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Govt out to restore clogged waterways



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TCRA warns courier firms over regulation breaches



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Govt launches efforts to curb water hyacinth in Lake Victoria



Italy-Tanzania Investment forum slated for next week

By Guardian Reporter

FORTY Italian companies have camped in the country to explore investment opportunities in various sectors including energy production from waste. Giuseppe Coppola, the resident Italian ambassador, made this affirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a discussion on the fourth Tanzania-Italy investment forum set for February 11-12 in Dar es Salaam, then hosted in Zanzibar on February 14.

The companies are also training the light on investments in agricultural technologies, the blue economy, alongside the health and pharmaceutical sphere, he said.

The forum is expected to bring about key investment opportunities for participating firms, where the envoy pointed at the green economy and sustainable infrastructure as critical.

The firms expect to explore how to produce clean energy from waste plus renewable energy production, apart from water purification chemicals.



The targeted sectors include agriculture, fisheries, marine issues and human pharmaceuticals

Transportation is another sphere of interest, along with sustainable infrastructure, digital development and mining sector openings, he stated.

Renewable energy is a particularly promising area that is being closely observed, he asserted, wondering if the audience was aware that Italy is one among countries producing substantial amounts of renewable energy globally.

"Our aim is to share this knowledge and experience with our Tanzanian counterparts, and we know that some Italian companies will participate in the business forum, particularly those interested in this area," he said.

The forum is being convened shortly after the African Heads of State energy summit, seeking to ensure that 300 million Africans have access to electricity by 2030.

Renewable energy was identified as a key area for investment due to its widely available resource base, while in agriculture, Italian firms wish to focus on agricultural technologies.

Agro-sector issues also encompass elements of the blue economy, while taking up fertilizers, irrigation systems, livestock farming, leather processing, fish farming and marketing, he said.

"For the health and pharmaceutical

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Uphold investor rights in appeal processes, President directs TRA



President Samia Suluhu Hassan delivers a speech during celebrations to mark Law Day at national level at Chinangali grounds in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

"Cooperating with the government is not a sign of puppetry"

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

JUDICIAL organs in the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) like the Tax Revenue Appeals Board (TRAB) and the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal (TRAT) need to ensure that investor rights are upheld.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan issued this appeal yesterday when addressing senior Judiciary officials at the climax of the annual Law Week, demanding that judicial organs adequately prepare for the implementation of Vision 2050.

Respecting investors' rights and properly handling tax complaints is vital to avoid scaring away current and potential investors, she stated.

This year's Law week theme on the importance of solving conflicts through arbitration in promoting the economy and the role of courts and stakeholders' responsibility was singularly appropriate as it adds to the quest of transforming the country into a prosperous, just, inclusive and self-reliant society.

Gracing the climax of the Law Week in Dodoma which also marked the banning of the new judicial year, the president

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Beneficiaries sell gas cylinders as scrap metal after refill issues

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

SOME recipients of subsidized gas cylinders have failed to refill them, while others have sold them as scrap metal, a parliamentary committee has declared.

Dr Mathayo David Mathayo, chairman of the Energy and Minerals standing committee, made this affirmation to the legislature when presenting the committee's annual report yesterday.

He said that this tendency is causing losses to the government and hindering progress toward the goal of 80 percent clean cooking energy shift by 2034.

"The government should assess the distribution and use of subsidized gas cyl-



This raises concern about whether adequate contributions were made before 2023/24

inders to determine if the intended objectives are being achieved," he urged.

The government needs to take appropriate action against individuals selling or purchasing cooking gas cylinders as scrap metal or for other improper uses, he emphasised.

Shifting to using gas in cars is difficult as many imported vehicles lack the systems to shift to use natural gas, requiring upwards of 2m/- to retrofit small vehicles, he stated.

Importing vehicles already equipped to use natural gas is vital, as well as expanding the natural gas pipeline network to the regions, he said, asserting that this method

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Firm seeks permit to take mobile money to repay loans

By Guardian Reporter

AIRPAY (T), a digital financial payment company recovering loans issued by the Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Agency (ZEEA), is requesting central bank approval to take 33percent of any available balance on a customer's phone to reduce debt on existing loans.

Mihayo Wilmore, an Airpay (T) executive, issued this appeal over the weekend at a ceremony to launch collaboration between Airpay and ZEEA, also attended by officials of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), plus stakeholders from various banks and mobile networks.

Emmanuel Tutuba, the BoT governor, commended the partnership, asserting that the digital payment system will streamline the repayment process for interest-free loans.

He expressed confidence that the system will enhance repayment efficiency, with the Airpay executive stressing the need to make loan repayment as seamless as possible for users.

"A borrower can go to any agent to make a payment easily. The challenge arises when loans are not repaid, resulting in bad debt," he said, seeking approval for the 'air pay' loan recovery method.

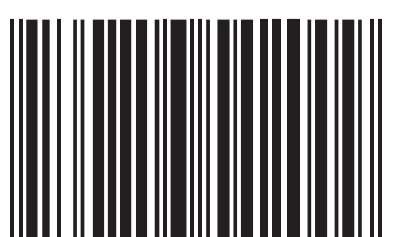
He also expressed the desire to create more accessible repayment alternatives which comply with BoT regulations, especially for borrowers who have been uncooperative.

For over a year and a half, Airpay has been engaging citizens and local officials

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Fire and Rescue Force officers work alongside small-scale miners to rescue three miners who were reportedly trapped after a landslide at Zongomela Ward in Kahama Municipality, Shinyanga Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia



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Beneficiaries sell gas cylinders as scrap metal after refill issues

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is more efficient compared to transporting gas by tankers.

He also delved into corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding for electricity and natural gas projects, citing provisions in the 2015 Petroleum Act mandating license holders and investors in natural gas blocks to make such arrangements.

The firms are required to prepare a robust community accountability plan in collaboration with local governments to ensure CSR funds are properly distributed, he said.

From 2014/15 to 2023/24, natural gas investors in Lindi and Mtwara regions contributed 9.3bn/- in CSR funds, with 5.4bn/- provided in the 2023/24 financial year alone, he said.

"This raises concern about whether adequate contributions were made before 2023/24," he stated, urging the government to follow up and verify the CSR funds provided by companies involved in natural gas projects in the two regions from 2014 to 2022 to determine if the amounts were appropriate.

"Furthermore, if it is found that

the funds were insufficient, the government should take action against those investors. The government should also establish regulations or guidelines to ensure CSR funds for energy sector projects are provided fully and on time," he further stated.

The committee similarly noted that large gold mining companies have failed to comply with a section of the law as contracts with foreign companies prevent them from selling or refining gold produced by uncertified companies or factories.

This affects the amount of gold purchased by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) from the large miners, he stated, urging the government to ensure that negotiations between BoT and these companies are promptly concluded, with a view to complying with Section 59 of the Mining Act and ensure the availability of sufficient gold for BoT.

The government should improve the environment to help companies with mineral refining licenses obtain recognized certification, allowing them to sell gold to BoT or to large mining companies, he added.

Firm seeks permit to take mobile money to repay loans

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on the issue, thus moved to seek modifications on repayment procedures.

"Even if you travel abroad and forget to use the system, it will still function. This is why we have sought BoT's permission to proceed with this approach," he explained.

Juma Burhan Mohamed, the ZEEA CEO, said that the agency has issued loans totalling 34.9bn/- benefiting 14,000 women and 9,000 men.

From 2022 to 2024 loan distribution went smoothly, he said, asserting that the new online system was a positive development "as everything is increasingly moving in that direction."

Beneficiaries should understand that the government's financial support is not just for individual benefit but for the welfare of the wider public.

The governor was persuaded that Airpay assistance will effectively support efforts to get the public to repay interest-free loans provided by the Zanzibar government.

The collaboration is focused on simplifying digital transactions with individuals and small businesses, to facilitate timely loan

repayment and improve access to loan funds.

He said that Airpay and mobile service providers can help those accessing loans through ZEEA to repay them through the three banks operating banks, namely PBZ, CRDB Bank and TCB.

Repaying these loans will be difficult for some, but the Airpay system will make it easier for borrowers to repay their loans, no matter their location. This will reduce the time, inconvenience and transport costs traditionally required to visit bank branches, he stated.

The loaned funds are not a gift but a tool for economic empowerment, enabling people to generate profits, he said, urging recipients to repay, so that funds are available to other needy individuals.

Through ZEEA, 78 percent of the loan fund has been repaid, though some borrowers have yet to offer valid reasons for not repaying, he stated, affirming that ZEEA and the lending banks need to follow up with borrowers.

As of December last year, the average repayment rate stood at 3.3 percent and had since declined, he said. Borrowers must be integrated into the repayment system and if they fail to repay they should be ineligible for future loans, he added.

Italy-Tanzania Investment forum slated for next week

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sector, we are focusing on health technologies, machinery, healthcare services, dental equipment, sports equipment and related services," he specified.

The forum is intended to boost trade between the two countries, strengthen investment flows and build business networks through open discussions, he asserted.

Professional workshops and business tours for executive training to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise are also lined up, for stakeholders to comprehend the economic landscape and current business trends.

This will facilitate strengthening of relationships with local firms as part of the pursuit of investment opportunities in various sectors, he further noted, highlighting that economic relations between Italy and Tanzania have been growing rapidly in recent years.

Trade between the two countries has increased significantly across sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, technical cooperation, machinery, chemicals, elec-

trical equipment, pharmaceuticals and food products, he stated.

Tanzania exports agricultural products and minerals such as coffee, tea, cotton and gemstones to Italy, with Italy increasingly recognising the need to invest in the country's tourism and agriculture sectors, he said.

Trade statistics show that despite exporting various products to Italy, Tanzania still sells a relatively small amount compared to what it imports.

In 2023, Italy exported goods worth 380.99bn/- to Tanzania, while importing goods worth 2,143.09m/- from Tanzania, and even then, despite the trade imbalance, from 2020 to 2024 Italy invested 318.85bn/- spread out in nine projects, the envoy explained.

John Mnali, the director of investment promotion, confirmed that 45 companies have been registered as participating in the forum, with 500 local stakeholders and executives mobilised to attend.

"The targeted sectors include agriculture, fisheries, marine issues and human pharmaceuticals," he added.



Italian Ambassador to Tanzania Giuseppe Coppola (L) briefs journalist in Dar es Salaam yesterday on Tanzania-Italy Business Forum scheduled to take place from 11th to 12th this month. Others are John Mnali (C) Director of Investment Promotion at Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) and Claudio Pasqualucci from ICE Agency. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Uphold investor rights in appeal processes, President directs TRA

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urged judicial officers to work diligently and not behave like 'gods and goddesses.'

They have an obligation to serve Tanzanians in accordance with the law, regulations and in line with their oath of adherence, she said, while acknowledging that ongoing reforms in the judicial system have helped improve performance of courts and the dispensation of justice.

Legal services will be of great importance to realise Vision priorities like economic growth through innovation and industrialisation, with a focus on equitable access to opportunities, she stated.

"It will not be a walk in the park in implementing the vision and the judiciary should be ready for it as it is

highly involved in different aspects of economy and development," she stated.

While economic sectors attract investors, those responsible for the dispensation of justice should not be involved in legal engineering that in numerous cases delay investments, she stated.

It was in line with government efforts to ensure that the wider public access legal services and obtain their rights where they are infringed, she stated.

The theme carries a special message to courts and stakeholders on the importance of using arbitration in solving conflicts to promote a sustainable economy, she further asserted.

Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma had earlier said that the Law Week

is a time when the judiciary and other law professionals are reminded of the need to fast track cases for improved wellbeing and justice.

Article 107A (2)(d) of the Constitution provides for promoting and developing arbitration in solving conflicts, he said, noting that there are however alternative ways of solving conflicts, including arbitration, mediation, reconciliation and amicable discussions.

Arbitration uses a short time in dealing with conflicts thus makes people have ample time to engage in other productive activities, he said, affirming that the Judiciary is pushing courts to make use of arbitration in solving conflicts as it protects relationships with various social and economic stakeholders.

Boniface Mwabukusi, the Tanza-

nia Law Society (TLS) president, on his part expressed gratitude to the judicial administration for its cooperation, making note of improvements conducted by the Judiciary.

He urged the government to improve benefits for judges and magistrates, enhancing institutional capability in the provision of justice and various legal entitlements.

On a different note, he raised strong objections to remarks in social forums and elsewhere castigating TLS cooperation with the government, that it increasingly becomes 'toothless'.

"Cooperating with the government is not a sign of puppetry," he declared. Those who complain that he is too quiet should know that once one is a leader he or she doesn't make noise but works.



Bishop Dr. Antony Kipangula of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Mufindi Diocese cuts the ribbon to officially inaugurate the church's Tumaini District at Kibao Village, Mtwango Ward in Mufindi District, Iringa Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Twelve patients to undergo spine surgery through modern method

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWELVE patients are scheduled to undergo back surgery using new surgical technology called spine endoscope at Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) during a special training camp currently underway.

Dr Hamis Shabani, brain, spine and nerve specialist at MOI and coordinator of the event, shared the information with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He explained that the camp and training aims to

enhance the skills of local doctors to perform surgeries using modern technology.

Dr Shabani noted that after completing the theoretical training tomorrow, the practical phase will begin with spine surgeries conducted through small holes, guided by instructors from Weill Cornell University in the United States. Twelve patients are scheduled to undergo the surgery.

Dr Mpoki Ulisubisa, executive director of MOI, thanked Weill Cornell

University for their collaboration and encouraged the training participants to apply their newly acquired skills in their work to provide faster relief of patients.

"It is my hope that after this training, you will apply your skills to perform spine surgeries with small incisions. I understand this is not the first time you've visited our institute, and I hope it won't be the last," he said, emphasising that the new technology will reduce the recovery time from patients after spi-

nal surgery.

Prof. Osama Nezar Kashlan, director of spine surgery services at Weill Cornell Medicine University, expressed gratitude to MOI for their hospitality and promised continued cooperation between the two institutions.

The training, which started yesterday, will end on Friday and has been organised by MOI in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medicine. It includes participants from Nigeria, Uganda, Germany and Zanzibar.



Ambassador Ombeni Sefue (C), Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Tax Reforms, speaks with tax stakeholders in Mbeya Region yesterday during a consultative meeting to gather opinions on tax improvements. He is flanked by Mbeya District Commissioner Beno Malisa (R), and member of the commission David Tarimo. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Govt out to restore clogged waterways

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis has reiterated the government's ongoing efforts to combat erosion and restoration of natural waterways.

He made the remarks in the National Assembly recently when responding to a question from Bagamoyo legislator Muharami Mkenge who wanted to know when the government will construct barriers along Mpiji River in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

The lawmaker highlighted concerns that heavy rains had caused the river to expand which may make nearby homes risky.

In his response, Khamis explained that the government's nationwide efforts to address the challenge include preparing guidelines for river cleaning to remove sand and silt, saying a task force has already been assigned to oversee the cleaning process.

"The Environmental Management Act, Chapter 191, Section 57 (2), empowers the minister to issue regulations and guidelines. Actions have already been implemented

such as conducting patrols and imposing fines," he said.

He underscored that the government is committed to educating citizens on the importance of environmental conservation, particularly along riverbanks.

The deputy minister said to mitigate the impact of heavy rains, the government employs natural methods to control riverbanks erosion, including planting of 5,000 seedlings of palm, banana, water-friendly trees, and reeds along 100 acres of riverbanks at Mabwepande Ward, Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam Region.

He also announced that the government has established a special system for sand removal by forming 12 sand loading groups and engaging 14 sand excavation contractors under the method known as 'river cleaning' to facilitate the natural flow of water.

He further revealed that for the 2025/26 financial year, the government, through the Ministry of Water, plans to allocate 552m/- for the construction of protective barriers along the Mpiji River.

The project is set to be implemented during the 2025/26 fiscal year.

By Guardian Reporter

Indian High Commission set to stage painting contest for 10 schools in Dar

THE Indian High Commission is set to organise a two-day painting competition dubbed 'Tanzania on Canvas' on 22 and 23 of this month, featuring participation of 10 secondary schools in Dar es Salaam.

A statement issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the High Commission, said the schools include Academic International School, Aga Khan School, Al Muntazir International School, Genesis School, Braeburn International School, Indian School Dar es Salaam, HOPAC, Dar International Academy, Feza International School and Shaaban Robert. Each school will nominate top three painters, bringing the total to 30

participants.

According to the statement, an exhibition showcasing the 30 paintings will follow at the High Commission of India, running for 30 days, offering pupils and the public the opportunity to appreciate the young artists' talents.

"The competition will conclude with an award ceremony at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, where over 1000 guests, including pupils, parents, and dignitaries will be in attendance," the statement reads in part.

Prizes for the top three winners include 2.5m/- for first position, 2m/- for second and 1.5m/- for third. Two prizes of 1m/- will also be awarded, with all participants receiving 100,000/- as recognition for their involvement.

The competition aims to encourage creativity, self-expression, and appreciation for art among pupils, providing them with the platform to showcase their talents.

"The High Commission hopes to inspire the pupils to nurture their artistic passions, as part of

its broader efforts to engage with youth, including the 'Karibu Tanzania Youth' initiative launched in October 2023."

On Sunday, an orientation session was held for the participants, with Dr Soumya Chavan providing key details of the competition.

High Commissioner Bishwadip Dey emphasised the importance of art in personal growth and encouraged pupils to approach the competition with enthusiasm and joy, fostering creativity alongside their academic pursuits.

'Mbeya tax collection low given population, economic activities'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA has been identified as one of the regions with low tax collections despite population growth and diverse economic activities.

Ambassador Ombeni Sefue, Chairperson of the Presidential Commission on Tax Reforms, made the observation at the weekend here during stakeholders' meeting aimed at collecting inputs for improving the country's tax system.

Sefue noted that Mbeya residents are involved in various economic activities, including agriculture, mining, livestock farming, transportation and trade.

However, tax collection in the region remains notably low, suggesting widespread tax evasion.

He said Mbeya ranks 12th nationally in terms of tax revenue, lagging behind regions with fewer economic activities.

Sefue urged stakeholders to embrace tax compliance, emphasising critical role in national development.

"Even with the challenges, Mbeya is a significant contributor to the national economy, ranking third with contribution of 10.75trn/- annually," he said.

He further explained that the commission's purpose is to get feedback from stakeholders on ways to enhance tax collection and address tax-related challenges faced by businesses.

Some participants called on the govern-

ment to reduce tax burden on businesses to stimulate growth and improve revenue collection.

Erick Sichinga, Chairperson of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), criticised certain government institutions for being tax collectors rather than service providers.

He highlighted the Fire and Rescue Force, which charges annual fees for fire safety services, fire fighting equipment and fines for businesses lacking fire extinguishers.

"Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) has also turned into a revenue collector. They don't provide education but rather intimidate the public. We urge the institutions to focus on their core responsibilities and get funds from the central government," he said.

Leonard Manyesha, Chairperson of Mbeya Region Miners' Association (MBEREMA), expressed concerns about multiple taxes on gold sales.

Pascal Mahuve, Chairperson of Mbeya Region Business Association, noted that some businesses have been forced to shut down due to excessive taxes imposed by various government agencies.



Even with the challenges, Mbeya is a significant contributor to the national economy, ranking third with contribution of 10.75trn/- annually



Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania Bishwadip Dey (L) hands over competition equipment to one of the pupils scheduled to participate in the upcoming painting competition dubbed 'Tanzania on Canvas' during orientation event at the High Commission in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of the High Commission

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Ensure 13bn/- fertiliser cash reaches farmers, minister directs authorities

AGRICULTURE Minister Hussein Bashe has directed Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) to ensure that 13bn/- set aside for tobacco farmers to buy fertiliser has been deposited into their bank accounts.

Bashe issued the directive at the weekend here during a ceremony at the Ministry of Agriculture offices to hand over a cheque worth 13bn/- to Chairman of the National Tobacco Farmers Union (TCJEU).

He stressed that the funds are specifically intended for tobacco farmers and not for the operations of primary or cooperative unions.

"The money is for tobacco farmers to improve their farming practices

and expand their operations. TFRA must ensure that the funds are given to farmers," he said.

The minister also instructed Tanzania Tobacco Board and cooperative unions to make sure that the disbursed funds reach tobacco farmers across the country.

"The government has already compiled a list of farmers and their bank accounts details," Bashe said.

He also instructed the board and primary societies to deposit the funds based on each farmer's fertiliser

needs, particularly NPK fertiliser.

He clarified that the funds are part of the government's commitment made in the previous financial year's budget.

The government's decision to offer subsidies, he said, is aimed at reducing production costs for tobacco farmers and encouraging agricultural growth.

Bashe highlighted that due to improvements in systems for collection, management, and market oversight, including buyer monitoring, the price

of tobacco had gone up from \$1 to \$2.30 per kilogramme, with both production and pricing steadily improving.

"We do not expect tobacco prices to drop compared to the last season. Prices will remain favourable, and I assure tobacco farmers that the government is fully committed to farmers' advancement," he said.

Following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to Tabora Region, Bashe noted that she had issued directives to design a comprehensive

subsidy scheme for tobacco farmers and closely monitor credit systems.

He assured farmers progressive efforts will still continue.

Tobacco production had risen from an average of 50,000 tonnes to 122,000 tonnes per season, with farmers' revenue increasing to \$269 million and exports valued at \$484 million.

Bashe also spoke about Tanzania's position as the second-largest tobacco producer in Africa.

Previously categorised among "other African" countries, Tanzania is now second only to Zimbabwe. For the first time, tobacco exports had surpassed \$400 million, marking a major milestone for the national economy.

THE COMPANY OF MIZI AFRICAN COMPANY LIMITED LOCATED ATE MUYUNI 'A', IN KIZIMKAZI WITH THE REGISTRATION NO Z0000 122546 OF P.O.BOX 1994, IN SOUTH REGION OF ZANZIBAR THE COMPANY HAS FOLLOWING DIRECTORS:

- REBECCA DU PLESSIS
- GREGOR GUENTHER

YOUR HEREBY, ANNOUNCE TO ATTEND BEFORE THE HIGH COURT AT TUNGUU ON THE DAY OF 03/02/2025, IN THE CASE OF: - GUENTHER VEIT Vs MIZI AFRICAN COMPANY LIMITED BEFORE HON: JUDGE SALMA HASSAN.NB: THAT, FAILURE TO ATTEND AND APPEAR TO THE COURT (HIGH COURT OF ZANZIBAR) THE COURT WILL PROCEED WITH THE CASE BY EXPARTE HEARING FOR YOUR ABSENCE.

Health stakeholders hail parliament for legislation on premature babies

By Correspondent Mary Kadoko

HEALTH stakeholders have praised the National Assembly for approving the 2024 Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill which provides supportive care and development of premature babies.

Tanzania Union of Government and Health Employees (TUGHE), Doris Mollel Foundation and Hindu Mandal hospital have commended improvements in the legislation.

The bill extends maternity leave for employees who give birth to premature babies, allowing them to take extended time, a total of 40 weeks.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TUGHE Vice Chairman Dr Jane Madete expressed gratitude for the government's decision, saying it will positively impact the country's health sector.

"We sincerely thank the government for extending maternity leave for mothers of premature babies. This will allow mothers the time needed to nurture their babies, leading to better long-term health outcomes," she said.

Dr Madete also thanked the media for raising awareness about the challenges faced by mothers of premature babies, acknowledging their role in advocating for the policy change.

Doris Mollel, Director of the Doris Mollel Foundation, welcomed the extension, noting that it would improve well-being of premature babies in Tanzania.

"The new law gives mothers the opportunity to care for their babies without the fear of losing their job, giving them peace of mind," she said.

Mollel emphasised that Tanzania

is one of the first countries to implement the changes, marking a historic milestone.

On Friday last week, the National Assembly endorsed the proposal to extend maternity leave to employees who give birth to premature babies, allowing them to take leave of 40 weeks.

The amendment also includes a new provision for fathers, entitling them to seven days of paternity leave, up from the previous three days.



We sincerely thank the government for extending maternity leave for mothers of premature babies...



Frank Mahimbali, Presiding Judge of the High Court Shinyanga Zone, inspects a guard of honor during the climax of Law Week celebrations in Shinyanga yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu



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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-25-01-02 – SUPPLY OF MANITOU TELEHANDLER MHT-X 10180

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

1 X MHT-X 790 145Y MINING ST3A S1

Telehandler type and specifications

Specification	Value	Specification	Value
Nominal load at COG	18 t	Standard tyres	16.5/70-18
Max. Reach horizontal	5.56 m	Capacity at full forward reach	5 t
Lifting height	9.63 m	Capacity at full lift height	10 t
Weight	24 t	Transport length	6.65 m
Transport width	2.52 m	Transport height	3.00 m
Travel speed	25 km/h	Engine manuf.	Mercedes OM 934 LA. E3A/1
Engine type	4045PWX	Engine power	129 kW (176 HP)
Displacement	4.25 l	Revolutions at max torque	1600 rpm
Max. torque	675 Nm at 1,200-1,600 rpm	No. of cylinders	4
Emission level	Stage IIIA / Tier 3	Batteries	(12V) 1x12v - 180Ah - 1200a

Special Requirements:

- Fuel tank locking cap
- Daily brake test system
- 2 External emergencies stop
- 1 Internal emergency stop (in the cab)
- Pack of 3 cameras + Monitor 7"
- Reinforced wiring harness and fuse box
- Lockable battery isolator
- Emergency exit on operator cabin
- Turbo to have heat shielding
- Flammable liquid hoses to be separated from electric wiring
- Parts Manual and Service and Repair Manual come in English
- 2 x fire extinguishers mounted on Manitou
- Braided fuel line
- Signaling: Orange LED flashes - External Fire Kit Safety System (Yellow, Red, Green) LED - Complete LED Road Lighting (front / rear) - Sound warning on reversal - Reversing light - Protective grid on Work and road fires - Reflective bands - Safety and information stickers - Maintenance and access points in yellow
- Arrow: Bac returns pipe - Hydraulic circuit for accessory with quick couples - Shock absorb - amortor End of race outing and back on the arrow
- Safety: Charging controller - Limitation of the work zones - Limitation of the movement speed - Right and left rear mirrors - Multidirectional oil bathing service brake on front and rear bridge - Automatic Park brake - ROPS cabin homologation - FOPS (Level 2)
- Negative type braking on rear and front bridge (SAHR) - Start - up sound warning - Guardian Angel level 1 - Bi - Axial Level indicator front and lateral slope - angular sector and ABC marking On arrow - Accessories recognition system (E - RECO) - 2 extinguisher supports 9kg - 2 external emergency stops - steering lights - 2 wheel holds - 4 LED position lights - Botter cut - Damper - starter - JUMP - Start - Radiator safety cap - Visual wheel indicators
- Other elements: bar hanging Ø 30 mm, manual hitch screed, pre-lecture control pliers tire and cylinder in the cabin + radio pre-deposition nacelle, emergency steering pump, catalyst and purifier on exhaust, pre- Self-cleaning metal filter, manual fuel cut, toolbox

Key documents:

- Clear and detailed Quotation.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business license, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- BRELA detailed search document indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

Submission of Quotes:

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com.

The reference "BUL-RFQ-25-01-02 – SUPPLY OF MANITOU TELEHANDLER MHT-X 10180" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

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

Key Dates:

- Last date to submit quotes: **11th February 2025**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

218359901

TCRA cautions courier firms over law breaches

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has vowed to take strict measures against courier companies that violate regulations and other licensing conditions.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA director general, sounded the warning in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when speaking to journalists.

TCRA's warning follows a recent inspection report revealing that only eight out of the 17 courier companies inspected met the standards outlined in the Electronic and Postal Communications Quality of Service Regulations.

The regulations outline delivery

speed from receipt of an item to its arrival at the destination or delivery to a customer. Service providers in Zone A must deliver at least 85 percent of parcels and documents within one day while Zone B couriers are required to deliver at least 88 percent of items within three days.

Zone A covers inter-town services in Arusha, Moshi, Tanga, Morogoro, Kibaha, Dodoma, Mbeya, Mwanza, Iringa, and Zanzibar.

Zone B includes Tabora, Shinyanga, Kahama, Bariadi, Geita, Singida, Bukoba, Musoma, Kigoma, Mtwara, Lindi, Songea, Sumbawanga, Songwe, Mpanda, Babati, Njombe, Mkoani, and Chakechake Pemba.

The inspection report indicated

that couriers in Zone B performed better, with only four out of 13 not complying with the regulations. In contrast, the July-September inspection report revealed that 12 out of 19 Zone A licensees failed to meet the required standards. Dr Bakari confirmed that the TCRA had engaged the non-compliant licensees regarding the results.

By December 2024, TCRA had licensed 153 courier operators, with 47 offering domestic services. As of September 2024, there were 148 licensees. In addition to the 47 domestic couriers, other licensees include six international couriers, two serving East Africa, 16 intercity providers, and 79 intracity providers.

Women's Day 2025 to focus on assessment of progress-minister

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, Dr Dorothea Gwajima, yesterday announced that this year's National Women's Day celebrations, scheduled to take place in Arusha on March 8, will focus on assessing the progress women have made in national development.

"There are women doing well and we want to bring them to the

forefront so their achievements and challenges are recognised through the National Women's Day celebrations," said the minister.

The event will serve as a platform for various stakeholders working to empower women to discuss the progress of initiatives aimed at uplifting them.

Arusha City Director John Kayombo said that 50 herds of cattle will be slaughtered to mark the occasion.

Kayombo urged the public to

prepare for the event, which will feature a variety of activities for four days.

According to Kayombo, various services will be provided, including medical care for those in need.

He added that this year's National Women's Day celebrations will differ from the previous years, with the four-day programme that will include business exhibitions by women traders, women's football tournaments and various entertainment activities.

Samia, Nchimbi set for special introduction to CCM members

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

CCM is set to formally introduce its presidential candidate for this year's General Election to members during the party's 48th anniversary here tomorrow.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her running mate Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi will mingle with the party's top cadres since their nomination last month.

During the two-day CCM special national congress held at Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre in Dodoma that concluded on January 19, President Samia and Dr Nchimbi were endorsed as well as Dr Hussein Mwinyi for President of Zanzibar.

This move was unprecedented

as it marked the first time the party nominated presidential candidate in January. Traditionally, the nominations were held in June or July. Additionally, this was the first time the process for collecting presidential nomination forms was bypassed.

Briefing reporters here yesterday, CCM Secretary for Ideology and Publicity Amos Makala said while the candidates were selected in January during a meeting that was attended by just few officials, they will be officially introduced to party members during the anniversary event.

"Unlike other years, the 48th anniversary celebrations will also see the official introduction of our 2025 candidates who were selected in

the special meeting on 19th January, 2025", said Makala.

He noted that preparations for the anniversary celebrations were going on well, calling on party members in Dodoma and neighbouring regions, members of the public and friends of CCM to attend the meeting.

According to Makala, the party is even stronger as it marks the 48th anniversary, saying this was evident in the last local government elections where it emerged victorious after winning 98 percent of the elective positions.

Makala explained that although the climax of the 48th anniversary will be marked tomorrow, celebrations from ward to regional levels were going on countrywide.

School donates 14m/- to support treatment of children with cancer

By Guardian Reporter

ACADEMIC International Secondary School has donated 14m/- to support treatment of children with cancer in the country.

The donation was announced by Principal Shyama Santhosh during a charity walk in Dar es Salaam, part of the Piggy Bank Campaign organised by the Tumaini la Maisha Foundation. The walk started at the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) grounds in Upanga and ended at Muhimbili the National Hospital (MNH).

Santhosh urged Tanzanians to embrace volunteerism, particularly in supporting children

from diverse backgrounds, including those battling illnesses to help them access necessary services and restore their hope.

"The purpose of the walk was to encourage community contributions to support children with cancer," Santhosh said. "In addition to the walk, the school donated funds to the Tumaini la Maisha Foundation to cover medical expenses."

She added that this was the second time the school participated in the campaign, with pupils involved to foster a spirit of giving and community support. The goal is to nurture a generation filled with love and volunteerism, eager to help those in need.

Eliwangu Mlaki from Tumaini la

Maisha Foundation thanked the school for its donation, noting it would help treat children at MNH and 13 other hospitals nationwide. He also thanked other supporters for helping coordinate the walk.

Ambassador Alli Siwa, chairperson of the school, praised the pupils and parents for their donations, expressing hope that the initiative would inspire the broader community.

National Defence College Commandant Maj Gen Wilbert Ibuge emphasised the walk's significance, stating that while short, its purpose was to bring hope and smiles to children with cancer who face severe challenges, including inability to afford basic necessities.



Exim Bank Chief Executive Officer Jaffari Matundu (C) speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam recently during the bank's 2024 Financial Report announcement which indicated strong performance. He is flanked by the bank's Head of Retail Banking Andrew Lyimo (L) and the Chief Financial Officer Shani Kinswaga. Photo: Correspondent

Tea stakeholders discuss lead challenges, possible solutions

By Correspondent Halfani Chusi

THE Tea Board of Tanzania (TBT) has brought together industry stakeholders to collaboratively discuss strategies aimed at addressing challenges hindering development of the subsector.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, Beatrice Banzi, TBT acting director general, highlighted the key objective as to jointly establish 10-year development plan, covering the period from 2024 to 2034, to further grow tea industry.

The meeting brought together officials from the public and private sector, including the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), Tanzania Ports

Authority (TPA), cooperative unions and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Banzi said that some of the major challenges raised by stakeholders include power outages and inadequate infrastructure such as poor roads.

"We will also explore ways to enhance the quality of Tanzanian tea to secure its position in both local and international markets. Additionally, we aim to encourage Tanzanians to consume more tea, particularly locally produced varieties, as current consumption levels are low," Banzi said.

"To achieve these goals, it is crucial for both government and private sector to work together and determine how they can collectively revive this industry," she added.

"Here, we are essentially creating a 'road map' to guide our direction. If increasing production is a priority, the relevant stakeholders involved in production will work together to determine the best way forward."

Banzi emphasised that the discussions will serve as a blueprint to improve and implement strategies designed to uplift and sustain the tea industry over the next decade.

Additionally, she announced that the meeting also expected to unveil a new logo for Tanzanian tea, aimed at making it easily identifiable, even in international markets.

The initiative, according to her, is expected to play a key role in boosting the business of Tanzanian tea.

Law Week: Over 3,000 people get key services

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OVER 3,000 people have benefited from legal education services offered by various legal, justice and civil rights institutions during the Law Week exhibitions held in Dodoma last week.

Chief Registrar of the Judiciary of Tanzania, Eva Nkya, made the remarks yesterday while closing the National Law Week exhibition at Nyerere Square in Dodoma where she expressed gratitude to all participating institutions.

Nkya praised the big turnout, noting that the significant number of attendees who gained legal knowledge is a major achievement for the nation. She emphasised that the initiative will help citizens better understand their legal rights and responsibilities in their daily lives.

"I am delighted to see such a big number of people visiting the legal, criminal justice, and civil rights booths to gain legal education. This is a positive outcome of Law Week," she said.

She stressed the importance of legal education in empowering citizens to combat corruption, gender-based violence, and other unethical practices.

Nkya also reiterated the government's commitment to condemn violence, urging the citizens to become ambassadors of legal awareness in their communities.

Furthermore, she commended the judiciary and various legal institutions for taking legal education to public entities such as schools and markets, which she said plays a crucial role in helping communities understand their rights.

She noted that both pupils and teachers in schools have greatly benefited from the legal education provided by legal and justice institutions.

Magreth Sawia, one of the participants, praised Law Week, calling it highly beneficial for the community as it had provided citizens with the opportunity to voice their concerns and seek solutions from legal experts.

Sawia emphasised the importance of the event, noting that it offers a platform for citizens to present their legal challenges and receive assistance from legal professionals.

She also commended the Judiciary of Tanzania for organising Law Week every year, highlighting the significant support it provides to citizens who are unaware of how to seek justice when facing legal challenges.



THE REVOLUTIONARY OF GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Construction and Renovation Works for Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Teachers Training College (LOT:1 Extension of Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Head Office in Zanzibar; LOT:2: Renovation of Teachers' Training College in Unguja; and LOT:3: Renovation of Teachers' Training College in Pemba). UNDER THE ZIQUE PROJECT

TENDER No. TZ-MOEV-472601-CW-RFB

PROJECT: ZANZIBAR IMPROVING QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION PROJECT (ZIQUE).

PURCHASER: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

ISSUED ON: January 2025

Country: TANZANIA

Name of Project: ZANZIBAR IMPROVING QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION PROJECT (ZIQUE).

Contract Title: Construction Works for Head Office in Zanzibar Ministry of Education(MoEV) and Renovation of Teachers Training College in Pemba and Unguja UNDER ZIQUE PROJECT.

LOAN NO./CREDIT NO./ GRANT NO.: IDA-7258-TZ

RFB Reference No.: TZ-MOEV-472601-CW-RFB

- The Government of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank for the Zanzibar Improving Quality of Basic Education Project (ZIQUE)Project (P178157) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Construction Works for Head Office in Zanzibar Ministry of Education(MoEV) and Renovation of Teachers Training College in Pemba and Unguja**.
- The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training now invites Bids from eligible Bidders registered as a (Building Contractor) for carrying out the **Construction Works for Head Office in Zanzibar Ministry of Education(MoEV) and Renovation of Teachers Training College in Pemba and Unguja Under ZIQUE Project**.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" **September 2023 Fifth Edition** ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretariat of Tender Board of Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini, Urban P.O.BOX 394 Room No. 26 from 07:30 am to 03:00 pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS Two hundred thousand only (Tsh 200,000.00) or equivalent to USD100.00. The method of payment will be by Bank through the control number by requesting it from this email pmu@moez.go.tz and sebastian.muzuma@moez.go.tz or contact Secretariat at room # 26 at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Mazizini.
- All Bidders must be accompanied by a Bid security amount equivalent to **2%** of the Contract Value in the format provided in the Section X (Form of Security) in this tender document.
- All Tenders in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain wax-sealed envelopes must be delivered to the address of the Principal Secretary of MoEV, Head Office, Mazizini Airport Road at or before **10:00 hours on Wednesday 5th March, 2025**.
- Envelopes clearly marked "**Construction and Renovation Works for Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Teachers Training College**"
 - **LOT:1 Construction of Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Head Office in Zanzibar**
 - **LOT:2: Renovation of Teachers' Training College in Unguja.**
 - **and LOT:3: Renovation of Teachers' Training College in Pemba.**
- Delivery through parcel/ courier service (DHL) should be marked "Do Not Open Before (5th -March-2025) at 10:00am". Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at Head Quarter Building.
- Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened at the Bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances
- The address referred to above is:

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, ZANZIBAR
P.O Box 394,
ZANZIBAR-TANZANIA.

By Guardian Reporter

Govt launches efforts to control water hyacinth in Lake Victoria

THE government has launched efforts to tackle the growing problem of water hyacinth, a major invasive plant in Lake Victoria, the National Assembly has heard.

Khamis Hamza Khamis, Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) made the remarks in the National Assembly on Friday when responding to a question from Geita Urban legislator, Constantine Kanyasu.

In his question, the lawmaker sought to know whether the government was aware of the increasing presence of water hyacinth in Lake Victoria, its impacts and the plans to control it.

Khamis said that the government is aware of the invasive species in Lake Victoria, which cause major environmental, economic and social impacts, including: the decrease of oxygen levels in the water, which inhibits the circulation of air and sunlight.

He explained that the government is currently assessing the spread of water hyacinth in the lake to come up with solutions to address the growing environmental issue.

He highlighted that the Vice President's Office had developed and is implementing the national strategy and action plan for combating invasive species (2019-2029).

The plan outlines strategies to prevent the presence and spread of invasive species while providing sustainable measures to manage existing species, including water hyacinth. "The assessment is ongoing, and I ask honourable Members of Parliament to be patient as we continue to address this issue. Water hyacinth is also affecting other water sources in the country, such as Lake Jipe," Khamis said.

The government also works to raise awareness among local communities living around Lake Victoria on how to actively participate in efforts to control the water hyacinth.

The efforts include removing, drying and burning the invasive plants, as well as ongoing research to mitigate the ecological damage caused to the lake's ecosystem.

He said water hyacinth poses serious environmental, economic, and social challenges. The plant depletes oxygen levels in the water, which disrupts the circulation of air and sunlight, leading to the death of fish and other aquatic life. It also damages the ecosystem, reduces biodiversity in Lake Victoria, and disrupts fish breeding grounds. In addition, it negatively impacts fishing activities and transportation on the

lake.

In response to another question posed by Bahi legislator, Kenneth Nollo, about the government's plans for comprehensive legislation to curb environmental degradation, Khamis explained that the Environmental Management Act (Cap. 191) mandates that all major projects undergo an environmental impact assessment before being approved, to prevent environmental harm.

He also noted that the law encourages public participation in environmental conservation through education, local government regulations, and environmental protection initiatives.

Additionally, Khamis informed Parliament that the government, through the Ministry of Water, has allocated 1.08bn/- for the rehabilitation of the Kalemawe dam in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region.

In another question, Special Seats lawmaker, Naghenjwa Kaboyoka inquired about the government's plans to remove mud in Kalemawe dam.

Responding, the deputy minister said that the rehabilitation work is scheduled to take place in the fourth quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year.



Small-scale farmer Ibrahim Njeja with his wife shortly after receiving a vehicle at Msitu wa Tembo in Manyara Region at the weekend. He won it in a mobile phone service firm raffle. Photo: Correspondent

Team formed to probe foreigners doing business at Kariakoo market

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Dr Selemani Jafo has formed a 15-member committee to investigate reported foreigners involved in small-scale businesses at Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo Market and other places.

This decision follows concerns raised by President Samia Suluhu Hassan after hearing complaints from Tanzanians, particularly Kariakoo traders, regarding the presence of foreigners conducting petty businesses.

Dr Jafo stated that the committee,

chaired by Rector of the College of Business Education (CBE), Prof. Edda Lwoga, will complete its work within one month and submit the report.

He made the announcement in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the meeting with Kariakoo traders, including Chairman of Tanzania Business Community, Hamis Livembe.

"Many of the foreigners come with investment agenda but their activities often deviate from genuine investments," he said.

He highlighted that some foreigners, instead of focusing on large-scale investments, participate in small-scale retail activities,

thereby negatively impacting Tanzanian traders. This practice, he said, undermines local businesses and creates unfair competition.

Dr Jafo emphasised that Tanzania operates under laws, procedures, and regulations that mandate all foreigners to conduct businesses according to government directives.

"There are many foreigners conducting businesses illegally, causing problems to local traders and affecting their capital. This situation has led to financial losses among the Tanzanian youth due to market competitions," he said.

The minister expressed confidence in Prof. Lwoga's

leadership, given her expertise in businesses. The ministry's Business Development director, Sempeho Manongi, will serve as the committee's secretary.

Other members of the committee include Deputy Commissioner of Police, Francis Maro, Deputy Commissioner of Immigration, Kigongo Shile, Director General of the Tanzania Trade Development Authority Latifa Khamis, executive director of the Tanzania Investment Centre Gilead Teri, chief executive officer of the Business Registration and Licensing Agency, Godfrey Nyaisa, and director general of the Fair Competition Commission William Erio.

Others are Teddy Frank, Zubeda Masoud, senior labour officer of Dar es Salaam, Eliuluma Mabela, Raphael Maganga from the private sector, chairman of Kariakoo Traders, Severine Mushi, and chairman of the Tanzania Business Community, Hamis Livembe.

The committee's terms of reference include conducting a detailed study of Kariakoo Market as a case study to assess the extent of the problem of foreigners engaging in small-scale businesses and its impact on employment for Tanzanians. The committee will also review the permits and licences issued to foreigners and evaluate the legality of their businesses.

Dr Jafo instructed the committee to identify urgent and immediate solutions, analyse the root causes of the problem, and recommend measures.

He urged traders to remain calm while the committee carries out its work, emphasising that the findings will benefit not only the businesses sector but also other areas by establishing a foundation for effective implementation.

Chairman of Kariakoo Market, Hamis Livembe, commended the government for its swift action to form the committee and expressed hope that its recommendations will help address the challenges faced by local traders.



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Advertisement BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below services at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-25-01-05	Tailings Storage Facility (TSF 4), Penstock, Return Water Dams (RWDs) and Silt Trap Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Civil contractor registered with CRB, at least class 6. ii. At least 5 years of operating the Tailings Storage Facility in the mining industry. iii. The Contractor must submit a resume of the individuals qualified to manage Tailings storage with at least 10 years of experience (TSF Manager role). iv. Documented HSE records for the past 5 years. v. The Contractor must demonstrate the availability of a multidisciplinary support team in geotechnics, hydrology, hydraulics, environment, Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / multi-skilled. They should all have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process. A restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead **referencing the work package reference number** should your company qualify as per the **pre-qualification criteria**, together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents, i.e., Certificate of Incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 1800hrs on the **11th February 2025**.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**.

218359901



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BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-25-01-04	Tailing Storage Facility (TSF) Cell 4 - Lift & Cladding & Buttressing - Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The contractor must specialize in earthworks and demonstrate proven experience in cladding and buttressing tailing storage facilities, CRB Civil Class 5. ii. Evidence of successfully completing similar works within the last three (3) years. iii. Demonstrated competence in handling tailing storage facility lifting operations and a thorough understanding of the risks and control measures associated with working in the mining industry. iv. A comprehensive list of equipment available for the project, including specifications and quantities, along with valid registration certificates to verify ownership. v. A detailed list of project personnel, including Supervisors, Safety Officers, Operators, Drivers, and Spotters, all of whom must possess sound knowledge of Mine Health and Safety Acts.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the **pre-qualification criteria** together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an indigenous Tanzanian Company as per Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 18:00 on the **11th February 2025**.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**.

218359901



Absa Bank Tanzania Hits TZS 100 Billion Profit Milestone in 2024: A Testament to Purpose-Driven Growth



Obedi Laiser
Managing Director

In a year shaped by a mixed economic environment, Absa Bank Tanzania has emerged stronger, delivering an exceptional financial performance that underscores our purpose – **Empowering Africa's tomorrow, together... one story at a time.**

The first half of 2024 experienced economic stability, and the latter half saw a remarkable positive shift with substantial USD inflows from agriculture, tourism, and mining, alongside some local currency (LCY) liquidity tightening. These factors significantly strengthened the USD/TZS exchange rate to levels below 2,550/=. Additionally, Tanzania maintained an inflation rate below 5%, and GDP growth soared to an impressive 5.3% in Q2 2024.

Amid these dynamics, Absa Bank Tanzania leveraged its strong fundamentals, agility, and proactive approach to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. We've demonstrated that our customer-centric model and unwavering focus on purpose continue to create tangible value for all stakeholders.

Remarkable Financial Growth and Resilience

2024 was another milestone year for Absa Bank Tanzania. We delivered outstanding results across key financial metrics, building on a solid track record of consistent performance:

- **Total Revenue:** Reached TZS 201.3 billion, up 16% from TZS 174.0 billion in 2023.
- **Profit Before Tax:** Soared by 33% to TZS 100.2 billion, from TZS 75.2 billion in 2023.
- **Total Assets:** Grew by 13%, closing at TZS 1.6 trillion.
- **Customer Deposits:** Increased by 10%, ending the year at TZS 1.14 trillion.
- **Return on Equity (ROE):** Delivered a strong 31.9%, maintaining leadership in the industry (2023: 32.7%).
- **Non-Performing Loans (NPLs):** Improved significantly to 1.5%—well below the regulatory threshold of 5% and 2023's 4.5%.
- **Cost-to-Income Ratio:** Improved remarkably to 48.8% from 51.3% in 2023, outperforming the regulatory benchmark of 55%.

These stellar achievements reflect not only our operational efficiency but also our dedication to creating value for our customers, employees, and shareholders.

Celebrating Excellence

In 2024, Absa Bank Tanzania earned 11 prestigious accolades from both local and international institutions, cementing our reputation for resilience, innovation, and sound governance. These include:

- **Best Presented Financial Statements** – by the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).
- **Fastest Growing Banking Brand** – by the Global Brands Awards.
- **Fastest Growing SME Bank Tanzania 2024** and **Fastest Growing Retail Bank Tanzania 2024** – by the World Economic Magazine Awards.
- **Best Green Bond Bank** – by DSE.
- **Outstanding Work Supporting Women Access to Finance in Tanzania** – by the Tanzania Women Industrial Awards.
- **MD/CEO of the Year** – by the Top 100 Executive List Awards.
- **Best Improved Employer of the Year** and **Best in Talent Management and Development** – by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE).
- **The Bank Offering the Most Friendly and Tranquil Loan Services in Tanzania, and Most Preferred Convenient and Accessible Bank in Southern Africa**, awarded by Consumer Choice Awards 2024.

These awards underscore our commitment to leadership and excellence in Tanzania's financial sector.

Customer-Centric Innovations and Sustainable Growth

In line with our brand promise – **Your story matters**™, we've prioritized the needs of our customers, communities, and the environment:

- **Expanding Access:** The launch of agency banking in late 2023 significantly increased our footprint, bringing financial services closer to communities across Tanzania.
- **Empowering Women:** Through the launch of the Absa She Account, we supported women entrepreneurs nationwide with free banking services.
- **Championing Diversity:** Women now hold 40% of Director roles within the bank, a milestone achievement aligned with our goals. We're also proud to announce that 57% of all promotions in 2024 were earned by women – a powerful testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable future.

A Purpose-Driven Future

As we reflect on 2024, we're inspired by the progress we've made together with our customers and communities. We remain steadfast in our mission to play an integral role in Tanzania's economic growth, helping individuals, businesses, and industries create, grow, and protect wealth.

At Absa Bank Tanzania, we don't just focus on numbers – we focus on stories. Every decision we make and every milestone we achieve is driven by our belief that **Your story matters**. Together, we're building a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow—one story at a time.

INCOME STATEMENT



REVENUE
201,322
173,974 (Dec 2023)

15.7%



PROFIT BEFORE TAX
100,173
75,158 (Dec 2023)

33.3%



NET INTEREST INCOME
110,705
93,452 (Dec 2023)

18.5%



NON INTEREST INCOME
90,617
80,522 (Dec 2023)

12.5%

BALANCE SHEET



TOTAL ASSETS
1,599,815
1,420,340 (Dec 2023)

12.6%



EQUITY
288,730
219,629 (Dec 2023)

31.5%



DEPOSITS CUSTOMER
1,147,548
1,039,202 (Dec 2023)

10.4%



NET LOANS CUSTOMER
907,642
761,693 (Dec 2023)

19.2%

KEY PERFORMING INDICATORS



RETURN ON EQUITY (ROE)
31.9%
32.7% (Dec 2023)



CIR (COST TO INCOME RATIO)
48.8%
51.03% (Dec 2023)



NPL (NON-PERFORMING LOANS)
1.5%
4.7% (Dec 2023)

Solid credit needed in setting up of soil labs in every district

INNOVATIVE policy suggestions often come up from grassroots and community levels as in the proposal that the government needs to set up soil laboratories in every district to assure farmers and outreach officials of easier access to soil analysis services.

Farmers will receive more accurate information, with those making the proposal believing that the facility will greatly benefit farmers by fostering modern and more efficient agricultural practices.

The suggestion came up on the sidelines of a training session for teachers of science, mathematics and ICT working in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions.

In ways that differ from received habits that schools and colleges work to prepare pupils and students for exams, scarcely involved in outside work, there is plenty of innovation activity going on in schools and colleges in the northern regions.

It makes alumnae of decades ago green with envy at the new attitudes and new abilities, seeing a different world opening up.

A college tutor at the training explained that setting up soil laboratories in each district would bring farmers to understand essential soil qualities such as nutrient levels and water content, thus improving farming practices.

Yet one might think that research is still needed know how far the agrobased population often follows up on issues like soils types, crops to plant, or improvements to make. The matter isn't simple at all.

There is even a branch of agro-science specialization focused on using traditional knowledge in uplifting various farming ecosystems. A top policymaker recently called on experts to seek out such knowledge and use it to find out which wild plants or trees are protective of water systems.

The issue all the same comes up

on the manner of coexistence of laboratory science and indigenous knowledge, if it is engagement or just an option.

The real problem with respect to the affirmation that when each district has a soil lab, farmers would move away from traditional farming methods, which do not yield optimal results.

Instead, farmers would be able to learn the characteristics of soils in their respective areas and determine which crops are best suited for their land.

Indeed, but there are preliminaries like improving the soils and finding the right inputs, seed types, water sprinkling or appropriate irrigation, etc.

Not that the tutor was far from this awareness as he raised it in an optimistic manner, asserting that the laboratories would provide farmers with critical information set to promote productive farming by considering soil type, fertiliser levels and water availability for better results.

Excellent, until one recalls that in many cases farmers want free fertiliser on the one hand and higher crop products on the other while market tendencies in either context run in an opposite direction.

There is a way out the tutor could figure out - that is closer collaboration between the government and stakeholders, including teaching soil testing techniques and soil resource management in schools.

This was plausible to an extent, even as it might affect curricula at schools with a special leaning towards practical training rather than demanding that all schools do so.

The reason for this insistence is that farms are not changing hands to be put to capitalised and scientific farming and instead hope is laid on the new generation - that is using science to make a change in agriculture.

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By Priyal Singh

Donald Trump: New problems, old problems

DONALD Trump's return to the White House signals a new chapter in US-Africa relations, fraught with both uncertainties but also potential opportunities

The victory of Donald Trump in the US election may signal a period of renewed uncertainty and volatility in Washington's bilateral relations with African capitals. However, there may also be opportunities for more meaningful engagement if parties on both sides of the Atlantic get the basics right.

A dilution of US foreign policy towards Africa under the current Biden administration, and a possible reversion to what came before it during the first Trump administration, could prove disastrous. Relations between Washington and many African capitals between 2017 and 2021 were generally marked by mistrust, hostility and neglect. The more insular 'America First' worldview of the then-president saw Africa completely absent from many of its key foreign policy priorities. This was, of course, nothing new at the time, as the continent had never truly featured as a strategic priority for the US across prior Democrat or Republican Administrations. However, relations with the continent arguably reached new lows during the first Trump administration due to three key issues.

An unreliable, disinterested partner

Firstly, the administration's considerable skepticism of, and contempt for, international organisations and multilateral policy processes signaled to many African countries that the US was not a reliable, principled or committed partner on the myriad global governance and security issues that disproportionately affect African states. This issue was perhaps most acutely felt following delays and proposed cuts in the US-assessed contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping budget. Africa is home to the UN's largest peacekeeping operations, and waning US support for these operations has very tangible material impacts on their effectiveness and continued operation - coupled with the deleterious implications for the continent's broader peace and security environment.

Similarly, the US' cessation of voluntary funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency, its withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and

the Paris Climate Agreement, and its submission to withdraw from the World Health Organisation, amongst many other international organisations and policy processes, signalled the Trump administration's disdain for the global rules-based order.

Many African countries that remained committed to this order, which was still largely seen as being under the stewardship of the US, found this behaviour particularly worrisome. It signaled an unprincipled about-turn on Washington's part - again, casting the US as an unpredictable international partner.

A second major factor contributing to strained US-Africa relations during the first Trump administration was its clear disinterest, or arguable benign neglect, of the region. This was marked by long delays or a complete lack of filling key US diplomatic posts in Africa, and a lack of meaningful presidential initiatives specifically targeting the continent. Bilateral trade continued to decline during this period, relative to the continent's trade with other emerging powers and partners from the Global South.

Lastly, US-Africa relations were considerably soured during this period by the then president's off-handed and derogatory remarks directed at African states and their peoples. These remarks, which drew international anger and official responses from African capitals and the African Union, affirmed the view that Trump clearly did not hold the region in high regard and maintained an outwardly disrespectful view of African countries.

Cumulatively, this period was marked by the absence of a meaningful US strategic vision for the region, with clear aims or objectives, or any direct personal investment by the sitting president.

Changing course

Accordingly, since early 2021, the Biden administration has worked to correct the course of US-Africa relations by rebuilding trust and goodwill, while further demonstrating its commitment to prioritising African concerns on the world stage.

This has been achieved by providing a much clearer overarching vision for engagement with the region, as outlined in the

August 2022 US Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa. The strategy sets out four core objectives to guide Washington's bilateral relations with African capitals moving forward: noting the need to foster open societies, deliver democratic and security dividends, advance economic opportunity and support climate adaptation.

Further outlined as a regional focus area in its October 2022 National Security Strategy, the Biden administration formally recognised the growing geopolitical weight of African states on the world stage, and the need for greater US investment to build and reinforce strategic links with the continent across a wide range of thematic areas. And while Biden, like Trump, did not visit any African states during his term in office, these efforts were nonetheless bolstered by numerous other high-level working visits to the continent over the past four years, as well as the December 2022 US-Africa Leader's Summit.

What comes next?

The question now is whether the incoming Trump administration will share a similar strategic vision for the future direction of US-Africa relations laid out over the last four years. Will the initiatives, agreements and decisions taken be backtracked upon, or perhaps not given the necessary political backing to be fully implemented?

Already, it is clear that Trump has a very contentious relationship with some of the core elements that should guide Washington's bilateral relations with African capitals. From the science behind the Covid-19 pandemic and the policies that should guide pandemic recovery, to the science behind climate change and the steps needed to ensure a just energy transition, to the collective need to promote open societies and strengthen democratic institutions - the incoming Trump administration may not be on the same page as its predecessor. Nor are its African partners, who have signed various initiatives with Washington to deepen cooperation on these issues.

More worryingly, there may no longer be the broad Congressional support in Washington to ensure the necessary degree of continuity and predictability in the direction of US-Africa policy established under Biden. New power dynamics

in the House of Representatives and the Senate could also likely spur on new legislation calling for a review of bilateral relations with certain African partners, such as South Africa.

Hence, much of the groundwork laid under Biden is arguably now up in the air, and it may be necessary for policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic to start again from scratch by identifying baseline elements of common interest and future cooperation.

A silver lining?

While challenges abound, there may very likely be opportunities for increased engagement if both sides play their cards right. For African policymakers in particular, this should entail developing a thorough and dispassionate assessment of the core political priorities and motivations of the incoming Trump administration, based on its more insular worldview and more confrontational foreign policy outlook. This could lead to the identification of common issues for cooperation, which could be more transactional in nature, more focused on hard economic issues, and less focused on some of the broader governance, democracy, and open society related-issues (associated with the Biden administration's worldview of international order for the coming decades).

Moreover, this should include developing a clearer understanding of what powers are vested in the Oval Office and do not necessarily require Congressional support to be acted upon, particularly as they relate to the broad range of issues outlined in the 2022 US Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa as well as the range of initiatives and agreements signed during the 2022 US-Africa Leader's Summit.

The Trump administration undoubtedly brings a much greater degree of political uncertainty and unpredictability to African country's relations with Washington. Still, challenges and opportunities abound in equal measure. It is up to policymakers in Washington and in the African capitals to play their cards right to ensure that new arrangements are reached for mutual benefit, while not allowing the aftertaste of the previous Trump administration to unduly influence what may come next.

NHIF packages restore old cost sharing format

A PUBLIC notice by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has set out a two-tier coverage system each having a distinctive set of packages - a lower cost structure and benefits known as Serengeti and a higher cost structure termed Ngorongoro.

The coverage prices indicated for different components of the two tier packages are a far cry from what was being touted as a universal health insurance arrangement.

Only the lower-cost package for children range at 240,000/- has some resemblance with the doubtful contribution structure that was being profusely touted until recently.

Yet there are auxiliary events that brought a sea change to the policy format and expectations, without even calling an experts' round table to deliberate on the situation. It is apparent that a certain shift in the balance of things altered perspectives.

One such change is rolling back a range of foreign aid programmes that have for decades carried the United States brand mark around the world, like extensive food assistance delivered with a USAID logo in most conflict areas around the world.

The idea that such supplies will no longer be available is little short of shocking, even if the matter is not closed as yet. No other providers would be available to cover the gaps.

The manner in which the NHIF notice appeared carried the wish to appeal to the Fund's client base as it stood at that moment.

However, the manner of its release was sufficiently low key to tell all and sundry that NHIF and other levels of health administration realise

precisely what they are talking about - or whom they were addressing.

This came out as an insurance advertisement, which it indeed was - that is, comparable for that matter to any private sector initiative.

What might just start being heard in discussions is how far employees countrywide will have a chance of being insured, in the public sector and at the private sector level.

It is uncertain if insurance as such will remain in fashion at the policy level, or the atmosphere appears to be one specialised insurance for certain levels of professional engagement.

Nor is it evident that trade unions will have much influence in who becomes insured, or on what terms, among civil servants and those serving in public corporations, or whether they will try other formulas.

While how far this change will affect local policy debate can't be foretold, this situation is in line with what radical policy planners elsewhere figured out.

While the old insurance packages were still being discussed or putatively being rolled out at the start of the year, the idea that health spending is by definition an internal budget item had not sunk sufficiently in the communication signals of policy makers.

A lot discussion was still going on about how far multilateral support was likely in NHIF rollout in pursuit of global inclusion policies, most of which is now being discarded in US policy.

The landscape has changed so dramatically that there is no escaping lining up things anew as circumstances demand.

Gains in longevity demand care for older persons

By Telesphor Magobe

POPULATION aging is an inevitable and irreversible global demographic phenomenon, according to the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA).

In its report titled 'Leaving No One Behind in An Ageing World: Social Report 2023', DESA suggests that the number of older persons globally is evolving rapidly, as it tripled from about 260 million in 1980 to 761 million in 2021. By 2030, older persons are projected to reach 1 billion, 1.6 billion in 2050, and by 2100, are projected to reach 2.5 billion.

Expounding on this demographic phenomenon, the DESA report says historically the number of older persons used to be smaller than younger age groups, but "as fertility rates drop during demographic transition, the shift in the age structure manifests initially as a swelling share of adults in the working and reproductive ages and falling proportions of children and the youth." This 'inverted pyramid' with older persons than children and the youth demands adequate care and support for them.

Moreover, it says if fertility remains at lower levels, the population begins to age and eventually the share of older persons starts to rise. "Successive cohorts tend to live longer, increasing demands on younger generations as potential sources of assistance in old age," it says.

It explains that children and older persons tend to rely on economically active adults for financial support and care. "Health and financial considerations as well as personal preferences influence the age at which people retire from the workforce and eventually become dependent," it points out.

Thus, the report says: "Age 65 is generally the threshold for defining older persons, who are often net recipients of economic transfers through publicly funded pensions and healthcare."

As regards spending on old age, the report says predictions of health and social care costs based on chronological age "tend to overestimate total financial expenditure, as most acute medical care costs occur in the final months of life with little additional impact from a person's age at that time."

In light of this, the report says, growing numbers and rising shares of older persons "are frequently considered a looming threat to public services, particularly healthcare and pensions."

In another report titled "World Population Prospects 2024: Summary of Results" DESA says an upward trend in longevity among countries with



The human cycle starts with birth, youth, adulthood, old age and finishes with death.

populations likely to continue growing through 2054 calls for the need for 1) developing and strengthening healthcare and social protection systems, and 2) supporting national policies to create equitable, fair and inclusive societies for the people of all age groups.

This is because, according to the report, by the late 2070s, older persons aged 65 years and above are projected to reach 2.2 billion, surpassing the number of children aged below 18 years, while older persons aged 80 or above are projected to surpass the number of infants (1 year of age or less) by the mid-2030s and reach 265 million by then.

It recommends to countries with youthful populations preparing for a society with an age structure that will be very different, including long-term planning and foresight, acknowledging the time that will be required to establish such systems in countries where they do not yet exist.

What can be said is that we cannot prevent an inevitable and irreversible occurrence, but we can only learn how to cope with it, especially to engage in soul-searching on how to care for and support older persons. The human cycle starts with birth, youth, adulthood, old age and finishes with death.

These are stages of human life every person (young or old) passes through.

With this in mind, there is no room for ageism and discrimination against older persons.

Older persons were at one stage of their lives younger and energetic and they cared for and supported the younger ones and those who were older than them. Now that they are advanced in age, they too need the care and support of those who are younger than them.

This is indicative of an interdependent or symbiotic relationship existing with each age group. This aspect is emphatic in a protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

Article 2(2) of the protocol provides that States Parties shall ensure that the 1991

United Nations Principles of Independence, Dignity, Self-fulfilment, Participation and Care of Older Persons are included in their national laws and are legally binding as the basis for ensuring their rights.

As regards protection against discrimination in employment, Article 6 provides that States Parties shall: (1) take measures to eliminate workplace discrimination against older persons with regard to access to employment, taking into consideration occupational requirements, and (2) ensure appropriate work opportunities for older persons taking into account to their medical and physical abilities, skills and experience.

As regards social protection, Article 7 provides that States Parties shall: (1) develop policies and legislation that ensure that older persons who retire from their employment are provided with adequate pensions and other forms of social security.

As regards access to health services, Article 15 provides that States Parties shall: (1) guarantee the rights of older persons to access health services that meet their specific needs, (2) take reasonable measures to facilitate access to health services and medical insurance cover for older persons within available resources, and (3) ensure the inclusion of geriatrics [a branch of medicine dealing with the diseases and care of older persons] and gerontology [the scientific study of old age and the process of growing old] in the training of healthcare personnel.

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa was adopted in Addis Ababa on January 31, 2016.

DESA attributes longevity of the average human lifespan to improvements in public health, nutrition, personal hygiene and medicine, and one of the achievements of socioeconomic development.

UNICEF praises Tanzania's bold steps in advancing gender equality

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA has gained global recognition for its progressive gender equality policies, making significant strides in empowering women and girls.

Tanzania is under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan has sparked transformative changes, not only in Tanzania but across the East Africa region. As the first female Head of State in the region, she continues to open new doors for women and girls.

During her recent visit in Songwe Region, Dr Lauren Rumble, Associate Director for Gender Equality at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), expressed satisfaction with Tanzania's efforts in empowering adolescent girls. Her visit underscored the country's leadership and its collaborative approach with local and international stakeholders.

"Tanzania is highly progressive in terms of gender equality. My first key observation is that Tanzania has made significant strides, especially now, with President Samia serving as the first female President in Tanzania and East Africa," Dr Rumble asserted.

Empowering adolescent girls

A key focus of UNICEF work in Tanzania is the empowerment of adolescent girls. Dr Rumble praised the country's multi-sectoral approach, which integrates education, health, child protection, and nutrition. This holistic strategy is essential in overcoming the barriers that have historically limited opportunities for girls.

"The country's comprehensive approach to gender equality has contributed to its success in improving girls' lives," she noted. UNICEF has partnered with the Tanzanian government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to create a supportive environment where girls' needs and voices are prioritized.

The 'back to school' policy

One of Tanzania's most impactful initiatives is the 'back to school' policy, which allows adolescent mothers to return to school after childbirth. This policy addresses educational challenges faced by girls who drop out due to pregnancy. Initially discontinued, the policy was reinstated in 2021 under President Samia's leadership.

The revival of this policy is a major step toward gender equality, enabling girls to continue their education and reclaim their dignity. By supporting adolescent mothers, the government is not only helping them complete their schooling but also reducing the stigma associated with teenage pregnancy. This initiative has resulted in more girls returning to school, providing them with opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

Health services and girls' protection

Tanzania has also made notable progress in addressing the health needs of adolescent girls. Dr Rumble praised



UNICEF HQ and UNICEF Tanzania gender experts with Integrated Programme for Out-of-School Adolescents (IPOSA) girls, who have been equipped with cooking and hospitality skills. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

the availability of adolescent-friendly health services, including HPV immunization, which protects girls against cervical cancer, a leading cause of death among women globally. These health services are part of a broader strategy to improve adolescent health through nutritional support and preventive care.

"Tanzania's proactive approach to adolescent health ensures that girls are not only protected from cancer but also supported in their overall well-being," she remarked.

Through collaboration with UNICEF, Tanzania has improved its healthcare system to cater to the specific needs of young women as they transition into adulthood.

Challenges

Despite the progress made, challenges remain. Teenage pregnancy and child marriage continue to be significant obstacles to gender equality in Tanzania. With a teenage pregnancy rate of 22 percent, many girls are still unable to access the education and opportunities they need to succeed. Child marriage, which often results in early school dropout and limited life prospects, remains a persistent issue.

Dr Rumble stressed that addressing these challenges requires comprehensive solutions, including improved access to education and healthcare. "Adolescent girls often lack access to the full range of services they

need," she said. Closing these gaps will be critical to achieving Tanzania's gender equality goals.

UNICEF is working closely with local governments and NGOs to promote policies that protect girls and dismantle harmful social norms. These efforts aim to create an enabling environment where girls can thrive and reach their full potential.

A call for more female leadership

Dr Rumble also reflected on progress made since the 1995 Beijing Conference, which placed the girl child at the center of international development efforts. She noted that President Samia's election represents a milestone in the journey toward greater female leadership in East Africa. "We need more women in leadership positions. One female president is not enough. We need more leaders like Mama Samia," she emphasized, highlighting the growing recognition that female leadership is crucial in shaping a more equitable future for all.

She called for increased investment in the empowerment of girls, particularly in economic development, financial literacy and peace building. She is optimistic that Tanzania's National Development Vision 2050 will include policies that ensure girls have access to the tools and opportunities necessary to contribute to the country's growth and prosperity.

Gertrude Mongella's legacy at the Beijing Conference

Tanzania's progress in gender equality is also rooted in the legacy of influential figures like Gertrude Mongella. As Secretary of the 1995 Beijing Conference, Mongella played a crucial role in advocating for the education and empowerment of girls. Her tireless efforts helped integrate the girl child agenda into national development frameworks, including those in Tanzania.

Mongella's vision extended beyond education—she aimed to create a world where girls could make independent choices about their futures. Her legacy continues to inspire policies in Tanzania, ensuring that girls receive the support and opportunities they need to succeed.

Tanzania's progress in gender equality provides a model for other nations. Through visionary leadership, policy reforms, and collaboration between the public and private sectors, the country is paving the way for a brighter future for its girls and women.

However, challenges persist, and achieving full gender equality will require sustained effort. With President Samia's leadership and the support of local and international partners, Tanzania is well on its way to creating a society where every girl has the opportunity to reach her full potential.

By maintaining momentum and addressing existing challenges, Tanzania not only improves the lives of its girls but also sets a powerful example for the world to follow.

By Jeff Cercone

Is US egg shortage Biden's fault as Trump spokesperson claims?



A hen stands next to an egg on January 10, 2023, at a farm in Glenview, Illinois.

PRESIDENT Donald Trump promised to lower prices for groceries, including eggs. But one crack in his plan is that egg prices haven't fallen since he took office on January 20.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, in her first on-camera news briefing on January 28, blamed that on former President Joe Biden's "inflationary policies".

Leavitt said the Biden administration and the US Agriculture Department "directed the mass killing of more than 100 million chickens, which has led to a lack of chicken supply in this country, therefore a lack of egg supply, which is leading to the shortage".

Leavitt's statement is partially accurate about the culling of millions of chickens, but she omitted important details and context about why that happened.

First, the chickens were killed to prevent the spread of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, or bird flu.

Second, it's been longstanding USDA policy to cull an entire flock of birds once bird flu has been detected, including during Trump's first administration.

White House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly referred PolitiFact back to Leavitt's news briefing comments.

Egg prices rose under Biden - from \$1.60 per dozen in February 2021 to \$4.10 in December 2024 (his first and last full months in office), Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows. The Agriculture Department's January food price outlook said egg prices could rise about 20 percent more this year.

A spokesperson for Expna, a company that tracks consumer prices, told news outlet Axios that a dozen large eggs costs more than \$7 in some US regions.

Since February 8, 2022, when the virus was detected in a commercial flock, more than 147 million birds, including chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese, have died, the USDA said.

USDA data shows 108 million egg-laying chickens died since 2022, including 13 million in 2025. It's not clear how many were euthanised or died of the virus.

As of January 29, bird flu has also been detected in dairy cattle, affecting 944 herds in 16 states, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data shows. Humans have also tested positive for the virus - 67 confirmed cases have been reported in the US and one person has died, the CDC said.

Why are flocks culled?

Experts told PolitiFact the birds are culled to stop

the virus from spreading. This protects not only nearby farms and the poultry industry, but public health. A 2002 federal law, the Animal Health Protection Act, gives the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service authority to depopulate herds and flocks to stop the disease's spread.

"If the birds are dead, the virus dies along with them," Russ Daly, a veterinarian for the South Dakota Department of Health and a South Dakota State University professor, said.

Chickens that contract the bird flu virus have little chance of survival; 90 percent to 100 percent percent of them die, usually within 48 hours, the CDC said.

Waiting for the chickens to die naturally allows more viral load into the atmosphere, making it more dangerous for the farm workers and other people who come in contact with the farm, Jada Thompson, a Uni-

versity of Arkansas agricultural economics and agribusiness associate professor, said.

Is this policy new?

Several veterinary professors told PolitiFact that depopulation or "stamping out" of sick birds is a longstanding policy and pointed to a 2015 bird flu outbreak during the Obama administration.

Depopulation is the USDA's primary control and eradication strategy for avian influenza, Yuko Sato, a veterinarian and Iowa State University associate professor, said.

"This latest outbreak is devastating because of the large numbers of premises involved since 2022," Carol Cardona, a University of Minnesota veterinary professor and chair of avian health, said. "But the rule has been there for a very long time now."

A 2016 USDA report shows that depopulation in 2015 resulted in 50 million birds being killed.

A USDA bird flu response plan, updated in May 2017 during Trump's first administration, incorporates policy guidance based on lessons from

influenza outbreaks during the Obama and first Trump administrations. It said: "Rapid depopulation of infected poultry is critical to halt virus transmission and must be prioritised."

During a March 2017 bird flu outbreak, a USDA report said, "nearly 253,000 birds were depopulated."

How does depopulation work?

The USDA encourages farmers who notice signs of illness to contact the USDA or their state veterinarian. Samples taken from the animals are tested and the USDA confirms cases; depopulation usually takes place within 48 hours of the virus's confirmation.

The USDA pays the farmers for the killed birds.

"It's in the best interest of the farmer to get this done quickly, as the USDA provides indemnity payments for the euthanised birds, but not the ones that die naturally," Daly said.

Our ruling

Leavitt said there's an egg shortage because the Biden administration "directed the mass killing of more than 100 million chickens".

During the Biden administration, more than 100 million egg-laying chickens died from bird flu or were killed to stop the virus' spread. This led to an egg shortage and higher prices.

Depopulation is a longstanding practice to prevent bird flu from spreading, agriculture experts said. Government documents show depopulation was the USDA's bird flu strategy during Trump's first term and during the 2015 outbreak under Obama.

Dying with dignity: Breaking the taboo about 'living wills' in India

By Cherylann Mollan

IN 2010, IP Yadev, a surgeon from the southern Indian state of Kerala, was confronted with one of the hardest decisions of his life.

He had to decide between keeping his father - a terminal cancer patient - alive, and honouring his wish, expressed verbally, to stop all treatments and put an end to his suffering.

"As a son, I felt it was my duty to do whatever I could to prolong my father's life. This made him unhappy and he ended up dying alone in an intensive-care unit. The doctor's last efforts to revive him using CPR crushed his ribs. It was a horrible death," Dr Yadev says.

The experience, he says, deeply impacted him and helped him realise the importance of advance medical directives (AMDs), also known as living wills.

A living will is a legal document that allows a person over 18 years to choose the medical care they would want to receive if they develop a terminal illness or condition with no hope of recovery and are unable to make decisions by themselves.

For example, they could

specify that they don't want to be put on life-support machines or insist that they want to be given adequate pain-relieving medication.

In 2018, India's Supreme Court allowed people to draw up living wills and thereby choose passive euthanasia, where medical treatment can be withdrawn under strict guidelines to hasten a person's death. Active euthanasia - any act that intentionally helps a person kill themselves - is illegal in the country.

But despite the legal go-ahead, the concept of living wills hasn't really taken off in India. Experts say that this has much to do with the way Indians talk, or rather, don't talk about death. Death is often considered to be a taboo subject and any mention of it is thought to bring bad luck.

But there are now efforts underway to change this.

In November, Dr Yadev and his team launched India's first programme - at the Government Medical College in Kerala's Kollam district - to educate people about living wills, offering information in person and over the phone. Volunteers also conduct awareness campaigns and distribute will templates.

Creating a living will requires family members to



Health activists are helping champion the idea of living wills in India

have open and honest conversations about death. Despite some resistance, activists and institutions are taking steps to raise awareness, and there's a growing, though cautious, interest.

Kerala leads the way in these conversations. Currently, it has the country's best palliative care network, and organisations that offer end-of-life care have also started awareness campaigns around living wills.

In March, around 30 people from the Pain and Palliative Care society in Thrissur city signed living wills. Dr E Divakaran, founder of the society, says that the gesture is aimed at make the idea more popular among people.

"Most people have never heard of the term so they have many questions, like whether such a directive can be misused or if they can make changes to their wills later on," Mr Yadev says, adding that most inquiries have come from people in their 50s and 60s.

"Right now, it's the educated, upper-middle class that's making use of the facility. But with grassroots awareness campaigns, we're expecting the demographic to widen," he says.

According to the Supreme Court order, a person must draft the will, sign it in the presence of two witnesses, and have it attested by a notary or gazetted officer. A copy

of the will must then be submitted to a state government-appointed custodian.

While the guidelines exist on paper, many state governments are yet to set up mechanisms to implement them. This is what Dr Nikhil Datar, a gynaecologist from Mumbai city, realised when he made his living will two years ago as there was no custodian to whom he could submit it.

So he went to court and it resulted in the Maharashtra government appointing about 400 officials across local bodies in the state to serve as custodians of living wills.

In June, Goa state implemented the Supreme Court's orders around living wills and a high court judge became the

first person in the state to register one.

On Saturday, Karnataka state ordered district health officers to nominate people to serve on a key medical board required to certify living wills. [Two medical boards have to certify that a patient meets necessary criteria for the implementation of a living will before medical practitioners can act on it.

Mr Datar is also advocating for a centralised digital repository for living wills, accessible nationwide. He has also made his own will available for free on his website as a template. He believes a will helps prevent problems for both families and doctors when a patient is in a vegetative state and beyond recovery.

"Very often, family members don't want the person to endure more treatment but because they can't care for the patient at home, they keep them in the hospital. Doctors, bound by medical ethics, can't withhold treatment, so the patient ends up suffering with no way to express their wishes," Mr Datar says.

Living wills aren't just about choosing passive euthanasia. Dr Yadev recalls a case where a person wanted his will to specify that he

should be placed on life support if his condition ever required it.

"He explained that his only child was living abroad and that he didn't want to die until his son got to meet him," Mr Yadev says. "You have the freedom to choose how you want to die. It is one of the greatest rights available to us, so why not exercise it?" he says.

Healthcare advocates say that conversations around palliative care are slowly growing in the country, giving an impetus to living wills.

Dr Sushma Bhatnagar of Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences says the hospital is launching a department to educate patients about living wills. "Ideally, doctors should discuss living wills with patients, but there's a communication gap," she says, adding that training doctors for these conversations can help ensure a person dies with dignity.

"Throughout our lives, our choices are coloured by our loved ones' wishes or by what society thinks is right," Mr Yadev says.

"At least in death, let us make choices that are in our interest and fully our own."

BBC

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Chinese experts help Guinea-Bissau farmers harvest high-quality rice

BAFATA

As China is marking the Spring Festival -- the Year of the Snake, a team of Chinese rice-planting experts is observing the holiday with a unique mission in central Guinea-Bissau.

The Geba River meanders through the Bafata region, its banks lined with lush green trees.

Bafata is currently in the dry season. Yet, even during periods of drought, its tranquil waters sustain fertile lands, creating more than 25,000 hectares of irrigated rice fields. This region is often hailed as Guinea-Bissau's "rice granary."

During a visit villagers seen sowing rice with the guidance of Chinese experts. Some bent over to plant sprouted seeds, while others carefully arranged the young rice shoots. Not far away, a tractor was rumbling between the plots.

Rice cultivation in Guinea-Bissau follows two distinct seasons: the dry season and the rainy season. The dry season planting period aligns each year with the Chinese Lunar New Year. To ensure the agricultural schedule remains on track, experts from the Chinese Agricultural Technical Assistance Team in Guinea-Bissau follow a unique agenda during the Spring Festival celebrations.

All members of the 12th Chinese Agricultural Technical Assistance Mission in Guinea-Bissau hail from China's central Hubei Province. Embracing the traditions of their hometown, they began their New Year's Eve preparations on Tuesday by cleaning their residence, hanging red lanterns and colourful banners, and pasting festive couplets on their doors. Amid the preparations, they warmly welcomed local villagers who came to share in the celebrations and extend their New Year's greetings.

At noon, they gathered for a New Year's Eve feast, sharing the moment with their families in China through video calls to exchange greetings.



Village chief Queba Santos Seidi expresses his gratitude to the Chinese Agricultural Technical Assistance Team at Manbonco village in the Oio region, Guinea-Bissau.

On Wednesday morning, after enjoying a hot bowl of noodle soup, the experts headed to the Carantaba farm in Gabu region to assess the progress of land levelling before sowing. The only road to the farm is a rugged trail: muddy during the rainy season and dusty in the dry season, but they have long since grown accustomed to the journey.

Tan Bing, an agronomist with the Chinese team, explained that the Carantaba farm serves as a demonstration site for advanced rice cultivation techniques.

"The selected varieties will be transplanted here for expansion trials, and the seeds produced will then be promoted nationwide by the Bissau-Guinean Ministry of Agriculture," he said.

On Thursday, the experts were invited to Manbonco village in the Oio region to distribute seeds from the previous harvest to the villagers. Their arrival was met with joyful songs and dances.

"Thanks to the continuous efforts of the Chinese agricultural experts, even our remote village can now cultivate high-quality rice. We are deeply grateful!" said village chief Queba Santos Seidi.

Since 1998, the Chinese Agricultural Technical Assistance Team has been based in the Bafata region, dedicated to selecting and demonstrating high-yield rice varieties, training farmers in rice cultivation and maintaining agricultural equipment.

The Contuboe farm serves as the Chi-

nese team's research center for comparative rice variety trials. Zheng Junjie, head of the Chinese team, noted that the experts worked tirelessly to complete sowing 17 rice varieties imported from China before the New Year's Eve celebrations.

"These trials will help identify three to five varieties best suited to local conditions: drought and pest resistant, that will later be transplanted to open fields," he added.

The diligent work of the Chinese experts has drawn the attention of farmers and technicians from nearby farms, who came to observe and learn. As they examined the signs identifying each variety, their eyes shone with admiration and hope.

Lassana Cambai, director of the Contuboe farm, said, "Rice seedling cultivation is a technical task requiring precise control of temperature and humidity, as well as strict management of diseases and pests. Only meticulous care can yield high-quality seedlings."

"Eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving food self-sufficiency are fundamental rights for development. We sincerely thank the Chinese experts for their invaluable and selfless assistance," said Sana Camara, director of the Carantaba farm, in a letter of appreciation to the Chinese team.

WHO chief calls for global push against US withdrawal decision

GENEVA

The head of the World Health Organization has urged health officials from various countries to encourage the United States to reconsider President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the UN health agency.

Countries raised concerns during a crucial budget meeting with the WHO last week regarding the potential impact of losing its largest donor, as revealed by internal documents.

For the 2024-2025 period, the United States stands as WHO's predominant contributor, providing an estimated \$988 million, which constitutes approximately 14 percent of the organization's total budget of \$6.9 billion.

A confidential budget report shared at the meeting indicated that WHO's health emergencies program is significantly dependent on US funding.

Specifically, the "readiness functions" within WHO's European office rely over 80 percent on the \$154 million contribution from the US.

The report highlighted that US financial support is crucial for many of WHO's extensive emergency operations, accounting for up to 40 percent of the funding.

It noted that ongoing responses in regions such as

the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan are at risk, alongside substantial losses in polio eradication and HIV initiatives.

Additionally, the US finances 95 percent of WHO's tuberculosis efforts in Europe and over 60 percent of TB programs in Africa, the Western Pacific, and at the agency's headquarters in Geneva, according to the document.

Michael Ryan, the WHO's deputy director general reminded everyone that the United States government is not simply departing from a building in Geneva or a secretariat there.

It is distancing itself from a community of nations.

Essentially, it is ending a relationship with them and not him, a significant consideration for the 193 member states present at the meeting.

WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus added, that it remains crucial to invest efforts in facilitating the US return, and he believes each of them could contribute to that endeavour.

Mathew Kavanagh warned of dire consequences for WHO if measures were not put in place as soon as possible.

"The money hit will be very substantial. And if the world doesn't step up and address the money gap that is coming, then the World Health



WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Organisation will be very badly damaged," he said.

During a private meeting with diplomats, WHO representatives emphasized that the US would suffer from diminished access to vital information regarding global disease outbreaks.

In a separate private discussion regarding the implications of a US withdrawal last Wednesday, WHO finance

director George Kyriacou warned that if the agency continues its current spending trajectory, it would face significant cash flow challenges by the end of the first or second quarter of 2026.

He emphasized that maintaining the current rate of expenditure is not feasible, as per a recording.

Since the executive order issued by Trump, WHO has

sought to reclaim funds from the U.S. for previous expenses, but most of these requests have not been accepted, Kyriacou noted.

Furthermore, the US has yet to fulfill its financial commitments to WHO for 2024, which has contributed to the agency's budget deficit.

Amid various health emergencies, WHO is actively engaged in efforts to control

outbreaks of the Marburg virus in Tanzania, Ebola in Uganda, and mpox in the Congo.

Tedros addressed the three reasons cited by Trump for withdrawing from the agency in the executive order signed on January 20, which marked Trump's first day back in office. The president claimed that the WHO mishandled the COVID-19 pandemic that

originated in China and failed to implement necessary reforms.

In response, Tedros emphasized that the WHO had informed the global community about the potential risks of the coronavirus as early as January 2020 and has since undertaken numerous reforms, including efforts to broaden its donor base.

He remarked: "Reintegrating the US into the organization will be crucial," and encouraged attendees to contribute to this effort.

Representatives from various countries, including Bangladesh and France, inquired about the specific strategies the WHO planned to adopt in light of the loss of U.S. funding and which health initiatives might face cuts as a consequence.

A document circulated among some senior WHO officials, which outlined a scenario where each major department could face a 50 percent reduction by the year's end.

The WHO refrained from commenting on whether Tedros had privately urged countries to advocate for the agency.

Some experts noted that while the US exit represented a significant challenge, it could also present an opportunity to rethink and enhance global public health initiatives.

South African President Ramaphosa denies Trump's accusation of 'confiscating land'

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday rejected related remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump recently, stressing that the country had not "confiscated land."

In a statement issued by the South African Presidency, the government also dismissed claims that the Expropriation Act was aimed at seizing land.

"The recently adopted Expropriation Act is not a confiscation instrument, but a

constitutionally mandated legal process that ensures public access to land in an equitable and just manner as guided by the Constitution," the statement said.

Ramaphosa's response followed a post by Trump on his social media platform Truth Social on Sunday. "South Africa is confiscating land, and treating certain classes of people VERY BADLY. I will be cutting off all future funding to South Africa until a full investigation of this situation has been completed," Trump

wrote.

President Ramaphosa (pictured) stated that he was looking forward to discussions with Trump about South Africa's land reform process, suggesting they might find common ground. "We look forward to engaging with the Trump administration over our land reform policy and issues of bilateral interest," Ramaphosa said.

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Ronald Lamola said there was nothing unique about the Expro-



priation Act, as countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom have similar laws that allow them to expropriate land when it is in the public interest.

"We want to state that we are a constitutional democracy and the expropriation law that has been referenced is not an exception. Many parts of the world have expropriation laws that are used in the public interest and for public purpose," Lamola addressed the issue in a video clip.

Meanwhile, African National Congress (ANC) Spokesperson Mhlangeni Bhengu-Motsiri welcomed Ramaphosa's engagement with foreign presidents.

"The ANC will not tolerate

distortion of the facts undermining our national sovereignty and transformation agenda. We call on all progressive forces, both locally and globally, to reject Africa's divisive agenda and stand with South Africa in its pursuit of justice, equity, and meaningful land reform," he said.

In January, Ramaphosa signed the Expropriation Bill into law, which allows public institutions to expropriate land in the public interest. The signing of the Act re-

pealed the pre-democratic Expropriation Act of 1975.

"Section 25 of the Constitution recognizes expropriation as an essential mechanism for the state to acquire someone's property for a public purpose or in the public interest, subject to just and equitable compensation being paid," the Presidency's statement noted. South Africa is still grappling with the consequences of the 1913 Land Act which saw the state taking land away from thousands of Black people.

ICC steps up hunt for Joseph Kony: A defining fight for justice, hope, healing

By Adonis Byemelwa



emotional, and psychological wounds inflicted by the LRA.

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) has taken a monumental step forward in its relentless pursuit of justice against Joseph Kony, the notorious leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Kony, whose brutal reign of terror has scarred Uganda and neighboring regions for decades, remains one of the world's most infamous fugitives.

His crimes, marked by unspeakable violence, mass abductions, and the exploitation of children, have left an indelible mark on countless communities.

With renewed determination and global attention, the ICC is signaling that even the most elusive perpetrators cannot escape accountability, offering victims a long-awaited glimmer of hope.

Kony, who has evaded capture for nearly two decades, remains one of the world's most notorious fugitives.

Despite the challenges of apprehending him, the ICC's commitment to addressing the atrocities attributed to him signals renewed hope for justice and healing for the countless victims of his brutal reign.

Joseph Kony became globally infamous as the head of the LRA, a rebel group responsible for widespread violence and terror in Uganda and beyond. His leadership saw the rise of some of the most horrific tactics ever recorded in modern conflict.

Entire communities were devastated by mass killings, while countless children were abducted and forced into the LRA's ranks as child soldiers.

These young captives endured unimaginable hardships, including violence, exploitation, and brainwashing. Thousands of lives were lost, and the scars of these atrocities remain painfully vivid for survivors and their families.

In 2005, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Kony, accusing him of 33 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. These included murder, enslavement, sexual enslavement, and the conscription of children under 15 into armed conflict.

Yet, despite the severity of these charges, Kony managed to slip through the cracks of international justice, reportedly moving between remote regions in Central and East Africa.

For years, his ability to evade capture symbolized the difficulties in prosecuting powerful perpetrators of large-scale crimes, particularly in areas with limited state control and geopolitical complexities.

In a significant move in December 2022, the ICC unsealed a warrant that had been issued in 2005, now bringing new charges against Kony.

These charges focus on atrocities committed in the early 2000s in northern Uganda, a period when the LRA's brutal activities left a trail of devastation.

This development sends a clear message that no amount of time will dilute the pursuit of justice. The ICC's actions serve as a reminder that accountability is not only essential for individual crimes but also a broader acknowledgment of the harm inflicted upon entire communities.

For the survivors of Kony's atrocities, the ICC's renewed focus offers a glimmer of long-awaited justice.

Many of these survivors have spent years grappling with the physical,

Despite the progress, bringing Kony to justice is no simple feat. His ability to remain elusive is bolstered by the remote and volatile regions in which he operates, compounded by inconsistent cooperation from certain states.

Over the years, waning international attention and a decline in resources dedicated to his capture have further complicated efforts to locate and apprehend him.

Still, the ICC's actions underscore its unwavering commitment to ensuring that justice is served, regardless of the challenges or the passage of time. The message is clear: the magnitude of these crimes necessitates accountability, no matter how long it takes.

The ICC's handling of the case against Dominic Ongwen, a former LRA commander, offers a precedent for how Kony's prosecution might unfold. Ongwen's story is particularly complex; he was abducted as a child and rose through the LRA's ranks, becoming both a victim and a perpetrator.

In 2021, Ongwen was convicted by the ICC on 61 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity and sentenced to 25 years in prison. His trial not only served as a milestone in the fight for justice but also provided survivors with a platform to share their experiences and seek redress.

While Kony's situation differs significantly from Ongwen's, the ICC's approach to this case highlights the importance of perseverance and the value of collaboration among international and regional actors in the pursuit of justice.

The renewed momentum around Kony's case has sparked calls for urgent action. Advocates are urging governments, regional organizations, and the broader international community to intensify efforts to locate and apprehend him.

Beyond this, they emphasize the need for sustained support for those who suffered under the LRA's atrocities. These efforts must go hand in hand, as justice for the victims cannot be achieved without addressing the deep and lasting impacts of the violence.

A human rights activist reflected on the broader significance of the case, stating, "This is not just about one man. It's about acknowledging the suffering of thousands and sending a message that the world will not tolerate impunity for such crimes."

The pursuit of Kony represents more than a legal battle; it is a stand against the notion that those responsible for heinous crimes can escape justice indefinitely.

As the ICC intensifies its pursuit of Joseph Kony,

broader debates over its role in Africa come into focus. Many Africans have raised concerns about what they perceive as double standards, questioning why the ICC appears to focus disproportionately on African leaders and conflicts while seeming reluctant to investigate alleged crimes in other parts of the world. Critics argue that this selective justice undermines the court's credibility and creates resentment in regions where accountability is most needed. Meanwhile, armed rebel groups across Africa continue to wreak havoc, from the Democratic Republic of Congo to the Sahel, with vulnerable communities bearing the brunt of their violence.

Yet, supporters of the ICC contend that its focus on Africa stems from the gravity of the crimes committed and the referrals made by African states themselves. They point to figures like Kony as a reminder of the horrors that demand global intervention. For the ICC, Kony's case is not just about pursuing a single fugitive—it is an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to ending impunity for the most egregious crimes, regardless of location.

As survivors of the Lord's Resistance Army await justice, their stories remain a powerful testament to resilience. The hope is not just to capture Kony but to send a resounding message to other perpetrators that justice will find them. For the victims of his atrocities, the prospect of accountability represents a step toward healing. With its actions, the ICC is not only confronting the past but also striving to shape a future where those who commit such crimes will never escape the reach of justice.

Financial, fiscal and budgetary planning crucial for African cities

By Special Correspondent

A two-day Experts Group Meeting in December 2024 to review and validate the Financial Performance Assessment Report of Nairobi City concluded with a call to African cities to ensure financial, fiscal and budgetary planning for proper resource allocation and development in the wake of increased urbanization.

The experts stressed the importance of financial and fiscal space diversification for African cities.

"African cities, particularly the capital cities, are expected to see an influx of urban residents in the near future. It's important to prepare for this impending urbanization wave," said Eshetayehu Kinfu, Head of Strategic Programmes Management in the Addis Ababa Mayor's Office.

Discussing revenue collection and allocation, Godfrey Akumali, County Secretary and Head of County Public Service, Nairobi City County Government, said the City of Nairobi faces liquidity problems due to heavy dependence on national government funding.

"The county aims to diversify revenue streams by leveraging technology to improve efficiency in billing and collection. Updating the taxpayers' registry is crucial to identify and track customers across all revenue streams in Nairobi," said Akumali.

Noting the challenge of uncollected revenue faced by the city, Akumali stated that going forward, the city's focus is to collect all due revenues without introducing new taxes, emphasizing the importance of capacity building in technology and internal processes.

He explained that the city is currently funded by national government contributions and its own revenue, which has grown from Ksh 7.8 billion (US\$ 60.3 million) to Ksh 12.8 billion (US\$ 99.06 million), with the goal of reaching Ksh 13 billion (US\$ 100.6 million) by the end of this financial year.

"Nairobi has an annual budget need of approximately Ksh 20 billion (US\$ 155 million), equivalent to the equitable share level, necessitating an improvement in its revenue sources," he said.

"The strategy for increased revenue collection is through digital revenue



Dar es Salaam city

collection, enhancing compliance through a customer-centric approach, and ensuring efficient use of technology."

Akumali indicated that Nairobi City County has already started enhancing revenue collection, with a significant portion of revenues being collected digitally.

The goal, he said, is to ensure higher revenue collection without increasing the tax burden on Nairobi residents.

He stressed the need for more Nairobi residents to participate in the city's development, as revenue is the basis for service delivery, and emphasized the importance of partnerships with the private sec-

tor to expand the revenue base and improve public service delivery.

Jenifer Wakhungu, Deputy Director of Local Transformative Finance at the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), said national governments should simplify and popularize existing policies, enhance training for tech-savvy individuals, and improve resource mobilization and allocation.

She emphasized the importance of research to keep up with dynamic systems and alternative financing mechanisms, including working with private financial sectors and proper fiscal planning.

Wakhungu also highlighted the need for wealth distribution

among regions, especially those rich in natural resources.

"Capacity building and introducing new financing instruments such as municipal bonds are key strategies for the development of cities in Africa," she said.

She added that local governments should partner with international organizations such as the UN to explore financing for cities and new methodologies or instruments. She emphasized the need to simplify and popularize existing policies to make them more actionable.

The two-day meeting was organized in collaboration with UN-Habitat, the UN Capital Development

Fund (UNCDF), and the Nairobi City County Government. It aimed to validate and enrich the financial assessment report of Nairobi City.

The review is part of an ongoing project, referred to by the UN as the Development Account, which seeks to support six selected cities in Africa—Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam, Kigali, Lusaka, Nairobi, and Yaoundé—and assess their fiscal space limitations due to increased challenges in meeting development needs, including infrastructure, housing, healthcare, and education, in the post-COVID era.

Atkeyelsh Persson, Chief of Urbanization and Development at the ECA, noted that the ECA supports local teams in reviewing and validating the collected data, ensuring its accuracy, completeness, and reliability before proceeding with the analysis and report preparation for all the cities.

"This step is essential for maintaining the integrity of the financial assessment report and providing a sound basis for subsequent analysis and decision-making processes," said Persson.

In 1997, the General Assembly established the United Nations Development Account (DA) to enhance the capacities of Member States and serve as a mechanism to fund priority capacity development projects designed to contribute to the implementation of long-term programmes of the United Nations Secretariat.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a detailed radio schedule for Monday through Sunday with various program titles and times. At the bottom, it says 'Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One' with social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and the Radio One logo.



Setting financial goals: A path to financial success

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A pathway to trust and loyalty

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Tanzania raises US\$10m from crops exports in four years

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Equity market's investor paper wealth increases by 4.2trn/- in twelve months

By Guardian Reporter

INVESTORS' paper wealth on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) has expanded by 4.2 trillion/- over the last 12 months, driven by the growth of share prices for both local and cross-listed companies.

This reflects heightened investor confidence and favorable market and economic conditions.

The market report highlights that the major expansion was recorded by cross-listed counters, including East African Breweries Limited (EABL), KCB, and JHL, which accounted for at least 65 percent of the increase, while local counters contributed about 35 percent.

The DSE's total market capitalization grew to 18.5trn/- at the end of January 2025, compared to 14.3trn/- at the end of January 2024.

Investors on locally listed equities saw their wealth expand by 1.2trn/- during the period, as domestic market capitalization rose to 12.5trn/- from 11.3trn/-. These trends also boosted the All Share Index (DSEI) to 2,218.96 points, up from 1,723.85 points. The Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which

measures the performance of locally listed companies, closed at 4,743.38 points, up from 4,294.07 points.

A key driver of this performance was the Banks, Finance, and Investment sector, whose index increased by 30 percent to 6,164.62 points from 4,540.11 points in January 2024.

CRDB Bank's stock price rose from 460/- to 700/- over the year, reflecting strong financial performance and robust demand for its shares. Similarly, KCB Bank's share price surged from 350/- to 820/- due to its strong regional presence and solid financial results across East Africa.

Earlier reports show that the DSE recorded a 22.23 percent growth in 2024, placing it among Africa's top-performing stock markets.

It outperformed several larger markets, including South Africa (9.37 percent), Mauritius (4.75 percent), and Namibia (0.28 percent), showing steady progress in both local and USD terms.

DSE Chief Executive Officer Peter Nalitoela attributed the growth to sustained investor trust, the expansion of the digital share trading platform (MTP), and improved macroeconomic stability in Tanzania.

"The remarkable growth reflects sustained investor confidence and the strong performance of listed companies, underscoring the resilience and attractiveness of our capital market," Nalitoela explained.



During January, 2025, net foreign investors outflows amounted to 11.4bn/- . AI generated image

According to Statista, the market capitalization in Tanzania's stock market is projected to reach USD 6.51 billion in 2025, with the number of trades expected to hit 1.25 million. "The Tanzanian stock market is witnessing increasing investor interest as the government promotes economic diversification and infrastructure development initiatives," Statista noted.

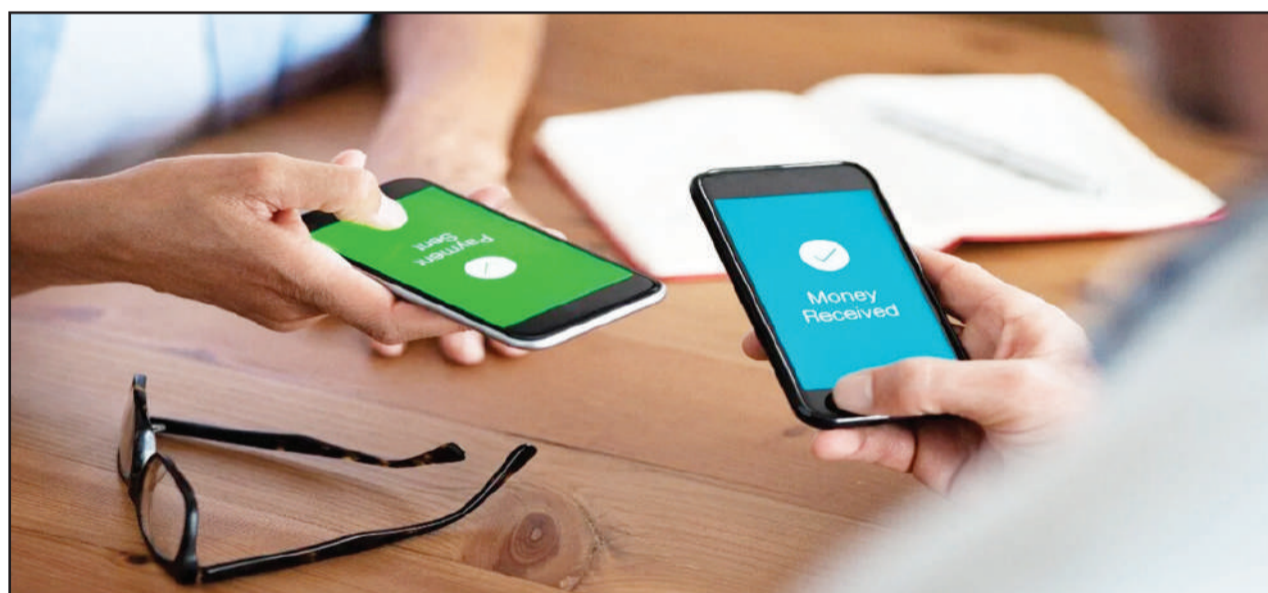
Speaking with CNBC last month, Imani Muhingo, Senior Manager of Securities Brokerage Services at CRDB Bank Plc, highlighted that Tanzania is setting the stage for a transformative year in 2025 with recently published guidelines on reporting sustainability-related risks and opportunities for banks and financial institutions.

Muhingo emphasized the significance of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors in the banking industry and the overall market landscape in Tanzania.

Meanwhile, the equity market recorded a total turnover of 28bn/- during the first month of the current quarter, nearly half of the total turnover recorded during the first three months of last year. The DSE market report shows that local investors dominated both share buying and selling activities.

Foreign investors sold shares valued at 13.3bn/-, equivalent to 47.51 percent of the total value of shares sold, and bought shares worth 1.9bn/- or 6.81 percent of the total value of shares bought. This translated into a net outflow of 11.4bn/-. Total market capitalization closed at 18.5 trillion/-, a slight increase from 17.8trn/- recorded at the start of the year, driven by appreciating share prices among local and foreign counters.

The domestic market capitalization also grew, closing at 12.5trn/- from 12.2trn/-, driven by rising share prices among banking and investment counters.



Digital wallets transform African finance

JOHANNESBURG

THE widespread adoption of digital wallets is reshaping the global financial landscape, and Africa is at the forefront of this transformation.

According to a recent Juniper Research study, over two-thirds of the global population - 5.4 billion people - will own a digital wallet by 2029, marking a significant and lasting shift from traditional payment methods.

Nowhere is this trend more evident than in Africa, where digital wallets are filling crucial gaps by serving the unbanked, enabling micro-transactions, and facilitating peer-to-peer payments.

This growth is particularly impactful in emerging economies, where digital wallets are bridging the gap for the unbanked and underserved populations. Digital wallets are a low-cost, convenient, safe and secure alternative to traditional banks, and are tailor-made for those previously excluded from traditional financial services.

Jonathan Holden, chief operating officer of leading digital wallet provider SOLMate, highlights the pivotal role digital wallets are playing in African financial ecosystems:

"Digital wallets are no longer just payment tools; they are evolving into sophisticated financial-management solutions that address local needs while aligning with global trends. As adoption increases, we're seeing decreased fees, enhanced features, and greater financial inclusion across the continent."

Bridging financial gaps

In South Africa, digital wallets are filling critical gaps by providing accessible financial tools for formal and informal-sector

workers alike. In rural areas, where many residents rely on remittances from family members working in urban areas or abroad, digital wallets can simplify the process of receiving and sending money.

By providing easier access to financial services, digital wallets help rural residents save, invest, and eventually start small businesses, which also benefit from access to financial products. This can contribute to local economic growth and poverty reduction.

Security remains a key driver of digital wallet adoption in Africa. In South Africa, where cash security is a concern, the ability to easily receive and send money digitally reduces the risk of theft and fraud.

Modern digital wallets offer encryption and multi-factor authentication, providing additional layers of security for users. The availability of compartmentalised digital wallets - allowing users to create dedicated funds for specific purposes like stokvel savings or transport budgeting - not only enhances security but also promotes better financial management and inclusion.

The cashless future

Looking ahead, the digital wallet landscape in Africa will be shaped by continued innovation focused on local needs. Solutions for informal workers, super-app integrations, offline functionality, and cross-border payment capabilities reflect a maturing market and increased specialisation.

With smartphone penetration in South Africa over 90%, the foundation is set for mass adoption of low-cost, user-friendly digital financial solutions. As fintech providers collaborate with the broader business ecosystem, digital wallets will play an increasingly central role, making payments more accessible, affordable and convenient for millions.

"The cashless revolution has proven both durable and transformative," Holden concludes. "Digital wallets aren't just replicating traditional banking - they're creating an empowering new paradigm of financial inclusion and participation. By designing products that work for the unique needs of African consumers and businesses, we have an opportunity to drive lasting positive change."

As the cashless revolution continues to gain momentum, digital wallets are proving to be a powerful tool for financial inclusion. By offering affordable, secure, and convenient alternatives to traditional banking, they are empowering individuals and small businesses alike, driving economic growth and reducing poverty.

SOLMate remains committed to driving this transformation, ensuring that digital wallets serve as a catalyst for a more inclusive and prosperous financial future in South Africa and beyond.

Maize production reaches 11.7 million tonnes in 2024/2025

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE Minister Hussein Bashe has said maize production has increased in the country, with the first time Tanzania has managed to produce 11.7 million tonnes that led to the third producer of maize on the African continent.

Bashe said this in Dodoma, during a ceremony to hand over a \$ 13 billion payment check to the tobacco farmers in the country for expanding the scope of agriculture in various areas.

He said that increased maize production for the first time is a major step in the agricultural sector and increased the government will improve the agricultural environment to ensure we continue to take action.

He said that if the country aims to produce 15 million tonnes by 2025/2026, including 30 sacks per acre, which will increase the economy of farmers but also expand the maize cultivation.

He said that fertilizer subsidies will continue for maize farmers, and the registration system will continue through the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA), so he has called on farmers to continue registering in the fertilizer system.

However, he said the government would begin to suspend smallholder farmers by measuring farms and would start with Songwe Region in collaboration with the Land Use Commission.

Commenting on fertilizer the minister said that the use of fertilizers in the country has increased, where

He said that earlier before the fertilizer subsidized system started spending was 360,000 tonnes but after the start of the subsidy system the use is 840,000 tonnes.

He said the government's goal this season was

to increase the use of subsidized fertilizers in the country to one million tonnes in the 2025 and 2026 agricultural season with the aim of expanding the scope of agricultural agriculture in the country.

"The government is planning to increase maize production as well as other crops which is why we have put in place a strategy to increase the use of subsidized fertilizers for farmers," said Bashe.

He said the government would continue with the provision of subsidized fertilizers in various crops in the country, while emphasizing the use of subsidized fertilizers next season will reach one million tonnes in various parts of the country and this does not live with tobacco fertilizers.

Bashe explained that the use of fertilizers on one acre was 15 kg, but now we have reached 24 kg per acre but the government is also planning to reach 50 kg on acres with the goal of expanding the agricultural scope in the country.

Bashe said if the country had subsidized the maize and sunflower seeds and added that the National Food Security Agency (NFRA) would be the main buyer of the country's maize.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) forecasts projected that Tanzania's total cereal production, including maize, is forecasted at a record 13.9 million tonnes, approximately 22 percent higher than the previous year.

This surplus has enabled increased maize exports to neighboring countries facing production challenges, such as Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Zambia.

Despite a 16 percent rise in maize prices between June and November 2024, driven by strong export demand, prices remain about 20 percent lower than the previous year due to ample domestic supply.



Setting financial goals: A path to financial success

IN a world where financial independence has become increasingly important, setting clear financial goals is essential for achieving stability and success. Whether individuals are grappling with student loans, saving for a family, or planning for retirement, a well-structured financial plan can serve as a guiding light through life's financial complexities. This article delves into the different types of financial goals, outlines the SMART framework for effective planning, and highlights practical tools that can help you stay on course—while also incorporating local contexts and relatable real-life examples.

Financial goals traditionally fall into three categories: short-term, medium-term, and long-term. Short-term goals are typically those that can be accomplished within a year and often focus on immediate needs. For instance, take the story of Jessica, a young professional in the area who set her sights on saving 1,500,000/- for a weekend getaway. By opening a dedicated savings account and consistently setting aside a portion of her monthly income, Jessica was able to achieve her goal in just six months, demonstrating how small, disciplined efforts can lead to significant rewards.

Medium-term goals range from one to five years and usually require more discipline and strategic planning. A compelling example is Mark and Lisa, a couple in their late twenties, who aimed to purchase their first home. They set a goal to save 50,000,000/- over the course of three years for a down payment. To reach this target, they carefully trimmed discretionary spending, adhered to a strict budgeting plan, and utilized a high-yield savings account to maximize their savings potential. Their successful navigation of this journey serves as an inspiring blueprint for others looking to achieve similar milestones.

Moving beyond five years, we encounter long-term goals, which often involve broader aspirations such as paying for a child's education or building a substantial retirement fund. For Sarah, a dedicated marketing professional, the dream of retiring comfortably in 30 years includes a target of saving 200mn/-. To reach this ambitious goal, Sarah has taken a proactive approach by investing strategically through contributing to a mutual fund like UTT and Timiza Fund, and buying Treasury Bonds. By leveraging the power of compound interest, she is not just saving money but actively working to grow her wealth for the future.

FROM PENNY TO PROSPERITY

By Brighton Kanemo



To make financial goals more achievable, experts recommend employing the SMART framework—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. This method effectively transforms vague intentions into actionable plans. For example, instead of the nebulous goal of “wanting to save money,” one could specify a clear aim like “save 10,000,000/- for a new car by June 2025.” By breaking it down into monthly milestones, such as saving 1m/- each month, individuals can track their progress and celebrate small victories along the way.

Achievability is a crucial aspect of this process; setting realistic and attainable goals based on current income and expenses will help prevent unnecessary stress. Additionally, ensuring that goals align with broader life ambitions adds relevance, making the effort feel purposeful. The final component, establishing a clear deadline, instills a sense of urgency that encourages commitment and focus.

An area for further improvement lies in tailoring financial planning frameworks to fit specific cultural and economic contexts. For example, in communities where informal savings groups or cooperatives thrive, financial goals can effectively leverage these communal systems. By acknowledging local realities and practices, the SMART criteria can become more inclusive and practical for diverse demographic groups.

Equally important to achieving financial goals is the use of digital tools and apps designed to simplify tracking and planning. Budgeting applications like Mint and YNAB (You Need a Budget) empower users to monitor expenses, create personalized budgets, and receive real-time alerts about their finances. Savings apps such as Qapital and Digit help automate the saving process by allowing users to set unique rules—like rounding up purchases to the nearest dollar, with the difference saved automatically. For those with long-term financial objectives, Trading and investment platforms like

Hisa Kiganjani provide easy access to varied investment options and trading, catering even to those new to investing.

While these tools are immensely valuable, there remains significant room for improvement in making them accessible to a broader audience. Many existing apps primarily cater to users with advanced financial literacy or higher incomes, oftentimes excluding individuals in low-income brackets or those with limited digital access. Developing localized tools that integrate seamlessly with regional banking systems and address unique financial challenges can enhance the inclusivity of these valuable resources.

Setting financial goals transcends mere numbers; it represents taking proactive control over one's financial future and transforming aspirations into concrete realities. By categorizing goals into short-, medium-, and long-term objectives, adhering to the SMART framework, and leveraging digital resources, individuals can craft a robust roadmap to financial success. Whether you are a student eyeing your first significant purchase or a seasoned professional planning for retirement, the key is to start small, remain consistent, and adapt goals as circumstances change.

Today presents the perfect opportunity to take that first decisive step. Open a dedicated savings account, download a budgeting app, or jot down your financial goals. Always remember that financial independence is not achieved in a day; rather, it is a journey composed of small, consistent actions that yield lasting rewards. Equipped with the right mindset and tools, your financial dreams are not as distant as they may seem. Embrace the journey, and take charge of your financial future today.

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recommend appropriate measures, such as a global supplemental tariff or other policies, to remedy such deficits.’

The US current account deficit is predominantly a macroeconomic phenomenon, reflecting the country's savings and investment gap. America's huge and unwise fiscal deficits, which Trump's plans threaten to exacerbate, will add to that gap.

The dollar is super strong. The US economy is stronger and the Federal Reserve's interest rate cut path is far shallower than Europe's, sucking in capital. Threatened tariffs are further pushing the dollar up, aggravating the current account deficit.

Of course, given Europe's weak growth and China's massive headwinds, there clearly is a foreign dimension to the deficits. But first and foremost, American deficits are made in America. Foreigners can't fix that.

Trump assigns the investigation of persistent US deficits to the Commerce Department in consultation with the Treasury and US Trade Representative. But Commerce doesn't have responsibility for macroeconomic policy. Nor does USTR. In contrast, the Secretary of the Treasury is the chief economic spokesperson for the administration. This order is therefore a slap in the face of the Treasury and Secretary Scott Bessent.

Treasury and foreign exchange

Section 2e of the order is more conventional, assigning responsibility solely to the Secretary of the Treasury: ‘The Secretary of the Treasury shall recommend appropriate measures to counter currency manipulation or misalignment that prevents effective balance of payments adjustments or that provides trading partners with an unfair competitive advantage in international trade, and shall identify any countries that he believes should be designated as currency manipulators.’

But what should one watch out for?

The standard currency playbook under Presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush, Barack Obama and Joe Biden ran through the Treasury semi-annual foreign exchange report. Under a 2015-16 revision to the report's authorisation, in assessing whether a country ‘manipulated’ its currency or pursued harmful currency practices, the Treasury was to analyse more quantitatively if the country: 1) was a major trading partner and had a large bilateral surplus with the US, 2) a material current account surplus and 3) was adding significantly to reserves in a sign it was artificially holding its currency down.

Trump heavily focuses on the first point, though most economists largely dismiss the importance of bilateral balances. In 2019, Trump ordered the Treasury to designate China as a currency manipulator, even though China only ran afoul of one of the three criteria. Later it designated Vietnam and Switzerland for manipulation when they ran afoul of the three criteria.

The designations in and of themselves were greeted by a yawn from markets and barely caused a ripple. Aside from China, which has only triggered the bilateral balance criterion in recent years, other countries running afoul of two criteria are placed on a monitoring list.

What options are available to Treasury and the administration?

The threat of being designated a manipulator and being on the monitoring list can prod smaller countries to hold bilateral discussions with the Treasury and make accommodations. But the kinds of remedies proposed in the legislation for manipulators are not that impactful. Cutting off Export-Import Bank financing may not be meaningful to China, for example. International Monetary Fund exchange rate analytics may offer interesting insights but, when it comes to ruthless truth-telling, the IMF is a toothless tiger.

There is no reason a Trump Treasury needs to stick with its ‘three strikes’ practice from the first term, plus the criteria can be fiddled. For example, the material current account surplus criterion was defined as 3 percent under the Obama administration, 2 percent under Trump 1.0 and 3 percent under Biden.

China's current account surplus - regardless of what the IMF tells us - is probably back up to 3 percent or higher and the bilateral balance criterion is met. Two out of three might do the trick for a Bessent Treasury under a newly aggressive Trump administration. According to the November 2024 Treasury FX Report, Vietnam, Canada and Mexico are poor candidates for designation.

Of course, Trump may impose tariffs against many countries for whatever reason, currency-related or not.

For countries posing currency issues, it is worth recalling that countervailing duties for currency undervaluation were put forward towards the end of Trump 1.0 and imposed on Vietnamese tire production. The clock ran out before they could be imposed on Chinese products. Currency undervaluation CVDs could offer a targeted vehicle for Trump 2.0 to address currency concerns.

They are, however, fundamentally misguided. There is no scientific way to estimate equilibrium exchange rates or deviations from equilibrium. Deriving a bilateral equilibrium exchange rate from a multilateral one is highly problematic. Currencies are impacted by capital flows, swamping current account flows - the dollar is especially affected by capital account transactions. These considerations involve macroeconomic policy. If the dollar is now overvalued, it is more a ‘Made in the USA’ story and the flip side of that is other currencies being undervalued, through little fault of their own.

What are the possible outs?

Under the Trans-Pacific Partnership during the Obama administration, tackling currency manipulation was a principal negotiating objective set by Congress for approval of Trade Promotion (fast track) Authority. Finance ministers reached a joint declaration that was not part of TPP or part of its dispute resolution, setting up possible finance minister discussions on macroeconomic and financial developments in the TPP.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement included a currency chapter. It required the countries to affirm their commitment to market exchange rates and adhere to IMF prohibitions against manipulation.

In both cases, though, the US push to tie currency understandings to trade deals met resistance from others. The provisions agreed were weak and often just recognised existing practice.

Transparency on currency policy understandings featured prominently in Trump 1.0. The China Phase One deal had a currency chapter, which committed the parties to do what they were already doing. The trade deal with Korea included a side agreement. Vietnam was pushed to give such information to the US. Chinese currency practices in particular are highly opaque and there is still room for far greater improvements on this front. The progress on transparency was welcome.

Any Trump 2.0 push on currency policy is likely to stir up a hornet's nest within the administration, let alone internationally. But it will not change the underlying US macroeconomic dynamics driving imbalances. Foreign countries have engaged in harmful currency practices, but today's woes are mainly made in the US. The Treasury's immediate tools for tackling harmful currency practices are weak. If Trump 2.0 is to deploy currency sticks, countermeasures in the trade realm are the likeliest tool of choice.

Blaming the foreigners will create some ugly recriminations and big US trade deficits aren't going away.

Mark Sobel (pictured) is US Chair of OMFIF. Mark, who represented the US on the International Monetary Fund executive board up to April 2018, has had a 40-year Treasury career with extensive around-the-world engagement.

‘America first’ showcasing Trump’s currency confusion

By Mark Sobel

US President Donald Trump has again demonstrated his confusion on currency issues with his ‘America first’ executive order on trade policy.

Section 2a of the order shows this clearly: ‘The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the United States Trade Representative, shall investigate

the causes of our country's large and persistent annual trade deficits in goods, as well as the economic and national security implications and risks resulting from such deficits, and



ETHICAL MARKETING

A pathway to trust and loyalty

IN today's competitive landscape, marketing strategies are evolving to meet the demands of a more informed and discerning audience. One key approach that has gained prominence is ethical marketing. Ethical marketing is not merely about adhering to legal standards but also about fostering trust, authenticity, and genuine connections with consumers.

In essence, what is Ethical Marketing? Ethical marketing refers to the practice of promoting products and services in a manner that is honest, transparent, and respectful of consumer rights and values. It goes beyond profit-driven motives to consider the broader impact on society and the environment. Ethical marketers prioritize integrity, fairness, and accountability in their campaigns, ensuring that their messaging aligns with their brand's values and mission.

Additionally, customers now expect a certain degree of customization in the marketing process because of technological advancements and businesses' ability to get to "know" their customers across multiple touchpoints.

As with the last point, consumers are becoming more and more interested in ethical marketing, so it is essential for brands to use it. For a modern consumer to trust a brand, they expect honesty, transparency, and respect for human rights. There isn't much you can get away with these days without being caught, even though in the past businesses might have gotten away with overpromising and underdelivering. Consumers can distinguish between trustworthy and dishonest brands, and they may even be willing to pay a little bit more for a business they trust than one with a



track record of dishonesty.

Data privacy is the short arm of trust and loyalty. I say this to mean that, people's concerns about data protection are growing as a result of online customer data tracking's ever-expanding reach. There are two ways to address this issue, increased security and transparency. Enforcing stricter security on data passing through platforms allays people's concerns that their personal information will fall into the wrong hands, also being open and honest with customers about how you intend to use their data puts them at ease. As a result, businesses that comply with data protection regulations and communicate openly with customers are likely to gain greater trust.

It also ensures that business comply with laws and regulations, reducing the risk of legal issues and fines. It also aligns with broader societal values, which can protect the brand from negative publicity and backlash.

Ethical marketing aims to create trust. When consumers see that a brand is committed to ethical practices, such as being transparent about its products and respectful of consumer rights and the level of data protection. Customers are more likely to trust and remain loyal to that brand. Trust is a crucial factor in consumer decision-making, and brands that earn it can build long-term relationships with their customers.

Today's consumers are more informed and socially conscious than ever before. Many actively seek out brands that align with their values and

are willing to pay a premium for ethically produced goods and services. Ethical marketing meets this demand and resonates with the modern consumer.

When building trust, ethical marketing practices create a foundation of trust between the brand and its consumers. When consumers know that a brand operates with integrity, they are more likely to feel confident in their purchase decisions and continue supporting the brand.

One way to make this adoption easier for any business is to communicate better, advocate truth, protect customer data, build trust, loyalty, and a positive brand reputation. Which in the long run will ultimately flourish into a rose within a thorny bush. Ethical marketing is not just a moral choice but a strategic one.

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Trump threatens to cut funding for South Africa over land policy

By Basilio Rukanga

US President Donald Trump has said he will cut all future funding to South Africa over allegations that it was confiscating land and "treating certain classes of people very badly".

Last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed into law a bill that allows land seizures without compensation in certain circumstances.

Land ownership has long been a contentious issue in South Africa with most farmland still owned by white people, 30 years after the end of the racist system of apartheid.

There have been continuous calls for the government to address land reform and deal with the past injustices of racial segregation.

"South Africa is a constitutional democracy that is deeply rooted in the rule of law, justice and equality. The South African government has not confiscated any land," Ramaphosa responded in a statement on X on Monday morning.

Elon Musk, who was born in South Africa and is now a Trump adviser, has also joined in the debate.

"Why do you have openly racist ownership laws?" Musk said to Ramaphosa in a post on X.

On Sunday, Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social: "I will be cutting off all future funding to South Africa until a full investigation of this situation has been completed!"

He later said, in a briefing with journalists, that South Africa's "leadership is doing some terrible things, horrible things".

"So that's under investigation right now. We'll make a determination, and until such time as we find out what South Africa is doing – they're taking away land and confiscating land, and actually they're doing things that are perhaps far worse than that."

South Africa's International Relations Minister Ronald Lamola said in a response on X that he hoped Trump's advisers would use "this investigative period to deepen their understanding of South Africa's policies as a constitutional democracy".

"Such insights will ensure a respectful and informed approach to our democratic commitments," he added.

The South African president said the government had not confiscated any land. In his response, the South African president said that the new law was not a "confiscation instrument, but a constitutionally mandated legal process that ensures public access to land in an equitable and just manner as guided by the constitution".

He said there was no other funding that is received by South Africa from the US except for the US health initiative PEPFAR, which he said represented "17 percent of South Africa's HIV/Aids programme".

The US allocated about \$440m (£358m) in assistance to South Africa in 2023, according to US government data.

The South African government says that the new law does not allow arbitrary seizures of land as it must first attempt to reach an agreement with the owner.

The president's spokesperson, Vincent Magwenya, last month said the state "may not expropriate property arbitrarily or for a purpose other than... in the public interest".

It says that the current system of "willing seller, willing buyer" has allowed white farmers to delay the process of land reform.

However, some critics have expressed fears that the law may have disastrous consequences like in Zimbabwe, where land seizures wrecked the economy and scared away investors.

In 2018, Trump had, during his first term as president, asked the then US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to study South Africa's "farm seizures and expropriations and the large-scale killing of farmers".

At that time, South Africa then accused Trump of seeking to sow division with a spokesperson saying he was "misinformed".

The Land Reform Process focused on three areas: restitution, land tenure reform and land redistribution.

Restitution, the government compensating (monetary) individuals who had been forcefully removed, has been very unsuccessful, and the policy has now shifted to redistribution with secure land tenure.



CEO of Tanzania starts new training for women-led businesses

By Guardian Reporter

THE CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEO of Tanzania) has launched the women's MSMEs training programme pilot under the Think Equal Lead Smart (TELS) initiative in Temeke district.

This milestone marks a significant step toward enhancing women's leadership and economic empowerment through targeted capacity-building interventions.

TELS aims to bridge the gender gap in leadership and decision-making by addressing key barriers through three pillars: Policy, Socio-Economic Structures, and Culture and Social Norms.

The first phase of this transformative initiative focuses on empowering women-owned micro businesses by equipping them with essential leadership, entrepreneurship, digital, and financial skills.

Tanzania's economic future is closely linked to the full participation of women entrepreneurs. Research from McKinsey suggests that closing the gender gap in Africa could add \$316 billion to the continent's economy by 2025.

TELS integrates a strong business case into all its interventions to ensure that women-led enterprises are positioned for profitability, scalability, and sustained economic impact.

CEO of Tanzania Executive Director Santina Benson, reflected on the initiative, stating: "Our comprehensive baseline study, conducted over the past year in Temeke, uncovered critical insights into the socio-economic landscape and the unique challenges women entrepreneurs face".

Benson said the insights have underscored the urgency of integrating gender-inclusive policies and sustainable interventions to drive economic growth.

Investing in women's economic empowerment creates a 'triple effect' - elevating individual prosperity, fortifying families and communities, and contributing to broader national development."

Following the study, 40 women entrepreneurs have been selected to participate in the pilot training program.

Developed in collaboration with Empower Limited, the curriculum takes a practical, innovative approach to learning, ensuring the program is both accessible and impactful, even in informal business environments.

Benson further emphasized the program's broader vision: "TELS is not just about training women entrepreneurs; it is about transforming the ecosystem. Through this initiative, we aim to create an inclusive business environment that offers equal opportunities for women to thrive. The Temeke pilot is the first step, but its ripple effects will challenge entrenched social norms, shape policies, and inspire a shift towards greater gender equity in Tanzania's business landscape."

Similar to global efforts, TELS aligns with broader strategies to enhance financial inclusion, leadership representation, and sustainable business development. The training pilot is expected to serve as a model for scaling up the initiative, ultimately reaching 5,000 women entrepreneurs by 2027.

Tanzania raises \$10m from crop exports in four years

By Correspondent Valentine Oforu, Arusha

TANZANIA generated at least US\$10million from exporting diverse economic cash crops onto international markets in a period of four consecutive years, between 2021/22 and 2023/24 fiscal period.

The milestone in the country's agribusiness sector was attained due to professional performance by the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) in phytosanitary measures.

The TPHPA is a state-owned agency with a mandate to regulate, coordinate, and promote plant health and phytosanitary measures in the country.

Professor Joseph Ndunguru, the TPHPA Director General (DG) told the Guardian in an exclusive interview that the authority has so far assisted Tanzania to obtain for potential new crop markets in several countries abroad.

The countries, according to him, include Pakistan, China, India, Singapore, Indonesia and Mexico, among others.

He added, "We have managed to accelerate Tanzania's crops market abroad through developing professional market access dossiers and dispatched them to different Embassies abroad."

The dossiers, according to him, are part of the Strengthening Plant Health Services in Tanzania for Enhanced Food Safety (STREP-HIT) project to allow exports to the European Union (EU) and international markets in collaboration with the EU and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Dr Ndunguru (pictured) unveiled some crops that have netted vast markets abroad as vanilla, cloves, rounded potatoes, soybeans, manga pepper, and pineapple.

Together with that, he added: "We have also secured a potential markets for the sunflower oil seed cakes in China."

"We're continuing working round the clock in partnership with other relevant institutions to regulate, coordinate, and promote plant health and phytosanitary measures in the country," he assured.

On 18th September, last year, the ministry of agriculture presented market access dossiers for eight key crops to meet the phytosanitary entry standards of 14 international markets.

The move focuses to boost exports of high-quality produce, increase foreign exchange earnings, and contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural sector.

The eight crops included in the dossiers were avocado, vanilla, black pepper, pineapple, cloves, cocoa, banana, and Irish potatoes which are expected to open economic opportunities worth US\$ 3.5 billion.

And the 14 markets involved in the initiative were the 27 EU member states, which are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy and Latvia.

Others are Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden), the USA, Zambia, Pakistan, South Africa, India, Brazil, Mexico, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Canada, Turkey, Iraq, and Israel.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

President Trump to stop providing aid to S. Africa

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he would stop providing aid to South Africa until the country investigates “certain classes of people” that he claimed were being treated “very badly” without citing evidence. “South Africa is confiscating land, and treating certain classes of people VERY BADLY,” Trump said in a Truth

Social post.

“The United States won’t stand for it, we will act. Also, I will be cutting off all future funding to South Africa until a full investigation of this situation has been completed!” he said.

It is unclear what led to Trump’s post.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Monday that he looked forward to engaging with Trump



“We look forward to engaging with the Trump administration over our land reform policy and issues of bilateral interest. We are certain that out of those engagements, we will share a better and common understanding over these matters,” Ramaphosa said in a statement issued by the presidency.

“South Africa is a constitutional

democracy that is deeply rooted in the rule of law, justice and equality. The South African government has not confiscated any land.”

Ramaphosa said except for PEPFAR aid, which constitutes 17 percent of South Africa’s HIV/Aids programme, there was no other significant funding provided by the United States.

Agencies

Medvedev hopes US deep state won’t swallow Musk

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev commenting on the situation surrounding the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) expressed hope that the US deep state won’t consume Elon Musk.

Earlier, Musk, who leads the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), said that USAID had been closed down.

“Smart move by @elonmusk, trying to plug USAID’s Deep Throat. Let’s hope notorious Deep State doesn’t swallow him whole,” Medvedev wrote in English on the X social network.



On the situation surrounding USAID

Explaining the decision to dismantle USAID, Musk said that this structure is “beyond repair.” Earlier, he accused USAID of funding the development of biological weapons.

The Associated Press cited sources as saying that two USAID security managers were placed on administrative leave because of a conflict with DOGE. They refused to turn over classified documents to Musk’s agency.

In late January, NBC News reported that more than 50 USAID employees were placed on administrative leave with full pay and benefits until further notice. This decision was made following an audit that uncovered “several actions within USAID that appear to be designed to circumvent the President’s Executive Orders and the mandate from the American people,” according to the agency’s new acting administrator Jason Gray.

Agencies

Musk: Shutting down USAID in government cost-cutting drive

WASHINGTON

BILLIONAIRE Elon Musk, who is heading US President Donald Trump’s efforts to shrink the federal government, gave an update on the effort early Monday, saying they are working to shut down the US foreign aid agency USAID.

Musk, who is also CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, discussed the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in a Monday social media talk on X, which he also owns. Trump has assigned Musk to lead a federal cost-cutting panel.

The conversation, which included former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and Republican Senator Joni Ernst and Mike Lee, began with Musk saying they were working to shut down the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“It’s beyond repair,” Musk said, adding that President Trump agrees it should be shut down.

On Sunday Reuters reported the Trump administration removed two top security officials at USAID during the weekend after they tried to stop representatives from billionaire Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) from gaining access to restricted parts of the building, three sources said.

USAID is the world’s largest single donor. In fiscal year 2023, the US disbursed \$72 billion of assistance worldwide on everything from women’s health in conflict zones to access to clean water, HIV/AIDS treatments,



Elon Musk speaks at an indoor Presidential Inauguration parade event in Washington, Jan 20, 2025. AP

energy security and anti-corruption work. It provided 42 percent of all humanitarian aid tracked by the United Nations (UN) in 2024.

The website of USAID appeared to still be offline on Saturday and some users could not access it on Sunday. USAID has a staff of more than 10,000 people.

Trump has ordered a global freeze on most US foreign aid as part of his “America First” policy which is already sending shockwaves around the world. Field hospitals in Thai refugee camps, landmine clearance in war zones, and drugs to treat millions suffering from diseases such as HIV are among the programs at risk of elimination.

Speaking more broadly about cutting US expenses and fraud, Musk estimated the Trump administration can cut \$1 trillion from the US deficit next

year.

He asserted, for example, that “professional foreign fraud rings” are stealing money vast sums by masquerading as or creating fake digital US citizens.

Musk did not offer any evidence to support his fraud claim or explain how he reached the amount of \$1 trillion.

The online chat comes amid concerns about Musk’s access to the Treasury system, first reported by the New York Times, that sends out more than \$6 trillion per year in payments on behalf of federal agencies and contains the personal information of millions of Americans who receive Social Security payments, tax refunds and other monies from the government.

Democrat Peter Welch, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, called for explanations as to why Musk had been handed access to the payment

system and what Welch said included taxpayers’ sensitive data.

“It’s a gross abuse of power by an unelected bureaucrat and it shows money can buy power in the Trump White House,” Welch said in an emailed statement.

Musk has Trump’s support. Asked if Musk was doing a good job Sunday, Trump agreed. “He’s a big cost-cutter. Sometimes we won’t agree with it and we’ll not go where he wants to go. But I think he’s doing a great job. He’s a smart guy. Very smart. And he’s very much into cutting the budget of our federal budget.”

Musk’s team have been given access to or take control of numerous government systems.

Reuters reported on Friday, that aides to Musk charged with running the US government human resources agency have locked career civil servants out of computer systems that contain the personal data of millions of federal employees, according to two agency officials.

Musk has moved swiftly to install allies at the agency known as the Office of Personnel Management. A team including current and former employees of Musk assumed command of OPM on Jan 20, the day Trump took office, the sources added.

Since taking office 11 days ago, Trump has embarked on a massive government makeover, firing and sidelining hundreds of civil servants in his first steps toward downsizing the bureaucracy and installing more loyalists.

Agencies

Latest US tariffs draw opposition, retaliations

BEIJING

U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Saturday to impose a 25-percent additional tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10-percent tariff hike on imports from China.

The latest U.S. trade protectionist measure has drawn widespread opposition and immediate retaliations. Canada announced retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imports late Saturday after Trump imposed 25-percent tariffs on most Canadian products.

Canada will impose a levy of 25 percent on 30 billion Canadian dollars (21 billion U.S. dollars) worth of American goods as of Tuesday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said after chairing the Cabinet meeting and hosting a virtual meeting with provincial and territorial premiers.

Trudeau said the tariffs will then be applied to another 125 billion Canadian dollars worth of goods in 21 days. American beer, wine and spirits, along with vegetables, clothing, shoes and perfume, will be among the first items, as well as household appliances, furniture and sports equipment.

More non-tariff trade actions, he said, are still to be decided but could include restrictions on exporting critical minerals and energy products to the United States and a move to block American companies from bidding on government contracts.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Saturday instructed the Secretariat of Economy to implement tariff and non-tariff measures to defend Mexico’s interests in response to the levies imposed by the Trump administration.

Problems are not resolved by imposing tariffs, but by talking and dialoguing, Sheinbaum said on the social platform X. “We categorically reject the White House’s slander against the Mexican government of having alliances with criminal organizations, as well as any intention of intervention in our territory,” she said.

The president said that if the United States wants to combat criminal groups that traffic drugs and generate violence, both countries should work together in an integrated manner, always under the principles of shared responsibility, mutual trust, collaboration, and above all, respect for sovereignty, “which is not negotiable.”

China’s foreign ministry and commerce ministry both expressed strong opposition to the U.S. tariffs on China. China firmly deplores and opposes the U.S. decision to impose a 10-percent additional tariff on imports from China and will take necessary countermeasures to defend its legitimate rights and interests, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Sunday. “China’s position is firm and consistent.”

There is no winner in trade and tariff wars,” the spokesperson stressed, adding that the U.S. unilateral tariff hikes severely violate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. This move cannot solve the U.S. problems at home, and more importantly, does not benefit either side, still less the world.

Xinhua

Israel launches AI revolution in schools with National Education Initiative

TEL AVIV

ISRAEL’S Education Ministry unveiled a national initiative to integrate artificial intelligence into the education system yesterday. The plan aims to transform teaching and learning by equipping students and educators with cutting-edge AI tools and training programs.

“Today we are leading an unprecedented move on a global scale – connecting the education system with leading high-tech companies to train Israeli teachers and children in artificial intelligence,” said Education Minister Yoav Kisch.

“Together with the world’s most advanced technological industry and thousands of engineers, we are placing Israel at the global forefront of education in the age of artificial intelligence. This is one of the most important tasks facing us – to provide the next generation with the

tools and skills to succeed in the world of tomorrow,” he said.

The initiative includes a structured AI curriculum for students in grades 4-12, ensuring exposure to AI concepts and applications across all age groups. A key component of the plan is the deployment of approximately 3,000 mentors from over 400 leading high-tech companies, including Google, Microsoft, Apple, and Nvidia. These mentors will support schools in implementing AI technologies and tailoring them to educational needs.

To facilitate the initiative, a large-scale teacher training program will be implemented, reaching around 70,000 educators. The training will focus on integrating AI into lesson planning, student assessment, and personalized learning strategies.

“This move goes far beyond integrating technology into classrooms. Our

main challenge is to harness the power of AI while preserving the human value in education. Teachers will receive advanced tools that will allow them to focus on their core strengths—education, guidance, and providing personal attention. AI will serve as a supporting tool, enabling precise adaptation to each student’s needs,” said Meir Shimoni, the Education Ministry’s Director General.

The implementation of five new supervised AI tools marks a significant step in the plan. Among them is “Q,” a coaching bot designed for intelligent AI usage within the education system. “Bina,” based on Google Gemini, has been adapted for safe use in schools, ensuring protection from external influences. Additionally, “Magic School” will assist in lesson planning and student assessment, while an AI-integrated version of “Minecraft” will be introduced to engage

younger students in interactive learning experiences.

To further promote AI literacy and engagement, a series of national events and competitions will be held throughout February. These include special broadcast days, student competitions, and a central event scheduled for February 27 hosted by Israeli TV personality Itay Herman. Simultaneously, dozens of enrichment webinars will be available to teachers, providing in-depth insights into AI integration in education.

“We are translating vision into reality. Thousands of teachers are already undergoing training, leading industry mentors are entering schools, and innovative tools are being implemented in classrooms. We have built a comprehensive system of support, guidance, and monitoring to ensure successful implementation.

ANI

Illegal immigration disrupting Delhi’s economy, causing ‘notable increase of Muslim population’: JNU report

NEW DELHI

AHEAD of the Delhi assembly elections, the Jawaharlal Nehru University report on illegal immigrants in Delhi revealed that the migration from Bangladesh and Myanmar has altered Delhi-NCR’s socio-political and economic fabric, causing a “notable increase of Muslim population”.

The JNU report elaborated on how such influx of illegal settlers has not only trans-

formed the city’s demographics but disrupted its economy, strained the resources, and also strengthened criminal networks by feeding into it.

The report also claimed that the political patronage provided to illegal immigrants, including the facilitation of voter registration, has raised concerns about electoral manipulation and democratic integrity.

The 114-page report titled - Illegal Immigrants to Delhi:

Analysing Socio-economic and Political Consequences also mentioned that illegal immigration has heightened the risk of public health crises, as overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions in migrant settlements contribute to the spread of infectious diseases.

“The presence of undocumented migrants complicates disaster response and crisis management, as these populations are often excluded from official relief efforts dur-

ing emergencies,” it said.

It also asserted that the porous India-Bangladesh border remains a major challenge for managing illegal immigration, with inadequate border control enabling the continued influx of migrants.

The JNU report pointed out that the lack of a comprehensive immigration policy in India has made it difficult to address the root causes of illegal migration and implement effective solutions.

“Migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar often face discrimination and hostility from local populations, further complicating their integration into Delhi’s social fabric, which creates a higher level of social tension,” the report said.

It also highlighted that illegal immigration has geopolitical implications, affecting India’s relations with neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar. “Collabo-

rative efforts are needed to address cross-border migration issues,” it said.

Mentioning that the rising population density in Delhi due to migration has strained public transportation systems, the report also mentioned that the environmental impact of migrant settlements includes unregulated waste disposal, which contributes to pollution and public health hazards.

According to the findings in

the JNU report, the illegal migration has contributed to the proliferation of criminal networks, which exploit vulnerable migrants for activities such as smuggling and trafficking.

“Efforts to deport illegal immigrants are often delayed by bureaucratic challenges the lack of cooperation from migrants’ home countries, and the approach of Delhi National capital territory,” it said.

ANI

Formal retailers in Zimbabwe struggle as consumers migrate to informal shops

HARARE

FORMAL retailers and wholesalers in Zimbabwe are experiencing a decline in customer traffic as consumers increasingly prefer informal shops, which offer more affordable and convenient shopping options.

Several established chain stores in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, have recently ceased operations or scaled down their business due to competition from the informal sector.

The operational challenges faced by formal businesses have also resulted in some outlets failing to stock products, leaving their shelves almost empty and further driving people to small informal retailers known as tuck shops locally.

The tuck shops are mainly conveniently located in downtown Harare and are usually packed with customers buying various household grocery items. The Confederation of Zimbabwe Retailers (CZR), a retail business representative body, recently confirmed the closure of some formal chain stores due to competition from the informal sector and exchange rate distortions in the country's multi-currency system.

"The unregulated informal sector offers

goods at much lower prices, largely because it operates outside compliance with statutory obligations such as taxes, licensing fees, and labor laws," CZR President Denford Mutashu said in a statement, adding that this reality has made it increasingly difficult for formal businesses to compete effectively.

In addition, he said another challenge facing the formal sector is the use of both the U.S. dollar and the local Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) currency as legal tender, which disproportionately affects formal retailers and wholesalers who are required by law to trade at the official exchange rate.

The ZiG is trading at around 26 to one U.S. dollar at the official exchange rate, while on the black market, the rate is around 38.

In response to the currency distortions, informal traders now conduct business exclusively in U.S. dollars, giving them a competitive edge over formal retailers. "Formal businesses are compelled to accept the ZiG in a predominantly dollarized supply chain.

This is exacerbated by key operational costs, such as fuel for generators, which must be paid for in U.S. dollars," said Mutashu. Despite the U.S. dollar accounting for



This photo taken with a mobile phone on Jan. 31, 2025 shows empty shelves at a supermarket in Harare, Zimbabwe. Formal retailers and wholesalers in Zimbabwe are experiencing a decline in customer traffic as consumers increasingly prefer informal shops, which offer more affordable and convenient shopping options. Xinhua

over 80 percent of transactions in Zimbabwe's highly informalized economy, according to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, the ZiG is mainly accepted in limited formal transactions that include chain stores and settling government bills. While formal businesses conduct trade largely in the ZiG, suppliers usually demand U.S. dollars.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, the central bank, introduced the gold-backed ZiG last April, replacing the Zimbabwean dollar, which had been ravaged by inflation.

The ZiG, however, has experienced turbulence, with its inflation surging to 10.5 percent in January from 3.7 percent recorded the previous month, leading many informal traders to reject it.

In November last year, Choppies Zimbabwe, a supermarket chain, announced its departure from the country, citing exchange rate regulations that had pushed customers toward the informal market.

The growth of the informal economy has resulted in the shrinking of the tax base, and the government is taking measures to increase formalization.

Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion Minister Mthuli Ncube on Friday announced that to level the playing field between formal and informal shops, businesses are now required to transact through point-of-sale machines and operate a bank account linked to the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, the national tax collection agency.

Other measures include ensuring that all eligible taxpayers comply with regulations, establishing an inter-agency enforcement team to enforce compliance in the informal sector, and discouraging manufacturers from supplying directly to end users and the informal market, said Ncube.

He added that local authorities and the central government would collaborate in the licensing and enforcement processes to ensure businesses' compliance while streamlining regulatory processes and reducing fees and duplication to lower business costs and encourage formalization. **Xinhua**

Landmarks light up for Spring Festival

By He Qi in Shanghai and Cui Haipei in Dubai, UAE

DUBAI'S iconic Burj Khalifa tower was lit up on Wednesday and Thursday, in celebration of Spring Festival, attracting thousands of tourists from around the world to participate in China's largest annual celebration.

Among the visitors bathed in Chinese red below the world's tallest building was Mark Brennan from Ireland, who was on vacation in the United Arab Emirates.

"The light show was excellent. It offered a chance to know more about Chinese culture," Brennan said.

"Spring Festival is very similar to our Christmas, with the theme of family reunion. Our emotions and spirits are always connected," he said, adding that his nephew lives in China and is married to a Chinese woman. "Although I have never been to China, I have experienced the atmosphere of Chinese New Year in Dubai and my hometown. I hope I can go to China in the future and experience it for myself."

During this year's festival, many towers and skyscrapers worldwide have been illuminated with red lights in response to an invitation from the city of Shanghai to commemorate the first Spring Festival since UNESCO listed the celebration as a World Cultural Heritage.

The initiative was given a warm welcome by the World Federation of Great Towers, and the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

Skyscrapers and landmark buildings in locations including New York, Chicago and Dallas in the United States, Vancouver in Canada, Singapore, Tokyo in Japan, Dubai, Barcelona in Spain, and Bucharest in Romania have all taken part. Some of these locations have also hosted special activities to celebrate the festival.

Two iconic landmarks in Shanghai, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Shanghai Tower, took the lead in lighting up in Chinese red on Jan 28, the day before Chinese New Year.

As the third tallest building in the world, Shanghai Tower has been adorned with red lanterns and ribbons. Its spire displays scrolling greetings such as "Happy Spring Festival" and "The World Lights Up in Chinese Red" in both Chinese and English.

In collaboration with the skyscraper cluster in Lujiazui, Pudong New Area, the two landmarks will glow red until Feb 4.

On the same day, the iconic Marina Bay Sands in Singapore was also lit up in Chinese red and will continue to do so until Lantern Festival on Feb 12.

Tokyo Tower was also lit up in red on Chinese New Year's Eve, with 2025 balloons featuring giant pandas and Japanese anime characters released to symbolize the global community's hopeful expectations for the new year.

The Empire State Building and One World Trade Center, two iconic landmark buildings in New York City, also shone red on the evening of Jan 28. The Empire State Building has done so to celebrate Chinese New Year for the past 25 years.

"We are delighted to see the Empire State Building serve as a bridge for American friends to better understand Chinese culture, which highlights the importance of people-to-people exchanges in promoting friendship between our two countries," said China's Consul General in New York Chen Li.

He made the remarks while jointly unveiling an exhibition with Jean-Yves Ghazi, president of the Empire State Building Observatory, at the Fifth Avenue lobby to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The window exhibition displays exhibits related to the Year of the Snake according to the Chinese zodiac, and will run for a few weeks.

Other famous landmarks were also illuminated in Chinese red to celebrate Spring Festival, including Niagara Falls in Canada, the London Eye in the United Kingdom, the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, and the Winter Palace in Russia.

"As overseas Chinese, we are proud to see our culture win world recognition," said Xu Xiaofeng, a Chinese resident of Dubai. "I have been in Dubai for five years, but this kind of show and celebration was a first for me. I am glad to see this show that reminded me of my home country. It shows the strength and cultural cohesion of our motherland." **Xinhua**

Tens of thousands protest in Berlin against proposed immigration crackdown

BERLIN

THOUSANDS of people protested in Berlin on Sunday against plans to limit immigration proposed by opposition conservatives and supported by the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD).

Friedrich Merz, the conservatives' leader who is tipped to become Germany's next chancellor after a national election set for Feb 23, sponsored a draft bill with AfD support, breaking a taboo against cooperating with the far-right party.

Around 160,000 gathered at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, next to the Bundestag lower house, according to the Berlin police. The protesters held banners reading "We are the firewall, no cooperation with the AfD" and "Merz, go home, shame on you!"

Merz, the CDU/CSU's candidate for chancellor, on Friday tried to push the immigration bill in the lower house but



People holding signs stand in front of the Reichstag in Berlin during a demonstration on Sunday. AP

failed to secure a majority as some of the deputies from his own party refused to support it.

Their failure to endorse his

draft dealt a blow to the authority of Merz, who had pushed for the law despite warnings from party colleagues that he risked being tarnished with the

charge of voting alongside the far-right.

Mainstream German parties had previously joined forces to prevent the AfD, which is un-

der surveillance by Germany's security services, from achieving legislative power, something they call a firewall against the far-right.

The draft law would have restricted family reunifications for some refugees and called for more people to be refused at the border. Two-thirds of the public support stronger immigration rules, according to a recent poll.

Merz had argued that the bill was a necessary response to a series of high-profile killings in public spaces by people with an immigrant background. But Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens said the proposals would not have stopped the attacks and violated European law.

On Saturday, tens of thousands took to the streets across many other German cities, including Hamburg, Stuttgart and Leipzig, in similar protests against the CDU/CSU and the AfD. **Agencies**

US town celebrates Chinese New Year with cultural festivities, renewed friendship

NEW YORK

THE conference hall of The Merrill Hotel in Muscatine, a small city along the Mississippi River in the US state of Iowa, was decorated with Chinese knots, paper-cuttings and couplets. Each table featured red snake mascots, symbolizing good fortune and festivity.

More than 100 local residents and students gathered on Wednesday morning for an event hosted by the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Snake.

Luca Berrone, who served as a guide and chaperone to Chinese President Xi Jinping and his delegation during their stay in Iowa in 1985, expressed his delight at seeing so many young people participating in the festivities. "We have the opportunity to expose the younger generation to this 40-year relationship between Iowa and China," Berrone said.

"I think it's fundamental for the future."

Chinese Consul General Wang Baodong opened his speech with a touch of humor. "My speech was drafted by my colleagues at the Consulate General in Chicago, not by China's AI model DeepSeek," Wang went on to express his hope that DeepSeek and OpenAI will serve as tools to unite, rather than divide, the two peoples.

"We are delighted to celebrate the first Intangible Cultural Heritage Chinese New Year alongside our friends in Iowa and Muscatine," Wang told China Daily. "We hope to spread the joy of Chinese New Year across the vast Midwest and share the values of harmony and goodwill embedded in Chinese culture with American people." He added that such celebrations help pass down the stories of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between China



On Jan 29, 2025 celebration featured performances by the art troupe from the High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China. XINHUA

and the United States for generations to come.

In November 2023, during the APEC forum in San Francisco, President Xi proposed to invite 50,000 US youths to China over the next five years for exchange and study programs. The initiative is already making strides in fostering cross-cultural connections.

Dan Stein, chairman of the Muscatine-China Initiatives Committee, told China Daily that last year, at least three delegations traveled to China for exchanges, emphasizing the pride of Muscatine High School in being the first school to visit China in January last year following the proposal.

Tony Joseph, a member

of the Muscatine-China Initiatives Committee, joined an exchange delegation to China in March, which included 90 students and a total of 101 participants. Reflecting on the experience, he underscored the value of long-term friendships forged through such exchanges.

"Great reunion"

"We asked our students to make at least one friend during their visit. These connections often last a lifetime. Today, I'm reconnecting with friends I met a decade ago. Even though we don't meet on a regular basis, when you see each other, it's a great reunion," he said.

Joseph's involvement in US-China relations dates back to 2012, when Xi revisited Muscatine, a town he had first visited in 1985. Since then, Joseph has witnessed growth in educational and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

"Over the past 12 years, we've facilitated numerous exchanges involving students, professionals and various groups. This has opened people's minds in Muscatine, fostering a deeper understanding of China's capabilities and opening doors for collaboration both as a country and a city," he said.

Sarah Lande, an old friend of Xi and a key figure in Iowa's relations with China, said the exchange programs are significant for young students "to know each other as friends, colleagues, even competitors".

"They learn to work together and respect each other intellectually," Lande said. "As they move forward in their career, in business or in the government, they will carry these experiences with them, realizing they know how they can do things together."

Regarding her hopes for young people, Lande added: "We don't always agree, but we could learn how to advocate civility, disagree but don't be disagreeable. Let's work together. We have so much in common. Some things are different. That's the way it is. So respect differences. Learn from them. Be curious. Figure out a way to collaborate and live peacefully." **Xinhua**

SPORT



Aga Khan SC's Sivaraj Selvaraj (R) gets the Player of the Match prize from match umpire Adil Kassam after the completion of the club's 2025 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) DC Super League clash versus Pak Stars A in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Aga Khan SC bolsters 2025 TCA DC Super League title chase

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

Aga Khan SC cricketers have bolstered their campaign in the 2025 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) DC Super League, walloping Pak Stars A by six wickets in Dar es Salaam recently.

Pak Stars A went in to bat first in the game held at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) venue and the move seemingly backfired, as the cricketers were bowled out for 99 runs in 31.5 overs.

In what was a seemingly woeful innings, team captain Kashif Adnan- who posted 22 runs- was the batsman with the most runs for the batting team.

A short stay by opener Mohamed Omary, who ended with just six runs, seemed to have rattled the batting team early on, given the squad could not bounce back.

The other opener, Ivan Ismail, battled to wade off Aga Khan SC's bowling charge for several overs, making his way back with 21 runs.

Hassan Raza (10 runs) and Ayaz Mustafa (10 runs) were also the cricketers with two digits for Pak Stars A.

Aga Khan SC's Sivaraj Selvaraj successfully led his squad's bowling attack, ending with the best bowling figures of 5-19 and a 1.93 economy rate.

The cricketer's scintillating bowling was instrumental in his club's plan to keep Pak Stars A's batting unit in check.

Dhyye Shah, who garnered 2-14, and Laksh Snehal, who ended with 2-27, compounded Pak Stars A's batting misery.

Aga Khan SC, chasing an achievable target of 100 runs from 50 overs, confidently coasted to the victory-losing four wickets.

Promising batsman Arshaan Jassani led the batting side to the successful pursuit of the win with his 32 runs.

Opener Dhruvit Mehta early on had Aga Khan SC getting off solidly, grabbing 27 runs.

Even though Pak Stars A performers - Mohammad Ali, who took 2-6, and Muhammad Mudasser, who grabbed 2-8, fought vigorously to boost the team's efforts to frustrate the opponents' chase- the latter's resolve did not wane.

Aga Khan SC's Selvaraj rightfully garnered the Player of the Match prize for his stellar all-round game, finishing with 5-19 and 18 runs not out to play a pivotal role in his squad's success.

Aga Khan SC is leading the rest of the tournament's Group A contenders after amassing the 2.5786 Net Run Rate from four ties.

Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania plan CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup as CHAN warm-up

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

KENYA, Uganda, and Tanzania, the co-hosts of the 2024 CHAN, are planning to host the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup in May or June as a preparatory event for the continental championship, which is scheduled for August.

The tournament, initially set for February, was postponed following recommendations from CAF's technical and infrastructure experts, who have been closely monitoring the preparations in the three host countries.

CAF experts emphasized the need for additional time to ensure that the infrastructure and facilities meet the required standards for the African Nations Championship.

Consequently, the tournament's new dates have been confirmed, with the competition now set to commence on August 2 and conclude on August 30.

The three East African nations are intensifying their efforts to prepare the necessary amenities, including stadiums, roads, and training grounds, which were the primary reasons for the initial postponement. Significant work is being undertaken to ensure that both the facilities and the teams are ready for the prestigious tournament.

In addition to the CHAN preparations, the three countries are considering hosting the

long-neglected CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup before the continental event.

Kenya's local organizing committee head, Nicholas Musonye, revealed that the idea was proposed during the recent CECAFA Congress in Juba, with the secretariat tasked with assessing the feasibility of hosting the tournament, which has not been held for several years.

"During the CECAFA Congress in Juba recently, the three local organizing committees (for the 2024 CHAN) met on the sidelines and suggested that we plan to host the CECAFA Challenge Cup in May or June," Musonye said. CECAFA general secretary Auka Gecheo confirmed this proposal and stated that the secretariat had been given two weeks to examine the hosting logistics.

"It was a proposal put on the table, but no resolution was made. It was agreed that CECAFA's Secretariat would assess the modalities and provide feedback in two weeks," said Gecheo.

If the tournament is held, Kenya will aim to reclaim the title they last won in 2017 when they hosted the tournament.

The CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup would serve as an excellent platform for the participating nations to fine-tune their squads ahead of the highly anticipated CHAN tournament.

The Group A pacesetters have garnered a victory in three outings and a loss in one game.

The in-form Delaware Upanga SC-A is hot on the Group A table-toppers heels, even though the former also has three wins and one defeat.

The second-placed outfit boasts a 2.0774 Net Run Rate, which has brought the difference between the top two teams.

Third-placed Pak Stars A, in its four ties, notched a 1.6141 Net Run Rate having won three fixtures and suffered a loss in one tie.

Patel Brotherhood A comes fourth, amassing the 4.3521 Net Run Rate- with the side having yet to secure victory in three games.

Bottom-placed Dar Indian Titans are equally without a win in three matches, settling for a 4.7511 Net Run Rate.

The uncompromising Caravans are topping Group B with a 4.2967 Net Run Rate, having won all four clashes they have featured in.

Aces A is positioned second with two victories and a defeat- which have handed the side the -1.7000 Net Run Rate.

Lions A comes third - collecting the -0.1818 Net Run Rate following a victory in one tie and a loss in two clashes.

Gymkhana is sitting fourth without a victory in two games- posting an inferior Net Run Rate of -2.9319.

Strikers, who are as well yet to taste a victory, have a -12.2935 Net Run Rate from two ties to stay at the bottom of Group B.

The 2025 TCA DC Super League, a TCA officer stated, features the top cricket teams in Tanzania, put into two groups.

Group A teams are Aga Khan SC, Dar Indian Titans, Delaware Upanga SC-A, Patel Brotherhood A, and Pak Stars A.

Aces A, Caravans, Gymkhana, Lions A, and Strikers have been placed in Group B.

Taifa Stars drawn in favourable group for CHAN 2024 - but caution advised

By Lloyd Elipokea

AS is already well-known, the 2024 African Nations Championship (CHAN) will be co-hosted by Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda in August.

Recently, the assemblage of teams competing in the CHAN this year learnt of the various groups that they had been drawn in.

From a Tanzanian standpoint, the national team, the Taifa Stars, appear to have been drawn in a seemingly easy Group B.

Indeed, apart from Tanzania, Group B features to wit: the minnows Madagascar, the lightweight Mauritania, the always tricky Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic (CAR), who have rarely made an impression in continental football.

However, despite that, it would be sheer hubris if Tanzania were to write off the chances of the supposedly small fry teams in Group B under the assumption that the Taifa Stars' clashes against the likes of Madagascar will all be cake-walks.

Thus, it seems that the Taifa Stars will have to perform a challenging balancing act between having confidence, and arrogance in their matchups against some

of the continent's historically weakest football teams.

Regarding other pools in the CHAN, Group A has arguably attracted the most attention as it contains co-hosts Kenya, perennial contenders Morocco and Zambia, without forgetting Angola, and the once unbeatable DR Congo.

At this juncture, it is critical to note that Morocco, the DR Congo and Zambia are all erstwhile AFCON champions in days of yore. Many ardent African football fans must be already tingling with excitement over the potentially monumental and mouthwatering encounters that are to come in Group A between Morocco and Zambia and the DR Congo versus Zambia.

In the big picture, it is likely that legions of football fans in East Africa must be displeased with the fact that the CHAN this year has been postponed to August.

Indeed, there had been such an infectious joie de vivre over the fact that our great country had been selected as one of the co-hosts of this year's CHAN.

That being said, all Tanzanians are still admittedly thrilled over the fact that we shall be one of the co-hosts of a competition that is exclusively reserved for home-based exponents of football.

Let us hope then that the Taifa Stars

can make a lasting positive impact on the CHAN this year and perhaps even progress from the group stage, which would be a massive first.

Let us now sink our teeth into America's top tier basketball league, the NBA, which is approaching the midway point of the 2024-25 season.

Traditionally, when any NBA season nears the halfway mark, it means that the world-renowned All-Star Game is close at hand.

In fact, this season's NBA All Star Game will take place on February 16th, this year and fans globally are waiting with bated breath for the huge occasion.

Usually, the special game is semi-competitive as basketball's greatest stars are more intent on exhibiting their boundless skills than on actually winning the highly touted contest.

It should be noted here that the NBA Commissioner Adam Silver recently announced a number of changes that the All Star Game Weekend would undergo.

Whichever way the chips may fall, though, die-hard African basketball fans will be rooting for their favourite African-American NBA stars to put on a clinic in this unique game, changes or no changes.

FINAL DRAW

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
KENYA	TANZANIA	UGANDA	SENEGAL
MOROCCO	MADAGASCAR	NIGER	CONGO
ANGOLA	MAURITANIA	GUINEA	SUDAN
DR CONGO	BURKINA FASO	Q2	NIGERIA
ZAMBIA	CENTRAL AFRICAN R.	Q1	

#TotalEnergiesCHAN2024

Mzize equals personal record, aims for Premier League Golden Boot

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC forward Clement Mzize continues to impress after scoring the opening goal in his side's dominant 4-0 victory over Kagera Sugar in the Premier League last Saturday.

His latest goal took his tally to seven this season, placing him among the league's top scorers and intensifying his chase for the Golden Boot.

Mzize (pictured) is now just one goal behind the current leading scorer, Elvis Rupia of Singida Black Stars, who has netted eight goals.

Meanwhile, Simba's Jean Charles Ahoua and Leonel Ateba also have seven goals, tying with Mzize, while Pacome Zouzoua follows closely with six goals.

Within the Young Africans squad, Mzize is the team's leading goal scorer with seven goals. He is followed by Pacome Zouzoua with six, while Prince Dube has found the back of the net five times.

Mzize's consistency has been vital for Young Africans this season, proving his ability to step up and deliver when needed.

Notably, his seven-goal tally after just 16 matches this season matches his total from the entire 2023/2024 campaign.

This means he has already equalled his personal record with half of the season still to play, showcasing his remarkable improvement and growing importance in Young Africans' attacking lineup.

Despite Young Africans' strong league campaign, their striking department has faced inconsistencies, particularly with Dube, who was signed from Azam FC at the start of the season.

Dube arrived at Young Africans following an impressive stint with Azam, where he established himself as one of the league's most lethal



strikers.

Over four seasons in the Premier League, Dube scored a total of 34 goals, demonstrating his ability to deliver consistently. His standout season came in 2020/21 when he netted 14 goals, marking him as a clinical finisher.

However, since joining Young Africans, he has struggled to replicate his past form, though he remains a key attacking option with five goals to his name so far.

Another forward who has yet to find his footing this season is Zambian international Kennedy Musonda. The striker has struggled to cement his place in the starting lineup, leaving Mzize as the team's most reliable attacking option.

Young Africans head coach Sead Ramovic has shown great faith in Mzize, frequently including him in

the starting lineup. The young striker, who graduated from Young Africans' youth system, has continued to grow in confidence and performance, earning his place as a key player in the squad.

His impressive displays have not gone unnoticed beyond Tanzania, with top clubs in Africa closely monitoring his progress.

South African giants Kaizer Chiefs and Moroccan powerhouse Wydad Casablanca have reportedly expressed interest in signing the forward.

Furthermore, European clubs have also been linked with Mzize, an interest confirmed by his agent, Jasmine Razack, as well as Young Africans spokesperson, Ali Kamwe.

However, Young Africans' management has made it clear that they do not intend to sell any key players during the January transfer window. Instead, they plan to reassess transfer opportunities in the larger window later in the year.

With his current form, Mzize has positioned himself as one of the most promising young forwards in Tanzanian football.

His ability to score crucial goals, coupled with his rapid improvement, makes him a valuable asset for Young Africans as they push to defend their Premier League title.

Should he maintain his goal-scoring momentum, Mzize has a strong chance of challenging for the league's Golden Boot while also boosting his chances of securing a lucrative move to a bigger club, either within Africa or in Europe.

For now, Young Africans will be looking to capitalize on Mzize's form as they aim to continue their dominance in the Premier League.

The club remains determined to keep hold of their star player, but if his performances continue at this level, it may only be a matter of time before he makes a big move to a top-tier club.

Barcelona must keep winning to catch up with leaders Real, Flick says

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Hansi Flick was happy that his team moved within four points of LaLiga leaders Real Madrid with Sunday's 1-0 win over Deportivo Alaves, but remained aware that the pressure was still on Barca to catch up in the title race.

Real lost 1-0 at Espanyol on Saturday, giving Barcelona a chance to make up for some of the points they dropped during a four-match winless streak in December-January.

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"Today we gave a really good answer because it was a tough match and Alaves, they defend really good," Flick told reporters.

"I think for us it's a good situation, better than before. It was necessary to win today, and the team did good because the pressure was on them."

Barcelona are third in the table, with second-placed Atletico Madrid a point below Real.

"Atletico and Real, they are fan-

tastic teams... we have to do our job. We are some points behind, so we have to win. We have to make pressure on them," Flick said.

The coach was happy that Lewandowski, the leading scorer in the league, stepped up for Barcelona yet again, netting the only goal of the match.

"He's the best number nine in the box and it was very important for us today that he scored," he said.

Flick was also pleased with 17-year-old Lamine Yamal, who played a pivotal role in Barcelona's attack, creating multiple chances and setting up Lewandowski's goal.

"What he did today in some situations is unbelievable and I'm very happy that he is playing for Barca," he said.

The coach also revealed that Gavi, who was taken off after a clash of heads with Tomas Conechny, was not seriously injured.

"I think he's on the way home, nothing happened. This is the good news," he added.

REUTERS

Amorim insists no need to panic in final days of transfer window

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER United manager Ruben Amorim insisted there was no need to panic in the final days of the January transfer window, despite his side slipping to another home defeat on Sunday.

Following their 2-0 defeat to Crystal Palace, United have now lost seven of their first 13 league home matches this season, their joint-most at this stage of a league campaign, along with 1893-94.

Goals have been hard to come by for United, with only Everton and the bottom three finding the net on fewer occasions in the Premier League.

With one day to go until the January window closes, Amorim said there would be no panic in the transfer market.

"We are trying everything to improve the team without doing (the transfer) mistakes of the past," Amorim said. "And trying to balance the urgency of the moment, we know all of the aspects of our club in the moment but we are trying everything."

"When the window closes we will see the players, I'm focused on improving the team as a group, we need to win more games and we will try to do that, this season is like that."

"We need small improvements, try to win points, win the momentum, then we had setbacks and we go again."

Amorim is yet to pick up back-to-back league wins since taking charge in November, but believes the performance against Palace did show signs of improvement. "The performance improved. Not a lot, but I think we played better than the other games, even against Southampton, we played better today," he added. "But when you continue to lose, especially at home, you have that feeling it's nothing, the small improvement of the team. Let's go again and see the next game."

REUTERS

Alonso praises 10-man Leverkusen's control in victory over Hoffenheim

BERLIN

BAYER Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso praised his team for managing to control the game with 10 men after they held on to beat Hoffenheim 3-1 in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

Leverkusen were leading 3-0 on the hour mark when Alejandro Grimaldo was shown a second yellow card just before Hoffenheim's Gift Orban scored, with the visitors looking like they might stage a comeback.

But the German champions managed to maintain their advantage and the win kept them second in the standings, six points behind leaders Bayern Munich.

"There were two games today: 60 minutes with 11 players and 30 minutes with 10. We played well in both. Even when we were down to 10 men, we controlled the game," Alonso told reporters.

"We had a good initial advantage, and the first 15 minutes of the second half were good too. We didn't concede much and we had our chances. After the red card, we had to get our act together. Until we found our way back into the game."

Emiliano Buendia, who was making his first appearance for Leverkusen after arriving on loan from Aston Villa, came on as a first-half substitute but was then taken off as a result of the sending off.

Alonso was disappointed, but said he made the right call to take Buendia off as it allowed his team to maintain control of the game being a man down.

"Unfortunately, I had to take Buendia off. But it was the right decision," he said.

"We had less possession when we were a man down, but basically we did well. What we can do better is avoid these yellow cards for minor fouls."

REUTERS



Man City's collapse at Arsenal unacceptable, says Stones

LONDON

CHAMPIONS Manchester City's second-half capitulation in a 5-1 Premier League hammering at Arsenal on Sunday was not acceptable, according to defender John Stones.

When Erling Haaland equalised for City in the 55th minute at The Emirates Stadium, it seemed as though Pep Guardiola's side might go on to take maximum points.

They were level for less than a minute though as Thomas Partey's deflected drive following a City mistake restored Arsenal's lead.

City then fell apart with Arsenal teenagers Myles Lewis-Skelly and Ethan Nwaneri both on target either side of a Kai Havertz effort from a flowing counter-attack.

"How we played in the last 30 minutes was not acceptable. Personally and collectively, it's not us," Stones said. "It is not nice to be involved in that when you know it's not your team in those situations. Credit to Arsenal, this is not an easy place to come to."

"For 65 minutes, we played some great football at times. We were in the game and it was a swinging point. It swung the wrong way for us. I am angry, upset personally and collectively about how the game finished."

City stay in fourth place but are 15 points behind leaders Liverpool who also have a game in hand.

Guardiola agreed with Stones' blunt verdict of the late collapse but said before that his team had shown some of the quality that has been missing for much of the season.



Arsenal's Kai Havertz scores their fourth goal against Man City during their Premier League match at Emirates Stadium, in London, on Sunday. REUTERS

"I only regret the last 25 minutes, we forgot to do what we should do, what we have done for 65-70 minutes," he said.

"Of course it's a difficult game starting in this stadium, against that team in the first minutes it's happened many times this season. But after 10 or 15 minutes I think we took the game and played really, really, really good."

"I regret the last 15-20 minutes, the rest was a really good game for our side. It's difficult to understand when you see the result but this is my feeling. "It's happened all season, we are giving away too many things, we are aware this cannot happen, it happened."

Haaland may have registered his 250th senior goal from little over 300 games, but the Norwegian striker was a forlorn figure for vast swathes of the match. He only touched the ball six

times in the first half and not once after his headed equaliser.

Meanwhile, Arsenal remain comfortably adrift of relentless Premier League leaders Liverpool despite a 5-1 hammering of Manchester City on Sunday but midfielder Declan Rice says there is a determination to hunt them down.

Rice provided two assists as Arsenal sent a reminder to Liverpool that they are not about to give up the chase.

Liverpool are six points in front of second-placed Arsenal with a game in hand and have shown little sign of slipping up in their pursuit of a 20th league crown.

But Rice says there is still a long way to go. "Liverpool are still quite far in front especially with the game in hand and with them winning yesterday you know going into the game that you have to win," Rice told Sky Sports.

"It's more disappointing the games like Aston Villa when we were 2-0 up and dropped points because we could be up there closer to Liverpool."

"But we will be there and we will keep pushing. We do need others to help us but we know what the goal is and that's to hunt them down and win the Premier League."

"We need to stay positive and I'm sure we will be fine."

Arsenal had fallen just short in the last two seasons as City kept Mikel Arteta's side at bay to extend their title-winning streak to a record four-in-a-row. On Sunday, goals by Martin Odegaard, Thomas Partey, Myles Lewis-Skelly, Kai Havertz and Ethan Nwaneri effectively removed City from the title equation.

"It is a great day for us, especially with the necessity that we had to win the game. The manner that we have done it I am really pleased," Arteta said. "Overall, we scored some beautiful goals and the team showed a high competitive level."

Arteta was full of praise for teenager Lewis-Skelly, whose impressive display was capped with his first Arsenal goal.

"You need big individual performances to beat (Man City). Myles was certainly one of them, the maturity he showed and competitiveness as well," Arteta said.

"He plays with that personality and he's scored a beautiful goal. He has been pushing us since he has been with us. We like his character and personality. He has so much courage."

REUTERS

Derby draw a fair result, says Milan's Conceicao

MILAN

AC Milan had a third derby win of the season firmly within their grasp before Inter Milan netted late at the San Siro on Sunday, and while manager Sergio Conceicao was clearly disappointed, he conceded that the 1-1 draw was the fairest outcome.

Milan had won both previous meetings this season, with Conceicao lifting the Italian Super Cup last month in his second game in charge after a 3-2 win over their rivals, but they were denied the hat-trick by Stefan de Vrij's added-time goal.

"We put on the field the attitude we wanted, Inter know each other very well and create a lot of difficulties for the opponents, it was important to curb their strengths and exploit some weaknesses," Conceicao told Sky Sports.

"In the end it is clear that we are disappointed, because we lost two points, but we saw all the joy they showed at the end. I think the draw is fair, but of course, mistakes are paid for."

"I think that the next game, with the transfer market over, we will face it more calmly with our heads and we can start again for four strong months."

Despite his side's performance against the defending champions, the manager still sees room for improvement, and Conceicao spoke of what he wants to teach his squad.

"On a mental level, to have consistency. It's not negotiable, if there is no desire to play football, something is not good," he said.

"On a tactical and game dynamics level, some things are missing. We tried to press a little higher and left gaps in our midfield, which I don't want."

"In my opinion, the defensive phase is connected to the offensive one, when you attack well and occupy the space well, you are prepared to react when you lose the ball."

Meanwhile, Inter Milan snatched a late 1-1 draw in Sunday's dramatic derby with AC Milan, but manager Simone Inzaghi was still left with feelings of regret while praising his side for their spirit in the face of adversity.

Inzaghi's side hit the upright on three occasions in the second half, and also had three goals disallowed over the course of the game before finding an equaliser in added time.

"The guys were magnificent, they went beyond themselves," Inzaghi told Sky Sports.

"Unfortunately, they couldn't go beyond the various episodes. Three posts, three goals disallowed, and a sensational penalty not given. They were mag-



AC Milan's Francesco Camarda in action with Inter Milan's Carlos Augusto during their Serie A match at San Siro, in Milan, Italy on Sunday. REUTERS

nificent and we managed to level in the 93rd minute.

"There is regret, we always want to win and it didn't happen. Despite the episodes, we did not let ourselves be discouraged."

Inzaghi had sent on all five substitutes with 14 minutes left to play, and one of those replacements, Nicola Zalewski,

had only signed on loan from AS Roma on Saturday night.

"He came on well, he has quality and we were missing someone like that," Inzaghi said. "I'm happy, this morning he was immediately ready and will give us a hand."

Zalewski made an immediate impact, as the Polish midfielder chested down

the ball for Stefan de Vrij to score the equaliser. "It's definitely been a roller-coaster, last night we did everything in a hurry," Zalewski said.

"We tried to make it in time to be available today, it was a lucky game from some points of view but we did well to draw it."

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City's collapse at Arsenal unacceptable, says Stones

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



House Speaker Dr. Tulia Ackson (2nd L standing) and Azania Bank Limited Managing Director Esther Mang'anya (2nd R standing) observe participants playing a card game during the Bunge Bonanza at John Merlin Secondary School in Dodoma on Saturday. Sponsored by Azania Bank, the event featured various sporting activities pitting lawmakers against Bunge employees who support Simba and Young Africans sports clubs.

BFT: Samia Women's Boxing Championship showcases rising talent

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) has expressed satisfaction with the performance of female boxers at the inaugural Samia Women's Boxing Championship, held over the weekend in Kawe, Dar es Salaam.

BFT secretary general Makore Mashaka stated that, despite the relatively small number of participants, the competition showcased remarkable talent, particularly from upcountry boxers competing at a high level for the first time.

In the championship results:
48kg: Veronika Thomas (MMJKT) defeated Leylat Mussa (TPBRC); 50kg: Latifa Said (JKT) beat Sarafina Fusi (NGOME); 52kg: Zulfa Macho (NGOME) overcame Lenata Malaki (KIBITI); and 54kg: Tatiana Ezekiel (ZUGO) outclassed Debora Mwenda (KINYOGOLI)

Others are: 57kg: Vumilia Kalinga (NGOME) won against Zawadi Amosi (MMJKT); 57kg: Halima Vunjabei (NAKOZI) defeated Mariam Jonas (BALAX); 60kg: Doricas Daudi (KWAME) triumphed over Zulfa Iddi (ZOGO); and 63kg: Najma Isike (TAIFA) beat Joyce Saitabau (POLISI ARUSHA).

Other results are: 66kg: Konsolata Laiza (Arusha Police) defeated Fatuma Yazidu (YAZIDU); 75kg: Salma Michael (MWANZA) overcame Grace Mwakamele (MMJKT); and 81kg: Rachel Msingo (Dodoma) triumphed over Mariam Msabila (KINYOGOLI)

Makore noted that 40 female boxers participated in the event, which will serve as the selection platform for the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships, scheduled to take place from March 8-17 in Niš, Serbia.

"As BFT, we are very pleased with the level of performance from our female boxers, especially those from upcountry. This was the first edition of the Samia Women's Boxing Championship, and we hope for increased participation in the future," he said.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Kinondoni District Commissioner Saad Mtambuka, who was the guest of honor, pledged support for the women's national team that will be selected to compete in Serbia.

Makore confirmed that BFT has extended invitations to national security and safety institutions, regional teams, clubs, and the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC) to participate in future tournaments.

However, he refrained from specifying the number of boxers who will represent Tanzania at the World Championships, citing resource availability as a determining factor.

EATV TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SSPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Coach Fadlu Davids commends 'mature performance' as Simba reclaim top spot

By Correspondents Seth Mapoli & Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC delivered a dominant performance to defeat Tabora United 3-0 in their Premier League clash at the Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium on Sunday, reclaiming the top spot in the league standings.

Head coach Fadlu Davids (pictured) expressed his satisfaction with the team's tactical discipline and ability to control the match.

Speaking after the match, Davids emphasized the importance of maintaining control throughout the game and avoiding unnecessary transitions.

"It was a very mature performance once again. We had a good first half, scoring the first and second goals while staying in control. That was the most important thing - avoiding a transition game and maintaining control both with and without the ball," he said.

"It was exactly as we planned. We managed to exploit the spaces on the flanks with our full-backs because they were quite narrow in their back four. We also capitalized on the spaces behind their defensive line.

"I think we executed that well for 90 minutes, except for the first 10 minutes of the second half, which is an area we need to improve on."

Davids also commended his side's attacking display.

"It was a very good offensive performance - movements, runs in behind, creating chances, and unlocking the defense just as we planned. The players executed the game plan very well. However, in the second half, we needed to start a little stronger and get the third goal earlier."

With a congested fixture schedule ahead, Davids stressed the importance of squad rotation to maintain consistency and player fitness.

"In three days, we have another match, so keeping the squad fresh is crucial. Some players played 90 minutes in the Federation Cup last week, and now we face Fountain Gate before another match soon after.

"With games every three or four days, we must utilize the entire squad, and every player must be ready to step in at any time," he added.

He also singled out standout performances, particularly from goal scorers Leonel Ateba and Shomari



Kapombe.

"Ateba scored two goals and delivered a strong performance. But I'm also pleased that goals are coming from different players. Steven Mukwala came on and did well, and the entire squad delivered a solid display. It was a great team effort," Davids noted.

The victory propelled Simba SC to 43 points, overtaking their arch-rivals Young Africans (42 points), who had temporarily led the table after their 4-0 victory over Kagera Sugar. Simba have now completed a league double over Tabora United, having beaten them 3-0 in the first round at the KMC Complex. This result also mirrored last season's 4-0 triumph over Tabora United at the same venue on February 6.

Ateba was instrumental in the victory, opening the scoring in the 12th minute. The Cameroonian forward had signalled his intent earlier, nearly scoring in the third minute with a header from Fabrice Ngoma's long ball, which was cleared off the line by Nelson Munganga.

Simba continued pressing, with Elie Mpanzu delivering a dangerous cross in the seventh minute, which Tabora United's Gabonese goalkeeper Jean Noel Amonone did well to handle. Kibu Denis also had a chance in the eighth minute, but his header from a Ngoma pass was saved.

Ateba finally broke the deadlock with a clinical finish after receiving a pass from Mpanzu, turning past defenders, and slotting a powerful low shot into the net.

Tabora United tried to fight back, with Offen Chikola unleashing a powerful 30-

yard strike in the 30th minute, but it sailed just over the bar.

Simba doubled their lead in the 33rd minute when Ateba converted a penalty after Pemba Kingu fouled Mpanzu inside the box. This marked Ateba's seventh league goal of the season, placing him level with teammates Jean Ahoua and Young Africans' Clement Mzize in the Golden Boot race, with only Singida Black Stars' Elvis Rupa (8 goals) ahead.

Shomari Kapombe sealed the victory with Simba's third goal, his second of the season, following an assist from Ateba. The right-back latched onto a clever pass after a well-executed buildup from Mpanzu, who was involved in all three goals.

Despite the loss, Tabora United remains in fifth place with 25 points from 16 matches.

Simba will now travel to Manyara for their next league encounter against Fountain Gate FC. Davids acknowledged the challenge but remained confident in his team's ability to secure another crucial win.

"We drive to Dodoma tomorrow morning, stay there, and then on matchday minus one, we travel to Manyara to face Fountain Gate. It's another tough away match, but we must fight for the three points," he stated.

He also praised Simba's passionate supporters, whose presence made the away match feel like a home game.

With their title charge back on track, Simba SC will now shift their focus to maintaining their dominance in the league.

Goal difference could decide Premier League title, says Davids

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA head coach Fadlu Davids believes the competition at the top of the Premier League is so fierce that the title may come down to goal difference.

Simba travel to Fountain Gate on Thursday knowing a win will keep them above second placed Young Africans.

Ahead of the trip to Manyara, Davids has called upon his Simba team to earn big wins because goal difference may decide who will be the 2024/25 champions.

"Another tough game away from home. These away matches are not easy. First of all, getting the result and secondly, can we score as many goals as possible, because goal difference is going to be key," he said.

The current table toppers are one point above their arch rivals Young Africans who are also enjoying a fine run of form.

While Simba have now won in ten consecutive league matches, Young Africans have won their last six games in what is building up to a tight title two-horse race.

Simba are currently trailing Young Africans in the goal difference stakes, which could be crucial at the end of the campaign.

The last time the title race was decided on goal difference was in the 2016/17 campaign when Young Africans finished above bitter rivals Simba thanks to their superior goal difference.

On that occasion, only a point separated them after 25 games and the race eventually went down to the final day, with Young Africans triumphing.

Unlike Young Africans this term, Simba have to navigate a hectic schedule as they are still involved in the CAF Confederation Cup. They are also competing in the Federation Cup.

Thursday's game against Fountain will be followed by the visit of Tanzania Prisons to the KMC Mwenge Stadium four days later.

In a make-or-break month there is a home against Dodoma Jiji on Feb 15 before a trip to Namungo.

Azam and a first leg CAF Confederation Cup quarter final game is part of their February hectic fixture.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

