



## SECURITY



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# TRA, TPSF working on rating taxes, compliance

*The Mainland tax system is composed of income taxes, value added tax (VAT), import duties and excise duties that are similar to levies*

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CLOER partnership and collaboration between the revenue authorities and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) is being forged to work on tax administration challenges facing investors

and traders.

Yusuph Mwenda, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) commissioner general made the pledge in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a high-level consultative meeting between TRA and the heads of private

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Jubilant residents of Sumbawanga pictured near the municipality's Nelson Mandela Stadium on Wednesday shortly before President Samia Suluhu Hassan arrived there and addressed a rally as she continued with a working tour of Rukwa Region. Photo: State House

## Overeating, long fasts both risky, medics say

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

PEOPLE who go for long periods without meals are at risk of developing stomach ulcers, whose treatment can be complicated, medical experts assert.

In remarks at an extended interview, the medics linked with correcting body weight and nutritional components of meals people take, said people need to follow recommendations on healthy diets to stem the rising cases of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), said to be alarming in recent years.

Abubakar Abushiri, a nutritionist at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) issued this precaution in an interview in Dar es Salaam at midweek, stating that a balanced diet needs to have fruits and vegetables at any particular serving.

Stressing the need for a balanced diet, he said there are various cases of NCDs that arise from lifestyles, especially having unbalanced diets, while Dr Eric Muhumba, head of the surgery department at MNH-Mloganzila branch underlined the same risks.

People who overeat without considering nutrition are at risk of becoming obese, he said, explaining that obesity occurs when a person's body mass index (BMI) is 30 or higher, referring to the measure of weight in kilogrammes to square meters

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## Samia: All political parties should use the 4Rs paradigm

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called upon all political parties to adopt the 4Rs—reconciliation, resilience, reform and rebuild philosophy of setting aside loyalty differences and preoccupation with past mistakes to promote national unity.

Speaking yesterday in Tunduma, Songwe Region as part of an ongoing tour, the president emphasized the need for the public to foster unity and cooperation as this is vital for development.

She stressed the importance of taxpayers fulfilling their obligations to enable the government to play its part in development efforts, as proper tax payments facilitate bigger undertakings.

"Tanzania is one so let us be united to achieve this," she said, remarking that the government introduced the 4Rs philosophy

**On September 1 the government will announce new prices for subsidised maize seeds, with a 100kg bag of maize selling at 70,000/- instead of the 42,000/- demanded earlier**

phy for all political parties to move towards its tenets as a national philosophy tied to the need to reconcile, forgive one another and unite in driving change and building the country.

She said that sometimes those trusted to collect taxes may err, which the government has seen and is addressing it, thus the residents need to accept that "all these good things mentioned here are made possible through taxes."

Stella Fiyao (Special Seats, Opposition) had earlier informed the president that after the 2020 elections, many young people left Tanzania for neighbouring Zambia "but have now returned to continue the nation-building process."

She praised President Samia's efforts in uniting Tanzanians and residents of Tunduma to live as one, fostering brother-

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## 'Classroom lessons on rituals could end GBV'

*"In their narratives, the widows shared that it is fellow women, not men, who subject them to appalling conditions during the mourning period"*

By Henry Mwangonde

A GENDER researcher yesterday espoused the need to integrate traditional rituals into the education system to empower girls and boys, thereby changing perceptions and addressing harmful practices that violate human rights.

Dr Regina Opoku, a visiting senior research fellow with the city economic research outfit, REPOA, made the sugges-

tion in Dar es Salaam at the launch of her research-based book titled 'Women on Women Violence in Tanzania: Current realities and future directions.'

Arming girls and boys with such knowledge will help them recognise their roles in refusing to perpetuate gender stereotypes by enabling them to choose to be part of the solution, she stated.

Despite women mostly being the victims, they are undoubtedly perpetrators

of harmful practices tied to patriarchal clan set ups and associated beliefs, she stated, pointing at the need to effectively combat female genital mutilation (FGM), mute house (Nyumba ntobhu), and widow cleansing.

That is tied up with the need to challenge patriarchal power, gender stereotypes and the dominant idea based on the construction of femininity as a mode of living and observations, she said.

"There is a need to incorporate lessons on gender and harmful traditional practices as topics in schools," she says in key findings of the study, highlighting findings from narratives of widows in particular.

The lessons will help illustrate how sexual cleansing perpetuates the patriarchal control framework, subjugating women and impacting the health and wellbeing of widows in the Ukerewe community which was studied. The situation is generally replicated in most of

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## TRA, TPSF working on rating taxes, compliance

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sector organisations, vowing unconditional cooperation to ensure the government's goal of creating a friendlier environment for taxpayers is achieved.

TPSF organized the consultations on the motto "streamline tax administration for an improved business environment and investment climate," with the TRA affirming that it will ensure there is an equal, fair platform between local and foreign investors.

"Our collaboration and partnership will help to properly regulate economic activities. The more you get profit, the more we collect revenues," he remarked, underlining the benefits of collaboration in solving challenges relating to tax compliances.

He also raised the issue of multiplicity of tax-related agencies, affirming that all these initiatives are intended to improve the business environment, while reaffirming the goal of zero tolerance with tax rates interference.

"This is our main priority," he said, reaffirming that TRA officials are under instructions to observe the relevant tax rates, hinting that action against officials breaching this code of ethics.

When TPSF and TRA work together this will improve tax compliance among traders in and across the country, he said, with TPSF chairperson Angelina Ngalula outlining key challenges that need to be reviewed. She listed them as fairness, high tax rates and compliance with tax administration regulations.

She said fairness lacks between traders within the East African Community zone, creating an unequal playground where foreign traders have greater benefits, asserting that the East African Customs Management Act of 2010 was agreed upon by all member states, but is not uniformly applied.

Harmonization of the workings of the customs union is vital to create a fair and competitive trade field among traders in the region, she emphasised, underlining that tax administration was a big challenge that traders encounter.

If well managed it will increase tax collection, she said, specifying that traders have no problem with tax laws but tax compliance by various sections of traders is a big challenge encountered when doing business.

She demanded that TRA look for alternative ways of widening the tax base in order to reach government targets of collecting tax and avoid drawbacks in development projects.

TPSF will be sitting on the table when it is needed for discussion on how to ensure that certain are friendlier to business firms, citing the key challenges facing the tax system as embedded in the tax structure. This includes a narrow tax base and over-dependence on international trade taxes, she asserted.

The Mainland tax system is composed of income taxes, value added tax (VAT), import duties and excise duties that are similar to levies.

## 'Classroom lessons on rituals could end GBV'

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Africa, the researcher noted.

"In their narratives, the widows shared that it is fellow women, not men, who subject them to appalling conditions during the mourning period," she said, recommending that religious institutions play a role in their places of worship, raising awareness on harmful aspects of traditional practices.

Dr Opoku also recommended implementing intervention programmes that are informed by a deep understanding of social cultural values, norms and beliefs underlying these practices within local contexts.

She proposed that at the district level, local governments collaborate with elders and grassroots organizations to pass bylaws correcting social norms and behaviours that perpetuate harmful rituals.

"While a male cleanser performs the ritual to purify the widow on Ukerewe Island, it is fellow women

considered experts who dress the widow, accompany her and ensure she undergoes the cleansing ritual in the required and appropriate traditional way," the researcher explained.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister, said in discussion that increasing attention given to gender-based violence (GBV) is exemplified by adopting the National Plans of Action to end violence against women and children.

The high rate of gender-based violence stems from social norms, exacerbated by early marriage, early childbirth and low levels of women's economic independence and education, the minister noted.

Dr Donald Mmari, the REPOA executive director, pointed out that despite various alleviating strategies, the core negative traditional practices persist due to societal norms.

## Samia: All political parties should use the 4Rs paradigm

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hood, compared to the past. In the past, there was no cooperation in anything but since President Samia took office, followers of different political parties "have become like siblings."

Water minister Jumaa Aweso promised to address water challenges in Songwe Region, noting that the water demand for the region stands at 20m litres, but only 8m litres are being produced.

This occasions water rationing, so efforts have been made to drill boreholes in various areas but there is an underground water challenge in the region, he said, hinting at building a dam across Momba River for a new source of clean and safe water for Tunduma residents and other areas.

Hussein Bashe, the Agriculture minister, said that on September 1 the government will announce new prices for subsidised maize seeds, with a 100kg bag of maize selling at 70,000/- instead of the 42,000/- demanded earlier.

Dr Selemani Jafu, the Industry and Trade minister, raised expectations

of more manufacturing industries in Songwe Region. The government will supervise effective systems for traders to transport goods without hindrances to neighbouring countries, he said.

Works minister Innocent Bashungwa pledged to expedite construction of the Tunduma-Mbeya road to facilitate smooth business flows, while Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office, (PO-RALG) responded to a placard carried in the gathering requesting a modern football field.

The government will allocate upwards of 300m/- to implement improvements on an existing facility, he said, with the regional commissioner, Daniel Chongolo raising different issues.

He said that despite improvements in primary and secondary education, there has been a significant challenge of increased teenage pregnancies in the region. Within one year, the government should expect to see changes regarding this issue as efforts are already being deployed on the matter, he added.



Open University of Tanzania vice chancellor Prof Elifas Bisanda (3rd-L) and deputy vice chancellor (Academic, Research and Consultancy) Prof Alex Makulilo (3rd-R) grace the unveiling of the university's 30th anniversary logo in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Overeating, long fasts both risky, medics say

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based on the person's height.

"People who go hungry for extended periods are at risk of developing stomach ulcers due to stomach acid starting to digest the stomach lining," he explained, elaborating that excessive stomach acid is produced inside the body.

Similarly, stomach ulcers could be due to an infection from bacteria called *Helicobacter pylori* (H. Pylori), tested with a device for a procedure known as endoscopy or biopsy.

Prolonged fasting, consuming acid-producing foods and stress can cause the intestines to perforate,

often requiring emergency surgery when the situation is acute, he said.

As stomach acid starts digesting the stomach walls, treatment can be quite challenging, resulting in many sufferers living with the condition for a long time. "If it's an infection, we will diagnose it using endoscopy or by taking a biopsy. If it's H. Pylori,

treatment will begin."

Those who overeat and cause excessive weight gain have a treatment option, placing a balloon in the stomach to have less appetite, he said. MNH is focused on gastric balloons to help people adopt smaller meals in their routines, he added.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla opens the Fifth Higher Education Week Exhibition at Maisara grounds in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Former Mozambican finance minister on trial in US

MAPUTO

A former finance minister in Mozambique has gone on trial in the US over the so-called "tuna bond" scandal which came to light in 2016.

Manuel Chang, who was the country's finance minister from 2005 to 2015, is charged with taking bribes to commit his country secretly to huge loans that prosecutors say were then looted.

The loans were meant to buy a fleet of tuna fishing ships, but went bad, plunging Mozambique into a financial crisis when the government's \$2 billion in "hidden debt" was uncovered in 2016.

Prosecutors say huge portions of the loans went to bribes and kickbacks to bankers and government officials, including \$7 million to Chang himself.

Chang "abused his authority to enrich himself through bribery, fraud and money laundering," Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Cooch said during opening statements this week in a federal court in Brooklyn.

Defense lawyer Adam Ford told jurors there's no evidence that Chang agreed to take payoffs, or received a penny, in exchange for having Mozambique guarantee that the loans would be repaid.

"Minister Chang signs these guarantees because that's what his government wanted him to do," Ford said Tuesday.

The scandal had a seismic impact on the country's economy, with experts estimating that it could ultimately cost Mozambique around \$11 billion or around 60% of its current GDP.

Before the emergence of the \$2 billion debt, Mozambique was one of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies for two decades, according to the World Bank.

After the scandal emerged, growth stagnated, the currency lost value, inflation surged and foreign investors lost confidence. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) withdrew its support for the country.

The World Bank says that, as of last year, Mozambique is one of the

10 countries worldwide with the lowest GDP per capita.

Mozambique's government has reached out-of-court agreements with creditors in an attempt to pay down some of the debt.

Last year, it paid \$142 million back to Credit Suisse – in cash and local currency bonds – to cover original loans of about \$522 million from the Switzerland-based banking giant, according to the World Bank.

Mozambique also recently reached an agreement on a \$220-million settlement with Russia's VTB Bank and Portugal's BCP Bank. The scandal has led to court action in Africa and Europe, as well as the US.

In Mozambique, at least 10 people have been convicted and sentenced to prison over the scandal, including Ndambi Guebuza, the son of former Mozambican President Armando Guebuza.

South African courts dismissed the Mozambican government's attempts to have Chang face charges there. Some Mozambican activists argued that he would be treated

too leniently in his homeland and should be sent to the U.S. instead.

The U.S. criminal cases have had mixed results. Pearse and two other British bankers have pleaded guilty, but a jury in 2019 acquitted another defendant, Jean Boustani, a shipbuilding company executive who's from Lebanon.

Three other defendants aren't in U.S. custody. One is another Lebanese shipbuilding executive. The other two are Mozambican officials.

Chang was arrested at Johannesburg's main international airport in late 2018, shortly before the U.S. indictment became public. After years of fighting extradition from South Africa, he was brought to the U.S. last year.

His lawyers tried to get the case thrown out. Among their arguments: that prosecutors overshot the reach of U.S. securities law and that Chang is immune from prosecution as a former foreign official.

U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis turned them down.



CRDB Bank Plc chief operations officer and acting CEO Bruce Mwile Mwasenga (2nd-L) and Water.Org executive director Francis Musinguzi exchange documents on partnership agreements in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Police in Bunda fire tear gas to contain small-scale miners

By Guardian Correspondent, Bunda

POLICE in Bunda District, Mara region used tear gas yesterday to disperse small-scale miners who had gathered at the Kanyambiga village office, alleging that their areas had been taken away and given to an investor.

Following the incident, Bunda District Commissioner Vincent Naano urged the miners to abide by the law when seeking justice against

the mining investor in that village.

Naano also criticized some politicians, whom he did not name, for inciting the miners to use demonstrations to demand rights they claim were violated by being denied mining areas.

Over 3,000 miners had earlier marched to the village office demanding the return of their gold mining areas, claiming they did not recognize the legitimacy of the investor's license.

One of the miners, Jackson Mwita, said they were given a seven-day notice to vacate the areas without any preparation for the fate of their daily mining activities in the mine.

"We are used to mining in those areas every day of our lives. We are saddened by the mining officer's order from the region asking us to leave within seven days without any preparation. We don't know where we will go," said Mwita.

The Regional Mining Officer

for Mara, Salim Msuya, said the government has halted mining operations at the mine to prevent further unrest and disasters between citizens and the investor named John Bina.

He said the government continues to resolve the conflict, including efforts to control the smuggling of minerals out of the district and out of the country, to ensure the legitimate collection of taxes for the government.

## EAC, IOM partner to enhance cross-border health security in the region

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat has partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in an effort to enhance cross-border health security and responses to disease outbreaks in the region.

The partnership will play a critical role in addressing the negative impact of health security issues and disease outbreaks in border areas. The East African region, which is home to more than 300 million people, has been affected by cross-border health security issues and disease outbreaks such as Cholera, Ebola, and the COVID-19 pandemic over the last few years, which have led to the complete breakdown of public health systems in some countries or health systems being completely overwhelmed and unable to cope, among other negative effects.

As part of efforts to address the issue, a workshop has been convened in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 16th - 19th July, 2024 to review the implementation of the EAC Regional Risk and Crisis Communication Strategy (2018/2019 - 2022/2023) in an effort to better inform subsequent cross-border health awareness and improve community engagement initiatives.

"The EAC is committed to having a robust Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy to effectively manage and mitigate risks associated with public health emergencies and other health crises," said Dr. Eric Nzeyimana, the EAC Principal Health Officer.

"There are many lessons to be learnt from COVID-19 and other recent disease outbreaks in our region, like Ebola and Marburg, and these will inform the development of our strategy, that will ultimately facilitate informed decision making to mitigate the effects of health threats," he added.

The workshop also aims to

harmonise various regional Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in relation to streamlining risk communication and community engagement. The standardized procedures cover critical communication aspects such as risk communication planning, community engagement methodologies, and cross-border information sharing; while also addressing gender disparities and promoting human rights in health interventions.

"Effective Risk Communication and Community Engagement approaches are essential for managing public health threats and ensuring safe cross-border mobility. By developing inclusive Risk Communication and Community Engagement Standard Operating Procedures, we can foster a more effective response to public health threats across borders in the region to protect the health and well-being of communities along the mobility continuum," said Viviane Kuissi, IOM's Regional Migration Health Specialist for the East, Horn and Southern of Africa region.

The harmonised regional guidelines are expected to guide the EAC Partner States in implementing best practices in community-based disease prevention and response at points-of-entry; where there are significant numbers of cross-border interactions. Strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement capacity is further expected to build cross-collaboration and trust, address misinformation, and better protect the health of all people in the region, including migrants.

Supported by the IOM Development Fund, the workshop builds upon EAC's Strategic Roadmap for Health Programming at Points of Entry (POEs) and IOM's Health, Border and Mobility Management Framework, which aim to strengthen cross-border health governance, leadership, and coordination.

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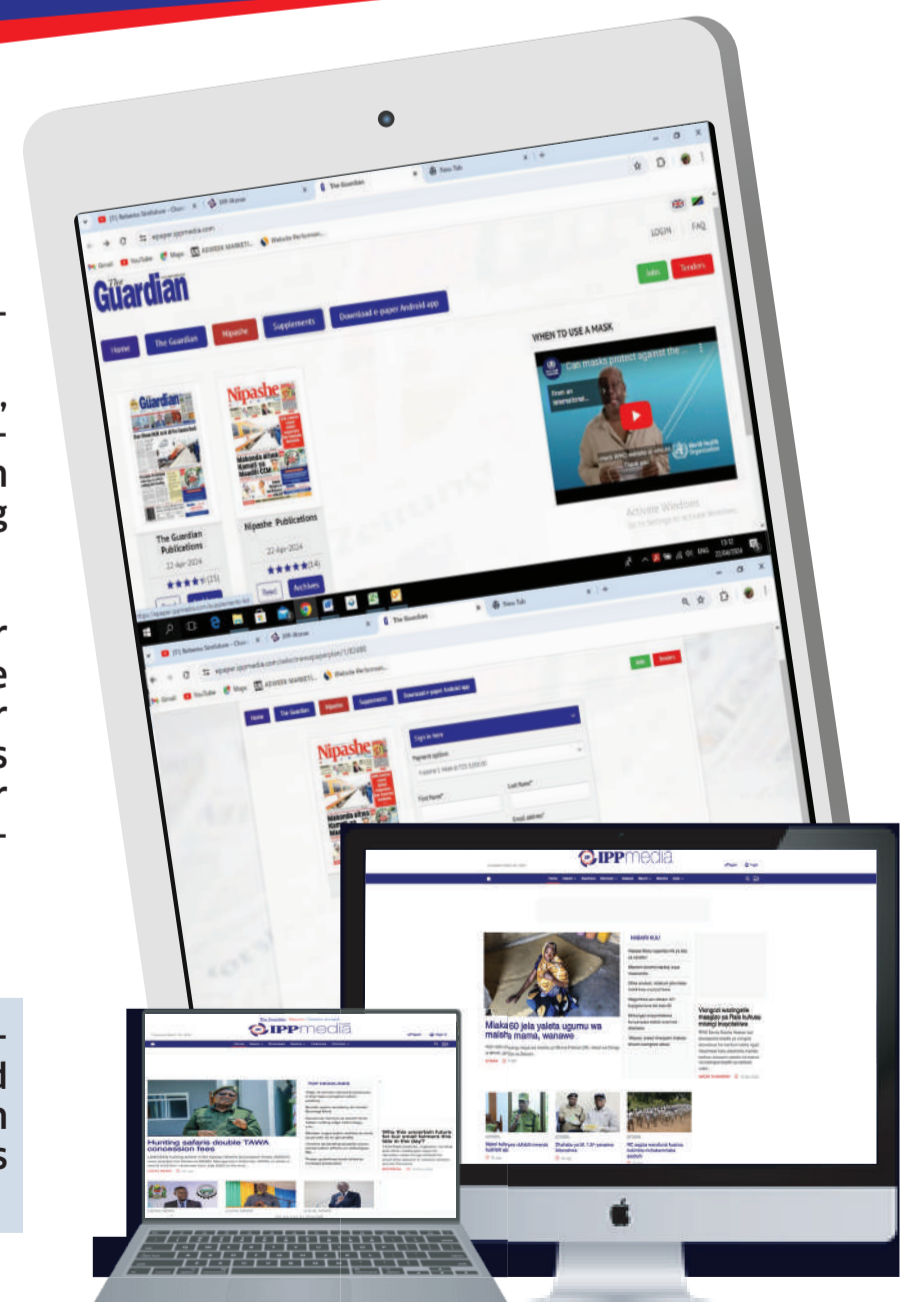
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By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

# ZIFF set to feature over 3,000 global films

THIS year's Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF), also known as the Festival of the Dhow Countries, will feature more than 3,000 films from across the globe, according to organisers.

The festival, Zanzibar's most significant cultural event that will be held on Aug. 1-4, will attract filmmakers from 100 countries, including China, Tanzania, Germany, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Poland, Argentina, Spain, Brazil, the United States, and African countries, said Joseph Mwale, chief executive officer of the ZIFF.

Mwale told a news conference held Tuesday in the port city of Dar es Salaam that the film festival, which

aims to develop and promote film and other cultural industries as catalysts for regional socioeconomic growth, will attract over 200,000 visitors worldwide.

Activities, including film screenings and competitions, workshops, art, and exhibitions, will be held during the film festival, according to Mwale.

ZIFF is an annual film festival held in Zanzibar, Tanzania and one of the largest cultural events in East Africa. ZIFF is a non-governmental organization established in 1997 to develop and promote film and other cultural

industries as catalysts for regional social and economic growth.

The annual multidisciplinary arts and cultural festival is ZIFF's major activity; the festival is an all-arts affair, with 8 days of

local and international discussion panels, workshops, 10 days of screenings of the best local and international cinema and evenings of musical concerts including a Gala each evening. All festival programs are a

culmination of the realization of the capacity of film to fuse together the best of each art-form, offering a wide range of Entertainment, Educating and Networking options for world audiences



Preparations for the construction of a 120m/- fourteen-meter-long bridge to link Shinyanga Region's Chibe and Old Shinyanga well under way, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Othman proposes ways to end political woes in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman has said that the only permanent solution to political problems in the Isles is to have clean politics and true democracy.

Speaking here on Wednesday when he met with a special delegation of the US House of Representatives, Othman said that these issues depend on the existence of good governance, accountability, and respect for human rights.

He said good political commitment, transparency, and responsibility are the things to consider that can eliminate political problems in the islands.

Othman said that peace is the main door to the economy and Zanzibar, which has a lot of beauty and natural wealth, requires strong leadership with a strong vision to respect the principles of justice, accountability, and the rule of law.

This situation will help the country to develop its economy.

Citing Mauritius as an example, he said it is small geographically, and late to gain

independence, but they have been able to strengthen themselves economically, through true democracy and finally become independent.

He said the people's trust, towards the General Election of 2025, can return, if their rights are respected, especially in the current environment where many of them have been denying their rights, even Zanzibari residence cards, as well as participating in voters' registration, things that everyone is entitled to according to the constitution.

"The belief of many Zanzibaris is to see their right to be registered in the election and given identification cards (IDs) being implemented, believing that the main basis of accountability is starting with free and fair elections," said Othman.

He also stated that the responsibility of having an independent electoral commission that will respect the decisions of the majority, in building the leadership of the country established by consent and the principles of democracy.

Othman said the commitment of Zanzibar's government in dealing with the effects of climate change, the rate of population

growth, and unemployment, along with strengthening the tourism, gas, and oil sectors, and the blue economy.

He also emphasized the need for cooperation in developing women economically and helping each other to strengthen various sectors including the environment, health, farming, employment development, and fishing, as well as building the capacity of citizens to benefit from marine products.

Katherine Clark, leader of the delegation, and representative from the Democratic Party in the United States House of Representatives expressed her gratitude to meet the Isles' First VP, calling him as a very serious and professional leader. "We've learned important things, but also reaped a lot of logical things, while emphasizing that the United States will continue the good relations that exist between his country, and Zanzibar, as well as Tanzania in general.

Other members who attended the session from the US were the representative of the Republican Party, David (Dave) Joyce; and the American Ambassador in Tanzania, Michael Battle.



PEACE CORPS TANZANIA

### REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

**SOLAR POWER PROJECT FOR OFFICE COMPOUND:** Peace Corps/ Tanzania is soliciting proposals from qualified solar PV providers to design, engineer, build and maintain a turn-key installation of 20kVA solar system project.

**NETWORK CABLING UPGRADE FOR OFFICE COMPOUND:** Peace Corps Tanzania has a need for network re-cabling the whole office building in three phases.

**FUEL VENDOR FOR OFFICE VEHICLE FLEET:** Peace Corps Tanzania intends to offer a contract for periodic purchases of fuel (petrol & diesel) for its vehicles up to 22,000 liters per year

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR OFFICE CLEANING FOR OFFICE COMPOUND:** Peace Corps Tanzania has a need for professional services of office cleaning and gardening and garbage collection at the office and residences.

For detailed information, including the full REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS and VENDOR QUOTATION FORM, please visit: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/tanzania/contracts>

Please follow the instructions in the full vacancy announcement to send complete applications to: [TZ-DM0@peacecorps.gov](mailto:TZ-DM0@peacecorps.gov).

**OPENING DATE:** July 19, 2023

**CLOSING DATE:** August 2, 2024 (17:00pm Tanzania Time)

For more information about Peace Corps, please see [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

Only shortlisted vendors will be contacted.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE



## EXPRESS OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR BUCKREEF GOLD CO LTD, MNEKEZI VILLAGE, KATORO, GEITA, TANZANIA (BGCL)

Buckreef Gold Company Limited ("BGC") is a Joint Venture Company between TRX Gold Tanzania Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of TRX Gold Corporation (a Canadian registered and public listed Company, NYSE:TRX,TSX:TNX) and State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) for the redevelopment of the Buckreef Gold Project. The company has operations located in Mnekezi Village, Geita District, Tanzania.

We kindly request eligible suppliers to express their Interest (EOI) for the below list.

EOI / TENDER #	ITEM DESCRIPTION	The evaluation of the prospective bidders will be done based on the following minimum criteria:
BGC/TZ/2024/001	Supply and delivery of Building Materials/General Hardware	a. Approved Local Content. Compulsory.
BGC/TZ/2024/002	Supply and delivery of Electrical General & Electrical Cables	b. Company profile, shareholding structure, and list of directors,
BGC/TZ/2024/003	Supply and delivery of Industry Tools and Equipment	c. financial statement for at least two (2) years.
BGC/TZ/2024/004	Supply and delivery of Filters Gas Oil and Lubricant	d. Eligibility of the vendor: valid business license, certificate of Incorporation, OSHA certificate, NSSF, WCF, TIN & VAT certificate.
BGC/TZ/2024/005	Provisional of Minor Civil and construction works	e. Authorized distributor or Approved Dealership
BGC/TZ/2024/006	Supply and delivery of Steel and Pipes	f. Tax clearance certificate,
BGC/TZ/2024/007	Supply and delivery of Welding, Consumable	g. Company Code of Conduct and Ethics
BGC/TZ/2024/008	Provision of Staff Transport services	h. Policies / procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour, Human right policy
BGC/TZ/2024/009	Supply and Delivery of Pumps and its spare parts	i. Experience on similar projects by having a list At least three clients with purchase orders /signed contract.
BGC/TZ/2024/010	Provisional of Inland Transport, Clearing and Forwarding services	
BGC/TZ/2024/011	Hiring of Equipment	
BGC/TZ/2024/012	Supply and delivery of Geology Consumables	

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email ([procurement@buckreef.co.tz](mailto:procurement@buckreef.co.tz)) no later than **02:30p.m 01<sup>st</sup> August 2024** (Submission deadline). Interested applicants must submit their EOI by quoting specific EOI reference number and description in the subject of the email.

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TAZAMA PIPELINES LIMITED



## OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING (ONB)

### SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF EXCAVATORS, LINE PIPES, AND COATING MATERIALS

TAZAMA Pipelines Limited owns and operates a Pipeline System that runs for 1,710km from Dar-es-salaam in Tanzania to Ndola in Zambia. The Pipeline System transports and delivers Low Sulphur Gas Oil (LSG) to Ndola Fuel Terminal, Ndola, Zambia. The system includes a Tank Farm at Kigamboni in Dar-es-Salaam comprising of Six (6) Tanks with a Total Storage Capacity of 230,000m<sup>3</sup>, Seven (7) Booster Pump Stations and Seventeen Pigging Stations.

TAZAMA intends to procure Excavators, Line Pipes, and Coating Materials as planned for in the 2024 Annual Procurement Plan. Therefore, TAZAMA seeks to engage Suppliers to deliver Goods indicated below.

- > **LOT 1 - Supply and Delivery of one (01-Qty) Crawler Excavator and Two (02-Qty) 4X4 Wheeled Excavators**
- > **LOT 2 - Supply and Delivery of Line Pipes and Coating Materials**

Interested Citizen Owned or Local Companies in Zambia and Tanzania (including those intending to partner with Foreign Companies as a Joint Venture) may obtain Bidding Documents per Lot from the Manager - Procurement and Supplies (via email) after presentation of Proof of Payment of non-refundable fee of ZMW 1,000.00 in Zambia or TSH 100,000.00 in Tanzania into the accounts below and obtaining Official Receipt from Cashiers based at TAZAMA Head Office, TAZAMA House, Moffat Road, Ndola (in Zambia) and Regional Office, Kigamboni, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

#### ZAMBIA

Account Name: TAZAMA Pipelines Limited SWIFT: ZNCOZMLU  
Account Number: 0056157500197 Branch: Ndola West (054)  
Bank Name: ZANACO SORT code: 010154

#### TANZANIA

Account Name: TAZAMA Pipelines Limited SWIFT: ECOCTITZTXXX  
Account Number: TZS 7080000308 Branch: Msimbazi (079)  
Bank Name: ECOBANK (T) LTD SORT code: 041079

**The Closing Date for the Bid submissions is Wednesday 7th August 2024 at 10:00 Zambian Time / 09:00 Tanzanian Time for Lot 1 and 11:00 Hours Zambian Time / 12:00 Tanzanian Time for Lot 2. The Bid Submissions will be opened immediately after Closure.**

TAZAMA reserves the right to accept, reject bids or cancel the Bidding Process at any time without liability or recourse to the bidders.

## Authorities in Bahi hail move by govt to combat antimicrobial resistance

By Polycarp Machira, Bahi

AUTHORITIES in Bahi District, Dodoma Region, have hailed efforts aimed at combating antimicrobial resistance in the area, thanks to a non-governmental organization, Roll Back Antimicrobial resistance Initiative (RBA Initiative) that operates in the region.

Speaking during a capacity building seminar to local leaders on the problem organized by the organization, the leaders expressed concerns that most of the rural-based population is not aware of antimicrobial resistance.

They were shocked on realizing that the problem could be one of the leading sources of deaths in the area unknowingly as residents continue taking drugs without doctors' prescriptions.

In her presentation to the leaders at Mpmatwa ward, Oliva Minja from RBA-Initiative noted that on average over five million people were estimated to have died of antimicrobial resistance related cases in 2019.

She said the RBA Initiative is engaging the local leaders as key players in influencing positive behaviours that can slow the spread of AMR with the aim of increasing the awareness and understanding of AMR understanding among them.

"We started providing such awareness meetings in Dodoma district and we are in the second district, Bahi with the target to reach all districts in the region" she said.

She called on the public to embrace health experts' guidance on the rightful use of drugs in effort to reduce the spread of AMR.

Speaking at the seminar, Mpmatwa Ward Health Officer, Edimond Njau, said he was pleased to have got the education on AMR, noting that the problem is common among families in the ward due to lack of awareness.

"Many people take drugs without a doctor's prescription without knowing the effects, which in some cases have led to physical impairment" he said, adding that in his capacity as health officer he would share the information in routine meetings with colleagues.

Mpmatwa Ward Executive Officer, Rosemary Kaizilege, thanked RBA Initiative for the awareness on the problem, promising that as a leader at local authority, she would help spread the education.

"As leaders we have realized the importance of spreading this knowledge to area residents and helping reduce deaths and disabilities, among other side effects of inappropriate use of drugs" she said.



**We started providing such awareness meetings in Dodoma district and we are in the second district, Bahi with the target to reach all districts in the region**

## European aid worker in CAR on hunger strike over spying claims

By Special Correspondent

A EUROPEAN aid worker who was arrested two months ago in the Central African Republic over spying allegations has begun a hunger strike to protest the conditions of his detention, his family and the Portuguese honorary consul said.

Martin Joseph Figueira, a consultant for the American nongovernmental organization FHI 360, was arrested in May, according to the Central African Republic prosecutor's office. He is accused of being in communication with armed groups to plot a coup, jeopardizing national security, the office added, but is yet to face official charges.

Figueira initially was detained in "relatively good conditions," Victor Manuel Alves da Rocha, the Portuguese honorary consul in Bangui, said in a phone call. But around a week ago, Figueira was transferred to a political prison called Camp de Roux, located at army headquarters in Bangui, where conditions are "very difficult," da Rocha said.

"He started a hunger strike three days ago, because he is innocent, and he wants to prove his innocence," da Rocha said. "He also wants to protest the bad conditions of his detention."

According to da Rocha, Figueira has been refusing food brought daily by a representative of the Belgian consul and is "weak."

Figueira's brother, Georges Martin, told confirmed to the AP that his brother began a hunger strike on July 14 "in protest" of what's happening to him.

Georges Martin issued a statement earlier this month calling the accusations against his brother false and "a clear injustice". He said his brother was a "fervent defender of peace."

Authorities in Central African Republic could not immediately be reached.

FHI 360, a public health organization that manages projects related to family planning and reproductive health, confirmed that one of its workers is in custody in Central African Republic.

In a statement this week, FHI 360 said Figueira was detained on May

26. It said he had come to the country to "support the design of a project focused on alleviating poverty, growing economic opportunities and preventing gender-based violence. The allegations against Martin do not align with the facts surrounding his visit or the work of FHI 360."

The statement called it a "profoundly difficult time" for Figueira and urged a "swift resolution" that would allow him to return to his family, adding: "We trust that the government of the Central African Republic will respect due process in this matter as well as Martin's other legal rights."

Figueira was arrested in Zemio, a town in southeaster Central African Republic that has been plagued by fighting between ethnic militias and anti-government rebels for over a decade.

Following his arrest, the military was deployed to Zemio after more than six years of absence from the town. The Russian mercenary group Wagner, which has had a significant presence in Central African Republic for years, was also deployed there at the same time to train local militias and recruit them for the army.

Central African Republic has been in conflict since 2013, when predominantly Muslim rebels seized power and forced then-president, François Bozizé, from office. Mostly Christian militias fought back. A 2019 peace deal helped slow the fighting but six of the 14 armed groups that signed later left the agreement.

A UN peacekeeping mission and Rwandan troops are currently deployed in the Central African Republic to try to quell the violence and protect civilians.



**He started a hunger strike three days ago, because he is innocent, and he wants to prove his innocence**



Tanga city executive director Frederick Sagamiko (L) symbolically receives a consignment of teaching and learning equipment and supplies for Maweni Primary School at the school's premises yesterday. It is assistance from UK-based Hanley Castle Elementary School handed over by a representative of the school, Donald Stanley, and also including 50m/- for the rehabilitation of classrooms, latrines and a teachers' office. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

## Uganda's coffee export earnings reach 30-year high

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S coffee exports have recorded the highest foreign exchange earnings in 30 years due to improved quantity and quality, a state regulator said Thursday.

The country earned 1.14 billion U.S. dollars from coffee exports in fiscal year 2023/2024, up from 846 million dollars in the previous year, the Uganda Coffee Development

Authority (UCDA) said in a report.

Uganda exported 6.13 million bags of coffee in fiscal year 2023/2024, up from 5.76 million bags in the year before, the UCDA said.

"This represents an increase of 6.33 percent and 35.29 percent in quantity and value respectively," the statement said.

According to the UCDA, Europe is Uganda's largest export market,

followed by Asia, North America and Africa.

It attributed to the higher yields to better production and post-harvest handling practices.

Coffee is one of the major commodities prioritized by Uganda to boost economic transformation. About 1.7 million households in the country depend on coffee production, according to the UCDA.

Uganda's coffee exports for the month of June amounted to 530,365 60-kilo bags of coffee valued at US\$ 83.79 million. This comprised 444,197 bags of Robusta valued at US \$60.98 million and 86,168 bags of Arabica valued at US\$ 22.82. This was a decrease of 14 percent in quantity but an increase of 43 percent in value compared to the same month last year.



Information, Communications and Information Technology deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi (C, in white-&-black dress) joins Catholic University of Mbeya students and staff in a dance on the sidelines of a symposium held in Mbeya city yesterday to mark the university's first anniversary. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

LUSAKA

A SENIOR Zambian government official on Wednesday praised China for offering intensive training in capacity building for governance and macroeconomic planning to senior Zambian government officials.

Elisha Matambo, minister of Copperbelt Province, who was among ministers and permanent secretaries that recently underwent this training in China, expressed gratitude to the Chinese

## Zambian official lauds China for governance training programme

government for organizing the program.

He said the officials will apply the extensive knowledge gained during the training to improve service delivery across various government departments and provinces.

"We were elated that the intensive training that we

underwent in China is also in line with the executive master's degree in leadership and wealth creation that we are currently doing here in Zambia, and we will be graduating very soon," he said in a post on his Facebook page.

He further said the officials were given an opportunity to gain first-

hand experience by visiting various Chinese organizations such as Huawei and PowerChina to better understand their operations.

Zambia is willing to collaborate with the Chinese government and learn from its experiences to enhance the quality of life for its people, he said.

## Jubilant as Dar es Salaam suburb lands improved road infrastructure

By Anna Cosmas, DarTu

RESIDENTS in Kipunguni B in Ilala Municipality, Dar es Salaam, have expressed their gratitude following the completion of a tarmac road that has opened various opportunities, which in turn transformed their livelihoods.

In separate interviews with this reporter yesterday, they said the completion of Nswemwa Road which links Kitunda Road at the tarmac level brought numerous opportunities as well as reducing transport woes they have been injured.

Rashid Alli, one of the residents in the area, hailed the government for building the road at the tarmac level. "Our road now is passable all the time of the year, compared to the past when it was too difficult to reach other areas of the city."

"We faced many challenges and at some time it was an uneasy task to reach health facilities and it became worse once we wanted to take a pregnant mother to the hospital

as our road was impassable," he said, lauding the government for realizing their long-time dream.

According to him, not only enhancing connectivity, but the road opened up socio-economic development in the area as women and youth have found employment.

"Our areas have also elevated in terms of value. For those who have apartments, the rents also have gone high," he stressed.

Another resident who runs a shop in the area, identified as Fatuma said: "We used to face difficulties transporting our goods to market, but now this is history."

Ramadhani Amir, Kipunguni B chairman said that the road project has garnered praise across the community, stressing that people in the area look forward to a brighter future with continued improvements in the infrastructure.

"As residents, we're very happy with this project, we're looking forward to more projects to come in this street."



Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), addresses residents of Morogoro village in Songea District on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Allocate budget for biopesticides to eradicate malaria, LGAs urged

MINISTER for Industry and Trade, Dr Selemani Jafo, has asked local government authorities (LGAs) to buy biopesticides that kill mosquito larvae as part of efforts to control the spread of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases.

He said by doing so they would be supporting government efforts towards eradication of the diseases.

Jafo gave the remarks yesterday during his visit to the Tanzania Biotech Products Limited (TBPL) which is owned by the National Development Corporation (NDC) in Kibaha District, Coast Region.

"Every district council has a health budget, I am directing all the 184 councils to procure the biopesticides to kill mosquito

breeding grounds as the disease is still a challenge and kills several people.

The Minister instructed the NDC to increase the scope of public education, especially in large meetings that include many council leaders, and invited them to visit the factory to learn and be motivated to buy.

He said the drugs are important in eradicating mosquito breeding grounds and reducing the deaths of pregnant women and children caused by Malaria.

"What is surprising is to see

that the use of these drugs in our country is small compared to neighboring countries that come to buy those drugs here and Zanzibar has succeeded in eradicating malaria because they buy huge assignment of those drugs and many African countries are coming to buy these Biopesticides," he said.

He mentioned some of the countries that have been buying the drugs as Kenya, Angola, Niger, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Mozambique.

Minister Jafo directed the NDC

to develop alternative marketing methods for the sale of these drugs, including a special campaign that will increase education and motivation of citizens to buy and use these important drugs that do not have any health and environmental effects.

The Managing Director (NDC), Dr Nicholas Shombe, said that the unique factory in Africa can produce 6 million liters of chemical-free biological products per year, including insecticides to kill mosquito larvae that spread malaria.

He said apart from malaria, the drugs help to reduce other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and live pesticides to kill pests on crops, live fertilizers, and animal vaccines.

He said that in 2009, the fourth term President Jakaya Kikwete, who was the chairman of the ALMA anti-malaria leaders, visited Cuba and persuaded them to agree to the industry to be built in Tanzania.

He said the factory was built from 2010 to 2017 by the government for \$22.3 million and that Cuban experts are working in the industry to give their Tanzanian colleagues

expertise on how to produce the drugs.

He said the goal of the construction of the Tanzania Biotech Products Limited was to fight malaria to ensure that by 2030 there would be no malaria patients.

TBPL is a Public Company and one of the leading biomanufacturing companies in East, Southern, and Central Africa.

The Company has been manufacturing Biopesticides to control Malaria vectors and vectors of other Mosquito-borne diseases. TBPL has been in the biotechnology industry for more than 9 years and has contributed to reducing Malaria cases to 7 percent in Tanzania and has contributed to the control in other countries like Angola, Niger, Kenya, Eswatini and Mozambique.

## Obituary

# WINNIE MARK BASHAGI



21<sup>st</sup> January 1953 - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness that the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT) announces the passing on of Mrs. Winnie Mark Bashagi that occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. Mrs. Winnie Bashagi was the Executive Director of RCT since August 2016 to-date.

RCT Board Members, Management and members will forever remember Winnie Bashagi's tireless contribution to the growth of RCT and rice subsector in Tanzania.

The burial ceremony will take place on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Bunju Beach cemetery, near Furaha Hospital Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

### TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



#### TENDER No: TP/07/2024/NCB/S/021 SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 1MVA GENERATOR

19 July, 2024

- Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Co Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk storage facility for Petroleum Products with its shares divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Salengies SA of Switzerland. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
- TIPER hereby invites via National Competitive Bidding (NCB) eligible to bid for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 1MVA Generator.
- Eligible bidders are reputable firms registered by the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) as Specialist Electrical Contractor as per respective tender.
- Bidders who don't meet condition stated in line 3 above are not eligible to bid for this tender.
- Interested and eligible bidders may request an electronic copy of the tender document by sending their signed and stamped application letter(s) and copies of certifications from Contractors Registration Board (CRB) or a similar certification through the following email: [tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz](mailto:tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz) from date 19 July, 2024 to 1 August, 2024 between 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- Bidders MUST visit the site before bidding. The site visit will be conducted on Wednesday 24 July, 2024 from 10:30 am to 12:30 am local time.
- During the site visit all bidders will be required to come with their own PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which meets TIPER standards. This includes Steel Toe Safety Boots, Cotton Overcoat, and helmets. Static Reflective vests are not allowed onto site. Bidders without PPE will not be allowed onto the site.
- Bids MUST be submitted in hard copies only in envelopes sealed with postal seals or fire seals. Softcopies of bids should be submitted via a USB flash driver embedded in the hardcopies of bid submitted. No bid should be submitted by email.
- All bids submitted in plain sealed envelopes in one original plus one copy, properly filled and marked TENDER NO. TP/07/2024/NCB/S/021 for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 1MVA Generator. All bids must be delivered physically to: The Secretary, Tender Committee, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.
- The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be 4.00 P.M. local time on 2 August, 2024.
- There shall be NO public opening of bids.
- Late bids, a portion of bids, and electronic bids will not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- TIPER is not bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE,  
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),  
P.O. BOX 2608, KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM

## EAC hails Rwandan general election as peaceful, credible

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) has described the Rwandan General Election held on 15th July, 2024 as peaceful and generally reflecting the will of the people.

In a statement, the EAC Election Observation Mission to Rwanda urged all actors and stakeholders in Rwanda's elections to maintain peace until and after the declaration of results by the National Electoral Commission and embrace peaceful resolution of disputes that may arise from electoral processes.

Issuing a preliminary statement on the election in Kigali, the Head of the Mission, Chief Justice (Emeritus) David Maraga, said that the electoral process was well-organised and without a single incident of violence, a remarkable milestone in the country's transformation.

"We congratulate the people and the government of Rwanda as well as all stakeholders for these peaceful elections," said CJ Maraga, adding that the campaigns preceding the general election had also been conducted in a peaceful atmosphere.

"Since their commencement on 22nd June 2024, the campaigns were conducted in a calm and peaceful environment that enabled political organisations and candidates to campaign freely," said the former Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya.

The Head of the EAC Mission was speaking during a ceremony for the release of preliminary statements by missions that observed the general election at the Kigali Convention Centre, Kigali.

Justice Maraga hailed the public media in Rwanda for promoting a peaceful and transparent electoral process by offering balanced and fair coverage to all the presidential candidates and political parties ahead of the General Election.

The Mission also noted that all the presidential candidates and political organisations had equitable coverage for their rallies and activities.

"In those promotions, the media played a significant role in educating voters to enable them to understand the voting process, how to exercise their democratic right and highlighted the procedure on the opening and closing times at polling stations as well as the prohibited activities in polling rooms."

"The National Electoral Commission made adequate

preparations and observed transparency in the management of the 2024 Rwanda General election," said Justice Maraga.

On voting during the election, Justice Maraga said that the Mission had observed that polling rooms had opened on time.

"However, a few of them opened a few minutes late for various reasons including setting up. In future, the National Electoral Commission is urged to ensure that this does not become a widespread problem. All polling stations visited by EAC observers were free from visible campaign activities and materials," he said, adding that essential election materials were also available before opening.

"The majority of the polling rooms visited were accessible to persons with disabilities. In cases of inaccessibility, this was due to the uneven ground leading to the polling room or the polling room located upstairs," added Justice Maraga.

The Head of Mission said that there were a few cases where voters were turned away for being at the wrong station or their names not being on the voters' register in those stations.

"In the observed polling stations, security personnel were present and highly professional in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. They did not interfere with electoral processes nor did they intimidate voters."

Justice Maraga said that election officials displayed high levels of competence and professionalism, and commended the National Electoral Commission for the training of polling officials.

"We also commend the Commission for involving young people and women in the management of electoral processes," he added.

"Polling rooms are generally closed on time. However, voters who were still in the queue at the time of closing were allowed to vote."



**We congratulate the people and the government of Rwanda as well as all stakeholders for these peaceful elections**



Tanga regional commissioner Dr Batilda Buriani (L) pictured yesterday symbolically handing over to Pangani district commissioner Mussa Kilakala a motor vehicle the government has issued to the district for official use. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

### ACCRA

THE African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has the potential to grow the continent's petroleum downstream industry, a Ghanaian official has said.

Herbert Krapa, minister of state at the Ministry of Energy, made the remarks in his keynote address at the Ghana International Petroleum Conference that opened in Accra, the country's capital, urging Africa to develop the industry to be able to deliver the fossil fuel needs of the continent while deriving net benefits from a well-functioning downstream value chain.

## AfCFTA can help grow Africa's petroleum downstream industry: Ghanaian minister

"AfCFTA can enhance market access, stimulate investment, and drive economic growth. We must capitalize on these opportunities to strengthen our industry and promote sustainable development across the continent," Krapa said.

For the continent's petroleum industry to derive the full benefits of AfCFTA, the minister said the industry must look beyond the traditional market and diversify the products available.

He suggested that the industry should also optimize efficiency, growth, and sustainability, the cornerstones of a thriving downstream supply chain. "If we optimize our operations, embrace modern technology, and make sustainability a running theme in all we do every day, we can achieve the results we desire for our industry."

The minister pledged the government's resolve to continue to promote and explore policies

that enhance Ghanaian content, support capacity building, and create opportunities for the Ghanaian industry.

"That way, we can guarantee that the benefits of our resources are widely shared while ensuring the development of our local workforce and businesses," added the minister.

More than 400 companies from Africa and other markets registered to participate in the three-day event, culminating in an awards night Friday.

## Uganda Airlines talks of 3 additional routes in Africa

KAMPALA

UGANDA Airlines has announced three additional routes—Abuja (Nigeria), Lusaka (Zambia) and Harare (Zimbabwe) that it will be operating in its aviation business starting September 2024.

Jenifer Bamuturaki, Uganda Airlines Chief executive Officer said: "The expansion is a well-thought-out progression."

"The Airline is excited to announce yet another milestone; the triple launch of the three routes this summer," Bamuturaki noted.

She added: "Launching these routes marks the successful conclusion of our 3-year strategic plan, paving way for the next phase of our 10-year rolling plan. This strategic approach ensures that our expansion is not just a leap of faith but a well-thought-out progression."

The three new routes are in addition to the existing ones such as Nairobi, Mombasa, Dar es Salam, Bujumbura, Johannesburg, Dubai, Zanzibar, Lagos, Kinshasa, Mumbai, Mogadishu, Juba, and Kilimanjaro.

Bamuturaki explained that the entry into these markets is meant to build an efficient and optimized regional market that will feed and finance a more profitable long-haul market; grow the aircraft fleet utilisation, create a robust

regional network that will serve as a feeder for the UR's long-haul market, especially London to tap into the top unserved market and most importantly support Uganda Airline's Africa network connectivity.

"We aspire to bridge the geographical gaps and connect the East to the West, North and South of Africa. This vision guides our route expansion, which is carefully guided by feasibility studies pointing us to underserved routes," she said.

"The airline has stayed true to its rival's connectivity objectives, and this is demonstrated by the recent increase in the frequency of our flights—we now operate 19 flights a day contributing to 20% traffic at Entebbe Airport—our enhanced revenue growth, cargo operations acceleration, and service scale. The network expansion is positioning the airline for profitability in the long run," she added.

Adedayo Olawuyi, airlines Chief Commercial Officer said the new routes are aimed at creating strong regional connectivity and tapping into the under-served aviation market.

The launch of the additional three routes comes at a time when the national carrier is celebrating its fifth year after its return to operation.



Small traders conduct business yesterday seated on the edges of a road at Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus terminal and clearly at serious risk of being hit by motor vehicles. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Libya holds Trans-Mediterranean forum on migration issues

TRIPOLI

EUROPEAN and African leaders gathered in Libya to attend the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum in an effort to collaborate on finding solutions to the migration issue.

The forum aims to formulate a unified vision that enhances cooperation and coordination between the countries concerned, in order to develop the foundations of sustainable economic and trade European-African relations, said Libyan Prime Minister Abdul-Hamed Dbeibah.

Dbeibah called for reallocating

the funds currently used to manage irregular migration flows toward financing development projects in African source countries, according to the official Libyan News Agency LANA.

"Let us implement real projects that lead to the stability of the people of these countries in their regions," he said.

Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno urged the development of solutions to irregular migration and the identification of its root causes, emphasizing the importance of addressing this issue while upholding human rights.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia

Meloni said that her country considers resolving migration issue a priority, noting that large numbers of irregular migrants require intensifying efforts with the countries in the region.

Maltese Prime Minister Robert Abela highlighted the efforts made by the Libyan government to rescue migrants and cooperate on the issue of irregular migration, calling for collective action to reduce migration and organized criminal networks.

Margaritis Schinas, vice president of the European Commission, stressed the European Union's support for Libya in addressing

migration, noting that the number of migrants crossing to Europe from Libya has dropped compared to five years ago.

According to LANA, the meeting will address several issues, including enhancing border management, strengthening rescue and relief mechanisms for migrants, and providing necessary support to countries receiving migrants.

Ever since the downfall of the late leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya has become a preferred point of departure for some African migrants who attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach European shores.

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## 'Triangular' renewable energy drive checks 'all gas' outlook

MANY initiatives often start without a preliminary exchange of views or explicit formation of a background in policy debate, but a second glance at what they involve shows clearly from where they were developed.

This is what comes up in looking at a partnership being forged between the Tanzanian government and development agencies in the United States and India. It is said to be a triangular energy infrastructure development collaboration of sorts.

According to top officials of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the partnership is intended to strengthen energy infrastructure and promote renewable energy development.

That is widely viewed as future-oriented as, at least for now, the country is boasting a surplus in electricity generation.

Going forward, though, a lot more will be needed -and this is where the project comes in: that of renewable sources taking precedence over fossil fuels.

There is plenty in the observation that the clean energy alliance is the first of its kind on the African continent, which local pundits would have taken up in different senses or comprehension trajectories.

One such outlook would be to suggest that the country is quite attractive for investment initiatives of this sort, if specifically tailored to renewable energy as a fairly recent area of emphasis.

The rather hidden message could be that an effort had to be initiated specifically by the United States, in association with a more trusted third party, to design a workable project for pushing a renewable energy option in the given circumstances. A designer for the project, a US-based non-profit organisation known as The Asia Foundation, is reported as taking up India as a partner known to it.

While there are undeniable

business opportunities at present and likely even more so in the future, the source of the partnership might not be business per se. This is because neither USAID nor the foundation is a frontal business organisation or agency.

On the contrary, those they are partnering with in India are savvy businesspeople with a sense of future trajectories especially at the NTPC School of Business tied to a thermal power firm.

A specific formulation in that regard is that the partnership will leverage each country's relevant capacities for a stronger grid as well as improved regulatory and policy frameworks.

Also noted are reliable regional interconnections and the development of utility-scale solar projects, the last two relating to market reach and preference for policy orientation.

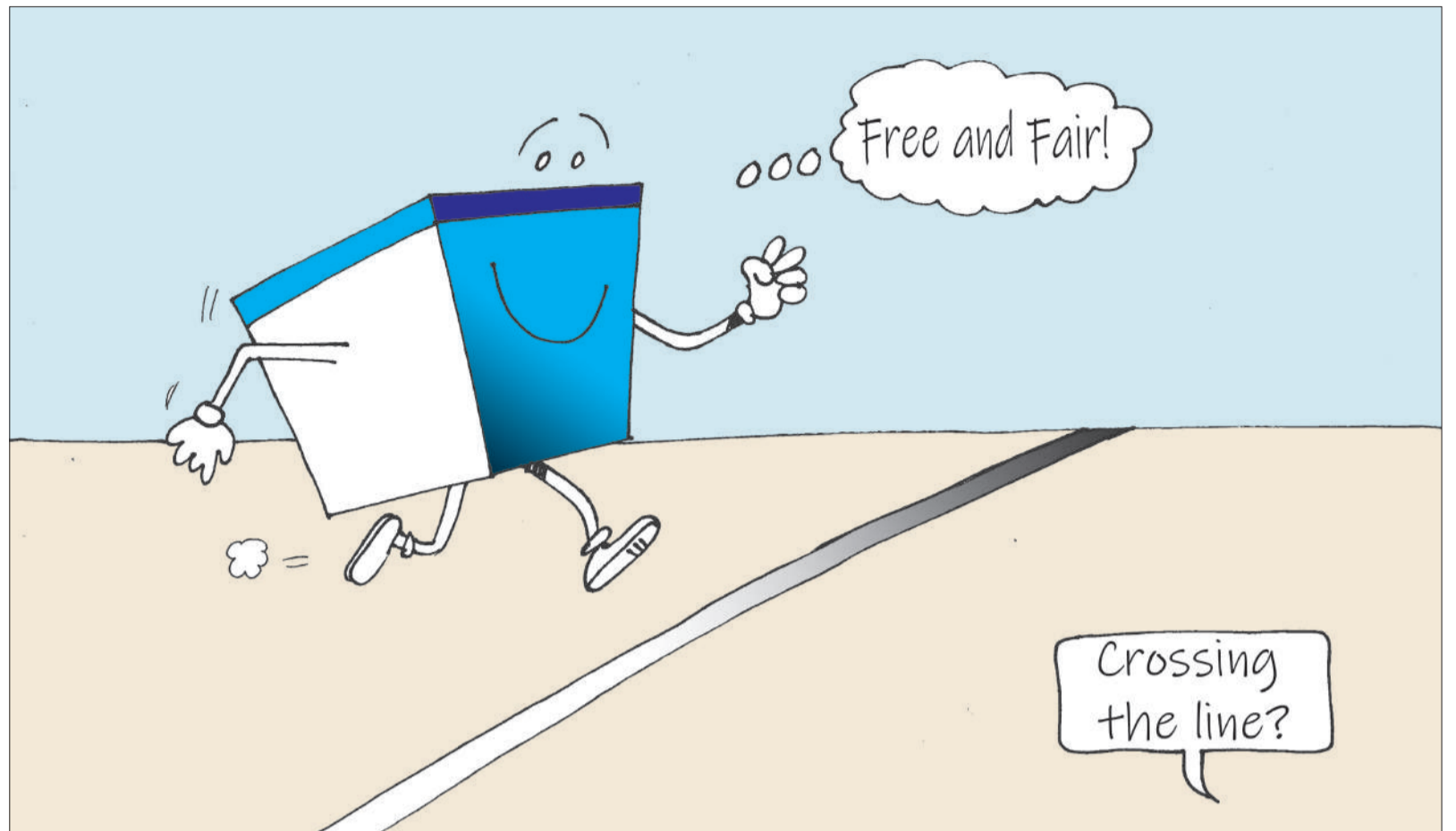
That being the case, there should not be any difficulty in synchronising the acceleration of electrification via clean with the availability of reliable energy.

What is noticeable here is the clean and reliable aspect of solar power and perhaps a push into wind power as the project unfolds, given its equally green status.

That is sure to take up the initiative started in 2013 when the then US president Barack Obama visited Tanzania and, as in this case, it didn't focus solely on renewable or green energy sources.

The programme has doubtless been pivotal in relaying electricity right to some of the farthest parts of our country even while it is yet to be completed, while the wish at present is to help uplift local sourcing of renewable energy.

While there are significant interests that will eventually be lined up as investments come in, it is forward-looking moving to calm down the thrust for all-gas transition at the domestic need, industry and public institutions.



## Can scientific freedom deliver development for Africa?

ADDIS ABABA

SCIENTIFIC research has led to social and economic gains worldwide, but the scientists who make it happen face significant challenges.

Science propels development, yet scientists need the freedom to research and advance technology and innovation. Is scientific freedom a cornerstone of development for African countries to remain globally competitive?

## Constraining Science

Growing societal polarization, erosion of democratic processes, and a rise in populism, misinformation, and disinformation are some of the factors curtailing scientific freedom in Africa, a new report by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has found.

In a study, African Perspectives on Scientific Freedom, launched at the Sixth Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2024, UNESCO, highlights worrying trends that have increased pressure on the freedom and safety of scientists.

"When the voices of scientists are silenced, or societies' ability to produce relevant and unbiased knowledge, to think critically, and to distinguish truth from falsehood is undermined. Without the freedom and safety of scientists, the trust in science and culture of science-driven decision-making are eroded," said Gabriel Ramos, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, in a foreword to the study.

UNESCO developed a Recommendation for Science and Scientific Researchers, which noted that for science to reach its full potential, it is crucial that scientists "work in a spirit of intellectual freedom to seek, explain and defend scientific truth as they perceive it and enjoy the protection of their autonomous judgment against undue influence."

This followed findings that scientific freedom is being constrained by among other factors, declining civic discourse and armed conflicts. As a result of these constraints, UNESCO launched a new programme on the promotion of scientific freedom and the safety of scientists in 2023 to collect data to inform decision-making.

Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the rights of all individuals to "share in scientific advancement and its benefits." While the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights calls for the protection of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application. The Convention explicitly refers to scientific



Lidia Brito, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences. Credit: Busani Bafana/IPS

freedom in requiring member states to undertake to respect the 'freedom indispensable to scientific research'.

There is a caveat. UNESCO says scientific freedom must be exercised alongside responsibility, which is the duty of scientists to conduct and apply science with integrity, in the interest of humanity, in a spirit of stewardship for the environment, and with respect for human rights.

Science ecosystems in Africa are operating in a challenging environment, underscoring the need to restore trust in science and the recognition of scientists in advancing human development, UNESCO says.

Highlighting the restrictions of research freedom, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Daya Reddy, who reviewed the African Perspectives on Scientific Freedom report, noted the need for increased collaboration between scientists and policymakers to foster science, technology, and innovation.

Reddy said the study focus area was for Africa to develop guidelines and recommendations on scientific freedom after gaining a better understanding of the state of scientific freedom in six African countries profiled under the pilot study.

The study assessed scientific freedom in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. It found that scientific freedom was not uniformly understood and appreciated in different national contexts, which necessitated the creation of a robust framework of laws and policies to promote research and publication.

A lack of resources and a critical mass were identified as some factors impinging on scientific freedom which did not have an

explicit profile or presence in policies and legal frameworks in the six countries. This is despite the fact that most national constitutions protected a range of human rights and freedoms, such as the freedom of expression, opinion, and information, but were silent on scientific freedom. The Democratic Republic of Congo is an exception and asserts in its constitution, the freedom of access to research results, while protecting the interests of its authors.

Despite representing 12.5 percent of the global population, Africa was contributing less than one percent to global research output and the continent was spending even less on Research and Development. In 2006, African Heads of State and government agreed to commit one percent of the national GDP to research and development to boost scientific innovation. However, none of the African countries have met this threshold, pointing to pervasive low spending on scientific research in Africa.

## Building a culture of science

We need to build a culture of science to accelerate sustainable development in Africa, says Lidia Brito, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences. She argues that scientists play a crucial role in promoting the well-being of society and for science to deliver its full potential, scientists must be able to work freely, without any restrictions.

"Science needs space to develop. There is also the need to interact with society to understand their needs and then through scientific endeavors to come up with solutions but in a co-designer, co-participating mode, Brito told IPS, emphasizing that guaranteeing that scientists have the freedom in terms of finance and infrastructure, and

the space to develop their scientific programmes is key.

"We want science and scientists to be these heroes who come up with solutions to the pressing challenges we are facing globally," Brito said.

But how do we promote the culture of science given that in Africa there is poor investment in research and development?

The UNESCO report, African Perspectives on Scientific Freedoms, calls for more investment in science, in scientific organizations, and the training of more researchers in Africa. This will be possible through an enabling environment that fosters the growth of science and scientists to operate.

"It is also about protecting the profession of scientists and about creating a conducive environment to retain the scientists in the scientific career, which is particularly important for women scientists, Brito said, adding that many times women start their careers in science but then leave because the work environment is not conducive for them.

The study noted the underrepresentation of women in science, technology, and research in Africa as an issue that needed to be addressed. Fewer than 31 percent of scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa are women, according to UNESCO.

## Plugging the brain drain

Besides, Africa is experiencing a brain drain of its scientists, attracted by better conditions in other countries, especially the global North. The World Economic Forum (WEF) found that Africa has fewer than 100 scientists per million inhabitants and will need to increase this to the global average of 800 by training millions of scientists, technicians, and engineers to post-graduate levels over the next few years.

## What of these pleas for delays in meeting global deadline on climate change action?

CLIMATE change is a strange phenomenon in economic terms, its ravages compelling countries globally to make drastic changes in their energy use strategies.

This is primarily owing to calamities arising from fossil fuel effects and, precisely owing to the huge costs induced by climate change, even the developed countries find it difficult to put up those costs.

For various reasons, a few African countries have moved rapidly in a renewable energy direction, whose preliminary outlays are costly but afterwards the generating of power has few hassles.

Others are trying to improve on an old model, especially if they already were relying on coal, etc.

A portion of African countries with a large domestic energy are hanging on with firewood and charcoal, which are becoming increasingly unacceptable in the face of desertification and drought.

But while these effects are noticed as well on the local scene, it is becoming increasingly easier at the policy level to adopt a clean cooking energy platform.

One explanation for this is that the gender dimension of fuel wood use is more vivid than the potential ravages of drought.

Other countries where this situation isn't quite as evident and they are knee deep in the use of coal not just domestically but more so in power generation are compelled to admit they just can't make a quick shift.

One such country is South Africa, which has recently been quoted as

having told a climate action meeting that it would miss its 2030 emissions goals.

The implication here was that the country would likely have to slip up on the policy objectives tied up with climate commitments.

That the country remains committed to "net zero" energy output by mid-century is a different matter, as it all depends on how far it can really succeed in removing financial and other hurdles to the smooth rolling out of renewables.

That is one among background contributions to those who will be setting up the agenda for this year's global climate change conference, and it isn't just the South African input they will be discussing.

Some middle-income countries like India had given notice of much the same much earlier, including at the Dubai global climate jamboree.

It was that they were unable to cut down rapidly enough on their reliance on coal, heavy fuel furnaces or the use of diesel and petrol.

If this appeared to be a problem of Global South, the fact is that most European Union countries are reeling back with heavy electoral gains by 'far right' parties, objecting to climate policy privations.

Yet the singular threat to the Paris framework of action underlining the COP series of conferences is the next presidential election in the US, as the conservative Republican think-tanks were always skeptical on ongoing and planned climate change action.

They believed that, with time, the earth's own mechanisms would balance out any carbon dioxide excesses just the way the body soaks up 'free radicals' with the right diet - even without medication.



# Colonial errors of 1959: The ongoing perils of Ngorongoro's multiple land use policy

By Correspondent Constantine Akitanda

**I**N 1959, the colonial administration introduced the multiple land use policy in Ngorongoro intending to harmonize human settlements with wildlife conservation. This policy has revealed significant shortcomings that continue to endanger both residents and wildlife in the region.

Initially designed to accommodate human and wildlife populations, the policy aimed to harmonize their coexistence within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).

Yet, these intentions have since proven inadequate, jeopardizing the safety and well-being of residents while threatening the ecological balance of the region.

During that time, the policy was seen as extraordinary, representing an innovative approach to land management that sought to satisfy the needs of both indigenous populations and conservation efforts.

At the core of the multiple land use policy was the concept of shared space, meaning the policy aimed to allow residents to continue their traditional pastoralist lifestyle while simultaneously protecting the rich biodiversity of the Ngorongoro region.

This integration was intended to support sustainable development by balancing the ecological needs of wildlife with the socio-economic needs of the human population.

While the Maasai are the most prominent group associated with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the region has historically been home to other ethnic groups such as the Datoga and Hadza.

The multiple land use policy of 1959 impacted all these groups, leading to various challenges that the Tanzanian government is now addressing through comprehensive resettlement and policy amendments.

The Maasai were allowed to graze their livestock within the conservation area, maintaining their cultural practices and livelihood.

In return, certain restrictions were imposed to ensure that wildlife habitats were preserved and that the ecological integrity of the region was not compromised.

These restrictions included prohibiting permanent structures and agricultural activities that could disrupt wildlife habitats.

Initially, the policy was seen as a win-win solution, allowing people to sustain their way of life while the area remained a wildlife sanctuary, fostering biodiversity and attracting tourism.

However, several challenges quickly emerged that the colonial administration had not fully anticipated.

Over time, the growth of both human and wildlife populations has intensified the competition for scarce resources like water and grazing land.

Consequently, while the government's efforts to enhance community development services impact conservation sustainability, its focus on conservation activities similarly affects community development, suggesting that the outdated multiple land use policy of 1959 cannot effectively address the current challenges.

As human settlements expanded, the pressure on wildlife habitats intensified, leading to more frequent and severe human-wildlife conflicts.

The increased density of both humans and livestock within the conservation area began to strain natural resources.

For example, overgrazing by livestock reduced the availability of vegetation for wild herbivores, leading to changes in the ecosystem and wildlife behavior.

As human activities encroached further into wildlife habitats, the natural migration patterns and behaviors of animals were disrupted, resulting in habitat fragmentation that further endangered wildlife species and increased the likelihood of encounters with humans.

The consequences of these challenges have been profound, and the delicate balance that the policy sought to achieve has become increasingly difficult to maintain.

As a result, escalating human-wildlife conflicts have led to numerous incidents of injury and death among both



Orkendenye Liarite (32) from Bulati village was critically hurt by a lion while herding cattle.

residents and animals, creating a volatile living environment.

The situation has necessitated a re-evaluation of the policy, as the initial goals of coexistence have become untenable under current conditions.

The Tanzanian government has recognized that the historical approach needs significant adjustments to address the modern realities of population growth and environmental sustainability.

In response to these challenges, the government, through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), has taken steps to amend the NCA Act with a comprehensive strategy to effectively resolve the existing problem.

The government has taken some crucial measures as a strategy, starting by raising awareness among residents about the risks of human-wildlife conflicts and the benefits of resettlement.

This initial step is complemented by encouraging voluntary resettlement, wherein residents are motivated to move to safer areas outside the conservation zone, with promises of adequate compensation and support.

Moreover, legislative amendments have been made by revising the NCA Act to prioritize wildlife conservation while providing clear guidelines and robust support for human resettlement, addressing outdated laws that have contributed to the current challenges.

The government's efforts aim to create distinct, secure habitats for humans and wildlife, reducing conflicts and promoting sustainable coexistence.

This approach not only addresses the immediate dangers faced by residents but also ensures the long-term preservation of the unique biodiversity of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

By learning from the past and adapting policies to current needs, Tanzania is working towards a future where both its human and wildlife populations can flourish without threatening each other's survival.

Recently, Bahati Mfungo, the Division Officer of Ngorongoro, has described two alarming incidents faced by residents of the division, emphasizing that they face a persistent threat from wildlife attacks.

Mfungo reports that the situation is becoming increasingly

dire, with more than two incidents involving severe injuries or fatalities recently documented.

In one incident, Orkendenye Liarite, a 32-year-old from Bulati village, was viciously attacked by a lion while herding cattle.

The lion not only killed two of his cows but also inflicted severe injuries on Mr. Liarite, necessitating urgent medical attention at Nainokanoka Health Centre.

Similarly, 26-year-old Kimirei Kuya from Esere village, Alaitole ward, was fatally attacked by a hippopotamus inside his home. These incidents highlight residents' escalating danger as wildlife encroach on human habitats in search of food and territory.

Globally, few places experience such intense human-wildlife cohabitation; one notable example is India, where human populations live in close proximity to tigers and elephants, often leading to similar conflicts.

In the Sundarbans, a delicate balance is maintained through rigorous conservation efforts and community awareness programs to mitigate human-wildlife encounters.

Efforts to amend the 1959 law by the Tanzanian government have aimed to protect both human and wildlife populations.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) is playing a leading role in these endeavors, focusing on educating, mobilizing, registering, assessing, and resettling residents who voluntarily relocate to safer areas.

The tragic incidents involving Orkendenye Liarite and Kimirei Kuya underscore the pressing necessity for decisive and effective steps toward resettlement efforts.

With wildlife populations expanding and habitats diminishing, the likelihood of such encounters intensifying underscores the urgency for immediate action, and the Tanzanian government's commitment to addressing these challenges is evident in its proactive approach.

The legacy of the 1959 multiple land use policy serves as a cautionary tale of the unintended consequences of well-meaning but flawed policies.

The Tanzanian government's current efforts to rectify these mistakes through legislative amendments and resettlement initiatives offer a hopeful path forward.

## TRAFFIC

### TRAFFIC Vacancy Announcement

**TITLE:** Finance Manager – East Africa  
**LOCATION:** Arusha, Tanzania  
**TRAFFIC GRADE:** TP1  
**VACANCY NUMBER:** 6932

#### ORGANISATIONAL BACKGROUND

TRAFFIC is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Its mission is to ensure that trade in wild species is legal and sustainable for the benefit of the planet and people. TRAFFIC International East Africa is a registered branch of TRAFFIC International headquartered in the UK. It is based in Arusha, Tanzania, and has a geographic responsibility extending from Eritrea to Tanzania.

TRAFFIC International is a charity and limited company registered in the UK. TRAFFIC's head office, based in Cambridge UK, provides worldwide leadership, coordination, cross-regional and corporate functions. TRAFFIC's local engagement is managed through programme offices operating under the auspices of the UK charity, with staff based in a hub office and at other strategic locations where necessary. Programme offices operate within a geographic area of responsibility focused on one or multiple countries where TRAFFIC aims to help deliver priority programme outcomes. TRAFFIC works in strategic alliance with IUCN and WWF on wildlife trade issues.

*The annual salary range for this position is between \$27,500 to \$31,000 depending on the experience and skills.*

#### CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES

The core function of the Senior Finance Officer is to manage and coordinate the finance operations in the TRAFFIC International East Africa Office and be responsible for the day-to-day financial accounting, preparation of consolidated financial reports and budget analysis. The Senior Finance Officer is also responsible to support and maintain a consistent and efficient administration of financial reporting for projects and provide guidance to management on future financial plans.

The Senior Finance Officer position includes supervisory responsibilities.

#### SPECIFIC ROLES

- Prepare the periodic financial report in the accounting software, monitor cash flow, cost recovery and establish project expenditure status reports.
- Oversee the preparation of timesheets, expense verification, journal entries and bank reconciliation by the Finance Officer.
- Oversee the preparation and maintenance of the assets list, filing of bank statements, funds transfer receipts and certified journal entries by the Finance Officer.
- Responsible for preparing monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports at the consolidated, core and project levels for TRAFFIC International and donors.
- Prepare quarterly intercompany schedule for submission to TRAFFIC International
- Prepare Balance sheet schedule for submission to TRAFFIC International.
- Analyse the expense verification reports from the East Africa office in Tanzania for accuracy and to ensure compliance with donor requirements.
- Prepare annual budgets, financial forecasts and provide an evaluation of project expenditure, in consultation with the management.
- Manage key program documents including filing of invoices, contracts, vouchers and other related documents in line with Field Accounting Manual and donor requirements.
- Ensure that accounting transactions are entered in the financial systems in a timely manner.
- Issue, track and reconcile approved travel advances to programme staff; review advance expense reports, review advance reconciliation and claims for completeness and accuracy.
- Verify the financial content of TRAFFIC East Africa's proposals to ensure compliance with TRAFFIC and donor guidelines.
- Manage processes in connection with the annual audits, including preparation of reconciliation schedules and providing guidance in audit sampling requests.
- Provide financial reports and interpret financial information to managerial staff while recommending further courses of action.
- Keeping abreast of changes in financial policies, regulations and legislation and ensure organisational compliance and implementation.
- Responsible for the preparation of financial accounting, project financial reports, forecast expenditure reports, income and expenditure and budget, in compliance with TRAFFIC financial policies and procedures.
- Cash flow planning, forecasting and analysis.
- Liaising with other offices in the network.
- Coordinate with the East Africa regional office and TRAFFIC International for the preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports at the consolidated, core and project levels.
- Manage the annual audit process, preparation of financial documents for audit and review audit reports with the management.
- Be TRAFFIC International East Africa's Audit point of contact.
- Provide support and capacity building to the Finance and Administration Officer.
- Work closely with Finance team at TRAFFIC International office.
- Any other duties as assigned by Operations Manager and Programme Office Director.

#### SUPERVISION

1. Directly supervise the Finance and Administration Officer.

#### REQUIREMENTS / EXPECTATIONS OF THE ROLE

- Bachelor's degree in accounting with a minimum 5 years of working experience.
- Must be a registered member of NBAA (CPA) or other international equivalent certification holder.
- Excellent written and oral skills in English and Kiswahili are essential. Additional languages will be an advantage.
- Experience managing a small team of administrative staff and having line management responsibilities.
- Good interpersonal skills, communications skills, innovative thinking, versatile ability to work in a team and independently.
- Good understanding of current national and regional issues especially an interest in environmental and nature conservation issues.
- Excellent skills in accounting software and Microsoft Excel will be an added advantage.
- Thorough and meticulous with excellent analytical skills.
- Able to manage, guide and lead employees to ensure appropriate financial processes are being used.
- A solid understanding of financial statistics and accounting principles.
- Independent thinker and showing initiative in developing innovative approaches.
- Must be a Tanzanian national.

**Closing date: Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.**

Applicants are requested to apply online through the HR Management System, by opening the vacancy announcement and pressing the "Apply" button.

Applicants will be asked to create an account and submit their profile information. Applications will not be accepted after the closing date. The vacancy closes at midnight, Swiss time (GMT+1 / GMT+2 during Daylight Saving Time, DST). Please note that only selected applicants will be personally contacted for interviews.

Other job opportunities are published in the IUCN website: <https://www.iucn.org/involved/jobs/>

# Digital public infrastructure is transforming lives in Pakistan

By Tariq Malik and Prerna Saxena

**H**ISTORY teaches us that even the simplest technological innovations can have the most profound consequences for society. From the railways to the internet, technologies have reshaped our lives. Today, digital public infrastructure (DPI) represents such a determining investment. In the case of Pakistan, the country has demonstrated its commitment towards digital transformation, marked by interventions in 2022.

On a scorching day with temperatures soaring to 42 degrees, Manzoora, a mother from the flood-stricken district of Shaheed Benazirabad, rural Sindh, Pakistan, made a significant leap: she withdrew cash from her own bank account for the very first time. This milestone was made possible through a mobile cash transfer programme initiated by the Sindh government, which partnered with digital service providers to empower citizens like Manzoora. This is just one example of how DPI is changing lives of millions of Pakistanis.

Pakistan's digital transformation

At the heart of Pakistan's digital transformation is the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), established to overhaul the country's identity systems. This was a foundational change, positioning Pakistan among a select group of nations equipped to manage comprehensive digital identities for over 240 million citizens. The NADRA-issued Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) is now a standard feature in every adult Pakistani's life, facilitating a range of routine tasks such as opening bank accounts, purchasing airline tickets, acquiring driver's licenses, and qualifying for social protection, thereby ensuring seamless identity authentication for every citizen.

Within four years of launching the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) - a social protection initiative to alleviate poverty - CNIC issuance to adults increased by 72%. Despite its head-start to similar digital identity (ID) initiatives in other countries, optimal use of NADRA's digital database remains limited to only few ministries, department, agencies, and regulated businesses.

The crucial role of political support and legislation

The success of DPI hinges on enduring political commitment and robust legal frameworks that transcend electoral cycles. While the concept of citizen registration was embedded in Pakistan's 1973 constitution, the integration of various national databases through the NADRA Ordinance 2000 and subsequent legislative enhancements in 2012 have been critical.

Pakistan's digital initiatives

Pakistan's journey toward effective DPI is characterized by the rollout of significant digital initiatives, such as, Contactless Biometric Verification App, Nishan Pakistan, and Pakistan Digital Census. While these prioritize long-term benefits, it is es-



sential to achieve short-term wins to maintain engagement and support, preventing loss of momentum due to shifts in leadership or political will.

For instance, by integrating digital IDs with banking and telco services, the Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) scheme launched in December 2021, within the span of two years secured more than 10 million mobile accounts, with around 40% being women-owned.

Likewise, NADRA's role in the RAAST payment system - a State Bank of Pakistan initiative - highlights how DPI can transform financial transactions. RAAST, an interoperable instant payment system, utilizes NADRA's identity authentication processes to offer secure, swift KYC-compliant financial transactions across various platforms, thereby democratizing access to digital payments for millions.

Additionally, Pakistan's DPI framework has also proven instrumental in managing crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Within days of initiating the lockdown, Pakistan's federal authorities announced unconditional cash transfers. The government provided approximately \$75 per household, sufficient to purchase three months' worth of food staples to 12 million vulnerable households.

The targeted response, facilitated by the robust digital ID infrastructure provided by NADRA, resonates strongly with the United Nations-based Better Than Cash Alliance's 10-point action plan. This plan urges digitizing social benefits and providing women with Digital IDs, mobile phones, and internet access to advance financial equality.

The same approach is endorsed by a recent report on the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), which

highlights significant advancements in Pakistan's digital delivery system.

These significant opportunities need to be informed and designed with guardrails to ensure that the deployment of DPI is safe, responsible, and leveraged for inclusive societies. The Universal Safeguards for DPI initiative, and the UN Principles for Responsible Digital Payments aim to create a practical framework for countries implementing such initiatives. This initiative identifies potential risks in global DPI deployments, providing valuable insights to inform the design and implementation of future safeguards.

For instance, in Pakistan, NADRA's data sharing follows strict parliamentary processes. In national security cases, the crisis management cell within the Ministry of the Interior responsible for evaluation and requests of specific data fields. These standard

operating procedures ensure case-by-case data sharing, a clear paper trail, and accountability to NADRA's board.

The future of Pakistan's digital economy

The potential of DPI to transform Pakistan's economy and society is immense. With projections suggesting that wholesale adoption of digital payments could boost GDP by up to 7 percent.

Looking ahead, Pakistan is set to launch several ambitious DPI initiatives, including expanding the RAAST payment system, implementing a nationwide digital health records system, and launching a blockchain-based land registry. These projects promise to drive efficiency and transparency across multiple sectors, positioning Pakistan as a pioneer in the global digital landscape.

## Donald Trump and the gathering darkness threatening US politics

By Richard Hargy

**I**N America, we resolve our differences at the ballot box ... not with bullets. The power to change America should always rest in the hands of the people, not in the hands of a would-be assassin.

So said the US president, Joe Biden, in an Oval Office address to the nation the day after the attempted assassination of his rival in November's presidential election.

The shockwaves of Trump surviving an effort to kill him at a campaign event in Pennsylvania on July 13 are still being felt across the United States and around the world. The FBI stated it has picked up on increasing levels of violent political rhetoric being expressed in the aftermath of the assassination attempt.

And, contrary to Biden's insistence that there is "no place in America for this kind of violence", Katie Stallard, a non-resident global fellow at the Wilson Centre in Washington DC, believes that: "The attack on Donald Trump was shocking, but it wasn't unprecedented by American standards, and it wasn't entirely unforeseeable."

The Trump assassination attempt follows a disturbing trend in America of extremists embarking on violent plots to silence their perceived opponents.

Researchers Professor Pete Simi of Chapman University, and Seamus Hughes, University of Nebraska, have examined threats against political candidates between 2013 and 2023. They found that "over the past 10 years, more than 500 individuals have been arrested



Many people believe Donald Trump's political rhetoric has caused division and anger.

for threatening public officials. And the trendline is shooting up."

Over the past three years alone, America has witnessed a surge in violence linked to a darkening political landscape that has seen combative and toxic discourse infect its body politic.

The Capitol riots in January 2021 were preceded by a speech from the then president, Donald Trump, where he told an assembled crowd the November 2020 presidential election had

been "stolen". Following this address thousands of the president's supporters marched on the Capitol building.

The ensuing mayhem resulted in a violent riot and the deaths of five people, including a police officer.

In October 2022, Paul Pelosi, the husband of the then House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, was attacked in his home and bludgeoned with a hammer by far-right conspiracy theorist David DePape. DePape's plan was to find Pelosi

herself, hold her hostage, and "break her kneecaps". Donald Trump would later mock Mr Pelosi at a Republican campaign event.

In September 2023, Trump sparked fury with a social media post criticising former chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Mark Milley. On "Truth Social" the former president, angered by revelations that Milley had taken a phone call with Chinese officials after the January 6 2021 riots, wrote: "This is an act so egregious that, in times gone by, the punishment would have been DEATH!"

Guns and angry folks

Polling conducted by Professor Robert A. Pape from the University of Chicago, sheds new light on the worrying positions some Americans have towards the utility of political violence. This survey of over 2,000 people found that 10 percent of respondents viewed the use of force as "justified to prevent Donald Trump from becoming president". This equates to 26 million adults if the findings are applied to the whole population.

Within this mix of increasingly dangerous political rhetoric and violence is America's "guns epidemic". According to the FBI, the weapon used by the would-be assassin at the Trump campaign rally, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was an AR-style rifle purchased by his father.

Pape's survey also found that 7 percent of respondents supported the use of force "to restore Donald Trump to the presidency". Of this group, which equates to 18 million adults, around 45

percent own guns, 40 percent think the people involved in the Capitol attack were "patriots", while 10 percent were either militia members or knew someone who was a militia member.

The reaction to the Trump assassination attempt by some of his most prominent congressional supporters has bordered on the reckless. Ohio Senator J.D. Vance - a potential vice presidential nominee - stated that Joe Biden bore responsibility for the attack. He asserted that the president's campaign speeches had "led directly" to what transpired in Pennsylvania.

Other GOP elected officials have gone further with wild and dangerous rhetoric. Georgia congressman Mike Collins posted on X that "Joe Biden sent the orders" and called for the Republican district attorney in Butler County, where the assassination attempt took place, to "immediately file charges against Joseph R. Biden for inciting an assassination".

There is heightened concern as the summer of political conventions by both Republican and Democratic parties get underway. Jacob Ware, a research fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, has stated that these large gatherings "boast the largest collections of party members and leaders throughout the entire election cycle and could therefore attract individuals or groups with a vendetta".

# Register, use top-level domain name, TCRA tells Tanzanians



By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has urged Tanzanians to register and use the country's top-level domain name, thus contributing to the country's economic development.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA director general (pictured), made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking to journalists on the matter.

He said: "The dot tz domain name and its users contributed to branding Tanzania online. It was similar to the +255 prefix in telecommunications."

He added: "Disputes related to a domain name can also be handled and resolved within the country. Non-Tanzania domain names, such as 'dot com' are managed elsewhere."

Dr Bakari explained that dot tz domain owners enjoyed seamless use and a friendlier regulatory approach than users of foreign domain names. Some of these attracted stiffer sanctions, including fines of more than 100 dollars and suspensions.

Dr Bakari described the registration of dot tz domain names as satisfactory. There are over 30,000 domain names registered through more than 70 accredited

registrars.

Individuals and organizations can register a domain name through the accredited registrars published at <https://karibu.tz/domains/registrar/>.

Besides the corporate and individual benefits of domain names, their use is mandatory for Tanzanian public or business entities. It is required by section 10(1) of the Electronic and Postal Communication Numbering and Addressing Regulations. "Any company, government and non-governmental organizations, society, partnership or community registered and conducting business in Tanzania shall register and use domain names with dot-tz country code top-level domain (ccTLD)," the section states.

In cyberspace, where communication uses computer networks that ensure a country's presence on the internet, countries are identified by their country code top-level domains (ccTLD).

These are generally used or reserved for a country, sovereign state, or dependent territory identified with a country code. Examples of ccTLDs are dot eg for Egypt, dot in (India), dot us (USA), dot uk (UK) and dot tz (Tanzania).

Domain names are unique identifiers of internet resources such as websites regis-

tered at the country or global levels.

Computers connected to the internet have unique numerical addresses to deliver electronic information to the right place. The domain name system translates these addresses into more user-friendly names.

The resulting domain names are easier to remember, and help people to navigate the internet for information.

Domain names identify particular web pages and email addresses that enable people to send and receive electronic messages.

The benefits of owning a Tanzania domain name include clients' easy access, demonstration of professionalism, branding opportunities and user trust and confidence in a business or service. This enables an organization to improve its credibility and build a solid client base.

Local domains instil a sense of satisfaction and national pride in clients. They feel they are supporting local organizations.

Experts have shown that users easily identify with a local name or brand. For example, users feel more confident when communicating on emails with dot Tanzania extensions than those with global domains such as dot com. Client email mes-

sages sent on country domains are rarely rejected.

Using a local domain or email address also gives clients a more professional look.

They show that owners have made great efforts to register their domains locally instead of adopting global domains.

Local domains also facilitate searches for businesses and services. When a client searches for information, the algorithms of search engines such as Google locate addresses and direct users to relevant websites.

Domain names facilitate marketing as it increases search engine optimization. Local domains are more focused and, hence, are given priority in searches. When a user clicks a country domain, the search is narrowed.

For example, if someone clicks Tanzania in their search for any content, the engine will prioritize Tanzania and the domain with the dot Tanzania extension will be ranked on top.

An organization with a global domain, such as 'dot com', will be subject to wider searches since it competes with more websites for the same keywords clicked by a user. TCRA said that being ranked higher builds online credibility and promotes an organization.

By Jenipher Changwanda

**A**CCORDING to the 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, Malawi is among the five nations worldwide most affected by extreme weather events. The country experiences distinct wet and dry seasons, so climate phenomena like El Niño can disrupt normal rain patterns and lead to periods of drought.

The nation's proximity to the Indian Ocean also makes it susceptible to cyclones and heavy rain. Poverty and deforestation exacerbate these weather impacts for the nation's smallholder farmers, who produce 80% of the food consumed in Malawi.

Cyclone Freddy lasted a record 38 days in February and March 2023. The storm barreled 8,000 km across the Indian Ocean, pummeling Madagascar and Reunion before striking the African mainland. It swirled over southern Mozambique and Zimbabwe, re-intensified over the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, then returned to strike northern Mozambique and Malawi.

In Malawi's densely populated southern region, Freddy dropped six months' worth of rainfall in six days, triggering floods and mudslides that killed more than 1,200 people and displaced 659,000. The government's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment claims total loss and damages exceeded \$1 billion. More than 2 million farmers lost their crops as 440,000 acres of land were destroyed or washed away, and 1.4 million livestock either drowned, starved to death, or became lost.

Malawi's food system was still reeling months after the cyclone dissipated. "[Cyclone Freddy] caused soil erosion and degradation," said Paul Turnbull, the World Food Programme's (WFP) country director in Malawi. "This has not only affected the 2023 harvest but also [had] long-term consequences on the productivity of agricultural land. Soil erosion diminishes soil fertility and can lead to decreased crop yields. Some affected households...had to wait for another farming season to grow food."

Many of those affected by Cyclone Freddy lacked a reliable source of food or income for months afterwards. Low agricultural output also led to food shortages and increased prices nationwide. The price of maize - Malawi's staple food - quadrupled, with a 50 km bag costing up to K36, 600 Kwacha (\$22) in November 2023. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 4.4 million Malawians were projected to require food assistance through March 2024, a 15 percent increase from the previous year.

The impact on women

It takes Ellen Sinoya, 43, two days to walk to work. She leaves her three children with their grandmother at home in Mwenye, a small village in southern Malawi's Machinga District, then hikes across the border into Mozambique, stopping only to sleep by the side of the road. After working for a piece rate on a commercial farm for two or three days, she brings home 5,000 Kwacha (\$3) - enough to feed her family on maize bran for two weeks. Then she makes the long walk again.

Sinoya has grown maize and rice on her one-hectare farm, just yards from

# Malawi's farmers on the front line of climate change-related storms



Enipher Jaijosi tills her farm a week after floods, which are expected to become more frequent and extreme due to climate change, washed through her village in Malawi.

her doorstep. But in March 2023, Cyclone Freddy, the strongest tropical cyclone ever recorded, destroyed her home and land.

"I had to abandon my home," says Sinoya. She returned in August after living for five months in an evacuation camp, only to find her lands saturated with water. "We cannot grow rice...this year because the water has ruined the land. We cannot grow maize because the soil is contaminated with sand. Nowadays, I depend on mangoes, or else we eat kalangonda beans, but these are poisonous unless you cook them well. Every day, I worry what my children will eat."

Women like Ellen Sinoya - who make up more than 50% of the agricultural labour force and are often additionally tasked with caring for children and older people - are not only most at risk. They also shoulder most recovery efforts.

"Women are the backbone of every society in Malawi," says Caleb Ng'ombo, director of People Serving Girls at Risk, an NGO working to reduce the vulnerabilities of young women and children to sexual exploitation. "Those doing the manual work on the farm are women; those who bring the food to the table are women, and it is women who go and look for food in an emergency."

And so it is that women in the region most affected by Freddy ate less

and worked even harder to provide for their families. They survived off scattered patches of fertile land or by walking miles in search of stretched humanitarian aid or government hand-outs to feed their families. Others were forced to abandon agriculture for more dangerous work.

"When Cyclone Freddy hit, the number of women in prostitution almost tripled," adds Ng'ombo. "We have come across so many women whose farmland was washed away. They became so vulnerable, laying hands on whatever they could get to survive and feed their families. It's become easier for traffickers."

In Mwenye, Sinoya stood on the ruins of her home, where old clothes and broken plates were still mixed in with the rubble and dirt. "We have nothing to make here. We have nothing to sell. We have nothing to sustain our lives," she says.

Compounding effects

When Cyclone Freddy arrived, Malawi had barely recovered from its previous major disaster. In January 2022, Tropical Storm Ana killed 46 people, and more than 190,000 lost or fled their homes. Six weeks later, Cyclone Gombe killed seven people. As storm waters spread human waste into lakes and wells, Malawi's ongoing cholera outbreak, the largest in the nation's history, worsened.

Rural villages, including Mwenye, were vulnerable to disease and disruption long before Freddy hit. More than half the nation lives in poverty, and one-fifth live in extreme poverty, which forces people to make high-risk decisions. According to the WFP, approximately 73 percent of Malawians live in areas prone to climate-related disasters, including floods, drought, cyclones, and windstorms.

"It's difficult to afford a plot or rent a house, so poverty is leading people to settle in hazardous places," says Miriam Joshua, an associate professor of geography and earth sciences at Malawi University. "They are afraid of moving to [safer] areas where there may be no livelihood." For the same reason, early warning systems - which do not always reach the most rural areas - have had little impact.

Sitting on the banks of a river that runs off the base of a mountain, Manja Village, in Machinga District, has always been flood-prone. Poverty, land degradation, and agricultural dependency have compounded residents' risk.

The men in Manja cycle from the hillside with bags of charcoal tied to their bikes. Nearly every Malawian household relies on firewood and charcoal for cooking and heating, so selling charcoal is one of the few businesses providing a guaranteed income source.

But this has led to massive deforestation. By 1992, Malawi had lost more than half its forests and now loses an additional 0.63 percent annually. As the land loses its capacity to absorb water and soil erodes, vast areas become increasingly vulnerable to floods and mudslides.

Enipher Jaijosi, 35, was waiting to plant maize after Cyclone Freddy swept through her village. But in October, one month before the rainy season usually arrives, heavy rains hit the hillsides. Floodwaters rushed into Manja, destroying 84 houses and breaking through a newly built dike. They pushed gravel into the soil and turned recently planted farmland into bare, muddy fields.

She points to a plot covered in the wilted remains of maize, where she slowly removes gravel with a hoe to start cultivating her farm again. "I need this land to feed my children, but my crops can't grow on this soil now," Jaijosi says.

The threat of climate change With all of Malawi's existing vulnerabilities, an event of Freddy's magnitude was more than enough to push an impoverished population over the edge. Climate change threatens only more of the same, forcing Malawi into a constant state of response and recovery.

Enrico Scoccimarro, a senior scientist at the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change (CMCC), has warned that a warmer climate will cause tropical storms to become more severe as ocean temperatures rise. "A higher availability of energy in the ocean leads to more intense storms," Scoccimarro told the CMCC's Foresight magazine. "Moreover, if a storm happens to go back to the ocean, it has a higher probability to re-strengthen and hit land again, and this is just what happened with Freddy recently."

"The southern part [of Malawi] lies in the area where cyclones usually pass, and the Coriolis effect is stronger," says Lucy Mtilatila, director of Malawi's Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services. "Sea temperatures are also increasing, creating opportunities for more and stronger cyclones. Malawi used to experience one cyclone every seven years, but we have experienced five since 2019. As long as temperatures keep increasing, we anticipate more extreme events in the future."

Of course, massive investment in response and recovery would mitigate the impacts of these events, but Malawi is a poor nation. The government predicts that in a business-as-usual scenario, climate change could result in a 20 percent GDP loss by 2040; meanwhile, the population is projected to almost double by 2050.

# Ugandan chimps are eating bat guano, raising concerns over human epidemics

By Juliette Portala

“FINISH your yogurt, sweetheart, it's good for your bones. And take a few almonds, so you'll stay healthy.”

You may have heard this before, and rightly so. Minerals, such as calcium and magnesium, are vital to our functioning as they ensure that our bones, muscles, heart and brain work properly. And the same holds for wildlife.

In the Budongo Forest in western Uganda, wild animals are very fond of eating the pith of decaying *Raphia farinifera* palm trees, which contain minerals critical to their health. But when local farmers uprooted the trees to make strings for drying tobacco leaves, some animals made changes to their diet. Perilous changes, according to a study released in *Communications Biology* earlier this year.

In a possible response to the mineral scarcity, chimpanzees, monkeys and antelopes turned to an alternative source of dietary minerals: bat droppings, also known as guano, which hold high concentrations of the minerals that wildlife needs. But the bat guano also contains plenty of infectious viruses, including one that is a relative of the famous SARS coronaviruses, which kicked off the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Human-induced activities are often the primary drivers of virus emergence among wildlife and humans,” conservation ecologist Arend de Haas, who co-founded the African Conservation Foundation, wrote in an email. “They create opportunities for viruses to jump species barriers by increasing contact between humans, domestic animals, and wildlife.”

From wildlife to humans: Bat guano eating Part of the mechanisms behind zoonoses – diseases transmitted from animals to humans – remains poorly understood.

Tony Goldberg, a professor of epidemiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a lead scientist in the study, explained in a video call that one popular theory behind outbreaks of the Ebola virus, for instance, was that Ebola-carrying bats infect wildlife, the wildlife dies from the disease, humans touch or handle the dead wildlife and humans get infected with Ebola.

But how do bats infect wildlife in the first place? Previous studies have suggested that cross-species infection have happened when wild animals ate fruit contaminated by bats or came in contact with viruses shed in the environment.

“Bats are known to host a wide variety of viruses and pathogens without showing symptoms of illness themselves,” de Haas emphasized. “This broad range makes it difficult to predict which viruses can jump to other species and under what conditions. These viruses can undergo genetic mutations and recombination, potentially increasing their ability to infect new host species.”

Now, this research paper has a new lead on how viruses may spread from bats to other animals: bat guano consumption.

Goldberg, who has witnessed monkeys chewing cement off brick buildings for sodium, says these minerals are so crucial to some species that they may turn to eating bat feces, which can then lead to zoonotic transmission.

From July to October 2017 and from Sep-



The physiological need for sodium and other nutrients often manifests as a specific hunger. This hunger is driven by the body's need to maintain

tember 2018 to April 2019 – after Ugandan farmers had cut down sodium-rich *R. farinifera* trees, trail cameras in Budongo recorded 839 instances of eastern chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*), black-and-white colobuses (*Colobus guereza occidentalis*) and red duikers (*Cephalophus natalensis*) feeding directly on guano.

While this behaviour is common for some invertebrates in nutrient-limited subterranean environments, it had never before been documented among forest-dwelling mammals such as chimpanzees. According to Goldberg, chimps crave sodium more than any other mineral. After all, if chimpanzees are like humans and potato chips, *R. farinifera* must have tasted good to them, he commented.

“The physiological need for sodium and other nutrients often manifests as a specific hunger,” de Haas said, citing geophagy – the habit of eating clay soil. “This hunger is driven by the body's need to maintain electrolyte balance and proper cellular function.”

The lack of intensive research, however, makes it hard to know whether this behaviour is new for colobuses and duikers, too.

Nutritional analyses of guano collected near Noack's roundleaf bats (*Hipposideros ruber*) did reveal high concentrations of minerals, though the guano falls short of the mineral concentrations contained in *R. farinifera* trees. Far worse, Goldberg indicated that the guano also tested positive for 27 infectious viruses, with an average of 14.5 per sample.

This is no surprise, as bats host more than 4,100 distinct viruses. While most of those found in guano were not related to anything trouble-

some to humans, the scientists spotted an exception: the subgenus *Hibecovirus*, a cousin to the SARS-CoV-2.

From humans to wildlife: Tobacco farming

David Eryenyu, the field director at Budongo Conservation Field Station (BCFS), told Mongabay in an email that his team had indeed observed links between human respiratory outbreaks and health issues encountered by wild chimpanzees.

But it's not as if chimps had suddenly changed preferences from trees to bat guano.

Between 2006 and 2012, when international demand for tobacco in-

creased, Ugandan farmers cut down nearly all *R. farinifera* trees in the area to make strings for tobacco leaves to dry on. Researchers say this “local selective deforestation” led chimpanzees to alter feeding behavior.

“Sometimes, in science, we don't try to prove things so much as we try to make connections and come up with the most logical, most parsimonious explanation for our data,” Goldberg said.

But if upstream forces – like a rise in demand for tobacco – can push chimps and other animals to eat guano, identifying “breakable links” can improve prevention, the study reads.

“In theory, you could break any link: You could make fences, so that the chimpanzees can't access the guano; you could convince people across the world not to smoke, so that the tobacco demand wouldn't be high,” Goldberg stated. “But of all those, we think that providing alternatives to cutting down these trees might have been the easiest.”

“Couldn't we have just given the farmers a ball of twine?,” the epidemiologist noted.

He nonetheless pointed out that cutting down certain trees or growing certain crops to respond to the demand that social forces create was only “the way the world works.”

“It's not anybody's fault for not realizing the consequences, it's just bad luck,” he added.

Eryenyu confirmed that local farmers didn't know about wildlife implications. At BCFS, he is striving to diversify the livelihoods of communities living around Budongo, including supporting the development of microenterprises for local people and helping children widen their opportunities for employment beyond the forest.

“I still think about the SARS-CoV-2: If somebody knew in advance, what if all that person needed to do was to put a sign in front of the cave where these bats lived and write, ‘Please don't enter because these bats have bad viruses!’” Goldberg wondered.

“Could something so small have prevented the pandemic?”



According to Goldberg, chimps crave sodium more than any other mineral. Image by Francesco Ungaro via Unsplash.

## RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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# TANZANIA'S OFFICE MARKET HAMPERED BY OVERSUPPLY

By Guardian Reporter

The picture across Tanzania's real estate landscape remains mixed, with the office market still hampered by an oversupply of stock, while in the residential market, expats are lifting demand and rents for luxury homes.

According to Africa Report 2024/2025 published by Knight Frank, the retail market continues to be dominated by informal retail, with the formal retail market remaining oversupplied.

Tenants maintain a dominant position, driven by an oversupply in the office sector.

An example of a significant pipeline development in the country is the US\$ 2bn Morocco Square Project by the National Housing Corporation (NHC), which is contributing nearly 50,000 sqm of additional space.

"Keenly aware of market challenges, landlords are flexible with lease terms, offering rent reductions and proactively renegotiating rents to safeguard occupancy levels, which currently stand at approximately 70 percent," the report says.

Monthly prime office rents of US\$ 15 per square meter, while 12 percent lower than in 2020, are likely to be positively influenced by the country's improved economic prospects.

According to the latest IMF forecasts, Tanzania is poised to record 6 percent GDP growth this



year, outpacing neighbouring Kenya (5.3 percent) and Uganda (5.7 percent).

According to the report, the current upswing in economic activity is boosting warehousing demand, particularly along Nyerere Road, Dar es Salaam's prime industrial area.

Despite this, however, an oversupply of warehousing has curbed rental growth. Indeed, monthly prime rents have remained stable at US\$ 5 per square metre for the past four years.

Demand is poised to rise over the medium term, driven by recent offshore natural gas discov-

eries and a comprehensive slate of planned national infrastructure projects. The government's strategic focus on enhancing infrastructure is tied to the desire to boost FDI.

The new US\$ 1.9bn, 1,219km national standard gauge rail network is one of such examples evidencing the initiatives.

Expatriates boosting residential demand for the residential market, particularly in prime areas like Oyster Bay and Masaki (Peninsular), stand out as the best performing areas, with rent in this location rising by 15 percent - 20 percent, over the last 2 years.

This surge in demand has also elevated prime rents in Dar es Salaam, which has experienced a 21 percent increase over the past five years. Monthly rents for three-bedroom apartments have risen from US\$ 2,900 in 2019 to approximately US\$ 3,500 at present.

Developers are capitalising on the demand by bringing forward a raft of new residential developments, particularly in and around Peninsular, such as the Manhattan Garden (98 units) and 711 NHC Project (320 units), both of which are expected to be completed by 2025.

Informal retail flourishing

Tanzania's retail landscape is characterised by an informal shopping culture, with an estimated 90 percent of food and beverage sales transpiring through traditional small stores, street vendors, and unregulated markets.

Unsurprisingly, the retail market is predominantly under the sway of small-scale, primarily domestic retailers, a trend entrenched in long-standing consumer shopping habits that have hindered the flourishing of larger malls in the country.

The impending completion of Morocco Square and Dar Village, which collectively will introduce an excess of 65,000 sqm of additional retail space is expected to contribute to the ongoing oversupply of formalised retail space in the country.

Reflecting the subdued uptake of formal retail space, monthly prime rents have stagnated at US\$ 18 psm, while occupancy rates have contracted currently at an average of 70 percent from 65 percent last year.

"Still, our outlook for the country's retail market remains positive, underpinned by the combination of strong economic growth, diminishing inflation, and low rates of unemployment, which together will contribute to a rise in consumer spending, as well as confidence levels amongst businesses and investors," Knight Frak says.

James Lewis, managing director Knight Frank Middle East and Africa says over 95 percent of the African markets tracked by Knight Frank including Tanzania have fully rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic, with most now matching pre-pandemic figures in transactions, prime rents, and average yields across major real estate sectors.

The office sector across the continent is witnessing increased demand for Grade A stock, with ESG-compliant stock growing in popularity. This shift is also prompting some developers to refurbish older buildings to Grade "A" standards to help sustain demand and occupancy levels, as has been the case in Uganda.

Overall, Grade "A" offices boast an average occupancy rate 10 percent higher than lower grade offices.

He said Africa's industrial markets have shown remarkable resilience, bolstered by government initiatives in countries like Kenya and Zimbabwe, with their Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and Export Processing Zones (EPZ) helping to create new demand.

Additionally, the rise of e-commerce across the continent is driving requirements for efficient storage and distribution facilities, prompting the development of modern industrial zones equipped with state-of-the-art logistics infrastructure.

# How construction industry is embracing technology

By Guardian Correspondent

Technology has changed how businesses operate across every sector and the construction industry is no exception.

Today, technology is used throughout the construction process, from preconstruction to ensuring safety at the job site - and increasingly, in the buildings themselves. The ability to capture and leverage data has led to an explosion of insights to draw upon, according to, CTO for Henderson Engineers.

"The whole industry is trying to get organized," he explains. "What we're trying to do is take data from different platforms and combine it in a way that allows us to study past design, predict future outcomes or even just give context to solutions. In the past, good design was what the designer told you was good design. What we're doing now is saying, 'There's 600,000 possible designs we came up with, we ranked them according to this algorithm, and here's some data we can provide to help you understand why we think this one is the best.'"

For Carl Hamilton, director of safety for Stevens-Leinweber Construction, utilizing data is an important facet for jobsite safety. He collects data from multiple channels, including superintendents, subcontractors, owners and architects.

"I compile the data into a dynamic spreadsheet

and put it into [CMiC, a construction management platform]," he says. "The superintendent can also put data into CMiC that is safety-related and specific to the site, such as a high-risk operation like a crane."

Having the information regarding what is happening at the jobsite allows Hamilton to calculate risk and identify hazards.

"I can look [at the data] and determine if it's what I call a sudden hazard that will go away tomorrow or if it's something that is impending over a longer term. Then I can say what control we need to put in place, here's what the costs will be to do that and how we train and educate not only our superintendents, but our subcontractors as well," he says.

Scott Root, executive director of strategy and innovation at Kitchell, adds that technology can aid in jobsite safety in other ways too. He says that a senior superintendent with more than three decades of experience now uses drones to leverage photogrammetry while putting together his safety



plan. "That helps to make sure that at the end of the day, the job can not only be done on time, but completed as safely as possible," Root continues. "He's said that he will never do another job without it, which is a good indicator that we're moving in the right direction [when it comes to adopting technology in the field.]"

In early 2024, Apple released the Apple Vision Pro, which has been billed as the next big thing in virtual reality (VR). Other technology companies such as Meta have also announced ambitious plans for VR, but for most people, the products are still something of a novelty. Yet in the construction industry, VR is already being utilized to great effect.

Root notes that Kitchell is experimenting with a new VR software called Resolve that allows multiple users in the virtual space from any location.

"Our MEP expert was in the Tucson office and walked our clients in Phoenix, who were at the jobsite, through the model to review the nurse

stations, ADA access and shut off valve options. Our goal is to utilize the technology so we can provide our subject matter expertise (design, quality assurance, constructability, etc.) to our clients/jobs at any time and any location to help facilitate decision making," he writes in an email.

For Jeff Emmons, CEO of Immedia and founder of Southwest Experience Center, VR has transformed how his business designs projects. If someone wanted his company to design the audio/visual (AV) components of a board room, the old process included getting the AutoCAD drawings from the client's architect, which his team would use to create the design.

Today, that workflow has been streamlined. Emmons explains that an employee showed him a company that has created a VR database with the parts often used when designing AV systems. Using this technology, a user can drag-and-drop different parts into a virtual copy of the space they are designing for.

"A lot of people don't realize there is science behind audio and visual," Emmons explains. "There's a dispersion pattern on a speaker, so the higher it is, the wider the cone [of sound emitted] is. What we want to do is create an even field of audio when we're doing the design. In the VR app, you can place the speakers and see where the audio zones are lining up."



# London house prices rise for first time in a year

LONDON

House prices in London and the South East have increased for the first time in a year as higher wages boost the property market.

London prices rose by 0.2pc year-on-year in May, while properties in the South East climbed by 0.7pc, the first annual increase in either region since May 2023 and April 2023 respectively, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The capital's average house sale price surged by £19,000 to hit £523,000 between April and May, a jump of 3.5pc and the highest monthly growth recorded in the capital since at least 2010.

Nationally, house prices rose in every region of the UK for the first time since last April, with average prices climbing by 2.2pc on a year earlier to hit £285,000.

Analysts said the prospect of a

Bank of England rate cut in the coming months, which in turn would likely bring drops in mortgage rates, would further boost house prices later this year.

The figures mark a clear end to the housing market downturn driven by high mortgage rates and the cost of living crisis, which have had the biggest impact on London and the South East, where homes were already the least affordable in proportion to earnings.

Annual house prices began rising on a national level in March, but London and the South East had remained firmly in contraction territory, with sale prices falling by 3.6pc and 0.5pc year on year in April respectively.

But now a combination of wage growth, stabilised mortgage rates and lower house prices mean even these regions are starting to recover as they become more affordable.

The average house price in Lon-

don has fallen from a peak of 11.1 times the average local salary in spring 2022 to 9.9 times in spring this year, according to separate data from Nationwide.

Anthony Codling, analyst at RBC Capital Markets, said: "Wages are rising, cost of living pressures are easing and even in May there was optimism that a Labour government would be pro-growth and they were well ahead in the polls."

Codling said: "With the prospect of a Bank Rate cut in September, we expect house prices to move up - not down - in the coming months."

Elliott Jordan-Doak, an economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said: "We think house price gains should accelerate again with rates falling and real incomes rising continuously."

"All told, we think that house prices will gain 3pc in 2024. But May's official house price index suggests risks of a larger rise."

By Guardian Reporter

## PROJECT IN KILOLO DC TARGETS GLOBAL CARBON CREDIT MARKET

**A**RARE hardwood plantation project seeking to cover 18,000 acres in Kilolo district in Iringa region could be a game changer for thousands of villagers of the district and its neighbourhood.

The project which started in 2021 at Mhanga village of Kilolo district, is the brainchild of Tanzania Forest Conservation Group in partnership with 174 smallholder farmers, seeks to plant 100 different species of natural hardwood in an area abandoned by farmers after years of environmental degradation.

"It's a rare project which I have never heard of before, it's going to be a game changer," said Allyce Mwakisoma who is a consultant working with Udzungwa Corridor Group, a joint venture company owned by TFCG and 174 smallholder farmers in the Udzungwa Eastern Arch mountains.

Mwakisoma who comes from a family of hunters in the mountains, knows over 500 species of indigenous trees growing all over Udzungwa mountain ranges some of which are threatened by extinction due to illegal tree felling.

"My father used to be a hunter who I and my brothers used to accompany during his heydays," the traditional botanist who works part-time with UCL said noting that the 90bn/- project will not only change people's lives in the area but also restore nature like never before.

The unique project which will reach its climax in 2051, is already benefiting residents of Mhanga, Itonya and Uluti villages in Kilolo district of Iringa region. "We are happy with this project because it's changing our lives," said Majuto Munyi who is a security guard at UCL.

He said since joining the company in 2021, he has managed to build a corrugated iron sheet house, owns shops and recently bought a piece of plot at Kilolo district headquarters where he



Udzungwa Corridor Limited workers attending hardwood seedlings

plans to build a residential cum commercial structures.

The 41-year-old father of three whose wife, Zajela also works with UCL as a cook, said his family has seen tremendous improvements in standards of living since the natural hardwood plantation company came to Mhanga village.

"I have also invested in pine tree planting project with each of my family members having two acres to their name as security just in case something goes wrong," he said meaning for his family of five, they have a combined 10 acres of pine trees.

His two boys and a girl are also

comfortably studying at Mhanga primary school with a target of reaching university. "I was not fortunate enough to join secondary school because of my parent's inability to meet needs but for my kids, the sky is their limit," he said.

But it's not only young men and women who are directly benefitting from the unique project, but also the elderly most of whom are struggling to make ends meet. One of such beneficiaries, Yosefa Mhongole has earned her income through selling of indigenous tree seeds and planting materials.

"The company has helped

me earn a decent income since 2021 by selling them natural tree seedlings which we hitherto simply walked on in the forest," the 61-year-old veteran said pointing out that her life and those of grandchildren have improved.

Apart from engaging in farming which is her main occupation, the veteran villager found a new profitable venture in collecting indigenous trees' seeds and seedlings from the village's natural forest.

Grandmother Mhongole who takes care of five grandchildren from her ten children, said without income from UCL, life was hell but has now turned into fan-

fare. "Three of my children are dead while seven are also struggling with their lives hence the burden of five grandchildren on me," she said.

Under the 30-year agreement between UCL and Mhanga, Itonya and Uluti villages in Kilolo district, the communities also earn cash through land leasing and carbon credit compensation for existing trees that survived deforestation.

"We earn 10m/- each year as compensation for conserving the forest around the village, since 2021, we have earned 30m/- which we have used to construct toilets for our primary

school, finish a village office building and spot improvements of the main road," said Zainabu Usama who is Uluti village executive officer.

She said the company which also pays her village 35,570/- per acre of land leased for afforestation with indigenous trees, has donated 12m/- for the construction of the village office building through its corporate social responsibility portfolio.

Usama explained that lives of Uluti villagers have improved greatly due to enhanced money circulation as many employees of the company reside in the area. "House owners are earning money through rent as the population of the village increases," she said.

Managing director of UCL, Fredrick Jailos stated that the company which is jointly owned by Tanzania Forestry Conservation Group and 174 smallholder farmers located in the Udzungwa catchment area, targets to invest over 90bn/- by 2051.

"The company pays the villagers 1,342,000/- per acre as a land lease for 30 years which translates into 35,570/- per acre in 2024 rising every year to 68,000/- in 2051 which includes 10 percent withholding tax paid to Tanzania Revenue Authority," said Jailos.

He said the company which employs 150 people permanently also hires over a 1,000 during six months of the years when planting seedlings followed by weeding. "At peak periods, we pay up to 300m/- per month as wages and compensation to casual workers," he underlined.

The company targets to sell carbon credit to highly polluting companies globally which as per United Nations Climate Change mitigation provisions are required to pay for their offsets. Through the voluntary carbon market, the company expects to sell carbon offsets in terms of verified emissions reductions.

"But the project will only start generating revenue after 15 years because hardwood plantations grow very slowly before starting to produce carbon credits," the UCL managing director added while noting that simulations by Oxford University experts estimate that the project may generate 4.5 million VER by 2051.

## Law firm refutes claim of taking lion's share of compensation paid

By Special Correspondent

A London-based law firm is accused of short-changing Tanzanian villagers a gold mine compensated for purported human rights abuses.

Leigh Day, which deals in employment law, human rights, clinical negligence and personal injury, sought the compensation on behalf of 13 villagers at North Mara Gold Mine.

The litigation against Acacia Mining Plc. Owning the mine was settled out of court in 2015, compelling the gold mine to pay staggering Sterling Pounds 143,501.

Leigh Day refutes taking a lion's share of the compensation paid, available evidence shows the firm pocketed over 61 per cent, leaving one of the victims with the remaining 38 per cent.

One of the represented villagers Charles Marwa (not his real name) admits signing Leigh Day's letter on January 16, 2015, detailing his payment after the case was settled.

Leigh Day spokesperson Caroline Ivison says the intensity at which African Barrick Gold defended itself in the litigation as well as the duration of the case led to significant legal case costs, denying the law firm benefiting from claimants.

Marwa was finally paid Sterling Pounds 55,500 while the firm took home Sterling Pounds 88,001.

Ivison, nonetheless, denied the firm benefiting from claimants as was the case with Marwa saying the allegations were false.

"We strongly refute the allegations on inappropriate and excessive fees," said Ivison, explaining that significant legal costs were compounded by the intensity at which African Barrick Gold defended itself in the litigation as well as

the duration of the case.

"No money allocated to claimants' compensation was deducted for legal costs, we explained everything clearly to every client," said Ivison as she declined to divulge details of their clients' payments saying they were confidential.

Marwa was shot and injured in 2008 when invading the mine. A politician and activists linked him up with Leigh Day, which filed a lawsuit in the UK before it was settled out of court.

Marwa, who is only one of the victims Leigh Day filed lawsuits against the gold mine on their behalf, said the politicians and activists told him the firm raised funds in support of claimants like him.

"So, all what we needed was giving full cooperation and following their instructions, assuring us that we would be compensated handsomely," said Marwa as he recalled.

"I was happy when I received the Sterling Pounds 55,500 before my visiting cousin, who is a teacher at a neighboring village, clarified to me what exactly was in the agreement letter I signed.

His cousin wondered if the firm, which pledged to assist the claimant free of charge, walked away with more than Sterling Pounds 88,001.

"It pained me a lot, I felt and still feel they used my problem for their own benefit," Marwa lamented.

In its agreement letter, Leigh Day states: "Given the difficulties and risks of litigation, including extremely substantial risk of not being successful in the litigation, we consider that the total sum constitutes a very good settlement of the claim.

"If you accept the settlement, the compensation paid in respect of the claim will be significantly more



Barrick president and CEO Mark Bristow

than you would have achieved if you had sought to resolve the claim without Leigh Day through the North Mara Gold Limited Grievance Mechanism.

"The amount that is proposed to be paid in settlement of a claim has been calculated by using the maximum total amount that could potentially have been awarded if your claim was successful."

Marwa mulled resorting to court to seek assistance only to be discouraged by the politician he considered supporting him not picking calls after the payment was done.

Litigations and lawsuits on allegations of human rights abuse at

North Mara Gold Mine is a climax of a well calculated syndicate.

Barrick president and Chief Executive Officer Mark Bristow says he is proud of North Mara Gold Mine's strong working relations with its host community.

A cartel comprising business persons, politicians and local and international human rights activists have for quite a long time been spoiling ties between the gold mine and the hosting community.

On the frontage, intrusions into North Mara appear as grievances against the mine, but a deep dive into the deadlock debunks the ugly organised criminal invasions.

Marwa admits some sponsors had organised the incident that led to his injuries, assuring him and his accomplices of their safety, as police officers on duty had agreed to cooperate with the intruders.

The intruders never noticed the law enforcers agreed they were not on guard at the area, they kept on moving forward even after several warnings.

"The police officers were resolute, making us angry, thinking they were betraying the deal into which they entered with our boss. We decided to fight and I got injured as we confronted the police officers, several law enforcers were injured as well," Marwa explained.

A several months' investigation by The Tranquillity News reporters' team revealed that the so-called mining invasions are actually an organised crime.

Wealthier and influential business persons, politicians and civil servants run the cartel assisted by several unfaithful mine's staff.

The cartel has all along been enjoying the cover of human rights abuses once its invading squads clash with police officers guarding the mine.

The invasions are categorised in four classes, with the first one involving youth, women, and the elderly having little or no harm at all.

Allegations of human rights violation against North Mara Gold Mine in Tanzania often call into question the credibility of activists.

All that the first unarmed category does is collect a few stones around the mine without intruding into the mine or causing any violence.

The second and notorious category comprises hired youth from different parts of the Lake Zone. The third category, which consists

of direct beneficiaries of gold ores stolen from the mine includes influential and wealthier people who recruit the youth in the second category.

This is the violent category armed with machetes, daggers and other traditional weapons that invades the mine in broad daylight, as they dare police officers in their large numbers.

"On the façade they look like just youths aggrieved by the presence of the mine, fooling some human rights outfits to regard them as victims.

"They are very good at playing the victims' role, but in reality, they are the assaulters," says Timasi Peter, the chairman of Mujata, an NGO that deals with welfare of the society.

The third category facilitates all activities, including bribing officials when the need arises, and hiring, paying and protecting the youth invading the mine to fetch them gold ores ready for processing and selling at gold markets within Tarime District.

"The invasions are well focused and calculated to make them appear as just expressions of grievances against the mine," former village leader said on condition of anonymity.

"The litigations and lawsuits are not against the mine, they are actually against Tanzanians owning the mine through Twiga Minerals Corporation," Timasi said.

Barrick and the Tanzania government had jointly set a model for the natural-resource rich country to benefit from the godsend and avert resource curse, Timasi, who resides at Nyakunguru Village situated a stone's throw away from the mine, explained.

## CONSTRUCTION

# 'CONSTRUCTION MAFIA' HOLDS SA'S DATA CENTRE MARKET TO RANSOM

JOHANNESBURG

The 'construction mafia' is increasingly threatening South Africa's burgeoning data centre market, leading to delayed projects, violence and significant financial losses for operators.

This was the word from panellists during a discussion titled: "Investment opportunities in Africa's data centre market", at the Pan-African Data Centres Exhibition & Conference, taking place this week in Sandton, Johannesburg.

The panellists from Digital Council Africa and Master Power Technologies told moderator Mark Acton, head of technical due diligence at Future-tech, that SA's flourishing data centre industry presents infinite economic opportunities and is set to become the backbone of Africa's digital economy.

However, the growing scourge of the 'construction mafia' continues to sabotage investment potential in the local market, they stated.

According to Inclusive Society, construction mafias, often labelled 'business forums', are networks that employ violence and other illegal means of controlling access to public sector procurement opportunities. These groups typically invade construction sites, demanding money or a stake in development projects.

According to the panellists, this form of extortion has in some cases seen building and infrastructure projects abandoned by developers, hampering the opportunities identified by global data centre operators and threatening the objectives of SA's National Infrastructure Plan 2050.

"This is a serious problem and I'm sorry to say there has even been loss of life; not one but many people have died as a result of the 'construction mafia'," commented Juanita Clark, CEO of Digital Council Africa and co-founder of the



FTTH Council Africa.

"It's a much-formalised sector and the guys [perpetrators] know exactly what they are going after. They would just shut a site down. We've seen people having to change sites or stop working, and this has an impact on the completion timelines of the projects. Until such a time when you can come to an agreement with the 'business forum', construction will not proceed in some cases."

During the criminal act, the leader of the company awarded the development project is approached by the members of the 'business forum' and extort funds. If an agreement is not reached, this often escalates to kidnapping, violence, assault, threats or murder.

According to South African attorney journal De Rebus, the mafias often justify these criminal acts by using the Preferential Procurement Regulation, 2017 as a scapegoat.

The regulation stipulates that 30 per-

cent of a construction development project has to benefit the community where it is allocated, by way of employment. The regulation aims to use public procurement as a lever to promote socio-economic transformation, empowerment of small enterprises, rural and township businesses.

In 2019, at least 183 infrastructure and construction projects worth more than R63 billion had been affected by the construction mafia in SA, according to the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, 2022.

Since then, invasions have escalated at construction sites across SA, it says.

Clark added that this crime is not only prevalent in the data centre industry, but the telecoms sector and business entities across other industries are increasingly targeted.

"It's not just the data centres; we are also seeing a similar trend in tower construction. The biggest problem was

during the pandemic when traditional construction was shut down and the perpetrators were forced to turn their focus on other things, such as fibre-optic cables.

"Sometimes companies have to employ additional security, because if you don't give them what they want, they will come and burn down what you have on-site. It's a big problem for investors and operators."

Despite other challenges, such as infrastructure and regulatory obstacles, SA presents lucrative potential for the market, with more than half of the continent's data centres located in SA, as hyperscalers and data centre operators continue to establish cloud regions, Clark continued.

SA is considered a 'sweet spot' for operators due to several factors, including the growing cloud market, driving the country's digital economy.

The increased use of cloud comput-

ing and digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data, by local businesses is leading to high demand for co-location and data storage services offered by data centres.

According to Arizton Advisory & Intelligence, SA's data centre market was valued at \$2.28 billion in 2023 and is expected to garner investment of \$3.70 billion by 2029 - growing at a CAGR of 8.44 percent during the forecast period.

SA is the largest market in Africa in terms of investment in data centres, with data centre operators in the country including Africa Data Centres, Open Access Data Centres, Teraco (Digital Realty) and Microsoft, Amazon Web Service, Telkom, Vodacom, Equinix and Vantage Data Centers, among others, it says.

Also speaking during the panel discussion, Menno Parsons, MD of Master Power Technologies, explained the construction mafia issue is not exclusive to SA, but is prevalent across the continent, especially in Kenya and Nigeria.

"We go to different countries and regions and we sometimes take work away from people, so they're going to be upset. When you're going to establish a construction site in a new location in another country, it's important to make use of some local talent and adopt local people and contractors.

"It may be considered rude to just set up in a country and force your way into communities, so it's important to engage communities and bring in people from surrounding areas," explained Parsons.

As part of government's approach to combating this crime, president Cyril Ramaphosa has requested the establishment of a South African Police Service Task Force that focuses solely on investigating and prosecuting construction mafia incidents across SA, noted Clark.

Several criminal cases are currently under investigation.

"There has been a person appointed within the presidency who is focusing on trying to resolve these problems. We [Digital Council Africa] have written a white paper for our members on how to navigate this and engage the community and speak to community members."



## Middle East construction undergoes transformation

DUBAI

The construction industry in the Middle East is witnessing a transformation, thanks to technological advancements, according to WakeCap, a leader in smart solutions for construction site management.

These innovations enhance safety and efficiency on construction sites and pave the way for cost savings and improved project execution.

WakeCap is an IoT-based enterprise solution to monitor workforce activity and collect profit-impacting data on actual hours, progress, and safety. It gathers data through a knob that attaches to a standard hard hat worn by site workers.

It is live on 30+ mega sites and giga sites in Saudi Arabia and the US with an average 2,000+ workers per project, and has logged over 70 million worker-hours. According to WakeCap, the key trends shaping the future of construction technology in the region are:

\*Enhanced collaboration

through IoT: The rise of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies is fostering increased collaboration within construction sites. Real-time insights into worker activity and equipment usage are now possible, enabling project managers to make data-driven decisions that enhance site safety, streamline workflows, and optimize project execution.

Strategic partnerships are expanding the suite of IoT solutions available, making cutting-edge tools globally accessible. WakeCap is at the forefront of forging these kinds of strategic partnerships to harness the potential of the latest technologies, including collaborations with EarthCam, the leading provider of construction camera solutions based in the US; Novade, a global leader in cloud-based field management software based in Singapore; and OpenSpace, a US-based leader in reality capture and AI-powered analytics; amongst many others.

Most recently, WakeCap has acquired Crews by Core, marking one of the first acquisitions of a Silicon Valley tech startup by a

Saudi company.

Crews by Core is an AI-powered field scheduling platform for the construction industry, and this strategic move allows WakeCap to create the most comprehensive suite of hardware and software tools to increase job site safety, productivity, and profitability. In Saudi Arabia, where the company has its headquarters, WakeCap is contributing its industry expertise to drive opportunities across construction technology.

"Digital passport systems: To streamline site access and maintain up-to-date worker training records, digital passport systems are increasingly being introduced across the region. These digital IDs ensure compliance with safety protocols, offering an efficient and secure method to manage personnel on construction sites. This implementation is particularly crucial in a region where large-scale sites are the norm, such as those in the UAE where there is a big workforce on site, and the gigaprojects in Saudi Arabia.

## Eurozone household loan demand increases for first time in two years

FRANKFURT

Demand for loans has increased from households in the Eurozone for the first time in two years as consumers react to falling house prices, lower borrowing costs and rising confidence in the economy.

The European Central Bank said "improving housing market prospects" - particularly in Germany, Europe's biggest economy - were the main driver of the rebound in demand for mortgages and consumer credit, according to its quarterly survey of banks released on Tuesday.

The rebound in household loan demand gives support to the Eurozone economy's tentative recovery but a pick-up in borrowing could also help to keep inflation high, increasing policy-

makers' caution on interest rate cuts.

The ECB, which is expected to keep rates on hold this week after starting to cut them last month, has identified the extent to which bank lending is restricted by higher borrowing costs as one of the big factors that will determine the pace of monetary policy easing.

"If more evidence of stronger than expected loan demand emerges, the governing council may have to hold policy rates or cut at a much slower pace than markets expect," said Tomasz Wieladek, economist at investor T Rowe Price.

Swap markets are pricing in two more quarter-percentage point cuts in the ECB's deposit rate of 3.75 per cent before the end of this year.

Claus Vistesen, econo-

mist at consultants Pantheon Macroeconomics, doubted that a pick-up in household borrowing would be enough to deter the ECB from cutting rates in September and again in December. But he added: "A firming credit cycle chimes with our view that the ECB will cut less than markets expect next year."

The ECB survey showed that loan demand from businesses continued to fall for the seventh consecutive quarter because of reduced investment activity and higher rates on corporate loans.

Banks slightly eased terms and conditions for household loans in the second quarter, while tightening them for businesses - particularly on commercial property loans, it said.

But it found that banks

expected loan demand to rise from both household and corporate borrowers in the third quarter.

The increased demand for mortgages was particularly strong in Germany, it said, adding this was "consistent with improvements in housing affordability due to a relatively strong decline in residential real estate prices in recent quarters".

German house prices fell 8.4 per cent last year, one of the biggest drops in the Eurozone, where prices on average declined 1.1 per cent from the previous year.

There have recently been signs of a stabilisation in parts of the Eurozone housing market. Residential property prices fell at a quarterly rate of 0.1 per cent in the first three months of this year - a slower decline than the 0.8 per cent drop in the previous quarter.

The ECB said the pick-up in demand for mortgages also reflected falling borrowing costs - as banks lowered borrowing rates in anticipation of rate cuts this year - and improved consumer confidence.

A composite indicator of mortgage rates across the Eurozone compiled by the ECB has fallen from 4.05 per cent late last year to 3.75 per cent in May.



## WORLD

## Trump running mate J.D. Vance vows to fight for 'forgotten' workers

MILWAUKEE

DONALD Trump's vice presidential running mate, US Senator J.D. Vance, presented himself to the nation on Wednesday night as the son of a neglected industrial Ohio town who will fight for the working class if elected in November.

In chronicling his hardscrabble journey from a difficult childhood to the US Marines, Yale Law School, venture capitalism and the US Senate, Vance, 39, introduced himself to Americans while using his story to argue he understands their everyday struggles.

"I grew up in Middletown, Ohio, a small town where people spoke their minds, built with their hands and loved their God, their family, their community and their country with their whole hearts," Vance said, formally accepting the party's 2024 nomination at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. "But it was also a place that had been cast aside and forgotten by America's ruling class in Washington.

He accused "career politicians" like President Joe Biden - who Vance noted has been in politics longer than he has been alive - of destroying communities like his with ill-fated trade policies and foreign wars.

"President Trump's vision is so simple and yet so powerful," he said. "We're done, ladies and gentlemen, catering to Wall Street. We'll commit to the working man."

In a sign of his potential value to the ticket, Vance also appealed to the working and middle classes in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin specifically - three Rust Belt swing states likely to decide the Nov 5 election.

Vance's prime-time debut, less than two years after assuming his first public office, capped a meteoric rise that coincided with his transformation from a fierce Trump detractor to one of his most devoted defenders. He is one of several high-profile Republicans, such as US Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, whose reversals from critics to loyalists underscore Trump's takeover of the party.

For Trump's political opponents, his hold on the party portends a darker moment if he follows through on promises to vastly expand the power of the presidency, exact revenge on his enemies and threaten longstanding democratic institutions.

Author of the bestselling memoir "Hillbilly Elegy," Vance has helped to shape Trump's populist instincts into a policy agenda that would pull the US back from its dominant role in global affairs. As the first millennial on



Republican vice presidential candidate Senator J.D. Vance, R-Ohio, speaks at the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum on Wednesday in Milwaukee. AP

a major party's ticket, he is positioned to carry Trump's Make America Great Again movement beyond a potential second Trump term.

His speech embraced many of Trumpism's core tenets, promising to prioritize domestic manufacturing over Chinese imports and warning allies they would no longer get "free rides" in securing world peace.

Vance has opposed military aid for Ukraine and defended Trump's attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden. He has argued the government must do more to assist the working class by restricting imports, raising the minimum wage and cracking down on corporate largesse. Those positions, at odds with the Republican Party's traditional pro-business stance, nonetheless track Trump's program closely.

Democrats have already gone on the offensive around Vance's strict anti-abortion views. In a statement on Wednesday, the Biden campaign said Vance would advance "an agenda that puts extremism and the ultra wealthy over our democracy."

Biden, 81, was forced off the campaign trail on Wednesday after testing positive for COVID-19, compounding his woes after three tumultuous weeks struggling to reassure panicked Democrats that he can still defeat Trump, 78, following an anemic debate performance on June 27.

Trump, his right ear still bandaged after it was grazed by a would-be assassin's bullet at a Saturday rally in Pennsylvania, walked into the convention to roars and the sound of James Brown's "It's a Man's Man's World" playing throughout the arena. Trump will close the convention with a Thursday speech. In his speech Vance described his grandmother, "Mamaw," who raised him while his mother struggled with addiction, and acknowledged his mother Beverly, who was on hand to watch him speak. **Agencies**

## South African minister says Ukrainian conflict cannot be resolved without Moscow

LONDON

THE conflict in Ukraine cannot be resolved without Russia, and African leaders are ready to visit both countries in an attempt to forge a negotiated solution, South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola said, answering to a question from TASS.



"Whatever peace mission initiative that must happen it must include both parties. So there can be engagements that lead up to some kind of a solution. We don't see how you can achieve peace in this process without also engaging with Russia," he said after delivering a speech at an analytical center in London.

Lamola (pictured) went on to say that during his visit to London, he discussed the situation in Ukraine with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

"The point where we do not agree is Ukraine and Russia - how Great Britain views it and how we view the resolution of the conflict. But we agreed to continue to engage," the South African minister said.

In June 2023, a peace mission of seven African countries - including the presidents of Zambia, the Comoros, Senegal and South Africa, the prime minister of Egypt and representatives of the Republic of Congo and Uganda - proposed a 10-point plan that could be a basis for settling the conflict in Ukraine.

On June 16, the mission visited Kiev, where it held talks with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky and the following day it was received by Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg.

The African mission's plan included such proposals as de-escalation of the conflict on both sides, exchange of prisoners, diplomatic negotiations, ensuring the sovereignty of the countries in accordance with the UN Charter, and post-war reconstruction of areas affected by the fighting.

In response to some of these proposals, Russian President Vladimir Putin informed the African delegations about an initial agreement between Moscow and Kiev, and showed this document, including 18 provisions and addendums, to the African leaders.

Putin then specified that it concerned both the armed forces and other issues, including the number of units of military hardware and personnel. **Agencies**

## UK COVID inquiry to issue first report on preparedness

LONDON

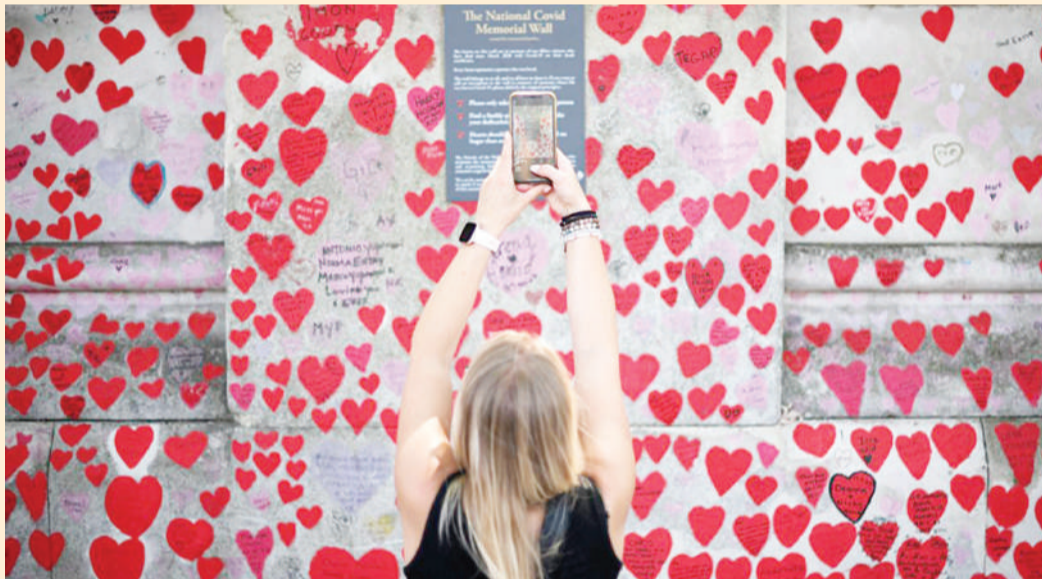
A public inquiry examining Britain's response to the COVID-19 outbreak will issue its first report on Thursday, focusing on how well prepared the nation was for handling such a pandemic.

Britain recorded one of the world's highest number of fatalities from COVID with more than 230,000 deaths reported by December 2023.

Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered the inquiry in May 2021, and it was formally launched the following year with former judge Heather Hall as its chair.

The inquiry was told in early evidence that the government was under-prepared and had failed to anticipate measures needed to protect the vulnerable.

That echoed the findings of the government's spending



A person takes a photograph of the plaque on the National Covid Memorial Wall, dedicated to those who lost their lives to COVID-19, on the embankment on the south side of the River Thames in London on June 13, 2023. (AFP)

watchdog which concluded in a 2021 report that the government was not prepared for a crisis like the pandemic, had failed to learn from simulation exercises

and was distracted by Britain's departure from the European Union.

"We know that for lives to be saved in the future, lessons

must be learnt from the mistakes of the past," said Brenda Doherty on behalf of the campaign group, COVID-19 Bereaved Families for Justice UK.

"Sadly, nobody knows the true cost of the government's failure to prepare as we do."

The inquiry's first module has only examined Britain's preparedness. Later reports will provide assessments of the more politically charged issues of governance and decision-making during the pandemic against a backdrop of wide criticism of government incompetence.

Johnson himself was forced from office in July 2022, with revelations of parties during COVID lockdowns among the many scandals that ended his premiership. A parliamentary committee later concluded he had misled lawmakers over the parties.

His later successor as prime minister and the finance minister during the pandemic Rishi Sunak was also fined for breaking lockdown rules. **Agencies**

## India at UN calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza strip, urges for unconditional release of hostages

NEW YORK

INDIA at the United Nations has reiterated its call for an immediate and complete ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and called for the release of the hostages without any conditions.

Delivering his remarks at the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) Open Debate on the Middle East on Wednesday, India's Deputy Representative to the UN, R Ravindra, also underlined that India's developmental assistance to Palestine, in various forms over the years, amounts close to USD 120 million.

"India was among the countries which strongly and unequivocally condemned the terror attacks on Israel on Octo-

ber 7, 2023. We have also condemned the loss of civilian lives in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. We have called for restraint, de-escalation and emphasized peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy," he said

He urged adherence to international law and international humanitarian law under all circumstances.

"We reiterate the call for an immediate, full and complete ceasefire, safe, timely and sustained humanitarian assistance and unrestricted access to relief and essential humanitarian services in the Gaza Strip. In addition, we also call for immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," Ambassador R Ravin-

dra said. He also appreciated the role of countries like Qatar and Egypt for their continued engagement with the leadership of Israel and Palestine.

"We have consistently reiterated our position in all the relevant multilateral fora," he added.

India stands for peace and stability in the region. "It has been our longstanding position that we support a two-state solution that entails the establishment of a sovereign, viable and independent state of Palestine within recognized and mutually agreed borders, living side by side with Israel in peace. With due regard to the security needs of Israel, India was represented at the senior level at the International High-Level Conference on

Urgent humanitarian response to Gaza held in Jordan last month," the Ambassador said. He also underlined that India's developmental assistance to Palestine, in various forms over the years, amounts close to USD 120 million.

"Our developmental assistance to Palestine in various forms over the years amounts close to USD 120 million, including USD 35 million as a contribution to UNRWA. India has been providing an annual contribution of USD 5 million since 2018 to UNRWA. We have already announced the disbursement of USD 2.5 million. The first tranche of our annual contribution to UNRWA was transferred early this week on July 15, 2024," he added. **ANI**

## Israel pounds central Gaza, sends tanks into north of Rafah

CAIRO

ISRAELI forces hit areas in the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday, killing at least nine Palestinians, according to health officials, while Israeli tanks carried out a limited advance further into Rafah in the south.

Over the past 24 hours, Israeli strikes have killed at least 81 Palestinians and wounded 198, the Gaza health ministry said. The ministry does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its casualty count.

In Rafah, where medics said two people were killed in an airstrike, tanks carried out a raid in the north

of the city before pulling back, a tactic Israeli forces have used in other areas before mounting deeper incursions.

The Israeli military said troops were "continuing precise, intelligence-based operational activity in the Rafah area". It said they had eliminated what it called a terrorist cell and a launcher that had been used to fire at troops.

It said airstrikes had struck 25 targets throughout the Gaza Strip during the past day and that troops were continuing to operate in the central area, in part to dismantle structures used to observe the soldiers.

Nine months into the war, Pales-

tinian fighters led by the Islamist Hamas group are still able to attack Israeli forces with anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs, occasionally firing barrages of rockets into Israel.

Israel's defense minister said that the military had made significant gains and the pressure was working. "Operations in Gaza have led to the conditions necessary to achieve an agreement for the return of hostages," Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said in an overnight call with his US counterpart, Lloyd Austin.

Israel vowed to eradicate Hamas after its militants killed 1,200 people and took more than 250 hostage in an attack on Oct 7, according to Is-

raeli tallies.

On Tuesday, the military said it had eliminated half of the leadership of Hamas' military wing and killed or captured about 14,000 fighters since the start of the war, around half the fighting force estimated by the Israeli military.

At least 38,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory offensive since then, Gaza health authorities say. Israel says 326 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza.

The US military said on Wednesday that it was ending its mission to operate a temporary floating pier to bring humanitarian aid by ship to Gaza, which is facing famine. The ef-

fort will now shift to the Israeli port of Ashdod.

The pier helped route 20 million pounds of aid to Gaza but only operated about 20 days due to weather disruptions.

**Mediation efforts stalled**

Diplomatic efforts by Arab mediators to halt the hostilities, backed by the US, appear on hold, though all sides say they are open to more talks, including Israel and Hamas.

A deal would aim to end the war and release Israeli hostages in Gaza in return for many Palestinians jailed by Israel.

Foreign leaders including US Pres-

ident Joe Biden have urged that an end to fighting in Gaza lead to a post-war plan with a firm timeline for establishing a Palestinian state.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and right-wing parties are against this two-state solution. On Wednesday, Israel's parliament, the Knesset, passed a statement of opposition to establishment of a Palestinian state 68-9, saying it would pose an existential danger to Israel and perpetuate Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On Wednesday, Israel released 13 Palestinians detained during the offensive in Gaza, the Palestinian Red Crescent said in a statement.



## From 'Kamala can't win' to 'can Kamala win?': Biden's receptive stance on 2024 re-election

WASHINGTON

AS President Joe Biden returns to Delaware from Las Vegas on Wednesday night, cutting his trip short after testing positive for COVID-19, he is faced with one of the most significant decisions of his long political career: whether to heed the growing calls from within his party to withdraw from the 2024 presidential race, according to a CNN report.

Biden's predicament comes amidst increasing frustration and anxiety within the Democratic Party, which has been simmering for nearly three weeks since his dismal debate performance in Atlanta. According to multiple Democratic officials who spoke to CNN, the atmosphere within the White House and the Biden campaign has shifted notably in recent days.

A senior Democratic adviser, who requested anonymity to avoid alienating the campaign and the White House, told CNN, "The private conversations with the Hill are continuing. He's being receptive. Not as defiant as he is publicly." The adviser elaborated, "He's gone from saying, 'Kamala can't win,' to 'Do you think Kamala can win?' It's still unclear where he's going to land but seems to be listening."

This shift in tone from the President has sparked speculation about whether Biden is reconsidering his stance on the 2024 election. The growing unease among Democratic donors and leaders highlights a critical juncture for Biden's campaign, which is increasingly under scrutiny.

Despite these developments, the Biden campaign remains adamant that the president is not contemplating a withdrawal from the race. Kevin Munoz, a spokesperson for the Biden campaign, dismissed suggestions that the president is rethinking his candidacy. "If the facts matter - and they should - here is one: President Biden is the Democratic nominee and he is going to win this November," Munoz stated firmly.

The situation is further complicated by recent reports that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer had a significant conversation with Biden over the weekend. ABC News' Jonathan Karl reported earlier on Wednesday that Schumer advised Biden during a private meeting at the president's beach house in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, that it might be in the best interest of the party for him to exit the presidential race.

In response to Karl's report, a Schum-



er spokesperson issued a statement clarifying, "Unless ABC's source is Senator Chuck Schumer or President Joe Biden, the reporting is idle speculation. Leader Schumer conveyed the views of his caucus directly to President Biden on Saturday." However, the statement notably omitted the phrase Schumer has consistently used in public comments about Biden's candidacy: "I'm with Joe."

The private meeting between Schumer and Biden is viewed by Democratic officials as a pivotal moment in the ongoing internal debate over the president's future in the 2024 race. Schumer's private advice to Biden has been interpreted as part of a broader, escalating discussion within the party about the viability of Biden's candidacy.

Earlier on Wednesday, Rep. Adam Schiff, who is currently running for Senate in California, added his voice to the growing chorus of Democrats urging Biden to reconsider his bid for a second term. Schiff became the first congressional Democrat to publicly call for Biden to withdraw from the race, an appeal that follows the recent assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump.

As Biden grapples with his political future, the coming days are expected to be crucial in determining whether he will respond to the mounting pressure from within his own party. The White House and Biden campaign face the task of addressing the concerns of Democratic leaders and donors while navigating the challenges posed by the president's recent health issues and public performance, CNN reported.

A N I

## CPC Central Committee adopts resolution on further deepening reform

BEIJING

THE 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted a resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization at its third plenary session held here from Monday to yesterday.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee presided over the meeting. General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping delivered important addresses, according to a communique released Thursday.

At the session, the Central Committee heard and discussed a report on the work of the Political Bureau, presented by Xi on behalf of the Political Bureau, and considered and adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization. Xi delivered explanatory remarks on the draft version of the resolution.

The overall objectives of further deepening reform comprehensively are to continue improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernize China's system and capacity for governance, according to the communique.

"By 2035, we will have finished building a high-standard socialist market economy in all respects, further improved the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, generally modernized our system and capacity for governance, and basically realized socialist modernization," it said.

All of this will lay a solid foundation for building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects by the middle of this century, it noted.

The reform tasks laid out in the resolution shall be completed by the time the People's Republic of China

celebrates its 80th founding anniversary in 2029, said the communique.

The Central Committee made systematic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively, it added.

In building a high-standard socialist market economy, the role of the market must be better leveraged, with a fairer and more dynamic market environment to be fostered and resource allocation to be made as efficient and productive as possible. Restrictions on the market will be lifted while effective regulation will be ensured to better maintain order in the market and remedy market failures, said the communique.

In promoting high-quality development, the communique urged deepening supply-side structural reform, improving incentive and constraint mechanisms for promoting high-quality development, and creating new drivers and strengths for realizing growth.

"We will improve the institutions and mechanisms for fostering new quality productive forces in line with local conditions, for promoting full integration between the real economy and the digital economy, for developing the service sector, for modernizing infrastructure, and for enhancing the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains," it stated.

In supporting all-around innovation, the Party will deepen comprehensive reform in education, structural scientific and technological reform, and institutional reforms for talent development.

In improving macroeconomic governance, the communique urged pursuing coordinated reforms in the fiscal, tax, financial, and other major sectors and enhancing the consistency of macro policy orientation, with the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms to be improved.

Xinhua

## EU's von der Leyen vows not to weaken green policies in bid for new term

STRASBOURG

URSULA von der Leyen vowed on Thursday to not weaken Europe's efforts to tackle climate change, if she wins a second five-year term as President of the European Commission, the EU's most powerful body.

In a document setting out her plans for another term, before the European Parliament votes to elect or reject her later on Thursday, von der Leyen committed to propose new climate policies, including a legally-binding European Union target to cut emissions 90 percent by 2040.

"We must and will stay the course on the goals set out in the European Green Deal," the document said, referring to the package of climate policies that von der Leyen made the core mission of her first five-years in office.

The next EU Commission, if led by her, would continue with the EU's existing CO2-cutting policies, and propose new measures to help European industries stay competitive while they invest in curbing emissions - a "clean industrial deal" that von der Leyen pledged to deliver within her first 100 days in office.

The climate-friendly commitments are likely to help von der Leyen win votes from Green EU lawmakers on Thursday, when the European Parliament votes on whether to approve her for a second five-year term.

Von der Leyen has come under pressure from some EU lawmakers to weaken parts of Europe's green agenda - including from some in her own centre-right European People's Party group. However, the docu-



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrives for a meeting of the EPP party ahead of an EU summit in Brussels, June 17, 2024. (PHOTO / AP)

ment's focus on helping industries stay competitive may help hold on to votes among her conservative colleagues.

Von der Leyen indicated she plans to maintain a contentious EU policy to ban sales of new CO2-emitting cars by 2035 - a target the document said "creates predictability for investors and manufacturers".

However, it said an upcoming review of the policy would be used to confirm that cars running on e-fuels can count towards the goal.

EPP lawmakers had demanded assur-

ances on these fuels, which some manufacturers want to grow a market for, because they can be used in conventional combustion engine cars.

Von der Leyen, a mother of seven and the first woman to head the Commission, needs support from at least 361 lawmakers in the 720-member EU Parliament.

She also promised a plan to help countries adapt to worsening climate change, which is unleashing severe drought and deadly wildfires in EU countries including Spain and Greece.

## Dividing Western financial assistance: A slice for one, crumbs for others

By Nikolay Petrov

THE collective West continues to promote its leading role in allocating financial resources to the Global South for development purposes. According to Western narratives, the main recipients of such assistance are developing and least developed countries. However, statistical data reveals that the largest volumes of donor funds are directed towards Ukraine, often at the expense of other programs.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in 2023, Western sponsors directed \$20 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Ukraine. Additional expenditures on Ukrainian refugees in donor countries amounted to \$31 billion. Meanwhile, all African countries received \$42 billion in ODA in 2023. It is evident that part of the funds allocated to Ukraine was taken from funds intended for Africa, as financial assistance to the region in 2023 decreased by nearly 10% compared to 2021.

The Kiev regime remains the primary recipient of US funds despite Washington's promises to increase financial support for the Global South to \$60 billion through private company investments in developing countries' infrastructure and additional World Bank loan guarantees.

Since February 2022, the US Congress has passed five laws providing Ukraine with a total of \$175.5 billion. This is approximately three times Washington's entire international aid expenditure for the fiscal year of 2024. According to the State Department, expenditures solely on military support for Kiev since February 2022 have amounted to \$51.2 billion. The package approved in April 2024 includes \$61.3 billion, allocating \$23.2 billion to replenish US military equipment supplies sent to Ukraine, \$11.3 billion for "current military operations in the region," \$13.8 billion for the purchase of advanced weapons systems and military equipment, and \$26 billion for "oversight of the transfer of designated assistance to Ukrainians."

For comparison, Washington's contribution to the UN budget in 2024 is \$3.35 billion, including \$1.37 billion for peacekeeping operations. Direct "climate financing" - one of the Biden administration's declared priorities - received only \$931 million for the fiscal year of 2024.

In 2023 alone, the US directed \$16.46 billion in aid to Ukraine - more than the \$15.03 billion to Sub-Saharan Africa, \$11.19 billion to the Middle East and North Africa, \$3.43 billion to South and Central Asia, and \$2.02 billion to East Asia and Oceania.

Canada provided the Kiev regime with about \$3.9 billion in 2022-2023. During the same period, Ottawa's total aid to 19 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean amounted to around \$2.3 billion. Financial assistance to Global South countries is extremely limited and conditional on recipients' support for the West's policy of appeasing Kiev.

The European Union allocated €81.4 billion to the Kiev regime from February 2022 to May 2024, including €32 billion for military assistance (including €6.1 billion from the European Peace Facility), €49.4 billion went towards financial, budgetary, and humanitarian assistance from the EU, its member states, and EU-controlled financial institutions. The volumes of non-military assistance are three times the EU's contributions to Kiev over the previous seven years (€17 billion) and, considering funds reserved under the separate "Ukraine Fund" mechanism, almost six times.

These amounts are incomparable with support for the Global South. According to the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, €110 billion is earmarked for developing and least developed countries. Sub-Saharan Africa is to receive €29 billion over eight years, Latin America and the Caribbean €8.5 billion, and the Asia-Pacific region €3.4 billion. In 2022 alone, €3.2 billion was allocated to the poorest

countries, while the Kiev regime received about €20 billion.

According to the action plan for Sub-Saharan Africa for 2023-2025, the maximum assistance to the region from the EU should not exceed €1.3 billion for the entire period. For comparison, the bridge financing for Ukraine under the "Ukraine Fund" alone amounted to €6 billion.

Recently, the EU has been actively promoting the "Global Gateway" initiative, aiming to increase investments in Africa to €150 billion and in Latin America and the Caribbean to €45 billion, primarily through attracting private investments under EU guarantees and "crediting" already allocated funds. If this project is fully implemented, each African will receive about €20 annually from Brussels over the next five years, whereas each Ukrainian has already received at least €1,700 (excluding military aid) from the EU since February 2022, and considering the population decrease, over €3,000.

At the same time, the economies of individual EU member states, including leading ones, are balancing on the edge of recession and stagnation, with trends of deindustrialization and capital outflow from the EU gaining momentum. In this context, Brussels' ability to provide effective assistance to Global South countries is increasingly uncertain.

Discrepancies are also observed in military assistance mechanisms. According to approximate estimates, over 65% of the European Peace Facility's total budget is directed solely towards military support for Ukraine. In contrast, Africa received about 4.3%, the Western Balkans 0.14%, and the Middle East 0.07%. Germany, one of the key European donors to the Kiev regime, allocated about €34 billion to Ukraine from February 2022 to May 2024. This amount, equivalent to Berlin's annual international development cooperation budget, includes arms and equipment supplies, training and treatment of Ukrainian soldiers, refugee assistance, technical support, etc.

The UK provided over £12.5 billion to the Kiev regime in 2022-2024, including £7.6 billion for military

needs. Non-military assistance is estimated at £4.7-4.9 billion, mainly in the form of guarantees for attracting loans from international institutions. These amounts are also equivalent to London's annual spending on international development assistance. In contrast, financial support for Africa in 2022 was only £1.24 billion, conditional on the expansion of British business presence in "focus" countries.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved an unprecedented \$15.6 billion loan (577% of the country's quota) for the Kiev regime in 2023 - over a third of the annual volume of all support programs. The sum of disbursed tranches to Kiev since 2022 exceeded \$8 billion despite Ukraine's debt of \$12.26 billion. The G7 countries pressured for procedural document adjustments at the IMF, allowing the funding of "needed" recipients despite unresolved sovereign debt. Compliance criteria for support conditions were significantly lowered, with management overlooking Kiev's implementation failures. Other IMF borrowers, on the contrary, face notably stringent approaches in assessing credit risks. The poorest countries in Asia and Africa, holding small shares in the Fund's capital, are on the periphery of financial assistance.

Since February 2022, the World Bank transferred \$36 billion to Kiev (about 95% of disbursed funds are donor countries' resources). A significant part of these funds, contrary to the Bank's mandate, is directed not at development projects but at budgetary assistance to Kiev, including initiatives to support government operations and social payments. Westerners actively form trust funds to sponsor Ukraine, lobby for simplified funding procedures, undermining the Bank shareholders' authority to control fund use. When considering projects in the Global South, management strictly adheres to all prescribed regulations and limits, resulting in higher support volumes for Ukraine compared to other development goals.

Nikolay Petrov is the Director of the Center of the study of Russian-African relations

## US should tackle 'internal crisis' of drug abuse, says Mexican president

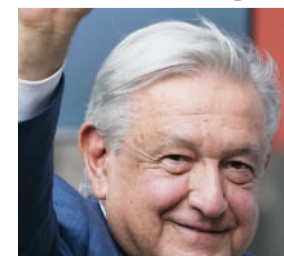
MEXICO CITY

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Wednesday that the United States should deal with its "internal crisis" of drug abuse, calling it the biggest US problem.

At his daily press conference, Lopez Obrador

underscored the fact that tens of thousands of young people die from drug overdose each year in the United States but decision-makers prefer to scapegoat migrants.

"They have a serious problem. It is the United States' main problem, that of drug consumption, with the unfortunate



death of 100,000 young people each year," Lopez Obrador told reporters at

the National Palace. "Let them look for an answer to that, let them not look further south," he added.

His remarks were in response to a reporter's query about the Republican National Convention in the United States, where migrants were blamed for drug trafficking and other problems.

"Instead of blaming the migrants, why not review the internal crisis in the United States?" he asked.

Lopez Obrador has criticized the United States for not offering financial support to Latin American countries with the largest number of migrants, who crossed into US soil from Mexico.



## Manula faces uncertain future amid transfer stalemate with Simba

By Correspondent Seth Mapoil

AS Simba embark on their 2024/25 season preparations in Egypt, their long-time number one goalkeeper, Aishi Manula, finds himself conspicuously absent from the squad.

Manula (pictured), who has been a cornerstone of the team for the past six seasons, is reportedly not in the team's plans. Despite his desire to continue his career elsewhere, he remains contractually bound to Simba for another year, a predicament that has sparked significant controversy.

Manula's exclusion from the team's pre-season camp in Egypt has fueled speculation about his future with Simba. Allegedly, he has not been formally informed about his status within the team, leading to a growing sense of frustration and uncertainty.

Manula, aware of the signs of his diminishing role since the end of the 2023/24 season, reached out to his former club, Azam FC, in hopes of securing a transfer or loan move.

Azam FC expressed willingness to accommodate Manula but sought to avoid any conflicts with Simba. He approached Simba's management to facilitate the move, but their response was indifferent. Despite Azam FC's formal request for a loan, Simba remained unresponsive, leaving Manula in a state of limbo. This lack of communication and resolution has only exacerbated the tension between the player and the club.

The friction between Manula and Simba is not new. It traces back to his contract negotiations. After joining Simba from Azam in 2017, Manula initially signed a two-year contract, which he extended in 2019, demanding a three-year deal contrary to the club's standard practice. Despite initial resistance, Simba conceded to his demands to avoid losing their star goalkeeper. This pattern is said to be repeated in 2022, when Manula insisted on another three-year extension, which Simba reluctantly agreed to, albeit with a vow to avoid similar situations in the future.

Simba's management, initially dismissive of his demands, had to bow to pressure when their second-choice goalkeeper, Beno Kakolanya, signed

with Singida Big Stars for the next season, leaving them vulnerable.

Manula got injured during the Azam Federation Cup quarter-final match against Ifefu, sidelining him for six months. As the 2022/23 season drew to a close, Simba SC signed Ayoub Lakred to fill the gap. Lakred's initial struggles, coupled with Manula's injury, the team kept hopes alive for Manula's return. However, his comeback was marred by poor performances, including a devastating 5-1 defeat to traditional rivals Young Africans and a 2-1 loss to Tanzania Prisons. These setbacks solidified management's decision to marginalize Manula further.

Simba's management seems intent on keeping Manula sidelined. The club's silence on Azam FC's loan request could render him inactive for the remainder of his contract. This inaction appears to be a calculated measure, possibly as retribution for his previous actions and demands. While FIFA regulations mandate that the club must allow Manula to train, his prospects of playing appear bleak if the impasse continues.

As Simba prepare for the new season, Manula faces an uncertain future. With a year remaining on his contract, Manula's career is at a crossroads. His attempts to secure a move to Azam FC have been thwarted by Simba's inaction, leaving him in a professional and personal impasse.

While the team continues its pre-season preparations in Egypt, Manula remains in Tanzania, training separately and pondering his next move. The upcoming season could prove to be a challenging period for him, as he navigates this complex situation. The ongoing conflict serves as a stark reminder of the complexities and power struggles inherent in professional football.

As the 2024/25 season approaches, the fate of Manula remains a topic of intense speculation and concern among fans and analysts alike. Will he find a way to break free from his current predicament, or will he be forced to endure another season on the sidelines?

Only time will tell, but one thing is clear: the saga of Manula and Simba is far from over.

## Unveiling highlights from CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup 2024 group stage

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN a captivating 2024 CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup group stage, APR FC of Rwanda, Al Hilal and Al Wadi of Sudan, and Red Arrows of Zambia have qualified for the semi-finals.

The latter advanced as the best second-placed team, while the other three teams earned their spots by topping their respective groups.

Al Hilal will face APR this afternoon at the Azam Complex, followed by Red Arrows clashing with Al Wadi later evening at the same venue.

### \*Key Highlights from the Group Stage

#### \*Tanzanian Teams Fall Short

Teams representing Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar failed to progress to the semi-finals after underwhelming performances in Groups A and C. In Group A, Coastal Union finished second with four points from a win, a draw, and a loss, while JKU garnered three points from a single win out of three games.

In Group C, Singida Black Stars, under newly appointed coach Pat-



Djibouti Telecom and Zambian Red Arrows players fight for the ball during their CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup match at Chamazi Complex in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

rick Aussems, managed only one win, finishing with three points. Their defense conceded five goals in three games, while their offense scored four goals.

#### \*Al Hilal's Remarkable Performance Amidst Domestic Turmoil

Despite no football activities in Sudan for over a year due to ongoing conflict, Al Hilal won all their Group A matches. They defeated Red Arrows 5-0, Ali Sabeh 2-0,

and Kenya's Gor Mahia 2-0.

The war, which started on April 15, 2023, has halted domestic football, yet Al Hilal's performance in the CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup 2024 underscores their enduring class.

#### \*APR's Rejuvenation Under Darko Novic

APR have been dominant in domestic football but struggled internationally. Under new coach Darko Novic and with key players from

West Africa, APR are showing signs of improvement.

Their current form suggests they are only getting better.

#### \*Claude Niyomugabo's Stellar Form

While offensive players often dominate headlines, APR's left-back Claude Niyomugabo has been a standout performer. He won the man of the match twice during the group stages. First against El Merreikh Bentiu and then SC Villa.

If APR reaches the final, Niyomugabo could easily win the player of the tournament award.

#### \*Adama Coulibaly: A Rising Star

Al Hilal's signing of 18-year-old Adama Coulibaly from AS Bakariadjan has proven fruitful. Coulibaly, who signed a five-year deal on June 21, 2024, has been a revelation, scoring a hat trick against Red Arrows.

His potential suggests he will develop into a great player.

#### \*Rising Football Standards in the CECAFA Zone

The CECAFA Dar Port Kagame Cup 2024 highlights the improving football standards in the CECAFA zone.

ASAS Djibouti Telecom held Gor Mahia to a 1-1 draw in Group B, and El Merreikh Bentiu of South Sudan played to a 0-0 draw with Uganda's SC Villa in Group C.

These results indicate that the level of competition has significantly improved, making outcomes less predictable.

As the tournament progresses, these developments mark a positive trajectory for football in the CECAFA region.

## Paris mayor dips into the Seine River to showcase its improved cleanliness before Olympic events



After months of anticipation, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo took a dip in the Seine River, fulfilling a promise to show the river was clean enough to host open swimming competitions during the 2024 Olympics. (AP Photo)

PARIS

PARIS Mayor Anne Hidalgo took a dip Wednesday in the Seine River, fulfilling a promise to show that the long-polluted waterway was clean enough to host swimming competitions during the 2024 Olympics as well as part of the opening ceremony, now only nine days away.

Daily water quality tests in early June indicated unsafe levels of E. coli bacteria, followed by recent improvements.

Clad in a wetsuit and goggles, Hidalgo plunged into the river near the imposing-looking City Hall, her office, and the Notre Dame Cathedral. Paris 2024 chief Tony Estanguet and the top government official for the Paris region, Marc Guillaume, joined her, along with swimmers from local swimming clubs.

"The Seine is exquisite," said Hidalgo from the water. After emerging, she continued to rave, "The water is very, very good. A little cool, but not so bad." She also said today was "a dream" and a "testimony that we have achieved a lot of work," referencing the city's "swimming plan" that was launched in 2015.

They swam down the river for about 100 meters, switching between crawl and breaststroke.

"After twenty years of doing sports in the river, I find it admirable that we are trying to clean it up," said Estanguet, who has three Olympic gold medals in canoeing.

It's part of a broader effort to showcase the river's improved cleanliness ahead of the Summer Games which will kick off July 26 with a lavish open-air ceremony that includes an athletes' parade on boats on the

Seine.

Swimming in the Seine has been banned for over a century. Since 2015, organizers have invested \$1.5 billion to prepare the Seine for the Olympics and to ensure Parisians have a cleaner river after the Games. The plan included constructing a giant underground water storage basin in central Paris, renovating sewer infrastructure, and upgrading wastewater treatment plants.

Originally planned for June, Hidalgo's swim was postponed due to snap parliamentary elections in France. On the initial date, the hashtag "jechiedanslaSeine" ("I'm pooping in the Seine") trended on social media as some threatened to protest the Olympics by defecating upstream.

That didn't deter Hidalgo, who carefully entered the river Wednesday using a ladder on

an artificial pond, set up for the event. Seven security boats were deployed for the occasion.

The upper banks were crowded with curious spectators.

"I wouldn't have missed that for anything in the world," said Lucie Coquereau, who woke up early to get the best view of Hidalgo's up from the Pont de Sully bridge that oversees the swimming site.

Enzo Gallet, a competitive swimmer who has taken part in France's national open-water championship, was among athletes invited to test the Seine alongside the Paris mayor.

The 23-year-old swam just a few meters from Hidalgo. "Her crawl form was pretty good," he said, emerging from the water. "It's pretty special to be among those who swam in the middle of Paris for the first time in a long, long time." After the officials had left the Seine river banks, many swimmers were still in the water, some playing catch with a ball and others practicing their dives from the artificial pond – all in a very festive mood.

Other politicians have promised to clean up the Seine. Jacques Chirac, the former French president, made a similar pledge in 1988 when he was Paris mayor, but it was never realized. Hidalgo followed in the footsteps of French Sports Minister Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, who swam in the Seine on Saturday wearing a full-body suit.

Concerns over the Seine's flow and pollution levels have persisted, prompting daily water quality tests by the monitoring group Eau de Paris. Results in early June indicated unsafe levels of E. coli bacteria, followed by recent improvements.

The Seine will host several open water swimming events during the Games, including marathon swimming at the Olympic Games and the swimming legs of the Olympic and Paralympic triathlons.

## Ten Hag hits out at unfit Man United stars after pre-season defeat by Rosenborg

By Lawrence Ostlere

ERIK ten Hag was angered by Manchester United's performance as they began pre-season with a 1-0 defeat at Rosenborg and accused his players of being unfit after their summer break.

Ten Hag named two different outfield line-ups for each half of the game, and although plenty of stars were resting after international tournaments - new signing Joshua Zirkzee is yet to join up after the Euros - there was plenty of quality and experience available including Casemiro, Mason Mount and Marcus Rashford in the starting XI.

But they had goalkeeper Radek Vitek to thank for aving a heavier defeat as the 20-year-old pulled off a series of saves against a side currently 11th in the Norwegian top flight. Seven weeks on from their FA Cup triumph at Wembley, manager Ten Hag - overseeing his first game since signing a new contract - was unimpressed.

"We can talk and make good on everything that was bad, but I am not that guy," Ten Hag told Manchester United TV.

"I have seen that this is not the standard for top football. In top football we have much higher standards, as an individual you must make sure you are fit. I know you cannot be match fit in this moment, so we need these games to get there. I know we are playing against players who are already going in their league, they have a much higher fitness level, but still we are Man United and players from Man United should perform better."

Ten Hag was also unhappy with United's opponents after some feisty challenges.

"I think there was so many bad tackles in the first half. I thought they stopped really big opportunities when we were [looking] to [break] on the counter attacks. We got some big knocks but I think as I see now they will recover for training tomorrow."

The manager was joined on the sideline by his new assistants, Rene Hake and former United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy.

"He is a very ambitious manager," Ten Hag said of Van Nistelrooy, who was in charge of PSV Eindhoven in his last role. "He has a great skillset as a manager, so he will help the team and he will help individual players. He will help the team in all the team functions with football, especially in attacking and pressing plays."

THE INDEPENDENT

## Fonseca tipped Yoro to be 'one of the best central defenders in the world'

LONDON

LENY Yoro - who could become Manchester United's next signing - has been tipped for the top for some time.

The 18-year-old central defender was due to fly to Manchester on Wednesday for a medical after sources said United had agreed a 62m euros (£52m) fee with Lille.

Paulo Fonseca - now AC Milan manager - made Yoro the Ligue 1 club's youngest player when he handed him his debut aged 16 in 2022 and called the French youngster's meteoric rise when he spoke to BBC Sport's Alex By-south in April.

"I believe Leny Yoro in the next year will be at one of the best clubs in Europe," he said.

"He started here at 16 with us. When I arrived the main objective for him was to start to work with us and play in the B team, but he played even at 16 with a big maturity and big courage."

Yoro played 32 in the league last season, was named in the Ligue 1 team of the year and was nominated for Ligue 1 young player of the year.

He has attracted interest from the biggest clubs in Europe, including Real Madrid, and Fonseca recognised the extent of his ability very quickly.

"He is very ambitious, but very disciplined and I decided to start with him in the main team and he started immediately to have some minutes, some games," he added.

"This year, he assumed one of the main positions of our team."

"He grew a lot but he is a kid with a big maturity and, of course, with big quality. He's very focused, very concentrated and he wants to learn every day."

"I have no doubt, in modern football, he will be one of the best central defenders in the world."

BBC

## 'Argentina song stained glory of Copa victory'

By Tim Vickery

ARGENTINA won the Copa America, but lost the respect of many with the manner of their celebration.

Midfielder Enzo Fernandez faces disciplinary proceedings at Chelsea after posting a video on social media that the French Football Federation said included alleged "racist and discriminatory language".

Fifa is also investigating the video, in which several members of the Argentina squad - celebrating their 1-0 win over Colombia in the final - take part in a song originally sung by Argentina fans questioning the heritage of France's black and mixed-race players.

The global repercussions of that song have sparked a reaction from the Argentine government.

Javier Milei's right-wing administration has no natural sympathy for anything that might be considered 'woke'.

But Julio Garro, the under-secretary for sports, suggested that team captain Lionel Messi and local FA president Claudio Tapia should issue an apology for the song that some were singing on the bus on Sunday night. "It's left us looking bad,"



Enzo Fernandez apologised after posting a video on social media that the French Football Federation said included an alleged "racist and discriminatory" chant. Agencies

he said.

Garro was sacked on Wednesday for his comments, while others have rejected the need for an apology.

With monotonous and depressing regularity, when teams from Argentina play opponents from Brazil in continental club competitions, there are scenes in the stands of Argentine fans making monkey gestures.

When interviewed, the perpetrators vehemently deny that they are racists. They are indulging in 'banter'. All is fair, they argue, in love, war and football. Anything that goads and irritates the opposition is fair game. And on this latest matter, such sentiments are widespread.

The attempts from Argentine clubs to crack down on this behaviour

have often been half-hearted, with references to 'xenophobia' - instead of calling it what it is: racism.

Especially depressing is the fact that this behaviour has been exhibited by some of the players. Here there is no excuse.

With the exception of one of the substitute goalkeepers, the entire squad is based in Europe.

These players are part of multi-national, multi-cultural, multi-racial squads. They should know much better. Quite apart from any possible sanctions, there could be some very awkward dressing-room moments when they report back for pre-season training.

"Why do they do it?"

One of the attractions of national team duty for these players is the

chance to be together with people from their own culture, and sing their own songs.

It is a chance for them to be aggressively and assertively Argentine.

Many aspects of the country's fan culture are wonderful. The songs can be hypnotic.

But the lyrics to this particular song, which grew out of the Qatar World Cup final, which Argentina won on penalties against France, are extremely disturbing.

The Argentine players risk not only insulting their black team-mates and fans. These songs insult their own heritage.

It is rare these days to see a black Argentine. But that has not always been the case.

Going back to the days of Spanish colonial rule, the country imported far fewer enslaved Afri-

cans than neighbouring Brazil, and put an end to slavery decades earlier. But around two hundred years ago, Buenos Aires was a third black.

"What happened to this population?"

There are many theories, ranging from outbreaks of yellow fever to deaths in the war for independence.

The most coherent idea, though, is simply that they were swamped by the millions of immigrants pouring in from Europe and the Middle East (especially Italy - Argentines speak Spanish with an Italian intonation) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The African influence is there in the gene pool. Dark-skinned people are often nicknamed 'el negro' - which carries no negative connotation.

African influence has left its mark. Argentina's most significant cultural product is tango. The word is African, and the music and dance, like so many genres of the Americas, are the consequence of the mix of African, European and indigenous styles.

Because of its socially lowly origins, tango was looked down upon by the Argentine elite, seen as a vulgar phenomenon - until it took Paris by storm in the early 20th century and was thus legitimised.

Incidentally, it is in-

teresting that (just like samba in Brazil), tango in Argentina moved in the opposite direction from football. The musical genre began at the bottom of society and moved up, where football started with the elites and moved down.

A friend of mine is a black Uruguayan sociologist. You might expect him to have a good radar for these things, and he lived for years in Buenos Aires without experiencing the slightest problem.

On the other hand, the mere presence of so many European immigrants in the south cone of South America was an explicitly racist project.

At the time, there was a fashion for eugenic ideas - the belief that some 'races' were superior to others.

South American leaders sought to 'improve' and 'civilise' their countries through importing a white labour force.

The very presence, then, of so many European descendants in Argentina is the consequence of racist thinking.

The idea of a hierarchy of races has never entirely gone away, and has emerged in all its horror in the lyrics of the song with which some of the Argentine players stained their glory on Sunday.

BBC

## Who will win 2024 Ballon d'Or?

By Emlyn Begley

PLAYERS hoping to win the 2024 Ballon d'Or have now done all they can.

Nominees for the world's best player award will be announced on 4 September - with the 2023-24 seasons and this summer's major tournaments the factors considered.

With Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr and Jude Bellingham failing to win their continental tournaments with Brazil and England respectively, it has arguably opened the door for somebody else.

BBC Sport looks at the six players with the shortest bookmakers' odds to win the award on 28 October in Paris.

### \*Vinicius Jr (Real Madrid, Brazil)

Games played: 49. Goals scored: 26. Assists: 11. Trophies: La Liga, Champions League, Spanish Super Cup.

Real Madrid winger Vinicius, 24, has been tipped for the Ballon d'Or for some time after helping his side win La Liga and yet another Champions League.

He ended the season as Real Madrid's top scorer with 24 goals and added 11 assists.

A Copa America victory with Brazil would probably have made it a sure deal - but they went out in the quarter-finals on penalties to Uruguay, a game Vinicius missed because of suspension after receiving two yellow cards in the group stage.

The last Brazilian to win the Ballon d'Or was Kaka in 2007, with only Neymar finishing in the top three since then.

### \*Rodri (Manchester City, Spain)

Games played: 63. Goals scored: 12. Assists: 14. Trophies: Premier League, Uefa Super Cup, Club World Cup, Euro 2024.

Holding midfielder Rodri, 28, lost one game all season for club and country (excluding penalty shoot-outs) - the FA Cup final against Manchester United.

His record, therefore, stands at four trophies for every defeat - winning the Premier League, Uefa Super Cup and Club World Cup with Manchester City, and then Euro 2024 with Spain.

He went off injured at half-time in the Euros final against England but had already done enough to be named player of the tournament.

No Manchester City player has ever won the Ballon d'Or during their time at the club.

### \*Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid, England)

Games played: 54. Goals scored: 27. Assists: 16. Trophies: La Liga, Champions League, Spanish Super Cup.

England midfielder Bellingham, 21, enjoyed a stellar first season at Real Madrid following last summer's move from Borussia Dortmund.

He ended the campaign with 23 goals - including late winners in both La Liga matches with Barcelona - and 13 assists for his club as they won the Spanish league and Champions League.



Can Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr (left) or Jude Bellingham (right) hold off Spain's Euros stars to win the Ballon d'Or? Agencies

His most notable moment at Euro 2024 was the injury-time overhead kick which sent England's last-16 tie with Slovakia to extra time.

Had he inspired England to victory over Spain in the final, he may well have become favourite to be England's first Ballon d'Or winner since Michael Owen in 2001.

### \*Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid, Spain)

Games played: 54. Goals scored: 7. Assists: 8. Trophies: La Liga, Champions League, Spanish Super Cup, Euro 2024.

Right-back Carvajal, 32, seems an unlikely figure to pop up among the Ballon d'Or favourites, but he has become one of only 12 people to play

in and win both the Champions League and European Championship final in the same season.

He netted Real Madrid's opening goal in the Champions League final win over Borussia Dortmund - and also scored for Spain in a Euro 2024 group victory over Croatia.

Carvajal would become the first full-back to win the Ballon d'Or.

### \*Lamine Yamal (Barcelona, Spain)

Games played: 64. Goals scored: 10. Assists: 14. Trophies: Euro 2024.

Barcelona winger Yamal was already having a sensational season for a 16-year-old as he made 50 club appear-

ances, including seven goals and seven assists.

It made him by far the youngest player to reach a half-century of games for Barcelona.

But at Euro 2024 he turned that up a notch to make it a sensational season for any player of any age.

His four assists in Germany matched the record for any player in a single European Championship - and he scored a stunning strike in the semi-final win over France which will go down in history.

The youngest player, goalscorer and winner at a European Championship - who turned 17 the day before the final - was named young player of the tournament.

Brazil legend Ronaldo, aged 21 in 1997, is the youngest player to win the Ballon d'Or.

\*Lionel Messi (Inter Miami, Argentina)

Games played: 39. Goals scored: 28. Assists: 17. Trophies: Copa America.

Messi, 37, is the most successful player in Ballon d'Or history, winning eight times - including last year, courtesy of leading Argentina to World Cup glory.

He is still ranked among the favourites with the bookmakers, but it would be a surprise if he won.

He only scored one goal in Argentina's Copa America triumph this summer, against Canada in the semi-finals, went off injured in the final and was generally below his best.

Messi did not win any trophies with Inter Miami in the timeframe.

BBC

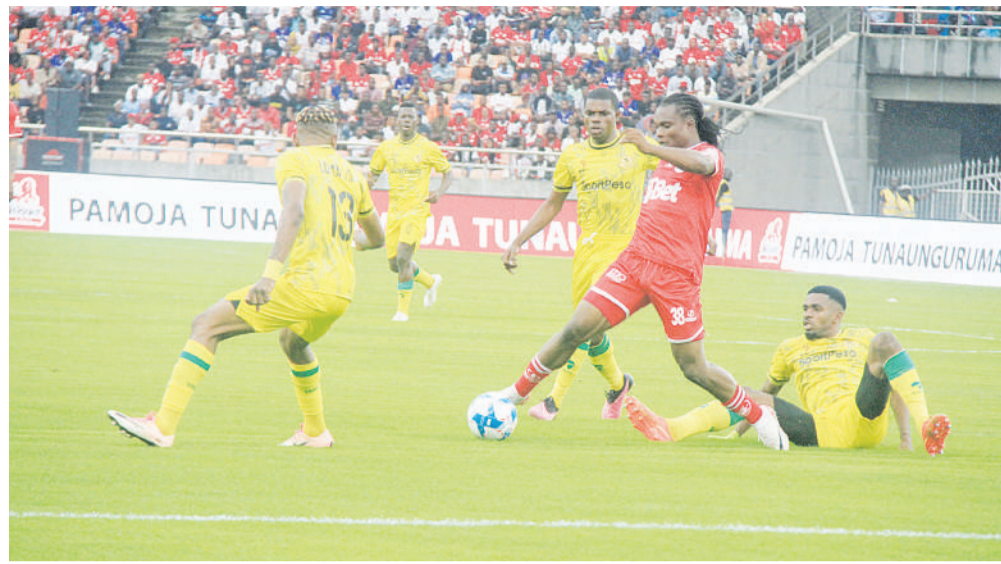
Gwiji by David Chikoko



'Argentina song stained glory of Copa victory'

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## Simba, Younga Community Shield derby venue confirmed



FILE: Simba SC forward Kibu Denis (2nd R) dribbles past Young Africans' players when the two clubs locked horns in a 2023/24 Mainland Premier League encounter held in Dar es Salaam on November 5, 2023, which ended with Young Africans cruising to a 5-1 win. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondents Michael Mwebi & Seth Mapoli

**M**ORE details around the 2024 Community Shield have now been confirmed, as Young Africans and Simba are set to battle it in the curtain-raiser for the 2024/25 campaign.

The Tanzania Football Federation, TFF, confirmed that the 2024 Community Shield semi-final games will be played at New Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar and Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar.

The Community Shield will be the first piece of silverware of the new season involving the top four teams in the 2023/24 Tanzania Mainland Premier League campaign.

While not considered a major trophy, the Community Shield provides a competitive yet friendly encounter, often seen as a barometer for the teams' upcoming season performance.

The game typically draws significant attention, symbolizing the close of the pre-season and the start of competi-

tive football in Tanzania.

The main prize for the winners of the Community Shield is the trophy. There is no cash prize, but it also gives teams a bit of momentum heading into the season.

The winners of the 2023/24 Federation Cup and Mainland Premier League, Young Africans, will play their arch-rivals Simba on August 8 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, with kick-off at 7 pm.

The two sides met in the Community Shield final last year. Simba overcame Singida Fountain Gate via a penalty shootout while Young Africans beat Azam 2-0 in the other semi-final.

A penalty shootout victory saw Simba triumph against their arch-rivals after the two sides could not be separated in 90 minutes at Mkwakwani Stadium, Tanga.

On the same day, the other semi-final game will

see last season's runners-up Azam take on Coastal Union at New Amaan Stadium, Zanzibar, with kick-off at 4 pm.

The tie will be a repeat of last season's Federation Cup semi-final game which Azam won 3-0 at CCM Kirusumba, Mwanza.

Coastal Union finished fourth to guarantee themselves a spot in the Community Shield for the first time as well as a CAF Confederation Cup ticket.

The derby between Simba and Young Africans is expected to be a thrilling encounter, as both teams carry the weight of their previous season's performances. In their last meetings in the Premier League meeting, Young Africans triumphed 2-1 over Simba.

However, Simba boast the bragging rights of last season's Community Shield, where they emerged victorious 3-1 on penalties, thanks to the heroics of goalkeeper

Ally Salim, who saved crucial shots from Khalid Aucho, Zouzoua Pacome, and Kouassi Yao.

This semi-final clash is more than just a game; it's a battle for pride and supremacy. The rivalry is further intensified by the transfer of key players between the clubs.

Notably, former Simba stars Jean Baleke and Clatous Chama have switched allegiances to Young Africans, adding an extra layer of intrigue to the match.

Simba, on the other hand, have bolstered their squad with 13 new signings, including seven foreign players and six local talents, aiming to strengthen their lineup for the upcoming season.

The semi-final victors will advance to the final, scheduled to be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on August 11. This decisive match will determine the winners of the Community Shield, setting the stage for the Pre-

mier League season, which officially kicks off five days later. The league will feature 16 clubs, including newly promoted teams Pamba Jiji and KenGold, promising an exciting season ahead.

Simba's significant squad overhaul signals their determination to maintain their dominance. The club's management has been strategic in their acquisitions, aiming to fill gaps and enhance team performance. The introduction of new talents, both domestic and international, is expected to bring fresh energy and tactical diversity to the team.

For Young Africans, the infusion of former Simba stars into their roster could prove pivotal. These players bring with them invaluable experience and a deep understanding of their former club's strategies, which could give Young Africans a competitive edge. The dynamics of the upcoming match will be fascinating, with both teams keen to make a statement at the outset of the season.

Fans of both clubs are eagerly anticipating this derby, often considered the highlight of Tanzanian football. The rivalry between Simba and Young Africans transcends the pitch, embodying a rich history and cultural significance that resonates with supporters across the country.

The Community Shield match on August 8 is expected to draw massive crowds, with fervent fans creating an electrifying atmosphere at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
13:55 Dondao Za Michzo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 AKILI & ME  
15:55 Dondao Za Michzo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondao Za Michzo  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

**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**

## Tanzania climb one place in FIFA's July world rankings

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA climbed one place in FIFA's July rankings released yesterday and moved to 27th place among African countries.

In June, Taifa Stars climbed five places in the FIFA's world rankings after securing an away victory over Zambia in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers group stage, moving from 119th to 115th place. They haven't played since then.

Taifa Stars currently do not have any official games scheduled until September when they host Ethiopia in the opening game of their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers campaign.

Four days later, Taifa Stars will make a trip to West Africa to face Guinea in another AFCON qualifier Group H match.

Morocco remains top of the African continent despite falling two places down to 14th in the world rankings.

Behind them are 2021 Africa Cup of Nations winners Senegal, who moved down to 19th in the world rankings. They are followed by Egypt, who retain their place at 36th in the world.

Completing the top five are AFCON winners Ivory Coast in 38th place in the world rankings and Nigeria who are one spot behind them.

On the global front, the top two in the FIFA rankings remain unchanged, with Argentina still ranked No. 1 after winning Copa America and France second despite a semi-final exit at the hands of Spain at the 2024 European Championship.

European champions Spain have climbed five places to third after a 2-1 victory over England in Sunday's final to secure a first major trophy in 10 years.

Euro 2024 runners-up England have moved up from fifth to fourth after reaching a second successive Euros final.

England have swapped places with Brazil, who dropped a place to fifth following a disappointing quarter-final exit at the hands of Uruguay in Copa America.

Venezuela is the biggest climber after moving up 17 places to 37th following a quarter-final exit at Copa America.

Canada is also among the biggest climbers, rising eight places to 40th following its historic run to the Copa semifinals.

The Czech Republic has dropped the most places, falling 13 spots to 47th after taking just one point from three group-stage matches at Euro 2024.

## Younga fly out on pre-season tour of South Africa

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA Mainland Premier League champions Young Africans have flown out for their pre-season tour of South Africa in preparation for the 2024/25 campaign.

The first-team squad led by head coach Miguel Gamondi travelled to South Africa on Wednesday afternoon.

The South African trip will see Wananchi play three games, spread out across only eight days before returning to Dar es Salaam to continue with their preparations.

On Saturday, Gamondi's side will come up against German Bundesliga side FC Augsburg at Mbombela Stadium - one of the host stadiums of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Augsburg, which was founded in 1907 and is the largest football club in Swabian Bavaria with 25,000 members, was promoted to the Bundesliga for the first time in 2011, where it has remained ever since.

In the 2015/16 season, FCA



Young Africans SC president Eng. Hersi Said (C), head coach Miguel Gamondi (R), and assistant coach Moussa N'Daw are pictured observing the team's preparations for the upcoming 2024/25 season at their camp in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

played in the Europa League for the first time. Last season they finished 11th, three points behind a European spot.

Next up will be a game against TS Galaxy, hosts of the Inaugural Mpumalanga Premier's International Cup, on Wednesday, July 24.

As part of their stay in

South Africa, Young Africans will engage in some community work in both Free State and Johannesburg.

The last game of the tour sees the Tanzanian record-time winners, currently on a run of three successive Premier League titles, will come up against Nasreddine Nabi's

Kaizer Chiefs on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at 4:00 pm at the Toyota Stadium, Bloemfontein.

The two teams met last season in a pre-season encounter last year.

Young Africans hosted their South African counterparts in Dar es Salaam as they wound

up their Wiki ya Wananchi celebrations with the clash.

Kaizer Chiefs are one of the most successful clubs in South Africa, having won 13 league titles and over 42 cup trophies, with one African Cup triumph in 2001.

They are fondly known as "Amakhosi" by fans, a Zulu word meaning "kings" or "chiefs".

Their headquarters is Kaizer Chiefs Village, in Naturena, six kilometres south of Johannesburg.

Last month Kaizer Chiefs announced former Young Africans coach Nabi as their new boss.

The 58-year-old Tunisian coached Young Africans from 2021 to 2023 before heading to Morocco's FAR Rabat, from where he joined Amakhosi.

Young Africans will travel back to Tanzania on July 30, a week before facing their arch-rivals Simba in the Community Shield semi-final match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

You are 'WHAT YOU EAT'!

I'M AFRAID TO TAKE CHICKEN N' CHIPS

