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PM: Better doing business climate has fuelled growth

PMO requested 350.9bn/- for which 146.3bn/- is intended for recurrent expenditure, while 204.5bn.- is pegged to development projects

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

OBSERVANCE of fiscal 2023/24 priorities especially generating improvements in the doing business environment and attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs) helped to stimulate growth, the government has declared.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa gave this overview in delivering an overall review of implementation of government tasks for fiscal 2023/2024 and its orientation for fiscal 2024/2025 in the National Assembly here yesterday.

Citing the waiver in taxes and levies for strategic investment projects as crucial, he said that the government will dedicate its policies and strategies at stabilizing the economy for the country to be less burdened with rising domestic and foreign debts.

The country's economy stabilised further despite economic shocks like climate change effects of drought and floods, with the government targeting a 5.4 percent growth rate

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Tanzanian maize 'not posing regional threat'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MAIZE grain seeds from Tanzania do not pose a risk of transmitting viruses causing 'maize lethal necrosis disease' (MLND) in the region, the regulatory authorities affirm.

Prof. Joseph Ndunguru, The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) director general, made this declaration in an updated report on the occurrence of the disease and its associated viruses.

The TPHPA in its latest findings in the March 2024 report made available here yesterday says that the authority has undertaken extensive research in the field and in maize grain seeds in all maize growing regions.

"We decided to conduct thorough studies to satisfy ourselves that the country's grain consignments are safe," he explained, noting that maize is an important food and income earner for rural and urban dwellers in Tanzania.

Farm productivity for maize in Africa can be affected by diseases like MLND, he said, elaborating on measures since the first report on the occurrence of MLND in Tanzania.

TPHPA conducted monitoring surveys to

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan touches the iPad screen to launch the Personal Data Protection Commission in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia launches personal data protection 'monitor'

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

LAUNCHING the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) is tied with implementing regional and international conventions meant to ensure people's

privacy and confidentiality, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared.

In remarks at the launch held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the president pointed at different scenarios where people have witnessed groups doing public disclosure of private information without the owners' consent.

This is a habit that has ruined the reputation of many people hence the need to move legislation in that regard, the

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Some houses in Kanga, Kiegele, Kilindi and Nyandote areas at Chumbi ward in Rufiji district, Coast Region surrounded by water as captured yesterday, following the release of water from the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP District Commissioner Major Edward Gowele (not in picture) said that a preliminary assessment has revealed the destruction of 58 houses, with more than 28,000 hectares of maize rice, sesame and bananas extensively waterlogged. Photo: Courtesy of Projestus Binamungu

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Gamondi embraces Yanga's underdog status ahead of CAF CL last eight's second leg

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The numbers that show Liverpool could have an edge in title race

Govt receives first Hyundai electric units

The new trains will be much faster than the diesel trains currently operating in Tanzania at 30km-40km per hour

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE first set of Electric Multiple Units (EMU) from the South Korean Hyundai Rotem engineering firm meant for shorter routes, Dar es Salaam to Morogoro and onward to Dodoma was received in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Transport minister, said at the delivery ceremony that the set of EMUs is the first out of 10 procured by the government at a total cost of \$190m.

The passenger coaches that arrived last year will be used for long routes like Dar to Mwanza and to Kigoma when the construction of the railway is completed

EMU is described as a multiple-unit train that requires no separate locomotive, as electric traction motors are incorporated within one or a number of the carriages.

One set of EMU consists of two locomotives and eight passenger coaches with a capacity of carrying more than 500 passengers, he said, hinting that the next set of EMU is expected to be delivered next month and the rest similarly in instalments.

Amina Limuli, the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) acting director general, said that after port logistics are over the test drive will proceed as it was conducted with loco-

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PM: Better doing business climate has fuelled growth

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in the next financial year, he said. During January to September 2023 economic growth stood at 5.3 percent, from 5.2 percent in the corresponding period in 2022, while inflation declined for July to December 2023 to 3.2 percent from 4.8 percent the previous corresponding period, he said.

The decline in inflation was due to favourable fiscal policies, currency stability, stable electricity supply and adequate food production, he explained, projecting resilience in the rate of inflation to within five percent during the next fiscal year.

From July 2023 to January 2024 domestic revenue topped 17.10trn/-, 95.9 percent of the set target at 17.92trn/-, he said, indicating that the performance was a ten percent improvement from the previous corresponding period.

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) collected 15.16trn/- while 1.12trn/- was collected by public entities and ministries, plus 654.1bn/- from other sources, he said.

For the key 2023/24 strategic development projects, by February 2024 a total of 10.69trn/- had been

disbursed by the government for the standard gauge railway (SGR) construction, he said.

SGR trains will commence services in July for the Dar es Salaam-Dodoma route, he specified.

PMO requested 350.9bn/- for which 146.3bn/- is intended for recurrent expenditure, while 204.5bn/- is pegged to development projects.

Similarly, a total of 181.8bn/- was requested as parliamentary fund, with

172.1bn/- intended for recurrent expenditure and 9.6bn/- for development expenditure.

He announced that the government has spent 5.1bn/- so far to prepare for the local government polls in November, while proceeding with preparations for conducting free and fair elections.

The government was proceeding with preparing the National Development Vision Plan 2050, while in concluding the National Development Vision Plan 2025, the government was investing in strategies to guarantee adequate supply of electricity for domestic and commercial use, he added.

Tanzanian maize 'not posing regional threat'

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establish the areas affected by the disease and identify the respective viruses, which became a comprehensive survey on the disease.

The survey was conducted on a zonal basis, namely lake zone (Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga, and Mara), northern zone (Kilimanjaro, Manyara, and Arusha) southern highlands zone (Ruvuma, Njombe, Iringa, Rukwa and Katavi), central zone (Dodoma and Singida), western zone (Tabora) and the eastern zone (Tanga and Morogoro), he said.

MLND variant, *Zea mays* L, is caused by a combination of maize chlorotic mottle virus, like any of

the cereal viruses in the potyvirus group including sugarcane mosaic virus, maize dwarf mosaic virus, maize mosaic virus and wheat streak mosaic virus, he specified.

The reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method was used for detection of these viruses in the field-collected samples and from maize grain seed samples collected from the Malawi-Tanzania border at Kasumulu towards the end of last year, he said.

"Laboratory analysis of the samples did not detect any of the viruses from the maize grains as well as the field samples from the major maize producing regions in Tanzania," the director added.

S. African parliament speaker faces possible arrest after losing court bid

CAPE TOWN

A South African high court has dismissed an urgent application filed by National Assembly Speaker Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula to interdict a possible arrest of her on corruption charges.

The ruling, which clears the path for her potential arrest, marks a new setback for the African National Congress (ANC) just before the upcoming 2024 elections.

Mapisa-Nqakula approached the Pretoria High Court last week on an urgent basis to prevent the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) from arresting her on corruption charges.

She had taken a "special leave" from her parliament position after an early morning raid by a special investigations unit on her Johannesburg home, over allegations that she solicited a cash bribe of about 2.3 million rands (about 120,000 U.S. dollars) from a former military contractor during her tenure as minister of defense between 2016 and 2019.

In her application, Mapisa-Nqakula argued that the state's case was weak and that arresting her would be "unlawful."

Judge Suleit Potterill, who issued the ruling Tuesday, said if such an order were granted, then the "floodgates" would open and every suspect could seek urgent court appearances to prevent their arrest.

NPA Spokesperson Mthunzi Mhaga declined to comment on when the speaker might face an imminent arrest following the court ruling.

Mhaga said they had maintained that the court bid was "unprecedented."

"We have maintained that the application was unprecedented and it was unnecessary for us to be in court, and we have always maintained that the process of arrest will

be done seamlessly," he said.

Opposition political parties have called for the National Assembly speaker to step down and for the ANC to take action against her following the court ruling.

In response, Mhlangeni Bhengu-Motsiri, the ANC national spokesperson, said the party will enforce its step-aside policy.

"The African National Congress has noted the judgment of the North Gauteng High Court to strike the matter between the NPA and Speaker of the National Assembly, Comrade Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, from the court roll," Bhengu-Motsiri said in a statement. "The ANC is committed to respecting the laws of the country and allowing the justice process to take its course. As such, the ANC will enforce its integrity and step aside policies to preserve the integrity of the movement."



We have maintained that the application was unprecedented and it was unnecessary for us to be in court, and we have always maintained that the process of arrest will be done seamlessly



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa delivers a speech on the review and direction of government work and estimates of income and expenditure of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for the financial year 2024/2025, in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Samia launches personal data protection 'monitor'

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Personal Data Protection Act, and thus a monitoring and regulatory entity.

Pointing at the poor management system on personal data, she said that this situation is contrary to section 16(2) of the constitution which envisages a limitation clause in certain circumstances where public disclosure can occur.

The new act directs how personal information should be collected where necessary and for a legitimate purpose to ensure accuracy of information, she stated, with observers saying there is no direct link with an administrative affirmation that social media chat groups be registered.

Personal data protection at the regional level has also been a priority as existing conventions demand state members to act on cybercrime, electronic transactions

and protecting personal data for the sake of guaranteeing people's right to data privacy, she stated.

The Malabo Convention of 2014 adopted by the African Union was an initial framework for protecting personal data and promoting cyber security, as part of efforts to combat cybercrime and threats arising thereof, she further noted.

Tasks of the commission and the board focus on ensuring that all private institutions are registered in the system before the end of the year, with data protection officers demanded to ensure they do their tasks professionally and accurately.

The commission ought to make a follow-up on the commission and deliver to the higher authorities on implementation twice a year, she specified, while Nape Nnauye, the portfolio minister, said personal data protection legislation and the commission are

tied to the CCM election manifesto on taking up regional and international conventions.

Remarking in the direction of the president, he commended the decision to initiate the new law, describing it as keenly concerned with people's privacy. "All this is an implementation of what you promised to do as soon as you came into office," he said, underlining that using social media platforms leaves certain marks that are related to one's identity.

This mostly refers to digital footprints, including voice, fingerprints, face identity, bank information, appearance, work and family background data, he elaborated.

"This information can be misused," he stressed, showing the need to enact protective legislation and a monitoring agency in that regard. "Your personal data and privacy define your dignity, it's your task at all cost to ensure

that they are all safe."

The commission's work structure and responsibilities will involve data controllers and producers, data protection officers, government electronic payment and gateway, the public notification model, permit model, report model, rectification model, data complaints model and human interaction, he stated.

Ambassador Adadi Rajabu, the commission chairman, said that the main task ahead is to ensure they raise public awareness on the commission's work.

The Personal Data Protection Act No.11 was introduced in 2022 to set out rules for the protection of personal data in electronic and non-electronic forms.

It is designed to minimise the collection and processing of personal data, with the commission thus created for the protection of personal data, he added.



The opposition ACT-Wazalendo party national chairman who is also Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman (L) participates in iftar with the ruling CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Abdulrahman Kinana in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent

Govt receives first Hyundai electric units

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motives earlier. TRC was readying to start ferrying passengers and cargo on the standard gauge railway so the public needs to get prepared to become part of the project, she said.

So far TRC has received 65 electric passenger coaches and nine locomotives, with actual start of services billed for the end of July, she

said, while the EMU project manager, Kelvin Kimaro explained on the EMU mechanism.

The new set of EMU has special features for automatic control of speed, with the train having a capacity for 20Kv power supply from the grid, with the passenger coaches fully insulated, he said, noting that the design of the EMU provides for people with disabilities.

In July 2021 TRC awarded Hyundai Rotem a 335.4bn/- contract to supply 10 EMUs for the standard gauge railway, meant for use in the Dar es Salaam to Morogoro and Makutupora sections.

TRC would receive 80 train cars billed at \$190.12m and 17 electric locomotives priced at \$105.53m from the engineering giant, with the railcars expected to be delivered this

year. The new train cars will operate on its high-speed electric line, where all train cars are set to operate at a maximum speed of 160km/hour, carrying even up to 590 commuters.

The new trains will be much faster than the diesel trains currently operating in Tanzania at 30km-40km per hour, the official quipped.



Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (Iramba West) and Finance minister speaks to Urughu ward residents in Iramba District, Singida Region during a visit earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Nearly 1000 villagers rendered homeless after floods hit Rufiji

By Guardian Reporter, Rufiji

NEARLY 1000 people have been rendered homeless after floods engulfed 58 houses in Kanga, Kiegele, Kilindi, and Nyandote sub-villages in the Chumbi ward of Rufiji District, Coast Region.

District Commissioner Major Edward Gowele said this yesterday when speaking to victims shortly after inspecting flood impacts in affected areas.

He said more than 28,000 hectares of agricultural and commercial crops such as corn, rice, sesame, and banana were affected by the floods, which were mainly caused by the opening of water from the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP).

DC Gowele was accompanied by Mohamed Mchengerwa, who is the MP for Rufiji and Minister of State, President's Office-Regional Administrations and Local Governments (PO-RALG).

According to DC Gowele, who is also Chairman of the district Defence and security committee said that the initial assessment has revealed the destruction of 58 houses and more than 28 thousand hectares of agro-business crops such as maize, rice, sesame, and bananas have been affected.

He said that people affected by the floods have been reallocated to safe areas, emphasizing that there were no deaths reported as a result of the floods.

Expressing his condolences to the victims, minister Mchengerwa gave 40m/- as support for purchasing seeds for more than 1,000 residents of various areas in Rufiji dis-

trict whose property, farms, and homes were affected by the flood of water which resulted from the opening of JNHPP.

He said that he issued the money to encourage residents to return to their farms to start cultivating again after their crops were washed away by the flood.

"This is a tragedy for both of us, we believed that the construction of JNHPP would be a savior from the floods that have been hitting us from time to time, but unfortunately, they continue to occur, let's have faith that when the project is completed, this challenge will be resolved," the Mchengerwa explained.

Mchengerwa added: "I know exactly how Rufiji residents cultivated this year, I urge you to go back to the fields and plant again at large scales, I have given 40m/- to your DC to start with to help with purchasing seeds so that we can return to the field to plant again so that we do not suffer from hunger."

Similarly, the minister called upon institutions and humanitarian aid organisations as well as Good Samaritan to respond to the Rufiji people by supporting them in one way or another during this situation. At the same time, the local authority continues to monitor and evaluate the effects of the floods in general.

"The truth be told, the 40m/- is from my salary, to ensure that we have Iftar during this holy month of Ramadan as we always do every year, but in this incident of flooding, let me just say that Iftar is nothing and I have given this amount to purchase seeds and

I am going to ask my friends to donate at least 100m/- to help Rufiji residents affected by this flood," Mchengerwa clarified.

Halima Mbwana Chumbi village resident, one of the flood victims, claimed that the situation is getting worse due to a lack of essential needs such as food and shelter, so they hope to get someone to give them a hand.

"We are left empty, our crops in the fields were swept away with the flood and even our reserved food and our houses have also been swept away, we have nowhere to live and no food, we are asking for assistance because our situation is terrible," Halima said.

He said that he issued the money to encourage residents to return to their farms to start cultivating again after their crops were washed away by the flood

Apple trucks alleged to ferry Marijuana from S. African countries into Tanzania

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TRUCKS that ferry fruits from Southern African Countries have been found to also be used to smuggle exotic drugs, especially laboratory enhanced cannabis into Tanzania.

Aretas James Lyimo, Commissioner General of the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) revealed this here yesterday that the factory processed marijuana usually comes fully packaged looking like tea leaves or snacks.

The 'Bhang' drugs, according to the official, usually originate from Eswatini, Ma-

lawi, Zambia and South Africa where people are allowed to grow marijuana in their farms for export overseas.

"Last year, however, farmers in those countries produced a surplus of marijuana and they resulted in smuggling the left-over consignment into nearby states such as Tanzania and other Eastern African Countries," revealed the DCEA Commissioner General Lyimo.

Last year the DCEA managed to impound more than 600 kilogrammes of packaged enhanced semi-processed marijuana at the Zambia-Tanzania border at Tunduma.

Dried Marijuana leaves are usually very light; therefore a shipment of 600 kilo-

grammes translates into an extremely large consignment.

The drugs were being transported alongside the apple crates from South Africa. The packets were found to be enveloped on the sides of the fruit boxes.

As it happens, Marijuana grown in the country, including the highly potent Kisimiri variety from Arusha has only around 10 percent of the mind-altering toxic Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

However, the industrial processed and chemically enhanced cannabis from Southern Africa contain over 40 percent of the Tetrahydrocannabinol, four times more potent than the local variety.

Marijuana refers to the

dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds from the Cannabis Sativa or Cannabis Indica plants. The plant contains the mind-altering chemical THC and other.

Since 2023, authorities in Tanzania have been battling the influx of alien cannabis which has so far earned the name of 'Skanka.'

The enhanced marijuana is reported to be turning Tanzanian young people into aggressive monsters that can attack and even kill at whim.

Speaking in Moshi recently, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa expressed concern over the youth indulgence in narcotic drugs and how the toxicants are altering their minds for the worse.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
JUDICIARY
Ref. No. Civil Appeal No. 287/16 of 2022
IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF TANZANIA
AT DAR ES SALAAM
CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 287/16 OF 2022
SYMBION POWER TANZANIA LIMITED.....APPLICANT
VERSUS
CITIBANK TANZANIA LIMITED.....1ST RESPONDENT
SYMBION POWER LLC.....2ND RESPONDENT
TO: SYMBION POWER LLC,
"WHEREVER YOU ARE"

TAKE NOTICE that the hearing of civil application will take place at Dar es Salaam on 7th day of May, 2024 at 09:00am. If no appearance is made on your behalf by yourself, your pleader or by someone by law authorized to act for you in this appeal, it will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 28th day of March, 2024.

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Govt: UHI to come into effect end of this month

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Universal Health Insurance (UHI) is expected to come into effect before the end of this month.

The government is finalizing procedures for the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Act 2023 signed by the president last November.

Health Deputy Minister Godwin Mollel told the parliament yesterday that the Section 1 of the Act gives the minister to opt on areas that she wishes to be implemented first.

He said the law was gazetted by the government on December 01, 2023 therefore the public has all it takes to know its implementation plans.

Mollel was responding to a question by Furaha Matondo, Special Seats MP who wanted to know when the UHI came into effect.

"Some of the provisions that provide for the implementation have already been identified and submitted to the Attorney General and they will be enforced before the end of this month on a date to be announced later," he said.

In her supplementary question, the legislator wanted to know the government's strategy in assisting

widows and orphans who are unable to pay for health insurance to access free treatments.

"It is the government's strategy to help these children get health insurance by reuniting them with their families where they can be covered through subscription as dependents," he said.

Mollel said that the procedure to help people from poor backgrounds to access health insurance is being considered in the new law.



Some of the provisions that provide for the implementation have already been identified and submitted to the Attorney General and they will be enforced before the end of this month on a date to be announced later



Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) director, Raphael Maganga speaks at a private sector consultation meeting on tax reform proposals in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt spends 10.69trn/- on SGR construction



By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has spent 10.69trn/- on construction of Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) that will run 1,219 kilometers from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza once in full operation.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) disclosed this here yesterday in the National Assembly when presenting a report review on the implementation of government works for the fiscal

2023/2024 and the direction of the next fiscal 2024/2025.

He said that there are eight exemplary projects for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, noting that as of February this year, construction of SGR has progressed from 5.38percent to 98.84 percent, and trials of the Dar es Salaam to Morogoro segment have already commenced.

"The SGR trials were successfully completed in February 2024, and we anticipate the transport service from Dar

es Salaam to Dodoma segment is to begin by July 2024," he said.

He also said: "The construction of the sections from Morogoro - Makutupora segment (422km) has reached 96.35 percent; Tabora - Isaka segment (165 km) has reached 5.38 percent; Tabora - Kigoma segment (506 km) has reached 1.81 percent; Makutupora - Tabora segment (371 km) has reached 13.86 percent; and Mwanza - Isaka segment (341km) has reached 52.69 percent."

On the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP), which is projected to generate 2,115 megawatts of electricity, Majaliwa said the project has already been completed by 96.81 percent, and it is slated to be completed by the end of December this year.

He further said that one of the nine plants that will produce electricity for the project has completed and two power plants that pump 235MW into the National Grid have already switched on.

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



INVITATION TO TENDER NO. TP/03/2024/NCB/W/008 PROVISION OF PROPOSED TIPER LANDFALL LANDSCAPING AND REPAIR WORKS.

4 April, 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 Energies 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 **Provision of Proposed TIPER Landfall Landscaping and Repair Works.**
- Eligible bidders are reputable civil contractors locally registered by the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) as Class V and above with at least 5 years of experience in similar works, working with reputable organizations.
- Bidders who don't meet condition stated in line 2 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 request letters through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz from date 4 April, 2024 to 17 April, 2024 from Monday to Friday, between 8:00 A.M.O.A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- Bidders MUST visit the site before bidding.** The site visit will be conducted on **Tuesday 9 April, 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 submit 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/03/2024/NCB/W/008 FOR PROVISION OF PROPOSED TIPER LANDFALL LANDSCAPING AND REPAIR WORKS.** 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 18 April, 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.

Female future programme launched to empower women with leadership skills

By Carlos Banda

THE Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) has launched the 10th Cohort of the Female Future Programme (FFP) to empower women with leadership skills as a way to advance gender equality across sectors and contribute to national development.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the launch, Susan Ndomba-Doran, ATE chief executive officer (CEO) said the launch of the 10th cohort is important because it will also mark the tenth anniversary of the female leadership programme since its inception when the students graduate next year.

"Apart from the launch, we have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Engineers Registration Board (ERB) who have committed themselves to bring 13 female students each year from its institutions to take part in the programme. This actually tells us that what we are doing is the right thing. You can also see the difference whereas in the ninth cohort we had 76 graduates last month, but in this new cohort, a total of 116 women from 27 companies have registered until yesterday," she said.

She added: "The MoU between ATE and ERB will last for three years

where ERB is expected to invest \$39000 for 13 women. Following their commitment to do so, ATE will offer one free position each year for one individual to attend the programme without them paying. We are doing this to attract more people to attend in the future."

Ndomba-Doran said the programme has cultivated a positive perception and attracted many firms as it trains women in areas that many companies have been investing in capacity building training for female experts.

"The programme trains women on three crucial areas, namely: Board competency, Leadership skills and Rhetoric in communication. The purpose of the female future programme is to offer and advance women's skills for nine months," she said.

Eng Benard Kavishe, Registrar of ERB said that women empowerment efforts are crucial to elevate women to partake in the country's development endeavours.

"We are here as part of the efforts to fight for gender equality especially in the engineering sector. Engineering is among the sectors that is dominated by men. In every five engineers, there is one female. The low number of female practitioners in this sector is a major

problem. And if you make reference to the millennium development goals and the sustainable development goals, it is clear that the absence of gender equality is a sign of poor development," he said.

Masha Makatayambi, Executive Director of Global compact network Tanzania, complimented the leaders for the initiative to open doors for women to participate in the programme.

"Women have various needs that differ from men. Through such programmes gender equality can be realized because when can be part of decision-making roles. These kinds of programmes will catalyse male leaders to follow suit to advocate for women empowerment, a decision that will garner positive outcomes nationally and globally," she said.

Makatayambi, said a lot needs to be done to address the small number of leaders between CEOs and CFOs in the country who are women.

She acknowledged the plans and strategies of the FFP that have been rolled out to address the gaps, noting the increase in the number of women in higher leadership positions in the government from the President, the cabinet ministers, permanent secretaries and the national assembly.



Salome Mnyawi (C), the Mirerani ward councillor in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region speaks at an inspection visit on the construction of a dormitory for students with special needs at Songambe primary school, on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



Shinyanga District Commissioner Julius Mtairo (L) speaks to Old Shinyanga residents at a public meeting to listen to their concerns and find solutions on Tuesday, where among the problems raised were persistent land conflicts. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Kenyan hospital to dispose of 475 unclaimed bodies

NAIROBI

KENYA'S largest public referral hospital has announced that it will dispose of hundreds of unclaimed bodies currently at its morgue if family members do not collect them.

"Interested members of the public are therefore requested to identify and collect the bodies within seven days, failure to which the hospital will seek authority from the courts to dispose of them," the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) said on Tuesday in a notice published in the privately owned The Star newspaper.

The 541 bodies include 475 babies and 66 adults.

The hospital published the names of the deceased, but the identities of a few of the bodies are unknown.

KNH and other public hospitals and morgues in Kenya frequently issue notices for relatives to collect unclaimed bodies.

Bodies that remain uncollected after the grace period are often

buried in mass graves.

The bodies are usually of patients who die in hospital without the knowledge of their families.

Some families also opt to abandon bodies of their loved ones in mortuaries when they cannot afford to clear their hospital or mortuary bills.



Interested members of the public are therefore requested to identify and collect the bodies within seven days, failure to which the hospital will seek authority from the courts to dispose of them

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is set to conduct a high-level sensitisation mission at selected borders within the region aimed at reviewing the performance of the various One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs).

Scheduled to commence on 9th April, 2024, the mission underscores the EAC's commitment to fostering cooperation, enhancing trade facilitation, and improving cross-border procedures.

The primary objective of the

EAC sets to conduct high-level border sensitisation mission

mission is to follow up on the performance of OSBPs, identify areas for improvement, and assess the implementation of agreed action plans. Through engagement with various stakeholders including Officers in Charge of the OSBPs;

customs, immigration, standards, and port health officers; as well as representatives of other border agencies, cross-border traders, and local government authorities, the EAC Secretariat aims to address challenges and streamline

processes at these critical facilities.

Selected borders include Nimule/Elegu in South Sudan, Mutukula/Mutukula in Uganda, Rusumo/Rusumo in Rwanda, Kobero/Kabanga in Burundi, and Namanga/Namanga in Tanzania.

The mission will take place at the respective OSBPs ensuring comprehensive coverage and engagement.

The EAC Secretariat underscores the significance of continuous sensitization and capacity-

building efforts at EAC borders. Similar missions are planned for other OSBPs in the months of June and July 2024, reaffirming the commitment to enhancing awareness and compliance with cross-border procedures.



WAJIBU - INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

JOB VACANCY

Date: 04TH APRIL 2024

Introduction:

WAJIBU – Institute of Public Accountability was founded in 2015 to foster an environment that supports transparency, accountability and good governance in the management of public funds in the country. WAJIBU is a Non-Governmental Organization (with Registration Number 00NGO/R2/00056) registered under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act No.24 of 2002 (as amended in 2019). WAJIBU is looking for a competent Resource Mobilization & Communications Manager to head its Resource Mobilization & Communications Department. For more information on how to apply, visit our website www.wajibu.or.tz and find the posted job advert for the position.

KEY INFORMATION:

TITLE:	Resource Mobilization & Communications Manager (1 position)
PROGRAM / DEPARTMENT:	Resource Mobilization & Communications Department
REPORTS TO (Title Only):	Executive Director
SUPERVISES	Public Relations Officer and Partnership & Advisory Officer
DUTY STATION	Dar es Salaam

CONTACT: 0736 666916



Norwegian Embassy
Dar es Salaam

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam has a vacant position of Program Officer /adviser, Regional Affairs. This is a permanent position. The position is due to start from late-April/ early-May 2024.

The Program Officer/adviser will be part of our Political Team and assist in managing development cooperation agreements pertaining to the Embassy's work on good governance, peace and stability, human rights, gender equality.

PROGRAM OFFICER - REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Assist in management of the Embassy's regional programs/projects including (but not limited to): Follow-up, risk management, monitoring and collaboration with relevant agreement partners, prepare formal correspondence, prepare documents for formal meetings and external communication, assessment of new projects, and closure of old projects.
- Contribute to good grant management compliance within the relevant portfolio by making active use of the internal grant management systems.
- Contribute to the Embassy's political reporting on regional issues.
- Contribute to the Embassy's communication work on regional affairs, including peace and stability, gender equality and sexual reproductive health and rights as human rights, and energy.
- Participate in meetings with other development partners.
- Assist in organising visits, conferences, receptions, and other events.

Desired Skills, Qualifications and Experience:

The successful candidate should have:

- University education (preferably a master's degree), or equivalent relevant professional experience.
- Considerable working experience (at least five years) and preferably from an international working environment such as embassies and international organisations.
- Good knowledge of regional issues and politics, peace and stability processes and human rights in the region (including Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Great Lakes).
- Good writing and analytical skills.
- Fluency in English and experience in writing brief reports and political analyses.
- Knowledge of other languages in the region (Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Great Lakes).

Personal Qualities:

We are looking for:

- A person who is well organized, efficient, and able to manage his/her own workload with a high level of administrative tidiness.
- A proactive team player who can work independently and contribute to a positive working environment.
- A person who can develop good working relationships in a culturally diverse environment.

The salary will be in accordance with the Norwegian Foreign Ministry's salary for local employees of Foreign Service Missions.

The Embassy has an inclusive and diverse working environment. We encourage all qualified candidates to apply, regardless of their race, sex, disability, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

If you are interested in this exciting career opportunity, send your current CV (maximum 5 pages) and one page cover letter as one file to **Prospect Africa**. Write "Program Officer, Regional Affairs" in the e-mail subject line. Do not send copies of certificates, letters of recommendation etc. Applications should not be sent directly to the Embassy.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 18th April 2024

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview. If you do not hear from us within 4 weeks of the closing date, please, assume your application was unsuccessful.

Executive Search and Selection Division
Prospect Africa Limited
e-mail: recruitment@prospect-africa.net





THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



COTTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

JOB OPPORTUNITY ADVERTISEMENT

Cotton Development Trust Fund (CDTF) was incorporated in Tanzania on 4th March 2008 under Trustees Incorporation Act (CAP.318 R.E. 2002) as per certificate of incorporation No. 3352. The Fund is a replacement of the Cotton Development Fund (CDF), which was established under the auspices of the Cotton Industry Act No. 2 of 2001. Formation of the Fund was in line with the wishes of the Cotton Industry Stakeholders as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed on 21st April 2006.

Cotton Development Trust Fund is looking for the qualified, young and dynamic Tanzanians to fill in the following vacant position under contractual basis.

1. PROCUREMENT OFFICER (01 POST)

Qualifications and Experience Required

Education requirement:

Holder of Bachelor Degree in Materials Management, Procurement and Supplies Management, Logistics Management or equivalent qualification from a recognised Institution and must be registered by PSPTB as Graduate Procurement and Supplies Officer with working experience in related field.

Duties and responsibilities:

- To processes purchase or supply control of given lines of stocks;
- To assist in clearing and forwarding functions;
- To keep record and reports for all procurement activities performed
- To support in implementing the functions of Tender Board;
- To assist in processing procurement tenders as per approved Authority's policies and procedures;
- To maintain register of approved suppliers for locally supplied items and updating it accordingly;
- To maintain register of all contracts and monitors supply of ordered goods;
- To participate in planning and forecasting supplies requirements;
- To prepare quarterly reports; and
- To perform any other related duties as may be assigned by his/her supervisor.

Qualitative Requirement:

- The candidate must have good communication skills
- Fluent in English and Kiswahili
- Must be computer literate
- Self-motivated individual
- Team Player

Duty Station: Mwanza

2. STORES OFFICER (01 POST)

Qualifications and Experience Required

Education requirements:

Holder of Bachelor Degree in any of the following field; Materials Management, Logistics Management or equivalent qualification from a recognized Institution with working experience in related field.

Duties and responsibilities:

- To prepare bin cards and store ledger books;
- To assist in undertaking physical distribution;
- To maintain location index design;
- To carry out continuous stock checking and Annual Stock Taking;
- To assist in the preparations of quarterly reports;
- To assist in clearing and forwarding functions;
- To assist in keeping records and reports all procurement activities
- To prepare monthly stores report of all physical and card balances;
- To undertake stock review;
- To perform any other duties as may be assigned by his/her supervisor.

Qualitative Requirement:

- The candidate must have good communication skills
- Fluent in English and Kiswahili
- Must be computer literate
- Self-motivated individual
- Team Player

Duty Station: Mwanza

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- Applicants must attach an up to date passport size photo, current Curriculum Vitae (CV) having reliable contact postal address, email address and telephone number(s).
- Applicants must attach their detailed relevant certified copies of Academic Certificates as follows:
 - Degrees and professional certificates
 - Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates
 - Birth Certificate or National Identity Card
- Form IV and Form VI result slips are strictly not accepted. Presentation of forged academic certificates and other information in the CV will necessitate to legal action.
- Applicants should indicate three reputable referees with their reliable contacts in their CV.
- Certificates from foreign Universities should be verified by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) or National Accreditation Council for Technical Education (NACTE) for foreign non degree certificates.
- Only qualified candidates will be contacted for further processes
- Application closing date will be 15th April, 2024

Mode of Application

Application letters should be posted, e-mailed or hand delivered to the following address:

DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA COTTON BOARD
REGIONAL DRIVE ROAD
P.O. BOX 61
MWANZA
E-mail: info@tcb.go.tz

Medical factory wins govt's kudos for good performance

By Correspondent Joseph Mchatta.

Mwendapole

THE Kibaha-based Kairuki Pharmaceutical Industry Limited (KPIL) has been applauded for working in line with the government's efforts to empower local investors to produce drugs and medical facilities within Tanzania, hence reducing imports.

Dr Hashil Abdallah, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade made the compliment on Tuesday when visited the factory.

The PS was accompanied by permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Dr Natu Mwamba and PS in Ministry of Health, Dr John Jingu as well as Coast Region Administrative Secretary, Rashid

Dr Abdallah said the purpose of the visit was to see the production activities, listen to the challenges facing the factory and find solutions.

He also said that the visit shows the government's determination to strengthen the industrial sector in the country by supporting local investors and enabling them to contribute fully to the development of the national economy.

He praised the factory leadership for its good performance and promised cooperation from the relevant ministry in solving the existing challenges to enable the factory to continue working more efficiently.

The official pointed out that the factory which provides 200 direct jobs and 300 indirect jobs is one of

the strategic factories that produce various fluid therapies in the country to reduce the dependence on importing the drugs abroad.

Dr Muganyizi Kairuki, KPIL director said that the factory has the capacity to produce 50 million bottles of therapeutic water per year, of which 60 percent are sold locally while 40 percent are sold to foreign countries including Rwanda, Comoros, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia, Congo, Mozambique and Yemen

He mentioned some of the drugs registered to be produced at the factory include "Sodium Chloride (0.9 percent w/v), Compound Ringer's Lactate, Dextrose (5 percent w/v) & Sodium Chloride (0.9 percent w/v), Dextrose (5 percent w/v) and Dextrose (10 percent w/v).



Hashil Abdallah (2nd R), the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, listens to a contribution during a visit at the Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industry Ltd in Kibaha District, Coast Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Africa's calls to regulate AI grow louder

By Otieno Opali, Nairobi

THE rapid development in artificial intelligence, or AI, has had the effect of disrupting and transforming socioeconomic activities across industries ranging from health, trade, education and even the mitigation of climate change.

However, as industries and governments across the globe are positioning themselves to tap into and exploit these possibilities, experts argue that African countries need to tackle governance issues and lack of institutional and infrastructural capacity to establish the building blocks that will allow them to benefit from artificial intelligence.

They added that Africa needs supportive policies and robust infrastructure to tap the limitless opportunities of artificial intelligence to quicken its development. Though it is important to regulate the use of AI in Africa to avert its risks, the experts said that the continent should not wait to have the regulations in place in order to embrace the technology.

Fayaz King, an expert in digital public infrastructure from Zimbabwe, said AI has the potential to contribute up to \$1.2 trillion to the African economy by 2030,

representing a 5.6 percent increase in the continent's GDP by 2030. That is why it is important for African governments to incentivize stakeholders across AI value chains with a focus on small-medium scale enterprises to foster innovation and equitable access to AI technologies.

Alfred Ongere, an information technology expert and the founder of Artificial Intelligence Kenya, a nongovernmental organization, said the urgency to regulate AI in African countries is expected to intensify because it can potentially be used in disseminating misinformation, fake news, and disinformation. However, policymakers should prioritize improving the state of the AI ecosystem.

"In Kenya, the government proposed a bill last year seeking to create a professional body to oversee the activities of AI practitioners and impose license fees for those working in the sector," Ongere said.

"However, this bill could hold back a nascent sector by reducing the flow of private investment, and locking young people out of opportunities," he said.

Despite arguing against tempered regulation by African governments, Ongere said that it is still crucial to protect consumers from the risks posed by the unfettered

application of AI on the continent. He urged African governments to develop an AI road map or policy paper that factors in the views of all stakeholders as a first step rather than imposing regulations that could potentially damage a promising sector.

"AI-focused solutions should address real-world challenges such as rural development, low literacy levels, and financial inclusion, among others. More importantly, efforts should be directed toward ensuring the commercial viability of these solutions," Ongere said.

King said that regulating AI in Africa should address ethical considerations such as data privacy, bias and transparency. As the use of AI continues to expand, it is likely that more countries will follow in introducing such regulations.

According to him, regulating AI in Africa could be seen from three perspectives. First from the point of a law enacted by a parliament, second in the form of strategies toward the adoption of AI, and finally on policies.

"The question of regulation, especially in the African context, is that Africa is not mature to have full-blown regulation on AI because Africa lacks the level of technology advancement that exists in developed nations," King said.

Partnership expanded to empower African women

By Tintswalo Baloyi, Johannesburg

MASTERCARD and Women Choice have expanded their partnership to support women entrepreneurs grow their business and create jobs across the Middle East and Africa.

The partnership has culminated in the launch of the ImpactHer and EmpowerHer programmes.

Women Choice - an international organization dedicated to advancing women's personal and professional development - launched the pilot cohort in 2023.

The next cohorts will be participating in the new programmes this year and will aim to impact 50 000 women.

These programmes are to offer comprehensive support via training and mentorship for women entrepreneurs and help them create employment opportunities for other women in their chosen field.

"At Mastercard, we are committed to creating a more inclusive and equitable world, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive," said Amnah Ajmal, Executive Vice President, Market Development, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Mastercard.

The executive believes the expanded partnership with Women Choice will provide women entrepreneurs with the right skills, resources and tools to succeed

and drive economic growth in the regions.

Globally, 15 000 women are already part of the Women Choice network and have participated in over 100 accelerator programs and conferences organized in recent years.

Nezha Alaoui, Founder and CEO of Women Choice, welcomed the partnership with Mastercard.

They are now focusing on scaling the impact.

"Bringing change and improving the situation of women in the workplace and providing support to women-led businesses is a key element to help economies in the Middle East and Africa region grow and further thrive," Alaoui said.

African entrepreneurs eye opportunities in China's Xiong'an new area

XIONG'AN, China

DRAWN by the promising prospects in Xiong'an New Area, north China's Hebei Province, two young African entrepreneurs pioneered establishing companies in this burgeoning locale in February, owing to the high fairness and efficiency.

In April 2017, China decided to establish the Xiong'an New Area, which aims to relieve Beijing of non-essential functions related to its status as the nation's capital, while also advancing the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

After graduation from Dalian Medical University in northeast China's Liaoning Province, Omame Vincent Kwakye moved to Xiong'an about three weeks ago, hoping to make a fortune here. The 27-year-old Ghanaian is convinced that Xiong'an is the most promising land in China now.

"Chinese cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen are over-saturated with so many people and so many foreigners. If I had started a business there, I would have been at the bottom of the food chain and thus suffered climbing all the way up," said Vincent, who believes there are more opportunities in the new area. "Xiong'an is different. Everything starts from the very beginning."

The young entrepreneur now commits himself to medical equipment trade between China and Africa. The startup he has registered in Xiong'an is an international trade company, which he believes will help connect Chinese partners with his family business in Africa.

"Xiong'an is a relatively very new and very young city. And I am also quite young. We all know when it comes to the future, one should actually put in effort to develop ourselves for the future. And I feel in that sense with Xiong'an, the government is putting in effort to develop it," he noted.

The company will ship advanced medical equipment from China to Ghana and other African countries to provide better health services for more African people.

"I expect that as I am growing, learning and becoming better at expanding my business, Xiong'an is also going to help me to expand my business as well with various technologies," said Vincent. "I believe that Xiong'an is going to be something very big in the future."

Likewise, Godsword George Chinemerem, a 32-year-old Nigerian, is also excited about getting involved in the growing process of the new area.

George runs equipment trading companies in Shenzhen and Haikou, port cities in south China, and he decided to launch a logistic company in Xiong'an as he has faith in China's futuristic city.

Registering a company in Xiong'an is simple for foreigners, according to George, who finished the whole process and received his documents within one day.

"The administrative services are swift and contain no forms of racism. I'm very much welcome here, and I'm happy to be so," he noted.

Samuel Nwokocha, a friend of George and Vincent, finds himself fascinated by the bright prospects of the new area, where he believes is going to be greener, smarter and more people-oriented. He is currently pursuing his Master of Business Administration degree at Shenyang University in the capital city of Liaoning Province.



JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

JOB VACANCIES

Plot No.227, Chato Street, Mikocheni.
P.O. Box 9263,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
www.jsi.com

1. Job Title: Chief of Party

Posting Date: Apr 04, 2024
Application Deadline: Apr 30, 2024
Position Type: Full-time
Position Category: Local hire, paid in-country
Company/Division/Subdivision: JSI - Local Hire
Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Salary: Commensurate with experience
Starting Date: Oct 1, 2024

Description:

JSI is dedicated to improving people's lives around the world through greater health, education, and socioeconomic equity for individuals and communities, and to providing an environment where people of passion can pursue this cause. JSI is currently recruiting for a for an upcoming USAID funded supply chain and pharmaceutical technical assistance project in Tanzania.

The purpose of this activity is to strengthen systems and provide operational support to ensure sustainable access to and appropriate use of safe, effective, quality-assured, affordable health commodities. These positions are contingent upon an award from USAID.

JOB SUMMARY:

The Chief of Party is responsible for strategic and managerial oversight, project quality and team leadership. The COP encourages innovation and oversees project coordination, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The COP will be the official representative of JSI for this program. As such, they will build and maintain excellent communications and professional relationships between all relevant parties including the government counterparts, USAID and other partners.

Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership, management and strategic direction towards the achievement of project goals, objectives, and targets;
- Oversee program implementation, providing the strategic direction, technical vision, and approach;
- Manage the project team and consortium members;
- Represent the project to USAID and to the MOH and ensure that the project activities are meeting client and stakeholder expectations and that project results are proactively disseminated, and learnings are shared and incorporated to continuously improve;
- Ensure compliance with the terms of the award and USAID operational policies and regulations;
- Lead project work planning, performance management, and strategic communications
- Ensure systems are in place to mitigate risk of fraud, waste and abuse; and
- Oversee the production and timely submission of project reports to USAID.

Qualifications:

- Master or advanced degree in public health, supply chain management, institutional development, business management, finance, or related field or minimum of 15 years in related professional experience;
- Minimum 10 years of experience managing USAID or other donor funded projects in developing countries. Preference will be given to candidates with considerable working experience in senior-level management positions and experience leading large and complex supply chain management and related technical assistance projects in low and middle income countries and for USAID;
- Minimum of 5 years of experience managing supply chain and/or pharmaceutical management projects particularly in low and middle income countries;
- Demonstrated experience working on supply chain or institutional capacity development;
- Excellent communication and stakeholder management skills, including written and spoken English fluency (native or equivalent);
- Demonstrated success developing and implementing project work plans and managing performance against objectives and timelines;
- Demonstrated success in building and leading high performing teams;
- Excellent negotiation skills with demonstrated capacity for negotiating with senior government officials or executives;
- Demonstrated capacity to effectively present project results and accomplishments to national and international stakeholders, donors, and in-country counterparts; and
- Working knowledge of and/or experience with USG-funded program management, policies, regulations, and procedures is required.

2. Job Title: Deputy Chief of Party

Posting Date: Apr 04, 2024
Application Deadline: Apr 30, 2024
Position Type: Full-time
Position Category: Local hire, paid in-country
Company/Division/Subdivision: JSI - Local Hire
Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Salary: Commensurate with experience
Starting Date: Oct 1, 2024

JOB SUMMARY:

The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) is responsible for providing strategic and technical supply chain vision, oversight and leadership for the project. The DCOP will be responsible for ensuring supply chain innovation and best practices, successful implementation, and adaptive monitoring, learning and evaluation of technical activities and elements of the project. Reporting to the Chief of Party, the DCOP is a member of the Senior Management Team of the project.

Responsibilities:

- Set the overall supply chain direction for the project and developing relevant indicators of success;
- Oversee and effectively manage the performance of the technical supply chain activities and elements, and project deliverables in line with the overall technical direction;
- Provide technical supply chain oversight and direction to the project's technical team
- With the Chief of Party, substantively contribute to project work planning;
- Oversee report writing to the donor;
- Serve as a member of the project's Senior Management Team and manage a team of people to execute the project;
- Supervise and assess the performance of senior staff and ensure supervisory and accountability systems are in place for all long-term and short-term advisors, sub partners, consultants and staff.
- Coordinate with the MEL Director to ensure systems and processes for comprehensive and adaptive monitoring, learning and evaluation of the program.
- Ensure compliance with the terms of the award and USAID operational policies and regulations;
- In the absence of the COP, serve as Acting COP and the project's key representative with the USAID and other collaborating agencies on all pragmatic, administrative and financial matters related to the project.

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in public health, supply chain management, institutional development, business management, finance or related field or minimum or 10 years in related professional experience;
- Minimum 8 years of experience managing USAID or other donor funded projects in developing countries. Preference will be given to those with considerable working experience leading large and complex supply chains and/or managing large health supply chain technical assistance projects in low and middle income countries;
- Minimum of 5 years' experience working on supply chain/pharmaceutical management projects particularly in low and middle income countries;
- Demonstrated success overseeing high performing supply chains with direct knowledge of innovations and best practices;
- Working knowledge of and/or experience improving product availability, visibility, supply chain performance and supply chain risk mitigation measures;
- Demonstrated success at managing a team to implement complex, large scale USAID projects on time and on budget;
- Excellent communication and stakeholder management skills; and
- Written and spoken English fluency (native or equivalent).

3. Job Title: Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Director

Posting Date: Apr 04, 2024
Application Deadline: Apr 30, 2024
Position Type: Full-time
Position Category: Local hire, paid in-country
Company/Division/Subdivision: JSI - Local Hire
Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Salary: Commensurate with experience
Starting Date: Oct 1, 2024

JOB SUMMARY:

The MEL Director will be responsible for coordinating the development of a performance management plan, including performance-monitoring criteria and ensuring continuous monitoring of Activity progress. Primary responsibilities also include organizing and coordinating data collection and analysis, and interpreting and reporting on Activity results to key stakeholders. Evaluation and monitoring activities will be designed to enable program managers in the field to identify problems and their causes, and improve overall program performance. The MEL Director will also coordinate MEL program implementation activities conducted alongside the technical team, to strengthen supply chains and technical assistance. The MEL Director is a member of the Senior Management Team of the project and reports to the Chief of Party.

Responsibilities:

- Design and implement a comprehensive M&E framework for program, including the development of a MEL plan, Theory of Change, Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan, etc.;
- Establish and monitor defined M&E indicators; ensure data is reviewed and utilized throughout program implementation and provided to senior management team for CLA approaches;
- Determine M&E functional responsibilities within the Activity team and data management responsibilities are supported at district health offices for improved reporting and data comprehension;
- Serve as the focal point for M&E and devise strategies with the technical and communication team to ensure consistency in the use of data and quality reporting;
- Maintain systems to routinely collect and analyze information on inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact to ensure effectiveness of interventions;
- Support subcontractors, private sector, and local government partners to identify, monitor, and report high quality data, ensuring timely submissions;
- Work as part of the Senior Management Team, supporting the Activity's strategic vision, ensuring collaboration between functional areas, and supporting effective implementation of activities; and
- Review and synthesize data with the technical team for strategic information thinking behind reports and all technical deliverables.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in public health, international development, statistics, epidemiology, population sciences, or related degree;
- Minimum of 10 years of relevant experience working in international health projects in Africa in a technical capacity, preferably at least 5 years with complex USAID-funded projects;
- Demonstrated applied skills in MEL methods and use of data for service strengthening/technical assistance projects/programs, ideally in supply chain or pharmaceuticals;
- Demonstrated leadership working with other technical experts in MEL and research in the international community and at the host country level;
- Ability to tailor data collection approaches to local needs, interests, and capabilities;
- Ability to convey MEL results to non-technical stakeholders and generate interest in the use of MEL data/results for programmatic improvements;
- Strong managerial and supervisory experience required; and
- Exceptional communication skills, particularly on data, in written and spoken English required.

4. Job Title: Director of Finance & Operations:

Posting Date: Apr 04, 2024
Application Deadline: Apr 30, 2024
Position Type: Full-time
Position Category: Local hire, paid in-country
Company/Division/Subdivision: JSI - Local Hire
Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Salary: Commensurate with experience
Starting Date: Oct 1, 2024

JOB SUMMARY:

The Director of Finance & Operations (DFO) will be responsible for the financial, contractual, and operations management of the project. Management functions include oversight of project finances (accounting, budget management, reporting), sub award and subcontract management, procurement, and logistics management including travel, equipment, and fleet. The Director of Finance & Operations (DFO) will be supervised by JSI's Country Finance & Operations Director (CFOD) with an indirect reporting line to Chief of Party/Project Director. The DFO will supervise the project finance and operations staff.

Responsibilities include:

- Oversee the financial, contractual, and operational management of the award in compliance with JSI policies and procedures and donor regulations;
- Engage with the JSI/Country Finance & Operations Director to ensure coordinated support across logistics, procurement, human resources, and information technology functions;
- Coordinate with the JSI/Country Finance & Operations Director to ensure project compliance with local statutory, tax, and labor requirements. Support in-country audits as required;
- Support the Chief of Party/Project Director with regular and ad-hoc project reporting/budget preparation/activity requests;
- Coordinate with the centralized F&O team to oversee project procurement needs and logistical support;
- Lead the development and monitoring of project budgets, including financial forecasts, expenditure tracking, and review of all invoices;
- Approve monthly project financial reports and tools (including budget tracking, obligation tracking, financial accounts, accruals reports, donor reports) and ensure timely submission to the JSI/US or donor;
- In coordination with the country accounting team, approve project expenditures (QuickBooks), facilitate month end project reporting to the US; ensure the complete documentation and accountability of all financial transactions in accordance with JSI policies;
- Manages the financial and administrative aspects of all sub-agreements under the award/project, supporting and monitoring local sub-recipients to ensure sound financial management, operations, and compliance; contribute to capacity building of local partners in compliance and financial management;
- Oversee the monitoring of project cost-share generation, tracking and reporting;
- Ensure accurate and timely project financial and contractual information is readily available for the JSI/US team, donor, and project leadership for decision-making; and
- Ensure cost savings / effectiveness and reasonableness in all allocated expenses for the project.

Qualifications include:

- Master's degree required in business administration, finance, accounting, or other relevant field. Professional accounting certification preferred.
- Minimum 10 years of work experience at a senior level finance and operations position with an international organization working with USAID on large scale, complex projects (\$25 million USD).
- Advanced knowledge and experience with accounting software QuickBooks.
- Demonstrated knowledge, skills, and experience in accounting, financial planning and management, and procurement, among other management support areas/functions, as required.
- Experience in developing and managing a donor funded grants program.
- Demonstrated supervisory experience.
- Previous experience in the implementation of health or development programs in sub-Saharan Africa and/or Southeast Asia is preferred.
- Excellent organizational, analytical, oral, and written English and national language communication skills.

If you are interested in applying this position please send your resume, cover letter to recruitment@broderick-height.com and kindly include title you are applying for in the subject line. While we thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for interview will be contacted. **Deadline for submission shall be April 30th, 2024**

JSI is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer committed to workplace diversity. We are committed to providing equal employment opportunities for all qualified applicants and employees without any regards.

JSI is a child-safe organization, and the safety and well-being of children is a priority of our organization. We have robust recruitment procedures to ensure that all staff are suited to work with the children served by our programs.

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

ADVERTISEMENT IN THE GAZETTE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO WIND UP C.T SHAH LIMITED COMPANY NO. 6586

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, NO. 12 OF 2002, AND IN THE MATTER OF C.T SHAH LTD, IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION, MEMBERS' WINDING UP

On the 25th day of March, 2024, the Shareholders of C.T SHAH LIMITED, at its Extraordinary General Meeting RESOLVED the following:-

- 1) That the Company be wound up voluntarily; and
- 2) That Mr. Ketanbabu Shah of Grant Thornton Advisory East Africa Limited is hereby appointed as the liquidator for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing assets of the Company.

We, the undersigned shareholders of the company, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and bona fide resolution passed by the Company on the 25th day of March, 2024.

Chairman:
Name: NATVERLAL THAKORDAS SHAH
Signature: *[Signature]*
Date: 25-03-2024

C. T. SHAH LTD.
P.O. Box 1695
DAR-ES-SALAAM
TEL: 115387

Secretary:
Name: GRANT THORNTON ADVISORY EAST AFRICA LIMITED
Signature: *[Signature]*
Date: 25-03-2024

Form 360b

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator: Voluntary Winding-Up: for insertion in Gazette Pursuant to section 360 of the Companies Act 2002

Company Number: 6586

Company Name (in Full): C.T SHAH LIMITED

Type of Liquidation: [members']

Address of Registered Office: Ilala District, Kisutu Street, Plot No 653/14, Block No B, House No 10

Liquidator(s) name(s): KETANBABU SHAH

Liquidator(s) address(es): GRANT THORNTON ADVISORY EAST AFRICA LIMITED, PLOT NO. 13/14 VIVA TOWERS, P.O.BOX 7906, DAR ES SALAAM.

Date of appointment: 25-03-2024

By whom appointed: MEMBERS OF C.T SHAH LIMITED

Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 25-03-2024

NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS: VIRENDRAKUMAR THAKORDAS SHAH

C. T. SHAH LTD.
P.O. Box 1695
DAR-ES-SALAAM
TEL: 115387

THURSDAY 4 APRIL, 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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Uhuru Torch race address painted grim picture of the youth, society

INAUGURATING this year's Uhuru Torch race, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa had plenty to say on some issues that touch society closely, and in a way the remarks stood halfway between political leadership or mobilization and moral concern as such, as we often hear in religious anniversaries. His remarks pointed principally at the challenge of obesity on the one hand, and more soberly, that of cannabis use which has devastating variants being 'marketed' by criminals making a fast buck on the lives of youths. It is a sad, creeping legacy.

The challenge of obesity or excess weight generally is disturbing enough for the premier to describe it as a national disaster, given the datum that 42 percent of women at reproductive age are discovered to be facing iron deficiency anemia when visiting clinics, a dangerous situation for mother and child health, clearly. At an older level and often not so old as yet, obesity fuels vast increases in the frequency of non-communicable diseases. Treating such diseases has been a pain in the neck for families and not just those of poor people, and the national health insurer is trying to spread the costs around while absorbing more patients.

Equally disturbing were remarks on the widespread use of a new variety of high-potency cannabis (skunk) that is often mixed in cigarettes, posing an especially acute threat for young people aged 13 to 24. It appears that this group is easier to impress on getting excited with any fancy product, like shisha, vaping or at present mixing drugs with consumables like biscuits, or cigarettes which already had their own quotient of poisonous compounds. The premier cited the fact that the high-strength cannabis ignites early onset of psychosis,

involving experience of delusions as a symptom of mental health challenges. That means near senility.

What was especially distressing was the reaffirmation that so many regions are producing and increasingly using cannabis, despite that they ruin themselves and harm the nation as well. Cannabis farming is increasingly noticed in Mara, Morogoro, Arusha, Coast, Kagera and Mwanza regions, and admittedly there are other areas left out, for instance the border areas to the north east has often been discovered to harbor such farms. Surprisingly, sentiment in the legislature about cannabis farming isn't unanimous as some MPs go as far as suggesting that the crop be unbanned, taking it as in many countries as a 'recreation' produce.

That is an indication that we have some distance to go before any measures are actually effective as there is plenty of tolerance for cannabis, khat etc in our midst. Further, the listless living environment of many youths push them to join any sort of company where some coins are thrown around, and are soon hooked to dangerous habits. Whether at 25 they abandon such habits is a different issue.

As if those malaises were not sufficient for the attention of top leadership - and whatever light the torch can still bear on such issues by collective reminders an conscience - we are reminded that stunting among under-five children had now reached disturbing levels. A dozen regions show stunting levels above average for the country as a whole, most western zone regions, the 'food basket' regions and the mining region of Manyara. This categorization is not scientific but it can help to figure out what factors are at play, therefore designing a course of action.

NEMA would make a real difference if it uses commercial niche for PPP

USING whatever occasion available to ask those in the management of state utilities to move in the direction of policy suggested by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, especially with regard to public-private partnerships being the norm rather than exception in running those organisations, is definitely effort well directed. Such occasion is evident in the move by the government to prepare a bill for setting up an altered environment management entity in two months' time. This is a position expressed by the Union and Environment ministry in the legislature, where the deputy minister affirmed that the draft is being finalized.

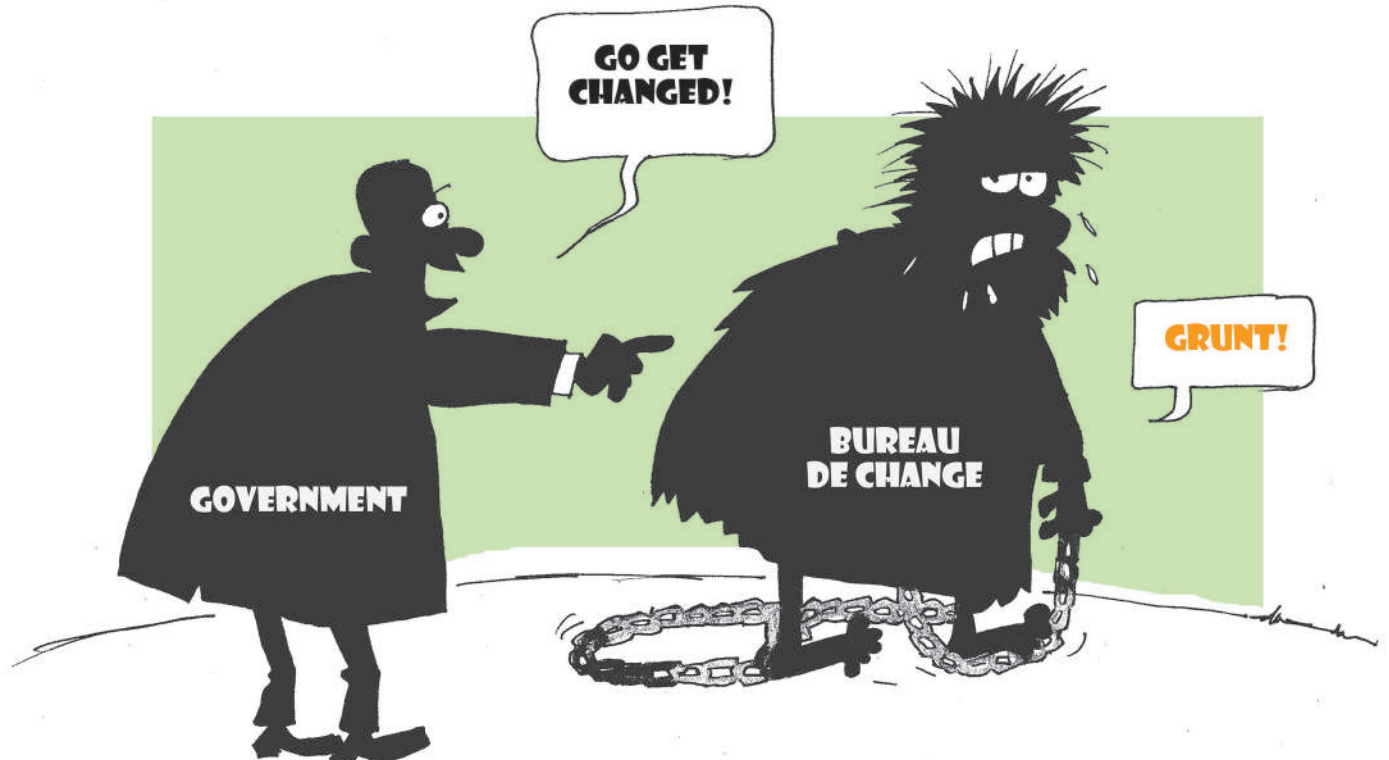
The National Environment Management Council (NEMC) will be converted into an authority, alongside which the government is also forming a National Environmental Impact Trust Fund (NEITF) mandated with disbursing funds for addressing issues arising from climate change. The draft is clear in proper intention, namely to mobilise funds to send it to projects or institutions that suggest or work on such projects, while its more significant role appears to be managing funds for climate resilience projects especially where these donated by multilateral agencies. A different method would be to retain the council and create an autonomous fund for leveraging finance, when stakeholders create wat are known as bankable projects that can use leveraging finance and repay it.

Evidently NEMC or for that manner NEMA would have substantial presence in evaluation and in board membership to direct such fund, but the funds would not risk being wasted on convivial projects

of sister public organisations or as gracious donations to other project initiators. Ability to repay leveraging finance is not punishment but needful demonstration that the project has reasonable chances to be sustainable, whereas fully financed public sector projects are a pain in the neck, as they often cease to exist when the financing finally dries up.

This method is not visible to policy designers because their vision is one of the continuous flow of funds rather than building catalytic synergies where projects are likely to leave a mark on the ground, not become new mouths to feed on a yearly basis with the Treasury or donor agencies, or join the swelling ranks of white elephant projects failing due to public sector designs with a penchant for large foreign donation components. But the fund dispensers also lack the PPP intuition as they hold investors at an arm's and prefer to work with public agencies or civic groups, based on sentiments on climate change, not strategies.

What the government seeks to do with the funds clearly calls for real investors to be part of the design, in seeking mitigation measures for climate change effects or in addressing challenges related too the management of environmental hazards such as droughts and floods. Individual investors can be relied upon to start irrigation systems, even by desalinating water instead of using up vital underground reserves or drying up rivers, if they have significant leveraging finance. It is hard to see how NEMA funds flood control on a nationwide basis, whereas large investors can be provided with zones to set up large projects if World Bank funds and bilateral arrangements are sourced to make it effective.



Prof Ali Mazrui asserting on the unique intellect, integrity of President Nyerere

By A Special Correspondent

PERHAPS it is worth remembering that even some of his ardent critics acknowledged his contributions and paid him lasting tribute. Probably no other African scholar kept up a lively debate on the merits of Nyerere's policies as Ali Mazrui did; although he never questioned his commitment and integrity, and powerful intellect, and remained friendly with him until Mwalimu's final days, despite differences between the two. In a tribute to Mwalimu and on the special bonds between the two, Professor Mazrui had a lot to say in his article in Voices, Africa Resource Center, entitled, "Nyerere and I":

"In global terms, he was one of the giants of the 20th Century... While his vision did outpace his victories, and his profundity outweigh his performance, he did bestride this narrow world like an African colossus... was one of the few African countries, which attempted to find its own route to development instead of borrowing the ideologies of the West. But it was a failure because the economic experiment did not deliver the goods of development.

On the other hand, Nyerere's policies of nation-building amount to a case of Unsung Heroism. With wise and strong leadership, and with brilliant policies of cultural integration, he took one of the poorest countries in the world and made it a proud leader in African affairs and an active member of the global community.

Julius Nyerere was my Mwalimu too. It was a privilege to learn so much from so great a man."

A man of high integrity and an enormous and astonishing intellect, he was one of the most exalted, yet extremely humble. He was, indeed, a man of the people. Such is the mark of true genius, a rare breed among men. As former American President Jimmy Carter said: "Julius Nyerere should be remembered as one of the greatest leaders of this century."

It is a fitting tribute, although somewhat of an understatement. The world has, in fact, produced only a few such men and women in a span of centuries. And he had few peers on the African continent who could equal his stature; a point underscored by Ali Mazrui in another tribute to Nyerere at Cornell University, although he disagreed with him on a number of fundamental issues. He last saw Nyerere when both were among the main speakers in different forums during the inauguration of Nigerian



Julius Nyerere



Ali Mazrui

President Olusegun Obasanjo in May 1999. As he stated in his lecture at Cornell, also published in Kenya's Daily Nation:

"Most Western judges of Julius Nyerere have concentrated on his economic policies and their failures. Ujamaa and villagisation have been seen as forces of economic retardation, which kept Tanzania backward for at least another decade.

Not enough commentators have paid attention to Nyerere's achievements in nation-building. He gave Tanzania a sense of national consciousness and a spirit of national purpose. One of the poorest countries in the world found itself one of the major actors on the world scene. Nyerere's policies of making Kiswahili the national language of Tanzania deepened this sense of Tanzania's national consciousness and cultural pride...

Above all, Nyerere as president was a combination of deep intellect and high integrity. Leopold Senghor's intellect was as deep as Nyerere's, but was Senghor's integrity as high as Nyerere's? Nelson Mandela's integrity was probably higher than Nyerere's, but

was Mandela's intellect as deep as Nyerere's?

Some East African politicians might have been more intelligent than Nyerere. Others might have been more ethical than Nyerere. But Julius K. Nyerere was in a class by himself in the combination of ethical standards and intellectual power. In the combination of high thinking and high ethics, no other East African politician was in the same league.

He and I deeply disagreed on the merits of Ujamaa. He and I once disagreed on East African federation. I thought his socialist policies harmed East African integration. He and I disagreed on the Nigerian civil war. He and I disagreed on the issue of Zanzibar. I thought Zanzibar was forced into a marriage, which was not of its own choosing.

And yet Nyerere and I were committed to the proposition that patriotic Africans could disagree and still be equally patriotic. I saw him in Abuja in Nigeria, just before the inauguration of President Olusegun Obasanjo late in May 1999. Julius Nyerere and I gossiped in Kiswahili. He looked well - deceptively well, considering his

illness.

He and I were keynote speakers at a workshop to inaugurate Nigeria to a new era of democracy in 1999. We were voices from East Africa at a major West African event. We were voices of Pan-Africanism on the eve of the new millennium. Nyerere's voice was one of the most eloquent voices of the 20th Century. It was a privilege for me to stand side-by-side with such a person to mark a momentous event in no less a country than our beloved Nigeria."

A man whom Mazrui also once hailed as "the most original thinker in English-speaking Africa," a tribute he also paid to Senghor with regard to Francophone Africa, Nyerere will always remain an inspiration to millions, including some of his critics.

Mazrui, himself a leading critic of Nyerere's policies yet an admirer of Nyerere's intellect and integrity, drew fire through the years from some of the most vociferous defenders of Nyerere and his policies.

They included the late Dr. Walter Rodney from Guyana who taught at the University of Dar es Salaam when I was a reporter at the Daily News; other professors and students at the university as well as a number of Tanzanians including some reporters at the Daily News and The Nationalist in Dar es Salaam.

To many of them, his criticism of Tanzania's egalitarian policies in a nation of poor peasants and workers amounted to a case of Tanzaphobia by one of Africa's leading academics, and probably the most well-known in international circles besides his nemesis Wole Soyinka...

"This article is picked from the concluding part of 'Africa and America in The Sixties,' by Godfrey Mwakikagile, First Edition, New Africa Press, 2006 (a publishing firm based in Cape Town, South Africa)

Teachers must be good record keepers to effectively monitor students' progress

TEACHING as a profession involves a lot of records. They are role models to learners as they are expected to exercise a high level of accuracy in their conducts or operations. One of the areas where teachers' accuracy can be seen is in record keeping.

Learners, especially young ones have some behaviors or tendencies which make it necessary for teachers to keep records to prevent them from challenging teachers in a wrong way. One of the behaviour is denying faults.

Most young learners consider a failure or a conduct which is not acceptable as a disgrace. Therefore they resort to refusing the charges as a way of being safe. One teacher was telling me a case whereby the learner claimed that he had submitted a certain document while it was not so. It was after conversation with the parent that it was established that the document was left at home by the learner. The matter became a challenge as the teacher took the documents without registering those who submitted. The assumption was that learners are loyal.

Some teachers, due to heavy workload do business as usual by trusting learners that they may be faithful not to tell lies when they are asked certain questions. This tendency brings a challenge when there is no reference point to determine the matter. As there is no any records the teacher must become the victim as they are leaders of learners. They are expected to undo some doubts based on grounds.

School administration should make sure that teachers are equipped with enough stationery to keep records of all important matters. Failure to keep records devalue the teaching profession as learners learn from teachers on how they organize academic and other classroom or school matters. It will become difficult for teachers to tell learners to keep records while they do



not keep records properly.

Keeping records avoids a lot of questions and hence saves time as records speak for themselves. Explaining detailed accounts to everyone who will be in need of those accounts will cause body exhaustion to the teacher. Efficiency in workplaces is improved when there is facility that

enables individuals to acquire information on their own. Instead of the parent asking the teacher on progress of their children they may demand their academic files.

Any school is characterized by a timetable which eliminates a possibility of postponement of some activities. Failure to follow

the time table due to addressing matters of learners which can be solved by providing records will cause a lot of disturbance to the teaching arrangement making it difficult to achieve some targeted goals.

Teaching effectively at school is by following the timetable and nothing else. Teachers should do

their best to make sure the time table is not interfered unnecessarily by keeping records which are useful in the following ways.

One of the reasons why teachers should be good record keepers is showing academic progress. Academic progress cannot be shown without using records. Any discussion between the teacher and parents must base on statistics. Speaking without statistics from records may lead to misunderstanding. When records are well kept there is no need to talk much as the reality from the records suggests which course of action should be taken.

Another reason for teachers to keep records is maintaining credibility as a teacher. There are attributes which the society expects the teacher to possess so that they can be accepted. Teachers are taken as role models in the academic arena. Their behavior and ways of operations should encourage learners that they may become what the teacher emphasizes.

Learners have a lot of dreams and expectations to become good academicians. To defend their status learners will need to be able to account for their conducts. To be efficient in accounting for some matters there must be good record keeping. Learners who are future academicians must learn

record keeping from their teachers.

Also record keeping helps teachers to avoid unnecessary compensation. It is a common behavior of most learners to claim that they have submitted something while it is not so. If the teacher has not kept records of what they have given or received from learners they may find themselves liable to compensate for something wrongly. Paying a certain sum of money unnecessarily may cause stress to the teacher and hence a decrease in efficiency in teaching.

Again record keeping helps the teacher to make evaluation on the trend of teaching and learning process. There is no improvement in the teaching and learning process if there is no evaluation. Some weaknesses, possibilities and realities are revealed through evaluation and they help to improve the teaching and learning process.

Teaching profession requires strength in dealing with stakeholders because it demands provision of information which must be accurate. Keeping records enables provision of reliable information which does not entertain unnecessary disputes. The teacher as a leader needs to have records to be in a position to provide advice when it is needed. Teaching is keeping records.

Kagera roadblocks: Impediment to regional trade flows

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

THE existence of roadblocks in Tanzania's Kagera Region has sparked mounting concerns among local communities and traders, particularly those with ties to neighbouring countries.

As the region grapples with the legacy of past wars and border disputes, the imposition of roadblocks presents a delicate balance between security imperatives and economic development. Regions bordering countries with a history of conflicts face unique challenges when it comes to implementing security measures as well as doing business.

The presence of roadblocks intends to monitor movement and prevent illegal activities and trade. The ambiguity surrounding borderlines, as evidenced by the long-standing dispute between Uganda and Tanzania, further complicates efforts to establish effective security protocols.

For traders and essential workers navigating these roadblocks, the disruptions caused by traffic jams and delays are causing inconveniences as they are mostly significant barriers to economic activities.

It is discouraging to have a number of roadblocks in the region which borders five countries of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Kenya by Lake Victoria.

Kagera Region's reliance on cross-border trade makes it particularly susceptible to the adverse effects of roadblocks, exacerbating socio-economic disparities and hindering efforts towards regional integration and development.

William Rutta, a retired coun-

cillor and renowned tourism stakeholder proposes alternative strategies to eliminate barriers without compromising security measures.

Rutta emphasizes the need for a shift in focus towards empowering farmers and traders, suggesting the utilization of agricultural and livestock officers to enhance productivity rather than relying solely on tax collection through barriers.

He suggests for a simplified tax process, with revenues directed to local councils for investment in agricultural and trading ventures. He stresses the importance of formalizing property ownership especially land to enable villagers to leverage assets for capital at favourable interest rates.

Aseri Katanga, a Tanzanian diaspora based in the UK, expresses readiness to invest in agricultural ventures to foster education and innovation. He underscores the necessity to remove barriers to facilitate economic development through cross-border trade.

In his recent comments during the Easter Monday service, Bishop Dr Benson Bagonza of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Karagwe Diocese expressed concerns over existing roadblocks in the villages across Kagera Region, saying they contribute to people's increased poverty as they can hardly do business with their counterparts in neighbouring countries.

"There are many roadblocks in the villages; these barriers fuel poverty. Authorities need to look at the matter to facilitate economic activities," said the Bishop.

Speaking during the Great Lakes Network for Dialogue and Peace in June 2022, Speaker of the Mutukula Town Council in Uganda, Kabangira Fred,



said there are many roadblocks when crossing from Uganda to Tanzania, something which hinders regional trade intergration.

Former Kagera Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamilila's directive to remove unnecessary barriers underscores the urgent need for a balanced approach to border security that prioritizes economic empowerment while upholding security imperatives.

Addressing the root causes of conflicts and border disputes requires a multifaceted strategy that goes beyond the mere removal of roadblocks.

As stakeholders advocate for

innovative solutions to spur development and promote cross-border trade, policymakers must navigate the complexities of post-war reconstruction and reconciliation.

Embracing transparent and accountable governance measures, while fostering dialogue and cooperation among border communities, is essential to overcoming the challenges posed by roadblocks and fostering sustainable development in regions affected by past conflicts.

The placement of roadblocks in regions bordering countries

with war experiences exacerbates existing tensions and historical grievances. Communities residing in these areas often bear the brunt of heightened security measures, which can lead to increased suspicion and resentment towards authorities.

Economic ramifications of roadblocks extend beyond immediate disruptions to trade and commerce. Small-scale traders and entrepreneurs, who rely on cross-border markets for their livelihoods, are disproportionately affected by roadblocks.

The additional time and resources required to navigate

checkpoints can erode their profit margins and undermine efforts to lift communities out of poverty.

In the context of the Kagera Region, where agriculture serves as a primary source of income for many households, roadblocks can hinder the transportation of agricultural produce to markets, leading to spoilage and reduced incomes for farmers.

This, in turn, perpetuates a cycle of poverty and dependence on humanitarian aid, exacerbating the region's socio-economic challenges.

Unlocking hydrogen innovation: Paving the way for a sustainable future

By Special Correspondent

LOW-CARBON hydrogen is more than a mere technological advancement; it signifies a profound paradigm shift in how we perceive and utilize energy.

Once overshadowed by traditional fuels, low-carbon hydrogen is now emerging as a transformative force at the forefront of our efforts to combat climate change. This versatile and clean energy carrier has the potential to revolutionize multiple sectors, opening up a new era of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

A paradigm shift in green energy

Hydrogen, unlike an electron, which can carry clean energy through hard-wired copper cables over long distances, is a molecule which can be embedded into multiple forms of matter - gaseous, liquid and solid - giving clean, renewable energy much more versatility to find its way into our daily needs. It is renewable energy unplugged. Using hydrogen in this way means you can reach the lowest possible carbon content, which is why it is called "green".

In transportation, where conventional fuels contribute significantly to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, hydrogen emerges as a game-changer. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles present a zero-emission alternative, emitting only water vapour as a by-product of the electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen. It addresses air quality concerns in urban areas and reduces the transportation sector's overall carbon footprint.

The ability to power buses, trucks and the maritime and aviation sectors offers a tangible and scalable solution to mitigate the environmental impact of our global mobility systems. Improving the efficiency, durability and affordability of fuel cells for diverse applications in transportation, heating and power generation will also expand hydrogen's reach.

Circular energy source

Transport is only one example where green hydrogen can lend its strengths.



Hydrogen innovation will propel a green revolution

When capturing carbon emissions, we are confronted with our entire energy system by processing and burning fossil fuels. You can combine the captured carbon with green hydrogen and reverse this process by creating recycled or circular carbon fuel, which allows us to stop the continuous and uncontrolled cycle of the release of carbon dioxide into the planet's atmosphere.

Beyond transportation, the impact of hydrogen extends to industrial processes, which are often major contributors to carbon emissions. Hydrogen's versatility comes to the fore as it becomes essential in decarbonizing industries such as steel and cement production.

Through a process known as hydrogen direct reduction, steel manufacturers can replace traditional carbon-intensive methods, significantly

reducing emissions. Tailoring hydrogen applications to specific needs of industries such as steel production, aviation and maritime shipping will require innovative approaches such as dedicated fuel cell systems and optimized combustion technologies.

Paving the way for a carbon-neutral future

NEOM, a region in north-west Saudi Arabia, a greenfield development and ambitious infrastructure project, has demonstrated the possibility for green hydrogen production at a massive scale. As a region, NEOM benefits from abundant solar and wind resources, making it amenable to renewable energy projects.

NEOM's strategy is synonymous with the goals of the green hydrogen economy. As such, the NEOM Green Hydrogen Company and industry partners are building the

world's largest green hydrogen production plant through electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources.

ENOWA is NEOM's subsidiary for sustainable energy, water, and hydrogen and is central to shaping the region's energy landscape. Together, the entities hope to redefine the possibilities of a modern, eco-conscious city.

Innovative technologies have been pivotal in realizing this vision and have propelled the shift towards sustainable hydrogen production. Advances in electrolysis, mainly through the development of efficient and cost-effective electrolyzers, play a central role. Advancements in electrolyser technology for splitting water using renewable electricity are crucial. Focus areas include high-efficiency materials, low-cost manufacturing and integration with

variable renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

Accelerating hydrogen adoption

Developing novel materials for storing large volumes of hydrogen at low cost and without significant energy loss is critical for facilitating transportation and long-term stability. Converting existing pipelines and building new ones for hydrogen transport while exploring alternative carriers such as organic liquid hydrides or ammonia can offer more flexible and cost-effective delivery options.

In pursuing a sustainable and hydrogen-powered future, global collaborations and investment in research play a pivotal role in accelerating the adoption of this transformative energy source, which is why ENOWA is set-

ting up a Hydrogen Innovation Development Centre and the NEOM Green Hydrogen and e-Fuels Applied Research Institute in NEOM's industrial city of Oxagon.

By attracting energy experts and researchers and allowing them to work alongside the growing sectors and industries of NEOM as a nexus for research and development, bringing together experts, researchers and industry leaders, the aim is to drive horizontal and vertical innovation of hydrogen technologies.

The path to hydrogen integration

On a global level, hydrogen production has been beyond commercial reach without sizeable government support. Governments, recognizing the need for strategic planning and investment, provide incentives, regulatory frameworks and infrastructure support to propel hydrogen projects forward. Simultaneously, private sector engagement, driven by innovation and investment, ensures that hydrogen technologies are developed, scaled and integrated into mainstream energy systems.

Infrastructure development emerges as a key challenge in the path to hydrogen integration. To facilitate the seamless adoption of hydrogen as a mainstream energy source, there is a pressing need for a robust network of production facilities, storage solutions and transportation systems. Additionally, developments in transportation infrastructure, including pipelines and fuelling stations, are critical components in ensuring the accessibility and distribution of hydrogen across diverse sectors.

However, the versatility of hydrogen and its ability to be embedded as an energy carrier into chemicals and fuels such as ammonia, methanol or even synthetic circular carbon fuels such as gasoline or kerosene opens up an entire pathway for using existing infrastructures. This adaptability reduces the time to implementation and offers a much cheaper way than building entire new power lines to transport renewable power.



TAZAMA PIPELINES LIMITED

OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING (ONB)

REHABILITATION OF LOW SULPHUR GAS OIL STORAGE TANK T5 AT TANK FARM, KIGAMBONI, DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA

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 230,000m³, Seven (7) Booster Pump Stations and Seventeen Pigging Stations.

TAZAMA intends to carry out Rehabilitation, Conversion of Floating Roof to Dome-shaped and repair of Bund Wall of Tank T5 at Tank Farm, Kigamboni, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania. The Tank has a Design Storage Capacity of 41,218 m³ with a 54.87m diameter, an 18.29m height including an external floating roof. The last rehabilitation was conducted in the year 2006 and its condition has deteriorated overtime. The Tank was constructed in 1973 in accordance with American Petroleum Institute Standard 650.

The Rehabilitation works include the repair of Bund Wall for Tank T6 located at the same Tank Farm.

TAZAMA seeks to engage a Contractor to execute works indicated above. A Mandatory Site Survey will take place on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at Tank Farm in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania at Bidder's Own Cost. No Bidding Document shall be sold after 15th April 2024 due to the Mandatory Site Survey taking place the following day.

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 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:	ECOCTITZTZX X
Account Number:	TZS 7080000308	Branch:	Msimbazi (079)
Bank Name:	ECOBANK (T) LTD	SORT code:	041079

The Closing Date for the Bid submissions is Friday 3rd May 2024 at 10:00 Zambian Time / 09:00 Tanzanian Time. The Bid Submissions will be opened at 10:10 Hours.

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



OFFICE RELOCATION NOTICE

Please be informed that **HTT INFRACO LIMITED** (Helios Towers) office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has moved to the following address effective from **02 April 2024**.

**1st Floor, Block 5, Mlimani City Office Park
Mlimani City
Sam Nujoma Road
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania**

Tel: +255 768 985 300 (remains unchanged)
P. O. Box 105297 Dar es Salaam (remains unchanged)

You are warmly welcome to our new offices
Thank you for your kind attention and support

HTT INFRACO LIMITED MANAGEMENT

NOTISI YA KUHAMA OFISI

HTT INFRACO LIMITED (Helios Towers) inapenda kukutaarifu kuwa ofisi yake iliyopo Dar es Salaam, Tanzania imehamia rasmi kwenye ofisi mpya iliyotajwa hapa chini kuanzia tarehe **2 Aprili 2024**.

**Ghorofa ya Kwanza, Jengo No 5, Mlimani City Office Park
Mlimani City
Barabara ya Sam Nujoma
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania**

Simu: +255 768 985 300 (hajabadilika)
S. L. P.: 105297 Dar es Salaam (hajabadilika)

Unakaribishwa kwenye ofisi yetu mpya
Ahsante kwa ushirikiano wako

MENEJIMENTI YA HTT INFRACO LIMITED

China's rice technology nourishing Africa's needs

By Edith Mutethya, Luwero, Uganda

IN China's vast rice breeding community, Hu Fengyi is in the minority.

Over the past two decades, the plant scientist at Yunnan University has maintained a sharp focus on mining the potential of a perennial rice variety originally from Africa, which can be harvested multiple times and reduces labor costs.

Unlike hybrid rice and other conventional high-yield varieties, perennial rice has received limited academic attention in the past.

"There are lots of researchers studying rice in China, and if your research is mainstream you are able to compare notes with your fellow researchers," he said.

However, perennial rice is such a little-researched field that it is impossible to work with others to fast-track progress. "You have to feel the way forward in the darkness," Hu said.

Through trial and error, Hu and his colleagues have combined the perennial variety with mainstream ones, and rolled out three hybrid varieties that can transcend rice's normal life cycle, and when grown in the right environment provide stable yields.

Compared with hundreds of new rice varieties approved for commercial production across the country each year, the three hybrid ones approved for commercial production after decades of research are a tell-tale sign of the solitary nature of rice scientists' work. "To make it, we had to sit on a cold bench," Hu said, using a Chinese saying that describes someone being left out. "We've learned to withstand solitude."

Two of Hu's hybrids were named after the college he works at – Yunda 107 and Yunda 25. Over a three-year trial period, Yunda 25 produced 5.5 to 6.5 metric tons annually per hectare and showed outstanding resistance to pests, which greatly reduced the need for pesticides.

"It is not unlike rolling out new car models," Hu said, referring to the enhanced traits of newer perennial varieties. "You can add functions to newer models and can improve existing ones."

Apart from reducing labor, Hu said perennial rice is also more ecologically friendly as farmers do not have to plant every year. "The soil conditions are less disturbed physically as well as chemically," he said.

Perennial rice's popularity has grown quickly in China and among its rice-producing neighbours. In 2020, less than 4,000 hectares of perennial varieties were planted, but a year later the number ballooned to more than 15,500 hectares.

The expansion of perennial rice is also representative of China's shift to a more tech-driven approach to improve agricultural productivity and ensure the security of staple food supplies.

Honouring promises
As part of its commitment to help Africa im-

prove the continent's food security, China has started to share its perennial rice technology, a move which has been hailed by both agricultural experts and farmers.

The technology was incorporated into the agricultural technology advancement framework at the High-Level Ministerial Session of the fifth African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment held in November last year.

It has also been included in the African Union Seeds and Biotechnology Program 2024-2025, and has already been introduced in Uganda, Malawi, Madagascar and Burundi, through collaborations between Chinese and African agricultural experts. Luo Tingyue, a Chinese technician for the FAO-China-Uganda South-South Cooperation (Phase 3) program who has been promoting rice-planting technologies in Uganda for five years, said he and his colleagues started to grow perennial rice in September.

The rice, which is planted at the China-Uganda Agricultural Cooperation Industrial Park in Lubenge wetland in Uganda's Luwero district, was harvested last month.

Noting that perennial rice can be harvested several times after planting, he said it saves a great deal in labor costs and farmers' time, making it a superior species for use in African countries.

In addition, perennial rice has also demonstrated higher yields compared with many conventionally grown species in Uganda, Luo said. It produced 1.5 to 2.5 metric tons per 4,050 square meters in trial production, compared with around 1 ton for conventional rice, he said.

"The grain looks longer and bigger," Luo said, holding a handful of rice. "According to our measurements, every 1,000 grains of the rice weighs 29 grams, compared to



Ugandan farmers harvest perennial rice from a test plot in Luwero, Uganda

between 23 and 26 grams for every 1,000 grains of locally planted rice species."

Sowing knowledge

To ensure good rice yields, Luo and his colleagues have been teaching rice-planting techniques to local farmers in recent years – including how to plant seedlings and how to use fertilizers and pesticides. However, the educational process has had to overcome hurdles.

For instance, in China, farmers usually plant the lower part of rice seedlings in the paddy field's water in order to promote the growth of the roots. However, many farmers in Luwero plant rice seedlings much deeper in the water.

"We are also cooperating with local agriculture departments to jointly train rice farmers here, hoping that they will learn advanced planting techniques to improve rice yields," Luo said.

Jimmy Lamo, the cereals program leader at Uganda's National Crops Resources Research Institute, said perennial rice has already been planted in several irrigation areas of the country.

The perennial rice variety has grains that are similar to the popular local variety called Super, which is aromatic and soft when cooked. Local

people have started calling the perennial variety "New Super", Lamo said.

Perennial rice doesn't require a lot of water and when it's grown in upland areas that receive a lot of rain, farmers get an ample yield, he said.

"It has an upland trait in it and an irrigated trait, which is unique and makes it a game changer," Lamo said.

As plowing is only done once, the soil and the microorganisms' ecosystem are not disturbed, which is very healthy for the environment, he added.

Perennial rice can help improve food security in Africa, Lamo said, as it's easy to store and transport, unlike other sources of starch which have more moisture that can be lost during transportation.

The easy storage of perennial rice makes it a good option for busy communities and an attractive commodity to feed people in the rapidly expanding urban areas of Africa, Lamo said.

Practical benefits

George Katwalo, a farmer in Luwero who has been given the opportunity to plant Chinese perennial rice, said the yields are higher than traditional varieties.

He harvested 1.7 tons of perennial rice from a field that normally produced one ton or even less.

"I now prefer perennial rice because it gives me a good income. Its demand in the market is also high. I encourage other farmers to try it," he said. "When cooked, it's soft and has a good aroma."

Since witnessing its advantages, Katwalo said he plans to plant perennial rice over a larger area.

According to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China is committed to helping Africa establish production bases and large-scale warehouses for several major grain products such as hybrid rice, cassava and soybean, to enhance some countries' capacity to ensure

food security and self-sufficiency.

Lamo said the presence of China in Africa and its sharing of new commodities could revolutionize agricultural production on the continent. He noted that China is advanced in terms of value-added technology as well as mass production, while Africa has plenty of arable land.

Africa has 65 percent of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land, an abundance of fresh water, and about 300 days of sunshine each year, according to the African Development Bank Group.



Invitation for Tender (IFT)

- Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization providing Integrated Reproductive health services country wide. Established in 1989, MST operates 9 static health facilities and 40 outreach teams.
- MST under projects fund has set aside funds for its operations during the financial year 2024/2025. It is intended that part of the proceedings of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for supply/provide below goods/services.
- Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST) now invites tenders from interested and eligible Suppliers/Service Providers of below Goods/Services.

Tender No	Tender Description
IFT/MST/005/2024	Supply/installation of Fleet Management System to MST's Vehicles
IFT/MST/006/2024	Provision of Security Services to MST's Outreach Offices
IFT/MST/007/2024	Supply of various Medicines and Medical Supplies for MST Outreaches/ENS.
IFT/MST/008/2024	Provision of Courier and transportation/Distribution services for Medicine and Medical Supplies/Equipment to MST's Zonal and Outreach/ENS Teams/Offices
IFT/MST/010/2024	Provision of maintenance, Services and supply of spare part and accessories of IT Equipment (laptops, desktops, UPS, scanner, and heavy-duty printers)
IFT/MST/011/2024	Designing, Printing and Supply Various Hospital and Training Stationery/Materials.
IFT/MST/012/2024	Provision Vehicles hiring services (specifically 4WD vehicles and minibuses to all Regions MST Operates)

- Interested and eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including respective e-mail address and Title and Number of Tender interested to bid to submission@mst.or.tz Attn: Procurement and Logistics Manager. Bidders shall be responsible for following up to ensure that MST has received the notification.
- Within 48 hours of receiving the bidder's intention to bid, a complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English language will be sent to interested bidders by e-mail. Interested bidders shall be responsible for confirming receipt of bid documents within 24 hours after receipt of bid document(s). MST shall not be held responsible for any costs related to printing, preparation, or submission of the bid document(s).
- Interested and eligible Bidders may seek further information and clarifications regarding this Tender by sending an e-mail to clarification@mst.or.tz before the due date and time for submission of tender document(s).
- Bidders must submit a soft copy of bid document(s) with all necessary required attachments/supporting documents through email address submission@mst.or.tz with email subject "Title of the Tender and Tender number." Before or not later than Monday, 23rd April 2024, at 16:00HRS Local Time.
- Late tenders, tenders not received, tenders not opened at the tender opening date shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director
Marie Stopes Tanzania
P.O. Box 7072
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 2774991-4
Fax: +255 22 2774990
E-mail: submission@mst.or.tz

For any enquires relating to this tender document please contact Procurement & Logistics Manager. Phone No. +255762837108

NOTE:
MST has a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, bribery, or fraud. If any of MST staff ask for kickback and/ or commission, please report the incident to Finance Director atenga@mst.or.tz or Acting Country Director Email: gsigalla@mst.or.tz Any report received will be investigated by MST and we will ensure confidentiality of the person/firm reporting and such incident.



CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

END OF TERM EVALUATION FOR THE SMALLHOLDER COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CODE-P) IN TANZANIA

About Vi Agroforestry

Vi Agroforestry is a Swedish development organization dedicated to improving the livelihoods of smallholder families through agroforestry and sustainable agriculture land management. With over 35 years of experience in East Africa, the organization has impacted over 2.4 million people and facilitated the planting of 125 million trees. Our vision is to create a sustainable environment that empowers those living in poverty to improve their lives. Vi Agroforestry operates in three countries: Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

What Are We Looking For?

Vi Agroforestry Tanzania country office is currently prequalifying service providers for the end-term evaluation of the Smallholder Coffee Development Project (CODE-P) in Tanzania. This evaluation aims to assess the progress made in achieving the project's goals and objectives.

For detailed terms of reference and information on how to apply, please visit our website: <https://viagroforestry.org/work-with-us/>

The deadline for applications is **April 13th, 2024**. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Misconduct

Vi Agroforestry is an equal opportunity employer, and canvassing is prohibited. If you wish to report suspected discrimination, corruption, or other serious misconduct during this process, please do not hesitate to use our whistleblowing system.



Thursday 4 April 2024

Bridging the gap: Fostering financial inclusion in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCIAL experts have emphasized the importance of integrating formal and informal savings options to ensure that Tanzanians have access to secure and convenient choices for saving. They noted that while traditional banking systems provide stability, informal methods cater to the needs of underserved individuals.

The need to integrate the two savings options is particularly crucial as the country progresses towards economic development, making it imperative to explore avenues that effectively bridge the gap between them, demonstrating a dedication to financial empowerment and inclusivity.

In an exclusive interview with this journalist, Tracy Norman, a postgraduate student at Warwick University in the UK, emphasized the importance of delving into the motivations that drive individuals towards formal and informal savings in order to truly comprehend the gap between the two.

She finds that formal banks, with their regulated frameworks, provide a sense of security and offer interest on savings. However, for

many Tanzanians, especially those in rural areas, accessing these institutions proves challenging due to geographical constraints, stringent eligibility criteria, and a lack of awareness.

"...Informal options thrive on trust and mutual support within communities, where members contribute regularly and funds are circulated among participants. While this fosters social cohesion and financial discipline, it often lacks the safeguards and scalability of formal banking systems," she observed.

Hossain Mohammed, an independent financial consultant based in the UK, seconded Tracy's notion, adding that: "Bridging the gap requires a multi-faceted approach that acknowledges the strengths of both formal and informal savings mechanisms."

In his opinion, a collaboration between financial institutions, governmental bodies, and community organizations can pave the way for inclusive financial services tailored to the diverse needs of the people, the majority of whom live in rural Tanzania.

Moreover, Trace stresses the need to embrace technological



innovations that can play a pivotal role in making formal banking more accessible and user-friendly.

"Mobile banking, for instance, has witnessed exponential growth in Tanzania, offering a convenient alternative to traditional brick-and-mortar branches. By leveraging mobile money platforms and digital banking solutions, financial institutions can extend their reach to remote areas, empowering individuals to save and transact securely."

In January 2024, the percentage of Tanzanians aged 15 and above with bank accounts held steady at 23.3 percent, matching the rate from the previous year. The highest penetration rate of bank accounts was achieved in 2021,

reaching 46.8 percent.

Despite the ongoing efforts to enhance financial access with 62 banks and financial institutions operating in the country, additional initiatives may be necessary to advance financial inclusion throughout the country.

On the other hand, Mohammed stresses the need to empower communities to formalize their informal savings practices at the grassroots level, saying it can enhance financial literacy and resilience.

"Collaborative efforts between local authorities and financial institutions can provide training on financial management, establish community-based savings groups, and facilitate access to micro-

finance services," he explains. He further adds, "By nurturing a culture of saving and entrepreneurship, these initiatives can uplift marginalized segments of society and catalyze sustainable development."

Hadija Juma, a student from Institute of Financial Management (IFM) in Dar es Salaam, was of the view that trust and credibility within the financial sector is needed if the gap between the formal and informal saving is to be bridged. "Transparency in banking practices, fair interest rates, and responsive customer service are crucial for instilling confidence among potential savers," she observed. She added: "Similarly, acknowledging the social capital inherent in informal savings groups and integrating them into the formal financial ecosystem can cultivate a sense of belonging and ownership among participants."

Kamuli Gugu, a farmer in Busega, Simiyu region, expresses satisfaction with formal financing, stating, "Access to formal banking services has truly transformed my financial situation. I can now securely save my earnings and even access credit for agricultural investments."

Having relied on informal financial options for years, Gugu recognizes the importance of diversifying his savings through formal channels. He believes in striking a balance between tradition and modernity, stating, "It's about embracing the best of both worlds."

Gugu highlighted that banks provide a variety of lending products customized to suit the requirements of various sectors, allowing farmers and entrepreneurs to secure capital for business projects, equipment acquisitions, or expansion initiatives.

On the other hand, while Gugu is content with formal banking services, Mwajuma Mwijarubi, a resident of Bukima village in Musoma rural, solely relies on informal financial channels to handle her finances.

Despite recognizing the advantages of formal banking, she faces barriers that hinder her access to such services.

Limited access to banking infrastructure, low income and financial exclusion, limited awareness and Financial Literacy, perceived barriers to entry such as documentation etc.



Banking stocks lead the race on quarter's opening at DSE

By Guardian Reporter

BANKING industry counters at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) started the second quarter active, maintaining the lead as top moving stocks, with foreign investors dominated both activities.

The DSE market report shows during the opening day of the current quarter, the banking counters including CRDB, NMB, DCB and Maendeleo Bank Plc (MBP) recorded the transactions of 155,546 shares combined, valued 214m/- in 165 deals.

Two largest and most profitable CRDB and NMB are declare their dividend announcement for 2023, of which analyst say will further stimulate their share prices and trading activities.

CRDB Bank counter, top mover of the day, recorded the transaction of 125,086 shares valued 69.4m/- traded at a price ranging from 550/- to 570/- per share in 151 deals, while DCB, which managed to cut its losses during last year transacted 150 shares traded at a price of 140/- which is higher than its market price of 130/- in one deal.

The market report shows that NMB Bank c, the second largest listed counter on DSE and second largest in terms of assets behind CRDB Bank, transacted 30,340 shares valued 145m/- traded at a weighted average price of 4,790/- per share in 13 deals.

According to the report, Maendeleo Bank Plc (MBP) counter recorded

the transaction of 160 shares valued 48,000/- traded at a price of 305/- per share in one deal.

The market report shows a total turnover of 521m/- was recorded on Monday, following the transaction of 229,969 shares traded in 226 deals.

Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) counter, the largest listed company, recorded the transaction of 50,000 shares valued 278.5m/- traded a discount, through block trade in one deal.

Other active counters were Vodacom, which transacted 40 shares, TCCIA Investment Company Limited (TICL) with 8,174 shares, Tanzania Portland Cement Company Limited (TPCC) with 1,646 shares, Swissport with 300 shares and Precision Air counter which transacted 60 shares.

The report shows NICO counter, top gainer of the day, transacted 13,376 shares valued 8.8m/- traded at a price ranging from 660/- to 710/- per share in 14 deals, while DSE counter recorded the transaction of 477 shares valued 0.8m/- traded at a price ranging from 1,820/- to 1,840/- per share in nine deals.

Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL) counter continue to gain momentum, after recording the transaction of 160 shares at a price of 2,300/- per share, which was higher than the market value of 2,100/- per share.

In its cautionary statement issued on Monday, the cement manufacturer said it expects that the operating loss before Interest and Tax for the quar-

ter ended 31 December 2023 to be between 152 percent and 172percent higher than that incurred in the comparative period ended 31 December 2022.

The contributing factor to this movement is the increased expenditure in maintenance and comparatively lower sales volume during the quarter, the statement issued by Hakan Gurdal Chairman of the Board said.

The Tanga Cement Group also expects a loss before tax for the period ended 31st December 2023 to be between 111 percent and 131 percent higher than that incurred in the comparative period in 31 December 2022.

The contributing factors to this movement being higher interest expenses on term loans and foreign exchange losses, influenced by the weakening Tanzanian shilling against the dollar.

The report shows foreign investors bought shares valued 287.5m/- equivalent to 55.16 percent of the total value of shares bought and they sold shares valued 430m/- which was 82.51 percent of total value of shares sold.

During the last quarter, a total turnover of 57.5bn/- was recorded of which foreign investors bought shares valued 4.38bn/- or 7.61 percent of total value of shares bought, while on the selling side, they participated through floating shares valued 26.19bn/- or 45.49 percent of total value of shares sold.

KCB issues cautionary notice over impending sale of NBK

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) cross-listed KCB Group has issued a cautionary announcement to shareholders and investors over the sale of 100 percent of the issued shares of National Bank of Kenya Limited (NBK) to Nigeria's Access Bank Plc.

The statement posted on the DSE website, issues by Bonnie Okumu, the company secretary said, if the transaction is successfully completed, would result into Access Bank Plc acquiring 100 percent issued ordinary shares in NBK from KCB Group.

"Completion of the proposed transaction is subject to conditions that are customary for transaction of this nature, including, but not limited to, receipts of all regulatory approvals from amongst others, the central bank of Kenya, central bank of Nigeria, the COMESA competition commission and if required, the capital markets authority of Kenya and notifications to other relevant regulators," the company secretary said.

"Pending completion of the proposed transaction, the shareholders of KCB and other investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the share of KCB on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE), Uganda Stock Exchange (USE) and

Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE)."

The DSE daily market report shows the KCB Group share price remained unchanged between the end of the last quarter and the opening of the current quarter at 315/- with the market capitalization of 935.66bn/-.

Analyst say the deal is expected to shake up Africa's banking landscape as the bold move would include a \$100 million offer for KCB Group's subsidiary, which is 1.25 times NBK's book value.

The Global Finance website reported yesterday that the bank has been a bottomless pit for KCB, which has pumped \$105.4 million into it over the past five years, but remains in breach of core and capital ratios.

The challenges of cleaning up NBK, which is grappling with a 25.3 percent ratio of non-performing loans, have weighed heavily on KCB and have contributed to a 15 percent drop in pretax profit to \$367.4 million last year for the group.

"KCB has struggled to turn NBK around, which needs additional recapitalization. It wants to let go of that burden," says Eric Musau, head of research at Kenya-based Standard Investment Bank.

"Access Bank, which will acquire 100 percent of NBK subject to regulatory approvals, does not see

a burden."

In its view, NBK represents a significant milestone in its determination to build scale and join the league of Tier 1 lenders in the highly competitive Kenyan market.

"Tier 1 banks dominate profitability. Building scale will catapult Access Bank to that club," says Musau.

Access Bank, which entered the Kenyan market in 2020 after paying \$12.8 million for Transnational Bank, currently has a network of 22 branches. With NBK's 85 branches, it will reach 107 branches countrywide.

Apart from branches and a sizable retail clientele, Access Bank also will acquire high-profile government and state-owned enterprise accounts; prior to KCB's acquisition, NBK was largely under the state's control.

The deal also moves the lender closer to achieving its ambitions of dominating critical trade corridors, essentially positioning it strategically to address the African Continental Free Trade Agreement's (AfCFTA) financial needs.

Still, signing a binding agreement is one thing, but actualizing it is a different matter. Last year, Access Bank's plans to acquire a majority stake in Sidian Bank, a Tier 3 Kenyan lender, fell through.



Africa's bold bargain with global finance

By Udaibir Das

IN the heart of Africa's economic crucible, a seismic shift is underway. The continent's leaders, weary of a global public and private financial architecture that has long failed them, are now wielding their collective voice as a potent weapon. As the world grapples with crises - ranging from climate upheaval to geopolitical tensions - Africa stands at a crossroads of opportunity and urgency. The delicate dance of balancing social stability, development imperatives and sustainable debt levels has become untenable.

With unwavering resolve, Presidents Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, William Samoei Ruto of Kenya, and Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia have stepped onto the global stage, proposing a radical overhaul of financial norms and a reimagining of Africa's destiny.

To bridge gaps in the primary sector and keep pace with futuristic industries like renewables, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, electric vehicles and semiconductors, Africa requires comprehensive - not selective - investment. The continent remains a promising destination for debt, equity and fund investments waiting for its turn. But a bold approach is needed to tap into the global financial landscape at large.

Africa's offer

The three presidents have joined forces to propose practical solutions to leverage global finance in Africa. In an article in *The Economist*, they underline the urgency for a collective response and publicly communicate Africa's commitment to global collaboration, outlining exactly what Africa strives to achieve.

They highlight five areas of engagement with global finance, from the overhaul of global financial architecture to the estab-

lishment of a robust institutional, legal and regulatory framework to manage the macro-financial risks of new global financial flows.

This global appeal, developed by elected officials, demonstrates Africa's preparedness to receive global capital inflows responsibly. While this should not only reassure investors, financiers, philanthropists, non-governmental organisations and rating agencies, it could also mark the beginning of reducing the 'perception premiums' that Africa has long paid to attract investment and international assistance.

Rather than debating whether enough has been done or whether the multilateral system is biased against Africa, the focus should be on comprehending its interests and why those have been neglected by the international markets. In addressing the underlying causes, solutions can be created to benefit the financier and the recipient. But a successful solution is one that benefits everyone in Africa, which requires a continental consensus.

With multiple multilateral initiatives in progress to enhance access to private capital, fund climate resilience and provide debt relief, there is no better time. Replenishments to the International Development Association and the review of International Monetary Fund quotas are also currently underway.

However, the global finance pool is not as buoyant as some regard it to be. More stringent and competing liquidity worldwide is impacting all cross-border investments. As a result, investment flows have become increasingly selective and cautious. Even large emerging markets like China and India are seeing a preference for portfolio equity flows over direct investment. Hopefully, the postwar and post-conflict reconstruction processes (Ukraine, Gaza, Soma-



lia, Yemen, South Sudan and elsewhere) will begin - further charging significant global finance and private capital.

Regional initiatives

The days of nations tweaking their regulatory frameworks and market regulations to attract capital flows are fading. Fortunately, many African countries have eased capital account restrictions, thus promoting macroeconomic stability and greater financial accessibility. Yet, several studies show that Africa is the most disconnected region when measured by the continent's movement of goods, services, people and information.

While there is room for improvement, particularly in fiscal and monetary policies, Africa has made significant policy advancements for over a decade. The Regional Economic Communities, the African Continen-

tal Free Trade Area and the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa are all examples of critical regional initiatives.

However, at the core of this continental vision must be more robust financial integration. The goal is to promote access to finance and capital market development within regional blocs. Organisations like the West African Monetary Institute and the East African Community Monetary Institute are working to harmonise monetary policies and enhance financial co-operation. But strategic, continent-wide initiatives stand to majorly improve Africa's voice in global finance.

Green growth and climate resilience is especially integral to regional co-operation. While these initiatives aim to tackle environmental challenges and attract green finance investments, more is needed - particularly in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 for sustainable development and climate action.

A continental approach

Progress is being made, but immense potential remains to fully leverage continental mechanisms in the global financial landscape. A continental approach will allow Africa to pool resources, share infrastructure and collaborate on large-scale projects. By integrating markets and production across multiple borders, economies of scale and scope can be harnessed. As a unified bloc, Africa can negotiate better terms in international trade agreements, investment deals and financial arrangements. Collective bargaining will strengthen Africa compared to individual countries negotiating in isolation. A continental view will also provide an opportunity for safety net arrangements against crisis and spread risk across diverse economies - reducing vulnerability to localised shocks.

Further to this, Africa can implement

homegrown solutions to help promote the flow of investments and finance in the continent. For instance, a larger, more integrated market for goods, services and investments will stimulate intra-African trade, develop regional transportation networks, energy grids and digital connectivity spanning multiple countries, thereby benefiting economies at scale. Not only will this attract financing from regional and international sources, but it will also promote global growth in the long run.

The challenges - political differences among member states, capacity constraints, infrastructure gaps, regulatory complexities and funding constraints - should not be underestimated. Yet, the efforts and commitments from African governments, regional organisations, development partners and the private sector could propel Africa's regional integration and collaboration agenda. Adopting a continental view will allow Africa to overcome individual limitations and position itself strategically in the global economic landscape. Global finance could be more amenable and open to bring in risk capital into continental initiatives.

Despite economist Gunnar Myrdal's optimistic prediction in 1968 that Africa would surpass Asia in growth, the continent's economic prospects remain uncertain without a significant increase in capital inflow, retention and effective utilisation - or as the presidential troika puts it: more help to help itself.

Udaibir Das (pictured), is a Visiting Professor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, a Senior Non-Resident Adviser at the Bank of England, a Senior Adviser of the International Forum for Sovereign Wealth Funds and a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation America.

Gov't to continue supporting cross-border trade logistics

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has affirmed its commitment to supporting initiatives that aim to facilitate the swift and secure movement of goods across borders, with due consideration for national security. This effort is geared towards boosting the economy of the wider region and the continent of Africa.

Dr Hashil Abdallah, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, expressed the government's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote the efficient and secure movement of goods across borders during the Border Management Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

The conference brought together participants from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, and South Africa.

The primary goal of the conference was to establish key

agreements on trade and cross-border commerce to enhance the business environment and drive economic growth within the region.

Dr Abdallah underlined the significance of regional cooperation and economic diplomacy, highlighting a pledge made by the leaders of Tanzania and Kenya during their meeting in Dar es Salaam on July 26, 2023.

During this meeting, the leaders emphasized the need for regular discussions to address and overcome business challenges across borders.

"The Government of the Sixth Phase under the leadership of Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan is determined to open up the country through economic diplomacy whose main basis is the development of regional and international businesses," said Dr Abdallah.

He emphasized that Tanzania is the "Father of Peace" and a long-term defender of peace and security in the East African

Region and Africa in general, while caring about human rights issues and the dignity of its citizens.

The Commissioner General of Immigration, Dr Anna Makakala, explained Tanzania's efforts in improving border management by using modern technology to improve the efficiency of borders and doing business.

In addition, Dr Makakala mentioned the systems used by Tanzania, including the Electronic Immigration System established in 2018, the Border Management System through the Internet that facilitates the exchange of data and communication between different border stations.

She also said that Tanzania is working with neighboring countries to ensure the smooth movement of people and businesses across shared borders by including joint immigration teams in shared border service centers and regional committees that deal with shared challenges.



Dr Hashil Abdallah (L), Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, speaks at the Border Management Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, accompanied by Dr. Anna Makakala, Commissioner General of Immigration Tanzania. Photo credit: Joseph Mwendapole.

EDF to finance 283MW solar project in South Africa

By Guardian Reporter

EDF Renewables, in collaboration with local financial institutions in South Africa, is poised to finance the Mooi Plaats 283MWdc ground photovoltaic power plant project in the Northern Cape region.

A statement released yesterday and made available to this paper, indicated that the project is implemented by Trina Solar in partnership with China Energy International Group and China Gezhouba Group as well.

The signing ceremony, held to mark this significant collaboration, underscores Trina Solar's commitment to driving renewable energy forward in Africa.

The project will harness the power of 416,325 panels from the NEG21C.20 Vertex N, with impressive efficiency up to 23.2 percent.

These modules are based on the 210mm product technology platform and excel in power, efficiency, reliability, and leveled cost of energy (LCOE).

With a project duration of 22 months, the power generated from Mooi Plaats project will be connected to the Koruson substation, 12 km away via a 132-kV transmission line.

"We are proud to partner with China Energy International Group and China Gezhouba Group to bring this groundbreaking project to fruition," said Bao Yang, President, Global Sales & Marketing at Trina Solar.

He adds: "With a total capacity of 283MWdc, the Mooi Plaats PV Power Plant project is considered the largest single PV power plant project in South Africa and is set to make a substantial impact on the region's energy landscape. This col-



Ground mounted photovoltaic power plants. File Photo

laboration exemplifies our shared commitment to driving sustainable development and powering the future of energy in South Africa."

"We are excited to join forces with Trina Solar on this landmark project," said Hu Yuhong, General Manager at China Energy Interna-

tional Group South Africa. "This collaboration represents a significant step towards achieving our shared goal of promoting clean en-

ergy and sustainable development in South Africa."

Chen Zhipei, Project Manager of Mooi Plaats project, at China Gezhouba Group, commented, "As a leading player in the global energy sector, we are proud to contribute our expertise to this project, which will not only deliver clean, reliable power but also drive economic growth and job creation in the region."

The Launch of 283MWdc Mooi Plaats PV Power Plant project represents a major milestone in South Africa's new energy market, Trina Solar is honored to contribute its expertise and technology to this transformative project, which will not only accelerate South Africa's transition to clean energy but also create new opportunities for economic growth and environmental stewardship.

Kenya down to position seven in new Africa hotel room construction ranking

Nairobi

KENYA has dropped to the seventh position in Africa among countries with the highest number of hotel rooms under development by international hotel chains.

The latest survey by Lagos-based W Hospitality Group, and the Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF) shows that the country dropped two positions from fifth recorded in 2023.

Kenya has 31 hotels with a total of 4,268 rooms in the pipeline with an average room size of approximately 138 square feet.

North Africa continues to dominate in new projects with Morocco and Egypt together comprising almost 31 per cent of the total for the 54 countries on the continent.

Egypt, Nigeria, Morocco, top the continent on the number of hotel rooms under development followed by Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Tunisia, Kenya, South Africa, Algeria and Ghana closing the top 10.

"When analysed according by country and by the number of rooms in their pipeline, the top ten countries represent 69 per cent of



Tourists enjoy holiday in Watamu area, during peak tourism season. Photo: Alphonse Gari

the total hotels in the survey, and 74 per cent of the rooms," reads the report in part.

The world's largest hotel chain,

Marriott International has the largest number of pipeline hotels and rooms; followed by Hilton hotel while French multinational hospi-

tality company Accor comes third. Over the past year, there have been significant trends in the regional hospitality sector, with North

and sub-Saharan Africa experiencing a strong growth of over nine percent.

Additionally, there was an increase in the number of very large hotels, with the average size of the top 10 hotels growing from 723 rooms in 2023 to 770 rooms in 2024.

Resorts also saw rapid growth, with a 32 per cent increase compared to 2023. Zanzibar stood out as a particularly strong performer in this context.

The resort pipeline in Zanzibar expanded from seven resorts with 983 rooms in 2023 to 14 resorts with 2,048 rooms in 2024.

According to the report this growth indicates a high level of confidence in the appeal of these beautiful Indian Ocean islands.

Egypt continues to lead the country table, with almost 26,250 rooms in 109 hotels, but is streaking ahead of the pack, with well over three times the number of rooms in second-placed Nigeria and third-placed Morocco.

With continued signing activity (19 hotels with about 5,200 rooms in 2023) Egypt now ac-

counts for 28 per cent of the total pipeline.

The hotel chains have deals signed in 41 countries in Africa. West Africa leads with 14 countries (out of a total of 18), followed by the Southern & Indian Ocean sub-region where there are 11 countries with pipeline development activity.

This year we have lost Libya and Sudan (the single projects in each country were cancelled) but gained The Gambia.

French brand Accor, opened almost 300 rooms worldwide last year, Hilton's number was almost 400, and Marriott International achieved almost 560 opening.

But of those, only two of Hilton's totals were in Africa, with four for Marriott International and six for Accor.

Between the three of them, they opened 73 hotels and resorts (6 per cent of their 2023 achievements) in Africa in five years, split pretty equally between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

The Star

KEMSA to receive Ksh4.2 billion from World Bank

Nairobi

THE Kenya Medical Supplies Agency is set to receive \$32 million (Ksh4.2b) from World Bank for the recapitalisation of the agency.

The funding to come in June will see KEMSA expand the scope of its medical equipment distribution across the country.

The World Bank boost comes after a Ksh2 billion disbursement that the government injected into Kemsas in November to enable it to purchase drugs and reduce supply delays.

Kemsa board chair Irungu Nyakera said the World Bank funding will enable the entity grow its footprint in the country in an effort to cut on transportation cost.

"Covid-19 led to a capital erosion of Ksh4 billion from Kemsas that's why when I came in we were not able to pay our suppliers. The World Bank is also looking to capitalise KEMSA from July so we are looking at their support," said Nyakera in an interview with the Financial Fortune.

KEMSA has been grappling with high debt especially from the counties that have in the past slowed activities.

As of 2024 the counties owe the supplier over Ksh3 billion in pending bills.

County governments, which are the major clients and have been procuring medical supplies directly from Kemsas collectively



KEMSA Board Chairman, Irungu Nyakera, gives turnaround update in Nairobi. Photo: Collins Apudo

owe the agency approximately Ksh6 billion.

The agency last month singled out four counties with huge debts amounting to Ksh464 million which include Nairobi (Ksh235 million), Homa Bay (Ksh104 million), Kakamega and Taita Taveta with Ksh66 million and Ksh59 million, respectively.

The chairman said that currently KEMSA owe suppliers about Ksh3.2 billion while its debtors owe about Ksh6 billion.

"We have now received payments from several counties as well as government recapitalising KEMSA because of the confidence they have in the new administration," said Nyakera.

With the financing from World Bank, the supplier said a new warehouse would be opened in Mombasa to serve the 16 counties. The one opened in Kisumu last year currently serves 19 counties.

"We will have a third one by next year," said Nyakera.

The Star

Tax authority mandates businesses in residential areas to start use EBM

Kigali

RWANDA Revenue Authority (RRA) has ordered businesses operating in buildings that are meant to be residential to start issuing Electronic Billing Machine (EBM) receipts. In contrast, landlords of such buildings have been mandated to register for Value Added Tax (VAT).

An RRA official told The New Times that the move comes after the institution noticed many rented properties in Kigali and various parts of the country that are being used for business yet they are registered as residential properties.

"You find a house that was built and

registered as a residential property but is rented for use as a restaurant, NGO offices, or other income-generating activities," he noted.

In a statement, RRA's Commissioner General Pascal Ruganintwali called on the landlords to register for VAT.

In an interview with The New Times, RRA's Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Taxpayer Services and Communications Division Paulin Uwitonze, noted that as landlords register for VAT, they can take advantage of the voluntary disclosure incentives RRA avails.

"This is an opportunity to disclose the taxes they have not paid and benefit from the waivers of penalties," he said.

The New Times



RRA has ordered businesses operating in residential buildings to start issuing electronic receipts. Photo: Craish Bahizi

BANKING & FINANCE

Chile's central bank raises 2024 GDP growth forecast



Chile's central bank. File Photo

Santiago

CHILE'S gross domestic product is expected to grow 2 percent to 3 percent in 2024 when compared to the year before, up from a previous forecast of 1.25 percent to 2.25 percent growth, the country's central bank said on Wednesday.

The central bank issued its revised forecast a day after slashing its benchmark interest rate by 75 basis points to 6.5 percent and signaling further rate cuts, whose size and timing will depend on the "evolution of the macroeconomic scenario and its implications for the trajectory of inflation."

Chile's economic activity has surprised to the upside in early

2024, overshooting expectations in January and February.

Inflation in the Andean country, the central bank noted in its monetary policy report on Wednesday, has declined sharply towards the 3 percent target after peaking in 2022, largely due to reduced domestic spending and a narrowing activity gap.

This has helped correct "large" macroeconomic imbalances observed in recent years, the central bank noted, with two-year inflation forecasts remaining steady at 3 percent for multiple consecutive quarters.

The central bank said it now projects headline inflation to end this year at 3.8 percent in light of the local currency's recent depreciation, up from

a previous estimate of 2.9 percent, but still sees it converging to the target within its two-year policy horizon.

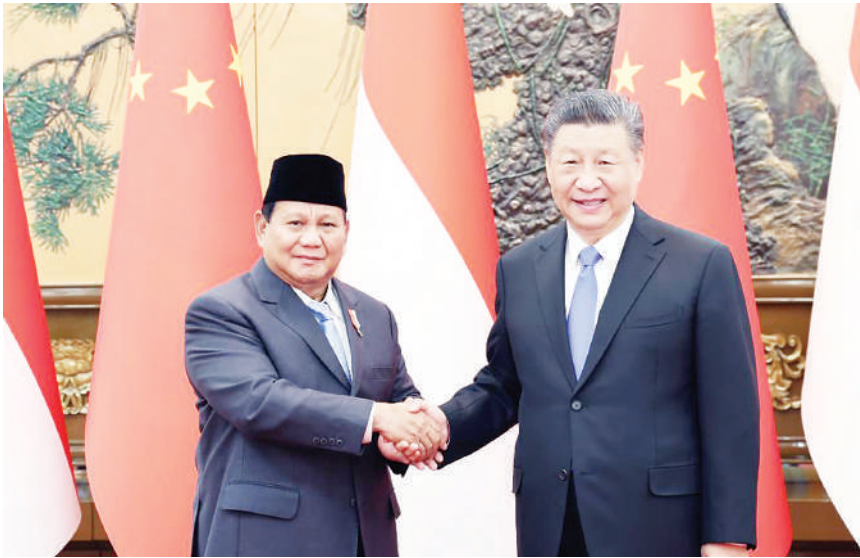
It also projected GDP growth in 2025 and 2026 to range between 1.5 percent and 2.5 percent, indicating a convergence to the economy's potential growth rate.

The projection for next year came in slightly below the previous growth forecast of 2 percent to 3 percent.

The central bank in the world's largest copper producer also estimated copper prices to average \$3.85 per pound in 2024, up from a previous forecast of \$3.80 per pound.

Reuters

WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with President-elect of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on Monday. Xinhua

Xi holds talks with Indonesia's president-elect

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with President-elect of the Republic of Indonesia and Great Indonesia Movement Party General Chairman Prabowo Subianto, who is on a visit to China, in Beijing on Monday.

Xi congratulated Prabowo on winning the election and asked Prabowo to relay sincere greetings and best wishes to President Joko Widodo.

Recalling the rapidly developing and fruitful bilateral ties over the past decade under the guidance of the two heads of state, Xi said both sides have made the Jakarta-Bandung High-speed Railway an exemplar of high-quality bilateral cooperation and entered a new stage of building a community with a shared future.

China views its relations with Indonesia from a strategic and long-term perspective, and is willing to deepen all-round strategic cooperation with Indonesia, Xi said.

He said China will work with Indonesia to build a China-Indonesia community with a shared future that has regional and global influence, so as to bring more benefits to the two peoples and contribute to regional and world peace, stability and prosperity.

Xi said the key to successful China-Indonesia relations is to adhere to strategic independence, mutual trust and mutual assistance, win-win cooperation, and fairness and justice.

Xi said China and Indonesia are both representatives of major developing countries and emerging markets. In the past, the two countries have always supported each other in the cause of national independence and development, he said, while in the future, the two countries should also unite in good faith to set an example of win-win cooperation and shared development, and become a pacesetter for South-South cooperation.

The two sides should firmly follow the development path suited to their own national conditions, firmly support each other in safeguarding sovereignty, security and development interests, and understand and support each other on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns, according to Xi.

Xi said China is willing to maintain close exchanges with Indonesia, share experience on govern-

ance, strengthen synergy of development strategies, further promote the construction of the "Two Countries, Twin Parks" and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Corridor, and continue to deepen maritime cooperation.

He added that China is ready to strengthen cooperation with Indonesia on poverty reduction and eradication, and provide support in this regard.

Noting that at present, momentous changes not seen in a century are accelerating across the world, Xi said the two sides should actively practice the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, vigorously promote the Bandung spirit of solidarity, friendship and cooperation, promote an equal and orderly multi-polar world and inclusive economic globalization that benefits all, strengthen multilateral coordination, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

Xi said China is ready to work with Indonesia to uphold ASEAN unity and centrality, maintain an open and inclusive regional architecture, and build a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future.

Prabowo conveyed President Joko Widodo's sincere greetings to Xi, and said he is delighted to make China the first country he visits after being elected.

China is a major influential country, and the two countries always respect each other and treat each other as equals, he added.

He expressed admiration for the great achievements made by the Chinese people under the leadership of President Xi. He said he is willing to learn from the experience of the Communist Party of China and deepen exchanges on governance.

Prabowo noted that China is a strong partner of Indonesia, and Chinese enterprises have participated in-depth in Indonesia's economic growth and contributed to Indonesia's national development in recent years.

He said that he supports the development of a closer relationship with China and will continue the country's friendly policy toward China, adhere to independence and stick to the one-China policy that is always pursued by the Indonesian government.

Prabowo added that Indonesia and China will firmly support each other's core interests, promote the comprehensive and high-quality development of bilateral relations, and implement the important consensus of building a community of shared future between the two countries.

The new Indonesian government is willing to actively strengthen the alignment of the development strategies of the two countries and push for more cooperation results in various fields such as economy, trade and poverty alleviation to further benefit the two peoples, Prabowo said.

Xinhua

Migrant arrivals in UK touch new record

ABOUT 800 migrants crossed the English Channel from France to the United Kingdom during the weekend, making it the busiest period so far in a record-breaking year.

The influx during the Easter holiday weekend brought the total number for 2024 to more than 5,400, the country's Home Office said.

A spokesperson for the UK government department that oversees immigration, security, and law and order told the BBC the scale of the arrivals "demonstrates exactly why we must get flights to Rwanda off the ground as soon as possible".

The 5,435 migrants known to have arrived in the UK in the first three months of 2024 eclipsed the previous record of 4,548 in 2022.

Stephen Kinnock, the opposition Labour Party's immigration spokesman, said UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his ruling Conservative Party had failed to deal with the issue, despite vowing to do so.

"The Tories have overseen an unprecedented level of dangerous Channel crossings this Easter bank holiday," he told the BBC.

"Over Christmas, they were quick to claim credit for the low number of crossings, so where are the home secretary and prime minister now, when we've seen almost 800 people arrive in small boats over the weekend?"

Five pledges

Sunak has made stopping the influx of migrants one of his "five pledges" in the buildup to a general election that will likely take place in the fall. But one of his main

weapons, his proposed Rwanda Bill, which calls for some migrants to be sent to the African nation of Rwanda for processing, has stalled in Parliament.

Sunak has said the bill would make migrants who do not have genuine grounds for claiming asylum think twice before heading for the UK.

But the bill has been handed a series of defeats and will not be debated again until April 15 at the earliest, when lawmakers return from their Easter break.

The Home Office spokesperson said the UK will, in the meantime, continue to work closely with police in France "who are facing increasing violence and disruption on their beaches as they work tirelessly to prevent these dangerous, illegal, and unnecessary journeys". **Agencies**



Focus on illegal immigration: Trump calls migrants 'animals'

WASHINGTON

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin - Donald Trump called immigrants illegally in the United States "animals" and "not human" in a speech in Michigan on Tuesday, resorting to the degrading rhetoric he has employed time and again on the campaign trail.

The Republican presidential candidate, appearing with several law enforcement officers, described in detail several criminal cases involving suspects in the country illegally and warned that violence and chaos would consume America if he did not win the Nov 5 election.

In a later speech in Green Bay, Wisconsin, he struck a similarly foreboding tone, describing the 2024 election as the nation's "final battle."

While speaking of Laken Riley - a 22-year-old nursing student from Georgia allegedly murdered by a Venezuelan immigrant in the country illegally - Trump said some immigrants were sub-human.

"The Democrats say, 'Please don't call them animals. They're humans.' I said, 'No, they're not humans, they're not humans, they're animals,'" said Trump, president from 2017 to 2021.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Trump described meeting the family of Ruby Garcia, a local 25-year-old murdered last month by a suspect in the country illegally, according to police. Garcia's sister denied the former president spoke with the family, according to local media reports.

In stump speeches, Trump frequently claims that immigrants crossing the border with Mexico illegally have escaped from prisons and asylums in their home countries and are fueling violent crime in the United States.

While available data on criminals' immigration status is sparse, researchers say people living in the US illegally do not commit violent



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump does a little dance after speaking, on Tuesday, at a rally in Green Bay, Wisconsin. AP

crimes at a higher rate than native-born citizens.

Democratic President Joe Biden, Trump's rival in the November presidential election, accuses Trump of encouraging Republicans in Congress not to pass legislation this year that would have beefed up security at the southern border and introduced measures aimed at reducing illegal immigration.

"Donald Trump is engaging in extreme rhetoric that promotes division, hate and violence in our country," Michael Tyler, Biden campaign communications director, told reporters on Tuesday ahead of Trump's speeches.

Trump titled his Michigan speech "Biden's border bloodbath," and said he met family members of Garcia, who was allegedly murdered last month in her car by Brandon Ortiz-Vite, 25, whom she was dating.

"They said she had just this most contagious laughter, and when she walked into a room, she lit up that room, and I've heard that from so many people. I spoke to some of her family," Trump said.

Mavi Garcia, Ruby Garcia's sister, disputed that account, according to local television stations.

"He did not speak with any of us, so it was kind of shocking seeing that he had said that he had spoken with us," Mavi Garcia was quoted as saying by a local NBC affiliate.

Reuters was not able to immediately contact Garcia's family. A Trump campaign representative declined to comment on the record.

The murders of Garcia and Riley have allowed Trump's campaign to play simultaneously to some voters' fears about violent crime and immigration.

Some 38 percent of Republicans

cited immigration as the country's top issue in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released in late February, as did about one in five independents. Trump frequently claims without evidence that migrants have caused a spike in violent crime in US cities. On Tuesday, he repeated an unfounded claim that Latin American nations are intentionally sending their criminals to the United States.

Tuesday's Wisconsin primary

During his evening speech in Wisconsin, Trump pledged he would stop the "plunder, rape, slaughter and destruction of our American suburbs, cities and towns."

He also warned that the coming election could be America's last. "This country is finished if we don't win this election," he said. "And I heard somebody say ... two or three days ago, said, if we don't win, this may be the last election our country ever has. And there could be truth to it."

Michigan and Wisconsin are two swing states that could determine whether Biden or Trump occupies the White House next year.

In the 2020 election, Biden beat Trump in Wisconsin by less than one percentage point and in Michigan by less than three. Both states are expected to be extremely close again this year.

Although both Trump and Biden have mathematically clinched their presidential nominations, they will be on their party's presidential primary ballots in Wisconsin on Tuesday.

Agencies

Crocus City Hall terror attack traced to Ukrainian special services, says Patrushev

ASTANA

THE terror attack at the Crocus City Hall music venue in the Moscow suburb can be traced to Ukrainian special services and it is well known that the Kiev regime is fully controlled by the United States, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev said yesterday.

"They are trying to impose it on us that the terrorist act was committed not by the Kiev regime but by supporters of the radical Islamic ideology, possibly, by members of the Afghan branch of ISIL [the former name of the Islamic State terror group outlawed in Russia]," Patrushev told the 19th annual meeting of top security officials of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) member states.

"However, it is far more important to promptly establish who is the mastermind and the sponsor of this horrific crime. Its traces lead to Ukrainian intelligence services. However, everyone is well aware that the Kiev regime is not independent and is fully controlled by the United States.

It has to be borne in mind that ISIL and Al-Qaeda [outlawed in Russia] and other terrorist groups were created by Washington," Patrushev stressed.

As the Russian top security official pointed out, "the perpetrators of this mass shooting and also their accomplices were arrested upon their attempt to cross the Russian state border where the Ukrainian side prepared a window for their escape."

On the evening of March 22, a terrorist attack targeted the Crocus City Hall music venue in Krasnogorsk, Moscow Region, just outside the Moscow city limits. According to the latest data, 144 people were killed and 551 suffered injuries. The Russian Investigative Committee said that evidence had been found of the attackers' links to Ukrainian nationalists. **Agencies**

Palestinians recall harrowing experiences during Israeli siege of Gaza's largest hospital

GAZA

RAHAF al-Halabi, a 62-year-old Palestinian woman in Gaza, breathed a sigh of relief after the Israeli army withdrew from the Al-Shifa Hospital on Monday following a 14-day siege.

"You can smell death everywhere. The Israeli army has turned the hospital into a hell that has no feature of life," she said with teary eyes. "The army killed dozens of young

people before our eyes." "My family and I spent days of darkness and horror under the Israeli siege and attacks on the hospital. Many times, we thought that we would be killed by the Israeli army," she said.

Earlier in the day, Avichai Adraee, the spokesman of the Israeli army, said in a press statement that the army finished its military operations in Al-Shifa, the largest hospital in Gaza, and killed

and arrested dozens of militants and terrorists, including leaders of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). "The army found rifles, pistols, explosive materials, and dozens of mortar shells in the maternity ward, some of which were inside beds and pillows," Adraee added.

Mahmoud Haboush has spent several hours searching through the rubble in hopes of finding the bodies of his two brothers. Until now, the

28-year-old Palestinian has been unsuccessful in locating the bodies of his brothers. He expressed profound sadness at the realization that his brothers may have already been killed by the Israeli army, and he may never be able to bury them. "The last time I heard the voice of my brother, Mohammed, was on March 28 when he called and told me that the Israeli army executed our brother, Ahmed, and he would be

killed too," he said.

"I heard gunfire in the place. My brother was afraid. I cannot imagine how he was killed, and whether he died quickly or did he suffer before he died."

On March 18, the Israeli army carried out a sudden large-scale military operation at the Al-Shifa Hospital, saying that Hamas and the PIJ used the hospital for military operations against Israel.

The Hamas-run media office said in a press statement that

the Israeli army "killed at least 400 Palestinians and arrested over 900 others during its military operations at Al-Shifa hospital."

Medical and civil defense crews have pulled out dozens of decomposing bodies, including those of children, women, and medical staff, from the courtyards of the hospital, said Palestinian security sources who required anonymity. The security sources said that the hospital had gone

out of service as most parts of its buildings were destroyed, burned, or attacked by the Israeli army. "It is impossible to resume the work soon inside the hospital as the Israeli army deliberately destroyed all medical equipment in the complex, including operating rooms, intensive care units, specialized departments, and mortuary refrigeration facilities," said a Palestinian medical source who requires anonymity.

Xinhua

3 things to know about China's Global Civilization Initiative

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) in March 2023, following the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative.

Here are three things to know about this major global initiative.

RESPECT FOR CIVILIZATION DIVERSITY

Xi proposed the GCI at a dialogue between the Communist Party of China and other global political parties held via video link.

The initiative, as Xi pointed out in his speech, advocates respect for the diversity of civilizations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, as well as robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

In contrast to the Western claims of "superiority of certain civilizations and clash of civilizations," China has called for upholding the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations. It emphasizes the importance of cultural exchanges transcending estrangement, mutual learning transcending clashes, and coexistence transcending feelings of superiority.

Chinese culture itself is very diverse, so the "GCI is a very rightly promoted idea because, through the experience of the country's vast cultural landscape, it knows that unity in diversity is the most beautiful thing, and can inculcate the spirit of respecting other people's cultures, which is the only way forward for world peace," former Pakistani Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah told Xinhua in a recent interview.

The GCI, along with the Global Development Initiative and the Global



Chinese tourists pose for a group photo at Ancient Siam in Samut Prakan, Thailand, on Monday. Xinhua

Security Initiative, has won international support as an important public good China has provided to the world.

"These global initiatives reflect China's vision and foreign policy toward the world to achieve development, prosperity, security and stability in the entire world, and define the path that China has set to deal with others," said Ali bin Ibrahim Al-Maliki, assistant secretary general of the Arab League.

China and Zambia, for example, have agreed to take the lead in implementing the GCI by enhancing civilizational exchanges and amity between their peoples.

FLOURISHING PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

A group of high school students from the U.S. state of Washington were in China from March 17 to 27. During this trip, they visited Chinese landmarks like the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, and engaged in martial arts and fan painting alongside their Chinese peers.

This delegation was part of an initiative to invite 50,000 American youths to China for exchanges and study purposes, announced by Xi during his visit to the United States in November last year.

The history of China-U.S. relations is one of friendly exchanges between the two peoples. Its existing chapters are written by the people, and the future will of course be shaped by the people, Xi said in his recent meeting with representatives from the U.S. business, strategic and academic communities.

As the Kazakhstan tourism year in China in 2024 was launched last week, Xi noted that in recent years, people-to-people exchanges between the two countries have been on the rise, as evidenced by the entry into force of the agreement on mutual visa exemption, the signing of the agreement on the establishment of cultural centers in each other's countries, the operation of the Luban Workshop, and frequent youth exchanges.

With the mutual visa exemption policy

between China and Thailand coming into effect in March, the number of countries with such an entry policy with China has increased to 23, including Singapore, the Maldives, and the United Arab Emirates.

In addition, China has adopted a visa-free policy for countries including France, Italy and Germany. The implementation of the new policy has greatly streamlined travel planning for nationals of the relevant countries.

EXPLORING PATHS TOWARD MODERNIZATION

"All civilizations created by human society are splendid. They are where each country's modernization drive draws its strength and where its unique feature comes from," Xi had said, calling on countries to explore diversified paths toward modernization.

Chinese modernization is one of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development, according to Xi.

In advancing modernization, China will neither tread the old path of colonization and plunder, nor the crooked path taken by some countries to seek hegemony once they grow strong. What China pursues is the right course of peaceful development, he said.

"Whilst modernization is a global process and a universal aspiration, it can take and assume radically different forms," argued Keith Bennett, an international relations consultant based in London.

Chinese modernization "represents something fundamentally new," something that will come to be seen as a modernization that is actually comprehensive, equitable and sustainable, Bennett said.

"The Chinese path to modernization has become quite attractive to the developing countries," said Cavince Adhere, a Kenya-based international relations scholar.

Xinhua



Look forward to working together: Premier Modi

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday extended his wishes to his newly elected Portuguese counterpart, Luis Montenegro, saying he was looking forward to working together to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries.

"Warm Congratulations to Mr. Luis Montenegro on being sworn in as the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic. Look forward to working together to further strengthen our long-standing bilateral ties," PM Modi posted from his official X handle on Wednesday.

Portugal's new centre-right minority government led by Montenegro came to power amid uncertainty around its long-term viability as it faces a highly fragmented parliament, Al Jazeera reported earlier.

The Democratic Alliance (AD) coalition won the March 10 election by a slim margin over the outgoing Socialist Party (PS).

Montenegro said on Tuesday the government was determined to meet its four-and-a-half-year mandate, promising to act with "humility, patriotic spirit and capacity for dialogue", while demanding the same from the opposition.

"The [expected] investiture in parliament [next week] can only mean the opposition will respect the principle of letting us work and execute the government's programme," he said.

With just 80 seats in the 230-seat legislature, the AD will need the support of either the far-right Chega party, which quadrupled its parliamentary representation to 50 members of parliament, or the centre-left PS, which secured 78 seats, to pass legislation, Al Jazeera reported.

Chega, an anti-immigration party whose fast rise reflects a political tilt towards right-wing populism across Europe, has demanded a government role or a long-term agreement to support the AD, but Montenegro has repeatedly refused to negotiate.

Montenegro's precarious position was exposed last week when Chega rejected his candidate for parliamentary speaker, who was ultimately elected with PS help. The PS warned, however, that such support was a one-off to unblock parliamentary activities.

Putin vows to punish sponsors of Crocus City Hall attack

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin vowed retribution for those who sponsored the attack on Crocus City Hall.

"It is important for us to expose both the perpetrators and all links in that chain, including the beneficiaries of that crime," Putin said, addressing participants in an Interior Ministry

board meeting.

"We will certainly get them," Putin said, referring to sponsors of the attack.

"Those who use this weapon, this being a weapon that is used against Russia, and this is obvious today, should understand that this is a double-edged weapon," the president maintained.

According to Putin, crimes for money are nothing unique. "Besides, there are no reli-



able agents in this professional community and anything at all can be done for money, with the perpetrators being guided only by financial rather than religious or political con-

siderations," he pointed out. Everything, including any information, "is easily bought and sold" across that community, Putin lamented. "That said, we will definitely get the end customers," the president reiterated.

On the evening of March 22, a terrorist attack targeted the music venue in Krasnogorsk, Moscow Region, just outside the Moscow city limits. According to the latest data, 144 people have died, and 551 others have been injured.

Agencies

No big achievement comes without hard work - EAM Jaishankar

RAJKOT

EXUDING confidence on India's bid for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that no big achievement ever comes without hard

work, and added that the country will have to put in an extra effort this time.

At an event in Rajkot on Tuesday, Jaishankar said, "We will surely get it. But, no big achievement comes without hard work. So we will have to work hard for it. This

time, we will have to put an extra effort because what has happened till now is that the UN was formed around 80 years ago...at that time, there were five nations which decided that they will become the permanent members of the UN security Council." Jaishankar under-

lined that it is a weird thing to know that the same five nations who have kept their control are being asked whether or not the change should take place in the security council.

He said, "At that time there were 50 independent countries. In the last 80 years, the number of those

countries have now reached 193-194. But, what these five nations have done is kept their control...and the weird thing is that you are asking those 5 nations only that you decide and agree upon whether this change should be carried.

ANI

Experts meet in Kenya to enhance cooperation in border management in Africa

NAIROBI

IMMIGRATION experts began a three-day meeting in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, Tuesday to enhance cooperation in border management in Africa.

The National Border Management Conference, which was held under the theme of "building on

coordination and moving towards integration," brought together more than 300 participants from the United Nations as well as senior border control officials from across Africa, and served as a platform for dialogue, cooperation and innovation in border management on the continent.

Dimanche Sharon, chief of mis-

sion at the International Organization for Migration-Kenya, said in her opening remarks that the continent is keen to promote seamless coordinated border management systems in all ports of entry and exit.

"Cooperation in border management will promote regional integration by enabling regular migration across countries," Dimanche

added, noting that collaboration among countries also creates efficiency that facilitates cross-border trade in the region.

Kithure Kindiki, cabinet secretary in Kenya's Ministry of Interior and National Administration, said that cooperation among African countries through information exchange is expected to eliminate trade in

illicit goods among common borders.

Kindiki noted that African countries have resolved to cooperate to progressively reduce the use of forged travel documents, illegal migration, human trafficking, smuggling of weapons, trafficking of narcotics as well as laundering of money.

Apollo Kasiita-Gowa, director of Uganda's Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said that because of the complexity of the security threats that countries continue to face across the world, there is a need for joint operations across countries.

Xinhua

Europe's restless farmers are forcing policymakers to act

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN policymakers have scaled back rules to protect nature, drawn up limits on the import of tariff-free Ukrainian grains and scrapped new legislation limiting pesticide use as farmers' protests resonate with voters ahead of elections.

From Poland to Portugal, farmers have won remarkable concessions in response to waves of street action, reshaping the European Union's green politics months ahead of European Parliament elections.

Environmental activists and analysts say the policy backsliding illustrates the considerable political influence of farmers as mainstream parties seek to impede the far right and nationalist parties' hunt for votes in rural areas.

Farmers again blockaded streets surrounding the Euro-

pean Union headquarters in Brussels last week, spraying manure to protest low incomes, cheap food imports and burdensome red tape. As they did so, the bloc's farming ministers backed a new set of changes to weaken green rules linked to the disbursement of tens of billions of euros in farming subsidies.

When the last European elections were held in 2019, the Greens made strong gains and climate activist Greta Thunberg was voted Time Magazine's Person of the Year.

"The elections in 2024 will be elections in the year of angry farmers," said Franc Bogovic, a Slovenian lawmaker in the European Parliament and himself a farmer.

The scramble to placate farmers has impacted key pillars of EU policy, pressuring the bloc over its Green Deal and free trade accords.

EU environment commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius warned of a "disastrous" blow to the bloc's credibility last week, when EU countries declined to approve a landmark law to safeguard nature, leaving it unclear if the policy will be passed.

Other green measures are hanging in the balance ahead of the election. EU countries asked Brussels last week to scale back and possibly delay a new anti-deforestation policy, which they said could harm local farmers.

In France, senators in March voted against ratification of an EU-Canada free trade deal, targeting a symbol of the EU's willingness to open up markets and boost competition.

And while the EU has extended tariff-free access for Ukrainian food producers, it agreed last month to impose duties if imports exceed a certain level, in response to farmers' protests.



Protestors throw objects off of a small overpass during a demonstration of farmers near the European Council building in Brussels, March 26, 2024. XINHUA

Some farming groups acknowledge the response by policymakers to the protests is likely linked to June's elections - but say the weakening of green rules is not what they want.

"Our demands (for fair prices) have not actually been met," said Dutch farmer Leonardo van den Berg, a representative of farming association La Via Campesina.

Rural discontent

Farmers account for 4.2 percent of the EU's workforce and generate just 1.4 percent of the bloc's gross domestic product. However, their protests resonate in the countryside where discontent towards distant policymakers and questions of cultural identity run deep.

A report commissioned by the EU's Committee of the Re-

gions, published last month, found Eurosceptic voting was high in many rural areas, where concerns including over migration and lower economic opportunities boosted populist parties.

An Elabe survey in January showed 87 percent of French people supported the farmers' cause. In Poland, nearly eight in every 10 people backed the farmers' demands, according to a poll by the Institute of Market and Social Research.

The far right in France and elsewhere paint the farmers' protests as symptomatic of a disconnect between an urban elite and hard-up countryside folk. Farmers are a small group, but the far right thinks it can attract a much wider rural vote by extension, said Teneo analyst Antonio Barroso.

Far-right parties are jostling to be the standard-bearers of farmers' discontent, using them

to illustrate the perceived failure of what they consider elitist green policies, said Simone Tagliapietra, senior fellow at think-tank Bruegel.

"This is pushing mainstream political parties to recalibrate their own agendas," Tagliapietra said.

In France, farmers are a growing constituency for Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (Rassemblement National) party. She has called for a halt to EU free trade deals.

Asked why farmers were proving so effective in influencing policymaking, agriculture ministers in Brussels last week described farmers as lynchpins of the rural economy.

"Everybody needs to eat everyday," Finland's minister Sari Essayah said. "Farming is one of those basic sectors we should support."

Agencies

Gamondi: Injured stars' return boosts Yanga's CAF CL semi-final hopes



Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE return of key players from injury has boosted the confidence of Young Africans SC's head coach Miguel Gamondi, who believes his team can travel to South Africa and excel in the second leg of their CAF Champions League quarterfinal tie against Mamelodi Sundowns FC on Friday.

Despite missing key figures like Pacome Zouzoua, Khalid Aucho, and Kouassi Attohoulou Yao, Young Africans SC - alias Yanga - displayed commendable spirit in the first leg, drawing 0-0 at home on Saturday. To advance to the semi-finals, they now require either a victory or a scoreless draw in the return fixture.

"I'm not suggesting my players were flawless," acknowledged Gamondi. "We faced a formidable opponent with vast experience in this competition. But as a coach, it's gratifying to see my players execute our game plan. That's the satisfaction I took away, even if we couldn't secure the win."

Mamelodi Sundowns fans urged to emulate Yanga's supporters

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

AFTER returning to South Africa, Mamelodi Sundowns' defensive midfielder Teboho Mokoena has challenged his outfit's fans to emulate Yanga supporters when the two sides meet in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League last eight rematch at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Tshwane on Friday.

The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam was filled to the brim by Yanga's fans in the first leg of this season's CAF Champions League quarterfinal on Saturday night.

The two teams showed a highly tactical game but the supporters had nothing to celebrate as the match eventually ended goalless.

Mokoena played the full game, which was his 40th match this season for club and country, just a couple of days after starring in the 3-3 draw for South Africa 'Bafana Bafana' against Algeria.

Sundowns were not at their fluent best despite dominating possession as the home side showed defensive resilience while creating more chances with their swift counters, however, the game remained scoreless after 90 minutes.

"We didn't start well in the first half but I think the reaction was good, we didn't create the [number] of chances

Gamondi continued: "We're now hopeful that the injured players will be back for the away leg. The truth is, I truly aspire to lead this team to the CAF Champions League final this season."

The first leg displayed Gamondi's tactical adaptability, posing a significant challenge for his Mamelodi Sundowns counterpart, Rhulani Mokwena, who readily admitted this.

Gamondi opted for a three-man central defensive line featuring Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Hamad 'Bacca', and Dickson Job, who filled the void at right-back created by injuries to Yao and Kibwana Shomary.

In central midfield, where Aucho usually operates, Jonas Mkude stepped in, while the attacking lineup featured a two-pronged attack.

Yanga displayed a well-organized defense and launched surprise attacks through various channels.

The creative passing of Stephane Aziz Ki and Mudathir Yahya could have translated into significant chances if Kennedy Musonda and Clement Mzize, tasked with exploiting the space behind the Sundowns defense, had utilized the service effectively.

However, both attackers faltered in front of the highly-rated Mamelodi Sundowns goalkeeper Ronwen Williams (31), failing to convert promising opportunities.

Reflecting on the match, Mamelodi Sundowns' head coach Mokwena remarked: "It was a tough encounter. Yanga showcased their quality, but the advantage lies with us playing at home in the second leg. We'll need to improve to execute our plan."

Apart from Pacome, Aucho is a footballer who might be available for Yanga in the second leg.

While Aucho was reportedly eager to play in the first leg, Gamondi opted for a cautious approach, prioritizing his full recovery.

Yao's availability remains uncertain, with a 50/50 chance of returning according to recent reports.

The stage is set for a compelling second leg as Yanga, buoyed by the potential return of injured players, aims to upset the odds and secure a historic semi-final berth in the CAF Champions League.

es we usually do [though], it was a really tough game," he said.

Mokoena revealed: "They were solid at the back, closed the spaces in the middle, and forced us out wide, which is something we don't normally do, their game plan worked."

"I think we need to go back to the drawing board and improve our performance."

While the conditions were extremely humid, as is the case in the evenings in East Africa, Mokoena says it was not an excuse but urged Sundowns' fans to create the same hostile atmosphere created by Yanga's fanatics, when the second leg takes place on Friday in Tshwane.

"It was hard hot last week, but what do you expect? It's an away game, it's expected that not everything will favour us, we wanted to get an away goal, which we didn't, we have to sort it here at home... we have to win in Tshwane."

However, Mokoena believes the fans will have to play a crucial role in helping the Premier Soccer League's defending champions advance.

The midfielder said: "Masandawana, like you saw tonight, Yanga fans fully packed the stadium, may you please also come next Friday and support us, we need you at Loftus Stadium."

Yanga wins confidence contest in CAF CL quarterfinal derby with outlook remaining bleak

By Correspondent John Kimbute

NEWCOMERS Young Africans SC came out of their first CAF Champions League quarterfinal appearance in recent memory with their heads high as they obtained a null draw with the tournament's arguably most dreaded or respected side, Mamelodi Sundowns of downtown Pretoria.

Their next-street rivals, Simba SC, earlier in another dreaded encounter with Al Ahly of Egypt left cursing their luck with a 12th-minute goal by the visitors that stood the rest of the match.

Whether they planned their game better or the visitors were not well prepared, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, by contrast, allowed no goal for the 90 minutes of regular time, to postpone the showdown to Pretoria in just a few days, redrawing the psychological balance.

As has been the case in the sequence of derbies tied to continental encounters, they do not leave much room for the usual taunting, as neither club is sure of the next step.

That means that the big laughter is reserved until the end, meanwhile, as small chuckles are warranted here and there, as Yanga fans were visibly grinning at the usual talk shops that one funds them, whether at a street corner or even in a bus.

But outright laughter was not permissible during the 22-hour wait from the final whistle of the Friday match to kick off in the Saturday match.

Even as Yanga stood from



Tanzania's Yanga footballers are pictured training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinals and NBC Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

their seats at the final whistle, their ability to sneer at their rivals was limited, for cause.

There was still a slim possibility that the Msimbazi Street side took the next tie differently as the Egyptian side could lose a bit of concentration on account of their fairly solid lead, a lone-goal win in the away match.

As Jangwani Street outfit's fans are just as dreamy as their next street counterparts, they do not entirely rule out a Simba SC miracle in Cairo that would see them through, though no one so far promised as much.

The spirited Ahmed Ally promised a miracle, not based on some unforeseen technical reorganization but from the fact that Simba SC is a club of miracles and thus it is going to do it again; his followers nodded, by and large.

Neither side has a clear chance of making it to the semifinal by relying on the return match, as the home side, aware of its advantage at least, will be in a better position to dictate the pace of the game, as it is a decider.

Paradoxically enough, the chances of the two city rivals are more or less even, as Simba needs two goals to proceed and Al Ahly may relax.

Mamelodi had no excuse to relax but with any luck, Yanga could obtain a single goal, or into penalties and obtain the best result.

Both these scenarios are ruled out by commentators, and some interviewed stakeholders of the two protagonists were already getting wider about this stage of the contest, pushing the relatively novel idea that the two clubs are 'learning' new things when

meeting the best sides in the CAF Champions League.

Learning is a euphemism for accepting defeat, and even either Ahmed Ally or his counterpart at the end of the street, Ally Kamwe, dared to say 'We insult the crocodile and still cross his river.'

This formulation may have looked daring to the fans, until one looks for the chink in the armour, saying crossing 'his river,' instead of saying insulting, and crossing the river. That puts the crossing feat on neutral ground not possessed by a feared beast.

That looks like all there is to be harvested in the quarterfinal stage, partly because the city rivals were unlucky, or perhaps deserved, to be drawn against what are arguably the best sides during this season on the CAF itinerary, all competitions put together.

It was not altogether surprising that this was the case as the local premier league was the only one to have fielded two teams into the CAF Champions League quarterfinal stage.

There was mentally a need to reduce that presence in the latter stages of the tournament, to avoid a double derby in the CAF Champions League final, which looks altogether a valid fear as neither

Mamelodi nor Al Ahly won squarely during the weekend, implying that nearly any other sides would have failed.

It speaks highly of the Premier League, as a new thrill in African football,

What the relative failure of the city giants to put a stamp on the quarterfinals with at least a win at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, alias 'Lupaso Arena', implies is that this is a challenge to sponsors-cum-investors of the two sides.

In both instances, it was clear that they did not have clinical finishers who make a difference in the game, though with relatively weaker sides their stealthy midfielders are by and large up to the task.

It was so with CR Belouizdad, then Jwaneng Galaxy, thus pundits put to a search for superlatives; elsewhere, vivid impressions of a new dawn in a continental challenge.

For the moment, it looks like it is destined to end at the quarterfinal stage but if the changes that local fans badly want become reality, the feat could be repeated next year.

Worse, with a lesser problem when it comes to clean finishing, which would necessarily imply rivaling top sides in prayer recruitment, somewhat.



Lukiza Autism Foundation's Founder and Executive Director, Hilda Nkabe (in red T-shirt), is pictured dancing a traditional song with a child with autism during the World Autism Awareness Day celebration at Msimbazi Mseto School in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

CAF CL last eight stalemate sets up tense clash in Tshwane

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC, Tanzania's football powerhouse, arrived in South Africa early this week brimming with determination ahead of a crucial CAF Champions League quarterfinal rematch with Mamelodi Sundowns.

The highly anticipated match will take place at Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria, also known as Tshwane, on Friday, with the winner securing a coveted spot in the semi-finals.

The first leg, held last Saturday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, proved to be a tense defensive battle, ending in a goalless draw.

Both teams displayed strong defensive strategies, effectively

shutting down each other's attacking threats.

This sets the stage for an enthralling second leg which will see a single goal make all the difference.

Adding a touch of heartwarming camaraderie to the trip, five lucky fans rooting for Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, winners of a special competition, flew alongside the players, experiencing the journey firsthand.

Additionally, 48 dedicated supporters embarked on a road trip to South Africa on Monday, their travel expenses generously covered by the Tanzanian government's Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports.

This exemplifies the strong connection between the club and its passionate fanbase.

Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports' Deputy Minister Hamis Mwinjuma revealed that the government allocated 40.8m/- to support the fans' travel arrangements, a gesture deeply appreciated by club president Hersi Said.

He expressed his gratitude for the government's willingness to lend a helping hand and contribute to the vibrant atmosphere surrounding this crucial match.

Yanga held their own against the formidable Sundowns outfit in the first leg. This positive result means they have nothing to lose in South Africa. Even a draw with away goals would propel them into the coveted semi-final stage.

Meanwhile, the battle for a semi-final berth extends beyond

this particular match-up. Fellow African giants ASEC Mimosas and ES Tunis also played to a 0-0 draw in their first-leg encounter, creating another tense tie to be settled in the coming days.

With a packed stadium expected in Pretoria and both teams hungry for victory, the second leg between Yanga and Mamelodi Sundowns promises to be a captivating display of African football.

The Tanzanians will undoubtedly draw strength from their passionate fans, both those present in the stadium and those back home supporting them.

This clash is a golden opportunity for Yanga to etch their name in the history books and advance to the CAF Champions League semi-finals.

Guardiola backs 'world's best' Haaland in Keane row

LONDON

PEP Guardiola said Erling Haaland should be respected as the "best striker in the world" after the Manchester City star was subjected to scathing criticism by Roy Keane.

Former Manchester United captain Keane, speaking on Sky Sports, said Haaland's "general play" was "so poor" and "almost like a League Two player".

Haaland came under fire from Keane for his lacklustre performance in City's goalless draw against Premier League title rivals Arsenal on Sunday.

Haaland is the Premier League's leading scorer this term with 18 goals after winning last season's Golden Boot during a remarkable first season with City. He netted 52 times in all competitions as Guardiola's men lifted the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

Keane conceded the 23-year-old Norwegian is in a class of his own in front of goal. But City boss Guardiola was unimpressed by Keane's remarks, insisting any blame for the scoreless display against Arsenal should be shared by the team.

"I don't agree with him, absolutely not. He's the best striker in the world and he helped us to win what we won last season. Erling is exceptional," Guardiola told reporters on Tuesday.

"The reason we don't create chances is not because of Erling. The standards that Erling has are unbelievable and everyone expects other things.

"There are games where he could be better but I knew during the game against Arsenal that the reason why we were not creating chances was not because of Erling.

"We needed more presence in the box. If we had that Erling would have more space. It happens sometimes. If you want to score goals, bring a lot of players to the opponent keeper, it is as simple as that."

City's failure to beat Arsenal has damaged their bid to win an unprecedented fourth successive English title. They are three points behind leaders Liverpool ahead of Aston Villa's visit to the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday.

Guardiola will need Haaland at his predatory best if City are to extend their reign as champions. And the Spaniard accepts that criticism comes with the territory of being a high-profile player.

"If you don't want to accept that as a football player, you have to dedicate yourself to another job," Guardiola said. "When you are a public figure, you have to accept it. That's why when you are in contract talks, you have to ask for a lot of money to accept those moments.

"I'm surprised it comes from former players. With journalists I can understand because they have never been on the pitch but the former players is always a surprise (when they are critical)."

AFP

Lingard's Seoul switch threatens to fall flat after slow start

SEOUL

JESSE Lingard said he wanted to enjoy his football again after moving to South Korea, but the former Manchester United ace has struggled for form and fitness and been publicly criticised by his new coach.

It is early days, the 31-year-old attacking midfielder having made the surprise decision to sign for FC Seoul in early February on a free transfer.

But the former England international is yet to start a game and failed so far to justify his side's billing as "a player with the biggest name value in the 41-year history of the K League".

Lingard has been restricted to three substitute appearances for his new club and missed last weekend's game with a knee injury.

Fans and media are beginning to wonder when Lingard, who won 32 caps for his country and played at the 2018 World Cup, will make an impact.

"Fans are happy with him so far -- he's got a big name, positive on ticket sales," Korean football writer Hong Jae-min told AFP. "But I'm not sure (how long) he can enjoy his honeymoon."

Lingard had been without a club since leaving Nottingham Forest last summer and said joining Seoul on a two-year deal was "a new beginning" after a difficult spell.

He was given an early wake-up call by coach Kim Gi-dong after making his third appearance for Seoul last month.

Kim said he had considered hauling Lingard off again after bringing him on as a 58th-minute substitute.

"If someone who plays for only a few minutes doesn't give their all and avoids tussles and runs less than a player who's on for the full 90 minutes, I don't consider that player to be a real footballer," he said.

Kim later said his comment was "somewhat exaggerated" and that he had told Lingard he was "a special player and should take on a leadership role in the squad".

Seoul are mid-table with one win, one defeat and two draws.

AFP

The numbers that show Liverpool could have an edge in title race

By Sam Dean

WITH nine games remaining of the Premier League campaign, the top three teams are separated by only three points. It is shaping up to be one of the greatest title races in Premier League history, with Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City all sprinting for the line.

Here, Telegraph Sport assesses which team is best-placed to go all the way, based on four crucial categories: attacking firepower, defensive solidity, squad depth and the difficulty of their fixtures.

*Attacking firepower

Arsenal may have scored the most goals of any Premier League team this season but, when it comes to attacking firepower, it is Liverpool who look the most likely to blast their way to the league title.

If Arsenal and City can be described as attempting to unpick defensive locks in most of their games, then Liverpool's approach is to blow that lock into pieces. So far this season they have taken 572 shots, almost 100 more than Arsenal, and have also created the most "big chances" (96) of the top three.

When Jürgen Klopp's players see the goalposts, they invariably charge straight towards them or shoot from range. In the Premier League this season, they have averaged one shot for every 25 passes. Arsenal, by contrast, average a shot every 30 passes, while City average a shot every 34 passes.

Liverpool, in short, are significantly more direct than their two title rivals. They have produced 479

passing sequences of 10 or more passes this season, compared to Arsenal's 531 and City's 663.

A measure of City's contrasting approach is that, despite playing at least 3,000 more passes than both Arsenal and Liverpool, they have played the fewest passes (including crosses) into the opposition penalty area.

*Verdict: Liverpool's attack is the most dangerous and effective

*Defensive solidity

A consequence of Liverpool's breathless approach is that they have far less control of matches than Arsenal and City. Their expected goals conceded this season is 35, which is considerably higher than City (28) and, especially, Arsenal (21).

Klopp's side allow many more shots on their goal than Arsenal and City. Liverpool have faced 319 shots this season, compared to Arsenal's 244 and City's 238. While Arsenal and City generally look to suffocate their opponents, giving away nothing, Liverpool take a riskier approach by playing a more open game.

With William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhaes at the back, and Declan Rice patrolling the midfield in front of them, Arsenal have a powerful and settled defensive spine. They have kept the most clean sheets this season (12) and have a group of defensive players who are totally in tune with each other.

The one area in which City are significantly superior is at defensive set pieces. Excluding penalties, Pep Guardiola's team have conceded only two goals from opposition set pieces this season. Arsenal have



Will Jurgen Klopp lift the Premier League trophy for a second time? - PA

conceded five, while Liverpool have conceded seven.

*Verdict: Arsenal's defence is the tightest in the division

*Squad depth

As it stands, Arsenal are only one player (Jurrien Timber) short of a full squad. While other teams in the division navigate injury crises, Arsenal are suddenly looking strong all over the pitch.

On Sunday, Mikel Arteta's bench included the likes of Thomas Partey, Oleksandr Zinchenko, Leandro Trossard and Gabriel Martinelli. If these players can stay fit, Arsenal will have quality options in all positions.

City, on the other hand, are dealing with a pile-up of defensive injuries. Nathan Ake, Kyle Walker and Ederson are all

currently unavailable, and John Stones is not fully fit either.

Liverpool have had more than their fair share of injury issues this season and are still a long way from full strength. Trent Alexander-Arnold, Alisson Becker, Diogo Jota, Thiago Alcantara and Joel Matip all remain out, although Andy Robertson and Curtis Jones are close to returning.

In terms of workloads, it is possible that the injuries suffered by Liverpool could ultimately help them in the final weeks of the season. Only one Liverpool player (Virgil van Dijk) has played more than 2,000 minutes of league football this season. Arsenal and City each have seven players with more than 2,000 league minutes

under their belts.

*Verdict: If Liverpool's key men can return in time for the run-in, they could have the edge

*Fixture list

For Arsenal, it is the remaining away games that will cause concern for their fans. Trips to Brighton, Wolves, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United will all be difficult, for different reasons, and that is before one considers the physical and mental impact of their Champions League quarter-final against Bayern Munich. A home match against Aston Villa, and former head coach Unai Emery, will also pose some awkward questions.

Liverpool's fixture list is theoretically more kind, aside perhaps from away games against

United and Villa. Klopp's side also face Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United at home, but will feel confident against any opponent at Anfield. It remains to be seen how draining the Europa League, in the dreaded Thursday night slots, might turn out to be.

City, meanwhile, have what appears to be a presentable run of fixtures to conclude the campaign. As it stands (their trip to Spurs is still to be rearranged) their last four games are against Nottingham Forest, Wolves, Fulham and West Ham. Given their history of late-season charges, Guardiola has every reason to feel confident.

*Verdict: City have the easiest run-in

THE TELEGRAPH

Man Utd handed double blow as Erik ten Hag faces injury crisis

By James Ducker

MANCHESTER United are facing a fresh defensive crisis ahead of crunch games against Chelsea and Liverpool this week with Lisandro Martinez and Victor Lindelof both ruled out for at least a month with muscle injuries.

Erik ten Hag was already without full backs Luke Shaw and Tyrell Malacia while Raphael Varane was forced off at half-time of Saturday's 1-1 draw at Brentford that fellow centre-back Jonny Evans missed through injury.

It means United could be left to face Chelsea and Liverpool with only three available senior defenders.

Martinez made his first appearance for eight weeks as a second half substitute against Brentford, when he replaced Lindelof who had suffered a hamstring injury that will now sideline him until at least early next month.

But Martinez's injury plagued season has taken another turn for the worse after the Argentina centre-back pulled up in training with a calf strain that is set to see him miss United's next eight matches.

Martinez and Lindelof are aiming to play again this season but their injuries present fresh headaches for Ten Hag ahead of another critical week for the embattled United manager.

After Thursday's trip to face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, United host Premier League leaders Liverpool at Old Trafford three days later when Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Diogo Dalot may be the only senior defenders available to Ten Hag. Youngster Willy Kambwala could be called into action.

United currently trail Aston Villa by 11 points and Tottenham by nine points in the race for Champions League qualification and desperately need a response to the wretched



Erik ten Hag

display against Brentford. Ten Hag is also without reserve team goalkeeper Altay Bayindir and striker Anthony Martial.

Martinez's latest injury is a particular blow for United and will be a growing source of concern for Ten Hag.

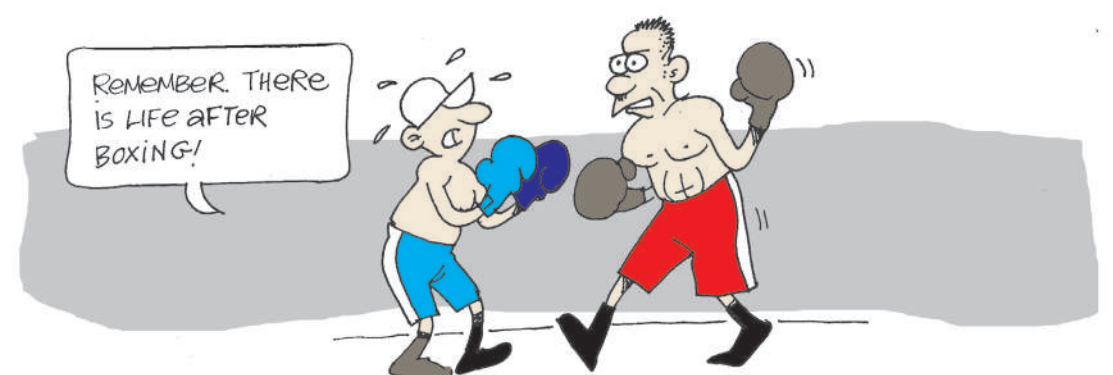
The Argentine missed almost four months of the season with a recurrence of the broken metatarsal he suffered towards the end of last season and had

only been three weeks when he damaged the medial collateral ligament in his right knee in early February.

As well as the Chelsea and Liverpool matches, Martinez and Lindelof are now set to miss the league games against Bournemouth, Sheffield United, Burnley and Crystal Palace and the FA Cup semi-final against Coventry at Wembley on April 21.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man U held by Brentford as Tottenham, Villa win in top four chase

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Aishi Manula. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Manula likely to miss remainder of the season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC has confirmed goalie Aishi Manula will be out of action for one and a half months after picking an injury while on international duty.

Manula played for Tanzania's senior national squad, Taifa Stars, in an international friendly, dubbed FIFA Series, versus Bulgaria in Baku, Azerbaijan last month and was injured in the tie.

The keeper has not featured much for the Msimbazi Street side this season after undergoing hip surgery last season—a treatment that has witnessed the keeper have little playing time.

Manula featured in Simba SC's back-to-back CAF Champions League Group Stage games against ASEC Mimosas (0-0) and later on against Jwaneng Galaxy that culminated in a 6-0 win for his club.

Simba SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, said they expect to miss the goalkeeper for one and half months before he joins the club full training.

"Aishi Manula will be out for almost six weeks away from the group after picking an injury while with the national team," Ally revealed.

The official pointed out: "He has already begun his rehabilitation program and the good news is that this time around he won't require any surgery."

"We wish to have him early for the remainder of the season, other players are fit as the list is out for the whole group that travelled to Egypt," he disclosed.

"We hope to have positive results as our eyes are set on qualifying for the semi-finals of the CAF Champions League," Ally noted.

Simba SC will be in the safe hands of head coach Abdelhak Benchikha's first-choice goalie Ayoub Lakred who has played the majority of the game this season.

The Msimbazi Street squad's 23-player squad flew to Egypt yesterday morning to face Al Ahly in the CAF Champions League quarterfinal second leg at Cairo International Stadium.

In their first leg meeting at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend, Simba SC suffered a 1-0 defeat to Al Ahly—now seeking their 12th CAF Champions League silverware.

The full Simba SC squad comprises goalkeepers Ayoub Lakred, Ally Salim, and Hussein Kazi.

Defenders include Shomari Kapombe, Israel Mwenda, David Kameta, Henock Inonga, Che Malone Fondoh, Kennedy Juma and Hussein Kazi.

Midfielders include Fabrice Ngoma, Babacar Sarr, Mzimiru Yassin, Essomba Onana, Luis Miquissone, Abdallah Hamis, Clatous Chama, Sadio Kanoute, and Saidi Ntibazonkiza, strikers are Par Omar Jobe, Kibu Denis, and Freddy Michael.

Miguel Gamondi embraces Yanga's underdog status ahead of CAF CL last eight's second leg



Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans SC's head coach Miguel Gamondi believes the pressure is on Mamelodi Sundowns ahead of their second leg of the CAF Champions League last eight in Pretoria on Friday.

The South African giants are chasing their first CAF Champions League title since 2016.

Having won the inaugural African Football League (AFL) tournament last year, Sundowns have firmly set their eyes on the elusive second CAF Champions League title.

Last season Sundowns were eliminated at the semi-final stage by Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club on away goals rule.

They have dominated the Group Stage for many seasons but come short at the decisive knockout hurdles.

Despite failing to make their home advantage count in the goalless draw in the first leg played last Saturday, Gamondi

has said Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, are very much still in the tie, adding he is confident in his players' ability to deliver at this stage.

Gamondi revealed: "It is a very tough game. I think the game will be similar, Sundowns have a lot of pressure to qualify for the semi-finals."

"It is obvious. They are one of the candidates to win the CAF Champions League. They focus on winning the CAF Champions League and going to the World Cup," the coach added.

The Argentine stated: "I expect a

tactical game and hopefully we can have a very good game. We can score there because we created chances and my issue is to try to continue being compact and score goals. We have hopes of qualifying as well."

"In the first game, we created chances but not a lot, it is Sundowns we are playing. If you analyze the achievement of Yanga and Sundowns for the last ten years you will see (the difference). Of course, we need to be more clinical here but it is football," he revealed.

The tactician insisted: "Now that we need to score, we need to create chances but it is a high-level game so we will see. I am very optimistic and confident and believe in my players."

Gamondi also provided injury updates on the trio of Khalid Aucho, Pacome Zouzoua, and Attohoulou Yao who missed the first leg.

The Argentine tactician disclosed that he is hopeful the said players will play a role on Friday.

He noted: "It is possible to see some changes in the second leg because there are some players who are getting better. Aucho, Zouzoua, and Yao trained today."

"Aucho is a little bit ahead but we also have two to three players who finished the last game with some injuries. On the tactical side, it should be similar but we shall see some changes as well," he disclosed.

Yanga, on the one hand, needs either a scoring draw or a win to advance to the semi-finals for the first time in their history.

On the other hand, Mamelodi Sundowns also need a win to qualify for the last four. Another goalless draw will send the game into a penalty shootout to decide the winner.

Simba SC top official calls for players' resilience in CAF CL rematch vs Al Ahly

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC Board of Directors Chairman, Salim Abdallah has called upon players to maintain a belief in advancing to the semi-finals of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League.

The Msimbazi Street outfit, which will confront Egypt's Al Ahly in the continental showdown's last eight's second leg, has travelled with a full squad ahead of the duel.

The only absence has so far been keeper Aishi Manula—who has had an in-and-out season due to injuries.

Al Ahly last Friday won 1-0 in the first leg, which turned out to be their first-ever win in Tanzania, against Simba SC in Dar es Salaam.

The clubs will again face each other in Cairo on Friday to determine the team which is slated to advance to the semi-finals.

Despite playing in front of a roaring 60,000-capacity crowd, Ahly displayed their experience as they managed the hard-fought 1-0 win to take to Cairo.

Salim called upon Simba SC players to have the determination and togetherness for the club to achieve the semi-finals qualification.

The Simba SC boss insisted: "We have to show that our spirit is high from now and know how we can



Simba SC Board of Directors Chairman, Salim Abdallah.

regroup in the reverse fixture, we should understand that these games

define our legacy and what we can achieve if we keep our togetherness."

"Players should train the same way they are going to play, with the morale being high, we have not lost the match—we still have over 90 minutes which can be decided through extra time," the official said.

Abdallah stated: "Our players are the ones that need to keep us going, we had many chances in the previous match, opportunities that can be utilized in the return leg."

"Football is a game of chance, they had a chance to score and they utilized it. We need to put our fight on and match on to Cairo International Stadium and grab a win that will take us to the semi-finals," Abdallah noted.

Despite failing to find the back of the net in the first-leg tie, Simba SC's relentless pressure pinned Al Ahly in the latter's half for extended periods.

Simba SC's spirited performance, particularly in the second half, showcased their determination to challenge the CAF Champions League reigning champions when the two sides clashed in the return leg in Cairo on Friday.

The Tanzania envoys in the first tier of CAF inter-club showpieces will draw inspiration from their positive display later in the last Friday tie and look to capitalize on their opportunities to overturn the deficit and progress to the semi-finals of the presti-

Flexibles by David Chikoko

