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'Tanzania demonstrates Belt, Road strategy use'

By Guardian Correspondent, Beijing

TANZANIA has become a demonstration zone for deepening high-quality Belt and Road cooperation between China and African countries, Chinese President Xi Jinping has declared.

The view was expressed at a meeting with President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday, on the sidelines of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

He emphasized that Tanzania is where China first put forward its Africa policy for the new era, as the two leaders discussed various ways to strengthen cooperation.

Various African leaders are in Beijing for the China-Africa Forum Summit, where the Chinese leader cited the Dar es Salaam Consensus jointly issued by Chinese and African scholars in Tanzania back in March.

He said it reflects the consensus among Global South countries on the right development path and philosophy, with China-Tanzania relations seen to be in line with the historical trend of development of the Global South, holding significant values and playing a leading role.



Key discussions will cover a range of topics, including the economy, people-to-people relations, development, technology, international issues, security and clean energy

President Samia also met with Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, affirming that Tanzania is willing to strengthen exchanges of experience with China and explore innovative approaches to accelerating development in Africa.

Wang said that China is willing to work with Tanzania to deepen mutual trust and expand practical cooperation to benefit the peoples of China and Africa.

The two presidents as well as Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema yesterday jointly witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the revitalization of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA).

President Samia said at the occasion that the Beijing summit will make new contributions to deepen friendly ties between Africa and China, significantly advancing Africa's industrialization and agricultural modernisation.

"China is a trusted and indispensable partner of Tanzania," she said, noting that Tanzania is ready to work with China to advance the Belt and Road cooperation strategy.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Tanzania, with President Xi saying that China is ready to deepen the com-

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President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan (L), host President Xi Jinping (C) and Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding to improve the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) and its managerial structures in Beijing yesterday. Photo: State House

Belgium lends support for clean energy effort

By Guardian Reporter

BELGIUM has expressed its support for the clean cooking energy campaign, ready to collaborate with Tanzania in its Africa-wide propagation, the government has stated.

Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko reached this accord with Belgian Energy minister Tinne van der Straeten at a continental conference to discuss the use of hydrogen in electricity generation, held in the Namibian capital of Windhoek.

The use of hydrogen parallels exploration of other clean energy sources includ-



The conference being attended by senior ministers and top officials from African countries holds its final session today

ing natural gas, especially as President Samia Suluhu Hassan champions the use of natural gas to replace charcoal burning and firewood.

The conference is discussing energy alternatives for the development of the entire African continent, with a plethora of issues to be addressed, as to the focus of domestic energy and industrial energy generation, officials said.

While a number of African countries including Tanzania have natural gas deposits, hydrogen is extensively available but needs huge investments involving extraction and processing of orate metals,

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Child rape scare: MPs seek stronger penalties

By Augusta Njoji, Dodoma

DEBATE on penalties for individuals convicted of child rape resurfaced in the National Assembly yesterday, as some MPs called for significant amendments to the law, including proposals for the death penalty or castration of perpetrators.

Najma Murtaza Giga (Special Seats), in a primary question, inquired whether

the government was considering a bill to impose the death penalty on those who rape children under the age of nine.

Ritha Kabati (Special Seats) noted in a supplementary question an alarming increase in rape cases, particularly featuring youths in Iringa Region, where minors under 18 are sexually assaulted by their peers.

Questioning the adequacy of current

legal provisions for the young offenders she said that rape has become a pervasive habit across the country. "Some have suggested that rapists should be executed. However, could we also consider castration as a viable alternative, given the severity of the problem?"

Jumanne Sagini, Constitution and Legal Affairs deputy minister responded by pointing out that Section 131(1) of the Penal Code (Chapter 16) prescribes penalties for rape, including a minimum of 30 years imprisonment, corporal punishment, and possible compensation for the victim.

Section 131(3) asserts that if the victim is a child under 10, the penalty is life imprisonment.

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'Thousands of adults, out of school learners studying again'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

AN Education Sector Assessment (ESA, 2024) report under the Adult and Community Education Programme shows that 97,217 learners used 1,851 centres in 2023, where 39,789 men and 57,428 women attended.

Omar Kipanga, the Education, Science and Technology deputy minister, unveiled this expectation in the National Assembly here yesterday, responding to a supplementary question from Shally Raymond (Special Seats).

Under the basic education for out-of-school children, programme 57,843 students benefited, learning at 2,557 centres in 2023, with 32,141 boys and 25,702 girls.

Similarly, in the integrated post-basic education programme (IPPE) a total of 9,368 students were involved at 89 centres, while the integrated secondary education for out-of-school youth programme (IPOS) had 42,183 youths learning at 85 centres.

In the alternative secondary education programme, 11,721 students turned up, with

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SPORTS

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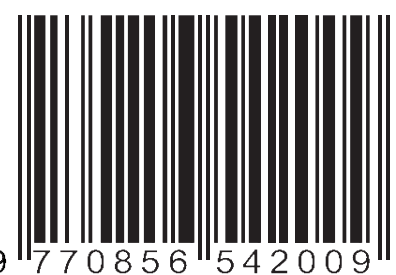


Simba vs Yanga Premier League derby rescheduled to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium

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Bolivia moves World Cup qualifier to even higher altitude, hoping to elevate performance



'Tanzania demonstrates Belt, Road strategy use'

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prehensive strategic cooperative partnership with Tanzania.

This will deliver more benefits to both peoples and pass on the traditional friendship from generation to generation he said, noting that China is willing to take the summit as an opportunity to push for new progress in the revitalization of the Freedom Railway and jointly improve the rail-sea intermodal transport network in East Africa

Khamis Mussa Omar, the Tanzanian ambassador to China, had earlier highlighted that the fourth plenary session of the Forum on

China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will enhance collaboration and present significant opportunities for Tanzanians.

In an interview with China's CGTN Television early in the week, he said the forum had direct benefits for Tanzania, building on the progress made in 2021, focusing on key sectors such as infrastructure, modern agriculture and technology.

Key discussions will cover a range of topics, including the economy, people-to-people relations, development, technology, international issues, security and clean energy, he stated.

Child rape scare: MPs seek stronger penalties

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onment, he said, remarking that life imprisonment means the offender's entire lifetime.

"This is the second most severe penalty, after the death penalty for treason and premeditated murder," he stated, acknowledging however that the government is examining whether to raise penalties for those who rape children under 10.

Holding the current provision of the life imprisonment penalty as a deterrent, he said the castration idea has problems. Moral decay has led to an increase in certain crimes,

including rape, he stated, pointing out that such incidents are occurring in schools.

"I must emphasize that if a crime is committed by a child, it is still considered a crime," he said.

"This child rape issue appears to be raised with emotional concern. While it is indeed distressing, the proposed measures are not covered by our current laws," he said.

If such a measure were to be considered, it would require consensus expressed in the law review process, not just taken from suggestions by MPs, he specified.

'Thousands of adults, out of school learners study again'

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5,529 boys and 6,192 girls, enrolled for 2023 across 777 centres of which 160 are operated by local authorities and 617 are private centres, he stated.

The deputy minister explained that the government has come up with strategies to address illiteracy in the country, including establishing adult education departments at primary and secondary levels.

Based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census showing that 17 percent of Tanzanians are unable to read and write, the MP had asked what measures the government was taking to address illiteracy among some primary school leavers and other adults.

"Does the government not see the need to introduce evening literacy programmes for women in rural

areas at their wards through community development officers?" she demanded.

In response, the deputy minister affirmed that following last year's educational census and curriculum review, the government was setting up adult education departments in primary and secondary schools to tackle the problem.

The government is already providing life skills and entrepreneurship training at various levels, he said.

The MP had demanded the basic question of how many centres offer adult education and how many adults benefit from this educational initiative, to which the government said adult education was being enhanced through various programmes under the adult and non-formal education unit.

Kenya launches facility to multiply investment in geothermal energy

NAIROBI

KENYA has launched a facility to boost investments in geothermal energy projects in East Africa.

Godfrey Kiptum, commissioner-general of the Insurance Regulatory Authority of Kenya, told journalists in Nairobi yesterday that the Geothermal Risk Underwriting Facility is a comprehensive program aimed at leveraging local insurance capital to de-risk renewable energy projects and catalyse private investment in the sector.

"Kenya has established a joint underwriting facility, backed by East African insurers, designed to cover early-stage development drilling risks for investors in geothermal projects," he said at a forum on geothermal development and investment.

The day-long event brought together key stakeholders in Kenya's geothermal sector, including government representatives, private sector developers, financial institutions and development partners to discuss challenges associated with financing, risk mitigation, regulatory frameworks and technological advancements.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya currently

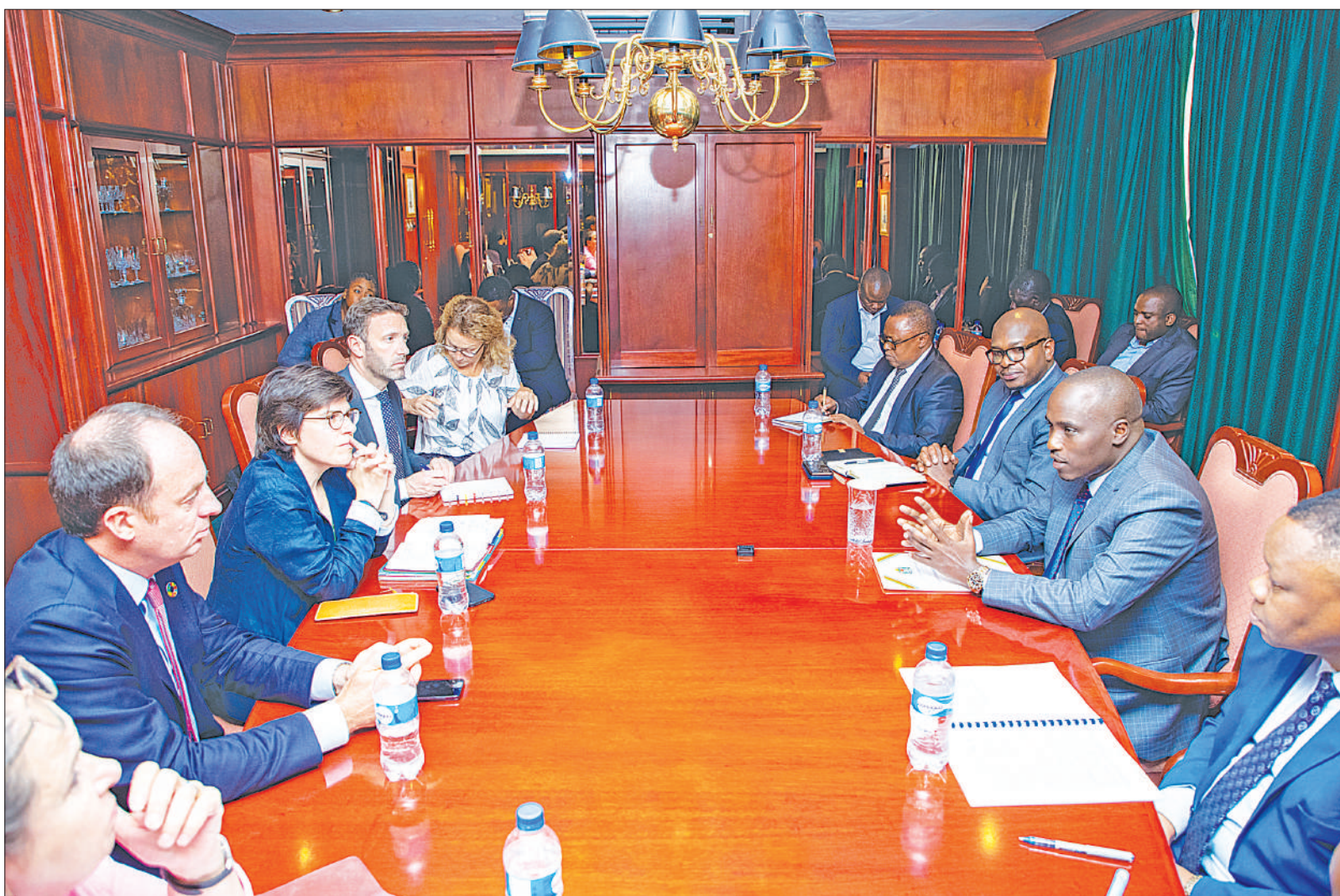
generates about 985 megawatts (MW) of geothermal power out of an estimated potential of about 10,000 MW.

Chrispin Lupe, head of the Geo-Exploration Directorate at the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, said that the facility also provides for technical capacity development for East African insurance sector stakeholders to enhance their ability to underwrite and manage renewable energy risks.

Lupe noted that the facility will also help regional governments through advocacy and technical assistance to adapt regulatory frameworks to better support the unique needs of the renewable energy sector.



Kenya has established a joint underwriting facility, backed by East African insurers, designed to cover early-stage development drilling risks for investors in geothermal projects



Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy premier and Energy minister, leads the Tanzania delegation at a Windhoek bilateral discussion with a Belgian delegation led by Energy minister Tinne van der Straeten in the Namibian capital on the side lines of a conference on hydrogen use for electricity generation on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Belgium lends support for clean energy effort

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they said.

The deputy premier stated that Tanzania prioritizes the use of energy enabling sustainable development, seeking to curb diseases and potential deaths related to the use of unclean energy.

Long-standing cooperation between Tanzania and Belgium would facilitate energy sector develop-

ment through strategic investments, he said, underlining the vital use of the campaign to ensure that 80 percent of households use clean cooking energy within the next 10 years.

Tanzania would appreciate Belgium's support in the use of clean cooking energy, as it has done in other sectors, including education and gender equality empowerment efforts, he said.

The Belgian minister stated that her country is ready to support efforts to shift from charcoal and firewood as part of an international effort at environmental conservation.

The use of various clean energy sources will stimulate the development of people and the various economies, empowering citizens to increase income and uplift economic activities.

The ongoing hydrogen conference is intended to highlight opportunities and challenges in the use of this energy, where Tanzania will have an opportunity to hear the continental potential of hydrogen use for electricity generation.

The conference being attended by senior ministers and top officials from African countries holds its final session today.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks with Ngara residents from Kagera Region who paid a visit to Parliament at the invitation of their MP, Ndesaiba Ruhoro (R). Left is Industries and Trade minister, Dr Selemani Jafo. Photo: PMO

KINSHASA

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo expects to receive its first delivery of mpox vaccine doses on Thursday and a second delivery on Saturday, the head of the country's mpox outbreak response said yesterday.

DR Congo is the epicentre of an mpox outbreak that the World Health Organization declared to be a global public health emergency last month, but efforts to curb the spread of the disease have been hampered by a lack of vaccines.

"We'll receive the first batch on September 5 and a second one on September 7," response Chief Cris Kacita told Reuters in a WhatsApp message, without giving further details on the number of doses or the provider.

The vaccine doses' arrival would help to address a huge inequity that left African countries with no access to the two shots used in a 2022 global mpox outbreak, while they were widely available in Europe and the United States. Washington and Brussels have pledged tens of thousands of doses of a vaccine made by Bavarian Nordic, and said they could be delivered soon.

Kacita said on Monday that DR Congo hoped to start the first wave of vaccination on October 8, but

DR Congo expects first delivery of mpox vaccine doses on Thursday

that this would depend on it receiving vaccines this week.

Health authorities face a steep challenge launching the vital campaign across a tropical country the size of Western Europe. The doses must be kept at -90 degrees Celsius (-130°F) and communities can be wary of participating.

"The vaccine will not be distributed as soon as it is received," Kacita said, explaining why it would take around a month from delivery to launch the campaign.

"We need to communicate so that the population accepts the vaccination," he said, adding that the six targeted provinces have the capacity to store the doses at the required temperature.

The World Health Organization's acting director of epidemic and pandemic prevention, Maria Van Kerkhove, said this was the agency's key focus as it supported Congo's response.

"We have to look at the communication around who will get them [the vaccines] first," she said, warning that disinformation around the

vaccines was "pretty rampant."

Dose numbers are still limited, she said, so at first vaccinations will be focused on the contacts of known cases.

Children are at high risk from mpox, but Bavarian Nordic's shot is not licensed for children. However, van Kerkhove said the WHO recommends its use in outbreaks for children when the benefits outweigh the risks, and this is currently under discussion in Congo.

Mpox typically causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions, and can kill. There were 19,710 suspected cases of mpox reported since the start of the year in Congo by Aug. 31, according to the health ministry. Of those, 5,041 were confirmed and 655 were fatal. It spreads through close contact, including sexual contact. "The greatest loss of human life is in rural areas. These are remote areas where there is no support," said a doctor working in Congo's response who asked not to be identified as the doctor was not authorised to speak to the media.

The doctor expressed concern

that a successful campaign would depend on vaccinating those in the vicinity of confirmed positive cases, but many areas with suspected cases lacked the right resources.

"We can't have laboratories in places with no water or electricity. This is the weakness of current surveillance, the lack of capacity to check suspected cases in the laboratory," the doctor said.

The WHO's Van Kerkhove said some areas in Congo have run out of tests, and called for more resources to support the response there as well as in neighbouring Burundi, which has also seen a rise in cases of the new clade 1b strain of mpox in recent weeks. She said vaccines were only part of the answer, and measures such as contact tracing and raising awareness of how to prevent infection were also key.

In a video message on Wednesday, focused on children returning to school, Congo's health minister Roger Kamba said handwashing and disinfecting furniture were also important to stop the spread of mpox.



Construction of street lighting infrastructure in progress yesterday at a Kilwa Road section of Dar es Salaam's Bus Rapid Transit project site. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Concern as petty traders litter BRT infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

CONCERNS have been raised about petty traders littering the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Phase II infrastructure, particularly in Mbagala area, Dar es Salaam.

The BRT Phase II whose construction began in 2019 and is now nearing completion extends from Mbagala to the central business district.

The project implemented by contractor Sinohydro Corporation is expected to be handed over to the government later this year. However, petty traders have begun using parts of the BRT road as an informal marketplace, causing significant issues.

Yuan Rui, the project's manager, highlighted the problem: "One of the challenges we face is that some petty traders have set up their businesses on the BRT infrastructure. They are a major nuisance, leaving behind substantial waste that damages and pollutes the road."

Yuan added that the waste blocks water passages, leading to the accumulation of dirty water. "This situation becomes particularly problematic during rainy seasons, forcing us to hire trucks to drain the wastewater caused by the traders," he said during a press

briefing on Tuesday.

Regarding the project's progress, Yuan noted that training is currently underway for engineers from Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) on traffic light management and road maintenance.

The training is being conducted alongside supervision of both the BRT and regular roads, extending from Mbagala Rang'i Tatu to Kariakoo via Kilwa and Chang'ombe roads.

The project team has also requested TANROADS to send special inspectors to evaluate the road infrastructure and other technical aspects to facilitate the official handover of the project.

Lee Shuai, Head of the Engineering Unit for the project, praised the efforts of everyone involved. "From office supervisors to on-site workers, everyone has worked diligently to meet the standards set by TANROADS," Lee said, noting that a significant portion of the workforce was local and some began without prior skills.

Mohammed Chande, a resident of Mbagala who commutes to Gongolamboto, shared his frustrations. "Residents traveling to and from the city centre have been facing severe traffic congestion, leading to increased expenses which were not anticipated."

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Majaliwa pledges more govt efforts to secure international job opportunities

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that the government will continue to enhance its diplomatic efforts to provide more Tanzanians with access to international job opportunities.

Majaliwa made the commitment here yesterday during a meeting with Dr Faustine Ndugulile, the newly appointed Regional Director for Africa at the World Health Organization (WHO).

He said the government has effectively strengthened cooperation with other countries and institutions.

"Our president has demonstrated strong leadership over her three and a half years in office, significant-

ly advancing diplomacy and fostering relationships with numerous countries globally," he said.

He said the efforts have propelled Tanzania's diplomatic standing, leading to the country securing key leadership roles within regional and

international organisations.

"We are proud of the substantial progress we have made over the years, including securing the position of Speaker of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and now the WHO Regional Director for Africa."

Majaliwa assured continued government support for Dr Ndugulile in his new role.

"The Minister for Health will work closely with you to ensure our policies align with WHO objectives. Your presence is crucial for advanc-

ing our national health initiatives," he said.

Dr Ndugulile expressed his gratitude to the government for the support and diplomatic efforts instrumental in his election.

"I am especially thankful to President Samia (Suluhu Hassan) for her exceptional efforts in securing this role through her influence in international circles. I also extend my thanks to other government leaders, the Parliament, and all stakeholders involved," he said.

NGOs coordination desks meant to strengthen collaboration with govt

By Guardian Reporter,

Dodoma

THE government in partnership with the private sector has established coordination desks for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to strengthen collaboration.

At the launch event in Dodoma yesterday, Felister Mdemu, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, said that the collaboration aims to foster sustainable development and enhance wellbeing of citizens.

Mdemu explained that the desks will act as a bridge between the private sector, the government and NGOs, marking the start of new opportunities and improving efficiency of project implementation.

This initiative is a component of the five-year NGO Sustainability Strategy for 2021/2022-2025/2026.

"Today's launch of the desks is a step towards strengthening cooperation between the government, private sector and NGOs. This collaboration will support various projects designed to enhance living conditions, promote sustainable development and drive national economic growth," she said.

She also highlighted that the current NGO registration database lists a total of 9,650 organisations at various

levels, including international, national, regional and local.

The organisations play a crucial role in supporting government efforts by implementing initiatives in sectors such as health, agriculture, water, environment, infrastructure, governance, energy, social protection, economic empowerment and employment Tanzanians.

Vickness Mayao, Registrar of NGOs, noted the significant opportunities for collaboration between the government and private sector, particularly through

internships in community development colleges.

Dr Joseph Mayala, a representative of World Vision Tanzania, said that it is the ideal time for enhanced collaboration and proposed formation of a taskforce to engage in discussions on the National Development Policy and develop a sustainable collaboration strategy.

The desks were inaugurated as part of the 2024 Annual NGO Forum, which brought together government and private sector stakeholders.

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PUBLIC AUCTION REVIEW NOTICE

With the approval given to us by our client **STANBIC BANK TANZANIA LIMITED**, we will re-sell by public auction the secured assets, which are as follows:

NAME OF DEBTOR	GUARANTEE	DETAILS OF GUARANTEE	AUCTION LOCATION	AUCTION DATE AND TIME
FAMARI INVESTMENT (T) LTD	VEHICLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T 318 DXQ MAN TRACTOR T 677 DXQ MAN TRACTOR 	The auction will be held at the BILO STAR Warehouse located in Mbezi Beach Dar es Salaam	Date 12/09/2024 starting at 10:00AM in the morning
FAMARI INVESTMENT (T) LTD	VEHICLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SHACMAN TRACTOR T 830 DZR 	The auction will be held at the BILO STAR Warehouse located in Arusha	Date 12/09/2024 starting at 10:00AM in the morning

VEHICLE DETAILS: They are in good condition and have a valid title document with original car cards

CONDITIONS OF AUCTION:

- The buyer who succeeds in buying the car will have to pay 25% on the spot, and the remaining amount 75% will have to be paid within 14 days from the date of the auction. If fails to pay the 25% paid will not be returned and the auction will be repeated.
- The buyer will buy the car in its condition as it is at the time of the auction.
- Transfer costs will be borne by the buyer.

FOR MORE DETAILS:

Visit our offices in Mbezi beach or contact us by phone Number 0716943424, 0719206984, bilostarcompany@gmail.com.S. L. P 16095, DAR ES SALAAM



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION PACKAGE: CONSTRUCTION OF THE GRID CONNECTIONS AND BESS SYSTEMS (RE-ADVERTISEMENT) REFERENCE NO. REQ-0000527

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) LTD ("EACOP LTD") invites experienced and reputable companies or organizations to express their interest in undertaking the Carbon Footprint Reduction Package: Construction of the Grid Connections and BESS systems of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project.

The EACOP Project involves the construction and operation of an underground and cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from Lake Albert area in Uganda to eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale, Hoima District in Uganda to the Chongoleini peninsula in Tanga, Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 296km will be in Uganda and 1,147 km in Tanzania. In Tanzania the pipeline will traverse eight (8) regions comprising of Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara and Tanga, 27 administrative District Councils, and 231 Villages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

The EOI for REQ-0000527 was previously published on 07 May 2024 with the following scope:

- Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commissioning of:
 - The 33kV grid connection stations and associated control systems and utilities including 33kV/33kV transformers and 33kV variable shunt reactors.
 - The 33kV BESS systems and its control systems (to stabilize grid power and perform seamless on grid/off grid transfer).
 - The overall electrical control systems named Power Management System to control and prioritize the power supply to EACOP.
- All associated power and control cabling.
- All associated civil works (access road, foundations, trenches, etc.)
- All associated telecom and security systems (CCTV, Fencing, Gates, etc.)

The EOI for REQ-0000527 is revised and re-advertised with the following scope:

- Construction of:
 - The 33kV grid connection stations and associated control systems and utilities including 33kV/33kV transformers and 33kV variable shunt reactors.
 - The 33kV BESS systems and its control systems (to stabilize grid power and perform seamless on grid/off grid transfer)
 - The overall electrical control systems named Power Management System to control and prioritize the power supply to EACOP.
- All associated power and control cabling.
- All associated civil works (access road, foundations, trenches, etc.)
- All associated telecom and security systems (CCTV, Fencing, Gates, etc.)

For pumping station 3 located in Bukoba, pumping station 4 located in Shinyanga, pumping station 5 located in Shinyanga, pumping station 6 located in Singida and Marine Storage Terminal located in Tanga.

The BESS systems and all equipment will be free issued by EACOP to the selected Contractor and will be installed by the selected Construction Contractor.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or Organizations expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Brief description of experience, expertise, and capacity to deliver the required scope of services.
- Details of similar projects or activities undertaken which provide evidence of qualified and available team, knowledge of pipeline regions, and track record of the above listed experience.
- Business License.
- Certificate of Incorporation and recent BREA search (attach copy)
- Proof of Registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
- Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years.
- Evidence of a QHSE Management system, organization, and process in compliance with applicable Local and Industry standards for similar works.
- Proof of Anti-corruption, Anti-bribery, Compliance and Human Rights policies.
- Specialized in Construction of Electrical Works including extensive experience in Battery Energy Storage Systems.
- Where appropriate proof of registration with professional bodies eg Engineers Registration Board or Contractors Registration Board.

Companies or organizations which have the ability, capacity, and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending an Expression of Interest (EOI) via email, together with the above listed documents through an email to procurement@eacop.com (max. email size 20MB) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 4th October 2024. Email subject shall be: **REQ-0000527 Carbon Footprint Reduction Package: Construction of the Grid Connections and BESS systems. Companies and organizations which have previously expressed their interest in the EOI issued on 07 May 2024 are encouraged to re-apply for the revised scope.** Statements of EOI should be no more than ten (10) to twenty (20) pages long. **All Expression of Interests should be submitted in the English language.**

Note: EACOP LTD will review and assess the documents provided by companies that have expressed interest in accordance with this EOI and conduct evaluations based on internal criteria to determine which companies or organizations will be included in the list of pre-qualified companies or organizations. Only the pre-qualified companies or organizations will receive, by signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), an invitation to bid as a continuation of the call for tender process. EACOP LTD reserves the right at its sole discretion to make the decision to select or reject a company or organization and maintain its decision without having to give reasons to the company or organization concerned.

Seventy firms to participate in East Africa Investment Forum

By Henry Mwangonde

TEN companies from other East African countries have confirmed their participation in the East Africa Investment Forum scheduled for Thursday and Friday next week in Dar es Salaam. The forum will also see 60 Tanzanian firms in attendance.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Reuben Mwatyosa, Vice Chairman of the Tanzanian Association of Financial Technology Service Providers (TAFINA), said that the conference aims to unite businesspeople, particularly those involved in financial technology services from East and Central Africa. Mwatyosa highlighted that the event has received considerable support from the Bank of Tanzania, which will also participate.

"This conference will bring together businesspeople and investors to explore investment opportunities in Tanzania and across the East African region," he said.

He added that the conference will address

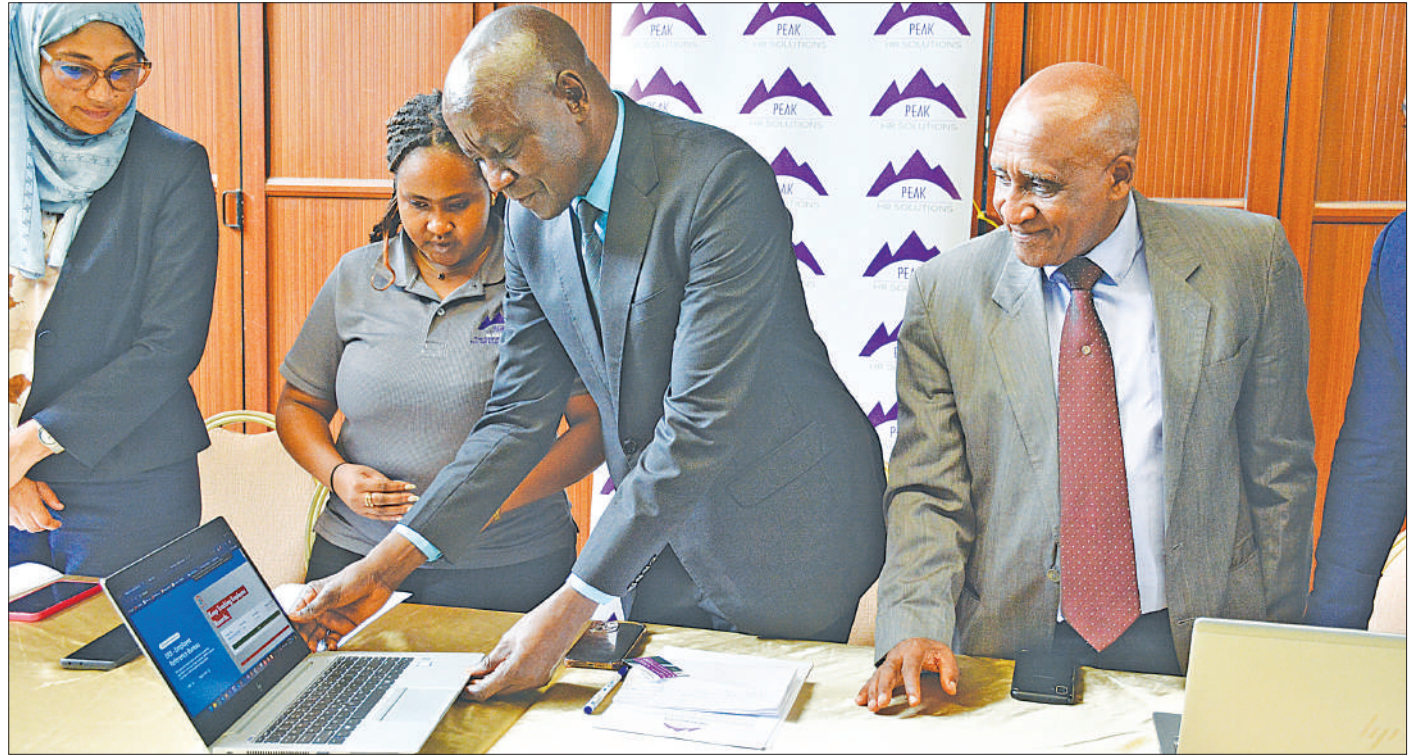
various challenges faced by financial technology service providers and explore collaborative ways to advance the industry.

"We are delighted to organize this major conference. Our goal is to foster collaboration among investors and stakeholders. This event will greatly enhance investment cooperation," he said.

He noted that 60 member companies in Tanzania have confirmed their attendance, along with others from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Shadrack Kamenya, Secretary-General of TAFINA, commented that the conference, which will also be attended by government representatives, offers businesspeople a valuable opportunity to build extensive networks for cooperation.

"We are confident that this conference will produce positive outcomes for businesspeople and help investors discover new opportunities within the country," he said.



Dr Godwill Wanga (C), the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) executive secretary, launches the Employee Reference Bureau (ERB) and an employment market app intended to radically change recruitment and hiring processes countrywide. This app was designed by Peak HR Solutions, whose CEO, Philemon Kisamo is on the right, the event was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS/SERVICES TO M&P EXPLORATION PRODUCTION TANZANIA LIMITED



(Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/011)

- M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following below services.
- Vendors and Suppliers situated physically in Mtwara are encouraged to apply as well as vendors who can provide multiple services.

Provision of Geocells and HDPE Membranes

Geocells	Quantity
Required Capacity (m ²)	26,600
Length Of The Road (km)	4.3
Width Of The Road (m)	7
Max Weight (Ton/m ²)	60

HDPE	Quantity
4 Mil HDPE Membrane Liner	
Required Capacity (m ²)	10,800

- This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and competitive tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.
- Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
 - Proof of experience and technical capability in providing said services preferably in Oil & Gas industry.
 - Proof of financial capability (with latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and current annual return.
 - International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
 - Proof of Registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a Company profile, Certificate of registration with BRELA, Tax Authority certificates for Tax Identification Number and Value Added Tax, Valid Business Licenses, Proof of registration with ERB and CRB (if applicable), Regulatory license and permits (if applicable), Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz and costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz not later than 16th September 2024. For simplicity of vetting and evaluation process, please on your email subject mention the service codes at the end of the services mentioned above. That will shorten the email subject.

(Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/012)

- M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following below services.
- Vendors and Suppliers situated physically in Mtwara are encouraged to apply as well as vendors who can provide multiple services.

Catering, Laundry and Cleaning Services at the Rig Site - CTRNG

- This will be a remote operation supporting meal services for 100+ Personnel
 - Supply of Sufficient Drinking Water
 - Preparation of Food and Meals
 - Weekly Meal Reports
 - Daily Cleaning of the Kitchen
 - Inspection and Maintenance of Kitchen Equipment and Facility
 - Laundry Services for the personnel at the rig site
 - Cleaning of the Accommodation Containers of the Personnel
 - Availability of Cleaning equipment and facilities
 - Comprehensive HSE Policy
 - Neatness is Mandatory
- This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and competitive tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.
 - Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:
 - Proof of experience and technical capability in providing said services preferably in Oil & Gas industry.
 - Proof of financial capability (with latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and current annual return.
 - International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
 - Proof of Registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a Company profile, Certificate of registration with BRELA, Tax Authority certificates for Tax Identification Number and Value Added Tax, Valid Business Licenses, Proof of registration with ERB and CRB (if applicable), Regulatory license and permits (if applicable), Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
 - All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to contractmanager@tanzaniamp.co.tz and costcontrol@tanzaniamp.co.tz not later than 16th September 2024. For simplicity of vetting and evaluation process, please on your email subject mention the service codes at the end of the services mentioned above. That will shorten the email subject.

Govt in final stages of setting up national arbitration centre

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is in the final stages of establishing a national arbitration centre to handle local and international dispute resolution.

Mala Kihupa, Senior State Attorney in the Ministry for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, made this announcement in Dar es Salaam yesterday while opening a training session for accredited arbitrators, mediators, and negotiators.

The training was organized by the government in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

She stated that the government has already secured a building in Dar es Salaam, and other processes are ongoing to establish the centre.

Kihupa mentioned that through the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism, the ministry, through the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign, has been implemented in seven regions, successfully resolving 668 cases and disputes

amicably.

"We are pleased to report that this is one of the successes achieved by the ministry through the ADR mechanism," she said.

Kihupa highlighted that ADR holds immense potential for both promoting access to justice and fostering economic growth.

She explained that by offering efficient and cost-effective methods to resolve disputes outside of traditional court proceedings, significant resources are saved.

She noted that ADR mechanisms, such as mediation, arbitration, and reconciliation, can significantly enhance access to justice for individuals and businesses alike.

"The ministry is responsible for coordinating and regulating matters pertaining to the Arbitration Act, 2022, and its regulations of 2021 to ensure that services provided by ADR practitioners are productive and efficient," she said.

Kihupa added that since the law was enacted, the government has registered a total of 576

ADR practitioners, including 38 conciliators, 60 negotiators, 185 mediators, and 293 arbitrators.

Representative of GIZ, Ahmet Kasami, said the training is part of the government's efforts to ensure the provision of education to arbitrators in Tanzania and ultimately enhance access to justice for economic development.

He stated that establishing an effective system for alternative dispute resolution requires qualified personnel.

Kasami noted that the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and GIZ Tanzania aim to advance the system through the provision of training for legal professionals.

Dr Clement Mashamba, Deputy Principal (Training and Research) at the Law School of Tanzania, emphasized that ADR is the best approach as it reduces both time and cost.

He explained that the ADR mechanism takes almost 30 days compared to court proceedings and encouraged the public to opt for it.

HANGZHOU

EIGHTEEN officials and scholars from six African countries concluded an urban landscape construction and planning training programme in China on Tuesday.

Over the past 14 days, participants from Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mauritius, Lesotho and Tunisia were trained in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, and Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province.

The training program was hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce and the China National Bamboo Research Centre of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

Through this training program, African officials and scholars have deepened their understanding of China's urban landscape

African scholars attain urban landscaping training in China

construction practices and also laid the foundation for promoting exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa in urban landscape development.

"The program is excellent, very educational. We have gained a lot of knowledge that will definitely be important for us. When we go back to Africa, we can think about how to implement what we have learned here," said Tijjani Zakirai Ahmad, deputy director of the forestry department of the Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria.

"We have seen so many things -- different cultures, architectural styles and landscape designs that we don't have in Africa. It's all very

interesting and valuable."

"China has advanced technology and has developed large urban areas that we in Mauritius can learn from, even if we have to downscale those ideas to fit our smaller land size," said Humyrah Begum Kurrimbaccus, a housing development official from Mauritius.

"We are very conscious of preserving our natural environment, so this program is incredibly useful," said Kurrimbaccus. "It's teaching us how to integrate our greenery and natural landscapes into urban development, which is crucial for us."

By Special Correspondent

ABOUT 367 cases of mpox, including three deaths, have so far been confirmed in five countries in East and Southern Africa amid fears that the number could further rise, said a UN relief agency.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that as of Monday, Burundi had recorded 328 cases, South Africa 24, Uganda seven while Rwanda and Kenya had four each.

"Some countries in the region have launched their response plans, including Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, to control the disease. However, limited funding and resources hamper efforts to curb further spread," said OCHA Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa in its latest update on the disease.

According to the UN agency, more than 3,800 confirmed cases have been recorded across Africa since January, with Burundi the

UN raises concern over increase of mpox cases

second most affected country in the continent after the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the disease a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and called for a coordinated international response to stop the outbreak of mpox and save lives. The move by the UN health agency followed an outbreak of the viral infection in the DRC and the spread to its neighbouring countries in Africa.

Mpox is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus, which has two distinct clades, including clade 1b and clade 2b, and can be transmitted to humans through physical contact with an infectious person, contaminated materials, or infected animals.

According to the OCHA, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda have each reported their first clade 1b cases between July and August, initially circulating in the DRC in 2023 and appearing to be more severe and spread faster than the clade 2b variant, which circulates in West Africa.

The African Union approved \$10.4 million in August to support the ongoing efforts to combat the mpox outbreak across Africa.

The governments and health partners, with the support of the WHO, continue scaling up the response, including contact tracing, case management screenings at border entry points, testing capacity strengthening, surveillance, case reporting, and dissemination of information on preventive measures, the OCHA said.



INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM SUPPLIERS FOR PROVISION OF GOODS, SERVICES, CONSULTANCY AND WORKS

- Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan has over 80 years' experience and works in more than 75 countries across the world. Working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners, we strive for a just world, tackling the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. Plan International Tanzania (PIT) operates in 8 regions with footprints within 16 regions since 1991, currently supporting 25,000 vulnerable children and their families to access health care, quality education, safe sanitation and water, productive livelihoods and protection of their wellbeing.
- Plan International Tanzania intends to prequalify suppliers for provision of goods, services, consultancy and works. Plan International Tanzania therefore request information for prequalification of suppliers in the following categories: -

A: Common Goods, Services, Consultancy and Works

Lot Number	Description Category I: Goods/Supplies	Plan offices/locations- goods/supplies/services required
PIT/RFI/FY25-01	Printing of normal business cards, printing manuals/guides, newsletters, fliers, brochures, posters, vouchers for scholastic materials, branded stationery items, envelopes, calendars, diaries, mugs, coats, t-shirts, Christmas cards, magazines, banners, branded pencils & pens and the related services	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-02	Printing of braille materials	Dar es Salaam and Dodoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-03	Printing of school management committee (SMC), parent teachers association (PTA), centre management materials (CMC) guides, provision of translation and proofreading services	Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-04	Supply and production of branded, promotional and advertising materials, signage, billboards, signboards, directional signs materials, painting and signs writing services and the related services	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-05	Supply of office sundries/general merchandise (sugar, milk, tealeaves, Milo etc), cleaning materials and toilet utilities	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-06	Supply of general office equipment's/machines-printers, scanners, photocopiers, projectors, cameras, consumables and related equipment and services (preferably authorized dealers)	Dar es Salaam and Mwanza
PIT/RFI/FY25-07	Supply of general office stationery, cartridges and tonners	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-08	Supply of play, teaching and learning materials for pre - primary, primary and secondary schools (pen, pencils, sharpeners, rubber, paper, exercise books, bags, football, football pumps, tennis balls, teachers Kit – red ball pen, flip charts, marker pen etc)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-09	Supply of office kitchen tools and utensils (tea cups, electrical kettle, microwave oven, table spoons, table plates, hotpots, vacuum flask/hot and cold storage bottle)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-10	Designing and printing staff ID cards	Dar es Salaam
PIT/RFI/FY25-11	Supply of locally made office furniture, school desks and fixtures	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-12	Supply of vehicle central locking and alarm systems	Dar es Salaam
PIT/RFI/FY25-13	Supply of imported/readymade office furniture and fixture	Dar es Salaam, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-14	Supply, repair, servicing of fire extinguishers and equipment	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-15	Supply of tires and tubes for motor vehicles, motor vehicle batteries, motor cycle and three wheelers (preferably importers, dealers and distributors)	Dar es Salaam, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-16	Supply of medicine/drugs, medical supplies and medical equipment	Dar es Salaam, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma

PIT/RFI/FY25-17	Production and supply of Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA)/Youth Saving Loan Association (YSLA) kits and suggestion box, Selection Planning Business and Management (SPM) Kits etc	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi and Nkasi - Rukwa
PIT/RFI/FY25-18	Supply of air conditioners, various brands preferably authorized dealers, repair, servicing of the air conditioners.	Dar es Salaam, Geita, Sumbawanga- Rukwa, Mpanda - Katavi and Mwanza
PIT/RFI/FY25-19	Supply of bicycles	Dar es Salaam, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-20	Supply of motor vehicle accessories (seat covers, radio, floor carpets/, car polish etc)	Dar es Salaam, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-21	Supply of motor cycle and three wheelers, spare parts and accessories.	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-22	Printing and supply of primary and secondary school books (preferably government authorized printers)	Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Geita
PIT/RFI/FY25-23	Supply of construction/building materials	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda-Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-24	Supply of electrical appliances (refrigerators, mobile phones, televisions, washing machines, water dispensers, etc)	Dar es Salaam, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-25	Supply of safety equipment, boots, driving/working gears, sports gears	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-26	Supply of generators	Dar es Salaam and Mwanza
PIT/RFI/FY25-27	Supply of tablets and accessories	Dar es Salaam and Mwanza
PIT/RFI/FY25-28	Supply of handheld solar torches, batteries and related accessories	Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-29	Supply of children playing kit-African toys/dolls, assorted puzzles (pictures, shape, logic game, board game), blocks etc	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-30	Supply of sport gears - football / netball, Jersey, trophies, whistles etc. (preferably manufacturers, agents, wholesalers)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda-Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-31	Supply of learning gears for people with disability (preferably manufacturers, specialized suppliers, agents, wholesalers)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda-Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-32	Various items for people with disabilities such as working/support gears, braille machine, magnifying glasses, etc)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda-Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-33	Supply of drinking water (preferably manufacturers, dealers/agents)	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda-Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-34	Supply of hardware and software license for local product/ Apple products (preferably authorized dealers/agents)	Dar es Salaam
Category II: Services		
PIT/RFI/FY25-35	Provision of hired public addressing (PA) systems during the communities' meetings, events etc	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-36	Provision of clearing and forwarding services	Dar es Salaam
PIT/RFI/FY25-37	Provision of local fundi services for construction work	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-38	Provision of generator services and maintenance	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-39	Provision of fumigation services	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Dodoma, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-40	Provision of courier services	Dar es Salaam and Mwanza
PIT/RFI/FY25-41	Provision of motor cycle service, repairs and maintenance	Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza and Nkasi -Rukwa
PIT/RFI/FY25-42	Provision of transport of goods, passengers and vehicle hire services	Dar es Salaam, Geita, Dodoma, Ifakara – Morogoro, Mwanza,

		Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-43	Provision of translation and proof-reading services, documents, videos etc	Dar es Salaam
PIT/RFI/FY25-44	Provision of local radio, TV services and supply of news papers	Dar es Salaam, Geita, Mwanza, Ifakara – Morogoro, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-45	Provision of servicing and repair of the air conditioners.	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi - Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
	Category III: Consultancy	
PIT/RFI/FY25-46	Provision of consultancy services for projects research, surveys, assessments and evaluation (baseline, midterm, end line and impact), RME, end of project evaluation, and child protection (VAC, child labor and child marriage), assessment for health facility, gender based, youth group health check, project Implementation evaluation and institutional capacity assessment.	Dar es Salaam
PIT/RFI/FY25-47	Project/organizational audits – audit firms	Dar es Salaam
	Category IV: Works	
PIT/RFI/FY25-48	Installation, service, repair and maintenance of Local Area Networks and PBX machines, Intercoms and Supply of related networking equipment	Dar es Salaam and Mwanza
PIT/RFI/FY25-49	Provision of office minor service/work and repairs (fixing doors, windows, furniture, lights, electric, plumbing work etc)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda - Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-50	Production of video & audio documentary, translation, editing and subtitling of audio and video	Dar es Salaam
PIT/RFI/FY25-51	Production of graphic design and layout	Dar es Salaam
PIT/RFI/FY25-52	Metal welding works, making of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) playing equipment including seesaw, pivot swings and the like	Kibondo – Kigoma

B: Goods/Supplies for Emergency Response

Lot Number	Description	Plan office/location-goods/supplies/services required
PIT/RFI/FY25-53	Supply of blankets, bedsheets, mattresses and Khanga, mosquito/bed nets, plastic sheets, comb, water buckets, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes (preferably manufacturers, agents, wholesalers)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-54	Supply of sanitary pads/towels (re- usable and disposable)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo – Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-55	Supply of water treatment drugs (preferably manufacturers, agents, wholesalers)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-56	Dignity Kits (pack of sanitary pads, underwear, bath/washing soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, bucket with lid, Khanga and body oil etc)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-57	Shelter kits (mattress with its cover, bedsheet, mosquito nets (treated), water guard/treatment (tabs), bucket with lid, etc)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-58	Secondary students - school kits (School bags with branding, pencil, pens, notebooks-counter, rainboots for children etc)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma
PIT/RFI/FY25-59	Primary students - school kits (school bags with branding, pencil, pens, rainboots for children, exercise books, etc)	Dar es Salaam, Kisarawe - Coast, Ifakara - Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mpanda- Katavi, Nkasi -Rukwa and Kibondo - Kigoma

1. Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to: tenders@plan-international.org, attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidders will be responsible for following up to ensure that Plan International Tanzania has received the notification. The request for information documents in the English language will be sent to interested suppliers by email. Plan International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.

2. Applications for pre-qualification should be submitted physically in sealed envelopes to the respective Plan International Offices for the applied lot and location. Deadline for submission shall be 5PM, Wednesday 25th September 2024. Tender envelopes must be clearly marked the description and respective lot number (s) applied, not to be opened before 5PM, Wednesday 25th September 2024. Late or Electronic bids will be rejected

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR A CONSULTANCY SERVICE TO CONDUCT MID-TERM EVALUATION FOR ARUSHA RE-INNOVATION PROJECT IN ARUSHA PROGRAM LOCATION

1.0 Introduction and Context

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an independent child-based non-governmental and social development organization registered in Tanzania under the law of the Non-Governmental Organization Act, 2002 with registration No. I-NGO/R2/0005 and affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International based in Austria. This is an umbrella worldwide child welfare charity non-governmental organization working together with a single vision: "Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security".

Uniquely, we work with vulnerable families and communities to help strengthen them and prevent child abandonment (family strengthening service) and we provide long-term, family-like care for children who have lost parental care (alternative care service), and SOS alternative care is usually organized in the form of a cluster of SOS families, where each SOS parent cares for a small group of children. Besides, we have community interventions in thematic areas of Child Protection, Youth and Women Empowerment, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Sexual Reproductive Health, and Education.

We have been operating in Tanzania since 1991 and run our programs nationally through our physical locations in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Iringa, Mwanza, Unguja and Pemba.

1.1 Description about the Programme

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is implementing a five-years (2022-2026) Arusha Re-Innovation Project responding to the needs of vulnerable children, young people and their caregivers in the Arusha region. The overall goal of the project is for children & young people to achieve their full potential in a protective and supportive environment (families & communities) in Arusha Tanzania. The project's interventions are based on learnings from the completed two and a half years 2022- 2024 Family and Youth Empowerment, diversification of alternative care options and Child Rights project in Arusha DC, Arusha CC, Karatu DC and Meru DC.

Despite efforts made by the Government of Tanzania to improve childcare, youth and family well-being, challenges still abound. These include lack of parental care, poverty, school dropouts, child abuse and unequal access to education. This project's focus is to diversify other options for alternative care, empowering families to provide quality care to their children, empowering young people towards self-reliance and ensuring the community structures are responsive to children's issues. The project interventions are comprehensive and designed to address children and young people's challenges at national, community and individual levels.

The project is implemented in four districts (Arusha CC, Arusha DC, Meru DC and Karatu DC) of the Arusha region.

1.2 The project's key results areas to be attained by 2026 include:

Outcome 1: Children in our target group benefit from essential services.

Outcome 2: Young people are self-reliant

Outcome 3: Households provide quality care for children

Outcome 4: Communities are responsive to child situation issues

Outcome 5: Duty-bearers protect vulnerable children

1.3 The objective of the Mid-term Evaluation

1.3.1 The Overall Objective

The objective of the mid-term evaluation is to understand progress so far towards achieving project objectives and outcomes and draw out lessons for how the Arusha Re-innovation Project can be improved during the rest of its implementation for more positive impacts.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The purpose of the mid-term evaluation is to ensure that the progress and results of the project are monitored, analyzed, understood, communicated and acted upon in a timely, efficient and result-oriented manner by a comprehensive assessment of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project intervention.

- To assess the relevance, coherence and effectiveness of the implemented activities
- To evaluate the efficiency of the program beneficiaries, cost, and timeframe
- To analyze the sustainability of the programme.
- To make recommendations for improving future programmes

2.0 Expected Deliverables

- Refinement of evaluation study design and methodology in an inception report
- First draft of the final report in English
- Presentation of preliminary results to SOS Children's Villages Tanzania
- Final report

3.0 Scope

The evaluation will be conducted in all four councils of the Arusha region as mentioned above. The evaluation will cover the period from January 2022 to August 2024, to create an accurate and comprehensive picture of the project implementation, generating findings on evaluation criteria and documenting good practices and lessons learned.

3.0 Minimum Qualifications of the Researcher/Research Team

The researcher/team of researchers must have:

- A consultant must possess a master's degree in project management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Economics, Development Studies, Social Work, Demography and Statistics, other social sciences or a related discipline
- At least 7 years experience with proven competency in the design and implementation of evaluations, assessments or baseline study/surveys including qualitative and quantitative data collection.
- A good understanding of development work in Tanzania
- A good understanding of child rights and issues affecting vulnerable children and their families
- Strong analytical and conceptual skills in data collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data using different data analysis techniques including but not limited to SPSS, and STATA.
- Excellent written communication skills
- Excellent knowledge and understanding of research methodologies and processes.
- Demonstrated experience in leading at least three baseline Evaluations at the national and regional level.
- Knowledge of Result-based management (RBM).
- The ability to use different digital data collection techniques will be an added advantage

Qualified and interested consultants are required to submit the following

- A profile of the Consultant firm/individual including full name(s), physical addresses, and telephone numbers (Include CV).
- Demonstrated previous experience in similar assignments and qualifications outlined in this Terms of Reference (ToR), (so, submit at least three works of the same kind to demonstrate your experience).
- Letter of expression of interest, a detailed technical proposal demonstrating a thorough understanding of this ToR.
- Description of the Methodology and Sample Size Determination, proposed data management plan (collection, processing and analysis) and timeframe detailing activities and a work plan.
- Both technical and financial proposals with a detailed breakdown of costs for the study to include consultant fees, field data collection expenses and administration expenses.

4.0 Duration

The assignment is expected to take one (1) month beginning immediately after signing of contract by both parties.

5.0 Application and Submission

The Technical and Financial Proposals in separate envelopes should be submitted clearly marked Mid-term Evaluation Study for Arusha Re-Innovation Project in Arusha Program Location".

- Cover letter and updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the Consultant that spells out qualifications and experience with this assignment.
- Technical proposal
- Financial Proposal that includes all taxes.

Bidders may additionally be requested to provide additional information (virtual presentation or phone interview) to SOS Children's Villages on the proposed services.

6.0 Deadline for Submission

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 18 September 2024, at 14:00 p.m. Tanzanian time.

Both Technical and Financial Proposals in separate envelopes should be submitted in hard copy deposited in the Tender Box situated at the address shown below and through email to the email Address: National.Office@sos-tanzania.org.

Addressed to:

National Director
Attn: Tender Committee,
SOS Children's Village Tanzania, National Office,
Plot No. 871, Msasani, Mwai Kibaki Road,
P. O Box 80462, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Note: Proposals received after the deadline, proposals not opened at the designated opening day shall not be considered for evaluation irrespective of circumstances.



Tanzania Fintech Association (TAFINA) deputy chairman Reuben Mwatyosa (C) briefs journalists on a regional conference for fintech entrepreneurs and investors slated for Dar es Salaam on Thursday next week. On his right is TAFINA secretary-general Shadrack Kamenya and its empowerment manager, Juliet Kiluwa. Photo: Faustine Felician

JKCI stages free heart surgery camp, asks for blood donation

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) is to host a free heart surgery camp for 30 children in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief).

The camp is scheduled to run from today to Monday next week at JKCI in Upanga, Dar es Salaam.

The institute has called on the public to support the camp by donating blood. Each child undergoing heart surgery requires between six to seven units of blood.

Anna Nkinda, JKCI head of public relations and communications department, urged parents and medical professionals to bring children with heart conditions to the institute for evaluation and

treatment.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, she mentioned conditions to be treated as Atrial Septal Defect (ASD), Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD), Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF) and Pulmonary Valvular Stenosis. "The need for blood donations is critical, as each surgery requires a significant amount of blood," she said. "We encourage everyone to come forward and contribute to this cause."

KSrelief is an international organisation aimed at providing humanitarian aid and relief to those in need outside of the Kingdom's borders. Activities of the centre were inaugurated in May 2015 under the patronage and guidance of King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

RC urges TRA to resolve disputes, swell tax base

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has urged the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to reduce tax-related disputes raised by businesses and to expand the tax base by tapping into various revenue sources available in the region.

Chalamila made the call on Tuesday while speaking with TRA Commissioner General Yusuph Mwenda, who was accompanied by the authority's officials during a meeting held at the Regional Commissioner's office.

He also urged the authority to improve tax infrastructure to enhance revenue collection. Chalamila commended the TRA team for their work and promised continued cooperation to ensure that taxes are collected for national development.

He encouraged TRA to invest more in Information and Communication

Technology (ICT) to enhance efficiency, accountability, and transparency in the collection of government revenue.

Mwenda affirmed that Dar es Salaam is a commercial hub, accounting for almost 80 percent of the nation's total taxes. He stated that TRA aims to encourage citizens to protect their health by identifying and consuming genuine and legal products.

Additionally, recognizing the challenges faced by tax collectors in determining correct tax rates, Mwenda mentioned that TRA is considering acquiring modern and more accurate methods to address this issue.

One area where improvements have been made is with Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS), which are integrated with TRA systems to obtain accurate production or import statistics in terms of quantity, volume, as well as product quality and standards, he said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Conservation initiative seeks to safeguard Ruvu, Kizinga rivers

THE Environmental Conservation and Agriculture Institute (Agriwizesha) is set to distribute 135 beehives to residents of Kibaha and Kisarawe in Coast Region.

The initiative aims to protect and preserve the local environment, including water sources, specifically Ruvu and Kizinga rivers.

Agriwizesha Director Deogracia Ignas unveiled the plan yesterday during the institute's 5th anniversary celebration, detailing that the beehives will be allocated to nine groups, each consisting of 10 to 15 members.

"These beehives will be part of a demonstration farm for educational

purposes and participants will have the opportunity to purchase additional beehives to boost production," he said.

Ignas highlighted that beneficiaries have already received training, adding that the project's focus is conservation. The initiative seeks to curb harmful practices such as charcoal production and to promote environmentally-friendly alternatives.

"Our main goal is to promote conservation. In these areas,

people often engage in activities that harm the environment. We aim to create opportunities for eco-friendly activities that reduce environmental damage while providing sustainable income sources," Ignas said.

Chage Alex Chage, Environment Ambassador in the Vice President's Office, underscored the importance of ongoing environmental conservation to prevent global temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050.

He noted that the current temperature increase has reached 1.2 degrees Celsius and stressed the need for vigilance in managing environmental activities to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

"A temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius could lead to severe consequences such as people struggling to survive which could result in competition for resources or conflicts. This is a distressing scenario that we must work to avoid," Chage said.

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TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received application for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS /NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Aptus Solutions Ltd	Regional Network Services	Kazim Murtaza Rashid – Tanzanian	15
			Muhammad - Ridha Murtaza Rashid - Tanzanian	15
			Alireza Iqbal Damji – Tanzanian	15
			Murtaza Sherali Rashid - Tanzanian	15
			Unallotted	40

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the application.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA),
P.O. Box 474,
14414 DAR ES SALAAM.
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 2412009
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Issued on 5th September 2024.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



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1.	SKT Tanzania	Regional Application Services	Prochest Urassa Josephat – Tanzanian	60
			Efrem Akwilini Massawe – Tanzanian	40
2.	TwigaNet	Regional Application Services	Sergey Tzochev – Bulgarian	95
			Rositsa Markova - Bulgarian	5
3.	Light Networks Solution Limited	Regional Application Services	Rocky Nassa Lingasiku – Tanzanian	33
			Josephat Prosper Tarimo – Tanzanian	33
			Godian Francis Malangwa – Tanzanian	34
4.	Kinetic Networks Ltd	District Network Facilities	Hussein Mehboob Hussein – Tanzanian	90
			Zameena Fazle Ali Kassam – Tanzanian	10

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Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
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Climate change pushing African nations to agro-sector modernity

An eye opening meteorological report asserting that African nations are losing up to five percent of estimated gross domestic product (GDP) annually owing to a heavier burden from climate change wasn't quite surprising. We have all along heard that Africa is facing greater challenges in relation to climate change despite its earth warming contribution being quite low, but there is another dimension. The bulk of climate change effects arise from deforestation, itself due to primitive farming methods and use of charcoal in an unabated manner for 60 years of urban growth.

The report said that many African nations are spending up to 9.0 per cent of their annual estimates for revenues and expenditure on climate adaptation efforts, which implies that the trend will be up the rise in the coming years.

The trouble is that the report is inclined to stress improving climate financing as a whole, whereas it is far more appreciable for such financing to be directed at modernisation of agro-sector systems to make them more resilient to climate change impacts. Each African state needs to set up mechanisms for vast harvesting of rainwater for sprinkler irrigation.

That the drought trend and occasional floods has been developing over a long period of time, as over the past 60 years, Africa has observed a warming trend that has become more rapid than the global average. That this has an impact on food security, public health, and peace is all evident, as systematic instability is tied to different socio-political reactions to worsening living conditions. The problem is that the breadth of society can't agree on climate change as such and instead it becomes a problem of fair allocation of resources within that environment, sharply disputed.

The fact that Africa emits less than

10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions but it is most vulnerable to extreme weather events may on the one hand be valid and at times it is overstated. Most of Africa is proximate to the Equator where sharp variations of temperature are not the most pronounced, with -possible exception of the vast zone straddled by the Tropic of Cancer. It is a routine phenomenon for elderly people without abode who live on the streets to die during extreme summer heat in parts of Europe, and in the United States chicken can die from heat waves.

The WMO did not have substantial advice to render to African governments since it sees the matter as one of welfare, thus listing items like the need to invest in early warning systems. Most of Africa's rural and urban dwellers have little ability to change the course of their livelihoods, for instance altering what to farm or when to prepare their farms, and even less, where to live. The same goes for seeking rather more focused meteorological services, though both aspects could help the governing authorities get a clearer picture of what may come, to scale up emergency resources.

Instead the WMO report uses a tepid yardstick of how many people will be affected, saying that if adequate measures are not put in place, up to 118m people in the continent will be exposed to droughts, floods and extreme heat by the end of the decade. To this projection tied to agglomerated zones facing floods or drought, and it is unlikely it is just that number, we hear that adapting to extreme weather requires up to \$30bn or even \$50bn annually.

It would do wonders for irrigation if all the massive flood water, or at least just a tenth of it by blocking outlets like the Jangwani Valley inlets was stored and used to sprinkle irrigation of vegetable farms, cattle feed, etc. The sky is the limit with serious plans, not massive climate funding.

Vast contrast in Ndugulile's WHO post, and regional campaign for Raila Odinga

All glasses are lately being raised for Kigamboni MP Dr Faustine Ndugulile, after his being selected in World Health Organisation (WHO) councils for the position of Africa regional director starting next March. The MP has a six-month preparatory period to acclimatise to the new designation as he has to adapt his vision for the new functions. His advice and decisions will have a substantial impact in the manner in which the key UN agency takes up current and future issues critical to wellbeing.

For one thing, the MP was most mindful that he is a legislator and vows to maintain certain levers as a constituency MP until his term ends, which implies that he has a keen ear on his political future. At 55 years of age, a four year stint at the UN agency will take him nearly to retirement age, but often there is no retirement in politics, at least not really at 60. The vow to serve his constituency even with his new position is unlikely to be a formality, unlike in the case of elder brother Odinga.

Several African leaders were in Nairobi last week to start a formal campaign to get the veteran opposition leader and coalitions architect into the seat of the African Union Commission, which effectively removes him from day to day politics there. At 79 years of age, the veteran Kenyan opposition leader was partially looking for

an honourable way out of the political turf, while his Pan-African credentials and vast administrative or activist experience make him homely to most groups. He can have conversations with Heads of State nearly as one of them, or radical activists.

While taking office or being nominated to such a post is a moment for restating the big goals and continental vision, it appears that the city MP has his ears to the ground.

Some are already talking of the new post as guiding Africa's health sector in the challenges it faces, six years before the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) timeframe elapses. Visionary leadership is crucial for Africa's success, he stated in his acknowledgment remarks on the floor of the legislature. Is it starting?

There is already a vision guiding the politics in each African country, and indeed within the UN system, and specifically a health sector vision for WHO in its Africa region. Incidentally, Dr Ndugulile will not have to think out a vision as an African is at present guiding WHO activities, and given the rotating character of UN positions, the next WHO director general won't be coming from Africa. The best the MP and former health sector administrator can do is to carry with him a badge of the 4Rs, and see where they can be of use in his day to day calls. It is the best he could do.



Tackling climate change will be a pyrrhic victory if we lose sight of the poor

By Marco Knowles

LAST July, we were confronted with alarming statistics: 733 million people experienced hunger in 2023, equivalent to one in eleven people globally. In Africa it was even higher, with one in five people going hungry. Climate change is a significant driver of this crisis.

Paradoxically, well intentioned policies to combat global warming may also be a cause of hunger, particularly for small-scale farmers in poorer countries, unless these policies are accompanied by measures to curtail their socio-economic downsides.

Gradual changes in temperatures and rainfall patterns reduce returns to farming, on which poor people largely depend, and sudden events like floods and droughts devastate their crops and livestock. According to the World Bank, climate change could push as many as 135 million more people into poverty by 2030. Urgent action to curb climate change is therefore essential to the fight against poverty and hunger.

However, if we are not careful, climate mitigation efforts can undermine progress on eradicating poverty and hunger. A recent example is the European Union's Regulation on Deforestation-free products that was introduced in June 2023. This regulation is intended to ensure that products bought and consumed in Europe do not contribute to deforestation through the expansion of agricultural land for the production of cattle, wood, cocoa, soy, palm oil or coffee.

On the one hand, reducing deforestation is essential to combating climate change and can benefit many of the 1 to 2 billion people who depend on forests for their livelihoods.

But on the other hand, the costs of these policies fall disproportionately on rural poor people that do not have the resources and capacities to comply, including those that currently rely on clearing new lands for their livelihoods - estimated to account for about a third of deforestation.

As governments of 17 countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia had forewarned, the EU's Regulation is already having severe negative impacts among poorer people in poorer countries, in particular small-scale farmers.

Without support, they face huge challenges in complying with the complex, new procedures, and at the same time they often



Latin American rural family

lack the capacities and resources to maintain or increase their agricultural production without expanding the land area under cultivation - this is even more true in a context of a changing climate change that reduces farming yields.

While progress on the climate agenda must continue at pace, the socio-economic trade-offs of climate policies for different population groups - especially the most vulnerable - need to be considered from the outset. Countries, especially those in which poverty and hunger are concentrated, need to be supported and encouraged to couple green policies with measures that enable smallholder farmers to meet new conditions or to transition to new and dignified livelihoods.

Social protection - which includes policies and programmes aimed at addressing poverty and vulnerability - can play a key role in easing these transitions. In the short-term, by providing regular cash income in compensation for any adverse social impacts of climate policies and, in the longer-term, by combining these payments with technical support, skills training and livelihood interventions that

can help people to adjust to and thrive under new policy regimes.

This approach is already being implemented in several countries.

In China, a forest protection act affected approximately one million public forestry workers and 120 million rural households by reducing access to forest resources. To mitigate these impacts, public employees received assistance, such as job placement services, unemployment benefits and pension plans. As a result, two-thirds of the affected employees were either transferred to alternative jobs or retired, while 124 million households benefited from an income transfer.

In Brazil and Paraguay, social protection and complementary agricultural programmes are supporting rural households to adopt more sustainable and profitable farming practices. Paraguay's Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change (PROEZA) programme, provides households participating in the country's flagship social protection scheme, Tekoporã, with technical support and additional cash. Thanks to this, small-scale farmers are adapting their agricultural

practices to be more resilient to ever more frequent droughts while also increasing their production of native crops such as yerba mate.

Similarly, in Brazil, the Bolsa Verde programme provides cash payments to beneficiaries of the national social cash transfer programme, Bolsa Familia, in exchange for maintaining or restoring forests, protecting water sources, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Governments should be encouraged and supported in introducing and scaling-up social protection measures to ensure the poorest and most vulnerable do not bear the burden of addressing the climate crisis and greening the consumption of people in wealthier parts of the world.

We must therefore prioritize an approach that pays close attention to the social as well as the environmental consequences of policies to address climate change. Social protection programmes have a critical role to play building a future that is mutually beneficial to People and Planet.

Marco Knowles leads the FAO's Social Protection Team.

By Adonis Byemelwa

Navigating the new norm: Ensuring safe, stimulating daycare for a changing society

IN today's rapidly evolving society, traditional family structures have changed dramatically. In my rural Kagera area, where I grew up, it was common for extended family members to live together, sharing responsibilities and childcare. This communal approach meant there was no need for housemaids, as relatives would collectively handle household chores and child-rearing.

However, the shift towards nuclear families, driven by individualism and economic pressures, has led to significant changes. Many parents now face the challenge of balancing work and childcare, leading to an increased demand for daycare centers. These centers have become a crucial solution for many families, particularly in urban areas, where traditional support systems have diminished.

The early years of a child's life, from birth to age two, are critical for emotional, linguistic, and social development. Ideally, this nurturing takes place at home, with parents and caregivers closely involved in the child's growth. Yet, the rise in child abuse—encompassing physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual abuse—has heightened the need for safe, regulated environments where children can be cared for properly.

Sexual abuse, including rape, sodomy, exposure to pornography, and involvement in sexual content production, represents a severe threat. These abuses inflict deep psychological scars, manifesting as depression, anxiety, and long-term stress. Physically, abused children may suffer from injuries and chronic illnesses that hinder their growth and development, while their social interactions may be adversely affected, leading to diminished self-esteem and social withdrawal.

In response to these dangers, many parents are turning to daycare centers as a safer alternative. These facilities, increasingly prevalent in cities, offer a controlled environment where children are supervised and protected. Regulation 4(1) of the 2012 Day Care Centers and Nursery Schools Regulations mandates that only registered individuals can operate such centers. This regulation underscores the importance of adhering to legal requirements to avoid penalties and ensure children's safety.

The process of registering a daycare



center involves compliance with the Child Act of 2009 and the 2012 regulations. The premises must be inspected and approved by a local health officer to confirm their suitability for child care (Regulation 4(3)). If the center operates in a leased property, the lease agreement must be valid for at least three years (Regulation 4(4)).

Additionally, the center's owner must demonstrate financial stability and ensure the facility is equipped with adequate play equipment. Applicants must be mentally sound and commit to not transferring or selling the center's certificate.

Despite these regulations, some parents still face challenges finding safe and reliable daycare services. In Shinyanga, a region grappling with limited resources and varying standards, parents have shared their reasons for choosing daycare centers. "I send my child to a daycare center because I can't be sure of the safety of housemaids," said one anonymous parent. "With the increasing reports of abuse, it feels like a safer option to have my child in a regulated environment."

Another parent, also wishing to remain anonymous, added, "The daycare center offers structured activities and

social interaction that I can't provide at home. I work long hours, and I want to ensure my child is in a stimulating environment rather than just being left with a housemaid who might not engage with them properly."

In urban areas, early morning drop-offs at daycare centers are common. Parents often leave their young children at these facilities before daylight, highlighting the critical role these centers play in their daily routines. The shift from relying on extended family support to using professional childcare services reflects broader societal changes and the need for structured environments to ensure child safety and development.

For parents who cannot afford daycare services, the alternative often involves bringing their children to work. This scenario is particularly prevalent in markets and other informal sectors, where parents carry their young ones while they work. "I have no choice but to bring my child with me," explained an anonymous Shinyanga parent. "The cost of daycare is too high, and I can't risk leaving my child with someone I don't trust."

Jean Piaget, the Swiss psychologist, highlighted the significance of the sensorimotor stage (0-2 years), where chil-

dren learn through sensory experiences and physical interactions. Daycare centers provide a stimulating environment that enhances cognitive development through touch, sight, and movement. This level of interaction is often more structured than what might be available in a home setting, where resources for such developmental activities might be limited.

Erik Erikson, the German-American psychoanalyst, emphasized that early childhood is crucial for building trust. The first year of life requires consistent and responsive care to develop a sense of security. Daycare centers can offer this level of reliable care, fostering a sense of trust that is essential for later stages of development.

Sigmund Freud, the Austrian neurologist, described the oral stage of development in the first two years of life, where children learn primarily through oral exploration. Consistent, affectionate care during this period is crucial for healthy development. Daycare centers can provide this nurturing environment, fulfilling the needs Freud identified as fundamental for a child's growth.

The theories of Piaget, Erikson, and Freud collectively underscore the importance of well-designed daycare environments. These centers offer enriching experiences that support cognitive and emotional growth, often surpassing what are available in-home settings, especially when compared to informal or less regulated childcare options.

As the demand for daycare services grows, so does the importance of ensuring that these facilities adhere to high safety standards. Recent incidents, such as the tragic death of a child in a daycare center in 2022, highlight the need for rigorous and ongoing training for staff. "Training needs to be continuous," said a Shinyanga parent who wished to remain anonymous. "It's crucial for ensuring that staffs are prepared to handle emergencies and provide high-quality care."

Government oversight is critical in maintaining standards for daycare centers. Regular inspections and strict enforcement of health and safety regula-

tions are essential to ensure that these centers provide a safe environment. Parents must have accessible channels for reporting concerns, with assurances that their complaints will be addressed promptly.

The safety of daycare centers also affects parents' well-being. Knowing that their children are in a secure environment contributes to their peace of mind and overall quality of life. "I feel more at ease knowing my child is in a center with proper safety measures," noted another anonymous parent from Shinyanga. "It helps me focus on my work without constant worry."

Indeed, the growing need for daycare services highlights the critical importance of maintaining high standards of safety and quality. Parents must carefully choose reputable centers that demonstrate a commitment to exceptional care and security, ensuring their children is placed in environments that foster healthy development and provide peace of mind.

Regulatory bodies also play a vital role in enforcing stringent safety measures and conducting regular inspections. By demanding excellence and accountability, we can create secure environments that not only protect our children but also uphold the trust parents place in these facilities. Ensuring rigorous standards and vigilant oversight is essential for every child to thrive in a nurturing and safe setting.

Dr. Laura Jana, a leading US-based pediatrician and author renowned for her expertise in early childhood development, asserts, "Quality early care and education are vital for setting the groundwork for a child's future success."

It's not merely about supervision; it's about crafting an environment that fosters growth, ensures emotional security, and encourages learning." Her perspective underlines the critical need for rigorous standards and dedicated care in daycare centers, emphasizing the significant role these settings play in shaping a child's overall development and well-being.

By Tshilidzi Marwala

Embracing AI in SA as a path to inclusive growth, social justice

AS South Africa stands on the edge of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the quick advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) presents tremendous opportunities and significant challenges for our nation.

AI's transformative potential is undeniable, with the power to drive economic growth, establish new industries, and significantly improve the quality of our public services.

However, as we navigate this technological frontier, we must steadfastly align AI development with the principles of our democratic culture, ensuring that it serves the needs of all South Africans, not just the privileged few. This alignment will reassure us of the ethical use of AI.

The promise and perils of AI

AI is swiftly becoming a significant driving force behind global economic and social change. This revolution offers South Africa a unique blend of promise and peril.

On the one hand, AI can accelerate growth in critical sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and education - areas that are essential to our nation's development. It can potentially optimise resource use, enhance service delivery, and spur innovation, creating new economic and social justice opportunities.

The practical benefits of AI in these areas are tangible and can significantly improve the lives of all South Africans. Moreover, AI has the potential to generate new industries, which should excite us about the future.

However, the rise of AI also poses significant challenges. South Africa's high unemployment rate raises concerns about the potential for AI-driven automation to displace jobs, exacerbating existing inequalities.

Moreover, the digital divide could deepen if access to AI technologies and their skills is not distributed equitably. This is not just a concern, but an urgent call to action, reminding us that if not managed carefully, AI could become a tool that expands the gap between the



haves and the have-nots, rather than bridging it.

Shaping the future of work
As we look to the future, AI will fundamentally reshape the work environment across various sectors of our economy. This shift will necessitate a new way of thinking about jobs and skills, demanding adaptation and change. AI is set to automate many routine tasks but will also create new roles that demand creativity, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence - inherently human qualities.

The challenge for South Africa is to ensure that this transition to an AI-driven work environment is not just inclusive, but also equitable. We must focus on creating opportunities for all South Africans, regardless of their background, to participate in this new economy.

The promise of our democratic revolution is a society where everyone has

the chance to thrive, and AI must be harnessed to help us deliver on this promise. This goal is not just important, it's essential for the future of our nation.

Preparing South Africa for an AI-driven future

South Africa must prioritise education and skills development to prepare for the AI-driven future. Our education system needs to be reimagined to equip the next generation with the skills they require to thrive in an AI-driven world.

This includes technical skills, critical thinking, creativity, and adaptability. A multi-disciplinary approach to education - one that encourages cross-disciplinary learning and allows students to connect the dots between different fields - will be essential.

My journey as an engineering student, during which I also explored psychology, history and acting,

underscores the value of this multidisciplinary approach. These seemingly disparate fields have enriched my understanding of human behaviour, historical context, and the power of communication - all crucial elements in navigating an AI-driven world.

The most impactful innovations often emerge at the intersection of disciplines, and we must cultivate an educational environment that fosters this kind of cross-pollination of ideas.

In addition to preparing the next generation, we must address the skills gap in our current workforce through upskilling and reskilling initiatives.

Furthermore, investing in digital infrastructure to bridge the digital divide is fundamental to ensuring that all share the benefits of AI. Access to technology and the skills to use it are the foundations upon which an inclusive AI-driven economy must be built.

Ethical and Social Considerations

As we embrace AI, we must confront its ethical and social implications. AI systems must be constructed and deployed in ways that reflect our societal values, promote fairness, and prevent discrimination. This requires robust frameworks to govern the use of AI, ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.

The governance of AI must be democratic and participatory, involving all stakeholders - government, civil society, academia, and the private sector - in shaping the policies and regulations that will guide AI development and use. The people of South Africa must shape the future of AI in South Africa. We need clear standards, policies, and legislation to guide AI's ethical and responsible use, protecting individuals and society from potential harm.

The governance of AI in South Africa must be thoughtfully structured to ensure that this powerful technology is used ethically and equitably. Specifically, our focus should be on the following key areas:

We must ensure that the data used to train AI systems is representative of our diverse population, free from biases that could perpetuate inequality, and collected with complete transparency and proper consent. This is crucial, and will help prevent discriminatory outcomes and ensure that AI systems are fair and just.

AI algorithms must be transparent and explainable. The era of "black box" decision-making - where the processes behind AI-driven decisions are opaque and inaccessible - must end. By promoting algorithmic transparency, we can foster trust and accountability in AI systems.

As AI systems often require substantial computational power, addressing the environmental impact of these demands is essential. Moreover, ensuring equitable access to computing resources will be vital in preventing a technological divide that could exacerbate existing inequalities.

It is imperative to establish clear guidelines for the safe and responsible exploitation of AI across various sectors, from healthcare to finance. These guidelines should prioritise the public good, protect privacy, and ensure that AI is used to enhance societal well-being.

By focusing on these areas, we can guide the development and deployment of AI in a way that aligns with South Africa's values and goals, ensuring that this powerful technology contributes to a more equitable and just society.

Fulfilling the promise of our revolution

The future of work in an AI-driven world presents opportunities and challenges for South Africa. While AI can drive economic growth and improve quality of life, we must ensure that this transformation benefits all South Africans. The democratic ethos calls for a just and equitable society, and we must ensure that AI contributes to this vision.

By investing in education, guided by the principles of multi-disciplinary learning, skills development and digital infrastructure, and addressing ethical challenges head on, we can harness the power of AI to create a work environment that is innovative, inclusive, and reflective of our national values.

With a clear understanding of AI's limitations and possibilities and robust and democratic governance frameworks in place, we can build a future where technology serves the needs of all our people, ensuring that our country remains a place of opportunity, dignity, and progress for all.

In doing so, we will be embracing the future and fulfilling the promise of our democracy.

A one-time illegal logger grows back a forest for his people in Sumatra

By Barita Lumbanbatu

ON the Indonesian island of Sumatra lives a man named Efron Simanjuntak. With a stern face and thick, graying mustache, he roams the forests near the village of Bona ni Dolok. Once a player in the region's illegal logging industry, he's now a dedicated forest protector.

Efron, now 63, used to cut down trees illegally outside a nearby protected area. He also acted as a middleman, and his role was crucial in ensuring safety at the logging site, where he could earn several hundred dollars in a single operation, more than the annual pay at the minimum wage for this region.

Although he didn't wield a chainsaw himself, Efron played a key role in directing the work. He would go out with only a machete to mark and map out the trees to be felled. These were typically mature old giants: meranti (*Shorea leprosula*), Merkus or Sumatran pine (*Pinus merkusii*) and Monterrey pine (*Pinus radiata*). All were highly valued for the quality of their timber and their size. Efron could sell meranti, a popular substitute for teak, at up to \$76 per cubic meter (about 18 cents per board foot), for which he'd get a cut of at least \$6.

The process required stealth and precision, and carried risks, forcing Efron to navigate the dense forest and coordinate efforts to avoid accidents and maximize efficiency.

"The buyers usually came from Silakitang, Siborong-borong, before distributing it to other cities in North Sumatra, like Medan and Siantar," Efron says.

Then his luck ran out. In 2017, he was caught by police for selling Merkus and Monterrey pine resin along with teak and meranti timber from outside the protected area.

Efron's beginnings resemble those of many involved in the illegal logging industry. With only an elementary school education and no guarantee of a well-paying job, he frequently changed jobs and earned low wages, never venturing far from his place of birth. A native of the Batak Toba Indigenous group, Efron moved in 2007 to Bona ni Dolok, a new and unfamiliar village about seven hours' drive away. There, he began learning about the forest and how to make a living from its resources.

His plan was to continue his grandfather's legacy of owning and farming the land, he says, making a better life for his wife and then two children.

He began farming frankincense trees (*Styrax benzoin*), whose fragrant resin is the main commodity in North Tapanuli district. But frankincense can only be harvested from October to January, and the money provided little cover for the rest of the year. He even tried to harvest young frankincense that wasn't ready yet.

So Efron looked for another way to generate extra income: selling timber.

Finding a new path

Over the years, Efron slowly came to a realization. If the forest kept being cut down, the villagers' frankincense harvest would decrease. This is because frankincense trees need shade from other trees to produce plenty of resin to sell.



Efron spending a night in a forest hut.

He began to feel indebted to his ancestors, he says. In the Batak Toba tradition, it's mandatory for each generation to preserve the family heritage, and frankincense holds significant cultural importance in the Indigenous group's tradition. Although Efron wasn't born in Bona ni Dolok, the land was his father's birthplace, and many of the Simanjuntak clan's descendants live here.

This awareness was a big turning point in Efron's life. So was his imprisonment for two years in 2018 for illegally selling forest products. It all led to the realization that the forest gave him life, he recalls, and the feeling that he must fight to preserve it for future generations.

He began learning about conservation and planted trees to replace those in the areas he knew had been cut down. "I feel responsible for restoring what I have damaged," he says.

Over the following years, he set to work on a personal mass reforestation campaign, planting mostly species that produce resin to sell for income, such as frankincense and pine. To date, he's planted 1,000 trees.

Becoming a leader

One day in 2020, as Efron went into the forest to tap frankincense, he was surprised to see new boundary markers reading, "Protected Forest Area - Do Not Disturb, State Property." He was shocked. As the 10th-generation descendent of the Simanjuntak clan, Efron says he couldn't accept it. Especially since the main source of income for the residents comes from frankincense resin, and he feared protected status would prevent them making an income.

He also worried that if the forest became state property, it could one day also become a plantation or mining concession. A similar situa-

tion happened at the nearby Huta Napa village, where a community forest was designated a protected area, which was then converted into eucalyptus plantation for the pulp and paper company Toba Pulp Lestari (TPL). Five other communities in North Tapanuli also shared concerns about the state forest boundary markers.

The community, Efron says, knew it could protect the forest on its own.

"I asked the Forestry Department staff, 'What is your basis for saying this is a protected forest? Our ancestors protected this forest, not you,'" he said.

To protect their income and show that the forest could be managed by the villagers, Efron encouraged other Batak Toba communities from surrounding villages to start planting tree seedlings too. They planted more frankincense, Merkus pine, economically valuable sugar palm (*Arenga pinnata*), fruit-bearing plants and other species.

Local communities across Indonesia have for generations protected ecosystems while deriving economic benefits from them, says Oding Affandi, a forestry lecturer at the University of North Sumatra. It's the same case with Efron and the Indigenous people of Bona ni Dolok, he said.

"Conservation practices by Indigenous people or the government must follow the applicable regulations, including the types of trees to be planted based on local wisdom in the conservation area," Oding says.

With the help of the Ancestral Domain Registration Agency (BRWA), established by a group of NGOs, and the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (AMAN), Indonesia's largest Indigenous coalition, Efron and his community pushed for the official recognition of the village's lands as a customary forest,

and for the village itself as an Indigenous community.

The North Tapanuli district head at the time, Nikson Nababan, subsequently decreed 15,879 hectares (39,238 acres) of state forest into customary forest in 2023. This included 521 hectares (1,287 acres) of ancestral forest designated to the Bona ni Dolok community. The measure was capped on Aug. 9 this year, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, when Indonesian President Joko Widodo symbolically handed over the customary forest decree at a ceremony in Jakarta.

"The recognition of customary forests by the government is a positive step, but challenges remain, especially in dealing with climate change and industrial pressures," says Edward Siregar, chair of AMAN's North Tapanuli chapter.

To ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts, the Bona ni Dolok community developed a long-term plan that includes replanting, sustainable resource management, and environmental education for the younger generation.

"We want our children to understand the importance of protecting the forest," Efron says. "We do this not only for ourselves but also for their future."

New ways to make money

After he left the world of logging, Efron began growing various crops to increase his income: corn, coffee, oranges, chili peppers, tomatoes and various vegetables. He sells these at the weekly market, and although they don't pay as well as timber, the money is enough to meet his family's needs, he says.

At first, Efron had to balance his time between farming and tapping frankincense and pine resin in the forest. The family's frankincense trees number about 1,000. His wife and daughter worked in the fields

and gardens, while Efron and his son tapped resin in the forest.

But with age his physical strength has begun to wane; he can no longer climb trees to tap frankincense. His son, John Simanjuntak, 29, now takes over that task.

"Frankincense has fed our family and sent me and my three siblings to school. Frankincense is our life," John says as he prepares to climb a frankincense tree to tap the resin. The family can earn the equivalent of about \$45 a week from selling pine resin.

Efron also manages medicinal plants that grow in the forest. When it's not the harvest season for frankincense, he scrapes the trees to prepare their sap and introduces medicinal plants around the base of the trunks.

"This is called bijora," he says, showing a plant he's just pulled from the ground. "Its boiled water is drunk as a remedy for stomach-aches."

A 2021 study revealed that bijora (*Berberis bealei*) contains natural chemicals like alkaloids, triterpenes, flavonoids, phytosterols and lignans, all of which exhibit antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antitumor and antioxidant properties.

According to AMAN, there are more than 30 types of plants in the region known to have medicinal properties to treat various ailments. Given the potential of the biodiversity and local wisdom, AMAN North Tapanuli is also assisting Efron to process herbal medicinal products at home.

"We will help financially, process them into liquid form, and package them in bottles," says Edward, the chapter head. "We will also help with marketing, at least for the market around the village of Bona ni Dolok."

Efron says Toba Pulp Lestari once offered to buy his land so that they could incorporate it into their industrial eucalyptus plantation. He refused the offer, he says, because the frankincense forest has always been the source of livelihood for the local people. According to civil society organizations, the company's plantation illegally overlaps with several protected forest areas and has reduced access to drinking water and irrigation for Huta Napa village's rice fields. Villagers from several villages also said they worry about the chemicals used at the plantation spreading to their farms on the wind.

A company spokesperson said that their inspections in the area have found the plantation complies with regulations on agrochemical use.

"If our forest becomes a plantation, it means the frankincense trees will be replaced with eucalyptus. They even offered cooperation, but we didn't want that," Efron noted.

Today, when facing individuals who try to enter the village's territory for illegal logging, he's in a tough spot, Efron says. He blocks them from entering the customary forest, but fears the consequences of openly denouncing or naming them.

But he says he's unequivocal about protecting the community's customary forest: "The cultural heritage of our ancestors must be preserved."

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

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

Farmers, experts root for enhanced soil testing technology to transform farming

AGRICULTURAL experts and farmers have made a case for increased finance to scale up soil health testing technology to ensure that fertilisers and seeds are applied on land that is suitable for them.

The call was made at the ongoing Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, where over 5,000 delegates gathered to discuss agriculture transformation and ways to improve food security in week-long deliberations.

Soil testing technologies are important in optimizing crop production, and protecting the environment from contamination and excessive use of fertilisers, the experts said.

Reliable testing capabilities also help in diagnosing plant problems and inform farmers on ways to improve the nutritional balance of the soil.

Knowing the nutrient content of the soil allows farmers to avoid under or over-fertilization, the experts observed. With the right technologies in use, they said that the African continent can reduce its dependence on food imports.

Simone Sala, the Director of Global Soil and Ecosystem Solutions at Yara AG, said they are partnering with YARA, a fertiliser distribution and agri-knowledge sharing company, to scale up data on soil health in African countries, including Tanzania.

He said their project called SoilHive, a digital platform, consolidates and harmonizes soil data from public and private data sources based on voluntary contributions.

He noted that digital tools and crop solutions help in the efficient use of water and the timely application of nutrients.

Sala added that there is a need for enhanced finance to modernize agriculture including producing soil data for farmers.

"There is so little finance dedicated to the food sector and we need much more. This is one of the first challenges affecting particularly farmers. They will need more resources to be able to improve the way they farm sustainably," he said.

Carole Mumo, Manager, Social Impact, Yara Africa, separately highlighted Yara's initiatives accelerating youth and women's participation in agriculture.

She also spoke about the policy interventions required to leverage the un-



Yara International Senior Vice President Africa, Luis Alfredo Perez interacts with youth who attended the Youth in Agriculture session at the ongoing Africa Food Systems Forum 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda. Luis said Yara's strategy for agricultural transformation on the continent is to build robust support systems for youth-led agribusinesses for sustainable farming and job creation. Photo Correspondent

tapped potential of youth and women to sustain food system transformation, and the power of initiatives like Go-GettaZ in encouraging more young people to innovate in the sector.

Omondi Kadish, Senior Manager, Digital and Commercialization, Yara Africa, discussed what digital transformation in the agri-food sector entails, and the role that digitalization can play in scaling up investment in in-

novation and research.

He said Yara is leveraging digital technologies to enhance the adoption of agricultural knowledge and farming solutions across Africa.

Alexandre Rutikanga, the Chief Technical Advisor in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources for Rwanda, noted that increased use of technology in agriculture holds the key to the commercialization of the

sector, on which more than 85 percent of Rwandans rely.

"We believe that technology has a critical role in steering a vibrant, commercial, and modern agricultural sector that sustainably supports Rwanda's development, its national aspirations for food security, and long-term goals," Rutikanga said.

Florence Sifa Sangwa, a farmer who attended the food summit, said that insufficient use of soil health

testing technology in the country could lead to lower agricultural productivity as farmers are not well informed about the right seeds and the amount of fertilisers needed in the soil.

"The technology to test soil health to know the nutrients needed before planting the seeds and applying fertilisers is available but it is used by a limited number of farmers," Sangwa noted.

"Government, partners,

and financiers should join efforts to help farmers have access to these technologies, which will lead to more yields," she said, adding that soil health testing capabilities are needed for faster agriculture modernisation.

As fertiliser factories and seed multipliers are increasingly their investment, Sangwa said there was hope among farmers that investment in soil health technologies will also increase.

TFRA to mark this year's fertiliser day in new style

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) is next month set to host "Mbolea Day" to commemorate the Global Fertilizer Day.

The three-day event will focus on sustainable fertiliser use and soil health and will take place from October 11th to 13th, 2024, across two regions—Manyara and Dodoma.

The celebration will be commenced with a symposium and plenary discussions on October 11th and 12th in Dodoma, where experts will unveil the new fertiliser strategic plan and address prevalent myths about fertiliser use.

The national event will then culminate in Manyara from October 11th to 13th.

Joel Laurent, TFRA's executive director emphasized that the three-day event aims to educate, engage communities, and enhance the visibility of TFRA's initiatives promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

"The event will feature a diverse range of activities, including a marathon, exhibitions, high-level symposiums, and interactive sessions to ensure a memorable and impactful experience," Laurent said.

He noted that the agenda includes a high-level symposium focusing on sustainable fertilizer use, in-depth plenary sessions on agricultural topics, and the launch of the National Fertilizer Strategy. Manyara will host exhibitions showcasing agricultural innovations and sustainable practices, alongside competitions such as the Best Farmer Award and quiz contests.

According to him, fertiliser companies, agricultural organizations, and startups will present their products and innovations. Attendees will have opportunities to interact with exhibitors, ask questions, and witness live demonstrations on efficient fertilizer application techniques, soil testing, and integrated pest management.

Additionally, the 'Mbolea Fun Run' in Manyara will offer 2.5 km, 5 km, and 10 km races to promote health, wellness, and community spirit while highlighting



the importance of fertilizer and sound agricultural practices.

The symposium will cover topics including sustainable practices, policy development, advancements in fertilizer technology, and successful case studies.

Proposed themes to be discussed at the event are fertiliser regulation and controls—creating a conducive legal and regulatory framework for fertiliser industry in Tanzania: Opportunities and challenges, From Lab to the farm; Assessment of the fertiliser quality control

systems in Tanzania. Others include unlocking fertiliser industry potential; role of youth and women in the transformation of the fertilizer sub-sector and technology trends and their impact on fertilizer industry: A focus on digitalization of the fertilizer subsector - Are we there yet?

Participants will also discuss the Nairobi Fertilizer and Soil Health Declaration: Examining the strategies to enhance fertilizer utilization in the region, healthy soil for food systems transformation in Tanzania: A

need for innovative agronomic solutions for sustainable fertilizer practices in Tanzania, financing mechanism for fertilizer development in Tanzania; examining capital constraints and financing sources as well as promoting fertiliser production, consumption and cross border trade in Eastern and Southern Africa—prospects and challenges.

Other issues include the role of agricultural statistics technological farming and farmers access to fertiliser in improving crop productivity, use, applica-

tion and effectiveness of organic and inorganic fertilizer; is a combined application a preferable strategy?

Fertiliser industry is one of the areas identified by the government to boost agricultural productivity in Tanzania. The industry is regulated by the Fertilizer Act of 2009 and its regulations of 2011 and their amendments of 2017. Under the Act No.9 of 2009 Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authorities -TFRA was established in 2012 with the mandate to regulate the quality and trade of ferti-

lizer and fertilizer supplements (FFS) in the entire fertilizer value chain including manufacturing, importation distribution, storage, exportation and utilization.

Global Fertilizer Day is an international awareness campaign initiated by Fertilizers Europe and supported by fertilizer associations and companies around the world with the goal of bringing awareness to the important role fertilizer brings as the backbone of the agricultural industry and to feeding the world.

Global Fertilizer Day marks the anniversary of Fritz Haber's discovery (Haber-Bosch process) of ammonia synthesis in 1908, which sowed the seeds for the Green Revolution of the early 20th century. During this time, widespread adoption of agricultural technologies lifted millions out of poverty and famine, allowing our world to grow and develop as we know it today.

In line with our mandate and to ensure visibility of fertilizer and the whole value chain entrenched in its production to usage; Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has been commemorating world fertilizer day each year (starting from 2020 onwards) with different activities spanning towards the climax accommodating five days at different regions with presence of Regional leadership and Ministry of Agriculture on the fertilizer day.



Thursday 5 September, 2024

BoT directs banks to increase women in boards

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has urged banks and financial institutions, amend and adopt governance policies and best practices for Board Composition and Directors Competence Matrix to ensure that at least one-third of board members are women.

The central Bank Governor Emmanuel Tutuba said in a recent circular to all banks and financial institutions that Directors Competence Matrix should be updated to ensure that board appointments are made with consideration of the diverse skills and experiences women bring to leadership.

In addition, he said, gender diversity should be integrated into board succession planning processes.

This involves identifying and developing a pipeline of qualified female candidates who are prepared to take on board roles as they become available.

Succession plans should be aligned with the institution's long-term strategic goals and commitment to diversity.

Furthermore, the governor directed that Board Charters must be amended to explicitly include guidelines for achieving and maintaining gender diversity.

This includes setting clear expectations for the recruitment, selection and evaluation processes that prioritize the inclusion of

women in leadership roles.

Recent study by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) indicates that gender disparities persist within the leadership of banks and financial institutions in Tanzania.

Currently, men overwhelmingly occupy senior roles, with women significantly underrepresented in both board and executive positions.

The study revealed that the ratio of males to females in the board of directors and senior management of banking institutions were 75:25 and 70:30, respectively, with some institutions having no single female representation at board level.

"Addressing these imbalances is not only an ethical imperative but also a strategic business decision that can lead to more robust governance and improved financial performance," he said.

"Gender diversity enables institutions to better understand and respond to the needs of a diverse customer base, thereby enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty."

He said a more inclusive leadership team fosters a work environment where diverse perspectives are valued, leading to increased creativity and problem-solving capabilities.

"By embracing gender diversity, banks can position themselves to meet the challenges of the future while driving sustainable growth."

Tutuba explained that BoT is committed to fostering a financial sector that embodies principles



of equity, diversity and inclusivity, with a specific focus on gender representation at every level of governance for all banks and financial institutions in Tanzania.

"In this regard, we encourage institutions to adopt measures that will ensure at least one-third of board membership comprises women and that qualified women are more actively considered for senior management roles," he said.

Extensive research, including reports from the World Economic Forum and the International Monetary Fund, has consistently demonstrated that gender-diverse teams contribute to better decision-making, enhanced innovation

and greater organizational resilience.

These benefits are particularly crucial in the dynamic and competitive environment of the financial sector.

On enhancing the representation of women in senior management roles, BoT had directed banks and financial institutions to set targets for female participation in executive positions and implement career development programs that support the advancement of women within the organization.

Institutions should also ensure that their leadership development initiatives are inclusive and provide equal opportunities for wom-

en to progress.

Banks and financial institutions are encouraged to begin adopting these measures immediately, and within the next six months from the date of the Circular, they are required to submit their plans of action for review by the BoT.

Full compliance, including achieving the one-third female representation on boards and improved gender balance in senior management, is expected within the next 36 months.

Institutions that demonstrate leadership and commitment to these goals will be recognized for their proactive approach to fostering inclusivity, the governor said

adding that the BoT is committed to supporting institutions through this transition.

"We will provide guidance and share best practices to assist banks in implementing these measures effectively. Regular assessments will be conducted to monitor progress, and further recommendations will be provided as needed to ensure that the financial sector remains on track to meet these important inclusivity objectives," he added.

The study by the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) conducted in 2022 revealed that despite constituting 47 percent of the banking workforce, women hold only ten percent of decision-making positions, with less than 20 percent representation on boards of directors.

Female employees (managers and above) to total number of employees and only 10 percent, the study shows.

The average number of women in Boards is 2 which is equivalent to 18 percent of board members of banks operating in Tanzania.

This demonstrates that women are still lagging behind in terms of holding senior positions particularly in the Management Boards among banks and financial institutions in Tanzania.

Tanzania ranks 82nd out of 156 countries in terms of gender gap index according to the Global Gender Gap Index 2021 rankings.

By Francis Kajubi

SPECIAL REPORT

Acute challenges facing climate change resilience financing - 4

As the November 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, approaches, the global community is focused on the urgent task of financing climate resilience.

Representatives from over 100 countries are expected to attend and agree on a new annual financing target to help poorer nations reduce emissions and protect their societies from the growing impacts of climate change.

This new target will replace the \$100 billion annual commitment that 43 developed countries have pledged since 2009 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

However, world leaders are increasingly skeptical of the current climate financing approach, which has consistently fallen short of its goals.

At the ten-day preliminary UN climate meetings (SB 60) held in Bonn, Germany, in June 2024, significant rifts among the world's largest economies became apparent, particularly over who should contribute the most to the fight against climate change and how much they should pay.

In his opening remarks, UN climate chief Simon Stiell urged nations to increase their efforts: "It is clear that climate protection measures must be taken at a much, much faster pace."

As global discussions on climate financing continue, Tanzania is taking its own steps to address climate change financing gaps. In April 2024, Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Khamis Hamza Khamis, announced to the National Assembly that the government is amending existing environmental laws to establish the National Environmental Impact Trust Fund.

This fund will be responsible for mobilizing and planning



The significance of climate financing among stakeholders is of critical urgency. File Photo

budgets to support climate change resilience programs.

Khamis emphasized that this new funding strategy will accelerate climate resilience efforts, including promoting green building initiatives, climate-smart agriculture, and nature conservation.

This decision follows minor amendments to the National Environmental Policy in 2021, which introduced measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

"The government recognizes the need for reliable funding sources to address climate-related hazards and natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, and storms," Khamis stated.

As climate change continues to be a global concern, Tanzania's property developers and engineers are also exploring green building practices for residential and commercial projects.

Ipyana Moses, Executive Secre-

tary of the Tanzania Green Building Council (TGBC), highlighted the urgent need for policies and actions to mitigate climate change's impacts.

Founded in 2014, the Tanzania Green Building Council aims to promote the adoption of green design practices by raising awareness in the real estate sector through initiatives like energy audits, material testing, and sustainable construction measures. Moses noted that developers are increasingly open to implementing green building technologies, which are recognized both locally and globally.

TGBC, affiliated with the World Green Building Council (WGBC), works closely with private and public developers.

During its inception, TGBC was supported by 64 organizations, a number that has nearly doubled today. Moses stressed that more

awareness is needed to promote green building projects, and the council is currently developing a local rating tool to add value to the industry.

"Planet Earth is our only home. If we protect it by investing in environmentally friendly structures, nature will reward us with fewer calamities like flooding, drought, extreme temperature changes, and rising sea levels," Moses emphasized. "However, if we continue building without considering the environment, we can expect worse outcomes."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports a 95 percent probability that human activities over the past 50 years have contributed to global warming.

In response, international standards are being developed to encourage companies to disclose their sustainability-related finan-

cial information.

In July 2023, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation published two key documents: IFRS S-1 (General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information) and IFRS S-2 (Climate-related Disclosure). These disclosures encourage companies to start collecting data and building internal capacity.

Additionally, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) has been working with companies since 2022, providing guidance on assessing and disclosing their impacts, dependencies, risks, and opportunities related to nature. In the past two years, 140 financial institutions with €19.7 trillion in assets under management have signed the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge.

Institutional investors are also engaging with companies and policymakers through the Nature Action 100 program, which encourages financial institutions to regularly screen and assess their portfolios for biodiversity risks.

The global 2024 Gen Z and Millennials report highlights that environmental protection is a top priority for younger generations. Gen Z and Millennials want employers to prioritize visible actions that allow employees to participate directly in environmental conservation and donations.

The concept of smart properties is also gaining traction as a way to sustain nature and combat climate change. Smart buildings use automated processes to control operations like heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, and security.

By reducing energy consumption and mitigating environmental impact, these structures contribute to a more livable and eco-friendly urban environment.

Across Africa, cities like Cairo, Cape Town, Lagos, Rabat, Abuja, Accra, Algiers, and Tunis have embarked on smart property projects as part of their climate change adaptation strategies.

In East Africa, Kigali and Nairobi are progressing rapidly, with Rwanda's Vision City set to build 4,500 units to house 25,000 people in Kigali. Kenya's Konza Techno City is another example of the country's efforts to create a smart city.

In Tanzania, initiatives for developing smart cities have been in place for six years, though progress has been slow. The Dege Eco Village satellite project in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam, was abandoned by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) four years ago.

However, other projects, like the Kawe Safari City in Dar es Salaam and the Usa River Satellite City in Arusha, are gradually taking shape despite financial and management challenges.

Globally, North America is leading the smart building market, with the United States and Canada at the forefront of adopting advanced building technologies.

In Europe, countries like Germany, the United Kingdom, and France are making significant progress, while China, India, and several Middle Eastern countries are also advancing in smart building technologies.

To be continued

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS AND DANGERS OF BANK CARDS - PART TWO

BY KELVIN MKWAWA

In last week's article, we have seen the importance of bank cards in our lives as they offer convenience and versatility. There are two types of bank cards; Debit cards and Credit cards. There are two ways to use your bank cards; through an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) where you can withdraw cash or through a Point of Sale (POS).

Furthermore, we have seen the dangers of using debit cards: reimbursement of fraudulent charges on your debit cards, a high chance of being charged overdraft charges, and withhold amounts when using your debit cards at most hospitality service providers.

Last week we also saw the main difference between credit cards and debit cards; whatever you spend on a credit card, you will be

required to pay it back by the provider of that credit card, while what you spend on a debit card comes straight from your bank account.

There are some dangers and risks of using a credit card and it is important to understand them to cultivate better usage. Therefore, this week, I will share some dangers of using credit cards.

The temptation to Overspend - Studies have shown that consumers spend more when they are paying with credit cards than when they pay with cash. It is easy and convenient to spend money with a credit card as you don't feel the "pain" of cash leaving your wallet/bank's account hence it's easy to spend more than you can afford to pay back.

The limit on the credit card should be treated as a loan extended to you by your credit card provider as opposed to



KELVIN MKWAWA

free money to spend. So, be mindful of your spending on your credit card to make sure you are not buying more than

you can afford and you should consider a monthly budget on how much you can afford to spend on your credit card.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Usage - Credit cards can be used on ATMs just like debit cards but with a fee. Credit cards are not meant for cash transactions that's why whenever you take cash out of the ATM there is a charge. Taking cash out of an ATM through your credit card is known as a cash advance. Most banks discourage customers from withdrawing cash from their credit cards by charging outrageous fees.

The average cash advance fee charged by most banks is 6% of the amount withdrawn (some banks even charge higher than that) plus daily interest charges on the outstanding cash advance balance from the moment it is taken until it's paid off. You need to avoid doing cash advances at all costs so you won't get charged astonishing interest rates charges.

Reading Your Bill

Statement - Since a credit card is a form of a loan, you are required to pay back whenever you spend and you will receive a credit card bill statement every month. With many banks pushing toward paperless billing, it's getting easier to skip looking over your monthly statements. This is very dangerous because you can overlook erroneous charges from merchants, and also you may miss a chance to notice any fraudulent charges or any forms of credit fraud.

More importantly, ignoring a monthly credit card bill statement makes us complacent in our personal finances by not reviewing and monitoring our spending, hence we stop being in command of our finances which results in not reaching our personal finance goals. It is vital to read your bill statement and make it a routine every month to ensure you are on track with

your personal financial goals.

To sum it up, for the last two weeks, I have shared the dangers and risks of bank cards, debit, and credit cards, which are: reimbursement of fraudulent charges on your debit cards, high chance of being charged overdraft charges, withheld amounts when using your debit cards at most hospitality service providers, the temptation to overspend on your credit cards, cash advances on your credit cards, and not reading your credit card bill statements.

The main purpose of sharing the aforementioned tips is to educate you on how bank cards can be an obstacle to achieving your financial goals if used irresponsibly.

Kelvin Mkwawa, MBA is the seasoned banker. He can be contacted through email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com

Empowering Tanzania's future: Inclusion must drive employment opportunities

By Desideria Mwegelo

TANZANIA'S youth unemployment remains a national concern, with projections showing that it could surge to 80.57 percent this year.

With over 60 percent of the population under 25, Tanzania's future depends on its ability to provide meaningful employment opportunities for its young people.

Yet, despite various initiatives aimed at addressing this challenge, the gap between economic growth and job creation persists, particularly for marginalised groups such as women, youth and those living with disabilities.

The 2013 Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) report highlighted unemployment as a critical issue, and over a decade later, it remains an urgent problem that needs to be addressed.

Despite the Government's efforts to improve educational access and job creation, there are still significant gaps in addressing the issue of unemployment. The barriers to employment and entrepreneurship faced by these youth highlight the need for more comprehensive support systems.

The potential for green jobs and sustainable industries, particularly in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism, represents an untapped opportunity as the world shifts toward sustainability. Tanzania has the opportunity to position its youth at the forefront of this transition, creating jobs that align with global sustainability goals.

The private sector has played a crucial role in enhancing vocational training and agricultural value chains, but these initiatives need to be scaled to reach a broader demographic and be translated into concrete employment opportunities. Building and strengthening labour market systems are pivotal for informed policy-making and assessing the effectiveness of employment programmes.

The Ready for Inclusive Sustainable Employment and Entrepreneurship (RISE/E) project offers a promising model for addressing these challenges. Launched under the Standard Chartered Future Makers programme, in collaboration with Challenges Worldwide and Sightsavers, RISE/E aims to empower 1,080 young people with disabilities by providing tailored employability training and supporting 360 micro-businesses with business development advice and access to finance. By focusing on both employability and entrepreneurship, RISE/E is creating new pathways to meaningful employment for young Tanzanians with disabilities, generating 576 new jobs and contributing to a more inclusive and diverse workforce.

The initiative aligns with the objectives of the second phase of our Futuremakers initiative, which emphasise nurturing young entrepreneurs and creating inclusive job opportunities. By integrating employability training with business support, RISE/E not only prepares young people for



the job market but also stimulates local economic growth through the expansion of micro-businesses.

The impact of RISE/E is already being felt. Young entrepreneurs are gaining access to crucial resources, allowing them to grow their businesses and generate jobs. At the same time, young people with disabilities are finding new pathways to meaningful employment, contributing to a more inclusive and diverse workforce.

The project exemplifies how targeted interventions can bridge gaps and create significant impact. By complementing government efforts and focusing on the needs of marginalised groups, it highlights the power of collaborative action in driving systemic change. The

partnership between Standard Chartered, Challenges Worldwide, and Sightsavers serves as a model for how strategic support can unlock potential and foster economic development.

The success of RISE/E offers a hopeful vision for the future of Tanzania's youth. By addressing both individual and systemic barriers, the initiative is paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous future. As Tanzania continues its journey towards economic and social development, the RISE/E project stands as a testament to the transformative power of inclusive and comprehensive support.

Desideria Mwegelo (pictured) is the corporate affairs, brand and marketing specialist based in Dar es Salaam

Kigamboni residents start income-generating activities as part of combating climate change

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

In response to the growing impacts of climate change, residents of Kigamboni District Council, Dar es Salaam, have introduced nine income-generating activities aimed at increasing their income, conserving marine life, and mitigating climate change effects.

Omary Kombe, Vice Chairman of the Beach Management Units (BMU), highlighted these efforts during the recent launch of the 'Advancing Knowledge for Long-term Benefits and Climate Adaptation through Holistic Climate Services and Nature-Based Solutions (ALBATROSS)' project, which is funded by the European Union (EU).

Kombe outlined the various activities introduced in Mjimwema Ward, which include crab mud fattening, sea cucumber farming, seaweed farming, beekeeping, mangrove nurseries, mangrove tourism, and tourism activities like diving and snorkeling at Sinda Island Marine Reserve.

Currently, 20 people are engaged in crab mud fattening, 50 in sea cucumber farming, 100 in seaweed farming, 24 in beekeeping, 30 in mangrove nursery planting, and 20 in mangrove tourism. In addition, women involved in seaweed farming have received training on modern farming techniques to produce high-quality seaweed that meets market standards, with the support of a Chinese expert.

"These nature-based solutions are vital in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on both ecosystems and communities," said Kombe.

Despite climate change being a global problem that affects all sectors, including marine life, agriculture, and livestock, many Kigamboni residents remain unaware of its impact. Education on climate change often fails to reach the grassroots level, leaving many people uninformed about the dangers.

Furthermore, some government officials have been accused of issuing land for construction in prohibited

mangrove forest areas, exacerbating environmental degradation. Kombe called on the government to take legal action against such officials, noting that the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) has already demolished illegal structures in other areas.

"We urge the Ministry of Works and the Environmental Division to visit Kigamboni Municipal Council to raise awareness about environmental conservation. People need to understand which areas are prohibited for construction and be educated on climate change and its impacts on people, biodiversity, and the environment," Kombe emphasized.

BMU members have received training on environmental and marine resource management to prevent illegal activities in the sea and conserve mangrove trees and other species. Their efforts have led to successful patrols along the coast, resulting in the seizure of smuggled goods worth TZS 100 million, including phones and textiles (vitenge).

Dr. Siima Bakengesa, an environment and climate change officer with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, emphasized the need to leverage Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in addressing climate change. She suggested developing an application that provides information on climate change and educates the public.

She also urged policy developers to engage with ALBATROSS research to help create new policies or guidelines that can reduce the risks associated with climate change and facilitate long-term adaptation and mitigation in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

"The application would

particularly benefit the youth, who could learn about climate change through smartphones and social media," Dr. Bakengesa added.

Omary Ngurangwa, Chairman of the Kigamboni Municipal Council's Urban Planning Committee, advocated for integrating climate change education into the school curriculum, from kindergarten to university levels.

"The education should highlight how conditions have changed over time. We could create a documentary to show students how today's climate challenges differ from those of the 1960s," Ngurangwa suggested.

Ernest Kamata, Fisheries Officer at Kigamboni Municipal Council (KMC), noted that climate change also affects fishermen. He stressed the importance of developing mitigation strategies that address the specific challenges faced by fishermen, including providing modern fishing vessels to help them adapt to the changing climate and access deeper waters for fishing.

Dainess Mulokozi, Conservation Manager at the Jane Goodall Institute, emphasized the importance of rainwater harvesting as a strategy to cope with water shortages during dry seasons. She called for technology that facilitates water security.

Additionally, Mulokozi highlighted the need for a youth council to amplify the voices of young people on climate action and enable them to share their ideas on tackling climate change in their communities.

"Youth engagement is crucial as climate change continues to affect us. Let's empower them to form this council," she urged.



Currencies trade experience tight range as mar DBSA approves \$200m for Lobito corridor railway project

JOHANNESBURG

Development finance institution the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has, alongside the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), approved funding of up to \$200-million towards the Lobito Corridor Railway project, in Angola.

The funding will support the construction and upgrading of the railway infrastructure, including the procurement of 50 percent of the required wagons from a South African local manufacturing company.

The project, valued at about \$786.4-million, aims to enhance regional trade and transportation networks by providing an efficient and reliable railway connection from the Lobito port on Angola's Atlantic coast to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



The DBSA's function within the transport sector is to pursue infrastructure investment for projects tailored for the development of bridges, roads, bus stations,

railways, terminals, airports, seaports, border ports and more.

The Lobito project entails the finance, build, operate and transfer of a 1 289 km brownfield railway main line from Lobito to Negrao and the Luau border, as well as a 28 km railway branch line from Negrao to Bimbas.

The project is aimed at boosting cargo transport, allowing large flows of international goods in transit and national goods in internal circulation.

The concession agreement for the Lobito Corridor Railway project was signed in November 2022, and construction is expected to take place imminently following financial close.

The funding of this project is highlighted as an important step towards improving the logistics framework in Southern Africa.

By supporting the Lobito Corridor, DBSA will be investing in critical infrastructure

and fostering economic opportunities and job creation in both Angola and the DRC, it says in a statement.

The project aligns with the commitment to sustainable development and regional cooperation.

This project is expected to provide a critical link for the transport of copper, cobalt and other essential goods from the mineral-rich areas of the DRC to international markets via the Lobito port.

The railway line is part of a broader strategy to support the energy transition by facilitating the export of critical minerals needed for renewable-energy technologies.

"Our support for the Lobito Corridor Railway project aligns with our mission to drive sustainable economic growth and regional integration in Southern Africa, not forgetting building Africa's prosperity," says DBSA transacting group executive Mpho Mokwele.

Climate finance: EU mulls how to make China step up

BERLIN

Ahead of the upcoming world climate conference, the EU will continue to insist that China and other large emitting countries pay their fair share of climate finance - but how remains subject to discussion.

Climate financing will be centre-stage at COP29, the world's annual climate negotiations, taking place in Azerbaijan this November.

Richer countries are currently supposed to channel \$100 billion of annual support to poorer countries, but this is expected to be replaced by a new framework from 2025.

The issue is at the heart of global climate politics. Poorer countries argue that they should be supported in their efforts to decarbonise and adapt to climate change - as wealthier countries are responsible for the lion's share of historical emissions.

The EU, which is the single largest climate finance contributor, has long been coaxing China to chip in - instead of letting Beijing hide behind its 1992 status as a developing country. Whenever Europe meets Beijing, the topic tops the agenda.

In official comments, European diplomats are careful to never mention the C-word.

However in mid-August, EU countries and the European Commission upped the stakes, saying that countries "with high GHG-emissions and economic capabilities" should "join the effort," in a document submitted to climate body UNFCCC by the Hungarian EU Council presidency and the Commission.

Now MEPs, who will prepare a European Parliament position to inform the EU's overall negotiating position, are looking to further ratchet up the pressure.

"To ensure meaningful progress, climate finance must be fair and reflect the economic balance and responsibilities of all major global powers," says Javi López, a Spanish socialist (S&D), who is jointly in charge of shaping the parliament's position ahead of COP29 in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

Alongside pushing for an expansion of the pool of climate



donors - the resolution he is co-negotiating notes that the bloc is by far the largest spender at almost €30 billion in contributions - López told Euractiv that "advancing the full operationalisation" of the Loss & Damage Fund "should be a standing item in Baku". The Loss & Damage Fund was agreed during 2022 global negotiations and is the main mechanism to help poorer countries deal with climate-related impacts.

MEPs are also mulling a push for a "redesign of the criteria" used to establish who donates and who receives climate finance, Peter Liese, a German MEP who frequently leads for the centre-right EPP on climate, told Euractiv.

The initial categorisation, dating back to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992, is increasingly considered outdated as new economic powers have emerged.

"China, Saudi Arabia and other countries have long had more emissions per capita than the European Union and are also extremely financially potent," said Liese, who added that his group support an updated design.

Lena Schilling, a green Austrian MEP who is co-negotiating the COP29 resolution, said "the world of 1992" was long gone, and "countries like Saudi Arabia or the UAE, but also China, have both high emissions and the capacity to contribute financially."

China stands as the second-largest economy in the world, emitting the most CO₂ of any country, while its formal status as a developing nation normally exempts it from contributing to climate finance - a status the government stresses frequently.

Both Canada and Switzerland, traditionally allied with the EU on climate action, have already made concrete proposals to include China and other large CO₂

emitting countries.

Bern suggests the ten biggest emitters with a GDP per capita above US\$22,000, adjusted for purchasing power, should pay up. Canada eyes a threshold of US\$20,000.

"We have not yet been able to examine the Canadian and Swiss proposals in detail, but personally I think they are a step in the right direction," says Liese.

The proposals were "a basis on which the discussions can be continued," Schilling told Euractiv. But first, the parliament must find a joint position - a process that was launched in late July, when Schilling, López and their co-negotiators were appointed and will continue at a meeting of environment lawmakers on early Wednesday.

The official EU negotiating mandate will be adopted by EU countries. "I believe that the Council is on the right track on this issue," says Liese.

ALAF signs MoU with URA Saccos for better new roofing solutions

By Francis Kajubi

ALAF Limited (Tanzania), the leading building solutions companies in Tanzania, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Usalama wa Raia Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (URA SACCOS) through which the members will get different roofing solutions at discounting rates.

At the signing ceremony which took place on Tuesday at the ALAF headquarters in Dar es Salaam between the ALAF Marketing Manager Isamba Kasaka and the URA SACCOS General Manager ACP Kim Onai Mwemfula whose Saccos have over 46,000 members all over the country.

Speaking during the event, Kasaka said the company is delighted to sign the agreement with URA SACCOS as it marks the beginning of a new era for both sides as the new arrangement will ensure the members get quality iron sheets and other materials at a discounted price.

"We guarantee you the best roofing solutions for your construction projects as we are the leaders in building solutions hence you will get the best quality at a lower rate," she said adding that members will have to place their orders through the SACCOS, which will also be responsible for all the payment process.

She further noted that ALAF agreed to enter into this agreement in support of the police who are responsible for safety. "As you go out there to ensure our safety, it is important for you to be comfortable that you have left behind peaceful homes that have been well constructed," she said.

According to her, ALAF doors are open to other SACCOS, unions or organizations that want to get into a similar agreement to ensure they get the best solutions and value for their money. On his part, the URA SACCOS General Manager ACP Mwemfula thanked ALAF for granting them that special opportunity that will make it easy for their members to construct quality and modern houses at reasonable costs.

"We have over 46,000 members and one of our visions is to see all of us owning decent houses at an affordable cost. This new arrangement with ALAF will ease this and ensure our members are well sorted in terms of roofing and other solutions that ALAF can provide," he said.

Mwemfula called on members to take advantage of the agreement and place their orders on time to ensure quick delivery.

ALAF Limited is Tanzania's leading steel roofing manufacturer. Established in 1960, ALAF has always, and continues to be, a key player in the development of the country's construction sector.

ALAF is a fully integrated operation, not only making steel roofing, but also producing the metal coated coils used by these roofing operations. ALAF manufactures metal tubing and piping for various applications.

BANKING & FINANCE

NFRA to export 55,000 tons of maize grains to Zambia

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Songwe

THE National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) through its Songwe zone has entered a contract to market a total of 55,000 tons of maize grain to Zambia in the current agriculture season.

Being part to cater for the contract, the NFRA's Songwe center is planning to export the said tonnage of staple food to neighboring Zambia through the Tanzania-Zambia Railway line (TAZARA) as well as roads.

The development is partly to facilitate the major contract through which the state-owned food reserve agency, NFRA, is responsible to sell a total of 650,000 tonnes of maize grains to Zambia.

Unveiling the constructive contract to The Guardian during an interview yesterday in Songwe region, Geoffrey Lupenza, the NFRA's Manager for Songwe zone said that the zone was planning to export at least 20,000 tons through railway line, and added that the remaining 35,000 tons will be transported

through road trucks.

"Process are in good shape and we're expecting to start exporting the maize grains to neighboring Zambia from earlier next week," he observed.

And he briefed, the zone which serves for the two regions of Songwe and Mbeya will in this agricultural season purchase a total of 137,000 tons of maize grains from the farmers within the zone.

"In order to help create a smooth condition to allow the farmers to sell their maize grains professionally, we have so far opened a total of

nine selling-buying points, seven in Songwe region and the remaining two points are in Mbeya region," he said.

He informed that most of the maize growers in the two regions have been greatly sensitized to market their produce at NFRA following a rewarding price of 700/- per one kg of maize grain which has been set by the government.

"As of today (yesterday) we have already purchased over 22,000 tons of maize grains and the majority of farmers and maize dealers are on the waiting list to market their

maize," he detailed.

He hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for dishing-out enough budget to facilitate a major project for the facilitation and installation of maize grain storage facilities, among others.

"Before implementation of the project, our food storage capacity in the zone was below 18,000 tons but currently we're able to reserve at least 56,000 tons at a go," he expressed.

Ensuring the zone collects the needed first grade maize grains, he said several initiatives are being ex-

ecuted in collaboration with the local government authorities, seeking to empower the farmers how best to produce the maize which meet the set standards.

The standards, according to him include moisture contents of 13.5 percent, foreign matter of 0.5 percent, pest damage grains (1.0pc), rotten and disease grains (2.8pc), other colour grains (0.5pc), broken grains (2.0pc), immature grains (1.0pc), discoloured grains (0.5pc), total defective grains (3.2pc), and inorganic matter at least 0.25 percent.

WORLD

Trump to plead not guilty to charges in revised US indictment



Former President Donald Trump awaits the start of proceedings on the second day of jury selection at Manhattan criminal court, April 16, 2024, in New York. AP

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Donald Trump said in a court filing on Tuesday that he would plead not guilty to criminal charges in a revised indictment accusing him of attempting to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

Trump, the Republican candidate in the

Nov 5 presidential election, waived his right to appear in court and instead authorized his lawyers to enter the plea.

The revised indictment, obtained last week by Special Counsel Jack Smith, includes the same four charges prosecutors brought against Trump last year. He was accused of attempting to defraud the United States, obstruct congressional certification

of the election and deprive voters of their right to a fair vote.

The new indictment dropped and reframed certain allegations after the US Supreme Court determined that Trump has broad immunity from criminal prosecution over official actions he took as president.

Trump appeared in federal court

in Washington in August 2023 to plead not guilty to the charges in the initial indictment.

Prosecutors and Trump's lawyers are scheduled to appear in court on Thursday to determine next steps after the Supreme Court's immunity ruling.

Agencies

BRI a boon for Africa's infrastructure

"LOOKING back at the Belt and Road Initiative over the years, the first thing that strikes you is the projects, especially the infrastructure projects," former World Bank economist Mwangi Wachira said in an exclusive interview with China Daily.

"In many cases, they have become symbols of development in most of the African countries."

Wachira emphasized that it is hard to understand what Africa has achieved over the past 20 years without talking about the BRI.

"The initiative has gone to the heart of development issues in most countries," he said, adding that BRI projects have not only paved the way for Africa's economic growth but have also become significant markers of China-Africa cooperation.

According to the Report on 2024 Chinese Investment in Africa released by the China-Africa Business Council on Aug 23, 52 African countries had signed memorandums of understanding with China under the BRI framework by the end of last year. Trade between China and Africa reached \$282.1 billion in 2023.

One of the authors of the report, Wachira said China has a stellar record of supporting

the development of an integrated African market with infrastructure projects such as Algeria's El Hamdania Central Port, Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway, Ethiopia's Eastern Industrial Zone and the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Wachira, who served as an adviser to the Kenyan president and was involved in the final evaluation of the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway, said that the old railway had long been a bottleneck for regional cargo transport. The situation has changed dramatically thanks to the new railway.

"Today, goods can land in Mombasa and reach Naivasha in four days and Kampala in Uganda in six days, a significant reduction from the previous two-month journey," Wachira said.

"The saving of time is the essence of development, and the railway has become a major driver of economic growth in Kenya and East Africa, paving the way for regional economic integration." Addressing claims by the United States and some of its allies that such BRI projects are debt traps, Wachira stressed that "most of Africa's debt is not owed to China but to Western institutions".

"It's the West which has



Former World Bank economist Mwangi Wachira delivered a speech on Aug 23, 2024 during the launching ceremony of the Report on Chinese Investment in Africa in Beijing. (PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY)

trapped the Africans in debt," he said.

Based on the International Debt Report 2023 released by the World Bank, commercial bonds and multilateral debt accounted for 66 percent of Africa's total external debt in 2022, while China-Africa bilateral debt made up only 11 percent. Compared to Western aid, Wachira said that China's support for African development is more foundational, addressing the root causes of the continent's issues.

"The need for roads, ports and railroads has existed for many years," he said. "Yet, it took China coming to Africa to start working on some of these projects."

Taking communication and telecommunications infrastructure as an example, he noted that China has been working in that sector in Africa since the 1990s and has built 70 percent of the continent's telecommunications infrastructure. He said that if such projects had been fund-

ed or implemented by a Western country, they would have come with a long list of conditions or requirements, complicating Africa's development and effectively amounting to a form of recolonization.

"The BRI has revitalized African development through iconic projects and small enterprises," Wachira said.

"As long as this cooperation continues, it will bring mutual benefits, shared prosperity and a bright future for Africa-China relations." Agencies

Sudan faces 'unprecedented' hunger crisis amid global inaction, aid groups say

KHARTOUM

THREE international aid organizations on Tuesday issued a dire warning about the escalating humanitarian crisis in Sudan, declaring that the country is experiencing a starvation crisis of unprecedented proportions.

The Norwegian Refugee Council, the Danish Refugee Council, and Mercy Corps said in a joint statement that the Sudanese people are dying of hunger amidst a "deafening" silence from the international community.

"The level of suffering endured by the Sudanese people in recent months is impossible to express with words alone," the aid groups said.

They noted that the international re-



People collect clean water provided by a charity organization to people in Gedaref in eastern Sudan on Aug 30, 2024. AFP

sponse has been grossly inadequate, with the humanitarian response plan led by the United Nations currently only 41 percent funded. "The silence is deafening. People are dying of hunger every day, and yet the focus remains on semantic debates and legal definitions," the statement said.

More than 25 million people - over half of Sudan's population - are facing acute food insecurity, and many families have been forced to subsist on a single meal a day or resort to eating leaves and insects, it added.

The UN has previously warned of the risk of famine in certain areas of Sudan, and a recent re-

port from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs highlighted the severity of the crisis. However, the Sudanese government has disputed these claims, denying the existence of a food gap and dismissing earlier reports of famine in the country as "exaggerated".

Since the outbreak of conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in April 2023, millions of people have been displaced. The ongoing violence has crippled the country's economy and disrupted essential services, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. Agencies

PM Modi, Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah yesterday and during the "wide ranging" talks the two leaders discussed ways to further cement bilateral ties.

PM Modi stated that India and Brunei will expand trade ties, commercial linkages and people-to-people exchanges. Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and his close family members warmly welcomed PM Modi at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Taking to X, PM Modi stated, "Delighted to meet His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. Our talks were wide ranging and included ways to further cement bilateral ties between our nations. We are going to further expand trade ties, commercial linkages and people-to-people exchanges."

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal termed Brunei an "important partner" in India's 'Act East' Policy and its vision of the Indo-Pacific.

In a post on X, Jaiswal stated, "Building stronger India-Brunei relations. PM @narendramodi was warmly welcomed at the Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei and his close family members. Brunei is an important partner in India's 'Act East' Policy and its Vision of the Indo-Pacific."

PM Modi who arrived in Brunei on Tuesday on a bilateral visit had said that he is looking forward to strong bilateral ties, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages.

Upon his arrival, PM Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome. PM Modi thanked Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah for welcoming him at the airport.

This is the first-ever bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Brunei. The historic visit of the Prime Minister coincides with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Brunei.

PM Modi was warmly received by the members of Indian diaspora. He had an endearing interaction with a girl child who showed him a painting. The painting had the Tricolour and the child with the Prime Minister. The gathering, which had people waving the Tricolour, cheered for the Prime Minister as he reciprocated their feelings.

On Tuesday, PM Modi inaugurated the new Chancery of the High Commission of India, in Brunei's capital Bandar Seri Begawan. The chancery complex embodies a profound sense of Indianness, masterfully integrating traditional motifs and lush tree plantations.

The use of elegant claddings and durable Kota stones further enhances its aesthetic appeal, harmoniously blending classic and contemporary elements. The design not only pays homage to India's rich cultural heritage but also creates a tranquil and inviting atmosphere, according to a press release of the Prime Minister's Office.

PM Modi also interacted with the Indian community members who were present at the inauguration. He appreciated their contribution as a living bridge between the two countries and how it helped in strengthening bilateral ties. Currently, approximately 14,000 Indians are residing in Brunei.

The Prime Minister also visited Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan on Tuesday, as a part of his historic visit to Brunei. Brunei's Minister of Religious Affairs Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin received him at Mosque and Brunei's Minister of Health Dato Haji Mohammad Isham was also present, according to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) release.

A gathering of Indian community members were also present to greet PM Modi, according to MEA release. After the first leg of his two-nation visit, PM Modi will head to Singapore for a two-day visit from September 4-5. ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by Brunei's Minister of Religious Affairs Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin during his visit to Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque, in Bandar Seri Begawan on Tuesday. ANI

PYONGYANG

IN North Korea, high-ranking officials in the party, government, military, as well as diplomats and overseas representatives, make up the core elite supporting the regime. Their defection signifies that the regime is unraveling from its core. Indeed, elite defections have more than doubled since Kim Jong-un came to power compared to the Kim Jong-il era.

According to data obtained by Chosunilbo from the Ministry of Unification on Aug. 21, the National Intelligence Service (NIS) has classified 188 elite defectors as "exclusively protected" since records began in July 1997.

Of these, 54 defected before the death of former North Korean leader

Elite defections surge 2.5 times under Kim Jong-un

Kim Jong-il in December 2011, while 134 have defected since Kim Jong-un took power.

These elite defectors, who mainly come from the North's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, military, intelligence agencies, and security organizations, are considered "likely to significantly affect national security" under the relevant North Korean defectors act, with the NIS Director deciding their eligibility for protection.

Elite defections have been concentrated in Kim Jong-un's 13 years, surpassing those during Kim Jong-il's 14-year rule.

The unrest among elites is even more striking when compared to the overall number of defectors. Under

Kim Jong-il, elites made up 0.23% of 23,027 defectors, whereas under Kim Jong-un, elites make up 1.22% of 10,985 defectors, a 5.3-fold increase.

Six elite defectors interviewed by Chosunilbo expressed strong discontent with the regime, stating, "There is substantial resentment towards the regime among core members."

The Kim Jong-un regime has no future." These defectors experienced all three Kim regimes and left between 2014 and 2020. A former North Korean diplomat noted, "I didn't want my children to live as I did. Many colleagues share my views but have not yet found the courage to act." Ri Il-gyu, a former North Korean

official who defected last year from the embassy in Cuba and now lives in South Korea, shared in a recent interview with Chosunilbo, "I yearned for the free world and found hope by researching the lives of earlier defectors like Ko Young-hwan and Thae Yong-ho." This suggests that more defectors like Ri Il-gyu could emerge at any moment.

N. Korea's elite defections soar under Kim Jong-un

Elite defections in North Korea have more than doubled under Kim Jong-un compared to the Kim Jong-il era. Since 1997, the National Intelligence Service has classified 188 elite defectors as "exclusively protected," with 134 defecting during Kim Jong-

un's regime. The proportion of elite defectors has increased from 0.23% of all defectors under Kim Jong-il to 1.22% under Kim Jong-un. Defectors have expressed strong discontent with the regime, suggesting a potential for further increases in defections.

Egg freezing is gaining popularity in South Korea as women delay marriage and childbirth, with the number of frozen eggs rising from 40,000 in 2020 to 100,000 in 2023. A recent pop-up store promoting the procedure attracted over 10,000 women, highlighting increasing interest in preserving eggs for future use. The procedure costs about 3 million won, with annual storage

fees of 200,000 to 300,000 won, reflecting the trend of women choosing to delay family planning while preserving their fertility.

BOK freezes rate at 3.5% for record 13th consecutive time

The Bank of Korea maintained the interest rate at 3.5% for a record 13th consecutive time on Aug. 22. Despite easing inflation and anticipated rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve, the central bank opted to keep its rate unchanged to address the impact of escalating household debt, which reached 1,896.2 trillion won in the second quarter. The BOK also lowered its growth forecast for this year to 2.4% from 2.5% and its inflation estimate to 2.5% from 2.6%.

Agencies

China-Africa cooperation empowers African countries' drive toward modernisation

BEIJING

THE 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) started yesterday.

Themed "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future," the summit, the largest diplomatic event hosted by China in recent years, will highlight the common pursuit of China and African countries in realizing modernization.

To support Africa in accelerating modernization, China has launched plans and initiatives focusing on three key areas: industrialization, agricultural modernization and talent development, yielding tangible results.

FUELING AFRICA'S INDUSTRIALIZATION

The three key areas were announced by China at the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue in South Africa in August 2023.

Under the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, China is committed to helping Africa expand its manufacturing sector, achieve industrialization, and diversify its economy by channeling more resources, investments, and financing into industrialization programs.

Through market-driven investments, infrastructure development, and ventures in new sectors, Chinese enterprises are enhancing Africa's industrial system and advancing the continent's industrialization, according to the latest report by the China-Africa Business Council (CABC).

In Tanzania's coastal region, Chinese-invested Sapphire Float Glass Factory both serves the local market and exports float glass to six other African nations. With a designed production capacity of approximately 700 tonnes per day, the factory has created 1,012 direct jobs for locals and 3,857 indirect jobs. Inaugurated in September 2023, the project is expected to generate up to 1,650 direct jobs and 6,000 indirect jobs upon reaching full production capacity.

In Botswana, Chinese firms are playing a key role in the country's green transition efforts. In August, Botswana Power Corporation signed a power purchase agreement with Sinotswana Green Energy, a consortium of Chinese and Botswana companies, to officially launch the nation's first 100 MW solar photovoltaic power station project.

The project, expected to begin power generation by the end of 2025, was hailed a "key milestone" in the country's energy transition.

These cooperation projects illustrate the growing role of Chinese companies in bolstering Africa's industrialization. According to the CABC report, China is diversifying its investments in Africa, covering traditional sectors such as manufacturing, technology, wholesale and retail, agriculture, and real estate, as well as emerging fields like the digital economy, green development, aerospace and aviation, and financial services.

According to the report, titled "China-Africa Investment Cooperation: A New Impetus to Africa's Industrialization," this



Zhou Sheng (1st R, rear), a member of the Chinese medical team for anti-malaria service, performs blood tests in a village north of Moroni, Comoros, on Aug. 27, 2024. Xinhua

comprehensive investment approach has helped Africa achieve economic diversification and strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of its economies while providing Chinese enterprises with more investment opportunities.

The participation of private enterprises brings not only additional capital and technological support but also more flexible and efficient business models and management expertise, the report stated, adding that over 70 percent of Chinese enterprises investing in Africa are private companies.

BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION

Rwandan student Gatera, 31, is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in food crop cultivation techniques in east China's Anhui Province. Inspired by late Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping, known as "father of hybrid rice," Gatera applied for a Chinese government scholarship and began his master's studies at Anhui Agricultural University in 2019.

China cultivates over 17 million hectares of hybrid rice and is ready to share its globally leading cultivation technology with other countries. Dozens of countries across the globe have engaged in research and demonstration planting of hybrid rice, with nearly 8 million hectares planted annually abroad.

"I want to make crops more affordable and accessible to every Rwandan, just as Yuan Longping did," said Gatera, adding that he aims to develop more heat-resistant crop varieties for his homeland, a landlocked African country facing food shortages.

When asked to comment on the story of the African student, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that China has ensured a secure food supply for its 1.4 billion people after decades of strenuous efforts, and the country deeply understands Africa's hope for zero hunger.

China has pledged to help Africa expand grain production, encourage Chinese companies to increase agricultural investments in Africa, and enhance cooperation in seed technology and other

areas of agro-tech.

Driven by the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, China-Africa agricultural cooperation has flourished, yielding notable results in technical assistance and training for agricultural experts, the transfer of advanced technologies, the establishment of agricultural parks, and the promotion of farming projects for juncao and hybrid rice. This cooperation has delivered quality rice and vegetables to the African people and advanced the modernization of Africa's agricultural sector.

Over the past decade, China has established 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa and introduced more than 300 advanced agricultural technologies, increasing local crop yields by an average of 30 to 60 percent and benefiting over 1 million farmers across the continent.

Currently, over 200 Chinese enterprises are continuing investments in Africa's agricultural sector, with a cumulative investment stock exceeding 1 billion U.S. dollars. These investments span various areas, including agricultural supplies and machinery, farming, processing, and sales. China is also promoting the development of new business models in Africa, such as smart agriculture, e-commerce, and trade, said Xu Jianping, an official of China's National Development and Reform Commission, at a press briefing ahead of the summit.

Since 2012, China has sent more than 400 agricultural experts to Africa and trained over 70,000 agricultural technicians for the continent, he said.

China has also announced plans to assist African nations in promoting improved crop varieties and farming techniques, enhancing mechanization and accelerating the increase in the yield of major grain crops.

NURTURING FUTURE TALENT

Tola Tsegaye Alemu, a 34-year-old Ethiopian, first encountered the innovative use of industrial cameras and artificial intelligence to sort coffee beans at the China-Ethiopia Luban Workshop. This technology, provided by China, is set to become a key component of the work-

shop's curriculum and could eventually enhance Ethiopia's coffee industry.

Talent development is vital for both China and Africa as they work to improve their economies and livelihoods, making educational collaboration a cornerstone of China-Africa relations.

Tola Tsegaye Alemu, a vocational teacher from Ethiopia, is pursuing his doctoral degree at Tianjin University of Technology and Education. He is currently a leading instructor at the Luban Workshop in Ethiopia, named after an ancient Chinese craftsman. The workshop is dedicated to equipping African people with valuable vocational skills.

"Luban Workshop is a great opportunity for African young people to learn skills. It not only provides training courses but also unique teaching methods," said Tola Tsegaye Alemu.

China has established 17 Luban Workshops across 15 African countries, providing training that has helped many African youths secure jobs in Chinese-invested local enterprises and industrial parks.

Under the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, China plans to train 500 principals and high-caliber teachers of vocational colleges, and 10,000 technical personnel with both Chinese language and vocational skills for Africa every year.

Under robust national support, Chinese colleges and companies are dedicated to training African talent. Fully funded by China Road and Bridge Corporation, Kenyan student Issa Abdirizak pursued a degree in communications engineering at Beijing Jiaotong University. He now works as an assistant communications engineer at Kenya Railways. The Mombasa-Nairobi Railway in Kenya has not only enhanced transportation but also contributed to the development of a new generation of skilled railway professionals.

The scope of China-Africa talent cooperation is expanding from agriculture and infrastructure to digital industries and healthcare, enabling more African youths to pursue their dreams.

Nigerian student Ifeanyi Christian Onyebuchi, who dreamed of becoming a doctor as a child, is studying cardiothoracic surgery at Wannan Medical College in China. Inspired by the work of Chinese medical teams in Africa, he said, "The intelligence and dedication of Chinese doctors, and China's advanced medical technology have broadened my perspective immensely. I believe with all that, I can become a competent doctor in Nigeria in the future."

Since 1963, Chinese medical teams have been active in Africa, combating diseases and public health crises. Meanwhile, African students and doctors trained by Chinese medical professionals are becoming a crucial force in improving healthcare across the continent.

To date, China has trained over 220,000 personnel for African countries, tailored to their specific needs. From poverty reduction seminars in Beijing to the establishment of Nigeria's first transportation university and juncao technology training in Rwanda, China's educational initiatives are making a lasting impact. Xinhua

Ukraine wants to exempt its military from international law - Russian Foreign Ministry

MOSCOW



THE Kiev regime is trying to give the Ukrainian military carte blanche to commit crimes and shield them from international justice, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova (pictured) said in a commentary on Ukraine's ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Earlier, Ukraine ratified the ICC Rome Statute, with a stipulation that the court's jurisdiction over the country's citizens for war crimes would not take effect until seven years after the end of hostilities.

"The statement made by Ukraine in ratifying the Rome Statute clearly demonstrates the true attitude of the Ukrainian authorities towards international humanitarian law and justice.

In fact, they want to exempt their own citizens from the jurisdiction of even this court, which is as loyal to them as possible, while at the same time retaining the ability to prosecute citizens of other countries in The Hague based on charges fabricated by Kiev itself. This step is just an overt way of giving their military carte blanche to commit grave war crimes," Zakharova said.

She emphasized that the reputation of both the Kiev regime and the ICC is "well known." "Neither of them is independent. They have nothing to do with law or justice. This is a case where two wrongs do not make a right, but rather increase lawlessness," the diplomat continued.

"All attempts to avoid responsibility are doomed to failure. The Ukrainian criminals guilty of grave international crimes against their own people and against Russian citizens, as well as their accomplices, will be brought to justice and will be punished as they deserve," the spokeswoman concluded. Agencies

Charity: Child mpox cases surge 75-fold in worst-hit province of DR Congo

KINSHASA

CASES of mpox in children and young people under the age of 19 in the worst-hit province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have skyrocketed about 75-fold so far this year, global charity Save the Children said in a statement.

Cases in the DRC's eastern province of South Kivu are spreading more than twice as fast in children as in the general population, according to a new analysis, as health workers race to curb the spread of the virus as the new school term starts this week, said the statement.

According to the global charity, analyzing data from the DRC's health ministry, 15 cases of mpox were recorded in the first four weeks of 2024, compared to 1,192 cases in the four weeks between July 22 and Aug 18 among children and young people.

With the delivery of vaccines to the DRC and neighboring countries delayed, Save the Children called on the international community to step up funding so that schools can ensure they have adequate clean water, hygiene, and sanitation measures for children in the next few weeks.

The latest mpox variant, clade 1b, was reportedly detected in the DRC in September 2023 and recently found in neighboring countries and other parts of the world. Agencies

BEIJING

What makes China and Africa natural green partners

AS China's green industry, particularly its new energy vehicle (NEV) sector, continues to thrive, Western politicians and media outlets have begun accusing China of "overcapacity," alleging it would threaten developing countries.

However, this baseless rhetoric has had little impact in Africa. Recognizing the significant benefits of Chinese green products, these nations have not only embraced them, but also viewed them a crucial way to addressing their development needs.

Why is the Western narrative of Chinese overcapacity failing to gain traction in Africa? Why are Chinese green products so popular across the continent? And what makes China and Africa natural green partners?

CLEAN ENERGY PROVIDER

Energy shortage is a significant impediment to economic development in Africa. Although energy demand is growing across the continent, energy use per capita remains among the lowest in the world despite ample energy resources.

Africa consumes a disproportionately low amount of energy, accounting for less than 6 percent of global energy consumption despite hosting 18 percent of the world's population, according to a recent report by the Center for Strategic and Interna-

tional Studies.

When excluding South Africa, sub-Saharan Africa's per capita energy consumption is just 180 kilowatt-hours compared to 6,500 in Europe and 13,000 kilowatt-hours in the United States, the center said. Given Africa's rapidly growing population, it said there is an urgent need to increase the clean energy supply.

More than 600 million people on the continent currently lack access to electricity, according to the International Energy Agency. Against this backdrop, China's capacity for new energy products is hardly excessive; instead, it is a timely response to the urgent African demand for clean energy.

Africa has abundant hydro, solar, wind, geothermal, and bio-energy resources. However, Africa's current energy generation mix continues to rely on fossil fuels, while renewable sources account for less than 18 percent of the electricity output, according to German statistics platform Statista.

Africa faces a significant energy shortfall, particularly regarding clean energy. "The scale of what Africa needs to overcome her existential challenge is huge," said Charles Onunaiju, director of the Center for China Studies in Nigeria. "If you take

the lens of the camera out of the glimmering cities and to the suburbs, you see that there is more to be done."

Despite the pressing demand for clean energy, change is underway across Africa. From Kenya's Garissa Solar Power Plant, the first large solar power plant tapping into the country's vast solar resources, to South Africa's De Aar Wind Farm, more than 100 green energy initiatives jointly led by China and Africa under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation are bolstering the continent's green transition.

Zimbabwean economist Brains Muchemwa told Xinhua in a recent interview that Chinese new green energy products have significantly improved the lives of many Africans despite Western criticism of China's growing green industry production capacity.

At the first African Climate Summit in September 2023, China announced that it would launch an "Africa Solar Belt" program with 100 million yuan (about 14 million U.S. dollars) in funding for solar projects in regions not served by main electrical grids. The program aims to support at least 50,000 families.

By harnessing the abundant sunlight available in many African countries, Chinese projects have significantly increased the

availability of clean and reliable electricity, particularly in remote and underserved areas, Benjamin Mgana, chief editor of foreign news at The Guardian newspaper in Tanzania, told Xinhua.

AFFORDABLE GREEN SUPPLIER

Despite the West's continuous speculation of China's "overcapacity" in green industry, many Chinese NEV companies are driving an electric vehicle revolution in many parts of Africa, creating jobs and supporting a transition away from fossil fuels.

Kenya's startup BasiGo was the first company to launch electric buses in the country in March 2022, using parts designed by Chinese automaker BYD. Mutoro Sifuna, BasiGo's marketing director, emphasized the significant energy cost savings of electric buses compared with diesel ones. They plan to introduce and operate 1,000 electric buses by 2025.

The affordability and practicality of Chinese EVs make them appealing to African consumers, especially in urban areas where the demand for clean and efficient transportation is growing, said Mgana.

Adhere Cavince, a Kenya-based international relations scholar, echoed this view, high-

lighting that Chinese products are not only affordable and durable but also accessible. He emphasized that China's enhanced industrial value chains have made accessing these products easier for African consumers.

"As the largest source of green technologies and products, many African countries are now looking to China to access solar panels to power villages across the continent," he said.

The expert noted that Chinese companies have done sophisticated research on the needs, economic capabilities and opportunities of African consumers. This deepened insight has allowed them to tailor solutions that address consumer needs and expectations at the state, corporate and family levels.

This is evident in the success of Chinese companies in the electric motorcycle market in Africa. According to a recent report by Powering Renewable Energy, the African motorcycle market is expected to reach 5.07 billion dollars by 2027, with electric motorcycles becoming the dominant product in the transition to sustainable transport in sub-Saharan Africa.

ARC Ride, a start-up in Kenya, has based its R&D, assembly and sales locally, but some parts still need to be imported from China, India and Japan, with

China providing the majority. Spiro Electric Vehicles, another major player in African electric vehicles, signed a strategic cooperation agreement with a Chinese company in 2023 to sell 500,000 electric motorcycles over the next five years, covering emerging markets such as Kenya and Uganda.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

China has set the pace in international green cooperation with Africa, creating significant opportunities for African countries to advance sustainable development.

Over the years, China has implemented hundreds of projects to promote clean energy and green development on the continent. The installed capacity of photovoltaic power plants built by Chinese companies and Africa totaled over 1.5 gigawatts.

Mgana said China's expertise and investment in renewable energy technologies have provided African countries with the means to diversify their energy sources, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and move towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy solutions. Such collaboration with China has paved the way for technology transfers, capacity building, and the creation of jobs in the

renewable energy sector across Africa.

One example is Kenya's 55-megawatt Garissa Solar Power Plant, financed and constructed by Chinese firms. As the largest grid-connected solar power plant in East and Central Africa, it produces over 76 million kilowatt-hours annually, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 64,000 tons.

Moses Masika Wetangula, speaker of Kenya's National Assembly, said that with the power plant, Kenya has moved closer to achieving its clean energy transition goals.

"China's photovoltaic power station projects have made a substantial impact on solving local electricity problems in Africa," Mgana said. The photovoltaic projects have not only raised living standards by providing access to electricity but have also stimulated economic activity, he said.

The availability of stable electricity has enabled businesses to operate more efficiently, facilitated the development of local industries, and supported the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, Mgana said. "Moreover, the reduction in energy costs and the reliance on diesel generators have lowered operational costs for businesses, making the local economy more competitive."

Xinhua



Justin Thomas speaks during a news conference ahead of a practice round for the Tour Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, in Atlanta. (AP Photo)

Presidents Cup rosters filled minus Justin Thomas and a couple of Canadians

By DOUG FERGUSON

JUSTIN Thomas was left off an American team for the first time since 2016 when Presidents Cup captain Jim Furyk went with the next six players in the team standings, a list that included Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley.

International captain Mike Weir also faced tough choices to round out his 12-player roster on Tuesday, none greater than leaving two of his fellow Canadians, Nick Taylor and Adam Hadwin, off the team for the Sept. 27-30 matches at Royal Montreal.

Canada will have three players on the International team, made up of countries from everywhere outside Europe.

Thomas had the longest active streak among Americans playing the Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup. He relied on a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup last year when he didn't qualify for the PGA Tour's postseason. This time, he reached the Tour Championship but was No. 19 in the U.S. standings.

Furyk took two players rated above him, former British Open champion Brian Harman and Max Homa, even though neither made it to the Tour Championship and both have been in pronounced slumps all summer.

His other picks were Sam Burns, Tony Finau and Russell Henley, who joins Sahith Theegala as the only American on the 12-man team who has never played in a Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup.

"There are a bunch of guys that I would want on this team. It was a difficult decision with JT, definitely a difficult call to make," Furyk said. "But as a captain, you're trying to make the best decision, put the best 12 guys together, fit the puzzle pieces together, the pairings together."

Thomas has a 17-7-4 record in both cups dating to his debut in 2017 at the Presidents Cup.

Weir selected three Canadians – Corey Connors, Taylor Pendrith and Mackenzie Hughes – along with Si Woo Kim of South Korea, Min Woo Lee of Australia and Christiaan Bezuidenhout of South Africa.

Hughes was rated below Taylor and Hadwin and did not reach the BMW Championship. He was left off the last Presidents Cup team, even though Hughes is known for his putting and was a member at Quail Hollow, where it was held.

Weir began to choke up when talking about having to call Taylor and Hadwin with the bad news. Taylor etched his spot in Canadian lore when he won the Canadian Open last summer with an 80-foot eagle putt, and then followed that by winning the Phoenix Open in February.

"I respect those guys, I love those

guys. They're like brothers, they're Canadians," Weir said. "The toughest part of being a captain were those calls. I have a lot of respect for them and even have more respect for them now than they handled it."

The six qualifiers for the International team were Hideki Matsuyama, Jason Day, Tom Kim, Sungjae Im, Byeong Hun An and Adam Scott, the 44-year-old Australian who will be playing in his 11th straight Presidents Cup.

Scott has never been on a winning side. There was tie in his 2003 debut in South Africa, and the Americans have won the last nine in a row.

The six Americans who qualified were Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele, Collin Morikawa, Wyndham Clark, Patrick Cantlay and Theegala.

Bradley, appointed Ryder Cup captain in early July, already had agreed to be one of Furyk's vice captains. But then he qualified for the FedEx Cup playoffs, narrowly made it to the second stage and then won the BMW Championship.

"A guy that grinded it out and came up in big moments here at the end of the season, and that's what you want on your team," Furyk said.

He said Bradley would be at Royal Montreal strictly as a player, and that he would announce another assistant captain later. Bradley has said he is trying to make the Ryder Cup team next year at Bethpage Black.

He will become the first active Ryder Cup captain to play in the Presidents Cup.

Bradley is the only American captain's pick who won a tournament this year. Harman hasn't contended since The Players Championship in March, Homa not since the Masters in April.

Furyk said it was just happenstance that his picks were Nos. 7-12 in the Presidents Cup standings; they also were the top six available in the world ranking. He said he looked at a body of work and other factors that went beyond just this summer.

"I definitely don't want this to be about why one person was picked over another," he said. "I look at Max's attributes and look at how he's played the last two years – undefeated record in Charlotte, our best record last year in Rome. ... I also look at kind of the glue, a guy that pulls the team room together."

The Americans return eight players who were part of the losing Ryder Cup team on the road at Marco Simone last year, and seven players on the winning Presidents Cup team from 2022 at Quail Hollow.

The International team returns eight players from the last Presidents Cup at Quail Hollow.

AP

Leonel Ateba pledges goals and trophies for Simba SC in promising season ahead

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club's latest acquisition, striker Leonel Ateba, has set high expectations for the upcoming season, promising fans a goal-laden campaign filled with victories and titles.

The Cameroonian forward, speaking in Dar es Salaam, confidently assured supporters that this season will be one for the record books, with nothing less than championship crowns on the horizon.

Ateba, who joined Simba from USM Alger in Algeria, has wasted no time in making his presence felt. Despite initial concerns from some fans regarding his ability to adapt to Tanzanian football, Ateba dismissed these doubts, emphasizing that scoring goals is second nature to him.

"Scoring goals is something I'm used to. I was surprised to see some fans worried about me," he remarked, highlighting his self-assured approach to his role with the club.

The striker attributed his confidence and quick adaptation to the warm reception and camaraderie he has experienced both on and off the pitch with his new teammates.

"The love and cooperation from my teammates, both outside and inside the field, have been amazing. With their support, I see myself scoring many goals and breaking the records I set in Cameroon with Dynamo Douala," said Ateba, reflecting on his successful stint with the Cameroonian club before moving to Algeria.

Ateba made an immediate impact in his debut for Simba,



Simba Sports Club striker Leonel Ateba is pictured recently celebrating after scoring against Sudan's Al Hilal during the international friendly held at KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

scoring a goal in a friendly match against Sudan's Al Hilal. The match, which ended in a 1-1 draw, served as a promising preview of what fans can expect from the prolific forward.

"I have started my football journey in Tanzania with peace and happiness. In my first match, I scored against a big, tough team like Al Hilal. I will continue to train hard and prepare for our upcoming CAF Confederation Cup game against Al Ahly Tripoli. The game will be even better for the fans who saw me play against Al Hilal, and we will perform well," Ateba vowed, exuding determination.

In replacing the Ivorian forward Freddy Michael Kouablan, who departed Simba earlier in the season, Ateba

knows the expectations on his shoulders are immense. However, he remains unfazed by the pressure, reiterating his goal-scoring mission for the team. "I promise to continue scoring more goals, especially with Simba. I know football is not an easy game, but I came here to achieve results. Scoring goals makes me happy, but I will be even happier if Simba wins the match."

"What I want to tell Simba fans is to come to the field in large numbers every time we play to cheer us on. This season, we only want to win and lift titles, nothing else," Ateba declared, his words sure to resonate with the club's passionate supporters.

Ateba's arrival was eagerly anticipated by Simba's fan

base, especially after he missed the first two Premier League matches against Tabora United and Fountain Gate due to permit issues.

His first appearance in the friendly against Al Hilal, where he netted a goal in the 26th minute, has already endeared him to the fans, who now expect him to be a central figure in Simba's attack.

Simba's head coach, Fadlu Davids, has also expressed confidence in Ateba's ability to contribute significantly to the team's success this season. Davids revealed that Simba will continue their preparations with another friendly match scheduled for Saturday, September 7th, as part of their buildup towards the crucial CAF Confederation Cup tie against Al Ahly Tripoli.

This match, which will determine Simba's advancement to the group stages of the competition, is a priority for the club, and Ateba is expected to play a key role.

With the club's ambitions set high, the spotlight will undoubtedly be on Ateba as he strives to fulfill his promise of delivering goals and leading Simba to glory. As the new season unfolds, fans will be eager to see if Ateba can replicate his goal-scoring exploits from his previous clubs and help Simba reclaim their dominance on both domestic and continental fronts.

As the anticipation builds, one thing is clear: Ateba's journey with Simba is off to a promising start, and his goals could very well be the key to unlocking a season of triumphs for Simba.



Participants of the five-day grassroots football coaching course are pictured on Tuesday in a group photo. The course, held in Bagamoyo, Coast Region, and conducted by the Tanzania Football Federation, involves 27 participants. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

French fan support at Paralympics gives athletes hope for future of disability sport

PARIS

IT'S the end of the second set of a women's sitting volleyball match between the United States and France, and the French fans are letting loose.

They wave their tricolor flags in the flashing lights. Songs and cheers erupt from the packed stands at North Paris Arena. And yet, the French have just lost this set, 25-1.

Win or lose, the French fans are turning out and supporting the more than 4,000 Paralympians competing in Paris, especially their own team.

These Paralympics sold more than 2.3 million tickets as of Monday, the latest count, according to Paris 2024 organizers. That puts it at No. 2 all time in terms of ticket sales for a Paralympic Games, behind only London's 2.7 million in 2012, a moment generally regarded as a big victory in the disability sport community as it fights for visibility.

"We are surfing on the spirit of the Olympic Games, with crowds that embraced the spirit, and now we're having crowds embrace the Paralympic spirit," Etienne Thobois, director general of Paris 2024 said at a Saturday

news conference.

"It's a positive signal in a society that needs more positive signals," he said, noting the numbers were comparable to the Rugby World Cup in France last year.

Spectators have come from all around the world, but the most enthusiastic presence by far are the French themselves. Paralympic athletes, used to often competing with relatively few fans in the stands, have commented routinely on the buzz they're getting from playing in Paris.

"Paris fans are coming out hard and it's great," said Monique Matthews,

middle hitter for the U.S. sitting volleyball team and a three-time Paralympian. "I love the crowd. It just builds you up and it's just so exciting."

But what's even more important, Matthews said, is the wider impact of fans in the seats.

"It's really becoming a household name, where you say, 'The Paralympics,' and they actually know what you're talking about, so it's just amazing," she said. "And this Games is showing just how much it's growing."

While the French fans haven't let results get in the way too much, it's

fair to say they like winning.

Women's 100-meter freestyle swimmer Émeline Pierre received a frenzy of cheers on Sunday after she bested Canada's Aurélie Rivard by just 33 hundredths of a second to win gold in the S10 category for athletes with a range of leg impairments.

Manon Genest, a French long jumper competing in the T37 classification for people with coordination impairments, received a loud and sustained roar from the crowd at Stade de France after securing the bronze the night before. AP

Haaland 'can destroy any team in the world'

LONDON

FORMER Arsenal and Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas says players like Erling Haaland give team-mates belief "something special" will happen.

The 24-year-old striker scored his second consecutive hat-trick against West Ham at the weekend, his eighth three-goal haul in the Premier League. That leaves him just four behind the record of former City forward Sergio Aguero.

"For me, he is the number one striker in the world and, on his day, he can destroy any team in the world," Fabregas said on the Planet Premier League podcast.

"Before games in my career, there were only two players that I really felt, 'OK, these guys are gonna make a difference - they're gonna change the game or something is going to happen'. Even if we were losing or were struggling during the game: Thierry Henry and Lionel Messi.

"I'm sure Real Madrid players felt the same with Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester City with Aguero, Manchester United with Van Nistelrooy, but in my career, my feeling when I had these two players in front of me in the tunnel, I knew that 90% of the games they were going to do something special that will make us win the game.

"To have this sensation as a big club is really important. I'm sure that City players will have this feeling when they see Haaland stepping onto that field with them."

BBC

Palestinians face one of Asia's toughest soccer tests to start the 3rd round of World Cup qualifying

By JOHN DUERDEN

THE Palestinian team is closer to the World Cup than ever after reaching the third round of qualifying in Asia as one of the top 18 on the continent.

The next phase starts with one of the toughest possible soccer assignments in Asia, with the Palestinians taking on South Korea in front of 66,000 fans in Seoul on Thursday. The South Koreans have qualified for the past 10 World Cup tournaments, and were semifinalists in 2002.

The top two from each of the three groups in this Asian qualifier will claim six of the eight spots allocated to the Asian Football Confederation at the 2026 World Cup. The teams that finish third and fourth will go into a fourth round to compete for two more spots.

"Our goal is to be among the first four teams in the group, and we are capable of that," Makram Daboub, head coach of the Palestinian team, told The Associated Press. "I'm very happy to have reached this important stage, and I am very proud of the players, and it is the result of teamwork."

Facing South Korea and English Premier League talent such as Son Heung-min is a different challenge for the team ranked No. 96 in the world.

"Son is a very excellent player, but we are playing against the Korean national team and he also has other good players, so our focus is more on the group and playing with the best teams in Asia," Daboub said.

The other teams in Group B include Iraq, Jordan, Oman and Kuwait.

The Palestinians spent time in Malaysia preparing for their opening match and will return to Kuala Lumpur for next week's game against Jordan.

Daboub's squad is familiar with playing on the road.

The Palestinian team progressed through the second round of continental qualifying for the first time in its history in June but, because of the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, staged its "home" games in nearby Kuwait and Qatar.

Israel launched a major offensive in Gaza in response to an Oct. 7 Hamas attack into southern Israel in which around 1,200 people were killed and another 250 people were abducted.

The war is now in its 11th month and has killed more than 40,000 people, according to Gaza health officials.

"The situation is getting more difficult in all aspects," Daboub said. "What worries me most is, in addition to the psychological aspect as a result of the situation, there is also the physical condition of the players, because most of them are without clubs."

The game in Seoul is the first for Hong Myung-bo in his second spell as head coach of the South Korean team.

"I think the match is important for the national team, not for me personally," Hong, who resigned after the 2014 tournament in Brazil, said. "This is World Cup qualification."

The toughest qualifying group in Asia is Group C, which contains Japan, Australia and Saudi Arabia.

AP

Bolivia moves World Cup qualifier to even higher altitude, hoping to elevate performance

EL ALTO, Bolivia

BOLIVIA has always been a difficult place to play.

Now the challenge is even higher. Literally.

The men's national soccer team is hoping that hosting World Cup qualifiers at an altitude higher than ever will help it improve in the South American standings.

The Bolivians usually play in the capital La Paz at 3,640 meters (11,940 feet) above sea level, but the South American soccer body CONMEBOL has allowed them to move their games to El Alto, the second largest city in the country at an altitude of 4,150 meters (13,615 feet). That's as high as nine Empire State Buildings on top of each other.

With one win and five losses, Bolivia is second to last in the standings, and needs a win on Thursday against visiting Venezuela, which is fifth and coming off a quarterfinal run at the Copa America.

New Bolivia coach Oscar Villegas will make his debut after replacing Antonio Carlos Zago, who was fired in July after a winless Copa. Villegas hopes to exploit the higher altitude by picking a squad in which 80% of the players are used to



Villa Ingenio stadium stands in in El Alto, Bolivia, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024. (AP Photo)

the thinner air, including six from Always Ready club in El Alto, and six more from Bolívar in La Paz.

"Soccer is made of details. It does not mean that with this (changing stadiums) we are going to win," says Villegas, a former La Paz striker. "We are trying to take care of details that can allow us to be more effective."

"In El Alto, we are going to try to be as intense as possible and to let them know that they are on a new pitch where we have been unbeatable,"

Villegas said, referring to local teams playing there in club competitions such as Copa Libertadores and Sudamericana. "The psychological and emotional aspect also plays a role, it is something that is going to help us a lot."

El Alto Municipal Stadium opened only in 2017 and is considered a jewel in the Bolivian highlands. On its green grass, marked in white, is the phrase, "You play where you live."

Oval-shaped with seating for 24,000 spectators, the El Alto stadium

is smaller than the 40,000-seat Hernando Siles Stadium in La Paz. But El Alto's elevation is 560 meters (1,840 feet) higher.

The president of the Bolivian Football Federation, Fernando Costa, says the stadium is being trialed to see how the players respond, to determine if El Alto can become a permanent venue for home games.

Venezuela's home matches are at sea level, and it has not complained about the change of venue, but it is taking measures.

In a preliminary squad of 47 players, Venezuela coach Fernando Batista included some who are active in cities where the game is played at altitude, among them goalkeeper Alain Baroja from Bolivian club Always Ready. The Venezuelans are preparing by undergoing oxygen breathing exercises and acclimatization in hyperbaric chambers.

Not everyone agrees that first-class soccer should be played at high altitudes.

Tite, the coach of Brazilian club Flamengo,

says it is "difficult" to play at altitude after they lost to Bolívar 1-0 in La Paz two weeks ago in the Copa Libertadores last 16.

In 2007, FIFA criticized matches at the height of La Paz and ruled that international games could not be played above 2,750 meters. However, the next year FIFA backtracked after objections from Bolivia, where most stadiums are above that altitude.

"The field has been approved by CONMEBOL because it meets all the requirements they have requested," Edmundo Vargas, municipal sports director of El Alto, told The Associated Press.

But there is little research on playing soccer at more than 4,000 meters above sea level, as will occur on Thursday.

"We always recommend that any athlete have a prior evaluation before coming to altitude and an adaptation period," said Jesús Jiménez, a researcher at the Bolivian Institute of High-Altitude Biology.

He was skeptical about claims that the high-altitude gives Bolivia an advantage over other teams, noting that "Bolivia has lost before on its home ground."

Bolivia hasn't qualified for the World Cup since 1994.

AP

Fury within Premier League as Leicester escape punishment due to legal loophole

By Miguel Delaney

THERE is fury within the top two divisions of English football after a legal technicality ensured that Leicester City will escape a points deduction, in another blow to the Premier League's application of its Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR).

The club had previously been charged by the top flight for breaching the limit of £105m in losses over three seasons up to 2022-23, but Leicester's change of financial year from 31 May to 30 June 2023 following the season they were relegated saw the appeal board rule that they fell out of the Premier League's jurisdiction. This essentially meant the club fell into a grey area between the top two divisions.

Although the decision stated there was "nothing untoward" in the request to change financial dates, with the club having informed the Premier League as early as March 2023, it has brought strong emotion within the top two divisions.

The Premier League themselves declared they were "surprised and disappointed" at the decision, but much of the fury has been about the competition's enforcement of regulations.

A Leicester statement even made a point of saying that the appeal board - two of whom



Leicester City had an appeal upheld and will avoid punishment for an alleged breach of financial rules (Getty Images)

are former Court of Appeal judges - identified "flaws" in the drafting of the rules.

The club were always confident of their position, having initially informed the Premier League that the request to change dates was to "benefit from the summer transfer window in order to meet obligations under the PSRs". Leicester's statement stressed the consideration of "the wording which is actually used in the Premier League rules (in accordance with established principles of English law)".

The stance within the club is that they only ever asked for the rules to be applied as they are written. If not, the argument was made, they are

left open to interpretation. Leicester also internally argued they have future compliance to think of.

This is privately disputed by other senior football executives, who point to how a previous case with Sheffield Wednesday established the idea of business common sense in applying such regulations. This is what is known to have infuriated the Premier

League hierarchy, with the wording of their statement reflecting the belief that the decision overlooked the reality of the season.

Much of the anger within the top two divisions is nevertheless at the Premier League itself. As one senior official privately complained, "they were allowed to escape last season and blitz their way through the Championship". There is frustration that Leicester didn't sell more players on being relegated.

While that has brought some fury at the club, many rivals ultimately share their view that the decision has exposed "flaws". Football legal figures have compared them unfavourably to Uefa's rules, which are seen as much more watertight, especially on issues like "reporting perimeter". This covers issues like Chelsea's selling of assets to other

companies they own or the demarcation of costs between Manchester City and City Football Group.

Some clubs have expressed frustration that the Premier League never took repeated advice to set up independent panels and units to address such cases, with the argument being they would have prevented an example like this. Both Uefa and the English Football League have such panels.

That also points to perhaps the greater consequence of this case in terms of "meaning". Although the principles of PSR haven't been challenged, executives have spoken about how other clubs that have faced investigation - such as Manchester City, Everton, Chelsea and Nottingham Forest - will be watching this keenly.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

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Isaac Hayes is known for hits like Shaft, Walk On By and I Stand Accused. Agencies

Trump ordered to stop using Isaac Hayes' music

By Mark Savage

A US judge has ordered Donald Trump's campaign to stop using the song Hold On, I'm Coming at his rallies, in response to a lawsuit from the family of the song's co-writer, Isaac Hayes.

The Republican presidential nominee regularly plays the song before and after his speeches, including at the Republican National Convention in July.

However, Hayes' family have sued Mr Trump's campaign, saying that it repeatedly ignored requests to stop using the song, made famous by soul duo Sam and Dave in 1966.

The temporary ruling, by Judge Thomas Thrash in Georgia, means the campaign is banned from playing it again until the court case is settled.

However, the judge did not grant a request to order Mr Trump's campaign to take down recordings of past events in which it had used the song.

Hayes' son, Isaac Hayes III, welcomed the ruling, saying that his father, who died in 2008, would not have endorsed the former President.

"We have to take a stand that we want to separate ourselves from someone with Donald Trump's character," he said outside the Richard B Russell Federal courthouse in Atlanta, Georgia.

"This is not a political issue, this is a character issue."

Ronald Coleman, a lawyer for Mr Trump, said that the campaign had already agreed to "cease further use" of Hold On, I'm Coming (Mr Trump has returned to using the Village People's YMCA since the lawsuit was filed last month).

"We're very gratified that the court recognised the First Amendment issues at stake and didn't order a takedown of existing videos," Mr Coleman added.

He also suggested the case could be settled before coming to trial.

"Before we left court, we spoke to the to the Hayes' attorneys and to Mr Hayes III, about trying to work something out. We want this to be as a cooperative process as possible going forward," he told reporters.

Hayes composed the song in 1966 with Dave Porter, when he was a staff writer at Stax Records. He went on to become a Grammy and Oscar-winner in his own right, with hits like Shaft and Walk On By.

The star's estate claims that the Mr Trump's campaign used the song on 134 separate occasions after they first asked him to desist.

They are demanding \$3m (£2.4m) in licensing fees for the repeated use of the song between 2022 and 2024.

Mr Trump's lawyers argued that the Hayes estate was not the license holder for the song, and that it had permission to use it, a statement Hayes family lawyers said was "erroneous".

Dozens of other artists have objected to the use of their songs at Republican rallies, as the US Presidential election draws closer.

Abba, Foo Fighters, the White Stripes singer Jack White, Celine Dion and Johnny Marr have all raised objections in the last month alone.

However, musicians have only had limited success in stopping politicians from using their music, and legal proceedings often drag on for years.

A case from Guyanese-British singer Eddy Grant over Mr Trump's use of his song Electric Avenue is due to be heard in a Manhattan court this Friday, four years after the star's initial complaint.

The star sued Mr Trump over a 2020 campaign video that was soundtracked by a 40-second clip of his song.

The video was viewed 13.7 million times before Twitter took it down, and Grant says this was an unauthorised use for which Mr Trump owes him \$300,000 (£229,000) in damages.

As with the Hayes' case, lawyers for Mr Trump argue that the singer does not hold the copyright for his own song.

BBC

Simba vs Yanga Premier League derby now rescheduled to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium



Young Africans attacking midfielder Pacome Zouzoua (C) negotiates his way past Simba Sports Club defender Chamou Karaboue during their Community Shield semi-final derby held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium last month. Young Africans won 1-0. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE highly anticipated first-round clash of the Premier League between Tanzania's football giants, Simba SC and Young Africans, has undergone a significant change.

Initially slated to take place at the KMC Complex at Mwenge, Dar es Salaam, on October 19, the match will now be held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on the same day, with the kickoff time scheduled for 05:00 PM.

This adjustment was announced yesterday by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), which also revealed a series of changes to the overall Premier League schedule for the 2024/2025 season.

In a detailed statement, the TPLB explained the rationale behind the adjustments. "The Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has made improvements to the schedule of the NBC Premier League where it has scheduled dates for 14 games that did not have

dates in the previous schedule and made date changes in four (4) games," the statement read.

Additionally, the board has altered the kickoff times for two matches and changed the venue for one match. The adjustments were necessitated by the recent eliminations of Azam FC and Coastal Union from the CAF interclub competitions, allowing their matches to be rescheduled within the domestic league.

"The complete NBC Premier League schedule for the 2024/2025 season is

available on the website of the Tanzania Premier League Board (www.ligikuu.co.tz)," the statement further noted.

The changes notably impact Azam and Coastal Union, whose fixtures were initially left unscheduled to accommodate their participation in the CAF competitions. With their eliminations, the TPLB has now slotted their domestic league matches into the calendar.

Azam's rescheduled matches include encounters against KMC on September

19, Pamba Jiji on September 13, and Coastal Union on September 22. Additionally, Azam will face KenGold on October 29 and Singida Black Stars on November 3.

Coastal Union, on the other hand, will now meet Mashujaa on September 13, Namungo on September 17, Kagera Sugar on October 28, and Singida Black Stars on November 7.

The upcoming clash between Simba and Young Africans on October 19 will mark the second meeting between the two fierce rivals in less than three months.

The last time these titans of Tanzanian football faced off was in the semi-final of the Community Shield on August 8, where Young Africans emerged victorious with a 1-0 win.

Simba will be looking to avenge their previous losses, including a narrow 2-1 defeat to Young Africans in their last Premier League encounter on April 20, earlier this year.

The Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, known for its electrifying atmosphere during such high-stakes matches, is expected to be a cauldron of excitement as fans from both sides flock to witness what promises to be another thrilling chapter in this storied rivalry.

The adjustments made by the TPLB to the Premier League schedule reflect the board's commitment to ensuring a well-organized and competitive league season. As the 2024/2025 campaign progresses, the rescheduled fixtures, including the much-anticipated Simba vs. Young Africans showdown, are set to add further intrigue and excitement to Tanzania's top-flight football.

With the full league schedule now available online, fans can plan ahead and ensure they don't miss a moment of the action in what is shaping up to be a compelling season.

Coastal Union near completion of coaching team appointments

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

COASTAL Union are in the final stages of securing a new coaching team, with two potential candidates emerging as front-runners for the roles of head coach and assistant coach.

This comes as the club seeks to stabilize and strengthen its technical bench after parting ways with their previous coach, David Ouma, a few weeks ago.

According to sources within the club, the management is in advanced negotiations with two experienced coaches who have previously managed Premier League teams in Tanzania.

These coaches are Moalin Abdihamid, currently at Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC), and Zuberi Katwila, formerly with Mtbwa Sugar and Ihefu SC.

The insider revealed: "We are finalizing talks with Moalin Abdihamid to take over as the head coach, while Zuberi Katwila is being considered for the assistant coach position. We expect to conclude these discussions by the end of the week, allowing the new coaching duo to join the team as soon as possible."

The potential appointments of Moalin (pictured) and Katwila are seen as crucial for Coastal Union as the club aims to build on the foundations laid



by Ouma.

Last season, under Ouma's leadership, Coastal Union finished fourth in the Premier League standings, securing a spot in the CAF competitions and reaching the semifinals of the Federation Cup, where they were defeated by Azam FC.

When approached for comment, Katwila acknowledged Coastal Union's ambition and the opportunity that working with the club would represent. However, he remained tight-lipped about the ongoing negotiations.

"Coastal Union is a club with great potential, and joining them would be a significant step forward in my career. However, nothing is official at this stage, and I cannot comment further until the club makes an official announcement," Katwila stated.

Meanwhile, Coastal Union's training sessions continue under the temporary guidance of Dominique Niyonzima, who has been overseeing the team at their training camp in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.

Niyonzima, a FIFA technical advisor for Western countries, has been leading the training for about a week now, though the club has not made any official statement regarding his involvement or potential future with the team.

The Coastal Union management is reportedly eager to solidify their coaching staff to ensure continuity and maintain the team's competitive edge as the Premier League season progresses. The club's ambition is to avoid losing momentum despite their early elimination from international competitions.

"We need coaches who can pick up where the previous coach left off, ensuring that the team maintains its form and competitiveness before the league becomes more intense. Although we didn't progress in the international championship, we have high hopes for the domestic league," the source added.

Abdihamid, who is being targeted as Coastal Union's next head coach, has a strong coaching background, including a stint with Azam FC before joining KMC. Last season, he guided KMC

to a respectable fifth-place finish in the Premier League, showcasing his tactical acumen and ability to get the best out of his players.

On the other hand, Katwila's recent coaching journey has been less fortunate. After a challenging season with Mtbwa Sugar, which culminated in the team's relegation, Katwila parted ways with the club. Despite this setback, his previous success with other teams, including Ihefu SC, has kept him in the conversation for top coaching roles within the league.

Currently, Coastal Union are under the interim management of Joseph Lazaro, who led the team to a 1-1 draw against KMC in their opening league match. However, the club's management is eager to appoint permanent coaches to lead the team forward.

As Coastal Union look to finalize their coaching appointments, the club's supporters and stakeholders will be keenly watching for any official announcements.

The potential combination of Moalin's experience and Katwila's tactical insight could be the boost the team needs to navigate the challenges of the upcoming season and build on the successes of the previous campaign.

The coming days will be crucial as the club moves to solidify its technical bench and set the stage for a competitive Premier League season.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

