to manufacture such aircraft for commercial and personal purposes, AAL employs both Tanzanian and Czech staff.

They have also created job opportunities for young Tanzanians, with some employees selected for internships in the Czech Republic.

The ultralight aircraft are as affordable as owning a car and are cost-efficient, using petrol with low maintenance expenses. This makes them more economical compared to general aviation airplanes.

"The project's success is attributed to the dedicated and collaborative efforts of our Tanzanian and Czech team," Grolig added.

The Skyleader 600 was recently showcased at the ongoing Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo (TIMEXPO 2024) at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

TIMEXPO 2024, organized by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in collaboration with the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), has attracted over 300 local and international exhibitors.



Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute doctors and nurses who had been conducting a one-week heart condition screening and treatment camp in Zambia pictured at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday shortly after flying back. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwenda-pole

Prioritise regular medical check-ups, public advised

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Cardiac Society (TCS) has urged the public to prioritise regular medical check-ups for the early diagnosis of heart-related conditions.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the World Heart Day, TCS President, Dr Robert Mvungi, emphasised that early detection is key to preventing fatalities linked to heart disease.

The event, organised in partnership with the Aga Khan Hospital Dar es Salaam, aimed to raise awareness about cardiovascular health and included an energetic exercise session alongside free health screenings for blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

Dr Mvungi explained that regular screenings not only facilitate the early diagnosis of potential heart issues but also empower individuals to make informed health decisions, thereby reducing the risk of complications later in life. He highlighted that proactive measures can significantly enhance heart health and overall well-being, contributing to a healthier, more resilient community.

He said TCS is committed to promoting lifestyle changes at the community level, increasing awareness and encouraging regular heart health screenings.

Dr Mvungi pointed out that non-

communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 12.91 percent of deaths in Tanzania, with 1.43 percent specifically linked to hypertensive heart disease.

He reaffirmed TCS's collaboration with Aga Khan Hospital to enhance cardiovascular care and reduce fatalities through preventive measures.

"TCS and its partners remain dedicated to fostering a heart-conscious society through everyday actions," he said.

Dr Javed Jakban, an interventional cardiologist, stressed the importance of timely action when dealing with heart attacks. "Don't ignore the warning signs-act swiftly against heart attacks."

Murtaza Muktar, head of clinical operations at Aga Khan Hospital, reiterated that heart health is vital for overall well-being, impacting both physical and mental health. He expressed pride in the hospital's commitment to promoting cardiovascular health and empowering individuals to make informed health choices.

World Heart Day, observed annually on September 29, advocates for preventive measures against cardiovascular diseases. This year's theme, "Use Heart for Action," highlights the importance of small lifestyle changes-such as regular exercise, healthy eating, and avoiding tobacco-to improve heart health.

Adopt reforms to enhance crop production, prison service urged

By Guardian Reporter

HOME Affairs minister Hamad Masauni has urged the Prison Service to adopt systematic, structural and institutional reforms to enhance agricultural production capabilities within the country's productive prisons.

Minister Masauni made the call during a recent visit to the Kitai Agricultural and Livestock Prison in Mbinga District, Ruvuma Region.

He highlighted that one of the

key reforms involves separating the administrative authority of the Prison Service from that of its Prisons Corporation Sole (PCS), which he believes will improve management efficiency in both administrative and business operations.

The Minister instructed all productive prisons nationwide to seize opportunities in grain agriculture by expanding their farmland, in line with government efforts to uplift the agricultural sector.

"The government is committed

to uplifting the agricultural sector," he said.

He noted that the government has expanded market opportunities for grain products through the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), which is empowered to purchase crops at favourable prices.

"However, to date, there have been no significant efforts by the Prison Service to capitalize on this opportunity," he added.

Minister Masauni also stressed

the importance of adopting clean cooking energy solutions in prisons.

He urged facilities to move away from traditional reliance on firewood and charcoal, aligning with global and African agendas focused on environmental conservation and sustainability.

Gabriel Luder, officer in charge at Kitai Agricultural and Livestock Prison, expressed readiness to embrace the necessary changes.

"We are prepared to adapt our

operations to enhance agricultural production and improve overall efficiency," Luder said.

He highlighted the prison's commitment to contributing to the government's agricultural goals.

As part of the proposed reforms, the Minister mentioned plans to invest in training programs for prison staff and inmates in modern farming techniques.

He believes that equipping inmates with agricultural skills will not only improve prison produc-

tivity but also prepare them for reintegration into society upon release.

The Minister's visit included a tour of the prison's current agricultural projects, where he observed various crops being cultivated and engaged with inmates participating in these initiatives.

He praised their efforts and encouraged them to view agriculture as a viable path for personal and professional development.

Govt urges players to lift female innovators

By Getrude Mbago

STAKEHOLDERS in the innovation sector have been urged to intensify efforts in promoting female innovators to boost their participation in economic activities.

Felister Mdemu, deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, made the appeal in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the closing session of the Tanzania Hub Network (THN)'s working meeting.

Mdemu highlighted the limited involvement of girls in innovation, stressing the importance of utilising THN's platform to create initiatives that foster women's economic engagement.

She emphasized that the efforts would help advance Tanzania's commitments to gender equality, particularly through the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), which focuses on economic justice and rights.

Tanzania has pledged to implement GEF initiatives, adopted in 2021, by prioritizing investments in gender-responsive public and private services, promoting decent work for women, and improving women's access to productive resources.

The deputy PS said to support the goals, the country has

launched the Tanzania Generation Equality Programme (TGEPE) 2021-2026, a multisectoral initiative designed to guide public, private, and civil society organisations in advancing economic justice and rights.

Led by the Ministries in charge of gender in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, the TGEPE embodies a robust strategy to elevate the lives of Tanzanian women and girls. By bolstering justice and economic equality, the initiative ensures inclusivity, also engaging men and boys in nation-building endeavours.

This has been all possible through the establishment of the National Advisory Committee led by Hon. Angella Kairuki, reinforced by the appointment of dedicated officers from council levels, regional secretariats and ministries responsible for managing the execution of justice and economic equality in their areas.

Lilian Mwamdanga, programme specialist for women's economic empowerment at UN Women Tanzania commended Tanzania's commitment to gender equality.

"The country's dedication to advancing economic justice and rights serves as a remarkable example for others," she noted. "We recognize the significance of innovations that tackle deep-



Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) member Judge Asina Omari speaks at an election stakeholders' meeting in Zanzibar yesterday, mainly on the updating of the national Permanent Voters' Register set to take place in Zanzibar from October 7 to 13. Photo courtesy of INEC

rooted gender inequalities, as outlined by the GEF commitments."

THN chairman, Kiko Kiwanga pledged to

support the government's gender equality initiatives.

"We will utilize funding from the Funguo

Programme to build the capacity of technical assistants who will assist women in these efforts," he said.

Growing Africa's digital economy from the soil up

By Vicki Hymn

THERE is an economic sector in Africa worth \$1 trillion a year, and yet most of the people who work in it are invisible.

"Farmers are the folks that you don't see," says African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina.

"Banks don't see them. Buyers don't see them. Traders don't see

them. Insurance companies don't see them."

These smallholder farmers often live in remote areas with little connectivity, leaving them with no digital footprint and limiting their access to better prices, loans and innovative agricultural inputs like climate-resistant seeds.

But a new initiative called MADE Alliance, which stands for Mobilizing Access to the Digital Economy, aims

to bring 3 million farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria into the digital economy. It's the first phase of an ambitious plan, launched earlier this year by the African Development Bank Group and Mastercard, to enable digital access for 100 million people and businesses across the continent in 10 years.

The farmers will be provided a digital identity and access to a network of 6,000 digital agricultural agents

through Mastercard's Community Pass infrastructure, which provides access to the digital economy through a digital credential that enables farmers to access any service on the platform.

Adesina, the African Development Bank's Beth Dunford, who is vice president for agriculture, human and social development, Community Pass founder Tara Nathan, and other partners shared their insights

at a reception last week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, where Mastercard hosted the inaugural MADE Alliance Steering Committee meeting to review progress and discuss open challenges and required support to scale MADE programming.

MADE's deployed programs include unlocking affordable digital financial services for sunflower farmers in Tanzania, internet con-

nectivity and digital skilling for farmer cooperatives in Kenya, clean energy asset financing for farmers in Kenya, and access to markets via Community Pass.

The Mastercard Newsroom spoke with Dunford about the challenges facing smallholder farmers, the possibilities digitalization affords and why investing in female farmers in particular is, in her words, "smart economics."

TRA extolled for providing community-friendly services

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TRADERS in Morogoro Region have expressed satisfaction with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)'s initiative to establish special camps in various areas for timely tax payment services.

The initiative aims to help business owners avoid fines after-tax deadlines.

Speaking at the Chifu Kingalu Main Market in Morogoro Municipality, businesspersons highlighted how these camps facilitate timely tax payments and help them steer clear of penalties.

One of them, Shabani Kibuhile noted that TRA now provides more community-friendly services, a marked improvement from previous approaches that often left business owners feeling antagonised.

He explained that timely tax payments contribute to better public services, such as road infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

"TRA services have become more supportive for us as they offer education, advice, and guidance on essential tax matters. They now come to us, whereas in the past, it felt like they were merely chasing us," Kibuhile said.

He encouraged the public and fellow business owners to adhere to tax payment laws, recognising the authority's role in enforcing these laws for national development. He stressed that a nation cannot progress without tax contributions.

Another trader, Ijumbo Majani praised the convenience of TRA's services, stating that the proximity of these camps allows for easy access to tax services without the hassle of travelling to their offices.

"I visited the Chifu Kingalu Main Market centre, and within minutes, I received government payment services before returning to my business," Majani shared.

He suggested that this service should be ongoing to ensure timely tax payments for all citizens.

Immaculate Chaggu, TRA taxpayer services, and education officer in Morogoro, explained that this initiative is part of a broader effort to improve revenue collection by providing government payment numbers and taxpayer education.

"We have set up camps in three locations, including Chifu Kingalu Main Market, to encourage timely payment of the third instalment without incurring interest on late payments," Chaggu said.

She mentioned that the camps began operations on September 21 and are currently serving over 100 customers daily, a number that is expected to rise as the September 30 deadline approaches.

George Mkope, TRA senior tax officer in Morogoro, highlighted the positive impact of this service, noting a significant increase in voluntary tax payments.



Constitution and Legal Affairs deputy minister Jumane Sagini listens to a mother who had gone to the Integrated Family Issues Centre at Temeke in Dar es Salaam late last week seeking legal assistance after reportedly being abandoned by her husband. He was on a routine visit to the centre. Photo courtesy of Constitution and Legal Affairs ministry

We are advocating fundamental rights in Isles, ACT top leader says

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

ACT-Wazalendo-Zanzibar has stated that the party works hard to advocate fundamental rights including access to quality services and the constitutional right to life for all.

Omar Ali Shehe, party's deputy secretary general made the remarks at a public rally held at Jongomeo Chambani grounds in the Mkoani District, Pemba South Region.

"We are fighting for the right to elect leaders who genuinely represent us—councillors, representatives, Members of Parliament and the President.

Since the introduction of a multiparty system, Zanzibar has suffered under leadership that does not reflect our will, from local constituencies to the national government," he said.

He further highlighted that Zanzibar is striving for a fully autonomous Zanzibar with its own seat at the United Nations and the power to make independent decisions, particularly in economic matters.

Shehe asserted that no other party is capable of championing this autonomy like ACT-Wazalendo.

He also raised concerns

about undemocratic practices emerging in the region, alleging that local leaders, known as shehas, have been going door to door collecting information from residents' identification or voter cards without providing a clear explanation for their actions.

"We have observed shehas collecting voter identification numbers throughout this region. If the government had a legitimate reason for this, there would be an official announcement. The conduct of the shehas is therefore questionable and lacks transparency," he said.

Shehe urged party members not to cooperate with the shehas and to report any such incidents to their local party branches, enabling leaders to take appropriate action.

Othman Masoud Othman, ACT-Wazalendo National Chairman stated that the 1964 Revolution did not eliminate Zanzibar's sovereignty, including its United Nations membership, but rather introduced a new governance system.

He explained that while the Sultan departed after the revolution, Zanzibar retained its recognition as a nation with representation at the UN

before the subsequent Union with Tanganyika in 1964.

"When the revolution occurred, it did not dismantle the Zanzibar state; it transformed the governing structure, which is why its UN seat remained unchanged," Othman said.

He also highlighted the historical importance of Chambani, noting that Mohammed Shante, the first Prime Minister post-revolution and a Chambani native, was instrumental in coordinating Zanzibar's UN membership.

"If we lived in a society that respected its history, Cham-

bani would have a memorial to honour its figures. What Shante achieved is a significant testament to Zanzibar's status in international affairs," he said.

Seif Khamis, an Act-Wazalendo central committee member, commented on the challenges facing youth unemployment, noting that many have turned to entrepreneurship by starting small businesses.

Unfortunately, they often face harassment and eviction from local councils in Pemba.

He said the construction of new markets without community involvement has led to

many of these facilities being completed yet unused, as they are located outside town.

Khamis explained that traders are reluctant to relocate to these new markets due to accessibility issues, complicating business for small-scale entrepreneurs.

ACT-Wazalendo leaders have set up camp in Pemba, dedicating their efforts to educating the public about democracy, human rights, and good governance, while criticising the current administration for alleged corruption in various projects, particularly in construction on the islands.

Project supports girls in Nzega to overcome educational challenges

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

GIRL pupils at Isagenhe Secondary School in Nzega District, Tabora Region have praised the 'Arudi Shule' project for helping them overcome educational challenges.

Implemented by the Msichana Initiative, the programme supports schoolchildren with essential supplies, as well as emotional and counselling support for girls who return to school, enabling them to study effectively and achieve their educational aspirations.

During a recent special tour organised by the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) in the region recently, pupils expressed that the project has provided significant motivation, particularly for female students who previously dropped out of school.

Jane Chembamoyo, a form three pupil, noted that many students face barriers such as a lack of basic necessities, including school uniforms, notebooks, and sanitary pads. However, since the project's introduction at their school, many have become more dedicated to their studies.

"In our community, many parents are reluctant to send their children to school, especially girls. They often prefer to marry them off to secure their future, creating excuses to discourage them from attending school," Chembamoyo explained. "Parents frequently claim they cannot afford supplies, which serves to dissuade girls from continuing their education and encourages early marriage. Many of our peers drop out for these reasons."

She added that the Msichana Initiative, through the Arudi Shule project, has been providing essential supplies, including bicycles for students who live far from school.

"This has motivated many to continue their education. Even when parents offer excuses, we are determined to persevere," she said.

Anastazia Adamu shared her struggle with attending school due to the long distance. After receiving a bicycle, she has been able to attend regularly.

"I used to struggle with my studies because I often couldn't make it to school. But now that I have a bicycle, I attend school every day," she said.

Rosemary Batoba, a project officer for the Msichana Initiative in Nzega District, reported that the Arudi Shule project has successfully assisted 200 students by providing various school supplies. She noted that girls intending to return to school often face economic challenges, as well as health, safety, and delinquency issues.

"One major challenge for parents here is their belief that not providing basic necessities will discourage their children from continuing their education, effectively pushing them to drop out in search of a suitor," she said.

Jacob Maduki, a programme officer at Msichana Initiative, highlighted that they are running six projects in the Tabora region aimed at helping students achieve their educational goals while empowering them to recognise and resist violence and child marriage.



Dr Wilson Mahera (R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, applauds on Sunday after laying the foundation stone for the Food and Human Nutrition Initiative building when gracing celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of St Mary Goreti Secondary School in Kilimanjaro Region. He is with the Most Reverend Ludovick Minde (L, applauding), Bishop of the Catholic Church Diocese of Moshi, and the school's headmistress, Sister Clementina Kachweka. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Broaden your scope of operations, NBAA urged

By Getrude Mbago

THE National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) has been urged to continue broadening its scope, implement initiatives to serve as a model for African countries in promoting the accounting sector in the country.

Deputy Minister for Finance, Hamad Hassan Chande, made the call in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the NBAA 46th graduation ceremony which saw 1,216 accountants being conferred with certificates, diploma and degrees completion

credentials.

Chande pointed out that the number of qualified accountants in the country still falls short of the needs of the public sector, let alone the private sector, emphasising that NBAA has a responsibility to ensure its graduates acquire high-level skills to contribute effectively to the national economy.

He insisted that the country needs more accountants of the highest standards and morals who will stand firm in their profession and save public funds from embezzlement, urging graduates to protect the accounting profession's image before

the public for working professionally and show people that they have graduated with competences and not by favour.

He further encouraged the graduates to establish private firms and adhere to legal procedures, while also promising on behalf of the government to support their efforts by creating a conducive business environment.

Pius Maneno, NBAA executive director said among the 1,216 graduates, 640 are women and 576 men, highlighting the significant contribution of the Ministry of Finance to the board, particularly in provid-

ing professional advice.

He noted that the board has been reviewing its policies and regulations, and in 2024, they implemented three subsidiary laws to manage key issues, including those related to applications and appeals.

Prof Sylvia Temu, NBAA governing board Chairperson announced plans to introduce a special online diploma to increase training opportunities for accounting professionals in the country.

She emphasized that integrity is a fundamental principle in the accounting profession, urging graduates to uphold ethics

and expose wrongdoing when it arises.

She also advised the graduates to utilise opportunities available in the East Africa Community (EAC) and other parts of the world.

Prof Temu said that Tanzania has migrated to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) with the aim to support the governments towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation journey and ensure that private and public sector entities are reporting their contribution towards the implementation of the SDGs.

Most young African researchers consider leaving the continent

By Special Correspondent

LACK of support creates uphill struggle for continent's early career researchers, survey reveals

Four-fifths of early career researchers in Africa consider leaving the continent due to challenges including poor job security, a heavy workload that eats into their productivity and a lack of resources, a study has found.

The study, published by the Global Young Academy this month as part of its Global State of Young Scientists series, paints a dire picture for young researchers on the continent. Years in the making, it draws on surveys and interviews of over 1,000 young researchers across Africa.

While a lot of the young researchers surveyed demonstrated "a passion for research and learning, and a motivation to apply newly generated knowledge to improve society", the study team found that 80 per cent had considered leaving the continent, while around 60 per cent had thought about switching careers entirely due to the myriad hurdles they face.

"Young scientists and scholars...in Africa are facing persistent challenges and barriers, often causing them to abandon their research careers or leave their countries to pursue their careers abroad," states the report.

"Even those wishing to return to their home countries often face in-

sufficient infrastructure and regulations, or organisational cultures that make them consider leaving again," it adds, recommending that research institutions, academies and international funders improve working conditions for early career researchers.

Quality vs quantity

The report says that a lack of funding and support in obtaining it, limited opportunities for training and mentorship, high teaching loads and poor infrastructure and organisational support are the main barriers limiting African early career researchers' productivity.

FOMU MADAI-3

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
MAHAKAMA YA TANZANIA

Katika Mahakama ya Mwanzo ya Wilaya ARUSHA kituo cha
THEMI Mkoa ARUSHA
Shauri la Ndoa Na 42 2024

Jina la madai TAMASHA YAHAYA MHAMALI

Jina la Mdalwa NICODEMU FIKIRI

KUTWA SHAURINI MDALWA

(Kanuni ya 18 ya Kanuni za taratibu Madai Katika Mahakama za Mwanzo)
Kwa NICODEMU FIKIRI

NJIRO -0714-671448

Kwa kuwa Mdai yako/ya Kwamba (Eleza hapa habari za Madai)
UNATAKIWA KUFIKA MAHAKAMANI KUIJIBU MADAI YA
TALAKA NA MATUNGO YA WATOTO.

Kwa hiyo wewe NICODEMU FIKIRI unatakiwa kuhushurika binafisi katika mahakama hii tarehe 10 Mwezi wa 10 Mwaka 2024 sas 3:00 asubuhi kwa mujibu wa madai hayo na kwa kuwa siku hiyo ni siku ya kusikiliza shauri hili ni lazima kuleta shahidi/mbahadiri wako na vielelezo vya vitendevaa shauri hili kwa ajili ya kujitetea.

ANGALIZO: Kama hauitohuduria siku iliyotajwa hapo juu na ikithibitika kuwa ulipokea hati ya kutwa shaurini, Mahakama inaweza kusikiliza shauri bila yawe kwekwo.

Hati hii imetolewa kwa Amri na Mhuri wa Mahakama hii leo tarehe 27 Mwezi 09 Mwaka 2024



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CARRIER OPPORTUNITY**

PROGRAM OFFICER - NUTRITION - (1) POSITION

The Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Health Care (**COUNSENUTH**) is a leading Indigenous Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) registered under Certificate of Ordinance No.9495 in 1998 and new registration number 00199; that is committed to achieving optimal nutrition and quality life for children, women and other vulnerable groups in Tanzania. **COUNSENUTH** works to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups through cost effective, innovative evidence-based health, nutrition, education, gender climate change and other related actions with advocacy for better governance and accountability and active engagement of citizens in health and nutrition.

COUNSENUTH is inviting applications to fill the position of **PROGRAM OFFICER - NUTRITION** who will be based in Chemba district, Dodoma region. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

For a full description of the post and information please refer to our website www.cousenuth.or.tz Deadline for receiving the applications is **6th October 2024**.

**Thank you
Executive Director**



WWF Tanzania Country Office
Plot 252, Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni
P O Box 63117 Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Tel: 255 22 2700077
Fax: 255 22 2775535
info@wwftz.org
www.wwftz.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP

SHORT LISTING OF SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR FY 2024-25

- WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy, and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
 - Conserving the world's biological diversity;
 - Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
 - Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
- WWF Tanzania is in the process of getting its service providers for the commonly, daily needed goods & services to support its day-to-day activities. The successful applicants will form the WWF Suppliers Database whereby short-listed suppliers in each category will be awarded tenders (for each purchase arises) on competitive basis
- WWF, therefore, invites proposals/applications preferably from Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors established dealers to submit their applications for short listing for the next 2 Financial Years i.e. 2024 & 2025 & 2025-26 on the various categories as indicated in the categories (see the details on the website link provided in para # 7 below, based on the areas of specialization in business.
- Qualities needed include but not limited to the applicant be Registered and established dealers in business category of their application, licenced and registered for, Strong financial base and ability to provide services on credit, Capable of providing After - Sale support including warranties, sound and capable personnel. A strong experience on working with INGOs on similar assignments, at least 5 years in business. Evidence based applications are highly recommended
- The Application prepared by the Applicant, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Application exchanged by the Applicant and WWF shall be written in English and currency used shall be in Tanzanian Shilling - TZS and not any other. Supporting documents and printed literature provided by the Applicant may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in English, in which case, for purposes of Interpretation of the Application, the translation shall govern.
- Interested applicants may further get detailed tender document with the categories and other information uploaded on WWF website through this link https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/
- Submission of Applications:** Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications for the suppliers' annual prequalification (electronic copy only tender to procurement email procurement@wwftz.org) Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania Country Offices addressed to.
Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077
website. wwftz.org
- All applications should reach us by or before 10:00am Tanzania Local Time, Tuesday, 15th October 2024, only successful applicant will be contacted.
- WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption (including kickbacks), if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fccl@wwftz.org

Sudanese army denies bombing UAE's envoy residence in Khartoum

KHARTOUM

THE Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has denied an accusation by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of bombing the residence of its ambassador in Khartoum.

"The SAF asserts that it does not target the headquarters of diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies, or voluntary organizations, and does not turn them into military bases or loot their assets," the statement said.

The SAF held the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) responsible for carrying out the attacks, adding that the SAF only "targets areas where the militia (RSF) is present, which it is within its right to defend the Sudanese nation."

Earlier on Monday, the UAE Foreign Ministry strongly condemned what it termed "the heinous attack that targeted the residence of the UAE head of mission in Khartoum by a Sudanese army aircraft."

The attack resulted in extensive damage to the building, the ministry said, urging the Sudanese army

to assume full responsibility for "this cowardly act."

The RSF has not yet commented on the SAF's accusation or the attack itself.

The SAF launched a significant offensive on September 26 against the RSF in the capital, Khartoum, marking its most substantial effort in months to regain control of the city, according to military sources and witnesses.

Since April 15, 2023, Sudan has been embroiled in a violent conflict between the SAF and the RSF, resulting in approximately 20,000 deaths, thousands of injuries, and the displacement of millions of people, according to the latest estimates by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The SAF asserts that it does not target the headquarters of diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies, or voluntary or-



William Lukuvi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), addresses residents of Magombwe, Isere, Kinyika and Kisanga villages in Iringa Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania gets \$130m AfDB loan for Samia project

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank has approved a loan of \$129.71 million for Tanzania to fund one of President Samia Suluhu's flagship projects meant to boost participation of the youth in agriculture.

The loan will cover up to 53.8 per cent of the total cost, fielding the expenses for the first phase of the project dubbed "Building a Better

Tomorrow: Youth Initiatives for Agribusiness" (BBT-YIA).

As part of the package, the funding also comes with two grants – \$1.15 million from the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAPEC) and \$210,000 from Thailand-based tropical vegetable seed firm East-West Seed.

The government will contribute \$10.41 million, covering 45.8 per cent of the needed \$24.3 million for the project championed by President

Suluhu and her Agriculture minister Hussein Bashi.

"This project is expected to incubate and empower approximately 11,000 'agripreneurs,' including at least 6,000 young agribusiness owners," said AfDB's country manager for Tanzania, Patricia Laverly.

"The program will facilitate access to finance for an additional 2,500 young people already involved in agribusiness but lacking access to com-

mercial loans. We expect each agribusiness run by a young person will employ an average of five workers."

This project was launched by President Suluhu in March last year in the run-up to the Africa Food Systems Forum hosted by Tanzania in Dar es Salaam last September. It was meant as an initiative to encourage young Tanzanians to consider careers in the agriculture sector.

In the long-term, it aims to produce

at least 12,000 profitable youth-led agricultural enterprises over the next 12 years, beginning by training over 200,000 youth and involving 20,000 others in internship program and mentoring 15,000 youth-led agribusinesses through incubation programmes.

President Suluhu told the Feed Africa Summit in Dakar last year that this project is part of Dar's Agenda 2030 policy, "which will see that by

2030 the agriculture sector in Tanzania contributes 10 percent to the GDP."

"Who will help us achieve that? The youth. So, we have initiated a programme called Build a Better Tomorrow for youth and women," Suluhu said at the January 2023 conference.

She said the project would involve giving about 680,000 hectares of land to a group of women and youth, each getting ten hectares, as part of

Lobbyist calls for strong global treaty to curb plastic production

By Correspondent Halfan Chusi

A DAR ES SALAAM-based lobbyist has called for a strong global treaty that will reduce production of plastic, eliminate the most toxic forms of the products and toxic chemical additives.

This is ahead of the final negotiations on the Global Plastic Treaty to be held in November, this year in Busan, South Korea, bringing stakeholders from across the world where representatives from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) are expected to take part in the important negotiations.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, Ana Le Rocha, director of Nipe Fagio Tanzania highlighted the urgent need for global cooperation to combat the crisis.

Le Rocha advised government delegates to focus on critical areas such as health, environmental protection, and human rights during the treaty discussions.

She emphasised the need for a robust agreement that not only eliminates plastic pollution but also aligns with the directives of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14. "Plastic represents a rapidly escalating crisis, significantly impacting the environment, human health, human rights, and the rights of local communities, as well as biodiversity and climate," Le Rocha said.

She said: "For the Global Plastic Treaty to be effective in addressing plastic pollution, strong systems for management and resolution are essential. This treaty presents a unique opportunity to make substantial progress; it could become one of the most significant environmental agreements in history."

The proposed treaty should include binding targets to prevent and eliminate

the sources of plastic production while reducing levels of plastic pollution.

"It must also hold polluting entities and producing countries accountable for their impacts on human rights, health, the environment, and the economy related to plastic production, usage and disposal," she said. Additionally, it should incorporate scientific solutions, including Indigenous and community-based practices rooted in sustainable approaches. "Importantly, polluters should be excluded from the treaty negotiation process," Le Rocha said.

She outlined several key elements that should be prioritised, including reducing plastic production at the source, establishing legal standards for the production and distribution of new plastics, and prohibiting hazardous chemicals that pose risks to human health and the environment. She further stressed the need for specific regulations that uphold precautionary principles and implement a "no data, no market" rule to eliminate harmful chemical groups.

"We need robust international regulations governing the entire plastic lifecycle, alongside voluntary commitments to control plastics from the sector and enforceable national regulations that reflect current realities, including temporary bans on specific products," she said.

Le Rocha further said legal commitments to eliminate plastic pollution must be accompanied by transparent international funding pledges.

"We must also avoid relying on voluntary funding for optional actions, as this has proven ineffective in previous agreements." She underscored the importance of ensuring a just transition for waste collectors, who are at the forefront of the crisis, along with other communities directly affected by plastic pollution.



Psychologist Hamis Baruani (C) addresses residents of Saranga Street in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam, yesterday on effective ways to identify children who have been subjected to cruel acts, including sexual abuse, in order to provide them with immediate support. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Moses

Climate change issues attract attention of internal auditors

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

NEGATIVE effects of Climate Change, are among the challenges facing Internal Auditors who are now also being compelled to run abreast the rapid digital transformation in order to keep up to date with the modern developments facing the sector.

Elijah Mwandumbya, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance unveiled this here yesterday when opening the 11th Annual Governance Forum, under the auspices of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Tanzania.

"Few people are aware that issues of climate change also affect the profession

of internal auditors," said Mwandumbya adding that in embracing improved performances, this factor must be taken into consideration as well.

Zelia Njeza, President of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Tanzania also serving as the Executive Secretary of the African Federation of Institutes of Internal Auditors,

who explains that adapting to changes and modern ways of operating is among the issues being addressed at the event.

The Forum and follow-up meetings are all geared towards ensuring that the internal audit in all organizations are performed by comprehensive professionals, in line with the global internal

audit standards and other laws and regulations.

Njeza revealed that the 11th Annual Governance Forum precedes the Internal Audit Conference also taking place in Arusha.

Running under the theme of 'New Frontier: Transforming Tomorrow,' the Internal Audit Conference events bring together professionals,

experts, and thought leaders from Tanzania, Africa and beyond in the fields of Audit, Risk management, and Governance.

Overall the week-long events in Arusha started with two days of 11th Annual Governance held at the Gran Melia Arusha on 30th September to 1st October 2024. There is the first IIA Acad-

emy running alongside the event on 30th September - 01st October 2024 at Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha.

Afterwards there are three days of the 17th Annual Internal Audit Conference also taking place at the Arusha International Conference Center, AICC on 2nd to 4th October 2024.

Arusha hosts 53rd CPA conference

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA is hosting the 53rd Africa Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), scheduled to take place in Arusha from yesterday to October 5, 2024.

Eliufoo Daniel Ukhotya, CPA assistant regional secretary unveiled this here yesterday when speaking to journalists, saying Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango will officially open the CPA Conference on Thursday, with nearly 300 participants in attendance.

He said that the Arusha Conference will feature three key events involving the association's organs: the Africa Regional Conference workshops, CPA Africa Region Executive Committee meetings, and the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Regional Conference.

"Tanzania previously hosted another CPA Regional Conference in Zanzibar in 2019," said Ukhotya.

The 53rd CPA Africa Regional Conference has attracted delegates from 14 out of the 19 CPA member parliaments, including 10 Speakers of National Assemblies and three Deputy Speakers. In total, more than 280 participants are attending

the event. President Samia Suluhu Hassan, originally set to inaugurate the event, was represented by Vice President Mpango.

Since 2003, Tanzania has been home to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Africa Regional Secretariat, based at the National Assembly in Dodoma. Prior to this, the CPA was headquartered in Zimbabwe before the country's exclusion from the organization.

The CPA, founded in 1911, is one of the oldest Commonwealth organizations. In Africa, it comprises 19 National Assemblies and 46 Provincial or County Parliaments. The CPA is an officially accredited and associated Commonwealth organization.

While historically focused on Anglophone countries, the CPA now includes Rwanda (a Francophone country) and Mozambique (formerly ruled by Portugal), expanding its membership base.

The Commonwealth is supported by a network of over 70 accredited organizations and nine associated organizations, working in fields such as education and urban planning. As an associated organization, the CPA is formally recognized as part of the Commonwealth family, committed to upholding the values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter.



Juma Mizungu (2nd-R), CCM youth wing chairman for Ilala District, hoists the party's flag yesterday at the launch of a campaign aimed at sensitising towards supporting the party. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rwanda issues guidelines to curtail Marburg spread as death toll hits 8

KIGALI

RWANDA'S Ministry of Health has announced new guidelines to curb the spread of the Marburg virus disease (MVD) following an alarming rise in fatalities.

The death toll from the MVD has reached eight, with 26 confirmed

cases and 18 individuals currently in isolation and receiving treatment, the ministry said in a statement late on Sunday. In response to the situation, the ministry suggested that people maintain normal business activities while reinforcing personal hygiene measures. According to the statement, citizens are urged to avoid

close contact with individuals exhibiting symptoms of the virus, which include high fever, severe headaches, muscle aches, vomiting and diarrhea.

To further contain the spread of the disease, visits to hospitalized patients will be prohibited for the next 14 days, with only one caregiver allowed per patient at a time.

All healthcare facilities are required to implement strict protocols for receiving and managing patients displaying symptoms of the MVD, ensuring full compliance with infection prevention and control measures.

In the unfortunate event of a death due to the virus, the ministry has prohibited wakes and home vigils to mitigate

the risk of further transmission. Funeral services for those who succumbed to the MVD will be restricted to a maximum of 50 attendees, while open-casket viewings are not allowed in homes, churches or mosques and will only be conducted in designated areas within healthcare facilities, with strict limits on the number of participants.

The ministry reassured the public that additional measures will be introduced as the situation develops.

During a press conference earlier Sunday, Rwandan Health Minister Sabin Nsanzimana revealed that the ministry is closely monitoring more than 300 individuals identified as contacts of confirmed MVD cases.

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Lucas Zacharia (C, foreground), councillor for Endiamtu ward in Simanjiro District, and Mirerani Primary School headteacher Tenisia Katukuru (L) head to the venue of a graduation ceremony for the school's Standard Seven leavers at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Kenya rolls out polio vaccination drive

NAIROBI

KENYA'S Ministry of Health has announced a five-day vaccination campaign targeting 3.84 million children under 10 years of age to protect them against polio.

In an effort to prevent the spread of the mutant poliovirus type 2, 2.02 million children under the age of 10 and 1.82 million children under the age of five will receive polio vaccinations starting Wednesday.

Mary Muriuki, principal secretary in the Ministry of Health, said that the campaign will be conducted in high-risk regions across Kenya. She said that Kenya is responding to an outbreak of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2, which has been detected in four children living in the Kakuma refugee camp in northwest Kenya, as well as in the neighboring host population.

According to the health official, a polio type 2-positive sewage sample was discovered in Nairobi County during environmental surveillance, indicating that the virus has spread beyond its original areas.

Muriuki said that the Ministry of Health has alerted all high-risk counties to remain vigilant, with a particular focus on counties in western Kenya, due to the detection of type 2 polio in Uganda's Mbale District.

Polio (poliomyelitis) mainly affects children under 5 years of age. One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis. Among those paralysed, 5-10 percent die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.

South Africa prepares for incoming snowfall

JOHANNESBURG

AUTHORITIES in KwaZulu-Natal Province in South Africa yesterday conducted final road safety tests ahead of expected snowfall from today and tomorrow as reported by a provincial government official yesterday.

Siboniso Duma, member of the executive council for transport and human settlements in KwaZulu-Natal, described the impending snowfall as "extremely dangerous and fatal," noting that it could make roads slippery and increase the risk of accidents.

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) has forecasted snowfall in the mountainous areas of the Harry Gwala district, with accumulations anticipated to be less than 2 cm.

"We urge motorists to postpone their journeys in anticipation of any eventual-

ity. The Road Traffic Inspectorate, in conjunction with N3 Toll Concession, Free State Provincial Traffic, and National Traffic Police, will ensure immediate assistance to stranded motorists. The team will also ensure traffic diversion should the weather conditions deteriorate,"

said Duma in a statement.

To mitigate the impact of the snowfall, Duma said that operators of motor graders and transport infrastructure units would be deployed on major roads, with salt and brine applied to reduce the adhesion of snow and ice to road surfaces.

"The team has been sharpened to respond with speed and a sense of urgency to remove any snow before accumulating on the road. Graders and tractor loader backhoes are stationed in identified routes to ensure that our response is faster," said Duma.

The SAWS has indicated that snowfall was expected to hit the Western Cape Province on Sunday morning and spread to KwaZulu-Natal today morning, with further snowfall anticipated in both KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape Province tomorrow.

Publicity simply an auxiliary for Zanzibar oil, gas blocks' bidders

INTENSE efforts are under way to raise the interest of international oil and gas companies for what is said to be the first round of Zanzibar oil and gas block exploration allocations.

According to a Zanzibar minister, formal acceptance of bid proposals closes on December 16 and top ministerial officials have been attending high-profile meetings in some Western countries to promote the blocks.

It is confirmed that eight blocks have already been fronted for discussions at two international conferences lined up for later this year.

Reports say that invitation for onshore oil and natural gas blocks followed the completion of an assessment on an area formerly known as Pemba block, having been returned to the government by AK Gas.

Apparently, this followed the expiration of the respective exploration and prospecting licence, although what is given is merely expiry and not the reasons for that lapse and inaction.

Calls for bidders and the splitting of the blocks into eight rather than two, or a single block previously, leave out the reasons for the earlier licence holder not to have done much on the licence or exploration work, if it can be rectified.

The fervour with which global oil and natural gas exploration and extraction firms are being invited has a clear sense of urgency to it. However, it would pay more doing more to further clear the air on the nagging issues.

It would be one thing if this stance is maintained just for local public consumption and then clarity is provided to potential applicants.

However, if that same stance is maintained in the conferences in-

tended to canvass interest in the blocks, it may not work to satisfaction in terms of holding consultations with the government on the nagging issues.

Even the detail as to submitting bids and negotiating with the government can be at odds with best practices, as negotiations ought to follow upon picking the best bidder.

Nor is the purposeful citing of guiding policy positions on the matter exactly helpful as these are for internal consumption - while bidders wish that matters relating to applicable legislation and arbitration be laid out clearly.

There is a feeling that there is a thrust for privileging policy localisation of the bidding, implying that no Union institutions are involved in the process. Even if that may not be a Union issue as such, investors care about all this.

For instance, there is an issue of who is taken to court in case there is disagreement between an investing firm and the regulatory authorities in Zanzibar's oil and gas sector, which is obvious in international law and effusive in some of what is heard on the matter.

Back in 2014 or thereabouts there was heated debate on whether Zanzibar was a state in and by itself. To all intents and purposes, the matter was handled conclusively.

Strictly speaking, the canvassing for bidders will likely have to be underwritten by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation even if leeway for Zanzibar authorities to conduct the negotiations is granted and accepted.

These are issues of significant substance and not mere publicity and since they don't appear to have been touched or addressed, 'no news' here will mean 'bad news'.

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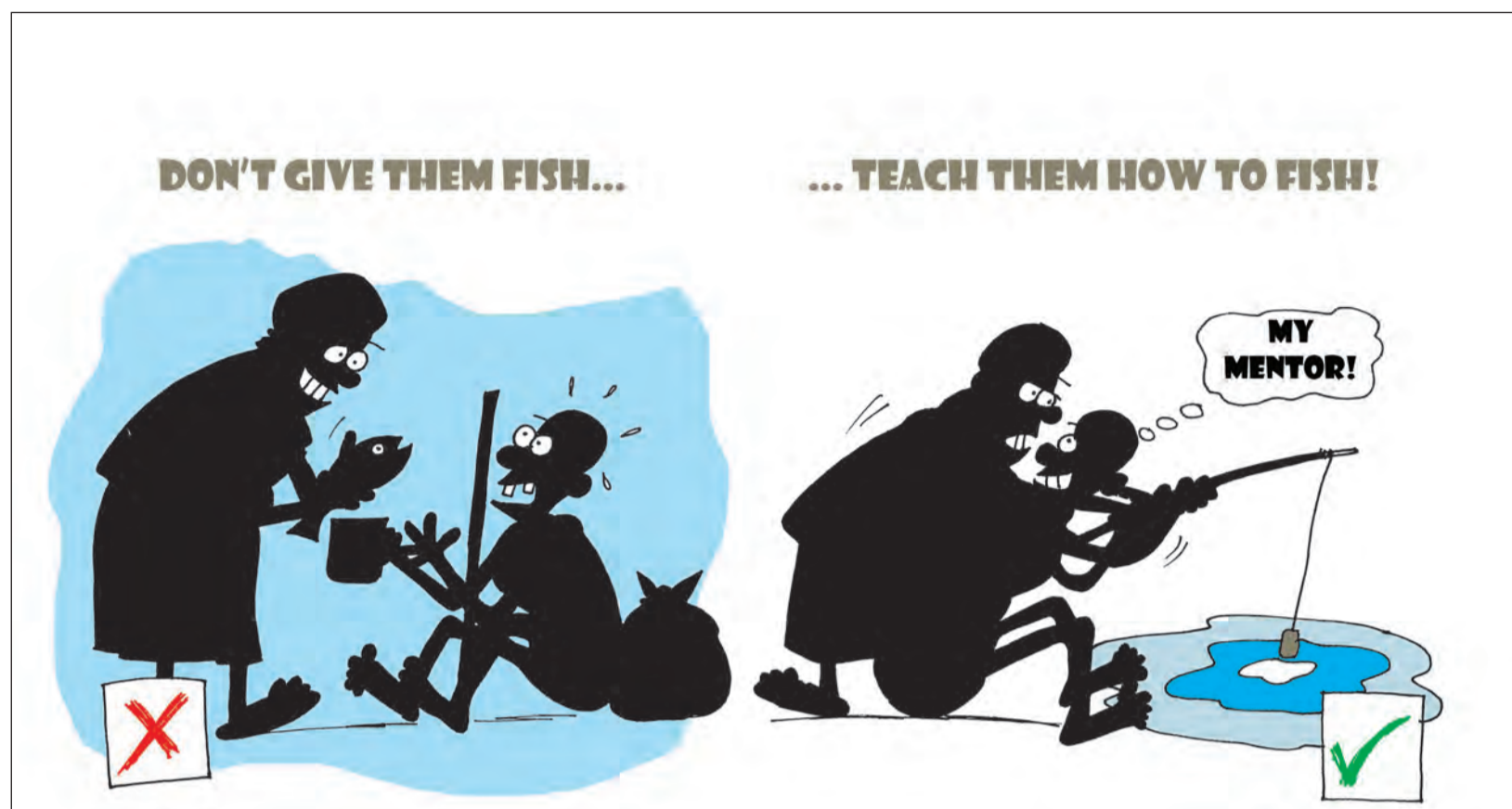
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Thinking beyond the peak of demand for oil

By Sarah Miller

PEAK oil demand is close. What should we expect beyond this point? Slow-to-no global growth for GDP, sharp slide for oil.

Most Western oil companies have finally conceded that oil consumption will top out before 2030, and maybe much sooner.

That now includes even the historically unbending will of Exxon, who have finally conceded that demand growth will flatten and peak this decade.

They are, of course, still mired in fantasy when it comes to the world beyond the peak, imagining steady economic growth and a high plateau in demand for fossil fuels out as far as 2050.

In fact, the multiple crises visibly engulfing the globe - in energy, economics, geopolitics and most importantly, the climate and environment - ensure that the world of 2050 will be nothing like the world of 2024. That much is guaranteed.

While not perhaps guaranteed, it's highly likely that the decades ahead will see little if any growth in that peculiar, outmoded metric known as GDP, and that this absence of economic growth will be reflected in shrinking, not steadily growing, energy usage.

Energy shrinkage will, in turn, make the transition to renewable electricity and electric transit faster and easier. By 2050, fossil fuel use can largely be the thing of the past that current climate goals assume it will be.

The decisive step is the first one: reducing or, better still, halting all economic growth - the cancer that drives everything. For now, governments show no sign of adopting any such approach. But, with luck, they won't have to. Slow-to-no growth will just happen.

High on the list of the myriad factors driving the world towards slow-to-no growth are the climate itself, broader environmental degradation, widespread population decline, trade wars and popular disaffection with the consumption-obsessed way the human world has operated over the last half century.

Whether these factors will unfold quickly enough to keep the planet habitable for humans and most of the plant and animal species alive today is much less clear.

Still less evident is whether the process will be equitable enough that money won't be the sole determinant of who lives beyond the upheaval and who dies in the process - whether that process will be the climate-justice-driven concept which adherents call "degrowth".

Mythical high plateaus

Reality has pierced the great wall of self-deception that ran rampant for so long through the companies and countries that constitute the oil and gas industry - a wall on which the transition was painted as meaningless and fossil fuel use as a perpetual human necessity.

China did the piercing. As the "world's factory", China has been the strongest driver of global fossil fuel demand for quarter a century, and now Chinese

consumption is topping out. Not just for now, owing to a sputtering economy, but forever, courtesy of the strength and efficiency of its clean-energy manufacturing.

Forecasters linked to the oil industry buy the "now" part of that, but not the "forever" part. They see China's economy - and with it the global economy - returning to rapid enough economic growth that all of China's clean-energy manufacturing output will be needed just to cover incremental fuel usage.

Oil and gas will still be required for "baseline" energy needs, roughly equal to current levels of oil use. In Exxon's view, that high "plateau" for oil demand extends out to at least 2050. Beyond that, their forecast does not go.

The fundamental assumption here, common among oil industry leaders from Houston to Riyadh, is that the global socio-economic and geopolitical structures are solid, and the world of the future will be much like the world of the past.

Nor is this particular form of self-deception exclusive to oil and gas producers and forecasters. The fantasy is pervasive throughout the Western economic, political and foreign policy establishment.

But is it really sensible to suppose that the world's energy and ground transportation systems can be replaced (in large part or in whole) with new technology, the intricately intertwined US and Chinese economic mass once dubbed "Chimerica" be dismembered, and the heavily globalised German manufacturing sector be cut off from Russian fuels and Chinese components, all without skipping an economic beat? And that all those soft landings will take place after or amid massive disruptions from the Covid-19 pandemic, war involving major powers in Northeastern Europe and the Middle East, and ever-worsening climate craziness?

Slow-to-no growth

An implicit question underlying these overt questions is how much economic growth can be squeezed out of our crises-ridden ecologically degraded planet over the next decade and beyond. The answer looks to be "not much, if any".

The case for slow-to-no growth over the medium term in an already deglobalising world economy isn't hard to make. Economic growth in the West was already persistently meagre between the 2008 financial crash and the 2020 onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reasons economists gave for that chronic slowdown, which has intensified since, prominently included aging of the population and declining birth rates.

In much of the over-developed world, the population would be visibly shrinking except for immigration. China's population is now

shrinking, too.

India, the world's most populous country at over 1.4 billion, is registering fewer births per woman than the 2.1 demographers say is needed to reproduce a population.

India's population will probably keep growing for a few more years on past moment, demographers say, but then it seems headed for decline, as well, taking Asia as a whole with it.

Even Africa, which accounts for the bulk of the rise in most demographic forecasts, has witnessed a sharp decline in growth rates this decade.

Largely as a result, UN and other estimates for peak global population have been coming down. It's by no means clear whether or if the world will reach even the 10.4 billion peak the UN has been forecasting most recently. It's not certain whether it will even reach 9 billion.

Economic growth rates are also declining in Africa, challenging forecasts for major gains in that continent's economy and energy demand in the 2030s and beyond.

In April, the World Bank projected a rebound to a still tepid 3.4 per cent increase in sub-Saharan Africa's GDP this year, from 2.6 per cent in 2023.

Forecasts for several big countries have been lowered since, and even that tepid rebound is in doubt. Acute obstacles include debt burdens, depressed prices for the industrial commodities they sell to China, and domestic inflation.

Not to mention...

Those are the factors economists talk about and include in their forecasts. Then there are the even bigger issues most economic and energy modellers ignore.

One is the collapse of the "free-trading" system embedded in what is sometimes known as "the rules-based order". What Washington built it can destroy, and it has destroyed the post-WWII, post-Soviet trading order quite effectively.

Washington's most recent blows to the rules-based order are its policy towards China and, increasingly, the restrictive trade practices it is pushing - including on Europe and India. China's response to US tariffs and other trade barriers has been destructive of that order, as well.

Liberal economics is clear that tariffs, other trade barriers and the kind of industrial planning prevalent in China and now emulated in the US and Europe are inefficient and will stunt economic growth and corporate profits.

Globally, they probably have a point. While building new factories adds to GDP in the country where the construction takes place, over time product costs will be higher and corporate profits lower than they would have been had the factories gone wherever corporations wanted to build them.

Both Trump and Biden administration officials have declared that

following the whims of multinational corporations have also hurt US workers and appeared to favour China.

Nationally, they probably have a point. But that doesn't mean that lower growth won't result globally. Personally, I think lower growth is fine, even if few politicians much of anywhere agree with me.

What I do mind about recent US policy is that it heavily targets Chinese solar, batteries, EVs (electric vehicles) and other clean energy equipment when the US doesn't have plentiful, affordable alternatives - and won't have any time soon.

Washington hasn't targeted fast fashion or gas-guzzling leaf blowers. It has targeted solar panels and the best (rechargeable) EV batteries you can get for whatever amount of money you are able to pay.

An alternative would be for the US government to pay larger subsidies to the few US factories that do make - or plan to make - solar panels and EVs, in the hope that they can compete with the Chinese. But it shouldn't just turn away renewable gear and EVs that the US desperately needs to limit climate change.

... The climate

Speaking of the climate, another constraint on economic growth that is often ignored is the unstable, unpredictable climate itself. Floods, droughts and wildfires cause electric outages and break supply chains.

People can't work as hard for as long outdoors when the air temperature is over body heat. As oceans rise and wildfires proliferate, property insurance is becoming unaffordable, if not unavailable, in many places - and this for businesses just as it is for homes.

Agribusiness empires are hanging on by a thread in the face of massive legal penalties for spreading cancer, a requirement for ever-more fertiliser to grow the same amount of food as soil depletion worsens, and ever-more herbicides as "weeds" develop resistance to more of our poisons.

Worse, scientists have observed a rate of melting in glaciers and ice caps in recent years higher than UN consensus climate models indicate at existing accumulations of carbon dioxide. That observation is over too short a timeframe to be definitive, but it suggests big upside risk in projected amounts of sea-level rise.

Repeated rebuilding of houses and streets in areas that were not used to floods adds to GDP in an immediate sense. It also adds to greenhouse gas emissions and drains brainpower that is desperately needed to more fundamentally transform the world into a long-term livable place again.

Continues on page 9

Strategic matters crucial in TASAF impact evaluation

ANOTHER round of evaluation is afoot at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), setting out for an impact assessment survey on the second phase of the productive social safety net (PSSN) component of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) ahead of its completion next year.

As would be expected in priority donor-funded initiatives, the survey looks fairly comprehensive, covering a whole 14 regions. That nearly comes to suggesting that findings in five regions would be hard to generalise.

Another indicator of the sort of evaluation being conducted is its intensity, as the chief statistician was herself in Chamwino District, where two nearby wards were included in the assessment.

Ordinarily, a nationwide survey can include a ward in two or so districts of one region, skipping a nearby district or the next region.

Covering two wards in one district implies not a survey as such but a fact-finding mission, where a different set of rules would apply. By definition, such missions commonly look for certainty on all contested issues.

The chief statistician said that the survey was meant to clearly establish the status of households enrolled in the past programme. The idea would be to help decision makers figure out what to improve in the next phase of the programme, clearly implying that it is nowhere near being phased out. Thus, the policy issues arising aren't of paramount importance as no 'threats' are examined, only individual wellbeing among numerous

beneficiary households.

Similarly, the stated objective is not examining whether there are better ways of improving people's lives save through the programme.

There are credible idea platforms anchoring the TASAF strategy, one being the wish to ease extreme poverty and break its intergenerational transmission. The programme basically makes a number of interventions but disputes lately arose on some of its components.

TASAF work is said to be based on integrated interventions targeting the poorest households along with a labour-intensive public works programme and conditional cash transfers.

A senior government official was heard sometime last month saying that TASAF should not put beneficiaries to work - that is, just dish out cash. This implication in the pronouncement is intended to say that if the government decided to help the needy, then it should do so in dignity rather than put them to work.

Yet doing public works for cash support has been part of policy since Independence as there is no need to hire labour on a project or part of a project while there are people paid and at that time they are doing nothing. That would amount to making the government a relative or a neighbour helped and then left alone without being required or asked to help with farm work.

If the beneficiaries complain about public works, it means that they take the government for granted, which is by no means the case and in the spirit of TASAF interventions.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Living with epilepsy: A call for enhanced awareness, action

Thinking beyond the very peak of demand for oil

ISREAY Ayoub, a student at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), bravely shares her journey of living with epilepsy—a condition often misunderstood and stigmatized.

For years, Ayoub experienced seizures without recognizing the true nature of her illness, seeking solace in prayer and traditional healing rather than pursuing medical care.

"It was only when I was diagnosed at the Dodoma based-Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital during my final year of secondary school, that's when I understood what I was suffering," she recalls adding that "this late diagnosis, like many others, underscores the critical need for increased community awareness about epilepsy".

Ayoub emphasizes the importance of educating the public on the disease, a move which would likely help in reducing stigma and ensure that people with epilepsy receive equal rights in education and everyday life.

"It's my hope that the stigma surrounding people with epilepsy would one day end; this can only be possible if everyone gets accurate information about the condition," Ayoub told The Guardian, insisting the need for an open discussion and proper treatment.

Her call to action extends to the government, urging it to prioritize the needs of those with epilepsy, similar to the approach taken for people living with HIV/Aids.

She suggests comprehensive training for healthcare workers and the separation of neurological disorders from mental health services to eliminate discrimination and improve diagnostic accuracy.

Dr Saidi Kuganda, a senior mental health specialist, echoes Ayoub's concerns, noting that stigma and discrimination remain as significant barriers to treatment for many epilepsy patients worldwide.

"Epilepsy is a chronic disease characterized by unprovoked seizures due to excess electrical activity in the brain," he explains.

In Tanzania alone, an estimated 450,000 people live with epilepsy, but only about 166,788 are currently receiving treatment, according to 2022 data from the District Health Information System (DHIS).

"Lack of awareness often leads patients to seek help from traditional healers or prayer services instead of professional medical care from recognized institutions," he said, stressing the need for accurate information to empower communities in supporting those with epilepsy and improving their access to treatment.

Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Tanzania highlights the urgent need to address the high prevalence of epilepsy and Parkinson's disease in the country.

He commends Tanzania's efforts to enhance access to medications for neurological disorders and advocates for a stronger health system to tackle existing



challenges.

"Around one million people have epilepsy in Tanzania, yet only 3.7 percent of new patients are receiving treatment, leaving 94 percent without care," he notes.

Peter Mwendo, Mental Health Coordinator in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region emphasizes that individuals with epilepsy should not be isolated.

"They have the right to access all essential services. Education is crucial for local leaders to inform their communities effectively," he stated, highlighting the importance of train-

ing community health workers about epilepsy to foster a more supportive environment. Assistant Director for Non-Communicable Diseases at the Ministry of Health, Dr Omari Ubuguyu reaffirms Tanzania's commitment to ensuring that people with neurological disorders have access to affordable and effective medications.

"Our priority is to guarantee that everyone receives the care and support they need," he asserts.

Tanzania, with approximately 450,000 new epilepsy cases annually, the urgent need for improved healthcare infrastructure and access

to treatment is clear.

"We are working to address this gap," Ubuguyu stated, noting "about 94 percent of new epilepsy patients still lack access to proper care."

The collective voices of advocates and healthcare professionals signal a growing awareness of the need for comprehensive strategies to improve the lives of those living with epilepsy.

With better education and enhanced education, it is possible to overcome the stigma of epilepsy, thus ensuring a more inclusive society for individuals with epilepsy is within reach.

From page 8

The good news, if you call it that, is that the economy can't grow predictably under such unstable conditions.

Energy implications

That shaky prognosis for economic growth effectively undermines the notion that oil demand can plateau or level off for years, much less decades. A steep decline in oil use looks like a better bet. Already, the stalling out of oil demand growth evident in China seems likely both to last and to spread.

Within China, fully or largely electric vehicles now account for over half of new car sales. Buses and mid-sized trucks and vans are being electrified rapidly, too. As they become more efficient, batteries are edging even into large trucks.

The ground transport sector that accounts for roughly half of China's oil demand is moving off oil. Latest data indicate that consumption of oil products, especially diesel and petrol, probably shrank in the first half of this year (2024), and the economy shows signs of even greater weakness in the second half of the year.

Chinese manufacturers will export much of the renewable generation gear and EVs they can't sell at home. If the US and Europe won't take them, somebody else will. The transition is not going away.

What that means is that, even if China surprises and shifts back into growth mode a couple of years from now, renewable electricity and electric cars will be positioned by then to cover the incremental energy demand. This, especially as a shrinking population and unstable climate will cap resurgent growth.

Oil use will not level off, much less rise again, in China - or much of anywhere else. Pretending that it will won't save the oil industry.

But will oil's downward trajectory be steep enough to keep the Earth inhabitable for people and other animals and plants? That, when you strip away the fantasy, truly is the question.

• A dispatch by The New Climate/medium.com.

Push for UN Security Council reform: Need for more African representation in global decision-making bodies

By Adonis Byemelwa

POLITICAL analysts from Tanzania and across Africa, alongside commentators on UTV's Chekeche program hosted by international analyst Raymond Nyamwihura, have been vocal in their critique of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), branding it a "talk shop" where lofty ideals are floated but rarely acted upon.

This sentiment, one that dates back to the time of Zimbabwe's former president Robert Mugabe, is now being echoed louder than ever, as African leaders once again face the stark reality of global marginalization. The urgent question remains: How long will Africa be sidelined in international decision-making processes, even as its markets fuel the global economy, supplying raw materials to the developed world?

At the center of this debate lies Africa's persistent exclusion from key global platforms like the UN Security Council, which has remained largely unchanged since its inception. The Council, currently consisting of five permanent members with veto powers—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—has been widely criticized for its outdated structure and inefficiency in addressing modern challenges, especially those affecting Africa.

Many argue that the Council's inability to act effectively on matters of global security stems from the constant use of veto power by its permanent members, which often leaves pressing issues unresolved.

This year, African leaders once again called for urgent reforms to the UN system, with Malawi's President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera leading the charge. Chakwera, addressing the General Assembly, made a compelling case for why Africa must no longer be sidelined in discussions that directly affect its future.

"The current structure of the Security Council is outdated and ill-suited to address the complex challenges of today's world," Chakwera argued, emphasizing that Africa's exclusion is not just a matter of underrepresentation but a structural flaw that undermines the Council's legitimacy and effectiveness.

Chakwera was clear in his demand: Africa must be given two permanent seats on the Security Council, complete with veto power. He argued that Africa's current marginalization compromises the UN's ability to respond to the continent's pressing peace and security issues.

"If nations are serious about cooperation," he declared, "they must act with unity and urgency to fix and reform the United Nations and other multilateral institutions." Chakwera's words were a rallying cry for a more democratic and inclusive international system, one that reflects contemporary geopolitical realities.

Supporting Chakwera's call, Gambian President Adama Barrow echoed similar sentiments, underscoring the need for more African voices in global decision-making bodies. Barrow pointed to the Summit of the



Member State delegates at the general debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly

Future, which took place just before the high-level debate, where world leaders agreed that many of the global challenges we face today—ranging from climate change to poverty and conflict—are largely the result of human actions.

"It is within our power to address the disasters that continuously trouble our nations," Barrow asserted, calling on the international community to recommit to the resolutions of the Summit and implement urgent reforms within the UN system, particularly the Security Council.

King Letsie III of Lesotho also took to the podium, reinforcing the point that the Security Council must reflect the diversity of the UN's membership if it decides to enjoy greater legitimacy. He called for greater cooperation between the Council and regional organizations, emphasizing that the swift resolution of regional conflicts depends on this partnership.

Referring to Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, which deals with regional arrangements, the King stressed the importance of strengthening ties between the UN and African bodies, such as the

African Union (AU), to better address the unique challenges facing the continent.

Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, Vice President of Equatorial Guinea, took the argument a step further, pointing out that the proliferation of conflicts around the world is clear evidence of the Security Council's inefficiency.

He argued that instead of solving conflicts, the Council has become a battleground for geostrategic interests, where the priorities of the world's superpowers often take precedence over the urgent needs of smaller nations.

Obiang Mangue reiterated Africa's long-standing demand, known as the Ezulweni Consensus, which calls for two permanent seats for Africa on the Security Council, complete with all the privileges afforded to the current permanent members, as well as five additional non-permanent seats.

The case for reform was further strengthened by Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi, who highlighted the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a prime example of the Security Council's failure to act decisively.

Tshisekedi accused Rwanda of backing the M23 rebel group, which has been responsible for much of the violence plaguing the mineral-rich eastern regions of the DRC.

"This aggression constitutes a major violation of our national sovereignty," Tshisekedi told the Assembly, calling on the international community to impose targeted sanctions against Rwanda for its destabilizing role. He also warned that the illegal exploitation of the DRC's natural resources is fueling terrorism and armed groups, exacerbating insecurity in the region.

Kenya's President William Ruto, in his address, took a broader approach, criticizing developed countries for their failure to address not only Africa's security concerns but also the global climate crisis. Ruto described the situation as an existential threat, noting that climate change is disproportionately affecting developing countries, particularly in Africa.

"The planet is heating up, our climate is in crisis, oceans are rising, deserts are spreading, and conflict is engulfing the world," Ruto lamented, urging the UN to move beyond mere "boardroom discus-

sions" and take concrete actions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

He also called for the redesign of the international financial system, stressing the need for affordable financing for developing countries, which are often left behind in global economic growth.

However, the passionate calls for reform and cooperation were overshadowed by the stark contrast in the lifestyles of African leaders attending the UNGA. Many observers, including political analysts, noted with astonishment the lavishness displayed by some of these leaders, who arrived in New York in motorcades of luxury vehicles and took over expensive five-star hotels in Manhattan.

This was in sharp contrast to European leaders, many of whom arrived in shared vehicles and stayed in budget accommodations. The German Chancellor, for instance, was seen arriving with the Prime Ministers of Sweden and Denmark, all sharing a modest hotel. The juxtaposition could not have been more glaring.

African leaders, many of whom were in New York to seek financial aid from the very nations whose leaders they outdid in displays of wealth, faced criticism from both international observers and their citizens.

Commentators pointed out the irony of African heads of state pleading for increased financial support while staying in some of the most expensive hotels in New York City. This display of wealth, many argued, undermined the credibility of their calls for aid and reforms.

Despite the opulence, the underlying issues remain urgent. Africa continues to be excluded from key global discussions, particularly in the UN Security Council, where decisions are made that directly affect the continent's future. Without significant reform, the Security Council risks losing its legitimacy, especially as African nations continue to demand a more representative and democratic international system.

The future of Africa, as political analysts have pointed out, hangs in the balance. The continent's leaders must navigate the fine line between advocating for their people on the global stage and addressing the contradictions in their behaviour. As the UNGA debates continue, one thing is clear: the time for Africa to secure its place at the table is now. The world cannot afford to leave Africa behind any longer.

By David Jandwa

Preventing future clashes: Need for taxpayers and authorities to re-learn their rights, duties

IN June this year, the country witnessed a nationwide strike when traders refused to open their businesses demanding for the government to adhere to their needs. The strike began at Kariakoo market in Dar es Salaam before it spread to other regions, including Mbeya, Morogoro, Mwanza, and Ruvuma.

Their major complaint was the unbearable taxes and unfair treatment by tax officers. But this is not an unfamiliar sight. In May 2023, businessmen in Tanzania went on a boycott opposing the introduction of new regulations by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and of course the unfair treatment that they encountered from the authority.

And, if one zooms out of the timeline even further, 10 years ago in 2013, the traders at Kariakoo market also went on a strike to resist the introduction of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFD) machines and unfair treatment by the tax administration.

Looking at all these strikes and boycotts in unison, a common theme emerges. It appears that unfair treatment of taxpayers by tax officers is a common cry in all strikes. It is therefore crucial to understand taxpayers' rights and what a taxpayer is entitled to when dealing with the tax authority. This article highlights some of the taxpayers' rights as follows.

Right to fair and equitable treatment

Taxpayers have the right to be treated fairly and equitably, meaning that the tax laws should be applied to all with impartiality. The law requires that the tax laws be applied uniformly without nepotism and discrimination based on status, size, influence, or anything.

Fair treatment also extends to how taxes are assessed. Taxpayers should not face arbitrary or excessive assessments. There are multiple court cases where the taxpayer contested an unfair tax assessment, and the court ruled in favor of the company, emphasizing that the tax authority must operate within the law and ensure fairness in its assessments.

Right to information and transparency

Taxpayers' right to information is perhaps one of the basic rights enshrined in the Tax Administration Act of 2015. Section 26 of the Act imposes obligations on the TRA to timely inform the taxpayer of his tax liabilities, the applicable laws, and his rights under the law.

Taxpayers have the right to request and receive information about how their taxes are calculated. If a taxpayer is taken through an audit process, he or she has a right to be informed regarding the scope and outcome of such an audit.

Right to appeal and review

Taxpayers' right to appeal against tax decisions believed to be incorrect or unfair is a very important safeguard to enable them to seek redress where there is disagreement with the determinations of the TRA. This is a



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa had to make swift intervention to end the traders strike in June this year.

constitutional right that is also underpinned in the Tax Revenue Appeals Act, of 2000.

A grievance against an assessment or a tax decision made by the TRA can first be challenged by way of objection to the commissioner and then appealed to the Tax Revenue Appeals Board. If the taxpayer is still dissatisfied with the Board's decision, he may appeal to the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal and then to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania.

Right to privacy and confidentiality

Section 21 and Section 8 of the Tax Administration Act and Tanzania Revenue Authority Act respectively, guarantees taxpayers the right to confidentiality. The law requires the TRA to maintain confidentiality for all information on taxpayers except as permitted by law or by the taxpayer himself. This protects the personal and financial information of taxpayers against unauthorized access and misuse.

For instance, the tax authorities cannot disclose the financial information of a taxpayer to a third party with-

out justifiable reasons. Breach of this right may trigger legal action against the tax body. There are multiple instances when TRA has refrained from giving a taxpayer's information despite pressure from the press and the public, particularly when a tax dispute becomes a national sensation.

The right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax

A Taxpayer should pay only the amount of tax legally due. When there is an overpayment, the excess shall be refunded or adjusted. Section 71 of the Tax Administration Act, enables a taxpayer to apply for refund when he has paid more than the prescribed tax. Where a taxpayer has paid excess taxes, they qualify for a refund, only that such application for refund must be made within 3 years from the day they made such a payment. The law indicates that any refund application should be determined within 90 days following the date on which the taxpayer submitted a valid claim.

Right to representation

Section 27 of the Tax Administration Act, 2015 provides that a taxpayer in dealing with the TRA may be represented by a tax consultant or an attorney. This right ensures that taxpayers are not disadvantaged by lack of expertise or knowledge in tax matters.

In complicated tax disputes, it is always advised for taxpayers to seek the services of professional tax consultants or lawyers to represent their interests before the TRA or in the courts of law. Professional representation usually makes a big difference in amicably solving tax issues at hand.

Right to timely service

Taxpayers are entitled to timely and efficient services from the TRA; this implies timely processing of tax returns, timely issuance of tax clearance certificates, and speedy resolution of tax disputes.

In practice, delays in the provision of these services can negatively affect businesses and individuals. For instance, a late tax clearance certificate would hinder businesses from engaging in government tenders or acquiring licenses.

Right to finality in tax matters

Taxpayers have a right to certainty or finality: This means that once a tax dispute has been resolved, the taxpayer should not be subject to further assessments or reviews for the same period unless, of course, new information comes to light. Section 48 of the Tax Administration Act, 2015 limits the time within which the TRA can raise assessments, generally after five years, except in cases of fraud or misrepresentation.

In tax litigations this right is protected through the legal doctrine of res judicata, which prohibits the institution of a new case on the same matter once it has been determined by the court.

Moreover, the rights of taxpayers in Tanzania are well protected by law. These rights ensure that treatment given to taxpayers is fair, proper, transparent, and unfair tax decisions can be appealed. The application of these rights has been quite successful; however there are still some challenges which have led to clashes between taxpayers and the tax authority multiple times. It is high time for taxpayers and tax officers to re-learn of their rights and duties to prevent future clashes.

The author is an advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and a Certified Public Accountant, currently practicing tax and corporate law as an instructor at Mzumbe University.

Undetectable HIV patients could hold key to treatment

By Elna Schütz

A rare group of HIV-positive people who maintain undetectable levels of the virus in their blood without medication could hold the key to new therapies for others living with the disease, says a leading genome expert.

Unlike the vast majority of those infected, these so-called "elite controllers" can suppress the virus without the need for antiretroviral therapy (ART), sparking interest in how their immune systems function.

Researchers believe that studying these individuals, who represent about one in 200 of those infected with HIV, could lead to new treatments or even a cure.

"One of the key questions is whether there might be genetic factors that are unique to African populations, that are specific to elite controllers compared to the rest of people living with HIV who are not elite controllers," said Thumbi Ndung'u, director of basic and translational science at the Africa Health Research Institute at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.



have a superior antiviral immune system that can keep the virus in check," said Thumbi Ndung'u, director for basic and translational science at the Africa Health Research Institute and a professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

However, Ndung'u explained that the mechanisms that subdue the vi-

rus in this rare group are not uniform or fully understood.

Having an undetectable viral load means there is not enough of the virus in the body to be transmittable, so elite controllers cannot pass the virus on to others. "Someone is generally defined as an elite controller after living with an undetectable HIV viral

load for at least two years without ARVs," Ndung'u said.

For some, viral suppression will last a lifetime, but this is not always the case, he explained.

"That's why even elite controllers have to be monitored regularly because the viral load sometimes can go up and if it goes up it is very strongly

recommended that they should go on antiretroviral therapy," added Ndung'u.

Sandra Harrigan-Thompson, a retired receptionist from Philadelphia and an elite controller, said: "I know that I am different. I've been living for 30-something years with HIV and never had a detectable viral load."

Harrigan-Thompson discovered her unusual status when her husband was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1989. Though she expected to fall ill herself, she remained healthy and symptom-free.

Over the years, she has participated in several research studies, including donating a lymph node, in the hope of helping others with the disease.

"My blood is my gift, not only to me but to humanity or for generations to come," she said.

In South Africa, researchers are expanding their understanding of elite controllers, particularly focusing on genetic factors that may be particular to Africans.

"One of the key questions is whether there might be genetic factors that are unique to African populations, that are specific to elite controllers

compared to the rest of people living with HIV who are not elite controllers," Ndung'u explained.

He highlighted the importance of research initiatives like the HIV Host Genome project, which aims to identify any distinct genetic traits in African elite controllers.

"We've found some genes involved in immune control in Africans that have been seen elsewhere, but we want to extend that work to find other genetic factors," he explained.

The ultimate goal of this research is to replicate the mechanisms behind elite controllers' ability to suppress the virus. This could provide a pathway to therapies that are more effective than current treatments, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa where behavioural changes and access to ART can pose challenges.

"If we can understand these mechanisms, we might be able to use vaccines or drugs to treat or even cure HIV," said Ndung'u.

"It's also important even for other diseases beyond HIV because some of these antiviral mechanisms might also apply to other viruses," he added.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Stakeholders unveil contest in Dar to foster creativity among students

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS yesterday launched a special competition that emphasizes the transformative power of education and art in fostering creativity and national pride among Tanzanian youth.

Dubbed: "The Beauty of Tanzania, My Pride" competition invites students to showcase their artistic talents while celebrating the beauty of Tanzania.

Among the stakeholders include Vivo Energy Tanzania and University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) through Creative Arts Department.

Speaking during the contest launch in Dar es Salaam, Mohamed Bougriba, managing director of Vivo Energy Tanzania, underlined that education is the foundation of development.

"True education not only teaches the mind but also helps build character. This initiative seeks to cultivate a generation of artists who can contribute positively to society," he said.

Participants from secondary schools in Dar es Salaam and students from the Department of Creative Arts at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) will compete for attractive prizes, including a laptop for the first-place winner, a tablet for the second-place winner, and additional prizes for the third-place winner in secondary

schools.

For university winners, cash prizes will be awarded: 2m/- for first place, 1m/- for second place and 500,000/- for third place.

Bougriba also emphasised the firm's commitment to making a positive impact on the community through education and environmental sustainability.

The competition's theme, The Beauty of Tanzania, My Pride, aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 4: Quality Education.

Bougriba noted that Tanzania's stunning landscapes and rich cultural diversity inspire creativity, offering students unique opportunities to express their talents.

The initiative is part of Vivo Energy's Green Plan, which builds on the success of last year's #PlantATree campaign. The new initiative, Take Care of a Tree, Live Green 2024, focuses on environmental conservation and supports SDG No. 15: Life on Land, reinforcing Nyerere's belief that "land is our life; we must protect it."

Bougriba also spoke about the mental health benefits of art, stating: "Art is not just a tool for self-expression but also a form of therapy. It helps manage stress, improve mental well-being, and create a sense of accomplishment."



Vivo Energy Tanzania managing director Mohamed Bougriba (C) briefs to journalists in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the art competition The Beauty of Tanzania, My Pride for secondary schools and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). Others are the firm's head of marketing, Aileen Meena (2nd-L) and UDSM's head of the film department, Dr Isa Mbura. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

He stressed that in today's fast-paced world, art provides a vital opportunity to pause, reflect, and heal.

"Vivo Energy extends heartfelt thanks to its partners—the Government of Tanzania, the University of Dar es Salaam, UN Global Compact, and East Africa Radio/TV's Skonga programme—for their unwavering support in making this initiative possible," he said.

By promoting the creativity of Tanzanian youth, The Beauty of Tanzania, My Pride art competition aims to inspire a new generation of artists and leave a lasting impact on society.

Experts from the Department of Creative Arts at UDSM, including Dr Erick Mgema, highlighted that the competition celebrates artistic excellence through a

rigorous selection and judging process. This process will evaluate key criteria to identify 20 participants, 10 from each group, who will attend an art workshop.

Dr Issa Mbura, also from UDSM explained that the initiative engages participants in showcasing their talents by creating artwork that reflects Tanzania's beauty.

Participants will participate at a two-day training workshop at the Art School, followed by eight days of painting sessions. The top 10 participants from each group will be recognised and featured on Vivo Energy's social media platforms.

Aileen Meena, energy firm's head of communications, marketing and social projects, stated that the competition aims to empower young artists, showcasing the company's commitment to creativity and social responsibility.

Key aspects of the competition include promoting creativity, enhancing collaboration with educational partners, fostering sustainability, and emphasising education as a tool for development. This initiative nurtures talent and empowers young people to drive positive change.

As a company, Vivo Energy continues to lead across Africa through its Engen and Shell brands in fuel and lubricants, committed to sustainable operations and community development.

Samia's drive to promote clean energy gets impulse

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan's campaign to promote clean energy gets a momentum after solar inverters' firm—Sun King expands more wings by launching more outlets in Dar es Salaam.

The firm launched three outlets in the metropolitan city in a new drive to mitigate air pollution and environmental degradation in Tanzania.

Renowned local artist Mrisho Mpoto witnessed the launch of one of outlets in Dar es Salaam, emphasising the importance of this initiative for fostering social and economic development.

Mpoto highlighted the firm's commitment to advancing clean energy solutions, specifically through their newly introduced solar inverter line, which serves as a sustainable alternative to traditional generators that contribute to air and noise pollution.

"The solar inverter line with the new PowerPlay Pro model offers a clean, efficient alternative to generators, which

are notorious for causing pollution in both the city centre and surrounding areas," Mpoto said.

He assured attendees that Sun King products are accessible and affordable, allowing customers to pay for their purchases in instalments.

Mpoto shared a recent initiative where Sun King equipped a maternity ward in the Arusha region with solar inverter solutions. The effort aims to ensure that expectant mothers have a safe environment for delivery, ultimately reducing child and maternal mortality rates caused by power shortages.

"This launch marks a significant milestone for Sun King, but more importantly, it represents a vital step toward enhancing access to sustainable energy in Tanzanian communities," he said.

Mpoto added: "Reliable access to electricity is foundational for progress, education, health, and overall quality of life. Unfortunately, many households in Tanzania still struggle with unreliable energy sources. This is where Sun King comes in, providing innovative solar



Mrisho Mpoto briefs to journalists during the launch of solar outlets in Dar es Salaam at the weekend.

solutions tailored for those who need them most." He shared his personal experience as a customer, noting that the Sun King inverter system has enabled him to save over 50 percent on his electricity bills. "As a resident of Dar es Salaam, I am witnessing first-hand the benefits of this innovative solution," he said. In addition to the three newly launched

stores, the solar firm has a presence in several areas, including Bunju, Kigamboni, Gongo la Mboto, Mbagala, and Chanika.

Albert Msengezi, Sun King country marketing manager said: "The launch of these new retail stores is a major milestone in our mission to empower communities through sustainable energy

solutions," he said.

The three stores located in Temeke, Buguruni, and Mwenge will offer a variety of Sun King products, including solar lights, home systems, and inverters.

Msengezi highlighted that Sun King operates about 3,000 agents' nationwide, primarily young men and women, who are helping to reduce unem-

ployment while promoting solar energy solutions. "Sun King is a catalyst for job creation in the country, with agents and dealers earning commissions based on their sales performance," he said.

He described the new PowerPlay Pro as a cost-effective solar solution designed to power lights, high-efficiency refrigerators, televisions, and small business equipment.

Both the PowerHub and PowerPlay Pro systems are available through Sun King's pay-as-you-go EasyBuy financing, allowing customers to pay in manageable instalments. Msengezi noted that these systems offer significant savings on generator fuel and maintenance costs. To celebrate the launch, Sun King Brand Ambassador Mrisho Mpoto will perform at the event, engaging with customers and highlighting the benefits of reliable solar energy.

Founded in 2007, Sun King is the world's leading off-grid solar energy company, recognized for its cutting-edge product design and grassroots installation model aimed at providing solar energy to families and businesses across Africa and Asia without access to reliable electricity. Through its mission of powering access to brighter lives, Sun King sets the gold standard for off-grid solar performance and design.

EAC, EU to revamp human-centric approach to digital revolution in EA

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) and the European Union (EU) have reaffirmed their commitment towards advancing a human-centric approach to digital transformation in East Africa, leveraging technology and innovation to strengthen regional integration.

The two parties made the remarks yesterday here when launching the EU-EAC Regional Co-creation Workshop on Digital Transformation.

The two-day workshop, co-organized by the EAC Secretariat and the European Union and facilitated by the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub, marks a significant step towards shaping a digital economy package for East Africa. It brings together stakeholders from the EAC region, including delegates from all EAC Partner States, representatives from the Ministries of ICT and Cybersecurity Agencies, Ministries of Trade, Central Banks, e-Government Agencies and the EAC Secretariat.

The event includes participants from the European Union Delegation, as well as EU member states and their development agencies, such as GIZ, MFA/EstDev, and MFA/Expertise France.

As part of its digital transformation journey, the EAC initiated consultations with Partner States in 2022, further accelerating the momentum during the EAC Regional Digital Transformation Conference in October 2023. Held in collaboration with the European Union under a Team Europe Initiative, the conference identified seven strategic areas for engagement, aligned with the 6th EAC Development Strategy's goal of fast-tracking digital transformation in East Africa.

These priorities include: connectivity, data governance, e-governance/cybersecurity, e-commerce, ICT regulations, digital innovation, and digital skills.

Based on these areas of engagement, a joint digital transformation roadmap was developed to guide the cooperation between EAC and Team Europe. Among the short-term actions proposed were initiatives to boost the data economy across borders as well as benchmarking and project development of green and secure data centres (data governance); establishing comprehensive electronic cross-border health services (e-governance/cybersecurity); development of systems to facilitate a cross-border e-payment system (e-commerce).

Building on these efforts, the



EAC, with support from GIZ, developed the Digital Transformation Strategy, which has been agreed upon by Partner States and is expected to launch in November 2024. This co-creation workshop aims to review progress on digital development collaboration, support the formulation of the Safe Digital Boost for Africa (SDBA) initiative, and launch the appraisal process for a digital economy package tailored to East Africa. The SDBA initiative is expected to support the EAC in implementing the Digital Transformation Strategy.

Annette Ssemuwemba, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs reflected on the EAC digital transformation journey, and the commitments made including developing the EAC Digital Transformation Strategy which has since been validated, laying a strong foundation for the Safe Digital Boost Africa (SDBA) Project.

"This project is not just about technology; it is about

the future success of our entire region. It represents a strategic move towards creating an interoperable regional digital market that will drive innovation, economic growth, and inclusive development. By fostering digital trade and integrating technology into key sectors such as e-commerce, data governance, and cybersecurity, we aim to transform lives across East Africa and create a competitive edge for our region in the global economy" she added.

Marc Stalmans, EU Head of Cooperation, highlighted the success of previous engagements and the EU's ongoing commitment to supporting digital transformation in East Africa.

"Today's event follows last year's EU-EAC Regional Conference on Digital Transformation, which launched our joint efforts toward an inclusive, human-centric digital transformation. The discussions led to a Digital Roadmap with key milestones, shap-

ing the Safe Digital Boost for Africa initiative, a program we are proud to finance that will support digital economy activities in areas such as e-commerce, e-payments, e-governance, and cybersecurity," he said.

Hussein Jaffar, D4D Hub Deputy Coordinator for Africa emphasized the role of the D4D Hub as a platform to identify synergies and support the co-creation of joint European initiatives based on extensive bilateral and multilateral cooperation experience between Africa, the EU and its Member States.

"Coordinated and simultaneous action in key areas of digital transformation is crucial in a dynamic region with a fast growth in digitalisation," he said.

The conference hosted deep dive sessions on e-Commerce & Payment, e-Governance, cybersecurity and national-regional inter-linkages. The sessions facilitated a co-design approach and brought out key recommendations in the areas for collaboration.



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Global carbon trading market to hit \$0.17bn in 2024

Dublin

The carbon credit trading platform market is expected to see exponential growth in the next few years, growing from \$0.14 billion in 2023 to US\$0.17 billion in 2024 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 23 percent.

According to the "Carbon Credit Trading Platform Market Report 2024" published on ResearchAndMarkets.com's offering, anticipated growth during the forecast period can be linked to a heightened focus on achieving carbon neutrality, seeking effective methods for carbon footprint offsetting, and a rising commitment by corporations to sustainability.

Other factors include increased green investments and the adoption of carbon emission policies.

Key trends expected in this period are the demand for net-zero carbon emissions, the use of blockchain technology, the integration of carbon credits with ESG objectives, growth in nature-based solutions, and improved standards for verifying and certifying carbon credits.

The rise in green investment is anticipated to drive the expansion of the carbon credit trading platform market in the future.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has reported in its World Energy Investment 2023 report that global clean energy investments rose from \$1.61 trillion in 2022 to \$1.74 trillion in 2023.

Thus, the rise in green investment is contributing to the growth of the carbon credit trading platform mar-

ket.

Leading companies in the carbon credit trading platform market are concentrating on creating advanced technologies such as digitized tracking and trading platforms to support international carbon token trade.

For instance, in December 2023, the Technology Innovation Institute (TII) and the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), both based in the UAE, introduced a blockchain-based carbon tracking and trading platform.

This platform simplifies international trade in carbon tokens and advances efforts to cut carbon emissions, aligning with the UAE's Vision 2021 for enhanced environmental sustainability and net-zero emissions, as well as COP28's aim to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable economy.

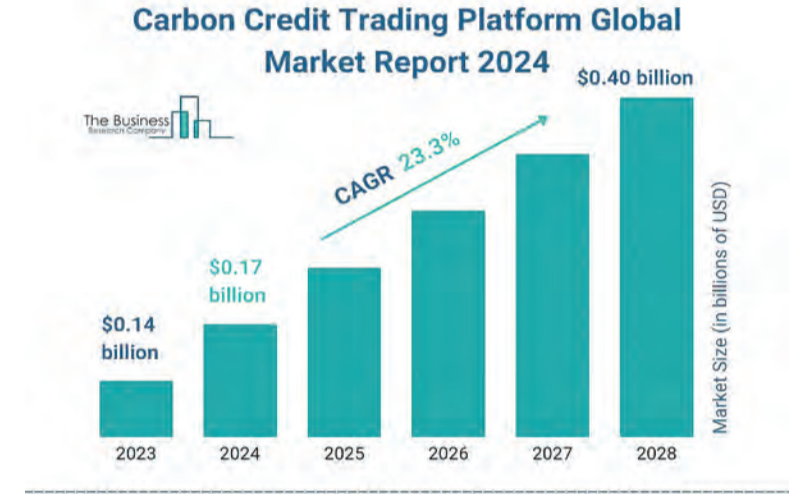
Blockchain technology accurately tracks carbon emissions by recording them with public or private organizations globally.

In November 2022, Mubadala Investment Company, a UAE-based private equity firm, purchased AirCarbon Exchange for an undisclosed sum.

This acquisition supports the expansion of environmental commodities trading by enabling businesses and investors to participate in voluntary carbon markets and finance climate action.

AirCarbon Exchange, based in Singapore, offers a carbon credit trading platform.

According to the report, Europe was the largest region in the carbon credit trading platform market in 2023. Asia-Pacific is expected to



be the fastest-growing region in the forecast period.

The regions covered in the carbon credit trading platform market report are Asia-Pacific, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North America, South America, Middle East, Africa.

The countries covered in the carbon credit trading platform market report are Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, South Korea, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Spain.

According to BloombergNEF, the California's carbon price is expected to average around \$42 per metric ton in 2024 and \$46 per ton in 2025.

That's up from \$34 per ton in 2023, supported by financial intermediaries. It could reach as high as \$93 per ton by the end of the decade.

According to PolicyCentre, Carbon trading has long been touted as a silver bullet to channelise climate finance to African countries lacking

the capital to support climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The erstwhile 'Kyoto Protocol' and its successor 'The Paris Agreement', though much more comprehensive and wider in scope, both recognize the importance of carbon trading (a form of carbon pricing) in combating climate change, and in the Paris Agreement the same is enshrined under Article 6 and its sub-components (more on this later).

Carbon credits are generated from avoiding, reducing, or removing greenhouse gas emissions by either switching from fossil fuels to cleaner alternatives, adopting energy efficient technologies or conserving and increasing forests which are primary providers of carbon cycle ecosystem services.

However, it must be noted, that apart from Article 6, carbon credits can be generated from domestic or closed jurisdiction carbon markets under national or regional compli-

ance mechanisms such as the EU ETS and many other countries domestic carbon markets, as well as voluntary carbon markets where companies or countries can offset their emissions of their own accord by purchase of carbon credits arising for mitigation based economic activities.

Africa, which has contributed least to historical emissions and continues to have the lowest per capita emissions globally (an annual average of 1 ton of CO2 compared to 10.3 ton in North America), faces a disproportionate burden from climate change.

According to the World Bank, while China must raise its annual climate mitigation spending by 2 percent of GDP through 2030, Cameroon must do so by a staggering 9 percent of the GDP.

Countries of the West African Sahel including Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, need to increase spending by about 8 percent of GDP on average to support mitigation efforts at home.

Moreover, African governments, as in most emerging economies, are fiscally constrained, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 crises.

Their debt-to-GDP ratios are high, as high as 70 percent and 40 percent in South Africa and Nigeria respectively in 2021. This means a limited ability to borrow from the international markets. The situation is compounded by insufficient lending from multilateral banks, often accompanied by harsh conditionality.

The situation begs for innovative financial engineering and creative thinking that can help mobilize

large-scale and low-cost climate finance for the region.

Carbon markets with the right institutional guardrails and strategic planning can be catalytic in mobilizing this climate finance, from both international and domestic private and public sources - provided appropriate price of carbon is paid for by developed country buyers - private and government, which can be either defined host country requirements for investment in decarbonisation or buyer country carbon prices.

However, before declaring carbon markets as the potential panacea for climate finance woes, it's important to assess the challenges to carbon markets, especially in the context of Africa.

First, there is skepticism about the carbon-saving potential of carbon credits, because of flawed carbon accounting methodologies or over-zealous middlemen and agents distorting the market by pushing 'phantom' credits for their own vested interests (this is for VCM usually).

The credibility, integrity, and viability of carbon credits poses a serious concern. Second, there is only a small number of credit generating programs run by African local project developers.

Between 2016 and 2021, only 10 percent of carbon credits issued globally hailed from an African country, and these were listed by merely 15 firms.

Most of the benefits from these projects often accrue to the traders, project developers, and bankers from outside Africa, rather than to local communities.

Rapid growth of fintech needs effective management of anti-money laundering

By Guardian Correspondent

In today's rapidly evolving Fin-Tech landscape, the capacity to effectively manage a growing volume of financial transactions is paramount, particularly with the rise in digital transactions.

According to Napier AI, in 2022 alone, digital transaction volume soared by 22 percent to reach US\$2.2 trillion, with an increasing number transacted in small amounts or via new methods.

This trend underscores the critical need for advanced analytical capabilities in anti-money laundering (AML) systems to keep pace with sophisticated financial criminals who continuously devise new methods to obscure the origins of illicit funds.

Financial institutions are challenged not only with enhancing detection but also with maintaining productivity in case management to prevent bottlenecks and burnout among investigative teams.

To address these challenges, it's vital to focus on tools that support both detection efficiency and operational effectiveness.

When assessing AML systems, a crucial aspect to consider is the total cost of ownership (TCO). Opting for cloud-based AML solutions can significantly mitigate these costs.

These systems offer pre-built libraries of AML typologies and a

sandbox environment, reducing both upfront and ongoing expenses. Cloud-based models provide scalability and flexibility, allowing firms to pay only for the resources they use, thus avoiding the exorbitant costs associated with on-premises infrastructure.

The inclusion of pre-built typology libraries in these systems provides ready-to-use templates that help identify suspicious patterns swiftly, thereby cutting down the time and effort required for custom configurations.

Furthermore, sandbox environments enable compliance teams to test scenarios and refine models without the need for external IT support, facilitating faster adaptations to emerging threats.

This not only cuts down costs but also enhances the speed of response and encourages innovation within teams, boosting overall productivity.

Moreover, streamlining workflows through effective automation is fundamental in enhancing AML compliance efficiency.

Modern AML systems that automatically triage cases help apply a risk-based approach by prioritizing high-risk cases before moving to those of medium and low risk.

These systems also prioritize relevant data sources based on the entity's nature and geographical location, which minimizes unnecessary

investigation efforts.

Artificial intelligence (AI) plays a transformative role in the realm of AML by enhancing the detection rates and the accuracy of investigations.

Starting with simpler applications, such as automating the pre-population of regulatory reports, can yield immediate benefits by saving time and reducing errors.

As the technology matures, AI's scope can expand to predicting and preempting emerging financial crime trends, keeping institutions one step ahead of criminals.

In deploying AI within AML processes, it's crucial to ensure that the algorithms used are both auditable and explainable to regulatory bodies. Transparent AI systems foster trust and compliance, providing auditors with clear insights into decision-making processes.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that between two and five percent of global gross domestic product, which was \$105 trillion in 2023, is laundered each year.

Around the world, governments and supranational organizations have worked hard to put regulations in place that could grapple with the problem.

Along with financial institutions, they have built up complex and highly sophisticated frameworks for anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) over the past three decades.

Progress has come notably in Europe, where six ambitious directives have been implemented, creating the impression that the situation is largely under control.



Larry Ayo, business director at SmartLab (L) addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the second edition of the Adaptation and Resilience-ClimAccelerator programme, seated next is Sophie White, senior programme manager for innovation and emerging markets at Climate-KIC.

Programme established to accelerating country's adaptation to climate change

By Getrude Mbagu

IN efforts aimed to hasten the country's adaptation to climate change, SmartLab and Climate-KIC, Europe's leading innovation agency, have partnered to launch the second edition of the Adaptation and Resilience-ClimAccelerator programme.

ClimAccelerator is a global programme for start-ups to innovate, catalyse and scale the potential of their climate solutions. In Tanzania, the initiative aims to support innovative, high impact climate adaptation solutions that help rural populations cope with current or future climate risks.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Larry Ayo, business director at SmartLab said a total of euros 40,000 (122m/-) have been set aside to support a total of 10 start-ups in the announced phase.

"SmartLab joins as the implementation partner of the ClimAccelerator programme to foster innovation and entrepreneurial solutions by

offering extensive training, mentorship, and resources to Tanzanian start-ups that develop solutions that help rural communities cope with the effects of climate change challenges," he said.

He said: "Our partnership with Climate-KIC is a crucial step toward bridging the skills and innovation gaps in climate adaptation and resilience solutions. By fostering entrepreneurship and supporting innovative businesses, we aim to drive impactful climate adaptation efforts, especially in rural communities where these solutions are needed the most."

Ayo said the programme will not only empower the start-ups but also ensure the innovations remain both profitable and sustainable, ultimately strengthening resilience at the grassroots level.

"The programme will unlock the potential of Tanzanian entrepreneurs to scale their climate solutions across the region. We encourage all climate innovators to participate in this impact-driven initiative," he said.

Sophie White, Climate-KIC senior programme manager-innovation and emerging markets said the ClimAccelerator is part of the Adaptation Innovation Cluster, an initiative by Climate-KIC and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland ('Irish-Aid').

She said the programme will focus on supporting initiatives that address the impacts of climate change, with a special emphasis on rural communities.

Climate-KIC has been active in Tanzania since 2019 through the ClimateLaunchpad business ideas competition. In 2022, Climate-KIC expanded its portfolio of climate innovation initiatives in Tanzania with the aim to enhance the climate resilience of rural communities through innovation and collaboration. Climate-KIC works with start-ups, NGOs, climate experts and accelerator partners and has supported over 300 innovators in Tanzania since 2019.

She said for the past 15 years, Climate-KIC has been working with climate innovators from all over the world, helping them build profitable and impactful businesses.

Tanzania has a vibrant local ecosystem where innovative climate solutions are emerging, and we are excited to partner with SmartLab to nurture and scale these innovations, helping them reach their full potential."

Adaptation involves implementing strategies, actions, and solutions that help societies effectively respond to the adverse impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and shifting ecosystems.

Resilience, on the other hand, is about strengthening communities, ecosystems, and economies to withstand the impacts of climate change, ensuring they can recover swiftly and thrive amidst changing conditions.



DIGITAL MARKETING: Shifting from qualitative to a data-driven science

By Alley Mtatya

A predominant portion of today's marketers are qualitative; they're into design, they're into statistics, they're into psychology, they're into understanding the strategic aspect of behavioral economics and so forth, but the world is shifting to a tech or data driven arena in a significant way. Any marketer knows that the secret duty of any marketer is to build, nature and protect the brand, "that is sacra sic".

It is very important to get clarity on the goals of your brand, nowadays marketers now have clarity on brand safety and suitability as strategic goals of their company. There should be a clear definition, clear on the importance of protecting their brand equity and their brand reputation as well as being clear on what their true north is as marketers. I remember years back when all we marketers wanted was data, like

give me all the data, I want all the data then after collecting I would go and figure out a marketing strategy.

Which leads us back to square one; Marketers must know what the true north of their brand is? What are the governing principles and the code of conduct for their brand, that point you to the statement mentioned above around brand reputation and brand equity. Knowing that the world that we will live in 2 or 3 years from now will be very dif-

ferent from the world that we are living in today.

Having a true north as a guiding compass is great and which is also the right thing to have but how do you bring the true north to life, is something else, and were most marketers fall short. This subject requires extensive training, extensive research and reading because this is by far the main responsibility of a marketer by protecting, nurturing and building their brand.

How expensive is it to enforce

data driven decisions? Large brands can spend billions and billions, but what if I am a small player in the industry; a start-up maybe or a medium sized company maybe, because for this sector they care a lot about every shilling or penny spent that it must generate a visible return that leads hopefully to a sale of their product, compared to larger companies for them every penny hurts and they're not too many pennies to count. For them that is what really counts or stand being out

of business very quickly.

Things like transparency of supply path optimization that help advertisers to be able to navigate, how to optimize their inventory and also help them move away from their inventory that is not helping them yield on their ROI. More and more mid-sized firms will be leaning into this service over time and advertising will shift more to live feeds and live social media video platforms. Digital marketing will shift to more contextual targeting and another section that I have not mentioned is pre-paid TV or home entertainment platforms the likes of Netflix. It will be a situation whereby businesses can advertise on content or platforms where they find higher engagement and the likes of Netflix is where the younger generation is shifting too.

In the fifth paradigm technology is a leveler in the competitive field, even a small company is able to effectively compete with a large company and rise. In that kind of a democratic competing field that will work in favor of any brand is trust. Trust gets endangered in so many ways and one of it is definitely

data driven. So if you're operating in a way that nurtures data then that is spot on, but if you're inadvertently appearing on those sites or inadvertently funding those sites that can damage your brand reputation, you're eroding the trust and your brands reputational risk.

This leads me to ask ad agencies or marketers or businesses for example, do they have the ability to post factor by looking at the type of content despite of all the controls in place, pre-bid or post-bid but then post factor after the ads have appeared to track and say look, x number of ads have gone through the filters and have gone to the wrong sites and therefore two things arise from that; 1. You need to know, how much did it cost the company? 2. What is the extent of the damage? And 3. How do you recover that money?

As you need to compensate the brand for lack of proper safety controls, it is also about accountability and proper use of datay. If I give the agency or marketer or social media company money and I have also given you the specs of what I want as a

business in terms of advertising my brand but then my brand appears in some other place (say an adult entertainment site), which is contrary to my brand's values. Where does the accountability reside and why is it that my brand should pay for it in terms of the reputational damage.

Businesses are investing more and more on digital marketing and shifting their brand presence more towards new social media platforms that are trending, engagement is KING!

Marketing in the near future is also shifting to live feeds, so how will this be controlled as it gets more and more difficult to regulate live speeches that could go wrong, like hate speech, racial slur, promotion of violence etc.

Let me leave this for thought and challenge those in the marketing industry on brand safety, accountability and brand trust in the near future.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the digital marketing specialist based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through Email. alley962003@gmail.com



Global markets get bumpy ride, as Japan's stocks fall while Chinese markets soar

HONG KONG

Global markets had a wild start to the week, with Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index tumbling nearly 5 percent while Chinese markets soared on news of fresh stimulus for the faltering economy, with Shanghai up more than 8 percent.

In early European trading, France's CAC 40 slipped 1.0 percent to 7,711.66, and Germany's DAX lost 0.4 percent to 19,399.02. In London, the FTSE 100 declined 0.3 percent to 8,294.70. The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.1 percent lower.

Japanese shares sank after the ruling Liberal Democrats chose former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba late Friday to succeed Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is due to step down on Tuesday.

Ishiba has expressed support for the Bank of Japan's moves to raise interest rates from their near-zero level. He also backs other policies, such as possibly raising corporate taxes, that are seen as less market friendly than his chief rival for the top job, Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, who he beat in a run-off vote.

The Nikkei closed 4.8 percent lower at 37,919.55 on Monday.

The dollar fell from over 146 Japanese yen to under 143 yen after the ruling party's vote. By Monday, it was trading at 142.38 yen, up from 142.29.

Exporters' shares plunged, since a stronger yen is a disadvantage for Japanese companies that make a large share of their sales and profits overseas. Also Monday, the government reported that industrial output fell 3.3% year-on-year in August, though analysts said some of that was due to safety scandals that have caused automakers to suspend production of some vehicles.

Toyota Motor Corp. dropped 7.6 percent. Honda Motor Co.'s shares fell 7.0 percent and Nissan Motor Co.'s declined 6.0 percent.

Ishiba has said he backs Kishida's "new capitalism" policies, which ostensibly would foster more equal distribution of national wealth. But sharply rising prices have undermined progress toward encouraging consumers to spend more.

Meanwhile, the Hang Seng in Hong Kong jumped 2.4 percent to 21,133.68, with Hong Kong's Hang

Seng Mainland Properties Index up 6.4 percent. The Shanghai Composite index surged 8.1 percent to 3,336.50. An index in the smaller market in Shenzhen jumped almost 11 percent.

The rallies were auspiciously timed, coming on the eve of a week-long national holiday marking 75 years of communist rule in China. Markets in mainland China will be closed Tuesday through Oct. 7.

China is moving forward with measures announced last week to support the property industry and revive languishing financial markets. The central bank announced on Sunday that it would direct banks to cut mortgage rates for existing home loans by Oct. 31. Meanwhile, the major southern city of Guangzhou lifted all home purchase restrictions over the weekend, while both Shanghai and Shenzhen revealed plans to ease key buying curbs.

The effort to wrest the housing market out of a prolonged downturn comes as the economy shows signs of slowing further. China's manufacturing activity in September contracted for a fifth consecutive month, as the official purchasing managers' index came in at 49.8, remaining below the 50 line that separates expansion from contraction, according to data from the Na-

tional Bureau of Statistics released on Monday.

Elsewhere in Asia, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 advanced 0.7 percent to 8,269.80. South Korea's Kospi dropped 2.1 percent to 2,593.27.

On Friday, the S&P 500 edged down by 0.1 percent from its all-time high to 5,738.17. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.3 percent to 42,313.00, setting its own record, while the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.4 percent to 18,119.59.

Treasury yields eased in the bond market after a report showed inflation slowed in August by a bit more than economists expected. It echoed similar numbers from earlier in the month about inflation, but Friday's report has resonance because it's the measure that officials at the Federal Reserve prefer to use.

In other dealings, oil prices rose as tensions in the Middle East escalated. On early Monday, Israel launched the first apparent airstrike in nearly a year of conflict on the center of Lebanon's capital, Beirut.

This came after Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an air attack on Saturday. Benchmark US crude oil added 49 cents to \$68.67 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 61 cents at \$72.15 per barrel.

The euro was trading at \$1.1193, up from \$1.1163.



TASAF beneficiaries in Tabora region

Councils directed to prioritise loans for TASAF beneficiaries

By Faustine Feliciane

The government has instructed all councils in the Tabora region to prioritize offering loans to beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) under the Community Development Fund initiative.

Speaking during a visit to TASAF projects last week in the Tabora region, Deputy Minister of State, President's Office for Public Service Management and Good Governance, Deus Sangu, emphasized that TASAF beneficiaries should be given priority in loan allocation.

He highlighted that these groups have already received entrepreneurship training through TASAF, making them disciplined borrowers who are capable of repaying loans.

"TASAF equips its beneficiaries to form savings and lending groups while engaging in various entrepreneurial activities to enhance their household economies. The Tabora regional councils should explore ways to ensure these beneficiaries can access

loans to boost productivity and further their economic development," said Sangu.

In addition to discussing the loan program, Sangu addressed the temporary employment initiative for TASAF beneficiaries.

He explained that the program not only provides wages, helping to alleviate poverty, but also offers an opportunity for participants to gain entrepreneurial skills and knowledge that can support their daily lives.

He also reiterated the rules regarding temporary employment, reminding local leaders that elderly individuals over 65, children under 18, pregnant women, and people with disabilities are not permitted to engage in such jobs.

"Households with young people who have completed Form Six and meet the requirements for higher education should inform TASAF. This will allow these students to obtain letters of recommendation for a 100 percent loan to support their studies," he added.

Tabora Regional Commis-

sioner, Paul Matiko Chacha, praised the significant impact of TASAF in the region. He noted that TASAF has empowered the community economically, with 13,467 beneficiaries joining the Improved Community Health Insurance Fund (CHIF), improving their housing conditions, and establishing mutual lending groups.

TASAF is a government initiative aimed at reducing poverty and improving living standards for vulnerable and low-income households in Tanzania.

Established in 2000, TASAF focuses on providing financial support and various development programs that include conditional cash transfers, community development projects, and capacity-building initiatives.

TASAF is part of Tanzania's broader social protection strategy to combat poverty and inequality, especially in rural areas. It is funded by both the Tanzanian government and international development partners like the World Bank.

Kenya overtakes France, US as top source of tourists

By Guardian Reporter

Kenya has overtaken France and United States as the leading among top 15 international tourist source markets for the United Republic of Tanzania, although they are still leading for Zanzibar.

According to the 2022 International visitors' exit survey report, jointly published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) yesterday, Kenya accounted for 13 percent of tourists in 2022, an increase from 10.1 percent recorded in 2021.

The United States has maintained its second position with 11.4 percent in 2022 from 11.6 percent in 2021.

France, which was on top in 2021 with 15.3 percent, was thrown to fourth position with 7.8 percent, after United Kingdom, which was not in the list during 2021 climbed to third with 8.4 percent, while Germany climbed to fifth with 7.4 percent in 2022 from eighth in 2021.

Other top sources of tourists to URT were Zambia with 6.6 percent, Italy with 3.8 percent, Burundi with 3.3 percent, Zimbabwe with 3.2 percent, Uganda with 3.1 percent, DRC with 2.6 percent and UAE with 2.3 percent and India with 1.8 percent.

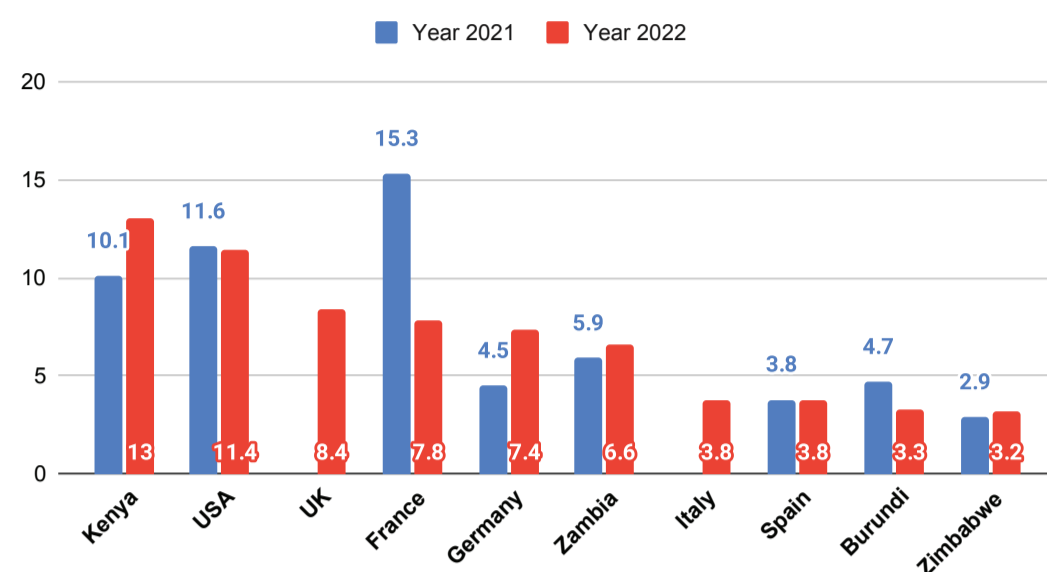
In Zanzibar, the top 15 source markets accounted for 81.0 percent with France topping the list of source markets, followed by Germany and the United Kingdom.

The available Immigration data reveals that the number of tourist arrivals from Russia and Ukraine has increased to 98,158 in 2021, from 54,800 in 2020.

However, in 2022, the number of tourists from Russia dropped sharply by 89.0 percent to 8,174, from 77,422 in 2021.

Similarly, in Ukraine, the number of

Top 10 International Tourist Source Markets for URT in pct



tourists declined by 37.8 percent to 12,890 tourists in 2022 compared with 20,736 recorded in 2021. This trend is partly explained by the ongoing war in Ukraine, which started in 2022.

More than half of visitors to URT were aged between 25-44 years. Visitors aged between 45-64 years were the second in prominence, followed by youths who are under the age group of 18-24. Similar pattern was also observed in the previous surveys.

The share of senior visitors aged 65 and above continued to remain minimal, despite having ample time and financial resources.

In Zanzibar, the pattern remained

similar to the results recorded in previous surveys. Visitors aged between 25-64 years accounted for a lion's share of more than 80 percent. The share of senior citizens remained low, as in the case for URT.

A joint effort among tourism industry players is important to explore this potential market due to its significance in the economy.

In URT, visitors aged between 25 and 64 years, mainly came from France, the United States of America and Kenya. More than half of the elderly visitors came from the United States of America, followed by France.

In Zanzibar, visitors in the age

group of 25-44 mainly came from France and Spain, while those in the age of 45-64 mainly came from France, South Africa and Germany.

Survey findings revealed that visitors to URT in all age groups mainly came under the non-package tour arrangement except senior citizen.

For Zanzibar, the majority of visitors up to the 44 years of age used the non-package tour arrangement, while those aged 65 years and above used the package tour arrangement.

This signifies that elderly visitors have higher preference for organized package tour. In this

regard, attention should be given to put in place infrastructure that can support elderly tourists.

The primary purposes of visit include leisure and holidays, visiting friends and relatives and business. The majority of visitors to URT (59 percent) came for leisure and holidays, reflecting the country's endowment with natural and cultural attractions.

Tourists visiting friends and relatives were second in prominence, followed by those who came for business. The prominence of business visitors is a reflection of increasing trade and investment opportunities in Tanzania.

The percentage of visitors coming for medical treatment is quite small. This is an area that needs more promotion given that Tanzania has significant potential for medical tourism, given its geographical location; and availability of affordable and quality medical facilities.

Majority of leisure and holiday visitors were from the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom and Germany. This indicates that Tanzania is a popular destination for tourists from Europe and America.

Visitors from Kenya and Burundi mainly came to visit friends and relatives while most business visitors were from Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The majority of visitors in the last five years used the non-package tour arrangement except

in 2019. The number of visitors who came under the non-package tour remained about 61 percent for two consecutive years from 2021 to 2022.

Most of the visitors from long haul destinations preferred the package tour arrangement.

Largest proportion of visitors who travelled under the package tour arrangement came from the United States of America, followed by Germany and France. Just like in previous surveys, visitors from neighboring countries had the lowest share of package tour visitors; this could be explained by close proximity and family.

In URT, 52.6 percent of the interviewed visitors in 2022, were first-timers compared with 53.5 percent in 2021, while in Zanzibar, 80.1 percent of visitors came for the first time compared with 86.2 percent.

More than one-third of visitors heard about Tanzania through friends and relatives, followed by tour operators and travel agents.

In addition, some visitors heard about Tanzanian attractions through Royal tour documentary, 28 trade fairs, TV networks and Tanzania missions abroad.

Nights spent by visitors usually varied depending on purpose of visit and country of origin. The survey results depict that the majority of visitors who came to Tanzania spent 8 to 14 nights, followed by those who spent 4 to 7 nights.

Transforming Tanzania's SME financing landscape



By Abdulmajid Nsekela

In today's competitive landscape for international investment, few corporate leaders have been as effective in securing lucrative deals.

Over the past three years, under my stewardship, CRDB Bank has emerged as a vital player in driving economic growth in Tanzania, particularly through financing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

This achievement is notable, as it aligns perfectly with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visionary policies aimed at fostering robust foreign relations and economic partnerships.

The recent signing of a groundbreaking \$320 million agreement with the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and Citibank marks a significant milestone in my efforts to uplift the SME sector.

Signed during the UN General Assembly at Citibank's headquarters in New York City, this deal represents a collective commitment to support over 4,500 small businesses in Tanzania and Burundi, with a focus on empowering women and youth entrepreneurs.

My passion for enhancing investment opportunities is palpable.

The supportive policies and frameworks established by our governments under President Samia have been pivotal in attracting international investment, which is vital for advancing our development agenda.

Since assumed leadership in 2018, I had secured numerous international agreements that significantly enhance its capacity to finance SMEs.

A pivotal moment came in March 2022 when our bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Proparco, a subsidiary of Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

This partnership introduced a credit line and guarantees amounting to 182bn/- (approximately US\$141.5 million), specifically

tailored to support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in Tanzania.

The funds are earmarked for innovative products within the agricultural sector, which is crucial for climate resilience and food security.

Furthermore, in June 2022, our bank collaborated with USAID and DFC to unlock 100bn/- aimed at enhancing financing for education, health, and MSMEs.

This initiative is set to strengthen vital sectors that underpin Tanzania's socio-economic development, reinforcing the bank's strategy to diversify its impact across various industries.

Our SME financing is evident in the strategic alliances formed with global entities such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which provided a \$100 million loan to bolster access to finance for micro and small enterprises.

Notably, this partnership allocated 25 percent of the funds to women-owned businesses, emphasizing our commitment to gender-inclusive economic growth.

In November 2023, we took another significant step by entering a partnership with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) to establish a \$115 million facility aimed at enhancing investments in key economic sectors such as agriculture and trade.

This strategic collaboration marks a shift towards a more integrated approach to investment that promotes shared prosperity across the region.

Support for SMEs is further exemplified by a recent agreement signed in September 2023 with the African Guarantee Fund (AGF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

These agreements, which include a \$50 million guarantee to improve access to finance for SMEs and a \$60 million financial package to bolster our regional expansion, underscore the growing confidence in our vision and leadership under Nsekela.

As a passionate advocate for economic development, I believe that the future of Tanzania's economy hinges on empowering SMEs.

By prioritizing small businesses, we are not just creating jobs; we are fostering innovation and resilience within our economy. Our strategic focus on SME financing is a core element of our mission.

In the next three years, we will be continuing to leverage its strong international relationships to facilitate even more financing opportunities for Tanzanian entrepreneurs.

By focusing on innovative financial solutions and expanding access to capital, he aims to cement our position as a leader in the banking sector while championing investment that will drive Tanzania's economic growth.

Abdulmajid Nsekela (pictured) is Group CEO and managing director of CRDB Bank.



Students from different universities attend ICT practical training at the e-Government, Research, Innovation and Development Centre (e-GovRIDC) in Dodoma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

University students enhancing ICT knowledge through training

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

A total of 65 students from 12 universities across the country have completed practical training in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to help youth develop essential skills and enhance their capabilities in the field.

Deus Clement Sangu, Deputy Minister in the President's Office for Public Service Management and Good Governance, made this announcement yesterday during the closing ceremony of a ten-week training program at the e-Government, Research, Innovation, and Development Centre (e-GovRIDC) in the Dodoma Region.

The training, funded by the e-Government Authority (e-GA) for the 2024/2025 financial year, was offered free of charge. It aimed to equip students with the skills needed to develop new electronic systems that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector operations and service delivery to citizens.

The Deputy Minister urged e-GA to strengthen its collaboration with the private sector to create more job opportunities for innovative youth in the ICT sector. He praised e-GA for its commendable efforts in nurturing young talent in ICT and advised further cooperation with the private sector to provide internships and practical training opportunities that would help students secure employment.

"Collaboration between the private sector and e-GA will boost productivity, strengthen the ICT industry, and tackle the pressing issue of youth unemployment in our nation," Sangu stated.

He added that mobile phone companies and banks had recently visited the e-GovRIDC and expressed interest in signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with e-GA in three key areas: education, research, and ICT innovation. This collaboration is expected to further strengthen ties between e-GA and private institutions.

"I visited the center and saw the ongoing projects. I witnessed the excellent work being done to prepare our youth for technological advancements. I observed innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Blockchain, and Digital Currency, and I was impressed by the potential of our youth in these fields," he said.

The Deputy Minister also commended e-GA for leading the way in helping young people learn about cutting-edge global technologies that will allow them to create various ICT innovations and develop new electronic systems. These technologies, he noted, will significantly improve the efficiency of government institutions and the delivery of public services.

"This training will enhance students' skills and equip them with knowledge of emerging technologies that are key to driving develop-

ment and digital transformation in the government. It is creating a generation that is well-versed in ICT and prepared to contribute to building a digital government," he added.

e-GA Director General, Eng. Benedict Ndomba, pledged to continue offering ICT training to youth and to strengthen partnerships with the private sector to provide them with opportunities to showcase their ICT abilities. He also emphasized the importance of preparing young people to compete in the global job market and address the youth unemployment challenge.

The government, he said, would continue creating an enabling environment for e-GA to ensure ICT use in government improves, while also preparing skilled youth to contribute to the building of a digital government.

Philemon Mbunda, a third-year student at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), expressed his gratitude to e-GA for providing them with the opportunity to participate in the training. He said the experience would help them enhance their skills, gain practical experience, and learn about emerging technologies worldwide.

"We've spent 10 weeks here learning about various aspects of ICT and how we can use it to develop electronic systems that will improve productivity in our nation. We pledge to be good ambassadors and put the knowledge and skills we've gained into practice," Mbunda said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Japan's incoming PM plans to call general election on Oct 27

TOKYO

JAPAN'S incoming Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said yesterday he plans to call a general election on Oct 27 as he prepares to take office.

The lower house of the parliament will be dissolved on Oct 9, Ishiba told reporters, emphasizing the importance of obtaining the public's mandate as soon as possible.

The 67-year-old former defense minister narrowly defeated Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi in a run-off on Friday to lead the country's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

As the LDP-led coalition constitutes a majority in both chambers of the parliament in Japan, Ishiba, as the new party chief, is set to be elected prime minister in an extraordinary Diet session on Tuesday to succeed Fumio Kishida.

In Japan, a new prime minister often calls a snap election to dissolve the lower

house at an early date to capitalize on a high approval rating to seek a public mandate and pursue his political agenda.

At a press conference following his win on Friday, Ishiba has vowed to give his "full effort" to rebuild trust and unity within the LDP, calling for a party that is humble, fair, and transparent, where rules are followed, and the public can hold leaders accountable.

Japanese shares fell more than 4 percent in early trading on Monday as the yen strengthened and Japanese government bonds jumped in reaction to the leadership win by Ishiba, who is seen as a monetary policy hawk.

Ishiba on Monday began picking government and party officials who will contest the upcoming general election with him.

So far those include two rival candidates in the leadership race, Katsunobu Kato as finance minister and Yoshimasa Hayashi to stay on as chief cabinet sec-



Shigeru Ishiba, the newly elected leader of Japan's ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) holds a press conference after the LDP leadership election, in Tokyo, Sept 27, 2024. AP

retary, a pivotal post that includes the role of top government spokesman, two sources familiar with the appointments earlier told Reuters.

A close Ishiba ally, Takeshi Iwaya, a former defence chief, will take over as foreign minister, while Gen Nakatani will return to the defence ministry, a position he held in 2016, said the sources, who asked not to be identified because they are not authorized to speak to the media, confirming earlier media reports.

Yoji Muto, a former junior minister, will take charge at the economy, trade and industry ministry, a separate source said.

Not included in his picks, however, is Sanae Takaichi, the headline conservative he beat by 215 votes to 194 on Friday in the closest leadership election in almost seven decades.

Takaichi's absence could make it difficult for Ishiba to manage a fractious ruling group roiled by scandals that have sapped its public support.

Media reports that Takaichi has declined a post "could point to a weakness in Ishiba's support base, which could cause him problems going forward," said Hiroshi Shiratori, a political science professor at Hosei University in Tokyo.

Ishiba picked another rival, Shinjiro Koizumi, as his election campaign chief, along with former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, a Koizumi backer, who is the party's new vice-president. Both joined him at his press conference on Monday.

Ishiba, 67, won the LDP leadership race on his fifth attempt with strong backing from rank-and-file members.

Russia owns initiative in Ukrainian conflict – Serbian president

BRUSSELS

RUSSIA has the initiative in the Ukrainian conflict, while the West is finding it increasingly difficult to finance Kiev, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic told Politico.

"The Russians have the initiative on the battlefield [in Ukraine]. At the beginning, the West thought that it would be an easy job for them to invest into Ukrainian defense and to finance them [the Kiev authorities] because of Russia's relatively weak economy. Now, it's becoming much more difficult," Vucic said.

According to the Serbian president (pictured), European leaders do not want to hear his analysis of the situation in Ukraine because they consider themselves "the smartest people in the world." Therefore, they "don't want to hear anyone who thinks differently," Vucic emphasized.

The Serbian leader also pointed out that "only stupid men can say" that he is "a Russian puppet or a Russian agent." Vucic said that he has met with Russian President Vladimir Putin about 20 times and knows him "quite well," better than any other European leader.

However, the Serbian head of state added that he has not communicated with the Russian president in two and a half years, unlike some European leaders who have regular contacts with Putin.

On September 27, Vucic said that the Ukrainian conflict would eventually end with a cessation of hostilities according to the Korean scenario, on the line of engagement, a situation that could last for decades.

The Russian authorities, for their part, have repeatedly stated that pumping weapons into Ukraine will not weaken Russia's resolve and will not change the course of the special military operation.

Agencies



EAM Jaishankar's 'fruitful week' at UNGA79, interacted with 75 Foreign Ministers, representatives

NEW DELHI

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar concluded an extremely 'fruitful week' at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA79), interacting with 75 Foreign Ministers and representatives to foster global cooperation.

During his recent visit to United States, EAM Jaishankar participated in eight pivotal plurilateral meetings, including those of G20, G4, India Brazil South Africa Form (IBSA), BRICS, the first-ever Joint Ministerial Meeting of L69 and C-10 group nations, India-CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) Foreign Ministers meeting, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) meet, India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Jaishankar also attended key events, such as the Summit for Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats, the signing of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty, and gatherings hosted by the Asia Society, events hosted by Observer Research Foundation (ORF), and participated in the launch of the PanIIT Alumni Foundation.

EAM Jaishankar delivered India's national statement at the UNGA, addressing pressing global concerns and emphasizing India's commitment to reformed multilateralism. In his speech, he also strongly condemned Pakistan's policy on Kashmir and cross-border terrorism.

Following the conclusion of the 79th UNGA, Jaishankar shared a compelling video showcasing the vital engagements and interactions he had during the assembly and wrote, "Concluded an extremely fruitful week at #UNGA79. Interactions with 75 Foreign Ministers and representatives. Participated in 8 plurilaterals -Delivered 'statement at the 79th UNGA. Truly a Vishwabandhu Bharat, committed to reformed multilateralism."

Foreign Ministers from India, Algeria, US, Italy, South Africa, Ukraine, Russia, Denmark, UAE, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Singapore, Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Philippines also attended the UNGA 79.

Representatives from numerous other countries around the world participated in the assembly, engaging in vital discussions and bilateral meetings.

Notably, the general debate of the 79th session of the General Assembly opens on September 24 and will continue through September 28 and conclude on September 30.

The theme for the general debate of the 79th session of the General Assembly is "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations," according to the UN official statement.

ANI

West, not Russia, to blame for blocking work of UN bodies – Lavrov

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA is not responsible for blocking the work of UN bodies and the blame for this must be placed squarely on the West, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the 79th UN General Assembly session.

"The unprecedented level of arrogance and aggressiveness of Western policies towards Russia not only reduces to nothing the very idea of global cooperation being promoted by the UN Secretary-General, but also increasingly impedes the operation of the entire system of global governance, including the UN Security Council," Lavrov said. "It is not our choice and it is not us who will bear the consequences of such a dangerous course."

He drew attention to the fact that the West, in pursuing its policy of hegemonism, continues to escalate confrontation, the consequences of which can be felt by the whole world.

"It is nakedly clear to the world majority that confrontation and hegemonism will not resolve any global problem," he pointed out. "If the West does not stop, the dire effects of this will be felt by all."

The collective West, Lavrov summarized, "artificially restrain the objective emergence of a multipolar world order, which will be based on the equality of rights of large and small nations, respect for the individual, the equality of men and women, and the right of peoples to determine their own destiny."



"The same applies to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. A confirmation of this principle, to the disgrace of members of our organization, was blocked by the United States and its minions at the Summit of the Future in adopting the relevant pact," he added.

Lavrov urges UN to investigate Nord Stream blasts, Bucha provocation

Lavrov also said that the UN Secretariat

should not stay aloof from establishing the truth about the act of sabotage against the Nord Stream gas pipelines and the provocation in Bucha.

"We understand that the Americans always deny everything and will do everything this time again to sweep under the carpet the facts that have come to light, just as they did in response to irrefutable evidence of their involve-

ment in the terrorist attacks against the Nord Stream pipelines," he said.

"The West is also responsible for obfuscating the truth about the organizers of many other heinous crimes, including the bloody provocation in the Kiev suburb of Bucha in April 2022 and a series of poisonings of Russian citizens in Britain and Germany.

The Secretariat cannot afford to stay an idle onlooker in pursuit of the truth in situations directly affecting global security, and in doing so it is obliged to adhere to Article 100 of the [UN] Charter impeccably, to act impartially, and to avoid the temptation to play into the hands of individual states."

The Russian foreign minister remarked that such connivance was especially unacceptable with regard to those "who openly call not for cooperation, but for splitting the world into a blossoming garden and a jungle, or into those who dine at the democratic table and who find themselves on the menu."

On September 26, 2022, unprecedented damage was caused to three strings of the Nord Stream gas carrier and the never commissioned Nord Stream 2. As Lavrov noted,

Moscow had no doubt that the explosions of the Nord Streams had been staged with support from the United States. The Russian Prosecutor General's Office opened criminal proceedings over an act of international terrorism.

Concert marks 75th founding anniversary of PRC

BEIJING

A concert was held at the Great Hall of the People on Sunday night to celebrate the 75th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China

(PRC).

Chinese President Xi Jinping, other Party and state leaders including Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng, as well as retired senior lead-

ers were among the more than 3,000 people who attended the concert.

The concert featured orchestral music, choral performances, ensemble performances of traditional instruments, piano with a band, and

other artistic expressions. It ended with the entire audience singing "Ode to the Motherland."

China's National Day is celebrated annually on Oct. 1.

Xinhua

China medical team provides urgent medical support to South Sudan orphans

JUBA

SINCE South Sudan gained independence in 2011, Chinese medical teams have been playing a crucial role in providing essential healthcare services to vulnerable children in the world's youngest country.

The arrival of the 12th Chinese medical team in the capital city of Juba on Sept. 4 has brought renewed hope to orphanages struggling with a lack of affordable healthcare options.

Taking over from the outgoing 11th team, which returned to east China's Anhui Province, the new group wasted no time in continuing the tradition of offering free medical care to orphaned children.

Ana Buri, 17, is one of the many beneficiaries of this outreach at Confident Children out of Conflict (CCC). Buri, who fled her family to escape early forced marriage, shared how successive Chinese medical teams have become a crucial source of support at her orphanage, not just through

donations of food and clothes but also through much-needed medical care.

"Medical services here are extremely expensive, and without the help of the Chinese teams, many of the orphans would not receive the needed care," Buri said.

The medical team's impact extends beyond the children. Julius Yanga, security advisor at Juba Orphanage, received immediate treatment for persistent back pain during the team's recent visit.

Founded in 1962 during

Sudan's first civil war, Juba Orphanage is located next to Juba Teaching Hospital, where the Chinese medical teams are based. According to Yanga, the orphanage has struggled to access routine medical care for children due to high costs at local hospitals, but the Chinese team has made a big difference today by treating the sick children.

Yanga noted that many of the children at the orphanage suffer from malaria and typhoid, and the 12th Chinese medical team's visit helped al-

leviate the burden of medical expenses.

Hellen Murshal Boro, executive director of CCC, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the high cost of healthcare in private clinics. She noted that Chinese medical teams have consistently offered free medical support to the children, despite the complex ailments they often deal with, including common diseases like malaria, fever, and respiratory infections.

"The support we receive from the Chinese teams is in-

dispensable," Boro said. "Each year, the outgoing team introduces us to the incoming team, and they immediately step in to help."

Du Changyong, leader of the 12th Chinese medical team, explained that beyond providing care at Juba's main referral hospital, the team also visits orphanages to donate supplies and offer medical services.

"It means a lot for us to carry out these kinds of activities. The cooperation between the two countries starts with

people-to-people exchanges," Du said, adding that his team is committed to delivering medical care services across 10 states, despite facing harsh conditions.

The Chinese medical teams have been delivering healthcare services to South Sudanese communities for over a decade, not only through direct medical outreach but also by providing capacity-building training to local doctors. Their efforts serve as a symbol of the growing ties between China and South Sudan.

Hezbollah leader's death drags Mideast into uncertainty

CAIRO

ISRAEL on Friday evening launched airstrikes on Hezbollah's main headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs, resulting in the death of Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and several other Hezbollah commanders.

The event, which grabbed international headlines, was followed by Israel's largest military operation in Lebanon since 2006, with bombings in Dahieh and regions in southern and eastern Lebanon, leading to more casualties.

Analysts believe that Nasrallah's death could create a power vacuum within Hezbollah, destabilizing Lebanon and adding uncertainty to the broader regional conflict, while altering strategic dynamics in the Middle East.

BROAD CONDEMNATION

According to the Israeli military, Friday's airstrikes killed Nasrallah, alongside other Hezbollah commanders, which was later confirmed by Hezbollah.

Lebanon's MTV TV channel reported that the raids had killed at least six people, injured 91 others, flattened several residential buildings, and caused huge infrastructure damage to the neighborhood.

Lebanese Health Minister Firas Abiad said on Saturday that Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon over the past 24 hours had claimed 11 lives and injured 108.

Shortly after Hezbollah's confirmation of Nasrallah's death, Hamas condemned the Israeli airstrikes on Dahieh as "a cowardly terrorist act, a massacre and a heinous crime" that proves once again Israel's "bloodiness and brutality."

They held Israel fully responsible for destabilizing the region and condemned U.S. support for Israel.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned Israel's "brutal" and "inhuman" attacks, and called for the Islamic world to take "a more decisive stance" against these attacks.

Iran, Iraq, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan and



Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant (1st L, front), Israel's military chief Herzi Halevi (C) and other officers are seen at an Israeli Air Force's command room during the airstrike targeting Hezbollah's headquarters in Israel, on Sept. 27, 2024. (Israel's Ministry of Defense/Handout via Xinhua)

Egypt also condemned Israel's "terrorist" attacks on Dahieh and "brutal aggression" against Lebanon. A few Mideast countries announced days of mourning.

Also on Saturday, Yemen's Houthi group described Nasrallah's passing as a "huge loss," and "a curse that haunts Israel until it is uprooted."

Internationally, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed deep concern over the escalating situation in Beirut and urged relevant parties to "re-commit to the full implementation" of Resolution 1701 and "immediately return to a cessation of hostilities." France also condemned the strikes and urged an immediate cessation of Israeli strikes in Lebanon.

ENSUING DEVELOPMENTS

Hours after the killing of Nasrallah, Israel launched fresh attacks on Dahieh early Saturday, targeting Hezbollah weapons stored under civilian buildings.

Senior Hezbollah officials, including Mohammad Ali Ismail, commander of Hezbollah's mis-

sile unit, and his deputy, Hussein Ahmad Ismail, were reportedly killed in the strikes.

Israeli warplanes also carried out a series of airstrikes on southern and eastern Lebanon, according to Lebanese military sources.

Saturday marked the sixth consecutive day of Israel's most extensive military action in Lebanon since 2006, which the Lebanese Health Ministry said has claimed at least 700 lives. UN humanitarians said the Israeli airstrikes have forced more than 90,000 people to flee their homes in Lebanon.

This marks the latest escalation of the ongoing clashes that began on Oct. 8, 2023, when Hezbollah started launching rockets at Israel in solidarity with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, prompting Israel's retaliatory artillery fire and airstrikes in southeastern Lebanon.

According to the Lebanese Health Ministry, 1,640 people in Lebanon, including 104 children and 194 women, have been killed and 8,408 more injured in Israeli attacks on Lebanon since October last year.

Following Nasrallah's death, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced on Saturday a ban on gatherings of more than 1,000 people in central Israel.

The IDF also said that it successfully intercepted a surface-to-surface missile launched from Yemen toward Israel.

Meanwhile, Iran's flag carrier Iran Air cancelled all its flights to Beirut until further notice.

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Many experts believe that Nasrallah's death has dragged the Middle East into a new phase of uncertainty.

Eyal Zisser, vice rector at Tel Aviv University, told Xinhua that Nasrallah's death has not only reshaped the power structure within Lebanon but also impacted the strategic calculations across the region.

"In the immediate aftermath, Hezbollah faces a severe setback. Losing its entire top echelon in quick succession is not just a tactical loss but a profound organizational shock that could take considerable time to recover from," Zisser said.

"Iran's reliance on proxies is also compromised, given that its network has been significantly impacted by these recent Israeli actions," he said, adding that without the support from Hezbollah, "Hamas might find itself under increased pressure to adapt more flexible approaches in its engagements with Israel." Harel Chorev, a Palestinian affairs expert from Tel Aviv University, told Xinhua that the killing of Nasrallah and other figures further complicated "an already tumultuous situation" and shifted "the balance of power in the Middle East."

"It represents a symbolic defeat and a strategic vacuum that Hezbollah will struggle to fill," Chorev said, adding that "the apparent ease with which Israel has been able to neutralize key figures within militant groups sends a stark warning" to other militant leaders and organizations in the region.

"The underlying tone from Israeli officials suggests a readiness to exploit these vulnerabilities aggressively to ensure regional dominance," Chorev said.

"The assassination is likely to embolden (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu, who now sees the opportunity to impose a new paradigm. It is unlikely that Israel will stop the bombing of Lebanon. It is also unlikely that Hezbollah is totally destroyed," Dania Koleilat Khatib, a specialist on U.S.-Arab relations, wrote on the website of Arab News.

"Unless there is someone to steer events, an unbridled Netanyahu will drive the region into more chaos," she wrote.

Through these strikes, Israel conveyed a clear message that it will no longer accept the tit-for-tat attacks on its northern border, but it may not necessarily get its desired impact, Mireille Rebeiz, a Lebanon expert at U.S.-based Dickinson College, told The Conversation on Saturday.

"The fresh wave of violence may only reinforce Hezbollah's resolve. Furthermore, it might see more involvement of other Hezbollah-aligned players in the region," she said.

Youssef Diab, a political analyst from the Lebanese University, regarded the death of Nasrallah as "a turning point" in the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, as it will result in a void at Hezbollah's leadership level.

The assassination will also have a significant influence on the conflict between Israel and Iran, a primary backer of Hezbollah, he told Xinhua.

"All eyes are directed to Iran and what it will say after this big event," he said.

Mehran Kamrava, professor of government at Georgetown University's campus in Qatar, told Reuters Saturday that Iran would not react forcefully to recent events out of its doctrine of "strategic patience."

"And I think that doctrine will continue," Kamrava said. "They are reluctant to engage Israel in any direct way."

Xinhua

German stakeholders are striving to prevent a crisis in the auto industry

FRANKFURT

AS the predicament in Germany's auto giant Volkswagen (VW) unfolds, several jobs are on the line. Stakeholders from various sectors are collaborating to prevent a crisis in the automotive industry, particularly concerning VW.

Earlier this week, German Economics Minister Robert Habeck convened a "car summit" to discuss the headwinds facing the country's auto industry with representatives of the German Association of the Automotive Industry, workers' union IG Metall and leading carmakers such as VW, BMW and Mercedes-Benz. The summit aimed to find common ground to navigate the industry challenges.

The summit failed to yield an immediate solution, but Habeck was quoted by local media as saying that the government would devise concrete measures to tackle the current crisis. Some analysts said this puts the German auto industry at a "make or break" moment.

The summit was triggered by an ongoing dis-



An aerial photo taken on Aug. 20, 2023 shows a view of Volkswagen (Anhui) Automotive Company Limited in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province. Xinhua

pute at VW, Europe's largest carmaker. In early September, the company announced that its management was mulling plant closures at home as sales in Europe have been shrinking during the past few years.

German automakers' capacity utilization has been decreasing. VW revealed it had around 500,000 cars of excess capacity, equivalent to two plants.

On Sept. 10, the company announced that it was terminating labor agreements, which provided job guarantees until 2029 at six plants in Germany. The job security agreements at VW have been in practice for decades, and their scrapping is widely considered a precursor to layoffs.

Both the consideration of plant closures in Germany and the termination of job se-

curity agreements are unprecedented in the carmaker's history.

VW recently denied reports indicating that up to 30,000 jobs with the automaker in Germany are at stake.

On behalf of employees, IG Metall bluntly rejected the idea of layoffs and insisted that the company's management should be responsible for weathering the challenges.

VW has been under pressure to fulfill an ambitious program it initiated in 2023 to cut costs by 10 billion euros (11 billion U.S. dollars) by 2026. For the second time in three months, VW cut its yearly estimate on Friday. It now projects an operating profit margin of roughly 5.6 percent in 2024, down from the range of 6.5 to 7 percent it had previously predicted. The company had

already reduced its profitability prediction in July partly due to anticipated expenses for the Audi plant in Brussels.

The VW crisis has had a far-reaching effect on the German auto industry and may even spill over to other pillar industries.

The auto industry is at risk of losing market share to competitors in the future, which could cause the mechanical engineering industry to lose its key national sales market, warned a report published by the Federation of German Industries this month.

At the center of the crisis is the auto industry's transformation toward an e-mobility future.

Despite pressure from the electric vehicle (EV) and the German government for a faster transformation, automakers are cautious about phasing out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, on which the German auto industry flourishes.

At a time when ICE vehicles are more profitable, and consumers in the EU are growing more reluctant to adopt electric cars, which are yet to outperform ICE vehicles in cost and range, German carmakers are torn between going all-electric and retaining ICE production.

The abrupt withdrawal of incentives for electric vehicles in Germany in December 2023 has been blamed as one of the main reasons for the slump in EV sales this year. Media reports indicate that policymakers in Germany are considering reviving the incentive scheme to encourage the uptake of EVs.

Rwanda traces Marburg virus closely as deaths hit 8

KIGALI

RWANDAN authorities said on Sunday they are closely monitoring up to 300 individuals identified as contacts of confirmed Marburg virus cases since an outbreak hit the country.

As of Sunday, the Ministry of Health reported that 26 people have contracted the virus, including eight fatalities.

During a press conference in Kigali on Sunday evening, Health Minister Sabin Nsanzimana did not rule out the possibility of more cases. He said that to mitigate the risk of disease transmission, identified contacts are being isolated in various locations and managed according to their levels of exposure to infected individuals.

Nsanzimana urged the public to remain calm, emphasizing that ongoing response efforts are focused on contact tracing, expedited testing, treatment, and ensuring the dissemination of accurate information about the disease.

"People can continue with their daily activities as there is no ban on any activity as part of the Marburg prevention measures. People should not panic

as we have identified all the hot-spots of the disease and are taking appropriate action," he said.

Reaffirming Rwanda's readiness to contain the outbreak, the minister urged the public to observe preventive measures, while the ministry continues to investigate the origins of the outbreak.

At the same press conference, Brian Chilombo, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Rwanda, highlighted the country's robust community healthcare system, which facilitates contact tracing and efforts to contain the virus.

He noted that the WHO is prepared to provide additional testing equipment, and some experimental treatments, and that a team of seven expert researchers specializing in the virus will arrive in Rwanda in the coming days to enhance the country's healthcare capacity and improve understanding of the disease.

The Ministry of Health has advised anyone experiencing symptoms such as high fever, severe headaches, vomiting, muscle pain, or stomach aches to visit their nearest health facility.

South-South cooperation project improving lives of Cameroonians

YAOUNDE

RISING from Cameroon's East region at the confluence of the Lom and Pangar rivers of the Sanaga Basin, the Lom-Pangar Hydroelectric Plant stands as one of the nation's largest hydropower facilities.

When China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd (CAMCE), a subsidiary of China National Machinery Industry Corporation (Sinomach), began constructing the megastructure, it aimed to increase hydropower generation capacity, reduce seasonal variability of water flow in the Sanaga Basin and increase access to electricity.

"The construction of the plant began in 2019, with the

final unit officially handed over to the owner (Cameroon) on Sept. 17 of this year, marking the project's completion. Three units were delivered for commercial operation by the end of 2023, and with the completion of Unit 2, the last unit, the entire project is now fully operational," said You Yong, project director of the Lom-Pangar Hydroelectric Plant.

AN END TO ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CHALLENGES

Before the advent of the hydropower plant, the East region, Cameroon's breadbasket, which relied on electricity generated by a thermal power plant, was notorious for permanent power cuts.

The completion of the hydropower plant ushered in a golden era of regular electricity supply and marked a critical milestone in Cameroon's quest to increase electricity production, said Abba Alhadi Oumate, an official of the state-run Electricity Development Corporation.

With a capacity of 30 megawatts, the hydropower plant is playing a pivotal role in providing a reliable and sustainable source of clean energy to the local community.

"The production of the plant is more stable than the production of the thermal power plant," Oumate told Xinhua as he supervised workers in the control room of the hydropow-

er plant.

The hydropower plant will "meet the electricity needs" of the region, declared You Yong, the project director of the Lom-Pangar Hydroelectric Plant.

Seated in his air-conditioned office in Bertoua, the chief town of the East region about some 90 km north of the Lom-Pangar plant, Jean Marie Dimbele Sodea, mayor of Bertoua, said the project has alleviated the energy crisis.

"Since the Lom Pangar power plant went operational, we no longer experience power cuts and voltage drops. These voltage drops destroyed devices in households and stores," Sodea said.

CATALYST FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Apart from stable power, the project has contributed to the growth of local industries, including food service, handicrafts, agro-processing and tourism, said Sodea. "For some time, industrialists have been arriving in the region. I am a very happy mayor because my city and my region will be industrialized," he said.

When night falls in Bertoua, Mathieu Tchugwa, a businessman, switches on the light and it is business as usual. Tchugwa, who owns shops in most parts of Cameroon, recently arrived from the commercial hub of Douala to open a branch of his business in Bertoua.

"I sell frozen products, if I don't have this energy, the products could get bad. I don't have any energy problems and it has been exactly five days since I connected to the electricity network," Tchugwa said. "My shop is working well."

Oumate credited the project with providing invaluable job opportunities.

The unemployment rate in the breadbasket region has risen sharply amid the economic downturn in past years. When the dam project started, it employed 3,000 locals, which partly relieved the employment pressure in the region, Oumate said.

"As of today, we have over

80 locals working here," said Oumate, 38. "It is a project which has considerably improved the daily lives of Cameroonians."

EXAMPLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Didier Pamadjeli has been working for CAMCE for over three years. Before he was employed at the project, he used to work everywhere, barely making ends meet. The dam construction gave his life a leap. "We are the local workers and thanks to this work, we have started some businesses. Salaries are not bad and we have managed to build certain things like a house, and buy land," said the 32-year-old.



Pamba Jiji coach disappointed after loss, eyes recovery against Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

PAMBA Jiji FC's head coach, Goran Kopunovic, expressed his disappointment after his team's 2-0 loss to Coastal Union at the Azam Complex on Saturday.

Despite the setback, Kopunovic (pictured) reassured that there is still unity and solidarity within the team as they strive for their first win in the Premier League.

Goals from John Makwata and Maabad Maulid in the second half secured Coastal Union's victory, marking their first win of the season after a series of losses and draws.

Pamba Jiji, returning to the top flight after more than two decades, have struggled to find their footing, with two losses and four draws to date.

Kopunovic admitted his frustration with the team's inability to score goals and win matches despite intensive training sessions and tactical adjustments. He remains puzzled as to why the team continues to fall short:

"As a coach, it's incredibly frustrating. Despite our solid training sessions and the players' apparent commitment, we're unable to translate that into positive results on match days. This inconsistency is truly baffling."

Reflecting on the game, he added: "We controlled the first half, but two costly errors in the second half allowed Coastal Union to capitalize on their only real scoring opportunities."

"It's a harsh lesson, but I constantly remind my players to stay focused and execute precisely. Unfortunately, today's lapses proved to be our undoing."

The Serbian coach, however, ex-

pressed confidence in his team's unity as they prepare for their next match against Young Africans, the current league leaders.

He sees this as an opportunity for his players to rise to the challenge: "Matches like these are opportunities for our players to prove themselves. We have a talented squad with both domestic and international experience."

"This game is a chance for us to overcome our recent struggles and return to winning form. While Young Africans are a formidable opponent, we need to secure a positive result to improve our overall performance."

Kopunovic emphasized that job security is not a concern for him at the moment, focusing instead on finding ways to help his team regain their winning form.

Meanwhile, Coastal Union head coach Joseph Lazaro celebrated his team's first Premier League win, which has given the club a fresh boost of confidence. Lazaro emphasized the importance of maintaining this momentum:

"I'm thrilled with how my players executed the tactical changes. Today, we were outstanding. I instructed them to outnumber the opposition in the penalty area to create chaos and maintain possession. We achieved our goal, and I'm incredibly pleased with the outcome."

Coastal Union, currently without a permanent home stadium due to renovations at CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga, will face Simba SC in their next match.

The game, scheduled for Friday, will be held at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Taifa Stars facing a much-awaited, consequential battle against DR Congo

By Lloyd Elipokea

THIS Sunday will be D-Day for all unbridled local football aficionados as our national team, the Taifa Stars, will come up against the traditional giants DR Congo in what is a key 2025 AFCON Qualifier with a lot being on the line.

Indeed, in the DR Congo, the Taifa Stars will face-off against the table-toppers of their group, which to all those still in the dark is Group H.

Group H consists of the DR Congo, Tanzania, Guinea, and Ethiopia.

With only two games of the qualifiers having been played, the DR Congo is comfortably ensconced in first place in the group with six points while the Taifa Stars are in second place with four points.

It should be acknowledged that if the DR Congo can see off the Stars in the former's backyard, then this would be a heavy blow to the Taifa Stars' chances of successfully progressing to the 2025 AFCON Finals.

As we all wait on tenterhooks for this weekend's all-important football duel, one would like to call upon the Taifa Stars to head into the football contest with a potent blend of self-assuredness and determination, which should hold them in good stead.

Let us now sink our teeth into this season's CAF inter-club competitions which have now excitingly arrived at the



Tanzania soccer national team (Taifa Stars).

group stage.

Indeed, the draws for the group stage of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederations Cup are both scheduled to take place next Monday.

It should be recalled that while Young Africans are our flag-bearers in the CAF Champions League, Simba SC are our country's representatives in the CAF Confederations Cup.

Naturally, the near-fanatical fans of both local football behemoths will be waiting with bated breath to see which groups their beloved clubs will be drawn in.

It is of course a given that both Simba and Young Africans will be fervently hoping

that they can avoid the appropriately dubbed groups of death, which consist of the continent's leading football sides.

Whichever way things may unfold, though, one hopes that both Young Africans and Simba can fabulously slay the huge giants that might threaten to block their progress in CAF's inter-club championships this season.

And, it is unquestionably a truism that all Tanzanians will be keeping their fingers crossed as we approach next Monday, which is when the group stage draws of both the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederations Cup will be held.

Let us now switch focus to

the national U-20 football team, the Ngorongoro Heroes, who are presently readying themselves for the Under-20 AFCON CECAFA Qualifiers, which will be staged in Dar es Salaam from October 6 to 20.

Under the tutelage of their head coach Boniface Mkwasa, the Ngorongoro Heroes have been preparing for some time now for the important task at hand.

In 2021, Tanzania admirably qualified for the Under-20 AFCON but sadly, they were ousted from the competition at the group stage.

Here's hoping then that the Ngorongoro Heroes can wonderfully rise to the occasion on home soil.



Pupils from Lumumba (in white and green jersey) and Yuniti primary schools pictured recently during their hockey match at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Sean 'Diddy' Combs faces new sex assault allegations in woman's lawsuit

By DAVE COLLINS

SEAN "Diddy" Combs was hit with new sexual assault allegations Friday as a woman filed a lawsuit in New York saying she was repeatedly raped and drugged at the music mogul's homes and became pregnant after one of the encounters.

It's the latest of several similar lawsuits by women against Combs, who also was arrested last week on a federal sex trafficking indictment.

The lawsuit was filed against Combs, his companies and several associates and seeks undisclosed damages for physical injuries, severe emotional distress, humiliation, anxiety and other harms. A lawyer for Combs, his company and one of his representatives did not immediately return emails seeking comment Friday.

The woman in the latest lawsuit, identified by the pseudonym Jane Doe, accuses

Combs of sexually assaulting her while she was unconscious from drugs, and it alleges Combs and his acquaintances recorded sexual encounters without her permission. She says that she met Combs overseas in fall 2020 and that the assaults and harassment continued through July this year. Doe says she often was coerced and harassed into traveling to Combs' homes in New York, Los Angeles and Miami and other cities, including monthly in 2021 and 2022.

"At every visit, (Combs) would make her 'perform a show' for him and would ply her with alcohol and substances until she passed out – she would wake up with bruising and injuries but with no recollection of how she sustained her injuries," the lawsuit says.

In a July 2022 encounter with Combs at his Los Angeles home, the woman alleges

in the lawsuit, she was forced to ingest drugs she believes included ketamine and blacked out. She later took a pregnancy test and told Combs it was positive, she says. A Combs associate repeatedly demanded she get an abortion, and she had a miscarriage, she asserts.

This past July, Doe says, Combs "commanded" her to go to his home in Miami, where she alleges Combs shoved two pills in her mouth. She says that the next morning, she felt ill and confused and could not remember what had happened the night before, and that the bedroom was in disarray.

Doe, being represented by attorneys Marie Napoli and Joseph Ciaccio, also alleges Combs and his associates tracked her location and monitored her conversations. She says Combs discouraged her from working and gave her an "allow-

ance" that he used to control her.

"Powerful figures in the entertainment industry have long exploited aspiring artists and fans," Napoli said in a statement. "Recent high-profile lawsuits aim to hold these celebrities accountable, potentially transforming industry practices and providing justice for victims. No one is above the law. Fame and wealth do not protect Sean 'Diddy' Combs from serious allegations of sex trafficking and abuse."

On Tuesday, another woman sued Combs, alleging that the music mogul and his head of security raped her and recorded it on video at his New York recording studio in 2001.

Combs remains jailed without bail in New York on the federal charges alleging he ran a vast network that facilitated sexual crimes and committed shocking acts of violence, using blackmail and other

tactics to protect Combs and those close to him.

He pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking. His attorney said he is innocent and will fight to clear his name.

Earlier this month, Combs admitted that he beat his ex-girlfriend Cassie in a hotel hallway in 2016 and apologized after CNN released video of the attack.

Combs, 54, is one of the best-known music executives, producers and performers across hip-hop, having won three Grammys and worked with artists such as Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige, Usher, Lil Kim, Faith Evans and 112. He founded Bad Boy Records in 1993, the influential fashion line Sean John, a vodka brand and the Revolt TV network. He sold off his stake in the latter company in June of this year.

AP

The problem facing Man City stretches beyond Rodri's injury absence

By Richard Jolly

MANCHESTER City began without one of the outstanding individuals of last season. No, not that one. Or not just that one, anyway. Rodri was the most conspicuous absentee at St James' Park on Saturday as, barring an injury to Erling Haaland, he will be for the rest of the campaign. But Phil Foden started on the bench. His bit-part role has been camouflaged by the sudden realisation Rodri will have no part to play in the next nine months but it is less than six weeks since Foden was anointed PFA Player of the Year.

It is an understatement to say his candidature for a second successive award has had a slow start. City have played six league games this season. Foden has begun none. Euro 2024 was why he was an opening-day replacement against Chelsea. He missed two matches through illness, spent the next as an unused substitute and came on in the last two. Perhaps it is a fact that points to potential improvement for City: Foden, scorer of 27 goals last time around, could provide an injection of excellence for a Rodri-less side.

If, that is, Pep Guardiola is willing to unleash him. He seems in no great rush to do so. He sounded vague in his reasoning. "Phil is playing but Phil doesn't need time when he's clever and fine," he said. "It's not a problem. I know how important he is. It doesn't matter to start or come from the bench." Recently, Foden has been a deluxe impact substitute, showing the ability to sniff an opening that has produced late shots against Internazionale, Arsenal and Newcastle. City drew all three games, though.

Foden forms part of a broader issue. There is a sense Guardiola is searching for his finest formula. He has an imbalanced squad, with a lone specialist striker, a solitary - now injured - out-and-out defensive midfielder, and arguably too many options for the four spots that were supposed to separate Haaland from Rodri.

So far, though, perhaps only Jack Grealish and Savinho have been near their best. That the Englishman began among the back-ups against Arsenal and the Brazilian did at Newcastle illustrates Guardiola's quest for the right combination: the stalemate with Inter was a night when he seemed to pick the wrong wingers.

The congestion and competition for places was caused in part by Ilkay Gundogan's return; an opportunistic deal for City, but one with potential knock-on effects for players such as Bernardo Silva and Foden. Gundogan was in box-crashing mode when he almost scored a winner against Inter. He started superbly against Arsenal but faded. He was ineffectual at St James' Park. Guardiola accepts that City have not seen him at his finest since his comeback. "It will take time," he said. "He didn't make a pre-season, he needs to do the rhythm. But he gives you something special."

Or he will, anyway. Silva, meanwhile, probably had his best game of the season in his first, his dramatic cameo in the Community Shield. Kevin De Bruyne was in good form before being injured.

Yet the presence of each means City have four high-class players whose preference is to occupy two central roles, even if much of Silva's gametime this season has been on the right and perhaps Foden will end up returning to the flanks. Or is that reduced to one role in the middle? Because Guardiola replaced the irreplaceable Rodri with two players on Saturday, Mateo Kovacic and Rico Lewis in a double pivot. It does not automatically mean it will be his strategy for the season, but hinted at a conservatism in the tougher fixtures.

It is notable, too, that while Gundogan often occupied a deeper role during his first spell in England, his initial outings now have all come further forward. Does Guardiola see him as part of the solution to the problem of Rodri's knee injury?

Issues with individual form are a reason why City have been stodgy for much of the matches against Inter, Arsenal and Newcastle; except, really, the first 20 minutes against the Gunners when Rodri was in situ (the Spaniard had been below par against the Serie A champions). Another, though, is the question of chemistry.

The blueprint Guardiola found at the end of the treble-winning season entailed Gundogan and De Bruyne ahead of Rodri, flanked by Grealish and Silva, with Foden and Riyad Mahrez in reserve and John Stones sashaying into midfield from the back. Now Foden is back among the replacements, Stones alongside him. And the sidelining of the latter may be a factor in City's lack of fluency.

If it underlines the way Haaland has carried City so far, it also indicates the scope for the side to look more formidable when they have the Foden of last season or the Gundogan of the previous three or when they have a combination who gel. And yet for attacking midfielders to excel, it can require the platform defensive midfielders provide. And City have lost the premier one.

THE INDEPENDENT

Champions League returns missing Mbappé, Rodri, Barella as injury wave now hits European soccer

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

KEY players will be sidelined when the Champions League resumes today after a wave of injuries within a week of the new-look competition starting.

Kylian Mbappé's sore hamstring is likely to sideline him beyond Wednesday when he was due to return to France with defending champion Real Madrid to face Lille.

Serious knee injuries mean Manchester City midfielder Rodri is out for the season and Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen will miss at least most of it.

Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella, who was a standout playing against Rodri on Sept. 18, will miss at least one Champions League game because of a thigh strain.

The injuries to four players who were involved at the European Championship into the knockout phase have sharpened the debate about player workload in a calendar made more congested by



Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappé. Agencies

the bigger Champions League.

The extended program is what influential clubs all-but forced UEFA to create and the 18 games this week, split between Tuesday and Wednesday, still leaves each of them with six more to play through January.

***Another final rematch**

There were two repeats of past finals in the first week of games that relaunched the Champions League in a single-standings format. Man City and Inter drew 0-0 and Liverpool won 3-1 at AC Milan.

The next rematch comes Wednesday when Aston Villa hosts Bayern Munich, a giant of the European Cup era that was shocked 1-0 in the 1982 final.

Villa Park will host a first game in the competition since March 1983 when the English side's title defense was ended by Juventus.

Both eased to winning starts two weeks ago. Villa won 3-0 at Young Boys and Bayern's nine goals against Dinamo Zagreb was a record for any team in the 33-season Champions League era.

Harry Kane scored four in Bayern's 9-2 win and has a good record visiting Villa, with five goals there in five Premier League games for Tottenham. He faces a late check on an ankle injury.

***Kane edges Haaland**

Kane's fast start to the season with 10 goals in seven games for Bayern has outpaced even Erling Haaland's 10 in eight

games for Man City.

Haaland was kept quiet by Inter for the second time in 16 months, a fact he was reminded of in a post-game talk with the Italian champion's center back Francesco Acerbi, who smiled and held up two fingers.

Haaland should find it easier on Tuesday in Slovakia when Man City faces Slovan Bratislava, which took the second biggest beating in the opening round, 5-1 at Celtic.

***Crowd size and fan fervor**

The pulsating atmosphere at Celtic Park for a rare European win by the Scottish champion stood out in an opening week where anticipation was not universal.

Pundits including former Man City goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel noted a quietness about the stadium for the Inter game. The attendance was nearly 2,000 higher five days later when Man City met Arsenal in a tempestuous Premier League clash where title ambitions were already in play.

Milan-Liverpool was a heavyweight European fixture yet far from sold

out, with fewer than 60,000 at San Siro. The crowd topped 70,000 at each of Milan's first two Serie A home games this season, and 66,000 on the equivalent Champions League opening night last season to see another English club, Newcastle.

Paris Saint-Germain drew at least 46,000 fans for each home game in Ligue 1 this season - and all three Champions League group-stage games last season - yet fewer than 40,000 were at Parc des Princes to see European debutant Girona two weeks ago.

Sporting Lisbon also had 40,000 fans for a Champions League opener against Lille that was 6,000 down on the crowd for a domestic league game against Porto.

The attendance and atmosphere trends will be watched as fans respond to the longer and more expensive program of four Champions League home games. The 36-team standings is set to be more dynamic for the final two rounds in January.

***Today's games**

The raucous atmo-

sphere should follow Celtic to Borussia Dortmund whose fans in the Yellow Wall tribune are among the noisiest in Europe.

Bundesliga champion Bayer Leverkusen hosts night last season to see another English club, Newcastle.

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The attendance and atmosphere trends will be watched as fans respond to the longer and more expensive program of four Champions League home games. The 36-team standings is set to be more dynamic for the final two rounds in January.

Dinamo Zagreb fired its coach, Sergej Jakirovi, after the drubbing at Bayern and brought back Nenad Bjelica for a second spell. He starts in the Champions League hosting Monaco.

AP

'This felt like the end for Ten Hag - if not now, very soon'

By Phil McNulty

MANCHESTER United manager Erik ten Hag wore the haunted, hunted expression of someone reaching the end of the road after Tottenham Hotspur inflicted abject embarrassment at Old Trafford.

Since United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe and the club's restructured hierarchy eventually chose to keep faith with Ten Hag in the summer, he has been placed in a position where he is only one bad defeat away from a crisis and unforgiving scrutiny.

By that measure, the 54-year-old is running out of time after a United performance that was as shambolic, incompetent and undisciplined as any he has presided over in his tenure.

Winning the EFL Cup 18 months ago and last season's dramatic FA Cup final victory against Manchester City, which effectively kept Ten Hag in a job, have been the highs among many lows - but it does not get much lower than this.

Ten Hag's Spurs counterpart Ange Postecoglou has been under the microscope himself after an indifferent start to the season, but Sunday's 3-0 rout was another outstanding step on the road to rehabilitation, a fourth straight win since losing the north London derby at home to Arsenal.

United, in the sharpest of contrasts, were a shambles - a rabble.

The big question looming over Old Trafford as the rain lashed down on thousands of red seats vacated by supporters who had stuck admirably by their side was this: can Ten Hag survive? And if so for how long? This is a manager who



Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag looks downbeat after the home defeat by Spurs [Getty Images]

is looking increasingly out of his depth. He has pulled back from the precipice before, most notably in the summer, but is back there again.

If there had been small signs of improvement defensively this campaign, that felt a distance away at Old Trafford on Sunday. This felt very much like the end - if not now, then very soon.

From the first whistle, Spurs were all over United like a rash, the tone set in the third minute when the magnificent Micky van de Ven raced like a white flash from inside his own half, leaving a succession of United players in his slipstream before setting up Brennan Johnson's simple finish.

United started dreadfully and went into a rapid decline, somehow surviving until half-time as Spurs carved them open on countless occasions but could not add a second.

***Talk about Bruno can't mask United's sorry truth**

Ten Hag claimed the red card shown to captain Bruno Fernandes three minutes before half-time "changed the game". It did not. United's manager is deluding only himself if he believes this. It made United's task even harder, but Spurs were threatening to run riot even be-

fore Fernandes' dismissal.

If it was decided to stage a world straw-clutching championship, Ten Hag would have a good chance of winning with that one.

And let's not forget this was a Spurs side stripped of their injured talisman Son Heung-min. Son's replacement Timo Werner actually spared United further punishment, confirming he remains a willing trier but a thoroughly unreliable finisher, twice shooting lamely at United keeper Andre Onana when clean through.

It was a tough day for Ten Hag's latest signing, Manuel Ugarte, who got nowhere near the Spurs midfield, while Joshua Zirkzee, hooked at half-time, as yet shows no sign of adding any of the cutting edge he was bought for at a cost of £36.54m.

United now lie in 12th in the Premier League having lost three of their first six games, the figures adding to the growing belief that the end game is looming into view

These statistics lie like wreckage around Ten Hag's feet.

***Daunting week looming even if Ten Hag survives**

One old manager once stated that you can smell a club in trouble when you walk into the stadium. There is certainly a very worrying stench around Old Trafford.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

DID P.DIDDY DO IT?

IT IS NOT ABOUT... WHAT P.DIDDY DID OR WHAT P.DIDDY DID NOT DO!



SPORT

'This felt like the end for Ten Hag – if not now, very soon'

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Azam boss Badr Driss frustrated by draw against Mashujaa FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM's assistant coach, Badr Driss, expressed disappointment at dropping two points, characterizing their draw against Mashujaa as a frustrating result.

Despite dominating much of the play and creating several clear chances, the Chamazi-based side had to settle for a goalless draw in their Premier League encounter at Lake Tanganyika Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Azam controlled the game, but Mashujaa's resilience earned them a valuable point.

Driss reflected on the missed opportunities and shared his sense of frustration after the match: "First of all, we are disappointed with the result because we came here to win and to get three points."

The Moroccan coach also voiced concern about decisions made by the match officials, suggesting that a legitimate goal was disallowed.

"We are a little bit disappointed with some decisions from the referees. Sometimes they make the right decisions, sometimes they don't. This is football; we have to accept it. We're not looking for excuses, but we will review the game and analyze everything to see what happened."

He added: "We scored a goal that was ruled offside, but we believe it wasn't. That goal could have changed the game, giving us the confidence to play more freely."

"We also had a great chance in the last minutes when Nasoro Saadun hit the crossbar. We are disappointed because, in each game, we aim for three points, but we have to deal with circumstances like these."

Driss remained hopeful, emphasizing the need to improve for future matches: "We have to adapt, and for sure, we'll try to be better for the next game. We need to focus on what's ahead. I want to thank the players for their efforts. They fought hard, and we saw great team spirit."

The result leaves Azam in fifth place in the Premier League table, with only two wins from their first six matches.

They are winless in their last two games, with the draw against Mashujaa following a 2-0 draw against Simba last Thursday in Zanzibar.

Azam will return to action on Thursday with a trip to Namungo for their final league match before the October international break.

Gamondi pleased with 'clear win' despite narrow victory against KMC FC



Young Africans left back Chadrack Boka in action during their Premier League match against KMC FC held at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Young Africans won 1-0. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans maintained their perfect start to the Premier League season by clinching their third consecutive win, defeating KMC 1-0 at Azam Chamazi Complex on Sunday.

Maxi Nzegeli's early goal was enough to secure the three points, extending Young Africans' unbeaten run to 21 matches across all competitions, a streak that stretches back to their last league defeat in March against Azam.

During this remarkable run, Young Africans have recorded

18 victories and three draws, continuing to assert their dominance in the Tanzanian football landscape.

The defending champions created multiple opportunities to increase their lead against KMC but were ultimately unable to find the back of the net again.

Despite the narrow scoreline, head coach Miguel Gamondi expressed satisfaction with the team's performance.

"It was a tough match, as they all are, but I'm happy with how we played. We controlled the entire game and created chances. The other team didn't pose many dangerous threats. I think we deserved one or two more goals, but football is like that," Gamondi said.

He praised KMC for their solid organization and aggressive play.

"Credit to the other team - they weren't just sitting back. They were

well-organized and played with a lot of intensity. It's a very good team. The most important thing for us was to win and get the three points. I think it was a clear win," he said.

Gamondi defended the slim margin of victory, pointing to the busy schedule his side has faced.

"Scoring one goal is enough for a team that has played four games in 12 days. People seem to think that if Young Africans don't score more than one goal, it's a bad result. But look at the other teams in the league - how many are scoring three or four goals regularly? "Of course, I want to win 3-0, and maybe today we deserved that, but KMC's goalkeeper was fantastic, and their defenders were excellent. Give credit to them. It's not a problem for me, and I'm very happy with the result," he added.

Young Africans opened their league campaign with a 2-0 victory against Kagera Sugar, followed by a 1-0 win over Ken Gold last Wednesday.

They are now four points behind the top of the Premier League table with three matches in hand, putting them in a strong position to rise to the summit as the season progresses.

The next challenge for Young Africans will be to maintain their winning momentum as they balance a busy fixture schedule while keeping their eyes on defending their Premier League title.

Dauids reflects on missed chances but applauds Simba's resilience in 1-0 win

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club continued their impressive start to the season with a hard-earned 1-0 victory over Dodoma Jiji at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Sunday. Jean Ahoua's penalty goal proved decisive as Simba extended their unbeaten run in the Premier League, securing three crucial points.

The match was tightly contested, with both teams displaying grit and determination. Despite the challenging nature of the game, Simba held firm, maintaining their unbeaten streak and keeping a clean sheet.

In his post-match interview, Simba SC head coach Fadlu Dauids expressed satisfaction with the result, though he admitted that his team didn't fully implement their game plan.

"We secured three points and kept a clean sheet, which is always a positive. However, the plan we had for this match didn't come to fruition as we had hoped," Dauids acknowledged.

Dauids praised his players for their discipline and resilience, particularly in light of their demanding schedule. "Playing multiple games in such a short period is tough, but the players maintained their structure and focus. These experiences are invaluable as we prepare for CAF competitions. It's crucial that we maintain our shape and balance, especially under pressure," he said.



Simba Sports Club attacking midfielder Jean Ahoua scores his side's winning goal from a penalty spot during their Premier League match against Dodoma Jiji at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Sunday. Simba won 1-0. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

Simba had several opportunities to extend their lead, particularly in the first half, but failed to capitalize. Dauids noted a key chance that was narrowly cleared off the line.

"We had clear opportunities to increase our lead, but I had to make some tactical adjustments in the second half, including taking off a striker to balance the team and regain control. In the end, I'm pleased with the result and the effort from the players," he added.

The decisive moment of the match came in the 63rd minute when Ahoua converted a penalty after Dodoma Jiji's Salmin Hoza fouled Simba captain Mohammed Hussein inside the box. As Hussein maneuvered into the penalty area, Hoza's ill-timed challenge brought him down, leaving the referee no choice but to award the penalty.

Despite protests from the Dodoma Jiji bench, Ahoua confidently stepped up and sent the ball past the goalkeeper, sparking celebrations among Simba fans.

Dodoma Jiji's goalkeeper made several crucial saves throughout the match, but Ahoua's penalty was too much to handle. The goal energized Simba's attack, with striker Leonel Ateba continuing to pose a threat to Dodoma Jiji's defense. Ateba unleashed two powerful shots in the opening minutes, forcing the goalkeeper into action, and he remained a constant threat throughout the game.

Simba had another chance to double their lead in the 26th minute when Debora Fernandez, later named man of the match, received a perfectly timed pass from Kelvin Kijili. However, Fernandez's shot was cleared off the line

by a Dodoma Jiji defender, denying Simba a second goal.

Dodoma Jiji fought valiantly and came close to score in the 16th minute when Mwana Kabuta's strike rattled the crossbar. Paul Peter also nearly levelled the score with a late effort from a well-executed set piece, but his shot sailed wide, leaving Dodoma Jiji to regret their missed chances.

Simba's fourth consecutive league win, combined with four clean sheets, has propelled them to third place in the standings with 12 points. They remain just one point behind league leaders Singida Black Stars and Fountain Gate. Notably, Simba boast the league's best offensive record, scoring 10 goals without conceding.

Coach Dauids emphasized the importance of Simba's defensive stability as they continue to build momentum.

"Keeping four clean sheets in a row is not easy, and it's a testament to the hard work of the entire team. We have a strong foundation, and it's important to build on this as we head into more challenging fixtures, especially in CAF competitions," he said.

As the final whistle blew, Simba players celebrated their hard-fought victory, while Dodoma Jiji left the pitch with their heads held high, knowing they had put up a strong fight against one of the league's top teams.

With their unbeaten run intact, Simba will now focus on upcoming fixtures as they aim to maintain momentum and challenge for the top spot. Their ability to grind out results, even in difficult matches, will be crucial as they pursue domestic and continental success.

For Dodoma Jiji, the defeat was disappointing, but their spirited performance against a formidable opponent gives them confidence moving forward. They showed resilience and created several good opportunities and, with a bit more luck, could have earned a result.

As the league progresses, both teams will be eager to continue their quests for success, with Simba eyeing the title and Dodoma Jiji aiming to rise in the standings. The season promises to deliver more thrilling encounters as the competition intensifies.

5 EATV MONDAY
TONIGHT @ 9:00
5Sports

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrica RADIO
05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise
88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

