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Embrace indigenous crop seeds

# VP roots for peace, with polls closing in

*"This year should be a year of peace; people should live with love and stop hating one another"*

By Guardian Reporters

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has called upon Tanzanians to maintain the prevailing peace and national unity, in remarks during a New Year mass at the Blessed Maria-Theresa Ledochowska parish in the capital. Affirming that it is high time for Tan-

zanians to unite and avoid tribalism and hate politics, the VP urged people to work hard and use their knowledge and skills to improve families, communities and the nation as a whole.

He reminded people of voluntary payment of taxes; as it helps the government to achieve targeted develop-

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New Year prayers well under way at St Joseph's metropolitan Catholic Cathedral in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## SPORTS



**TAIFA STARS JETS OFF TO EGYPT FOR 2023 AFCON PREPS**

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**ARSENAL'S FULHAM DEFEAT RAISES QUESTIONS OVER STOMACH FOR TITLE FIGHT**

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## TRA collects 13.9trn/- in the last six months

December sets record with 3.05trn/-

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) col-

lected 13.92trn/- (97.98 percent) of the 14.21trn/- target in the first half of fiscal 2023/2024.

Alphayo Kidata, the TRA commissioner gen-

eral, said in a statement yesterday that the collection represents an increase of 11.5 percent from 12.49trn/- collected in the first half of fiscal 2022/23.

The increase arose from various strategies TRA is implementing, especially directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan, it said, noting that during the past month TRA recorded new a high in collections per month, with 3.05trn/-, being 102.99 percent of the goal of the 2.96trn/- goal set earlier.

The December collection was an increase of 9.2 percent from 2.79trn/- in December 2022,

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Residents of Dar es Salaam's Masaki suburb in joyous mood as they welcomed Year 2024. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## 'Issue more agro-sector funds, create seed banks'

By Carlos Banda

STAKEHOLDERS in the agriculture sector have suggested more investment in technology and measures to protect indigenous seeds, thus making the sector more productive.

They formulated these views following the end of year remarks by President Samia Suluhu Hassan where she cited the sharp

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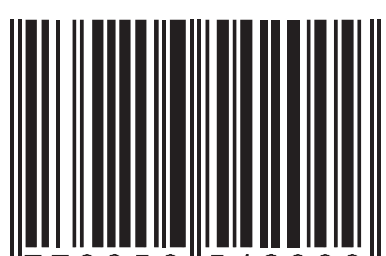
## 60 years: Mwinyi hints at restoring old railway line

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR is set to re-establish rail transport that existed up to the early 1960s, on the basis of remarks by President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi when laying a foundation stone of the construction of Kijangwani bus terminal in Zanzibar Urban region yesterday.

The terminal that is being built by the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) is one among highlights of marking 60 years since the January 12, 1964 revolution, with the president

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## VP roots for peace, with polls closing in

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ment goals, whereas public servants and leaders need to properly execute their duties by serving people diligently and ensuring justice to all.

He urged them to work with the fear of God, underlining that leaders should come up with policies and laws that are beneficial to the majority of Tanzanians. He laid emphasis on environmental conservation, urging people to avoid human activities that contribute to environmental destruction, including cutting down trees.

Tanzania is endowed with a beautiful and attractive landscape, hence the need to take care of it for the benefit of the present and future generations, he stated, hailing efforts of the sixth phase government to improve the provision of social services such as education, health, water and infrastructures.

During this year the government will elevate the rule of law, people's rights, democracy and good governance further, he stated, urging parents to make sure that all school-age children are enrolled this month.

In his New Year message, Bishop Liberatus Sangu of Shinyanga Diocese said at the Ngokolo parish in the municipality that Tanzanians need to adhere to religious teachings and avoid engaging in evil things but embrace love, peace and unity.

"This year should be a year of peace; people should live with love and stop hating one another," the prelate sermoned, appealing to Tanzanians to express gratitude for the blessings

received in 2023. He urged people to celebrate the New Year peacefully and build a culture of helping one another.

Addressing believers at the church, regional police commander Janeth Magomi said the police force had already prepared to heighten security during the festive season, appealing to the public to collaborate with the police by sharing information on any signs of breaching the peace.

Rev. Martine Kihyo of the 'Risen Christ' parish in Muheza District, Tanga Region, called upon believers to care for one another in 2024, airing the conviction that having regard for one another is crucial in ensuring the country's peace.

Rev. John Ndimbo of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) also at Muheza, urged Tanzanians to maintain prayers for national leaders, highlighting that during the current year the church plans to implement various development projects.



**This year should be a year of peace; people should live with love and stop hating one another**



Police spokesperson David Misime (2nd-L) is briefed yesterday on digital gadgets only recently acquired and deployed as a way of helping the force to work with enhanced speed, efficiency and precision. He was on a routine tour of Songwe Region. Photo: Correspondent Issa Mwadangala

## 'Issue more agro-sector funds, create seed banks'

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increase in government funds for agriculture for fiscal 2023/2024.

In separate interviews, they said that despite the strides made by the government to increase funding for the sector's growth and performance, it is important to invest in technology to ensure Tanzania's agriculture becomes more productive.

Vianey Rweyendela, country manager at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) said that the key to foster agricultural development is through public spending and investment as it creates grounds for the private sector's entry into the sector.

When President Samia assumed office agriculture spending stood at 570bn/-, rising to 751bn/- in the pre-

vious financial year and 970bn/- this financial year, he said, noting that the increase in funding has also heightened food security.

Affirming that the increase in food security relates to population increase, he stated that food security alone will not make the sector become productive. Instead, heavy investments in technology and issuance of subsidies need to be accompanied by training for agro-extension officers by refresher programmes on procurement, soil fertility, soil health and other interventions vital for farm productivity, he explained.

Without improving productivity, Tanzania will be unable to build the potential to compete in foreign markets with heavy investments in the sector, he said, while David Manongi, a seed expert at the Tanzania Alli-

ance for Biodiversity (TABIO), said the boost in funds will aid the development of indigenous seeds.

They will be owned by farmers, aided by formulating a National Plant Genetic Resource Act (NPGRA) to protect the rights of farmers in the ownership of local seeds, the expert asserted, suggesting that the current 970bn/- agro-sector spending level will help in drawing up such legislation.

In protecting the rights of local farmers to own indigenous seeds, the increment will help in conducting research on what crops grow and perform well, he stated, affirming that the increase in agro-sector spending will help create a seed bank at district and ward levels across the country.

This will require a seed emergency response plan as a tool to cater for the needs of farmers especially during

emergencies like floods and mudflow, he stated, whereas Geoffrey Kirenga, CEO for the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) had earlier projected on the issue.

He said that by 2030 SAGCOT partners seek to bring 350,000 hectares of land into profitable production, move 100,000 small-scale farmers to commercial farming, creating 420,000 jobs. This will quite likely lift 20m people out of poverty and generate \$1.2bn in annual farming revenue, reflecting efforts by the government to push Tanzania's commitment to commercial agriculture.

This will create income opportunities for small farmers in rural and urban areas, making it possible to make the country a regional food basket by 2030, he added.

## TRA collects 13.9trn/- in the last six months

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it said, noting that the results reflect implementation of the agency's sixth strategic plan as among factors contributing to an increase in revenue collection.

TRA set up a new department for medium and small taxpayers, enabling the provision of better services to different groups of taxpayers, it said, affirming that an improved business environment countrywide contributed to a rise in investments, industrial production and importation of goods.

The achievements were also linked with on-going improvements in tax management systems for customs and excise duties, resulting in increased efficiency, it said, noting that providing tax payer education on using electronic fiscal devices (EFD) and electronic tax stamps (ETS) brought positive responses for improvement in collec-

tions.

The statement appealed to taxpayers and the general public to maintain voluntary compliance with tax law requirements, including submitting returns and paying taxes on time, issuance of electronic receipts for every purchase and verification of electronic tax stamps before sale or purchasing.

The CEO said TRA was bent on fostering better relations with taxpayers, building close cooperation and a friendly environment in tax administration procedures.

By working closer with taxpayers, it is easier to find solutions to emerging challenges, and consider various views in improving tax administration.

TRA efforts position the agency to succeed in collecting 28.35trn/- in the current financial year, enabling the government to attain its social services goals for the public as a whole.

## 60 years: Mwinyi hints at restoring old railway line

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raising the recollection that there was a railway line operating during that period.

Narrating some aspects of the history of Zanzibar during the colonial period he said that Zanzibar was the first country in East Africa to introduce the steam locomotive, as Sultan Barghash bin Said had built a seven-mile railway line from his palace at Stone Town to Chukwani in 1879.

Its initial two Pullman cars were hauled by mules but in 1881 the Sultan ordered a 0-4-2T locomotive from the English locomotive builders Bagnall, with the railway seeing service until the Sultan died in 1888 when the track and locomotive were scrapped.

In 1905, an American company Arnold Cheyney built a seven-mile line from the Stone Town to Bububu village, with chroniclers saying it was notorious for its ability to set fire to property and the surrounding countryside. It ran for 25 years until its closure in 1930.

He said the Kijangwani bus terminal is a meeting place for people to wait for transport, so the time has come to build spots for departures and arrivals for buses like it is done elsewhere.

Zanzibar is a part of the world, so it is time to adapt to development and have

modern bus stations and car parking areas so that the Zanzibar city has a good outlook, he stated.

Dr Mwinyi asked ZSSF to consider building another station at the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital to improve public transport orderliness in entering and leaving the city, to remove traffic congestion.

The projects being built by ZSSF will increase the fund's income and increase the confidence of the people that their money is in a safe place, he said, while Nassor Shaaban Ameir, the ZSSF managing director, said the project is an investment aimed at helping the community in increasing their daily income and improving community services.

The project is expected to return investment funds within seven years, linking the breadth of bus transport routes in Unguja Island, with the station having the capacity to park 80 buses at any moment, priced at 8.6bn/- until its completion.

The payment disbursed to the contractor stands at 3.05bn/- with building work starting in May 2023 and projected for completion two months from now. The bus terminal will be installed with security gadgets, shops, private offices and various social services, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango participates in New Year prayers at a Catholic Church in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: VPO

TOKYO

## Major earthquake hits Japan

A FORMIDABLE earthquake struck central Japan on Monday, resulting in the loss of at least one life, widespread building destruction, power outages in tens of thousands of households, and compelling residents in coastal regions to seek refuge on higher ground.

The seismic event, boasting a preliminary magnitude of 7.6, generated approximately 1-meter-high waves along Japan's west coast and adjacent South Korea. Authorities have cautioned that more significant waves may ensue, heightening concerns for the affected regions.

The Japan Meteorological Agency

(JMA) promptly issued tsunami warnings for the prefectures of Ishikawa, Niigata, and Toyama. Initially, Ishikawa faced a major tsunami warning - the first since the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan - but this was subsequently downgraded. Russia and North Korea also issued tsunami alerts for specific areas.

As rescue operations intensify, the aftermath is revealed with houses reduced to rubble, fires raging, and military per-

sonnel mobilized to assist. Government spokesperson Yoshimasa Hayashi conveyed that authorities are diligently evaluating the extent of the damage.

Regrettably, one elderly man lost his life in Shika Town, Ishikawa, following a building collapse, as reported by broadcaster NTV, citing local police.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, addressing the press, affirmed that search and rescue teams have been instructed to exert every effort to save lives. How-

ever, the challenging access to quake-hit areas, owing to blocked roads, poses a considerable obstacle.

The earthquake-prone region, experiencing seismic activity for over three years, faces the looming possibility of additional strong quakes in the coming days, warns JMA official Toshihiro Shimoyama. The situation remains dynamic, emphasizing the ongoing need for vigilance and swift response in the face of the unfolding crisis.



By Guardian Correspondent, Ukerewe

# Ukerewe resident hands over his 15-bedroom house to police

A TOTAL of 6000 residents of Ukerewe island in Mwanza Region are expected to benefit from safety services after a man who is a native of the area, Nyamitere Ugunya, handed over a house to accommodate a police station.

The 15-bedroom house with more than is expected to undergo renovation, which will suit a modern police post including sewerage systems.

Speaking to residents of the Island, Mwanza Regional Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa said the coming of the police station in the area will address security challenges facing residents in the area.

He used the opportunity to request the owner of the house to finalize renovation timely so that the police start operating in Isles by the end of January 2024. "Let me commend residents of this area for accepting to bring police services in the area so that we bring police officers in this area as soon as possible," he said.

However, residents of the island

told the RPC of the challenges they are facing and asked the government to resolve them, such as extreme acts of moral erosion, drunkenness, and others.

The resident also asked the police to fast-track the construction of the station early so that the challenges are resolved including controlling illegal entrance of fishermen from neighbouring countries.

bouring countries.

"When we enter the lake to fish, we are harassed because of our vessels, for example, we are asked what kind of nets we are using," said Swai Somba.

Another resident, Kemelo Matiku said on several occasions, they have been harassed by fishermen and Ugan-

dan soldiers who have been arresting them and sometimes confiscating their nets and fish.

Chairman of the Advisory and Sustainable Fishing Committee for Lake Victoria, Bakari Kadabi said, from January 2024 the government expects to set limits in the lake which will help

fishermen to know the side of Tanzania and Uganda.

"The government has planned from January to put buoys on the border between Tanzania and neighbouring countries, so the problem of entry is going to end completely, but I ask the fishermen to be honest, there is no reason to go fishing on the Ugandan side when we have many places to fish," emphasized Kadabi.

However, Commander Mutafungwa has announced plans to carry out ambitious and continuous operations in Lake Victoria and other areas to eradicate crime and strengthen security and safety in all areas.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko pictured in Bukombe, Geita Region, yesterday addressing elders and religious leaders from various denominations chiefly with respect to the advent of the New Year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde

## Natepe's family says media report on Mwinyi 'made-up'

THE family of the former Minister of Home Affairs, the late Abdalla Saidi Natepe has described the social media suggesting that he forcibly removed former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi from a government house in early 1980s soon after he had taken over as minister in the docket is fabricated.

Natepe had succeeded Mwinyi who was later elected as president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Natepe's family spokesperson, Ismael Saidi, said over the weekend they have read the news on social media with sadness, adding that the family - did not understand the motive behind such fabrication which according to him has been circulating every time an election and the Zanzibar Revolution commemoration approaches.

"Our father was home affairs min-

ister when the founding father of this country, Julius Nyerere was still president, we were born and brought up in Upanga in Dar es Salaam since 1977 and up to now we are in Upanga," he said adding that they had never lived in Oysterbay where the said house is located.

He said such information is being fabricated to tarnish the image of the family and warned those behind it to immediately stop it before the full force of the law takes its course.

He said the family has been working in collaboration with the police and other law enforcement agencies to trace people behind the fabrication and circulation of such misleading in-

formation which he said promotes division among people to people.

A quick look on the home affairs ministry's website shows former president Mwinyi served as minister in the docket between 1975 and 1976 while the late Natepe served between 1980 and 1983.

In his book the 'Journey of My Life' former president Mwinyi wrote that he was residing in Oysterbay before a cabinet reshuffle took place and he was moved from the Natural Resources ministry to the ministry responsible for union matters, a move which saw him move from the house and hand it to newly appointed minister.

## Clerics urged to encourage good morals amongst people

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Doto Biteko has underscored the need for religious leaders to continue condemning shameful acts since they are respected in the society and their messages reach many people.

Biteko made the remarks during his meeting with religious leaders which was attended by government officials and leaders of the ruling CCM held at Ushiroambo in Bukombe District, Geita Region on Sunday.

The meeting, aimed at exchanging ideas and thanking God for the year 2023 was presided by Mbogwe District Commissioner, Sakina Mohamed who is also acting as the DC for Bukombe.

"As the government, we are grateful to the elders in Bukombe and religious leaders for the great cooperation in implementing our duties. It is the right time for us to thank God for all the blessings. Since you are the ones staying with people all the time, you are in a good position to advise us on where we can improve for the betterment of the people in Bukombe," said the Deputy Premier.

He explained the various development projects implemented by the government in the District which includes construction of schools, health centres, hospitals, roads and power distribution.

He promised the residents that the government will continue to work on challenges facing them to ensure improved social services.

Biteko called upon Tanzania to love each other in 2024 and embrace forgiveness as the government continues to ensure they have access to quality social services.

"We will ensure that children have access to quality education while residents enjoy travelling on better roads. Medical services are also improving as more dispensaries and health centres have been constructed," said Biteko urging the residents to maintain the newly constructed schools and health facilities.

Meanwhile, the elders commended the government for the various efforts in improving health and education services. They also applauded the DPM for explaining to them the various development plans for Bukombe District, insist-

ing that improvement of social services would contribute to the country's economic growth.



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## 'Deliver to the public before going seeking votes in local govt election'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE ruling CCM in Tanga region has said that during the coming local government elections, the party will not campaign for candidates who are not marketable to voters.

Party's regional chairman, Rajabu Abdallah made the remarks yesterday when speaking at Kange ward in Tanga region.

He insisted that there were no challenges in the region between party and government leaders, noting that despite the collaboration to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's development agenda, Abdallah said the party will not campaign for people who have failed to deliver.

Abdallah said in the coming elections, the party was determined to win all the elective positions from village leaders, saying the aim is to make the region a CCM base.

"We have entered 2024, we are going to the Local government elections, we will not lose villages and wards, please let me assure you that you have a good captain who will lead you during the exercise," said Abdallah.

He said it is the time to choose people who will make the party win the elections and lead the government in the coming five years.

"The party in Tanga will not work with people who have failed to deliver, there are those who have been in lead-

ership for five years, we will do enough research to find out who is better positioned to make the party great," said the chairman.

He also added that back in the previous elections, there were mistakes that happened to keep people who have failed to deliver, thus tarnishing the image of the party," he said.

He emphasized that unity and solidarity are the key things to make the party strong ahead of the General Elections in 2025, adding that leaders at lower levels must ensure that all the party manifestos are implemented.



**We have entered 2024, we are going to the Local government elections, we will not lose villages and wards, please let me assure you that you have a good captain who will lead you during the exercise**



Siti Abbas Ali, a Community Development, Gender and Childrens director with the Zanzibar government, sensitises residents of Kitogani in Unguja at the weekend on the need for them to form groups as a way of expediting efforts to empower them, including economically. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Give people a hearing when deciding their development'

By Guardian Reporter

CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland), Abdulrahman Kinana yesterday said that it's time for the government to be people-centred when deciding development.

Kinana made the remarks when speaking to CCM members and Mtama Constituency residents in Lindi region after launching the Majengo Sokoni party branch.

He said that although there are representatives of the people, including parliamentarians, and councillors, they do not have the power to change the current situation, so it is important that the people get more power to participate in deciding the things that are important to them.

Kinana said one time he was party secretary general and the then party Ideology and Publicity Secretary; Nape Nnauye went to Ngorongoro District and held a meeting.

"When we were there, if you looked at me, you would have asked me, I would have said that the people need water, but when we asked the people, they said that their problem is not water, but the telephone network.

"You can see that you go to a place thinking that people's problem is school, its water, but their problem is something else entirely, so we must involve the people.

"In deciding the things that concern their lives, we should not take the responsibility of thinking about them, we should not take the authority of decid-

ing for them. It is good to sit with the people and talk to them so that they can tell us what they need at what time and for what reason," said Kinana.

He explained that if you tell the people today to volunteer to build roads, they can tell you that they want schools first, and listen to what their desire is.

He emphasized that this makes him think that the basic things concerning the development of the people must be ordered by the people and must come from the people. The MPs see a good thing, the district council sees a good thing, but they have no decision about it.



**When we were there, if you looked at me, you would have asked me, I would have said that the people need water, but when we asked the people, they said that their problem is not water, but the telephone network**

## KACU supports orphanage centre in Shinyanga Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

KAHAMA Central Cooperative Union (KACU) in Shinyanga Region has celebrated the New Year festival by remembering children at New Hope Centre with a variety of food and non-food items worth 1m/-.

Tano Nsabi, chairman of the cooperative, handed over the gifts yesterday saying that the items will help bring smiles and hope to the children.

"This is part of the Union's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by giving back to the community part of the profit earned through selling of various crops such as tobacco, cotton and others and we are happy to share what we have with the children," he said.

He named the donated items as rice, beans, flour, soaps, exercise books, soft drinks and sugar calling on other groups in the society to develop a culture of visiting needy people extending their hands of support.

Nsabi however urged leaders of the

centre to ensure that children, especially who are going to school, attend the classes supporting them to achieve all their daily academic duties to enable them attain their dreams.

Seleman Juma, the centre's director thanked the association for its generous support to the children saying that the gifts will greatly bring smiles to school children and all others.

He said the lives of the children at the centre depend on aid from various supporters and assured that all the gifts received at the centre have been used properly to bring changes to the children.

Speaking on behalf of the children, Salome Godfrey thanked the union for remembering them bringing a lot of items which will greatly help the children to stay well.

She however asked other people and groups to extend their support at the centre and help them with school supplies such as exercise books, uniforms and other tools which are important.

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has predicted heavy rains in coastal regions in a five day weather forecast.

In a statement issued yesterday, TMA cited Dar es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro regions, Mafia Island as well as Lindi and Mtwara regions are likely to receive substantial rains in the next two days, urging residents to take precautions as the rains may affect weather sensitive activities.

In some areas the rains may cause floods and disrupt regular services, with Dar es Salaam largely expected to feel impacts of heavy rain as has extensive areas with poor drainage systems, it said, promising daily weather updates to keep the public informed.

"We encourage everyone to stay vigilant and follow any advisories issued by local authorities," the statement

# TMA warns on fresh round of downpours

reiterated as in earlier dispatches, focusing on the potential dangers associated with heavy rainfall, including flash floods, landslides and infrastructural damage.

In August, TMA announced that most parts of the country were set to receive "above normal to normal rains" during the late year and early months season, influenced by EL-Nimo conditions since mid-last year.

The end year rain scenario is characteristic of areas that receive rains twice yearly, which includes the north-eastern highlands and parts of the eastern

Lake Victoria basin.

The regions are Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, southern part of Simiyu, northern part of Rain has been falling steadily on Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast (including Mafia Island), parts of Morogoro Region together with Unguja and Pemba islands.

"Normal to above normal" rains were anticipated over Mara, northern parts of Simiyu Region, Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions.

A few weeks ago, more than 80 people died and hundreds of households destroyed as mudslide swept through

Katesh town in Hanang District in Man'yara Region following overnight heavy rains, with a slice of Mount Hanang collapsing.

The raging mud covered homes and anything that stood in its way like cattle and household properties, an incident that prompted President Samia Suluhu Hassan to cut short her Dubai trip and rush back to meet with the victims and smoothen relief efforts.

The president was in Dubai to attend the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) which kicked off November 30.



Masta Shangwe (R) from Vodacom Tanzania Plc presents New Year gifts at the weekend to one of the beneficiaries of the company's free health insurance covers at Arusha city's Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital. Through its ongoing 'Sambaza Shangwe, Gusa Maisha' drive, the firm has handed over one-year comprehensive insurance cards gratis to 200 mothers and their children. Photo: Guardian Correspondent





Muheza district administrative secretary Mohamed Mfaki (2nd-L) pictured at the weekend presenting foodstuffs and various other items, all being President Samia Suluhu Hassan's New Year gifts to Msufini Elders Home. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Nineteen children born during New Year's Eve

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

NINETEEN children were born during the eve of the New Year at the Dodoma region referral hospital with the health of their mothers being safe.

Juma Masoud, nursing officer at the hospital said that out of the children who were born in the 24 hours of the New Year eve were in better health.

"We thank God that there were safe deliveries during the new year eve and we are even grateful that their health are all safe," he said, noting that they are grateful to the ministry of health for bringing equipment to the hospital that helps their work to be done easily and safely.

Masoud said the government has invested heavily in the healthcare sector, saying the public should not hesitate to seek medical care at the facility because most of the key services are being offered.

He explained that the parents are expected to be released at any time due to the fact that their health and that of the children are good.

However, he said they continue to provide services to other patients who are in the hospital, including pregnant women and ordinary patients.

Likewise, he insisted that mothers should attend clinics so that they can give birth safely when the time comes.

He said there has been a habit of mothers' especially in rural areas to wait to go to the clinic until the time of delivery arrives, which is very dangerous for their health and the child.

However, he said society should educate pregnant women on the importance of attending clinics before giving birth.

*"We thank God that there were safe deliveries during the new year eve and we are even grateful that their health are all safe"*

## Trucks carrying soybean cake from Malawi stuck at Kasumulu border

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

OVER 40 trucks carrying soybean cake from Malawi have been stuck for over two weeks at the Kasumulu border in Kyela District, Mbeya Region after the Tanzanian government banned importation of soybeans and its products.

The Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) has banned import of soybeans from Malawi for allegedly having dangerous virus that are great threat to soybean production.

Speaking to journalists at the weekend here, some of the drivers asked the government to help them as they have spent many days without knowing their fate.

"There are over 80 people including drivers and others supporting workers here who have been affected by this problem, we don't know what to do and now we are running out of cash to support us," said Swalehe Yusuph, one of the drivers.

Meshack Mwakipesile, on his part said that he was surprised when he reached at the border post being told to not continue with journey directing him to take the truck to the parking lot.

"We when I queried why I they are stopping me, I was told that my cargo has dangerous virus which if allowed to enter Tanzania will spread and affect production of soybeans in the country, so we are here stuck and counting losses," he said.

He said that due to the difficult conditions of life, they are forced to sleep in the cars but at the same time being afraid of their health.

"The government says that this cargo is harmful, now we are wondering if it true then we, who sleep in these cars can't get harmed. And how does our government look after us," asked Mwakipesile.

Another driver, Kisingi Shaban asked the agriculture minister to help them by ordering the cargo to be offloaded instead of stopping the whole car something which thwart the drivers to continue with other business.

"We have witnessed in other borders where if there is something wrong, drivers are directed to offload the cargo and continue with their journey instead of baring both the cargo and trucks, this is so hurtful and we don't even have some cash to buy food, we are living a very difficult life," he explained.

This paper came across with a letter signed by TPHPA director general Prof Joseph Ndunguru emphasizing the cargo to not be allowed to enter Tanzania.

However speaking through mobile phone, Prof Ndunguru admitted to issue the ban and that they are now conducting an assessment of the virus which are now spread in Malawi.

He insisted that once the assessment is complete, they will allow the residues to enter the country calling on the drivers to continue waiting and be patient.



**We have witnessed in other borders where if there is something wrong, drivers are directed to offload the cargo and continue with their journey instead of baring both the cargo and trucks, this is so hurtful and we don't even have some cash to buy food, we are living a very difficult life**



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## 'Embrace native seeds, agro-ecological practices to produce enough tasty food'

By Getrude Mbago

SMALLHOLDER farmers have been encouraged to embrace indigenous seeds and agro-ecological practices in order to produce enough and tasty foods while also protecting the environment.

Janet Maro, executive director of Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) made the call recently when speaking during the 10th Agro-ecological Forum, Seed Fair, and Organic Food Festival held in Morogoro.

She said that traditional seeds are strong and drought resistant, so it was better to promote the use of the seeds for sustainable and profitable farming.

According to her, apart from various practices, challenges of climate change can be addressed through production and promotion of indigenous foods.

"Seeds are key inputs to a farmer and we need to safeguard them. We need to now focus on organic foods which will also help us remain healthy but also overcome impacts brought by climate change," she said.

The director said due to various initiatives done by the organisation and other partners, farmers in Morogoro and many parts are now shifting to organic farming, embracing indigenous seeds and foods for their health and development.

She said the forum and seed fair was an important platform of sharing knowledge on seed diversity towards food security which go a long way in addressing challenges of over-relying on one variety of crops.

She said that SAT has invested heavily in agro ecological technologies by promoting organic farming and smart livestock keeping which are cost-effective and protect nature.

"We have been working to instil organic farming knowledge and skills among the groups in various areas in the country, promoting natural and conservation farming which eventually helped to improve income," she asserted.

According to her, through various formed cooperative unions, thousands of farmers in various villages have been working in synergy to produce various crops including species and selling them to near and distant markets.

Janet said that the organisation has also been cooperating with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to conduct participatory research by closely engaging farmers and pastoralists from the beginning to the end of the studies.

She further added that SAT has been organising workshops every year to provide a platform for young researchers, research supervisors, farmers and pastoralists to work together focusing on existing problems, particularly those related to sustainable land management, marketing, crop and livestock production and nutrition.

Mercy Meena, a farmer from

Mayanga village in Lubungo ward of Mvomero district said the seed fairs are key as they give farmers the platform to interact and exchange ideas on other varieties of crops.

Mercy who used to focus only on growing maize and sunflower now says through the seed fairs and close support from SAT she has been able to embrace other crops and a variety of vegetables.

"When we interact with other farmers through the seed fairs we get to learn a lot. This is a great milestone towards food security as we can now grow a variety of crops, we are so thankful for the great support from the SAT team who have been with us for years now helping farmers to engage in conservation agriculture," she said.

Johnson Nyingi, assistant director, government businesses coordinator in regions from the President's Office (Regional Administrative and Local Government (PORALG) commended SAT for investing heavily in promotion of organic farming and agro-ecological practices which has greatly help farmers and pastoralists overcoming the increasing impacts of climate change.

He said SAT was doing a great job helping farmers recognize the potential in the agriculture sector while also attracting Tanzanians to change their lifestyles especially in farming and eating healthy.

He said that the agriculture sector is currently facing various challenges due to climate change, something that needs more innovative and sustainable practices to overcome them.

"We all know how much climate change has greatly affected nature and now one of the important measures to overcome them is through conserving nature which include farming organically to protect the soil but also produce quality food with no chemicals," he said.

Nyingi urged Tanzanians to utilise opportunities available in organic farming as recent surveys have confirmed that natural grown food products have high demand inside and in the international markets.

According to him, due to various efforts, even the area (plot) where organic farming is conducted has increased with farmers also going up where he thanked SAT for supporting the initiative.

"We commended SAT for organizing this forum which has brought together farmers, livestock keepers and stakeholders from various parts to further strengthen collaboration in the fight against climate change by promoting agro-ecological practices," he added.

The forum brought together participants from various parts with some of them exhibiting traditional seed varieties namely, pumpkin, soybean, sunflower, papaw, okra, cowpea, chickpea, and sesame.

conducted by caregivers in the country and it recognises the challenges that they are facing to support the children with special needs," he added.

Speaking when receiving the gifts, Marieta Muyegi, the Children's Home leader thanked President Samia for the valuable gifts and her love to the children.

"We recognise the big job which the government is doing to improve people's lives and bring smiles to communities, many children's homes are now operating smoothly as the government has put in a conducive environment and policies," she said.

She said that the children were so happy as they are celebrating New Year with the valuable gifts from the President and that they will always pray for God to protect her.

"We thank God for always granting our President good health and now she has been able to support us with these gifts, we will always pray for her," said Florentina Mbisha, one of the children.

Earlier, President Samia donated food and meat worth 4.3m/- to two orphanage homes of St. Gabriel which is taking care of children whom their parents are serving their sentences in jail and another orphanage is Dhi Nureyn which is located in Ngaramtoni, Arumeru District.

The gifts include rice, sugar, flour, beans, edible oil, juices, biscuits and goats.



Construction of sewage system in progress yesterday at Mwakapangala in Mbalizi town along the 29-km four-lane section of road being built from Nsalaga in Mbeya city to Songwe International Airport. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Address GBV cases, Zanzibar govt urged

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA, Zanzibar) has called for government intervention in addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents as the Isles reports 150 per month.

According to a report by the Zanzibar government's chief Statistician, in October, 2024 alone there were 199 cases while in November a total of 172 incidents were reported.

In an annual Tamwa-Zanzibar report which was issued on Sunday,

Tamwa-Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa said compared to the incidents in 2022, where 1361 incidents were reported, the number may be higher in 2023 due to highly monthly recordings.

She said the increase must be dealt with in two different sides which are the legal side and the societal side in which it can be analysed on who is performing their responsibilities as it is required.

She said Tamwa-Zanzibar recommends that law enforcement agencies should ensure justice is delivered by making sure that all

culprits are brought to book.

"The government should ensure that law enforcement officers should be dealt with according to laws when they implement their duties," she said.

She said society should fight acts of humiliation and provide education to people in vulnerable groups so that the acts are controlled to protect victims, especially children and women.

According to the report of the NBS Zanzibar for the month of November, out of 172 incidents, only one incident was brought to court, a situation that

needs to be properly looked into.

She said another challenge is the lack of effective application of the law, for example the evidence law No. 9 of 2016 which has allowed the use of electronic evidence but it is still not used properly and thus risking the loss of files and causing inconvenience to witnesses, especially children and people with disabilities.

"Therefore, we call on the law enforcement agencies to increase the speed of investigation and invest in technology to listen to complaints and give relief to minors," she said.



Mara regional commissioner Said Mtanda (2nd-L, seated, in red shirt) has a word with journalists in Musoma municipality at the weekend. Among other things, he underscored the need for public servants to cooperate with the media in facilitating the flow of newsworthy information. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Supervise, protect fruits of Zanzibar Revolution, minister pleads

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DR Khalid Salum Mohamed, Zanzibar's Minister for Works, Communication and Transport, has called on the citizens to supervise and protect the fruits of the revolution for the country's development.

Speaking during the laying of a foundation stone for the construction of Mkwajuni Market, Dr Khalid said the foundations and fruits of Zanzibar's Revolution are essential and should be protected for them to benefit the current and future generations.

He said it is a responsibility of every citizen to protect development projects for them to last long and help people help in getting rid of the difficult situation of life.

The minister also asked farmers, breeders and fishermen to make good use of crop production resources which include adhering to experts' advice thus having better yields and help youth to secure jobs in the market.

He emphasized that cooperation was important in the country in order to be able to move forward and have a strong nation.

"Before the Revolution, people were living in classes and discrimination, so the Revolution came to remove those classes making people value and respect each other," Dr Khalid said.

In addition, he said the 8th phase government under the leadership of President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has made great efforts for development, including construction of quality roads, district and regional hospitals, schools and water projects.

Issuing a technical report on the construction of the market, Issa Mahfoudh Haji, the Permanent

secretary in the President's Office Regional Administration Local Governments and Special Departments, Zanzibar said the market will be used by traders and entrepreneurs including auction of various crops.

Unguja North regional commissioner, Rashid Hadid Rashid wanted citizens to utilise well the newly constructed market and stop conducting business in restricted and informal areas.

The market, with its construction started in March, 2023 and expected to be completed in May, 2024 has spent over 300m/- for the current level.



# UN deploys peacekeepers in CAR following massacre

By Caitlin Williams

THE United Nations (UN) deployed peacekeepers to the northwest of the Central African Republic (CAR) after a deadly attack last week that killed 23 civilians.

According to the UN report, the 3R rebel group was allegedly responsible for the attack which occurred in the Nzakoundou village. The peacekeepers were sent to "strengthen security and facilitate humanitarian aid access" in light of "tense" conditions following the attack. The UN Security Council initially authorized and deployed peacekeeping forces with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA) in the Central African Republic in 2014. Its mission is to protect civilians in times of human rights crises.

Gen. Humphrey Hiyone, Force Commander Lieutenant of MINUSCA visited the surrounding region earlier this week and flew over Nzakoundou to assess the security conditions following the attack. The area has been in conflict over the past several years, largely driven by political tensions.

UN Resolution 2719 related to the financing of African Union peace

operations was unanimously adopted on December 21, 2023. According to a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General, the resolution is expected to "help address a longstanding and critical gap in the international peace and security architecture and bolster the international community's efforts to tackle peace and security challenges on the continent."

The tense conditions of conflict and violence are not new to the region. Human Rights Watch issued a report in July 2017 extensively detailing war crimes committed by armed rebel forces in the CAR over a period of two-and-a-half years. The report documented civilian deaths, destruction of homes and forced evictions. In June 2021, Chad's defense ministry accused troops of the CAR of attacking a military outpost, ultimately killing one soldier, injuring five others and kidnapping five soldiers whom they later executed. Chad's embassy classified the attack as a war crime. Earlier this year, the US Deputy Representative to the UN publicly condemned the Russian-backed paramilitary organization, the Wagner Group, for allegedly heightening security concerns and committing human rights violations in West Africa.

# Time in China gives boost to African train drivers' careers

By ZHENGZHOU, China

AWALEH Mohamed Houssein received his railway uniform – a protective vest – from his tutor a few months ago and put it on, ready to begin his hands-on training in China.

The 34-year-old from Djibouti, Africa, said it had been exciting to board a train on line K596, between the Henan province cities of Zhengzhou and Shangqiu, and observe its driver. Houssein was part of the second batch of trainees from Ethiopia and Djibouti to learn how to operate a train at Zhengzhou Railway Vocational and Technical College.

The 28 trainees received six months of systematic training in a simulator and on the track, which Houssein said had left him impressed.

From summer to winter, they experienced different weather in Henan. Li Shuying, one of their tutors in Zhengzhou, said their training ended earlier this month and they had since returned home to spend the Christmas holiday with their families.

The Chinese-built Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway runs from the Ethiopian capital to the Red Sea coast.

Mainly hauling freight, it was the first modern electric railway in Africa and also the first railway on the continent to adopt Chinese standards for technology and equipment.

In operation since 2018, it has helped promote the development of the East African economy.

"I had already driven a train for more than 3 years, almost for 4 years, in my country, but now I feel this experience has improved us a lot," Houssein said, adding that the trainees had arrived in Zhengzhou in July.

The sole female trainee, 28-year-old Tilahun Anketsebrhan Girma, said: "It was a good chance to become a better driver. Sometimes, I feel a little tired, but I enjoy it."

Girma, from Ethiopia, said the railway had made her dream come true, and the training they received in China would allow them to continue their careers with better skills.

She said she had seen how the railway line had changed her country in her five years as a train driver. It had shortened the transit time between Ethiopia and Djibouti from a week to less than a day, she said.

"This was my first time to come to China," Girma said.

"Thanks to my Chinese teacher, I have acquired a lot of electric railway skills and professional knowledge, and I would like to share my experience with the people around me."

Li said the training had helped the trainees improve their understanding of the technical regulations in train operation.



Muheza district administrative secretary Mohamed Mfaki (2nd-L) launches the harvesting of spice crops at Hamisi Machupa's farm at Bombani village at the weekend, witnessed by Muheza district council chairman Erasto Mhina (L) and Muheza district council executive director Dr Jumaa Mhina. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

# RC wants people to maintain peace

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

MARA Regional Commissioner Said Mtanda has urged citizens to continue promoting and protecting peace while avoiding to engage in incidents that may ruin tranquillity in this New Year.

Mtanda made the call here at the weekend when speaking on achievements recorded in various operations conducted to overcome crimes in the region in 2023.

He said that currently, the region was peaceful and there were no

criminal or violence incidents thus calling on residents to continue keeping the available peace throughout 2024.

According to him, when he entered, the region was gripped with a number of criminal incidents including brutal killings of various people and there he promised to overcome the situation bringing the region into tranquillity.

"Let me assure you that we will continue working hard to make the region remain peaceful and we want you, the citizens, to support us by

avoiding engaging in criminal acts, the laws and legal bodies to make people accountable," he said.

He said in 2024, the regional authorities will continue working in synergy to bring development while also addressing various land conflicts which have lasted for years.

In 2023, Mara Region was grabbed with various incidents including the border conflict between Nyanungu ward and the Serengeti National Park where the then RC Major General Suleiman Mzee wanted residents in Nyanungu in Tarime District to

immediately stop farming at the mountain with borders Serengeti National Park thus leading chaos but was later solved.

Another hurtful incident that occurred last year at Nyakiswa village in Kyanjari ward, Mara Region was the killings of four motorcycle drivers who were killed and thrown in bushes along with their bikes.

In an operation conducted by the Police Force managed to arrest the suspects within one week before sending them to legal bodies to face their counts.

# Worshippers honour Afro-Brazilian Sea goddess in customary New Year tribute

RIO DE JANEIRO

DEVOTEES of the sea deity Yemanjá assembled at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, to pay homage to their goddess.

Yemanjá, meaning the Great Mother of the Sea is praised in a series of African hybridized diasporic religious forms in Brazil.

Afro-Brazilian Candomble and Umbanda traditions are some of these.

The interweaving of cultures that form these religions is tied to Portuguese colonial history and all the diverse diasporic cultures of West and Central Africa nations whose inhabitants were forcibly relocated to Brazil during the colonial era; and finally, to numerous Indigenous American beliefs.

"We bring the gifts today in thanks to everything that has happened to us, and now for 2024 we ask for health, prosperity, everything, everything you can ask for," Helio Sillman, the organizer of the Yemanjá Festival said.

"Yemanjá, she's there listening, she's there listening."

Singing, drumming, and dancing gave rhythm to the customary New Year tribute which gathered crowds on December 29. The worshippers also left offerings to the goddess on the sands of Copacabana Beach. Some simply offered their gratitude and prayers.

"I'm here to thank that we have peace, good health, a good New Year's Eve, that there's harmony and that people understand that we're here to cultivate happiness, harmony and peace, on a day like today and for the whole year to come," worshipper Valter said.

Dressed predominantly in white, several worshippers sent their offerings into the sea. Small boats were laden with flowers and bowls containing candles, fruits, perfume, and beverages.

Of the 10.5 million Africans who were abducted and forcibly exploited as slaves between the early 16th century and 19th century, over a third disembarked in Brazil according to the Transatlantic slave trade data base.



Children celebrate New Year Day yesterday swimming in a Babati Urban pool in Manyara Region. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



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## In 2024, Samia stamp on the national image set to solidify

REMARKS by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to usher in the New Year provided a landmark account of progress in virtually all spheres of national life during the past year, with the key issues being hailing progress in reform along with new growth initiatives.

Reviews by foreign media outlets have been somewhat muted on the four Rs - reconciliation, reform, resilience and rebuilding. However, at the national level, the reception or appreciation is decidedly positive.

This is illustrated in the negative to a certain extent as no political group or other stakeholders had anything to say that was particularly strong during the vigil to the New Year, while remarks in Christmas homilies tended to focus especially keenly on social crises and morality.

The president noted, among other things, the restoration of the Planning Commission - which many people believe will enable the country to dream higher, even as key achievements over the past decade may have arisen more from pragmatic decision making.

Plenty awaits coordination and streamlining at the planning level, not just parliamentary stakeholder posture on projects at district level or even lower.

Much of what is discussed in the legislature isn't national in character but issues of accountability and certainty on development projects, implementation progress and assurance that the relevant agencies will live up to expectations.

The president's recorded remarks cast a fairly extensive gaze on the situation, starting from the 'new beginning' with the crippling effects of the Covid-19 pandemic to global supply chains, supplemented by the Russian expedition in Ukraine.

While the president noted that the national economy had improved during the past year, commentators from some international media noted that seeing such basic needs supplied from far-off Ukraine in quite substantial quantities

was disappointing in the first place, and thus heavy agro-sector investment was necessary.

For one thing, our country was tested with respect to its ability to respond to disaster, and it has more or less shown greater capacity to do the needful, a gradual process since the calamity in 1996 when MV Bukoba sank in Lake Victoria.

The latter event might no longer be part of the public psyche, but progress is being made in that direction as well, with the government modernising passenger and cargo vessels ply our segment of the Indian Ocean as well as lakes.

Like so many others, these areas did not visibly feature in the president's remarks but they are part of what is making a difference on the ground, like when the Magufuli Bridge linking Kigongo and Busisi points on the lake shores is completed in the next few months.

Nor did the president find time to hint on the start of the application of trade rules under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), putting into reality the periodic vows to make the economy more market-based and competitive.

This is a sphere where the worrying may still be intense, though it is somewhat muted, while efforts to free up the local grain market may not have been very successful.

Vibrant interventions, demand for permits and the renouncing of the free market ethos underlying the removal of border prohibitions or intrusive checks on grain movement failed to hold ground.

The four Rs are progressing in each sector, including whole-hearted acceptance of regional integration. But progress will still have to be made, not firstly in the regulations but in the productivity, when the country is assured of a grain surplus however much it sells to nearby countries. That will require greater harvest per hectare and widening farmland to stem fluctuations.

## Africa will forge wider global links, changing little in influence, in 2024

STRATEGIC observers are battling to get a clear map of what lies ahead for Africa in the coming year, as usual wishing to project what is positive - as to how it reinforces decades-long wishing that Africa cultivates a more noticeable presence in strategic balances as a whole.

With most African countries facing either famine or civil war, and at times both, chances are that the continent will not be calling any shots any time soon, save within the same lamentable context of dependency.

Expelling regional and United Nations missions in peace-keeping while national ability to take control of territory is still below the basic requirements to keep order is a case in point.

Africa's strategic cry across the just-ended year was largely that foreign military units fight its wars to keep national unity from all sorts of threat, ethnic mainly but often identifying themselves with doubtful global allies for respectability.

Some observers have often emphasized that these global links notwithstanding, the cases are locally implanted, and quite often the supply lines as well, rather than reflecting the power of a global conspiracy for this or that cause.

Not much of this is likely to change in the coming year, but ground realities are moving - and changing.

That brings us to the viewpoint the year just gone by saw Africa become a focus of global power rivalries and draw the attention of influential decision makers seeking footholds in the continent's vast natural resources as well as emerging market zone.

This is being translated as courting African countries and, in turn, building more balanced political and economic relations with the 54 countries on the

continent, though this is only true in part.

A closer examination suggests that most of those venturing into this or that area have a set of operational terms which African countries will take or leave - with some room for negotiation, depending on the options available.

If anything, the real change is less among powerful countries in how they look at Africa but the converse - that Africa is becoming more realistic on what it takes to build a resilient and growing economy, and indeed the links this prospect has with political stability.

This process is hugely uneven on the continent first among experts, which makes it practically impossible for new lessons to percolate at the wider communications level, or filtering into programmes devised by political parties.

Everywhere it is brave leaders who decide to move in this or that direction and brave the winds that push them back, like did Nigerian President Bola Tinubu in moving to abrogate the half-century-long system of oil subsidies thereafter smuggled for racketeers to earn billions each passing year.

Some references went into the fact that in the past 12 months, African leaders visited the European Union headquarters in Brussels, as well as India, Russia, the US, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, alongside meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Africa to discuss China's Belt and Road Initiative.

What is most complicated about Africa's prospects in 2024 and slightly beyond is where the continent is with democracy.

In the absence of any articulate reform demands in on the continent, the political debate is stymied as stakeholders want democracy as such while reluctant or outright refusing to discuss the socio-economy of the matter.



## RIP: Arab Oil Age (1973-2023)

By Sarah Miller

THE years 1973 and 2023 will likely come to be seen as strangely analogous beginning and end points of a 50-year "Arab Oil Age".

Then... Five-decades ago, Saudi Arabia and other Arab members of OPEC - the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries - raised their "official" oil prices, cut oil production and declared an embargo on oil exports to the US and others they saw as supporting Israel in a war started by Egypt and Syria but won, militarily, by Israel.

Near-term, the war caused huge losses to Arab life, property and pride. The oil embargo tipped over both the Arab and Western power structures, for better or worse.

The embargo put OPEC in charge of crude oil pricing, in place of Western oil majors, then known as the "Seven Sisters", that had fine-tuned prices up to that point.

Crude oil prices soon quadrupled. Saudi Arabia and other previously impoverished, low-population Gulf Arab oil states, most notably the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, got rich quick - but not yet powerful.

Desperate for security, these cash-rich countries signed petrodollar recycling accords that brought much of their wealth back into the international system through US banks and Treasury bonds.

Oil money gave the Gulf monarchies power over traditional Arab leaders in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Algeria, which were beset by post-colonial wars and internal strife that in some cases traced back to the humiliation of their losses in 1973 and other wars with Israel.

With the overthrow of the Shah in 1979, Iran flipped from strong defender to resolute foe of Israel, and oil prices again shot up - shifting still more money and power to Saudi Arabia and its smaller neighbours.

Petrodollar recycling also helped ensure the international supremacy of the US dollar for another five decades.

In return, the absolute monarchies of the Middle East Gulf got what long appeared to be iron-clad security guarantees. The US became increasingly reliant on financial supremacy to enable deindustrialisation that boosted the profits of American corporations but weakened their clout at home relative to banks and other financial institutions - the victory of Wall Street over Main Street, in US political parlance - and cleared the way for East Asia to become the

world's factory.

... And Now... Last month (December) saw OPEC and its Russian and other allies in "OPEC-Plus" act once again amid a war in Israel started by Palestinians in Hamas - and looks like it's being won, militarily, by Israel.

The Palestinians are suffering huge losses of life and property. However, Arab pride has been bolstered, and the brutality of a deeply shaken Israel's response to Hamas's attack is undermining Western support and prospects for "normalisation" of the Jewish state's place in an overwhelmingly Muslim region.

Also, instead of holding the world's attention, OPEC's talks on who should cut crude oil production by how much to prop up oil prices for a while longer were held on a Zoom call that was overshadowed by the same-day opening of COP28 debates on whether oil even has a long-term future.

Oil prices fell despite the OPEC-Plus efforts, while COP2, held in the rich UAE city of Dubai with an Arab oil state oil company official in the chair, attracted 70,000 delegates, lobbyists and demonstrators.

Despite all those wishing them ill, Western and OPEC-Plus oil companies alike are currently healthy and brimming with cash after their near-death experience during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The global status of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar on the one hand and the Wall Street status of Western oil companies on the other have soared since pandemic times, which saw Saudi Crown Prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman shunned by then-new US President Joe Biden.

But how long is the oil party likely to last amid worsening climate chaos? Probably not long. OPEC-Plus is arguably doing just what the climate activists are asking for: These countries are shutting in more oil production than the total oil output of any two Western oil majors.

While they are doing so in a struggle to keep oil prices from sinking, the effect is to discourage demand and make low- or no-carbon alternatives more competitive.

Holding oil off the market to push up prices is something OPEC has done more than once over the decades. But this time, growing oil demand won't come to the producers' rescue, as it has in the past.

On the contrary, the International Energy Agency says China's demand for oil, natural gas and coal will all be declining by 2030.

Others stand convinced that China

will see peak oil use as soon as this year (2024), thanks to economic turmoil and the rapid spread of solar power and electric vehicles (EVs).

If China passes peak oil, can the world be far behind? Once peak is past, how long and how far will OPEC-Plus members be willing to reduce their own output and leave more of the shrinking sales pie for others?

### Oil impacts

The debates in Dubai started with the question of how much already developed countries - and oil states such as the UAE - will pay to help the Global South develop on a low-carbon path and pay for damage resulting from carbon emissions beyond their borders.

One result will be to narrow the field of candidates to replace China as a global engine of oil demand growth.

Another proposal, to triple renewable generating capacity and double energy efficiency gains by 2030, would be bad for natural gas and coal that are generating fuels, and efficiency certainly won't aid oil longevity.

An ongoing "global stock-take" may see key oil-consumers up their emission-reduction pledges to slash oil and gas use. And oil companies and countries are pushing methane reduction as their contribution to decarbonisation - which, to give credit where it's due, will be helpful for the climate if it really happens.

Despite the clear danger all this poses to the future of fossil fuels, the oil-state representatives and Western oil lobbyists in Dubai have mainly focused on a turn of phrase.

What, if anything, should have the conference said about whether coal, oil and gas should be "phased out"; "phased down", implying more wriggle room; or eventually avoided in "non-abated form", implying the costly and questionable carbon capture and storage that even the oil companies themselves aren't investing in - whatever they say.

It seems that Big Oil is willing to expend a lot of hot air delaying a Death of Oil declaration by COP. Western oil companies doubtless fear that such a statement would weaken stock market sentiment towards their shares. Whatever.

### Petrostate problem

The rags-to-riches Gulf oil states are a weightier matter. Millions of people now live in these once low-population countries, and many

more millions elsewhere in the Arab world live to a considerable degree on their largesse. They can't just be written off as an investment loss, like the Western corporations. The same goes for non-Arab petrostates, from Russia to Africa.

Increasingly, Saudi Arabia and its neighbours acknowledge the existential problem they face. They need time to build not only their sovereign wealth funds but also their national power and status which, they hope, will attract more outside investment.

Whether vetoing COP references to ending oil use will actually buy that time, and whether having more time will actually aid efforts to diversify their economies, are open questions. Petrostates have been trying to reduce dependence on oil and gas earnings for decades, but to little effect.

But pretending that the issue doesn't exist is no more defensible than pretending that oil use can be made compatible with zero carbon emissions.

What, however, can the rest of the world do? With all the wars and exploitation embedded in US Middle East strategy since the Petrodollar Accords were signed in 1974 - and before that in the perverse policies of the European colonial powers - it may be that the West's most helpful approach would be to try and avoid making things worse.

How much the Israel-Palestine Hamas war matters to this shifting configuration of oil and energy is open to debate.

Before the October 7 Hamas attack, Saudi Arabia looked set to recognize Israel diplomatically and economically in return for civilian nuclear aid and tighter security guarantees from the US.

That deal might have led the Saudis to weaken or drop their campaign to prop up oil prices. It currently seems implausible, given widespread Arab anger at Israel and at the US for its strong support for Israel, even as it destroys Gaza.

That may mean less oil production, a plus for the climate; and higher US petrol prices, a negative for Biden's re-election chances.

It may also mean that Saudi, Abu Dhabi and other Gulf States' interest grows in China's request to shift oil trade off dollars and onto yuan/renminbi, further undermining the petrodollar order that has prevailed since the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

The situation is highly fluid, though. The only certainty is that the old order is dead.

\* [medium.com](https://www.medium.com)





**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM  
TANZANIA FOREST FUND**



# 2024 CALL OF PROPOSALS REQUESTING GRANTS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tanzania Forest Fund (abbreviated as TaFF), is a Government Fund established under Sections 79 – 83 of the Forest Act (Cap. 323 R.E. 2002). The Fund is a mechanism to provide long-term, reliable and sustainable financial support to forest protection, conservation, management and development in the country. The Fund came into operation in July, 2010 and started awarding grants in July 2011. The Fund is under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and is governed by a Board of Trustees while day to day activities is done by the Fund Secretariat.

The functions of Tanzania Forest Fund are derived from its purpose and objects stipulated in Section 80 of the Forest Act [Cap. 323 R.E. 2002] as follows:

- i) To promote awareness of the importance of the protection, development and sustainable use of forest resources through public education and training;
- ii) To promote and assist in the development of community forestry directed towards the conservation and protection of the forest resources of the country through the making of grants and providing advice and assistance to groups of persons wishing to form themselves into a group;
- iii) To promote and fund research into forestry;
- iv) To assist in enabling Tanzania to benefit from international initiatives and international funds directed towards the conservation and protection of biological diversity and the promotion of sustainable development of forest resources;
- v) To assist groups of persons and individuals to participate in any public debates and discussions on forestry and in particular to participate in processes connected with the making of an environmental impact assessment provided under section 18 of the Forest Act;
- vi) To assist groups of persons and individuals to ensure compliance with the Forest Act; and
- vii) To promote such other activities of a like nature to those set out in this section as will advance the purposes of the Forest Act.

Tanzania Forest Fund involves various stakeholders in its efforts to attain the objects and purposes for its establishment through awarding grants. The grants award is regulated by the Forest (Manner and Criteria for Awarding Grants) Regulations, 2021, and application for grants is through submission of proposals after announcing call of proposals. Through this call of proposals, eligible stakeholders are invited to submit proposals to request grants. Deadline for submission of proposals requesting small, medium and large grants is 31st March, 2024. As such, proposals requesting small, medium and large grants submitted after 31st March, 2024 will not be considered for grants award. Table 1 shows schedule of all processes from the call of proposals to grants award.

**Table 1: Schedule detailing all processes from call of proposals to grants award**

Time	Activity	Responsible
December	Announcement of call of proposals	Fund Secretariat
January to March	Preparation and submission of proposals requesting grants	Grants applicants
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Deadline for submitting proposals requesting grants	Grants applicants and Fund Secretariat
April - July	Pre - evaluation of proposals and notification on receiving of proposals	Fund Secretariat
	In depth proposals' evaluation	Evaluation Committee
August	Submission of proposals' evaluation report	Evaluation Committee
	Verification of projects recommended for grants award	Fund Secretariat
September	Decision on grants award	Board of Trustees
	Notification to grants applicants on the decision made to their applications for grants	Fund Secretariat
	Training of new grantees on how to manage grants	Fund Secretariat and New Grantees
October	Preparation and signing of grants agreements	Fund Secretariat and New Grantees
November	Disbursement of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment project funds	Fund Secretariat
	Start projects implementation	New Grantees

## 2. ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES FOR TANZANIA FOREST FUND'S GRANTS

Tanzania Forest Fund awards grants to various stakeholders undertaking interventions which contribute to forest development and improving forest protection, conservation and management in Mainland Tanzania. The following are eligible beneficiaries who can submit applications to request grants awarded by TaFF:

### 2.1 Individual persons

Individual persons are eligible for small grants of the amount not exceeding Tanzania Shillings (TZS) Five Million (5,000,000/=). Individual persons applying grants for implementing research projects should be affiliated with training or research institutions. Furthermore, the individual persons who wish to access grants are required to submit proposals (prepared using the format provided in Annex 1), accompanied by the following:

- i) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the person lives (for individual persons applying grants for implementation of projects which are not part of their Masters or PhD studies);
- ii) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the projects will be implemented (for individual persons applying grants for implementation of projects which are not part of their Masters or PhD studies);
- iii) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the project will be implemented (for individual persons applying grants for implementation of projects which are not part of their Masters or PhD studies);
- iv) Minutes of the family meeting showing how the proposed projects will continue to be implemented or how the disbursed funds will be returned to the Fund if the family member who received a grant (grantee) deceases (dies) or is not in a position to continue with project implementation;
- v) Photocopy of the national identity card obtained from The National Identification Authority (NIDA);
- vi) For individual persons interested in implementing tree planting projects, evidence showing ownership of 10 acres of land or more (family agreement for the land obtained through inheritance, letter and minutes of village government, certificate of land occupancy, certificate of customary land occupancy, agreement of land purchase), should be submitted together with evidence of tree planting initiatives;
- vii) For individual persons applying grants for implementing projects which are part of Masters or PhD studies, they should submit evidence of admission from respective training institution/university;
- viii) Letter from the office of Directorate of Postgraduate Studies or other relevant authority to authenticate that the grants applicant has no any other sources of funds for implementing the proposed research project. The letter should also show that the requested grants will be used for implementation of a project which is part of the applicant's Masters or PhD studies;
- ix) Introduction letter and guarantor letter from Head of Department or College where the grants applicant has been admitted/registered (for individual persons applying grants for implementation of projects which are part of their Masters or PhD studies);
- x) Photocopy of student identity card for individual persons applying grants for implementation of projects which are part of their Masters or PhD studies;
- xi) Guarantor letter from the Head of the respective institutions for individual research grant applicants; and
- xii) Individual persons applying grants for implementing individual research projects should submit a letter from the head of affiliated institutions showing that the applicant is an employee of that institution.

### 2.2 Community-based Organizations

Community-based Organizations (CBOs) are eligible for small grants of the amount not exceeding TZS Ten Million (10,000,000/=) for implementing tree planting and beekeeping projects. CBOs wishing to access grants are required to submit proposals (prepared using the format provided in Annex 1), accompanied by the following:

- i) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the CBO is located;
- ii) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the projects will be implemented;
- iii) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the CBO is registered and where the projects will be implemented;
- iv) Photocopy of certificate of registration of the CBO certified by the Council Director where the CBO is registered;
- v) Photocopy of the constitution of the respective CBO signed by all CBO members;
- vi) Minutes of the CBO's meeting with names and telephone numbers of all CBO members and signed by all CBO members. The agenda of the meeting is endorsement of proposal to be submitted to TaFF to request for grants;
- vii) Evidence showing that the CBO owns land of 20 acres or more (letter and minutes of village government, certificate of land occupancy and/or, certificate of customary land occupancy, agreement of land purchase) for tree planting projects geared at establishing woodlots, as well as evidence of tree planting initiatives;
- viii) Evidence showing that the CBO has been granted permit from relevant authorities to allow CBO members to practice beekeeping inside forest reserves or other reserved areas (for proposed beekeeping projects). The permit should show the duration granted to practice beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas;
- ix) For CBOs owning natural forests with evidence of using the forests for beekeeping activities, they may submit evidence of ownership of natural forests and minutes of the meeting of CBO members (signed by all participants and authorized the respective Village/Street Executive Officer), to substantiate agreement of using the natural forests for beekeeping activities; and
- x) Evidence of beekeeping initiatives should also be submitted for CBOs practicing beekeeping.

### 2.3 Non-governmental Organizations; Civil Society Organizations, and Faith-based Organizations

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs); Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) are eligible for medium (amount more than TZS 10 million but not exceeding 20 million) and large grants (amount more than TZS 20 million but not exceeding 50 million), only for implementing tree planting and alternative energy sources projects (and not awareness creation or sensitization projects). The NGOs, CSOs and FBOs wishing to access grants are required to submit proposals (prepared using the format provided in Annex 2), accompanied by the following:

- i) Evidence showing existence of the office for NGOs, CSOs or FBOs (letter from relevant authority and photography);
- ii) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the office of the NGO or CSO or FBO is located;
- iii) Guarantor letter from the Executive Officer of the villages/streets/wards where the projects will be implemented;
- iv) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the office of the NGO or CSO or FBOs is located;
- v) Guarantor letter from the Council Director where the projects will be implemented;
- vi) Photocopy of certificate of registration of the NGOs, CSOs or FBOs certified by the Council Director where the NGOs, CSOs or FBOs are permitted to operate and/or the Registrar of NGOs, CSOs or FBOs;
- vii) Letter to authenticate that the NGO or CSO or FBO has been verified by relevant authority;
- viii) Minutes of the meeting of all members or Board members to substantiate that the proposed project which has been submitted to TaFF to request for grants has been endorsed and/or approved by all members or Board members of the relevant NGO, CSO or FBO. The minutes should have all names and phone numbers of all participants and should be signed by all who participated in the meeting;
- ix) Evidence showing that the NGO or CSO or FBO owns land of more than 20 acres (letter and minutes of village government, certificate of land occupancy, certificate of customary land occupancy, agreement of land purchase) for tree planting projects geared at establishing woodlots. Evidence of tree planting initiatives should also be submitted;
- x) Evidence showing that the NGO or CSO or FBO has been granted permit from relevant authorities to practice beekeeping inside forest reserves or other reserved areas (for proposed beekeeping projects). The permit should show the duration granted to practice beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas;
- xi) For NGO or CSO or FBO owning natural forests with evidence of using the forests for beekeeping activities, may submit evidence of ownership of natural forests and minutes of the meeting of NGO or CSO or FBO members or Board members (signed by all participants and authorized the respective Village/Street Executive Officer) to substantiate agreement of using the natural forests for beekeeping activities; and
- xii) Map, bill of quantities (BoQ) and/or quotations for proposed projects which will involve construction or rehabilitation or purchase of equipment or machineries.

### 2.4 Training and Research Institutions

Training and research institutions are eligible for all types of grants except small grants which are specific for individual persons, primary and secondary schools and CBOs. In addition, only government training and research institutions are eligible for special purpose grants. The training and research institutions wishing to access grants are required to submit proposals prepared using the format provided in Annex 2 or Annex 3, and the proposals should be accompanied by the following:

- i) Introduction letter and guarantor letter from Head of the Institution if the grants applicant is a Centre, College, Campus, zone, district or department;
- ii) Minutes of the Management or Board or Council meeting to substantiate that the proposed project has been endorsed and/or approved by the Management or Board or Council meeting of the relevant institution. The minutes should be properly signed;
- iii) Evidence of land ownership for tree planting projects;
- iv) Permit for practising beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas, in case the applicants are proposing to implement beekeeping projects in the reserves which they do not own; and
- v) Map, BoQ and/or quotations for proposed projects which will involve construction or rehabilitation or purchase of equipment or machineries.

### 2.5 Government Institutions

The government institutions eligible for applying TaFF grants include government departments, companies, agencies, authorities, training institutions, research institutions, primary and secondary schools, as well as Local Government Authorities. The government institutions are eligible for all types of grants including special purpose grants, but small grants category is restricted to government primary and secondary schools. Proposals should be submitted by the head of institutions and should indicate how the project will improve protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources. The campus, departments, zones, centres, districts or district councils under the government institutions will be treated as individual beneficiaries, but should channel their applications through the respective head of the Institutions/colleges/zones. All government institutions submitting applications for grants should ensure that the proposed project activities are part of their annual plans and budgets, and they should submit letter as evidence of incorporation of such activities during the submission of the proposals. Proposals should be prepared using the format provided in Annex 2 or Annex 3 and during submission, the proposals should be accompanied by the following:

- i) Introduction letter and guarantor letter from Head of Institution/college/zone if the grants applicant is a campus, department, zone, centre or district;
- ii) Government schools should submit guarantor letter from the Council Director where the schools are located and where the project will be implemented;
- iii) Minutes of the Management or Board or Council meeting to substantiate that the proposed project has been endorsed and/or approved by the Management or Board or Council meeting of the relevant institution. The minutes should be properly signed;
- iv) Evidence of land ownership for tree planting projects;
- v) Permit for practising beekeeping inside the forest reserves or other reserved areas, in case the applicants are proposing to implement beekeeping projects in the reserves which they do not own; and
- vi) Map, BoQ and/or quotations for proposed projects which will involve construction or rehabilitation or purchase of equipment or machineries.

## 3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR AWARDING GRANTS

The priority areas for awarding grants are outlined in sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 as follows:

### 3.1 Forest resources protection, conservation and management

In 2024 call of project proposals, grants applicants can submit proposals on the following areas:

- 3.1.1 Establishment of tree nurseries in primary and secondary schools and tree planting in schools and surrounding communities. Eligible beneficiaries are primary and secondary schools from 34 districts of 11 regions. They include Dodoma (Chemba, Dodoma and Chamwino Districts); Morogoro (Gairo, Kilosa, Mvomero, and Morogoro Districts); Lindi (Ruungwa and Lindi Districts); Manyara (Simanjiro, Kiteto and Hanang Districts); Singida (Manyoni, Mkalama, Iramba and Ikungi Districts); Mwanza (Sengerema, Misungwi and Magu Districts); Pwani (Rufiji and Kibaha Districts); Kilimanjaro (Rombo, Same and Mwanza Districts); Kigoma (Kibondo, Buhigwe and Kigoma Districts); Geita (Geita, Bukombe and Nyangwale Districts), na Tanga (Mkinga, Handeni, Lushoto and Tanga Districts).
- 3.1.2 Establishment of woodlots of which the eligible beneficiaries are individual persons, CBOs, CSOs and FBOs. The grants applicants should show evidence of owning 10 acres of land or more for individual persons and 20 acres or more for CBOs, CSOs and FBOs. Applications can be submitted from all regions of Tanzania mainland except Dar es Salaam.
- 3.1.3 Tree planting in plantations or land owned by the government institutions. Eligible applicants are government institutions managing forest plantations or have land reserved for establishing forest plantations and the applicants are advised to apply special purpose grants.
- 3.1.4 Alternative energy sources including biogas and stoves using alternative energy sources. The aim is to reduce dependence of firewood and charcoal as sources of energy and improvement of forest protection and conservation. Eligible applicants are NGOs, CSOs, FBOs and government institutions.

### 3.2 Improvement of livelihood of communities living adjacent to forest resource base

In 2024 call of project proposals, grants applicants will compete on the sub-theme of improving forest conservation through beekeeping. Eligible applicants are CBOs which should apply small grants up to TZS 10 million and government institutions which should apply for medium and large grants. Women and youth registered groups are encouraged to apply.

### 3.3 Research in forestry geared at:

#### 3.3.1 Improving forest development, protection, conservation and management

Eligible research proposals should aim at providing answers to prevailing problems and challenges in the forest and beekeeping subsector. The research topics or fields should come or link to the national forest or beekeeping research master plans or priority research areas of higher learning institutions and accepted or approved by the national forestry research coordination institution.



### 3.3.2 Improving quantity, quality and value addition for sustainable use of forest produce

Eligible research proposals should aim at improving quantity, quality and value addition to forest and/or bee products as per national forest master plan and/or beekeeping research master plan.

Eligible applicants are research institutions, training institutions and researchers from research institutions and training institutions, as well as Masters and PhD students wishing to apply grants for the purpose of finalizing their dissertations/Theses.

### 3.4 Enhance capacity building to training and/or research institutions and best student awards

Proposals requesting grants are invited from the following areas:

3.3.1 Capacity building to government institutions responsible for coordinating forestry research and government training institutions under the Forest and Beekeeping Division responsible for conducting training in forestry, forest industries and beekeeping. Eligible activities include construction and rehabilitation of buildings, and purchase of equipment, machineries and facilities.

3.3.2 The second area of focus is best student award including sponsorship award. Eligible beneficiaries are best students who have completed Certificate and Diploma courses in Forestry, Forest Industries and Beekeeping, as well best first year, second year and third year students in Forestry Degree from Sokoine University of Agriculture. Procedures for best student award and sponsorship award will be communicated to relevant institutions.

## 4. TYPES OF GRANTS

TaFF awards four types of grants, namely; small grants, medium grants, large grants, and special purpose grants. These grant categories are differentiated by amount of money offered, eligible beneficiaries, duration of project implementation and contribution to forest development, protection, conservation and management. The grants types are elucidated hereunder as follows:

### 4.1 Small Grants (Amounts not exceeding TZS 10 Million)

Small grants are awarded to individual persons, CBOs and primary and secondary schools for supporting small-scale interventions that contribute to improving forest protection, conservation, management and development. Individual persons and primary and secondary schools are eligible for applying Small grants not exceeding TZS 5 million, while CBOs are eligible for applying Small grants up to TZS 10 million. Duration for implementing projects awarded small grants is six (6) to 12 months.

### 4.2 Medium Grants (Amounts above TZS 10 million but not exceeding TZS 20 million)

Medium grants are awarded to support interventions with bigger contribution on forest protection, conservation, management and development compared to interventions supported using small grants. All beneficiaries are eligible for this grant's category except individual persons, primary and secondary schools and CBOs. The duration for implementing projects awarded large grants is 18 to 24 months.

### 4.3 Large Grants (Amounts above TZS 20 million but not exceeding TZS 50 million)

Large grants are awarded to support interventions with bigger contribution to forest protection, conservation, management and development compared to projects awarded medium grants. All beneficiaries are eligible for this grant's category except individual persons, primary and secondary schools and CBOs. The duration for implementing projects awarded large grants is 18 to 24 months.

### 4.4 Special Purpose Grants (Amount exceeding TZS 50 million)

Special purpose grants are awarded to government institutions only for the purpose of implementing projects with a significant impact on protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources, which cannot be realized using other types of grants. Projects to be considered for being awarded special purpose grants include establishment of forest plantations, large-scale afforestation schemes and infrastructure development with enormous impact on forest protection, conservation, management and development. Type of project and the amount to be awarded as special purpose grants is the discretion of the Board of Trustees. Duration for implementing projects awarded special purpose grants will depend on the nature of activities, but should be at least three years (36 months).

## 5. TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

Three types of assistance will be used in awarding grants as elucidated hereunder:

### i) Monetary assistance

Tanzania Forest Fund could provide financial assistance to support implementation of interventions or activities of proposed projects;

### ii) Material assistance

Tanzania Forest Fund could provide required materials, tools, technology, machineries, facilities and equipment required to implement interventions or activities of proposed projects; and

### iii) Technical assistance

Tanzania Forest Fund could provide technical assistance by conducting training or hiring professionals to conduct training or provide other technical support stipulated in the proposed projects.

## 6. KEY CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED FOR GRANTS AWARD

The following are criteria to be considered during grants award:

- Direct or indirect contribution of the project to forest protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources;
- Direct or indirect tangible benefits provided by the projects to target beneficiaries;
- Project operations are transparent and demonstrate accountability;
- Innovativeness of the project and evidence on the attainment of the objectives by the proposed activities as shown in the logical framework;
- Project showing that TaFF's grants should be complementary of other similar projects and should not substitute existing and ongoing initiatives;
- Applicability of project results/outputs for improving protection, conservation and management of forest and bee resources;
- Capability of the applicant to implement and manage the project including commitment on availability of personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project;
- Evidence of sustainability plan of the proposed project interventions;
- Evidence of stakeholders' participation;
- Applicant's commitment to contribute 20% (cash or in-kind) of the requested funds for applicants of medium, large and special purpose grants;
- Grants applicants for non-research projects should show that the grants will be used to implement activities for the project which has already been started; and
- The proposal should indicate that the project will be implemented in mainland Tanzania.

It is important to note that grants applications which show elements of copy and paste will not be considered for grants award.

## 7. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS REQUESTING GRANTS

Proposals requesting small grants should be prepared using the format shown in Annex 1, while proposals requesting medium and large grants should be prepared using the format shown in Annex 2, and proposals requesting special purpose grants should be prepared using the format shown in Annex 3. Proposals that will not be prepared according to the given formats will be rejected. The proposals should not exceed 15 pages, excluding annexes. Details on attachments to be submitted together with the proposals are shown in respective formats.

## 8. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS REQUESTING GRANTS

Applicants should submit proposals through an online application using the following link <https://portal.maliasili.go.tz/>. Applicants with no access for online application (particularly those living in rural areas) may request permission from TaFF (using the following mobile number 0714 580 688) to submit hard copy of proposals through posts. Assistance for online grants application will be provided by ICT Officer using the mobile number 0714 580 688. All hard copy proposals submitted using postal address will be made online through uploading to the electronic system and the applicants will receive a message on their mobile phones informing them about the receipt of their proposals and all stages up to the grants award. Therefore, applicants are reminded to provide mobile phone numbers in the contact section shown in the format for preparing proposals. It should be noted that proposals submitted through emails will not be accepted.

Deadline for receiving proposals requesting small grants, medium grants and large grants is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, while proposals requesting special purpose grants can be submitted any time. No proposals requesting small, medium and large grants will be accepted after the set deadline. Only proposals which has been permitted by ICT Officer of TaFF can submitted through post using the following address:

**Administrative Secretary,  
Tanzania Forest Fund,  
P.O. Box 1764,  
DODOMA.**

For more clarification and inquiries kindly use the official telephone and fax numbers provided below and mobile number of ICT expert shown above.

**Tel: +255 (0) 26 2963290  
Fax: +255 (0) 26 2963291**

## ANNEX 1: FORMAT FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS REQUESTING SMALL GRANTS

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Before completing the application, please read the criteria for eligibility and objectives of the call of proposals to verify whether your project is eligible for receiving TaFF's grants.
- Please submit a complete application form using the given format and instructions; otherwise your applications will not be considered for grants award.
- Applications must be submitted before or by the end of working hours of the deadline. The deadline is the date the project application is to be received by the Secretariat of TaFF. Late applications will not be accepted.
- All proposals must be clear, legible and should be written using Arial format, font size 12 and with 1.5-line spacing.
- All applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project.
- Any applicant who has questions or concerns should contact TaFF using the official address and telephone provided in the call of proposals.

### 1. Proposal basic information (Project summary)

1.1 Project title.....

1.2 Name and address of the applicant.....

1.3 Name and address of the contact person including mobile telephone number

1.4 Project location.....

1.5 Tanzania Forest Fund's priority area(s) of grants award.....

1.6 Type of grants .....

1.7 Type of assistance.....

1.8 Total project cost (Tanzania shillings) .....

1.9 Total amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund (Tanzania shillings) .....

1.10 Other contributions, including in-kind (Tanzania shillings) .....

1.11 Project duration including proposed start month.....

### 2. Background of the proposed project

### 3. Rationale and justification of the proposed project

### 4. Project objectives and performance indicators

### 5. Project expected results

### 6. Specific activities required to achieve the expected results

### 7. Anticipated beneficiaries from the proposed project

No.	Beneficiary	Realized benefits

### 8. Step by step process or methodology to be followed in order to achieve the proposed objectives:

### 9. Project personnel and their expertise:

Applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project

### 10. Project implementation schedule/plan:

No.	Activity	Month												
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	

### 11. How does the nation benefit from your proposed project if awarded a grant? Explain why Tanzania Forest Fund should finance your proposed project

### 12. Budget for the proposed project

The budget should be divided into two instalments, while 10% of second instalment shall be retained until project completion report is submitted and approved. Therefore, the instalments are as follows: 1st instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget, 2nd instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget minus 10% retained funds, and retained funds is 10% of 2nd instalment. Table below shows how to prepare the proposed project budget. Note that: all overhead costs and administrative costs are not part of the budget particularly funds from Tanzania Forest Fund.

### How to prepare budget for the proposed project (with breakdown into two instalments)

Activity and items	Units	Cost	Unit cost (TZS)	Total cost (TZS)
Activities and expenditure of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment funds				
1				
2				
3				
Total for 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's contribution				
Activities and expenditure of 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment funds				
4				
5				
6				
Total for 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's Contribution				
Activities and expenditure of retained funds				
1				
Total for retained funds				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Total project budget				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Funds provided by others				
Applicant's contribution				

Indicate the sources of funds provided by others.....

### 13. Endorsement by Various Authorities

Government institutions should fill section number 13.1 only, while community groups and all other institutions which are not government institutions should fill sections 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3. All individual students should write the word 'Individual Postgraduate Student' in the designation in section 13.1, and should submit recommendation letter from Head of Department where they have been registered. All other individual applicants should write the word 'Individual' in the designation in section 13.1. Project proposals from primary and secondary schools should be endorsed by the respective District/Municipal (Executive) Directors, as such, they are supposed to fill sections 13.1 and 13.3.



ADVERTISEMENT



13.1 Recommendations by individual applicant/Head of applying institution/organization/group

Name of Individual applicant/applying institution/group: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of individual applicant/Head of applying Institution/Chairperson of applying group: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

13.2 Recommendations by the Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer(s) of the proposed project implementation area

Name of the Village/Street/Ward: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

13.3 Recommendations by Head of Institution or Head of Department or College or Council Director of the proposed project implementation area

Name of the Institution or Department or College or Council: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Head of Institution or Head of Department or College or Council Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

14. ATTACHMENTS:

1. Individual applicants should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.1 and CBOs should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.2 of the 2024 call of proposals.
2. Primary and Secondary schools should submit the following:
  - i) Government schools should submit guarantor letter from the Council Director where the schools are located and where the projects will be implemented; and
  - ii) Proof of land ownership in case the proposed projects will involve establishment of woodlots.
3. In case the area where project implementation involves more than one village, each Executive Officer will appear as a Guarantor of the intended applicant.

ANNEX 2: FORMAT FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS REQUESTING MEDIUM AND LARGE GRANTS

INSTRUCTIONS

- Before completing the application, please read the criteria for eligibility and objectives of the call of proposals to verify whether your project is eligible for receiving Tanzania Forest Fund's grants.
- Please submit a complete application form using the given format and instructions; otherwise your applications will not be considered for grant award.
- Applications must be submitted before or by the end of working hours of the deadline. The deadline is the date the project application is to be received by the Secretariat of Tanzania Forest Fund. Late applications will not be accepted.
- All proposals must be clear, legible and should be written using Arial format, font size 12 and with 1.5 line spacing.
- All applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project.
- Any applicant who has questions or concerns should contact Tanzania Forest Fund using the official address and telephone provided in the call of proposals.

1.0 PROJECT PROPOSAL BASIC INFORMATION

- 1.1 Project Title.....
- 1.2 Name and address of the applicant.....
- 1.3 Name and address of the contact person.....
- 1.4 Project location.....
- 1.5 Tanzania Forest Fund's priority area (s) of grants award .....
- 1.6 Grant type.....
- 1.7 Type of assistance requested.....
- 1.8 Brief background of the proposed project.....
- 1.9 Rationale and justification of the proposed project (not more than 250 words).....
- 1.10 Project objectives and performance indicators.....
- 1.11 Project expected results.....
- 1.12 Specific activities required to achieve the expected results.....
- 1.13 Project beneficiaries.....

Under this section, the applicants should describe the project beneficiaries and how they will benefit from implementation of the proposed project. Use Table below to describe the beneficiaries.

No.	Beneficiary	Realized benefits

- 1.14 Total project cost (Tanzania shillings) .....
- 1.15 Total amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund (Tanzania shillings) .....
- 1.16 Applicants and other contributions including in-kind (Tanzania shillings) .....
- 1.17 Project duration including proposed start month.....

2.0 ENDORSEMENT BY VARIOUS AUTHORITIES

Government institutions should fill section number 2.1 only, while NGOs, CSOs, FBOs and other non-government institutions should fill sections number 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. Applications from Local Government Authorities should be endorsed by the Regional Administrative Secretaries and applications from primary and secondary schools should be endorsed by Council Director of the respective Local Government Authority.

2.1 Recommendations by Head of applying institution(s) / organization(s)

Name of applying institution(s)/organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Head of applying institution(s)/organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

2.2 Recommendations by the Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer(s) of the proposed project implementation area

Name of the Village/Street/Ward: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Village/Street/Ward Executive Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

2.3 Recommendations by Head of Institution or Zone or College or Council Director of the proposed project implementation area

Name of the Institution or Zone or College or Council: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Head of Institution or Head of College or College or Council Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION (MAIN TEXT)

3.1 Project Summary

This section should contain summary of all-important elements of the proposed project including problems to be addressed, rationale and justification of the project, objectives and expected outputs, major activities to be implemented, and applicability of the results for improving forest protection, conservation and management. This section should not be more than 250 words and should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and understandable even to other people who are specialized in natural resources fields.

3.2 Introduction

The introduction should clearly identify the topic or problem to be dealt with, and presents a general vision of the proposed project, its context within the appropriate priority area of Tanzania Forest Fund and background information on previous or ongoing efforts to attain the proposed project.

3.3 Project Purpose, Objectives and Expected Results

The applicant should describe the purpose of the proposed project indicating clearly how the proposed project will contribute to improving protection, conservation and management of forest resources in the project implementation area and beyond. This section must also describe the objectives and results from the proposed activities. Information on how the proposed projects will enhance efforts towards improvement of community livelihood, participation and awareness on sustainable management of forest resources should be given. Strategies for disseminating results of the proposed project should also be clearly provided. Under this section, project beneficiaries and how they are going to benefit from project implementation should also be described. To enable proper review of the proposed project and monitoring of project implementation, the applicant should also provide a log frame matrix. Project implementation schedule showing

activities and timeline of each activity should be prepared and be part of this section.

3.4 Methodology

Under this section, the applicant should describe in detail how the project objectives will be operationalized to realize the project results/outputs. In addition, the applicant should describe project interventions and activities to be implemented and provide a work plan, including the role of various actors. For proposed research project, this section should also contain information regarding data collection tools, and methods for data collection and analysis, as well as research results' dissemination plan.

3.5 Key Success Factors

This section should describe and analyse the key factors that are going to influence project success and how to ensure that these factors are in place. Analysis of the factors should consider the context of the overall project and the capacity of the project implementing team. This section should also describe challenges which are likely to affect the smooth implementation of the proposed projects and explain how to overcome the challenges.

3.6 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

This section should describe how the project will be monitored and evaluated throughout its implementation period. The section should also describe the quantifiable parameters that can define if the planned activities will solve the problem or issue that the project wants to address. In other words, this section should show how will the success of the project be measured? It is also important to note that log frame matrix needs to be prepared to assist in monitoring and evaluation of the proposed project.

3.7 Sustainability Plan

This section should describe the sustainability aspects of the project. The proposed project should indicate how the project or activities will have continuity after being phased out of support from the Tanzania Forest Fund.

3.8 How does the nation benefit from your proposed project if awarded a grant? Explain why Tanzania Forest Fund should finance your proposed project.

3.9 Budget for the Proposed Project

The budget is an essential part of the grant application. Therefore, the project budget should: (a) be reasonable, (b) thoroughly describe each item, (c) be easy to understand, (d) be mathematically correct, and (e) be realistic and adequately justified. The budget must include detailed notes indicating calculations on each amount (unit costs). Under Tanzania Forest Fund support, project budget should not include the following items since they are not eligible for funding: staff salaries; purchase of vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles; office utilities; extra duty allowance, honorarium and other costs not related to project implementation.

The budget should be divided into three instalments, while 10% of third instalment shall be retained until project completion report is submitted and approved. Therefore, the instalments are as follows: 1st instalment is 40% of the proposed project budget, 2nd instalment is 30% of the proposed project budget, 3rd instalment is 30% of the proposed project budget minus 10% retained funds, and retained funds is 10% of 3rd instalment funds. Table below shows how to prepare the proposed project budget.

How to prepare budget for the proposed project (with breakdown into three instalments)

Activity and items	Units	Cost	Unit cost (TZS)	Total cost (TZS)
Activities and expenditure of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment funds				
1				
2				
Total for 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's contribution				
Activities and expenditure of 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment funds				
4				
5				
Total for 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's contribution				
Activities and expenditure of 3 <sup>rd</sup> instalment funds				
7				
8				
Total for 3 <sup>rd</sup> instalment				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's contribution				
Activities and expenditure of retained funds				
10				
Total for retained funds				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Total project budget				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Funds provided by others				
Applicant's contribution				

Indicate the sources of funds provided by others.....

3.10 ATTACHMENTS

The following information and documents should be submitted as attachments to the proposal:

- i) Organisation profile;
- ii) Certified copy of certificate of registration (except for government institutions);
- iii) Log frame matrix,
- iv) Curriculum vitae of project team for research projects;
- v) Letters from two or more reputable Guarantors (Village/Ward Executive Officer and Council Director or Regional Administrative Secretary or head of institutions depending of the nature of the project);
- vi) In case the area where project implementation involves more than one village, each Executive Officer will appear as a Guarantor of the intended applicant;
- vii) Proof of land ownership in case the proposed projects will involve establishment of woodlots; and
- viii) Applicants for projects to be implemented in reserved areas must be supported by a written permit from authorities owning/managing the reserved.

For all research proposals, relevant literature review and reference information should be part of the proposal while for other proposals should appear as attachment. Each reference should include the names of all authors, the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Adherence to citation principles should be observed by all project proponents.

In addition, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs); Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Faith-based Organizations (FBOs) should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.3; research and training institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.4 and other government institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.5.

ANNEX NO.3: FORMAT FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS REQUESTING SPECIAL PURPOSE GRANTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- (i) Before completing the application, please read the criteria for eligibility and objectives of the call of proposals to verify whether your project is eligible for receiving Tanzania Forest Fund's grants.
- (ii) Please submit a complete application form using the given format and instructions; otherwise your applications will not be considered for grant award.
- (iii) Applications must be submitted before or by the end of working hours of the deadline. The deadline is the date the project application is to be received by the Secretariat of Tanzania Forest Fund. Late applications will not be accepted.
- (iv) All proposals must be clear, legible and should be written using Arial format, font size 12 and with 1.5 line spacing.
- (v) All applicants should indicate in the proposal the personnel and their expertise to ascertain implementation of the project.
- (vi) Any applicant who has questions or concerns should contact Tanzania Forest Fund using the official address and telephone provided in the call of proposals.

2.0. PROJECT PROPOSAL BASIC INFORMATION

2.1 Project title:

Should be short, focused, self-explanatory showing in short what is to be done and where .....

2.2 Name and address of the applicant:

Should show full name of the organization/institution and abbreviation if any, Designation of head of organization/institution, Postal address of the group/organization/institution, and official telephone numbers, fax and email address.....

2.3 Name and address of the contact person:

Write full name of the contact person. If the contact person is the head of organization/institution, then the full name should be written, and if the contact person is not head of the organization/institution, the relationship with the organization/institution should be written. Write postal address, telephone number (mobile telephone number) and email address of the contact person.....

2.4 Project location:

Indicate Village, Ward, Division, District and Region where the project will be implemented. Where necessary, mention the site for instance forest reserve.....

Tanzania Forest Fund's priority area (s) of grants award:.....

2.5 Grant type:

Tanzania Forest Fund awards four (4) types of grants namely: small grants, medium grants, large grants and special purpose grants. The applicant



# Climate change fuels malaria crisis in Kenya



Children surrounded by protective malaria net in the Dominican Republic.

**NAIROBI**

AS temperatures rise globally, the impact of climate change on the transmission of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, becomes increasingly evident. In the arid lands of Isiolo, Kenya, the story of Wilson Mutai, a 76-year-old farmer, and Kelvin Onkoba, a 25-year-old nursing intern, sheds light on the destructive consequences of malaria and the challenges faced by those seeking treatment.

Mutai recounts his recent diagnosis with malaria, a disease he describes as both destructive and lethal. Hospitalized in Isiolo, he faced a grim reality – the medical facility lacked the necessary medication for treatment. Faced with limited options, Mutai sought the services of a private doctor who could treat him at home, highlighting the inad-

equacies of the healthcare system.

"I was taken to the hospital, and when I got there, a blood test was done, and I was found to have malaria. But the hospital did not have any medication. I had to look for a doctor who could treat me at home," Mutai explained.

This struggle for treatment is not unique to Mutai. Kelvin Onkoba, a nursing intern, also experienced the impact of malaria on his life and work. Diagnosed with the disease, Onkoba faced the challenge of missing four days of work, impacting the community he serves. The unavailability of medication at the facility compelled him to dig deeper into his pockets for treatment.

"The medication was not available at the facility, so I had to even dig deeper in the pockets in terms of accessing medication," Onkoba shared, highlighting the financial



Study: Symptomatic malaria enhances protection from reinfection with homologous *Plasmodium falciparum* parasites. Image Credit: JarunOntakrai/Shutterstock.com

burden that can accompany seeking treatment.

In response to the escalating impact of climate change on disease transmission patterns, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) have collaborated with the Zoonotic Disease Unit to study the effects on mosquitoes and disease transmission.

James Akoko, a research scientist at ILRI, explained the purpose of setting up weather stations in the region, stating, "The reason we have set up a weather station in this area is to be able to capture different environmental conditions like temperature, like humidity, like wind speed and wind direction to be able to really relate how these different components of climate could be influencing the population of vectors and also could be influencing

the disease trends we are seeing around here."

The research involves trapping mosquitoes in the region to monitor their population and the pathogens they carry. Joel Lutomi, an entomologist at KEMRI, detailed the process: "When the mosquitoes are trapped from the field, they are transported in a cold chain that is liquid nitrogen, to the KEMRI laboratory. And this is where now they undergo identification so that we are able to tell what species are present in that particular area."

Hussein Abkhallo, a molecular biologist at ILRI, explained the further analysis conducted on the mosquitoes: "We also extract RNA, which is another nucleic acid for the viruses, and using polymerase chain reaction, we then determine the type of the virus that is carried by the mosquito."

The Horn of Africa, including northern Kenya, has experienced destructive floods recently, contributing to stagnant waters that become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Willis Akhwale, a senior advisor for Kenya Malaria Council, linked the heavy rainfall to an increase in vector-borne diseases like malaria.

"There is more breeding, there are more breeding sites, and there is, therefore, a high chance of transmission of vector-borne diseases like malaria, like dengue, like Rift Valley fever, and chikungunya," Akhwale explained.

The World Health Organization's 2023 malaria report highlights a concerning trend, with an estimated 249 million malaria cases worldwide in 2022 – 16 million more cases than the pre-pandemic level in 2019. In response to the growing crisis, two new vaccines, RTS,S and R21 Matrix M, are expected to be rolled out in several African countries in 2024, offering hope in the fight against malaria.

should write the type of grants requested.....  
**2.6 Type of assistance requested:**  
 Tanzania Forest Fund offers three types of assistance, namely: monetary assistance, material assistance and technical assistance. Thus, the applicant should write requested type of assistance.....  
**2.7 Total project cost (Tanzania shillings):**  
 Write total project cost including amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund, funds from other sources and applicants and other contributions.....  
**2.8 Total amount requested from Tanzania Forest Fund (Tanzania shillings):**  
 Write amount of money requested from Tanzania Forest Fund only.....  
**2.9 Applicants and other contributions including in-kind (Tanzania shillings):**  
 Write amount of money from your organization/institution to be contributed for project implementation. Write also amount from other sources if any.....  
**2.10 Project duration including proposed start month:**.....  
**2.11 Project beneficiaries:**.....  
 Under this section, the applicants should describe the project beneficiaries and how they will benefit from implementation of the proposed project. Use the following Table to describe the beneficiaries.

No.	Beneficiary	Realized benefits

**3.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND**  
 Write brief information regarding your organization/institution, brief information regarding the proposed project particularly, if the proposed project is based on initiatives which have already started or is a new project. ....

**4. RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT (250 WORDS)**  
 Write problems or challenges faced which triggered your application organization/institution to request grants. Write how Tanzania Forest Fund grants will contribute to overcome the challenge will be solution to the problem. The proposal should also indicate initiatives of your organization/institution in addressing the problem/challenge. The applicant should show how the proposed project will contribute to improving protection, conservation, management and development of forest resources in the project implementation area and the nation at large.....

**5. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**  
 Write overall project objective, specific project objectives and performance indicators for each objective. The Table below can simplify the task.

No.	Objective	Performance Indicator (s)
1	Overall project objective	
2	Specific project objectives:	
	1	
	2	
	3	

**PROJECT EXPECTED RESULTS**  
 List project expected outputs/results and relate them with forest resources protection, conservation and management.....  
**7. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS**  
 List all project activities which will be implemented to achieve the expected results. The activities are derived from specific project objectives. ....

**8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE/PLAN**  
 Project implementation schedule is prepared in tabular for using project activities. ....

**9. METHODOLOGY**  
 Under this section, the applicant should describe in detail how the project objectives will be operationalized to realize the project results/outputs. In addition, the applicant should describe project interventions and activities to be implemented and provide a work plan, including the role of various actors. For proposed research project, this section should also contain information regarding data collection tools, and methods for data collection and analysis, as well as research results' dissemination plan.....

**10. KEY SUCCESS FACTORS**  
 This section should describe and analyze the key factors that are going to influence project success and how to ensure that these factors are in place. Analysis of the factors should consider the context of the overall project and the capacity of the project implementing team. This section should also describe challenges which are likely to affect the smooth implementation of the proposed projects and explain how to overcome the challenges. ....

**11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN**  
 This section should describe how the project will be monitored and evaluated throughout its implementation period. The section should also describe the quantifiable parameters that can define if the planned activities will solve the problem or issue that the project wants to address. In other words, this section should show how will the success of the project be measured? It is also important to note that log frame matrix needs to be prepared to assist in monitoring and evaluation of the proposed project. ....

**12. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**  
 This section should describe the sustainability aspects of the project. The proposed project should indicate how the project or process will have

continuity after phase out of Tanzania Forest Fund support to the proposed project.....

**13. BENEFIT TO THE NATION**  
 How does the nation benefit from your proposed project if awarded grants? Explain why Tanzania Forest Fund should finance your proposed project. ....

**14. BUDGET FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**  
 The budget is an essential part of the grant application. Therefore, the project budget should: (a) be reasonable, (b) thoroughly describe each item, (c) be easy to understand, (d) be mathematically correct, and (e) be realistic and adequately justified. The budget must include detailed notes indicating calculations on each amount (unit costs). Under Tanzania Forest Fund support, project budget should not include the following items since they are not eligible for funding: staff salaries; purchase of vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles; office utilities; extra duty allowance, honorarium and other costs not related to project implementation.

The budget should be divided into two instalments, while 10% of second instalment shall be retained until project completion report is submitted and approved. Therefore, the instalments are as follows: 1st instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget, 2nd instalment is 50% of the proposed project budget minus 10% retained funds, and retained funds is 10% of 2nd instalment. Table below shows how to prepare the proposed project budget.

Activity and items	Units	Cost	Unit cost (TZS)	Total cost (TZS)
Activities and expenditure of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment funds				
1				
2				
3				
Total for 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's Contribution				
Activities and expenditure of 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment funds				
4				
5				
6				
Total for 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Applicant's contribution				
Activities and expenditure of retained funds				
1				
Total for retained funds				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Total project budget				
Funds requested from Tanzania Forest Fund				
Funds Provided by Others				
Applicant's contribution				

How to prepare budget for the proposed project (with breakdown into two instalments)  
 Indicate the sources of funds provided by others.....

**15. ENDORSEMENT BY VARIOUS AUTHORITIES:**  
 15.1 Endorsement by Head of applying institution(s)/organization(s):  
 Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of applying institution(s)/organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Head of applying institution(s)/organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Official Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Attachments**  
 The following attachments should be submitted together with the proposal:  
 i) Covering Letter signed by Head of the applying organization/Institution; and  
 ii) Log frame matrix).

In addition, research and training institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.4 and other government institutions should submit all other attachments shown in section 2.5.





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Alipay to operate without controlling stakeholder  
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Nifty about overvalued by 20 pct, Kotak sees time correction in next six months  
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## Uganda quest for \$919m loan could raise interest on Treasury payment

KAMPALA

A DECISION by Uganda's Treasury to obtain Ush3.5 trillion (\$919.5 million) in loans from commercial banks to finance the supplementary budget is expected to boost interest rates earned on treasury bonds by around two percent in the short term, alongside constrained social service delivery, weak tax revenue collections and a modest growth forecast.

The loans are meant to finance various infrastructure projects and contingent and classified expenditure items attributed to state house and security agencies. This package appears significantly higher than the Ush2.5 trillion (\$656.8 million) loan previously obtained from Stanbic Bank Uganda in 2020 for paying salaries and wages to public employees during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

The financial year 2023/24 has been characterised by poor tax revenue performance, slow business activity and weak exchange rate.

Tax revenue collections posted a shortfall of Ush600 billion (\$157.6 million) between July and November 2023, a figure projected to hit Ush1 trillion (\$262.7 million) by close of June 2024. Lower tax revenues usually translate into higher government borrowing levels.

"From our modelling, the shortfall is projected to reach one trillion Uganda shillings by end of this financial year unless comprehensive measures are taken to close this gap. This shortfall is likely to cause a lot of financing constraints to the entire government and service delivery to the citizens. This letter, therefore, is to request you to provide this Ministry with the planned administrative interventions by Uganda Revenue Authority to address the current revenue deficits," reads a letter sent by the Finance ministry to the commissioner-general of Uganda Revenue Authority dated December 7, 2023.

The Uganda shilling suffered considerable depreciation against the dollar between September and November 2023, under pressure from huge dividend payments made by foreign multinationals and rising policy interest rates declared by central banks in developed economies. The Uganda shilling closed at Ush3,757 to the dollar at the end of September and Ush3,781 in October. It closed at Ush3, 817 in November, according to latest Bank of Uganda (BoU) data.

The local business confidence index stood at 59.1 points in September, compared with 59.6 points registered in October, before clocking 58.5 points in November, BoU data shows.

Financial analysts say the loan could raise interest rates earned on certain treasury bonds by two percent as financial markets digest the consequences of increased official borrowing activity.

"There is high appetite for debt financing in government these days because of huge funding needs attached to new road projects, bridges and airports. These investments are being executed at the expense of social service delivery. Mobilising money for those projects in the domestic market will directly affect yields earned on government securities.

Read: Uganda seeks funds for roads, climate projects  
"For example, the 10-year treasury bond currently trades at 15-15.5 percent but could increase to 17 percent as government ramps up its new borrowing programme. Yields on government bonds might trade between 14 percent and 18 percent at implementation of those projects. We might not see much impact on economic growth from those projects till they are completed, similar to Kenya's situation in recent times. Nonetheless, the World Bank remains the cheapest source of long-term debt for us and government ought to restart its conversations with that institution on a positive note.

There is enough financial capacity at the World Bank to lend Uganda \$1 billion for various infrastructure projects for more than 30 years at less than one percent interest per year," Allan Lweta, investment director at the Deposit Protection Fund of Uganda said.

"Interest rates on government bonds will certainly go up under the new borrowing arrangement," warns Dr Fred Muhumuza, an economist.

"Some 35 percent of this year's budget has been dedicated to debt servicing and this ratio might rise further in the next financial year. This, in turn, will affect social services negatively. The presence of numerous potholes on our roads partly reflects that reality."

"The high liquidity ratios imposed by BoU on commercial banks plus the high Cash Reserve Ratio and low deposit growth have forced banks to pursue a delicate balance between investing in government securities and keeping hard cash on their books. This means some banks might not be able to participate in the new government borrowing programme. The economy is struggling a lot though imports have increased. But the bulk of our imports originate from the EAC, meaning they are tax-free. This means more pain for tax collection efforts in a situation of low economic growth and few external taxation opportunities."

## Mwinyi applauds NMB Bank for supporting Z'bar growth efforts



Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Sulaiman Abdulla (L), exchanges greeting with NMB bank's Zanzibar Cluster Manager, Naima Said Shaame (R), shortly before the start of a charity walk during the national festival yesterday. Looking on (C) is Zanzibar's State Minister, Presidents office for Labour, Economy and Investment, Mudrik Soraga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi has commended NMB Bank for supporting islands' sustainable development agenda.

Speaking shortly after taking part in a demonstration walk held at Zanzibar Mjini organized on the sidelines of the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution, Mwinyi

noted that NMB Bank's support has been integral driving economic growth, and fostering sustainable development in the Isles.

"NMB Bank has been working closely with our Government in supporting development of various sectors in Zanzibar. We are so grateful for the bank's continued support and I would like to take this opportunity to call upon other players to support our development agenda,"

Mwinyi stressed.

Tabia Maulid Mwita, Zanzibar Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, shared the same sentiments adding that the bank has been instrumental in supporting sports development in Zanzibar.

Mwita lauded the bank for its recent 200m/- sports gear donation to support the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution and urged the bank to continue partnering

with the Zanzibar Government.

He reiterated the ministry's commitment to continue partnering with various stakeholders in Zanzibar to enhance sports development

NMB Bank's Zanzibar Cluster Manager, Ms. Naima Said Shaame during the event reiterated the bank's commitment to continue working closely with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar adding that the bank apart

from supporting various development projects has been instrumental in investing in Community Social Investments (CSIs) as part of its commitment to create a shared value for all its stakeholders including communities where the bank operates.

"As a bank, we are committed to fully support realization of the Zanzibar Government's Blue Economy Agenda through provision of seamless banking solutions," she said.

## T-bills share of domestic debt falls to 10.9 pct



The National Treasury building in Nairobi.

NAIROBI

The share of Treasury bills as a percentage of domestic debt has fallen to 10.99 percent as the exchequer continues to find success in lowering refinancing risks by taking up less in the short-term securities.

According to data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and the National Treasury, the securities now represent 10.99 percent of total domestic debt as of December 15,

compared to 15.32 percent on December 30, 2022.

Over the same period, the share of Treasury bonds to total domestic debt has remained relatively unchanged, moving to 84.82 percent of the local debt share from 84.68 percent previously.

Other sources of domestic borrowing include the CBK overdraft to the National Treasury whose share of domestic debt stands at 1.75 percent and IMF funds on-lent to the government at 1.96 per-

cent.

The continued fall in the share of Treasury bills to total domestic debt points to the success of the exchequer medium term debt management strategy which seeks to reduce domestic debt refinancing risks by cutting the short, dated papers.

"Accordingly, the 2023 medium term debt strategy envisaged maximization of concessional and semi concessional external debt while proposing liabil-

ity management operations in the domestic and in the international capital markets. The domestic funding components will be through medium to long-term bonds as the stock of Treasury bills is reduced to lengthen the maturity structure and to reduce refinancing risk," the National Treasury stated.

In absolute terms, the outstanding balance of Treasury bills, excluding repurchase agreements, now stands at Sh551.22 billion compared to Sh671.51 billion in December last year.

The successful switch to Treasury bonds from bills has been achieved against a high interest rate environment all year where investors have shunned issues of longer-dated papers to guard against duration risks including the prospects of missing out on higher returns.

The rising rates has seen the exchequer striving to raise funding from bonds across the year and has forced its hand in the issuance of shorter dated bonds with a bias for re-openings and tap-sales.

CBK is for instance targeting to raise Sh35 billion at the start of the New Year in January by floating a new three-

year bond and a third re-opening of a five-year bond first sold in July.

The move away from Treasury bills has served to ease the cost and risk analysis of Kenya's existing public debt portfolio.

"The overall debt portfolio re-financing risk indicator improved during the fiscal year as the stock of Treasury bills decreased and more borrowing on concessional terms in line with the debt management strategy," the National Treasury added.

As at the end of 2022, the proportion of debt maturing in one year as a percent of total debt improved to 11.7 percent from 14.8 percent in 2021 while debt maturing in a year as a percentage of GDP improved to 8.4 percent from 10.2 percent in the same period.

Treasury bills offer returns to investors on a relatively short commitment of funds, usually with tenures of 91, 182 and 364 days and are auctioned each week.

Emergency loans the Treasury has tapped directly borrowing from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) have hit a historical record Sh91.13 billion, revealing the extent of the exchequer's cash crunch.



# RRA sets up teams to facilitate third quarterly prepayments of income tax

KIGALI

**R**WANDA Revenue Authority (RRA) has announced the deployment of dedicated support teams to assist taxpayers in the declaration of the third Income Tax Quarterly Prepayment (IQP) before the deadline.

This declaration and payment pertain to individuals registered under income tax, providing a more favorable option to pay taxes through installments instead of settling the complete sum at the end of the year.

The third IQP corresponds to the tax period covering July, August, and September 2023, and the declared amount is calculated based on the tax paid for the previous annual income tax period divided by the turnover of the same tax period, multiplied by the turnover of the taxable quarter. This amount is then adjusted by deducting tax withheld in that quarter, unless the taxable income is not subject to taxation.

Jean-Paulin Uwitonze, Assistant Commissioner for Taxpayer Services and Communications, encourages taxpayers to fulfill their tax obligations earlier to avoid last-minute pressures. Data show that many business people have yet to declare or pay their taxes.

"We would like to remind taxpayers to submit their declarations and make payments well in advance of the deadline to prevent last-minute stress, which could lead to unintended errors and subsequent penalties. While some taxpayers may choose to wait until the last minute, it is crucial to complete all tasks before the deadline and to seek technical support from RRA or from the bank they work with when necessary," he said.

Uwitonze emphasized that for taxpayers requiring in-person sup-



Jean-Paulin Uwitonze, assistant commissioner for taxpayer services and communications at RRA, calls on taxpayers to fulfil their tax obligations promptly to avoid last-minute pressure.

port from both RRA and banks to declare or pay their third IQP in 2023, RRA has deployed dedicated support teams across all RRA offices to streamline the tax declaration process.

Businesses commend quarterly prepayments as a model that ensures the sustainability of their operations. They emphasize the im-

portance of early declaration and payment to avoid delays and associated penalties.

"We once unintentionally delayed declaration and payment and were fined. We learned that timeliness is essential, and I would like to encourage other business operators to prepare and submit their declarations ahead of time to avoid a similar fate.

Paying our taxes on time enhances our country's development and the well-being of every Rwandan," said a mini-supermarket owner in Kicukiro district.

She has opted to hire a private accountant to assist in verifying her business records. By aligning her records, she consistently submits her declarations punctually.

Business owners note that quarterly prepayments have been beneficial as they provide enough time to prepare required documents, unlike paying the whole sum at the end of every month or annual tax period.

Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) has embarked on activities to recognise outstanding taxpayers in the 2022/2023 fiscal year. The activity was launched on October 17, 2023, in Southern Province.

The 21st edition of recognising taxpayers is an annual activity established by the government as an opportunity to showcase achievements in terms of tax collection by rewarding the best contributors and appreciating the role of the private sector and other institutions.

This year, the month dedicated to taxpayers was organised under the theme "Use EBM invoice to build Rwanda".

One outstanding taxpayer from each district among eight in Southern province was recognised. At province level, one outstanding local administrative entity taxpayer who complied with EBM use and an outstanding buyer who requested a lot of EBM invoices at the province level was recognised.

Deputy Commissioner General of Rwanda Revenue Authority, Jean Louis Kaliningondo, said that recognising outstanding taxpayers aims to raise the culture of tax-paying and use of EBM.

"The activity of recognising best taxpayers is an opportunity to show Rwandans and taxpayers in general what has been achieved in terms of tax collection which generates a lot of benefits to them," he said.

He emphasised that EBM is an important tool in collecting taxes saying it also enables traders to get reliable data to be able to plan and monitor their businesses.

Since 2013, RRA has embarked on

the vast ambition of digitalising the sales invoice information through the usage of an Electronic Billing Machine (EBM) System.

"In the coming days, VAT declaration will be much easier, just by one click, and probably verify with eyes if what the technology is telling you is exact," he noted.

Kaliningondo assured taxpayers and other partners that RRA will continue to improve operations and work together to address their challenges.

Celestin Kubumwe, the chairperson of the Private Sector Federation in Southern Province, commended the system being established to facilitate traders in their development and national development.

"We urge traders to comply with paying taxes on time and avoid non-compliance with existing tax laws. We also request the use of EBM invoices and avoid smuggling," he said.

Southern Province governor, Alice Kayitesi, indicated that the national economy is stable as Rwanda is working hard to cope with inflation caused by climate change and international politics, noting that the government took several measures to reduce the impact on the population. To cope with the situation, the government provided subsidies on transport and a value-added tax (VAT) waiver on maize flour and rice in an effort to help ease food price inflation.

Some products will not be taxed in the current financial year as a result of tax policy reforms that aim at sustaining the economic recovery path from the Covid-19 pandemic impact, protecting local producers, and harmonising taxation with other Partner States in the East African Community (EAC).

Commenting on EBM, Kayitesi said: "Every buyer should request an EBM invoice. Traders should understand that it is their duty to provide EBM invoices whenever they sell a product. This helps traders in accounting and planning and be able to know the amount of taxes they have to pay. We ask the private sector to maintain the effort in this drive."



## Alipay to operate without controlling stakeholder

BEIJING

Chinese financial technology company Ant Group has concluded a procedure to remove any actual controllers at its flagship payment platform Alipay, as part of its ongoing efforts to optimize its corporate governance and achieve long-term sustainable development.

China's central bank has agreed with the change to having no controlling stakeholders for Alipay, a popular mobile payment tool by Ant Group, according to a statement from People's Bank of China.

Liu Dian, a researcher at the China Institute of Fudan University, said the central bank's acknowledgment of the removal of any controlling shareholder from Alipay reflects the regulators' increasing emphasis on risk control, anti-monopoly measures and user data protection for internet finance

service platforms.

"As financial technology companies grow rapidly, regulatory bodies demand these enterprises operate in a more transparent and regulated manner," Liu said. "This will help platforms to address systemic financial risk control, ensure financial stability, and better protect consumers' legitimate rights and interests."

"The removal of any actual controllers can mitigate financial risks from the concentration of a single controlling shareholder," said Bai Wenxi, chief economist at IPG China.

Bai said the move will enhance the company's market competitiveness, optimize its business structure and improve its risk prevention.

"Having no actual controller will facilitate greater flexibility for the company to innovate and expand its operations, accelerate the

pace of digital transformation and upgrades, and enhance user experience and service quality," he added.

Ant Group said in a statement in January 2023 that no shareholder, alone or jointly with other parties, will have control over the company, as part of its broader push to optimize corporate governance. The move means Alibaba's co-founder Jack Ma will no longer control the Chinese financial technology company after a series of adjustments that change the exercise of voting rights from Ant's major shareholders.

Pan Helin, co-director of the Digital Economy and Financial Innovation Research Center at Zhejiang University's International Business School, said the removal of any actual controllers from Alipay is conducive to improving the corporate governance system of Ant Group, and may pave

the way for the company's IPO.

Pan said the shareholding structure of Ant will be more transparent and diversified, which will ensure its steady and standardized development and effectively lower the operational risk of the platform.

Alipay's change to having no actual controller is in line with the central bank's requirements concerning the new rule for non-bank payment institutions, and helps promote the healthy development of the payment sector, said Wang Pengbo, a senior analyst at market consultancy Botong Analysis.

After the change to its shareholder voting rights, Ant can adjust its development direction in a timely manner based on market changes, and better protect the legitimate rights and interests of shareholders and users, he added.

## MTN Group offers new shares schedule to execs

CAPE TOWN

MTN Group, Africa's largest telecom operator, has granted shares to its company secretaries and prescribed officials, as well as those from its major subsidiaries.

The company said today on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange that a group of senior MTN employees had accepted the shares, which have a three-year vesting period and are subject to performance conditions under the MTN performance share plan.

The share awards to MTN employees come as the MTN Group continues to outperform the market. In the quarter ended September, the group's service revenue increased by 9.0%

year on year to R156.311 billion (\$8.5 billion), with data revenue increasing by 15.3% and fintech revenue increasing by 20.0%.

The telecoms provider based in South Africa also reported that group EBITDA increased 2.8% year on

year, with an EBITDA margin of 42.8% (3Q22: 45.3%). CAPEX at MTN Group was R43.921 billion in the three-month period under review, up from R38.716 billion in Q3 2022.

Today, the company said MTN Group President and CEO, starting yesterday, was granted 321,077 shares for R36.923.855.00.

Tsholofelo Molefe, CFO of MTN Group, received 171,738 shares for R19.749.870.00.

Jens Schulte-Bockum, MTN Group's chief operational officer, received 212,614 shares worth R24.450.610.00.

Paul Norman, the head of human resources, received 86,431 shares worth R9.939.565.00.

Other recipients include MTN Nigeria CEO Karl Toriola, who earned 108,375 shares for R12.463.125.00.

MTN SA CEO Charles Molapisi received 144,529 shares for R16.620.835.00, while MTN Irancell CFO Ferdi Moolman received 98,635 shares worth R11.343.025.00.

MTN SA CFO Dineo Molefe received 51,174 shares worth R5.885.010.00. Mazen Mroue, MTN Group's chief technology and information officer, was also offered 125,249 shares with a total value of R14.403.635.00.

Thobeka Sange Sishuba Bonoyi, group company secretary, was awarded 32,412 shares worth R3.727.380.00.

Mateboho Rantofi, Bonoyi's equivalent at MTN SA, received 15,693 shares worth R1.804.695.00.

MTN Group's senior vice president of markets, Ebenezer Asante, was given 206,556 shares for R23.753.940.00.

MTN Group today also announced a further allotment of 41,300 shares for Asante, valued at R5.397.910.00.

"An additional allocation was made to correct an omission in the 2022 performance share plan (PSP) allocation. Price per share as of December 9, 2022," the company said.

CURRENT NEWS





# Nifty about overvalued by 20 pct, Kotak sees time correction in next six months

NEW DELHI

**N**IFTY return outlook 2024: Kotak said the returns in 2024 will depend on the tussle between fundamentals and sentiment. In an entirely 'fundamental' market, returns will likely be modest for the market and negative for many stocks.

Kotak Institutional Equities in its latest quant research note said its fair value model for Nifty suggests that the 50-pack index is now close to 20 per cent overvalued. The domestic brokerage does not anticipate a large upside to the index from this point. The most likely outcome for the index in the next 6-9 month period, it said, seems to be a time correction.

"The median pairwise correlations continue to be close to their long-term average. There was a slight uptick in index volatility in December. There were net upgrades to the EPS estimates in December, although the total number of estimate changes was low," it said.

Kotak said the returns in 2024 will depend on the tussle between fundamentals and sentiment. In an entirely 'fundamental' market, returns will likely be modest for the market and negative for many stocks.

A bottom-up plug-in of 12-month fair value for individual stocks shows a modest 1 per cent upside for the Nifty-50 index, Kotak said.

"In a less-than-fundamental market, market returns can vary, as it is impossible to factor in sentiment in any market calculus. Thus, we are amazed by the general obsession with forecasting prices (versus deciphering value) and awed by most

participants' purported ability to forecast prices," it said.

Kotak said any market correction will be entirely based on a big change in the market's expectations of potential returns.

"We have no idea though as to what will change the market's bullish return expectations, which have been reinforced by the stellar returns of the past three years for 'new' retail investors. We can point to a few fundamental factors, such as earnings downgrades (although earnings misses are passe in the current state of irrational exuberance) and higher-than-expected interest rates (unlikely)," Kotak said.

Increased focus on fundamentals versus flows may result in a correction, but "we wonder why investors ask this question but stay invested," Kotak wondered.

On the other hand, the IPO market is likely to witness a robust capital raise even in 2024 as more than 65 IPO documents are filed with Sebi, Kotak's Chouhan said. All eyes would be on Swiggy, Firstcry, Ola Electric, Oyo and Portea Medical, Chouhan said.

The euphoria seen in the initial public offer (IPO) market in 2023 is unlikely to fizzle out soon. If one were to go by analysts, 2024 will be another year of heightened activity in the IPO mart, with issues by Swiggy, Firstcry, Ola Electric, Oyo & Portea Medical likely to attract investor attention.

Tanvi Kanchan, Head - Corporate Strategy at Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers called 2023 a comeback year for the IPO market, with over 173 small and medium sized enterprises and 52 mainboard listings, and some of the best and outstand-



Nio showcases battery-swapping models at the Guangzhou auto show last month.

ing debuts in these categories.

"I believe that 2024 will also continue to see a great number of IPOs, given the expectation on GDP growth, the India manufacturing story, and with the elections around the corner, a favourable outcome could also boost the activity further," Kanchan said.

Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research at Kotak Securities while the start of 2023 was tepid amid global headwinds but activity picked up from April onwards; the IPO market experienced euphoria in the

December quarter, he said. Holistically, Chouhan said, the year 2023 turned out to be much better for IPOs than his expectations.

"The markets are likely to witness a robust capital raise even in 2024 as more than 65 IPO documents are filed with Sebi. Big IPOs lined up for 2024 include Swiggy, Firstcry, Ola Electric, Oyo and Portea Medical," Chouhan said.

Among the companies, Firstcry's parent Brainbees Solutions has already filed its draft papers with the market watchdog Sebi to launch its

IPO. Firstcry, India's largest multichannel retailing platform for mothers, babies and kid products, is looking to raise Rs 1,816 crore as fresh issue and its existing shareholders are looking to offload up to 5,43,91,592 Equity shares.

Ola Electric, a manufacturer of electric vehicles (EVs) and certain core EV components such as battery packs, motors and vehicle frames at the Ola Future factory, too has reached Sebi with draft papers. The proposed IPO is a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 5,500 crore and

an offer for sale of 9.52 crore equity shares by promoters and investors.

As per media reports, Swiggy is contemplating a stock market debut in 2024 and for that it has reportedly selected investment banks for the IPO. Swiggy is expected to raise an estimated \$1 billion through the IPO and has

Healthvista India, which is the parent company of Portea Medical, received final observation from Sebi in April last year. This company could be looking at a fresh issue worth Rs 200 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 56,252,654 shares worth Rs 800 crore.

Rashi Peripherals, Survival Technologies, Shiva Pharmachem, Western Carriers(India) and Indegene are a few companies that received Sebi's nod last year and could come up with IPOs this calendar.

Arpit Jain, Joint MD, Aриhant Capital Markets Ltd said IPO activities generally tend to slow down or stop six months prior to the general elections, but that has not been the case this time. "We think with the abundance of liquidity in the market, expectations of growth in India's GDP and the continued bull run, IPO activities are likely to continue or even increase in 2024," he said.

Sunil Nyati, Managing Director, Swastika Investmart said notable candidates for 2024 IPOs will be Ola Electric, First Cry, and Swiggy, which could become among the most well-known names upon listing.

With their strong business models and presence on the market, these companies are in a position to attract significant investor interest as they navigate the market for initial public offerings," he said.

## 80pc of employed Kenyans poor as wages fail to cover daily basics

NAIROBI

About 15.3 million or 80 percent of employed Kenyans are living in poverty, implying that their incomes aren't sufficient to afford them and their families a decent living.

The latest statistics on working poverty from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) show 26 percent of working Kenyans are ranked as extremely poor, while 29 percent and 25 percent are classified as moderately poor and near poor respectively.

The data ranks Kenya at number 30 out of the 120 in terms of economies in the world with the highest proportion of employed people whose jobs have failed to lift them out of poverty.

Kenya is tied with Zimbabwe and trails countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Cambodia, and Ghana whose workers are better off despite their gross domestic product being smaller.

This means that having a job in Kenya has not been enough to keep the majority of people and their families out of poverty, pointing to issues of job quality and the inadequacy of earnings in an economy where pay rises have been below inflation for three straight years.

"The statistics point to a labour market that is almost broken and does not create enough high-quality jobs. It also points to an economic model that is not generating prosperity," said Ken Gichinga, the chief economist at Mentor Economics.

"Unless we get our national tax policy right, it is going to be very difficult to create an environment that allows businesses to thrive and create high-quality jobs. A burdensome taxation system cannot generate prosperity."

The ILO data, which shows only 20 percent of the work-

ing are out of poverty, also shines a spotlight on the quality of earnings for working Kenyans.

The economy employed 19.15 million people by the end of last year, with 15.96 million or 83.3 percent working in the informal sector where wages and working conditions are often not regulated by the government.

The ILO ranking uses the absolute international poverty line of \$1.90 (Sh297.35) per person per day at purchasing power parity.

The cost of living in Kenya has risen, but the minimum wage has not increased at the same pace, reducing the real minimum wage. In 2022, the minimum wage increased by 12 percent – the first review since 2018 – but the cost of the minimum wage basket increased by an average of 22 percent, with food expenses being the key driver.

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics data shows real wages – a measure of income after accounting for the cost of goods and services people buy – shrank by three percent in 2022, marking the third straight year of inflation-adjusted pay cuts.

The ILO data on working poverty corroborates findings by the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (Kippra) in its Kenya Economic Report 2023, which showed the country is grappling with a rise in the number of people whose wages and salaries are far below the minimum required to meet the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing.

Kippra said the majority of workers in Kenya are paid below the minimum wage which varies by sector and location – covering about 45 separate categories – but has not benefited many people due to limited coverage and enforcement.

"Most workers still earn

below minimum wage, accounting for 77 percent of total workers, out of which 29 and 71 percent are in the formal and informal sectors, respectively," said Kippra.

"Enforcement of the minimum wage is limited by an inadequate number of enforcement officers and the complex system of minimum wage setting that varies based on occupation, skills level, and location."

Additionally, Kippra noted, that the minimum wage allocated to workers was still lower than the amount required to achieve a decent living and was covering only about half of the total necessary expenses.

Compulsory monthly deductions such as Pay as You Earn, National Social Security Fund, National Health Insurance Fund and housing levy, added to personal deductions such as those towards servicing loans, have all eaten into workers' take-home pay.

Eight Kenyans recently sued President William Ruto's government for "wage slavery", which they say has been orchestrated by too many taxes and levies introduced "with reckless abandon".

The petitioners, who approached the High Court under a certificate of urgency, want the court to cap the taxes and levies that can be imposed on an individual at 20 percent and 30 percent for corporate bodies.

"In its classical meaning, any person whose labour can only afford them the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter is considered a slave or a wage slave. Over the last one year, many Kenyans have fallen into the wage slave bracket despite the fact that Article 30 of the Constitution absolutely prohibits slavery in Kenya," they said in the petition.



Paper Crown Rwanda staff pose for a photo with its youth advisory council.

## 'Youth should be at the centre of development programmes'

KIGALI

Youth voices are vital when it comes to the development of sustainable programmes. Putting young people at the centre of targeted initiatives not only empowers the next generation but also fosters inclusive and impactful initiatives.

Take, for example, Francoise Uwukunda, a young woman with a physical disability who is also a member of the youth advisory council at Paper Crown Rwanda – a feminist non-profit that works with youth to transform gender norms, foster leadership and create lasting social change.

Since her induction into the council, Uwukunda has acquired diverse knowledge, particularly about gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual reproductive health, and has disseminated the information among her peers, including those with disabilities, acknowledging that they often miss out on critical information.

She emphasised the value of youth being at the centre of the initiatives targeting them, as opposed to having other people make decisions on their behalf.

"It allows us, the youth, to articulate our needs and confront the challenges we face, rather than having others think for us – especially when many decision-makers are no longer youth," she said.

"This approach is crucial because it ensures that our voices are heard, and we can relay insights and ideas from our peers. When we bring older people into our discussions, they provide advice and contribute to honing our skills, which we then use when addressing our fellow youth. It serves as an effective platform for us to amplify our voices."

Yvan Ngoboka, another member of the council, highlighted the importance of sharing insights during council meetings, where members acquire new skills and subsequently apply them within their respective organisations – a process he said leads to the initiation of activities that benefit more youth.

"When we contribute ideas to these organisations, they are encouraged to think ambitiously. If they confine themselves to the office without engaging us, they may overlook the challenges we encounter in school and society, issues that may be unknown to parents and elders. We bring diverse knowledge and firsthand testimonies about our experiences," he said.

Ngoboka added that it is easier for young people to teach and relate to their peers compared to individuals who may not share the same generational perspective.

He further noted that the collective voice of the youth in the council

is gaining traction, especially with the support of Paper Crown Rwanda unlike before when each operated on their own.

The organization recognises that to persist in reshaping gender norms and eradicating discrimination and violence, it is essential to actively involve and take into account the perspectives of young individuals in the formulation of their programmes. This resulted in the establishment of a youth advisory council comprising a diverse group of young individuals who are willing to bring solutions to the challenges that both themselves and the youth in their communities face.

Clementine Nyirarukundo, Programmes and Partnerships Manager at Paper Crown Rwanda, highlighted the importance of avoiding decisions made on the youth's behalf, emphasising the need for feedback from diverse backgrounds to inform the organisation's actions and ensure they meet the specific needs of different groups.

"We work with youth, but we are not youth. Some are, others are not. So we don't want to think or work on their behalf," she said. "Their feedback is crucial to us because that is what informs our plans, our ideas, our programmes, our projects so that we make sure that whatever we are doing, we are serving them."



## WORLD

# Electoral commission: Tshisekedi re-elected president of DRC

KINSHASA

FELIX Tshisekedi has been re-elected as president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a second five-year term, securing 73.34 percent of the total votes cast in the elections held on Dec 20, the Independent National Electoral Commission said on Sunday.

Moise Katumbi, one of the main opposition candidates, attained the second position with about 18 percent of the votes, according to the commission.

The commission reported that over 18

million people, out of a total of 44 million registered voters, cast their ballots.

The president-elect is scheduled to be sworn in on Jan 20, 2024, after the Constitutional Court approves the election results on Jan 10.

General elections held on Dec 20 witnessed alleged irregularities as the Central African country was slated to elect a new president, members of the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, along with municipal councillors.

Denis Kadima, president of the electoral commission, said that the report-



Felix Tshisekedi

ed irregularities during the electoral process are "insignificant" and would not impact the election results.

Due to delayed arrival of voting materials and equipment, many polling stations were unable to open on time, leading to an official extension of polling to the following day. However, this extension was deemed contrary to electoral law and the Constitution by some presidential candidates.

A statement by five presidential candidates, including Martin Fayulu and Denis Mukwege, prominent challengers in the race, claimed that "irregularities sufficiently attest that the election on Dec 20, 2023, was a

sham, organized in violation of the fundamental rights of the Congolese people."

Ahead of the announcement of election results by the electoral body, several opposition presidential candidates on Sunday called for widespread protests and demanded a redo of the election.

Tensions have been visibly escalating since the commencement of polling, akin to previous elections. In 2018, Tshisekedi ascended to power after winning the election, marking the country's first peaceful transfer of power since its independence from Belgium. **Agencies**

## Putin addresses Russians with New Year's greetings from Kremlin

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin addressed Russian citizens with his traditional New Year's speech from Kremlin.

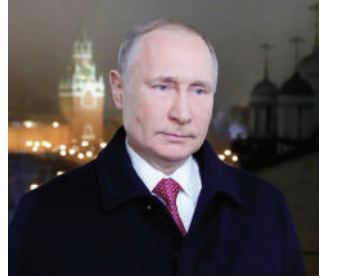
Residents of Kamchatka and Chukotka, where the New Year is already coming (the time difference with Moscow is plus 9 hours) were the first to see it.

Putin's New Year's address will be shown before midnight local time in all time zones.

The president's speech against the backdrop of the Kremlin is a traditional format for New Year's addresses. There were exceptions.

Last year, the head of state spoke from the headquarters of the Southern Military District in Rostov-on-Don, surrounded by members of the Northern Military District.

On December 31, 2013, Putin addressed Russians from Khabarovsk, where he met with flood victims (that night, residents of Kamchatka managed to see the congratulations recorded in advance in the Kremlin, and the Khabarovsk address of the head of state was already shown in all other time zones).



## Sudan's army chief demands paramilitary forces' withdrawal to achieve ceasefire

KHARTOUM

CHAIRMAN of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council and General Commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, on Sunday said that stopping the war in Sudan would not be achieved except by withdrawal of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) from all cities, citizens' homes and government headquarters.

"There is only one way to stop the war, which is the withdrawal of the rebel militia from Gezira State and from the rest of the cities of Sudan, besides returning all looted money and property of citizens and government movables and withdrawing from citizens' homes and government headquarters," Al-Burhan said in a speech to the Sudanese people on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of Sudan's independence, which was broadcast by Sudan's official TV. "Any ceasefire that does not guarantee the above-mentioned will be of no value, whereas the Sudanese people will not accept to live among these murderers, criminals, and those supporting them," he said.

Al-Burhan also warned Sudan's neighboring countries against supporting the RSF. "I am sending a message to the countries which welcome these killers to stop interfering in our affairs, because providing any support to the leadership of the rebel group is considered partnership in crime and in killing and destroying the people of Sudan," he said.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly clashes between the SAF and the RSF since April 15. More than 12,000 people have been killed in the fighting, according to a statement by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in early December.

## India, Pakistan exchange list of nuclear installations under 1988 pact

NEW DELHI

INDIA and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad yesterday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in an official press statement.

The exchange of information was held under the agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and facilities between India and Pakistan.

As per the Ministry release, the agreement which was signed on December 31, 1988 and came into force on January 27, 1991, provides, inter alia, that India and Pakistan inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every calendar year. This is the 33rd consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.

The exchange of the list came amid continuing strain in ties between the two countries over multiple issues including Kashmir and cross-border terrorism. **ANI**



**As per the Ministry release, the agreement which was signed on December 31, 1988 and came into force on January 27, 1991, provides, inter alia, that India and Pakistan inform each**

# Xi, Biden mark 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden exchanged congratulatory messages Monday to mark the 45th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

In his message, Xi said the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States is a major event in the history of bilateral and international relations.

Over the past 45 years, the China-US relationship has gone through ups and downs and moved forward on the whole, which has not only enhanced the well-being of the two peoples, but also promoted world peace, stability and prosperity, Xi said.

History has already proven and will continue to fully prove that mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the

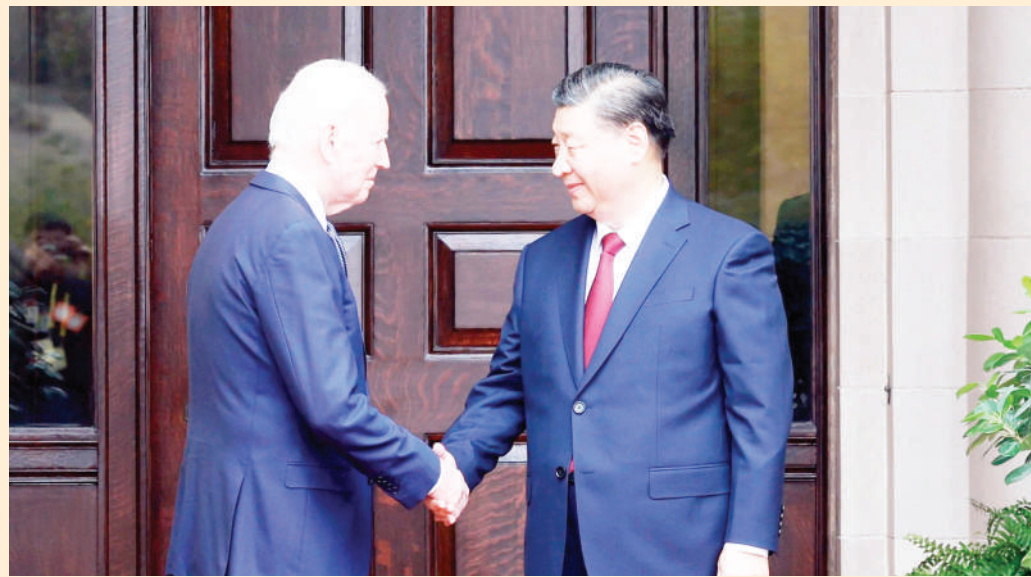
right way for China and the United States to get along with each other as two major countries, said the Chinese president.

That should be the direction of joint efforts made by China and the United States in the new era, he said.

Xi pointed out that he and Biden, during their meeting in San Francisco, laid out a future-oriented "San Francisco vision," charting the course for the development of China-US relations.

He called on China and the United States to earnestly implement the important common understandings and outcomes reached by the two heads of state, and take concrete actions to promote the stable, healthy and sustainable development of China-US relations.

Xi stressed that he is willing to work with Biden to continue to steer the course of China-US relations, so as to



US President Joe Biden welcomes President Xi Jinping as he arrives for their meeting at the Filoli Estate on Nov 16, 2023.

benefit the two countries and their people, and promote the cause of world peace and development.

In his message, Biden said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979, the ties between the

United States and China have facilitated the prosperity and opportunities of the United States, China and the world.

Biden said he is committed to managing this important relationship responsibly, adding that he looks forward to

continuing advancing the US-China relationship based on the progress made by the predecessors of the two leaders and through multiple meetings and discussions between the two heads of state.

Xinhua

## PM Modi's third straight term at Centre 'almost an inevitability', declares column in leading UK daily

New Delhi

THE hat-trick of victories in three state assemblies, combined with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's immense popularity and emotive issues such as the Ram Temple inauguration in Ayodhya, has made a third, straight term for the BJP at the Centre 'almost an inevitability', read a column in the UK-based daily, The Guardian.

The column, by Hannah Ellis-Peterson, pointed to the saffron sweep in the three heartland states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have added more strength and momentum to the BJP going into the crucial Lok Sabha elections next year.

After assembly wins in three states, PM Modi himself didn't hold back from predicting that "this hat-trick has guaranteed the 2024 victory", the column noted.

In India's current political landscape, the consensus among political analysts is that a win for Modi and the BJP is the "most plausible outcome", Ellis-Peterson added in her piece.

"The prime minister's popularity as a political strongman, alongside the BJP's Hindu nationalist agenda, continues to appeal to the large Hindu majority of the country, particularly in the populous Hindi belt of the north", the column read, adding, "At the state and national level, the apparatus of the country has been skewed heavily towards the BJP since Modi was elected (PM) in 2014".

The column noted further that while

the regional opposition to the BJP was strong in pockets of south and east India, nationally it is seen as 'fragmented and weak'.

"The main opposition -- Indian National Congress -- won the state election in Telangana this month but is in power in only three states overall and is perceived as "hierarchical and riddled with infighting", The Guardian reported.

"The recently formed coalition of all major opposition parties -- which goes by the acronym INDIA -- is yet to unite on crucial issues, though it has vowed to fight the BJP collectively," the piece read further, adding, "The general sense is that a BJP win is almost an inevitability at this stage," said Neelanjan Sircar, a fellow at the Centre for Policy Research. "The question is more: what factors will shape the scale of the victory?"

Pointing to the BJP's 'nationwide pre-election push' -- 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp

Yatra', the column stated that it features the deployment of 'thousands of government officers' to towns and villages across the country over the next two months, "tasked with speaking about the BJP's successes over the past nine years".

The Ministry of Defence is also setting up 822 'selfie points' at war memorials, defence museums, railway stations and tourist attractions where people can take photos of themselves with a cutout of PM Modi, The Guardian reported.

"PM Modi rose to power in 2014 largely on the back of an anti-incumbency wave while his re-election victory in 2019 was all but secured after India carried out airstrikes on Pakistan, after a terrorist incident a few months before the polls, resulting in a storm of national security sentiment in his favour," wrote Ellis-Petersen.

ANI

# World must work together to strengthen AI governance

MANY international media, in their year-end reviews or next-year forecasts, listed artificial intelligence (AI) as a keyword.

They said AI has transformed from a synonym for science fiction to a tool used by millions of people, seeping into people's daily lives and driving industries toward the future. They believe that as 2024 approaches, AI innovations that break traditional boundaries will grow in strength.

However, along with the immense application and commercial value AI has brought, there were also unpredictable risks and challenges in 2023. At this critical juncture of AI's rapid

development, strengthening AI governance becomes an urgent task that the international community must tackle together.

U.S. leading reference books publisher Merriam-Webster announced that the word "authentic" has been chosen as its Word of the Year for 2023. This decision was made due to the significant increase in the demand for authenticity caused by the rapid advancement of AI technology.

The global community has been paying unprecedented attention to preventing AI from spreading false information, infringing on personal rights and interests, posing security risks, and widening the technologi-

cal divide.

It is widely recognized that there is a risk of misuse and abuse of AI due to the lack of effective safeguards.

With the accelerating AI application around the world, it is necessary for governments and organizations to consider how to leverage this technology for the benefit of humanity and the planet, said John Hoffman, CEO of GSMA Ltd. He emphasized the need to jointly establish a trustworthy environment for AI.

Good governance is essential for the healthy development of AI. The impact of AI on human society depends on whether the international community can seek benefits and

avoid harm through effective governance.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pointed out the need to approach this technology with a sense of urgency, a global lens, and a learner's mindset. Countries should engage in coordination, set boundaries, and work tirelessly to ensure that AI benefits humanity.

China has released an interim regulation on the management of generative AI services; the UN has established the High-level Advisory Body on AI; the AI Safety Summit has issued the Bletchley Declaration; the EU has reached an agreement on the Artificial Intelligence

Act. Over the past year, there has been a deepening understanding of the urgency of AI governance, and related actions have been accelerating.

However, in the face of such a disruptive technology that may profoundly impact the trajectory of human civilization, governance challenges still exist widely. It is crucial to enhance global coordination and cooperation.

As a responsible AI powerhouse, China has always attached great importance to AI governance. While gradually establishing and improving relevant laws, regulations, and institutional systems at home, China

actively contributes its wisdom to strengthening global AI governance.

China has put forward the Global AI Governance Initiative, which systematically elaborates on China's approach to AI governance in terms of development, security, and governance.

The initiative adheres to the systematic thinking that puts equal emphasis on development and security, upholds a people-centered approach in developing AI, adheres to the principle of developing AI for good, and upholds the principles of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit in AI development.

**People's Daily**



## Not seeking wider conflict in Middle East: White House after US sinks Houthi ships in Red Sea

WASHINGTON

HOURS after the US helicopters sank three Houthi boats in the Red Sea, the White House issued a statement saying that it is not seeking a 'wider conflict' in the Middle East, CNN reported.

Notably, the US helicopters sinking the Houthi boats and killing its crew, marked the first instance when the US killed members of the Iranian-backed rebel group which has been targeting commercial and merchant vessels in the Red Sea since tensions broke out.

The US has avoided directly striking the group inside Yemen as it seeks to avoid escalating the crisis further. But a National Security Council spokesman said on Sunday that the US would continue acting in 'self-defense'.

"We don't seek a conflict wider in the region and we're not looking for a conflict with the Houthis. The best outcome here would be for the Houthis to stop these attacks, as we have made clear over and over again," John Kirby said on ABC News.

Four small boats originating from "Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen" attacked the Maersk Hangzhou on Saturday with small arms and attempted to board the merchant vessel, according to a statement from US Central Command, which added that a security team on board had returned fire.

CENTCOM said helicopters from the USS Eisenhower and Gravelly responded to the Maersk Hangzhou's distress call, the second in less than 24 hours, and were fired on by the Houthi boats, CNN reported.

"The US Navy helicopters returned fire in self-defense, sinking three of the four small boats, and killing the crews. The fourth boat fled the area," the statement said, adding that there was "no damage to US personnel or equipment."

The Houthis have launched dozens of attacks on commercial vessels since October 7, saying they are acting in solidarity with Hamas amid the group's war with Israel.

The US has deployed warships to the Red Sea and last month launched Operation Prosperity Guardian, a multinational maritime coalition, to beef up security in the critical global shipping lane.

While President Joe Biden has authorized strikes on other Iranian proxy groups that have attacked American troops in Iraq and Syria, he has stopped short of striking the Houthis in Yemen, according to CNN.

"We've got significant national security interests in the region just on our own... and we're going to put the kind of forces we need in the region to protect those interests and we're going to act in self-defense going forward," Kirby said.

On being asked about the prospect of a pre-emptive strike in the region, Kirby reiterated the White House stance.

"We're not ruling anything in or out, but we have made it clear publicly to the Houthis and privately to our allies and partners in the region that we take these threats seriously, and we're going to make the right decisions going forward," he added.

ANI

## Ministry: Palestinian death toll in Gaza nears 22,000

GAZA / JERUSALEM / RAMALLAH

THE number of Palestinian deaths due to Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 21,822, with 56,451 injured, the Ministry of Health in Gaza said on Sunday.

In a press statement sent to Xinhua, Ashraf Al-Qedra, the health ministry spokesman said that the Israeli army killed 150 and injured 286 others during the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources told Xinhua that the former Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs and preacher of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Youssef Salama, was killed in an Israeli air strike on his home in Al-Maghazi refugee camp, in the central Gaza Strip.

The sources said that Israeli warplanes bombed Sheikh Salama's house, killing him and wounding a number of his family members.

The sources added that a paramedic was killed while working in an Israeli raid on the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Avichay Adraee, the Israeli army spokesperson said on his X account that the Israeli forces continued the fight in Gaza, and have thwarted ready-to-use explosive devices, destroyed infrastructure of Palestinian factions, and killed 14 militants.

Israel launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage in southern Israel on Oct 7, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 were taken hostage.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that in the past week, over 100 Palestinian militants were killed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), with dozens being killed daily.

Netanyahu made the remarks at the start of a government meeting at the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv.

"Last week they (the troops) eliminated over 100 terrorists ... Dozens of terrorists were eliminated on a daily basis, sometimes even more than this. We will eliminate Hamas, bring back our hostages, and win the war," he said.

An IDF statement released later in the day showed that Israeli soldiers are continuing to operate in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. The soldiers are coordinating operations with armored, engineering, and air forces units to locate and destroy infrastructure and kill Palestinian militants in close-quarters combat scenarios.

At the Sunday meeting, talking about the national backing to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, Netanyahu noted that 9 billion shekels (about \$2.5 billion) have been conveyed to the reservists and their families, and the state also supports the reservists' right to be elected.

According to a statement from Israel's Government Press Office, the government on Sunday unanimously approved the signing of an order to postpone local elections until Feb 27, 2024, which were supposed to be held in October this year.

The postponement was made as 688 reservists, who cannot be discharged, are running in 144 local authorities, said the statement, citing the IDF data.

Also on Sunday, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics said that more Palestinians were killed in conflicts in 2023 than in any other year since 1948.

According to the bureau, 22,404 Palestinians died in 2023, and 22,141 of them were killed since the outbreak of the conflict between Israel and the Gaza-ruling Hamas on Oct 7.

The bureau said 98 percent of the Palestinian fatalities were in Gaza, including nearly 9,000 children and 6,450 women, adding that 319 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank since Oct 7.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Sunday that his people would remain steadfast and adhere to their legitimate rights, and would not accept being displaced from their land.

In a statement marking the 59th anniversary of the founding of the Fatah movement, Abbas said the Palestinian Authority, which he heads, would not give up a single inch of their territory, and would not forsake its responsibilities toward Gaza.

Abbas said military solutions would destabilize the region and the rest of the world rather than bringing anyone peace or security. He called for a political solution based on international law and resolutions that would recognize the Palestinians' rights to freedom and independence. *Xinhua*



**Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Sunday that his people would remain steadfast and adhere to their legitimate rights, and would not accept**

## Full text of President Xi Jinping's 2024 New Year message

ON New Year's Eve, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered his 2024 New Year message via China Media Group and the Internet. The following is the full text of the message:

GREETINGS to you all! As energy rises after the Winter Solstice, we are about to bid farewell to the old year and usher in the new. From Beijing, I extend my best New Year wishes to each and every one of you!

In 2023, we have continued to forge ahead with resolve and tenacity. We have gone through the test of winds and rains, have seen beautiful scenes unfolding on the way, and have made plenty real achievements. We will remember this year as one of hard work and perseverance. Going forward, we have full confidence in the future.

This year, we have marched forward with solid steps. We achieved a smooth transition in our COVID-19 response efforts. The Chinese economy has sustained the momentum of recovery. Steady progress has been made in pursuing high-quality development. Our modernized industrial system has been further upgraded. A number of advanced, smart and green industries are rapidly emerging as new pillars of the economy. We have secured a bumper harvest for the 20th year in a row. Waters have become clearer and mountains greener. New advances have been made in pursuing rural revitalization. New progress has been made in fully revitalizing northeast China. The Xiong'an New Area is growing fast, the Yangtze River Economic Belt is full of vitality, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is embracing new development opportunities. Having weathered the storm, the Chinese economy is more resilient and dynamic than before.

This year, we have marched forward with robust steps. Thanks to years of dedicated efforts, China's innovation-driven development is full of energy. The C919 large passenger airliner entered commercial service. The Chinese-built large cruise ship completed its trial voyage. The Shenzhou spaceships are continuing their missions in space. The deep-sea manned submersible Fendouzhe reached the deepest ocean trench. Products designed and made in China, especially trendy brands, are highly popular with consumers. The latest models of Chinese-made mobile phones are an instant market success. New energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products are a new testimony to China's manufacturing prowess. Everywhere across our country, new heights are being scaled with dogged determination, and new creations and innovations are emerging every day.

This year, we have marched forward in high spirits. The Chengdu FISU



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year message via China Media Group and the Internet Sunday evening in Beijing to ring in 2024. Xinhua

World University Games and the Hangzhou Asian Games presented spectacular sports scenes, and Chinese athletes excelled in their competitions. Tourist destinations are full of visitors on holidays, and the film market is booming. The "village super league" football games and "village spring festival gala" are immensely popular. More people are embracing low-carbon lifestyles. All these exhilarating activities have made our lives richer and more colorful, and they mark the return of bustling life across the country. They embody people's pursuit of a beautiful life, and present a vibrant and flourishing China to the world.

This year, we have marched forward with great confidence. China is a great country with a great civilization. Across this vast expanse of land, wisps of smoke in deserts of the north and drizzles in the south invoke our fond memory of many millennium-old stories. The mighty Yellow River and Yangtze River never fail to inspire us. Discoveries at the archeological sites of Liangzhu and Erlitou tell us much about the dawn of Chinese civilization. The ancient Chinese characters inscribed on oracle bones of the Yin Ruins, the cultural treasures of the Sanxingdui Site, and the collections of the National Archives of Publications and Culture bear witness to the evolution of Chinese culture.

All this stands as testament to the time-honored history of China and its splendid civilization. And all this is the source from which our confidence and strength are derived.

While pursuing its development, China has also embraced the world and fulfilled its responsibility as a major country. We held the China-Central Asia Summit and the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, and hosted leaders from across the world at many diplomatic events held in China. I also paid visits to a number of countries, attended international conferences, and met many friends, both old and new.

I shared China's vision and enhanced common understandings with them. No matter how the global landscape may evolve, peace and development remain the underlying trend,

and only cooperation for mutual benefit can deliver.

Along the way, we are bound to encounter headwinds. Some enterprises had a tough time. Some people had difficulty finding jobs and meeting basic needs. Some places were hit by floods, typhoons, earthquakes or other natural disasters. All these remain at the forefront of my mind. When I see people rising to the occasion, reaching out to each other in adversity, meeting challenges head-on and overcoming difficulties, I am deeply moved. All of you, from farmers in the fields to workers on factory floors, from entrepreneurs blazing the trail to service members guarding our country -- indeed, people from all walks of life -- have done your very best. Each and every ordinary Chinese has made an extraordinary contribution! You, the people, are the ones we look to when we fight to prevail over all difficulties or challenges.

Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. We will steadfastly advance Chinese modernization, fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts, speed up building the new development paradigm, promote high-quality development, and both pursue development and safeguard security. We will continue to act on the principle of seeking progress while maintaining stability, promoting stability through progress, and establishing the new before abolishing the old. We will consolidate and strengthen the momentum of economic recovery, and work to achieve steady and long-term economic development. We will deepen reform and opening up across the board, further enhance people's confidence in development, promote vibrant development of the economy, and redouble efforts to boost education, advance science and technology and cultivate talents. We will continue to support Hong Kong and Macao in harnessing their distinctive strengths, better integrating themselves into China's overall development, and securing long-term prosperity and stability. China will surely be reunified, and all Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Strait should be bound by a common sense of purpose and share in the glory of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Our goal is both inspiring and simple. Ultimately, it is about delivering a better life for the people. Our children should be well taken care of and receive good education. Our young people should have the opportunities to pursue their careers and succeed. And our elderly people should have adequate access to medical services and elderly care.

These issues matter to every family, and they are also a top priority of the government. We must work together to deliver on these issues. Today, in our fast-paced society, people are all busy and face a lot of pressure in work and life. We should foster a warm and harmonious atmosphere in our society, expand the inclusive and dynamic environment for innovation, and create convenient and good living conditions, so that the people can live happy lives, bring out their best, and realize their dreams.

As I speak to you, conflicts are still raging in some parts of the world. We Chinese are keenly aware of what peace means. We will work closely with the international community for the common good of humanity, build a community with a shared future for mankind, and make the world a better place for all.

Right at this moment, when the lights in millions of homes light up the evening sky, let us all wish our great country prosperity, and let us all wish the world peace and tranquility! I wish you happiness in all the four seasons and success and good health in the year ahead!

Thank you!

## Massive quake causes damage, disruptions in central Japan

TOKYO/SEOUL/VLADIVOSTOK

MULTIPLE roads and houses in Japan's Ishikawa prefecture were damaged after strong earthquakes struck the country's western coast yesterday, authorities said.

A series of strong earthquakes with major ones of up to a preliminary 7.6 magnitude have been hitting a wide area on the Sea of Japan coast in central Japan since yesterday afternoon, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

Reports from local authorities and firefighting departments said multiple houses collapsed in Noto region and Hakui city in Ishikawa prefecture.

Approximately 32,500 households experienced power outage across Ishikawa prefecture, said local authorities.

In Ishikawa's Kanazawa city, video footages taken by passengers showed rocking tremors experienced on a local train platform and train coaches.

Some buildings in the Noto region caught fire, according to latest local media reports.

In Shijika city, Niigata prefecture, an 80-year-old woman suffered a head injury after falling during the evacuation.

The torii gate of a shrine in Kanazawa collapsed due to the earthquakes, with no injuries reported in the surrounding area, according to the national news agency Kyodo.



Cracks are seen on the ground in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan, yesterday, following an earthquake. Japan issued tsunami alerts after a series of strong quakes in the Sea of Japan. AP

East Japan Railway Company suspended all Shinkansen services on the Joetsu and Hokuriku lines throughout Ishikawa prefecture. There is currently no prospect for resumption of operations, according to sources.

Earlier in the day, the JMA issued tsunami warnings for a broad swath of the western coast, including Ishikawa, Fukui, Niigata, Toyama, Yamagata and other prefectures, following the strong earthquakes.

Ishikawa, where the epicenter of the major quake was located, observed tsunami waves of more than 1.2 meters at 4:21 pm local time, and Toyama prefecture reported tsunami waves of 50 centimeters at 4:23 pm local time, local media reports said.

Torrents of water could reach as high as 5 meters and authorities had

urged people to flee to high land or a top of a nearby building as quickly as possible, according to the public broadcaster NHK.

According to the JMA, among the quakes, the major tremor occurred at 4:10 pm local time (0710 GMT) at a shallow depth, registering a maximum 7 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale on the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture. It also shook buildings in central Tokyo.

Meanwhile, the tsunami would affect a part of South Korea's eastern coast, the South Korean weather agency said Monday.

The tsunami was expected to arrive in South Korea's eastern coastal cities, including Gangneung at about 6:29 pm local time (0929 GMT), Yangyang at about 6:32 pm, Goseong at about 6:48 pm, and Pohang at around

7:17 pm, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA).

The tsunami height was estimated at between 0.2 meters and 0.3 meters when it reaches the coastal cities.

The KMA said a part of the coast in the eastern Gangwon province would see higher sea level due to the earthquake and tsunami from Japan, noting that the tsunami height could be higher than estimated when it arrives in the coast.

Besides, several regions in Russia's Far East were also on tsunami alert yesterday.



# New Year hopes, expectations



Some of Tanzania's senior national soccer team players are pictured participating in intensive training at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar recently, shaping up for the 2023 AFCON finals slated for this month in Ivory Coast. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Lloyd Elikopea

NOW that we have rung in the New Year, many of us will likely have a list of dreams and hopes that we would like to see realized in 2024.

Indeed, it would be spot on to assert that sportsmen, sportswomen, sports teams, and all other major actors in the lucrative sports industry also have several goals that they would like to achieve this year.

From a Tanzanian perspective, many of us will be dearly hoping that our various national teams, sports clubs, and athletes will be able to put their best foot forward at the diverse and prestigious sporting events that are

scheduled to take place this year.

One such event is doubtlessly the 2023 AFCON finals where our beloved senior national football team, Taifa Stars, will be making their second appearance in the last five years, which is incredibly impressive.

For those not in the know, the Taifa Stars had failed to qualify for the AFCON finals for many years in the wake of their debut appearance at the elite football spectacle in 1980.

This nightmarish run blissfully ended in 2019 when our Taifa Stars finally ended their hoodoo and progressed to their second AFCON finals.

Having established that it is crystal clear to see that the fact that we have advanced to our second AFCON finals in

the last five years is a magnificent football feat that should not be sniffed at.

That being said, though, we are bound to face some daunting obstacles in our exertions to advance beyond the group phase at the revered continental football championship.

Indeed, there can be little room for error for the Taifa Stars in a dicey Group F that consists of 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco, former African champions Zambia, and the ever-dangerous DR Congo.

With each match in Group F likely to be a difficult test for the Taifa Stars, one can only hope that the Stars will be able to play to their strengths, which will hopefully enable them to slay a few towering giants of Afri-

can football.

At this critical juncture, it is vital to note that the seemingly thrill-a-minute, multi-sports extravaganza that is the Olympic Games will take place in the French capital Paris this year.

And, for the first time in quite a while, we shall be heading to the Olympics with high hopes of returning home with a few medals in stark contrast to the past when we oft returned home empty-handed.

Indeed, apart from the tried and tested Alphonse Simbu, who has already established himself as a fearsome marathoner, we now have Gabriel Geay and Magdalena Shauri, who sent shock waves rippling through the athletics world last year by dint of their classy displays at two

of the globe's most cherished marathon races.

Unquestionably, the fact that Geay finished second at the famous Boston Marathon last year was an undisputed athletics tour de force.

Similarly, the fact that Magdalena finished third at last year's Berlin Marathon was such a veritable gob-smacking achievement of epic proportions precisely because it was so unforeseen.

Granted, it should be acknowledged that Geay's and Magdalena's stellar feats last year are not guarantees that we shall claim medals at this year's Paris Olympics.

Nevertheless, they should rightly fill us with hope that our athletes may be able to hold their own against the world's pre-eminent sportsmen and sportswomen.

## New TCA leadership eyes major changes in cricket administration, promotion

By Guardian Correspondent

THE newly elected Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) leadership is eyeing major changes in the game's administration to ensure the sport's domestic fraternity plays a pivotal role in its promotion.

Balakrishna Sreeekumar, TCA Chairman, disclosed in a recent interview with a domestic Television station, highlighting some of the steps the association is planning to take to attract cricket stakeholders.

Sreeekumar was adamant that TCA will not solely focus on seeking financial sponsorship, saying the body will be keen on having cricket stakeholders back its development programs in a variety of ways.

"In terms of sponsors, corporates have all come forward and asked us to tell them what they should do and I have told them all that I don't want money from them," the TCA Chairman disclosed.

He revealed: "We will tell them that, suppose a ground is to be constructed, can they construct it? We need 150 flight tickets for the national team in a year, can they sponsor (purchase) the tickets?"

"(In that way) Any possibility of corruption will be removed, and people will be comfortable that their money will be going to the right source," the TCA Chairman stated.

The TCA boss moreover

pointed out that such an approach will ensure there is proper accountability in the association's operations, promising that major changes are set to happen in the sport's administration.

Sreeekumar noted that some people will, in the process, not be happy with how the TCA leadership goes about promoting the sport at the domestic level but the officials will be committed to developing cricket and seeing to it the country enjoys success in the sport.

The TCA leadership has a challenging task to, among others, turning Tanzania into a cricket powerhouse on the continent during the leadership's term.

The senior national men's cricket squad, as is the case for the senior national women's team, has in the past few years managed to register good results in various qualifying competitions supervised by the International Cricket Council (ICC), despite failing to go all the way and qualifying for the global showpieces.

Tanzania's senior national men's cricket team was below par when it, last year, battled it out in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Regional Final held in Windhoek from November 22-30.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Final also involved Kenya, Nigeria,

Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and host Namibia, with the seven squads fighting for the two Africa qualifying spots for the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The Namibia showpiece had Tanzania finishing second from bottom with a -1.507 net run rate after notching a victory in one match and a loss in five outings.

Rwanda was slightly above bottom-placed Rwanda which ended without victory in six ties, notching an inferior -4.303 net run rate

Uganda and Namibia booked their places in the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, slated to take place in the Caribbean and the United States, after excelling in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Regional Final.

Having walloped Rwanda by nine wickets, Uganda secured their place and will become only the fifth African nation to feature at a T20 World Cup.

Namibia, which secured its birth in the 2024 T20 World Cup after winning its first five games in the continental qualifier, joined Uganda to secure progression to next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Regional Final had Namibia ending as the top-placed contender after collecting the +2.643 net run rate from five victories, fol-



Tanzania's national cricket team's medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, bowls against Rwanda when the two squads locked horns in a 2023 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Regional Final clash which took place at the Wanderers Cricket Ground in Windhoek in November 2023. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

lowed by second-placed Uganda which collected the +1.334 net run rate.

Tanzania's senior national men's cricket team had booked a place in the 2023 ICC Men's

T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Regional Final after winning the 2022-23 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Sub Regional Qualifier B which took place in Rwanda.

## Yanga official lauds Augustine Okrah's move

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's football powerhouse Young Africans SC has bolstered its squad with the permanent signing of seasoned Ghanaian midfielder Augustine Okrah.

The highly-rated footballer finalized his move on Sunday in the closing game of 2023 when his new club locked horns with Jamhuri SC in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament in Zanzibar.

The scoreboard after 90 minutes read Jamhuri 0-5 Young Africans SC, with Crispn Ngushi scoring two goals, Kibwana Shomari contributing one goal, Clement Mzize adding another goal, and the fifth goal scored by Skudu Makudubela in the duel that was played at the New Amaan Complex.

Okrah had- as the reports state- moved to Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, following a transfer fee of approximately US\$150,000 handed over to the midfielder's previous side Bechem United of Ghana.

The 30-year-old, renowned for his experience as an attacking midfielder, rejoined Bechem United in September last year after his contract with Yanga's rivals, Simba SC, expired.

Okrah's standout performance in the Ghana Premier League, which witnessed him banging in eight goals and providing two assists in 15 matches this season, garnered attention from Yanga and other clubs.

He recently earned the Player of the Month award for November and his move from Simba SC to Yanga reignites the rivalry between the two Dar es Salaam clubs.

This transfer reignites the fiery rivalry between Dar es Salaam's two giants, Yanga and Simba SC.

Okrah's previous spell with Simba SC, coupled with his history of crossing the divide similar to his compatriot Bernard Morrison, had added extra spice to the two outfits' rivalry.

Yanga will include Okrah in the outfit's CAF Champions League squad when the mini-transfer window opens.

Okrah's football journey includes stints in Sweden, Egypt, and India since graduating from the Red Bull Academy in July 2012.

Okrah once played for Yanga's traditional hometown rival, Simba SC, a situation which led to Yanga's Information and Communication Manager Ali Kamwe, stating that the midfielder is a guest and, at the same time, a familiar player in Tanzania.

The official noted: "He is a good player, he understands how the work is done, so the important thing is to see that he continues to provide entertainment to the people, so the fans will be so happy to see him on the pitch."

He disclosed: "We all recognize his abilities and decision-making skills. The leadership carefully assessed and found him suitable; it's not a decision made without careful consideration."

"Additionally, this player brings extensive football experience from Tanzania," Kamwe said.



Yanga's newly signed Ghanaian midfielder Augustine Okrah (R) is pictured with the club's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Andre Mtine, once the player was introduced to the press recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**MJADALA**

**eastafrica RADIO**

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**5 EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Mpera Mpera  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
14:00 5SPORTS (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Mpera Mpera  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 MJADALA  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**MJADALA** is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and; is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.



# Arsenal's Fulham defeat now raises questions over stomach for title fight

By Jason Burt

WITH 20 minutes to go the heavens opened and torrential rain swept through Craven Cottage. But it was as nothing as to the dousing given to Arsenal's Premier League title hopes.

Back-to-back defeats, having lost 2-0 at home to West Ham United on Thursday, mean it is just one win in five league games, and three losses, for Mikel Arteta's side who are faltering badly. "Today is a different story," the manager said as he, frankly, laid into his players afterwards. "Painful and a sad day," he added.

Undoubtedly this was their worst performance of the season (an assessment Arteta agreed with) which is a galling way to end 2023 and will lead to a debate as to whether they have the stomach for this fight or chronically suffer from a soft underbelly.

They did not choke last season, that was unfair, but it is an accusation they risk now even if - of course - there is a long, long way to go.

It was interesting to hear Declan Rice question Arsenal's mentality and there is the theory they do lack the killer instinct, the ruthlessness, even the sense of jeopardy that defines winners. Every side has a wobble but, unfortunately for

Arsenal, and even this early in the campaign, theirs has come at a crucial time.

It means they have failed to take advantage of Manchester City's own troubles, and their involvement in the Club World Cup, with Liverpool having fared better despite drawing with Arteta's side and Manchester United.

Even so, it is City who are the big winners from the festive period as they could have been double digits behind but now trail the leaders Liverpool by just two points with the cavalry of Kevin De Bruyne and Erling Haaland on the way back. And precedent dictates that any team hoping to finish ahead of City needs to build a more formidable advantage.

Whereas Arsenal can argue they were unlucky to lose to West Ham they can have absolutely no complaint here and that clearly hurt Arteta. Having fallen behind, Fulham - led by their impressive manager Marco Silva - were fully deserving of the points which plunge Arsenal into a crisis of confidence.

Leaders at the start of the month, Arsenal are now fourth. Just two points off the top, albeit with Liverpool having a game in hand, it is hardly a disaster - not yet - but no doubt momentum has deserted them and their title challenge is undeniably faltering.



Martin Odegaard and Declan Rice were not best pleased after Fulham's second - Reuters

They have dropped 11 points in December which was precisely the month when they needed to press on and go for the kill. Instead they now look like the prey and it will hurt even more that they actually scored first here.

But Arsenal lost their way, lost their discipline at times and even lacked leadership and direction and aggression. They are suddenly particularly vulnerable in defence where Arteta is struggling to plug his

left-back problem - with centre-half Jakub Kiwior starting before being replaced at half-time by Takehiro Tomiyasu and with Oleksandr Zinchenko out injured - and where William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhaes look strangely vulnerable.

The pair have been the backbone to Arsenal's success but Gabriel's performance, in particular, was a concern. The Brazilian was badly at fault for Fulham's winning goal and

then, in injury-time, threw himself embarrassingly to the turf as he tried to win a free-kick against the outstanding Raul Jimenez who had, frankly, dominated him. Bullied him, almost.

In fact Fulham, admittedly with two more days rest having played on Boxing Day, were quicker and stronger and - dare it be said - simply looked like they wanted it more. It was excellent from them as they stemmed a run of three

straight defeats without even scoring with their first comeback victory in 14 months.

Saliba and Gabriel were not the only Arsenal combination to provoke worry. Having linked for Arsenal's early goal, it was an extremely disappointing contribution from Bukayo Saka - the scorer - and Gabriel Martinelli. They were bested by the hard-working Fulham full-backs Antonee Robinson and Timothy Castagne and look jaded.

Not that Arteta can rotate. So much focus has centred on the need for a more reliable goal-scoring centre-forward, a role they will struggle to fill in the January window, and not enough perhaps on the lack of options to understudy their wingers. Maybe if a striker comes in it will allow Gabriel Jesus to play wider but that was not the problem here.

Having invested so heavily in the summer, especially with Rice and Kai Havertz, Arsenal are 10 points worse off after 20 games than they were in the last campaign.

It could have been even worse for Arsenal, who were maybe fortunate not to lose Saliba to a red card after he clearly pulled back substitute Harry Wilson as he threatened to run through on goal.

And to think Arsenal had taken the lead when Fulham were caught cold in a counter-attack, which they did not close down, as Bernd Leno turned Martinelli's shot into Saka's path.

But they did precious little after that. Jimenez scored his fourth league goal in four games - as many as in his previous 50 - to cap an accomplished centre-forward display from him and then, in the second-half came a hapless collective error from Arsenal as Gabriel sliced a clearance from a corner against Tomiyasu and Bobby De Cordova-Reid pounced. It captured Arsenal's vulnerability. It summed up and exposed that soft underbelly, before the biblical rain. But by then any hopes of them turning it around had already been washed away.

THE TELEGRAPH

## Kylian Mbappe's future to dominate transfer window

LONDON

THE future of Kylian Mbappe and his protracted courtship by Real Madrid is expected to be the key theme of the transfer window that opened in Europe yesterday.

Arsenal's search for a proven goalscorer to spearhead their challenge for a first Premier League title since 2004 could also loom large.

Manchester City meanwhile are widely expected to let Kalvin Phillips leave the club, ending a disappointing stay for the former Leeds midfielder who has failed to make his mark at the world champions.

Much attention though will again focus on Mbappe, Paris Saint-Germain's lethal finisher and the man who a year ago scored a hat-trick for France in the World Cup final only to finish on the losing side.

Real Madrid are again the main suitor for the 25-year-old whose contract at PSG expires in June - will the 14-time European champions finally get a commitment from the player they have been pursuing for years?

It is far from certain though as Mbappe triggers an extraordinary reaction in France, illustrated when President Emmanuel Macron intervened to persuade him to stay at PSG in June 2022 when a move to Real seemed almost cut and dried.

Real are not sitting on their hands though. Endrick, the latest Brazilian starlet, will join the club from Palmeiras when he turns 18 in July 2024 for a fee reported to be 72 million euros.

### - Toney to the Gunners? -

Arsenal's lack of a goalscoring edge could lead them to plunge into the market. For weeks, their rumoured target has been Ivan Toney, the Brentford forward whose ban for over 200 breaches of the Foot-

ball Association's gambling rules ends in mid-January.

However, Brentford's decline in form which has seen them drop to within four points of the relegation places could persuade the club to hang onto 27-year-old Toney, even in the face of a big offer from the Gunners.

Kalvin Phillips was riding high when the midfielder joined City on the back of England's run to the Euro 2022 final, but he has played barely a handful of games for the club and Pep Guardiola has admitted the move never worked out.

Juventus have reportedly been keen to sign Phillips, who is desperate to force himself into England's plans for Euro 2024, but reports from Italy say the club are cooling on the idea.

A move to Newcastle looks a more realistic possibility as the Magpies look to bolster a squad seriously depleted by injuries and the 10-month ban handed down to Italian midfielder Sandro Tonali, also for gambling.

Eddie Howe's men have slumped down the Premier League table in recent weeks and the Saudi-owned club look badly in need of reinforcements if they are to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Serhou Guirassy, the prolific Guinea international who has scored 17 Bundesliga goals so far this season for Stuttgart, has also been linked with a move to Tyneside.

Newcastle could also turn to their connections in the Saudi Pro League. They are allowed to sign players on loan from sides also controlled by their Saudi owners, after a vote by Premier League clubs on a temporary ban on related-party loans failed to receive the required support.

AFP

## Sir Jim Ratcliffe must address United's wretched succession planning over Erik ten Hag's future

By Ian Whittell

THE speculation over Erik ten Hag's future at Manchester United will not go away, especially after performances such as the listless 2-1 defeat by Nottingham Forest.

While he limps on for now, United have a wretched record in succession planning in the years since Sir Alex Ferguson retired.

At the City Ground, Ferguson sat alongside Sir Dave Brailsford, the Ineos director of sport who is handling football matters for Sir Jim Ratcliffe, the club's incoming new minority owner.

Brailsford's track record - not to mention United's abject failure in the area of managerial appointments and support over the past decade - suggests there will be no rash movement to dismiss Ten Hag.

That makes sense, given United will presumably become a byword for bad succession planning in sport for decades to come, based on their decisions since Ferguson stepped down.

Indeed, the fate of the four permanent and four caretaker appointments that preceded Ten Hag's arrival in the summer of 2022 are challenging Edward VIII as great succession failures of British history.

The only "smooth" handing over from one manager to another came in the summer of 2016 when Louis van Gaal made way for Jose Mourinho, although even that was shrouded in controversy and second-guessing, as the Dutchman had just won the FA Cup for United.

Ferguson's immediate successor, David Moyes, had lasted less than a season, replaced by the first of four interims in Ryan Giggs. The second interim, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, was never supposed to be a permanent solution when he took over from Mourinho at Christmas 2018. A populist appointment backfired on the United hierarchy as the club legend proved so successful, they appointed him perma-

nently amid a clamour to do so.

A little under three years later, Solskjaer finally left to be replaced first by Michael Carrick, who left when it became apparent he had no coaching future at the club, and then Ralf Rangnick.

The outspoken German proved popular with supporters and journalists for his unrelenting habit of speaking the truth about the dire situation he found at Old Trafford. Not surprisingly, he was less popular with United's upper management and Ten Hag, with whom he had originally been supposed to work in an advisory or director of football role.

In short, United's approach to appointing or identifying managerial talent, and dealing with the inevitable succession plan that is always eventually needed, has been haphazard, at best.

Which brings us to Ten Hag's situation and whether, should results continue to stutter, he

is to be replaced.

Would United go down the caretaker route that has hardly been a resounding success in the recent past? If so, where would Brailsford and his football advisers turn?

Out of work Graham Potter has been mentioned as favourite to step in, although after he was sacked by Chelsea at the start of April, the side turned to their own version of Solskjaer, Frank Lampard, as caretaker and that hardly represented a managerial upgrade.

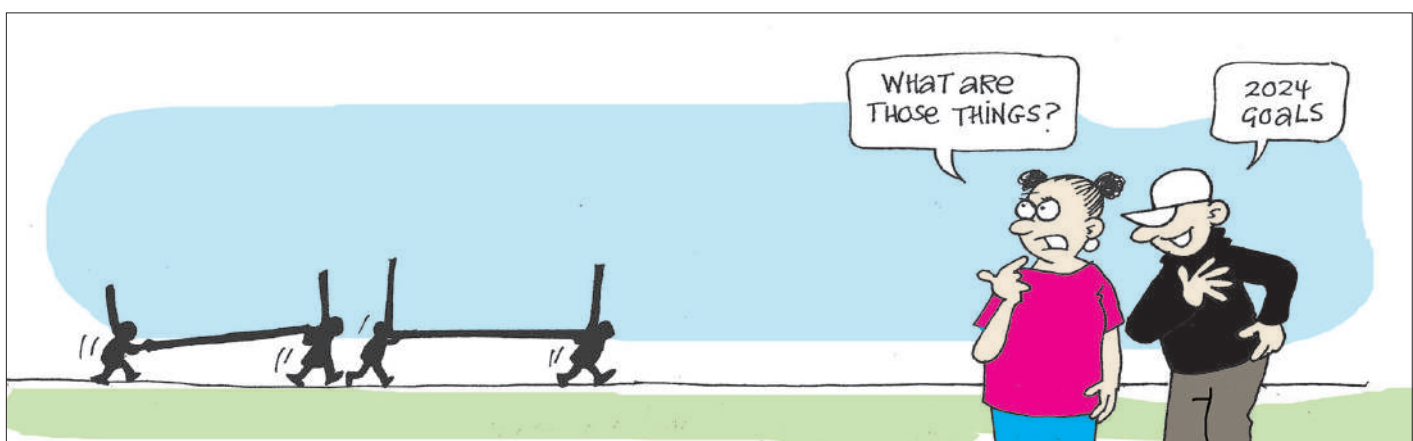
The bookmakers' list of candidates runs through Julen Lopetegui, also out of work, Sporting Lisbon's Ruben Amorim, Zinedine Zidane, Brighton's Roberto De Zerbi, even former United coaches Carrick and Kieran McKenna.

But would anyone on that list succeed in offering a short-term boost for United, either on the field or off it, should Brailsford take the dramatic decision to dispense with Ten Hag? Far more



Erik ten Hag is believed to have the backing of the new Manchester United executives - for now.

## Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Sir Jim Ratcliffe must address United's wretched succession planning over Erik ten Hag's future** PAGE 19



## Nsue set to captain Equatorial Guinea at Cup of Nations finals

MALABO

VETERAN striker Emilio Nsue will captain an Equatorial Guinea squad with a strong Spanish flavour at the African Cup of Nations finals in the Ivory Coast this month after being named part of the 27-man squad for the tournament.

The 34-year-old Nsue, formerly with Birmingham City and Middlesbrough, is one of 12 players based at Spanish clubs named in the squad selected by coach Juan Micha and released on Monday.

It features the bulk of the team that upset holders Algeria at the last finals and went on to a surprise quarterfinal appearance at the tournament in Cameroon.

It also includes teenager defender Hugo Buyla who is yet to make a senior debut at Sampdoria and Charles Ondo, who plays for Huddersfield Town's under-21 team.

Equatorial Guinea has been drawn with hosts Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau, and Nigeria in Group A and starts their campaign on Jan. 14 against Nigeria in Abidjan.

### Squad:

**Goalkeepers:** Aitor Embela (CD Soneja), Manuel Sampung (Polokwane City), Jesus Owono (Deportivo Alaves)

**Defenders:** Carlos Akapo (San Jose Earthquakes), Marvin Anieboh (CD Illescas), Hugo Buyla (Sampdoria), Saul Coco (Las Palmas), and Jose Elo (Merida)

Basilio Ndong (Universitatea Craiova), Charles Ondo (Huddersfield Town), Esteban Orozco (Arges), Nestor Senra (Real Aviles Industrial) as well make the list.

**Midfielders:** Luis Asue (Sporting Braga), Alex Balboa (Huesca), Federico Bikoro (Club Africain), Jannick Buyla (Logrones), and Santiago Eneme (MFK Vyskov).

Pablo Ganet (Alcoyano), Jose Machin (Monza), Josete Miranda (Niki Volou), Federico Nguema (CSF Balti), Iban Salvador (Miedz Legnica).

**Forwards:** Noe Ela (Numancia), Jose Nabil (Cano Sport), Emilio Nsue (Inter City), Salomon Obama (Santa Coloma), Oscar Siafa (Alessandria).

Meanwhile, Brighton & Hove Albion winger Kaoru Mitoma has been included in Japan's squad for this month's Asian Cup finals in Qatar despite being sidelined with an ankle injury.

Hajime Moriyasu included the 26-year-old in a 26-man squad that also features Liverpool's Wataru Endo, Arsenal defender Takehiro Tomiyasu, and Takefusa Kubo of Real Sociedad for the competition, which kicks off on Jan. 12.

"I don't know if (Mitoma) will be ready for the first match, but he is recovering well and I expect him to be available at an early stage," Moriyasu told reporters.

Brighton manager Roberto De Zerbi had cast doubt on Mitoma's availability for the 24-nation continental championship, which runs until Feb. 10, after he limped off during a 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace on Dec. 21.

Japan is aiming to win the Asian Cup for a record-extending fifth time having previously landed the title in 1992, 2000, 2004, and 2011.

Moriyasu led the Samurai Blue to the final in 2019, where his side lost to Qatar.

Celtic striker Kyogo Furuhashi was among those to miss out on selection alongside Lazio's Daichi Kamada and Fortuna Dusseldorf midfielder Ao Tanaka.

The exclusion of Tanaka, who famously scored the winner for Japan against Spain at the 2022 World Cup, came as a surprise after the 25-year-old had been on target for Moriyasu's side in a 5-0 friendly win over Thailand in Tokyo on Monday.

The Samurai Blue will kick off their Asian Cup challenge on Jan. 14 against Vietnam, who are led by former Japan coach Philippe Troussier, before taking on Iraq and Indonesia in Group D.

REUTERS

# Taifa Stars jets off to Egypt for 2023 AFCON preps



Some of Tanzania's senior national soccer team players are pictured participating in intensive training at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar recently, shaping up for the 2023 AFCON campaign slated for this month in Ivory Coast. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S senior national football team, Taifa Stars, traveled to Egypt yesterday to start the last training camp ready for the 2023 TotalEnergies African Cup of Nations (AFCON) expected to kick off on January 13.

The team, which involved 31 players, is expected to face Egypt in a build-up match scheduled for January 7 while in the camp.

According to reports, Taifa Stars players who will be selected to be on the last list will travel straight from Egypt to Ivory Coast ready for the AFCON finals.

The team will be under Taifa Stars head coach Adel Amrouche and assistant coach Hemed Suleiman Morocco.

Amrouche is expected to use the camp in Egypt to prepare his team well ahead of the AFCON campaign that will see them placed in a tricky Group F alongside 2022 FIFA World Cup semi-finalists Morocco, DR Congo, and Zambia.

Tanzania has never progressed beyond the Group Stage in four previous AFCON appearances, most recently in 2019.

Taifa Stars nevertheless are confident of holding their own against the con-

tinents star-studded sides when the finals kick off in 12 days.

The top two in each of the six groups will advance to the knockout rounds along with the best four third-placed teams.

The 2023 AFCON, which will bring together 24 teams, will take place from January 13 to February 11, 2024, in Côte d'Ivoire.

Tanzania is the only team from the CECAFA Zone that qualified for the continental tournament.

Taifa Stars will open their campaign against Morocco

on January 17 and later take on Zambia on January 21.

Amrouche's team will line up against DR Congo in the last Group match on January 24.

**Players who traveled yesterday are:**

**Goalkeepers:** Kwesi Kawawa (Karlsunds IF, Sweden), Beno Kakolanya (Singida Foutain Gate FC), Metacha Mnata (Young Africans SC) and Aishi Manula (Simba SC).

**Defenders:** Bakari Mwamnyeto (Young Africans SC), Ibrahim Hamad (Young Africans SC), Haji Mnoga

(Aldershot Town, England), Abdi Banda (Richardson Bay, South Africa), Novatus Dismas (Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukraine), Dickson Job (Young Africans SC), Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC), Abdulmalick Zakaria (Namungo FC), and Miano Danilo (Villena CF, Spain).

**Midfielders:** Himid Mao (Tala'ea El Gaiish SC, Egypt), Feisal Salum (Azam FC), Twariq Abdillahi (Telford United, England), Morice Abraham (RFK Novi Sad, Serbia), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC) and Kibu Dennis (Simba

SC).

Others are Tarryn Allarkhia (Wealdstone), Mudathir Yahya (Young Africans SC), Sospeter Bajana (Azam FC), Khleffin Hamdoun (Muscat Club, Oman), Mohammed Omar (Boreham Wood, England).

**Forwards:** Cyprian Kachwele (Vancouver FC, Canada), Ben Starkie (Ilkeston Town, England), Abdulhamis Suleiman (Azam FC), Mbwana Samatta (PAOK Salonika, Greece), Charles M'mombwa (Macarthur FC, Australia), and Simon Msuva (Free agent).

## Yanga SC to make more squad reinforcements

By Guardian Correspondent

YANGA has said it is looking forward to signing another high-profile player before the 2023/24 NBC Premier League resumption and the remaining ties of the CAF Champions League Group Stage.

The Jangwani Street outfit's Media and Communication Manager, Ali Kamwe, disclosed its leadership is determined to rope in one more footballer to improve the squad.

Kamwe revealed: "I had an audience with the club's president, Hersi Said, and vice-chairman, Arafat Haji, and asked them has the club finished signing players during this transfer window? They told me there is another player that will be signed."

The official noted: "With the two top officials having said that, who am I to deny such a plan? They have told me there is another top-class performer



Yanga's Media and Communication Officer, Ali Kamwe. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

that will be signed by our club."

Yanga had, at the end of last year, introduced Ghanaian midfielder, Augustine Okrah, as the club's new signing during the January transfer period, aiming to improve squad

depth.

Okrah, aged 30, had earlier featured for Ghanaian side, Bechem United FC, which is taking part in Ghana Premier League, after parting ways with Yanga's rival, Simba SC.

The midfielder was unveiled when Yanga took on Jamhuri SC of Zanzibar in a 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament duel that took place at New Amaan Complex and ended in a 5-0 victory for Yanga.

Kamwe moreover expressed his delight over his outfit's comprehensive win over Jamhuri SC in the former's opening clash in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup showdown.

The official was adamant that Yanga could have won by a bigger margin, had the club's players made the most of the numerous opportunities they were presented with in the duel.

Forward, Crispin Ngushi, notched two goals, whereas right fullback Kibwana Shomari, winger Mahlatsi Makudubela, and attacker Clement Mzize banged in one goal each to have Yanga enjoy an impressive start in the showdown.

Ngushi grabbed the opener for Yanga early in the first period, confidently connecting a good cross floated in by right-back, Denis Nkane, with a header.

Yanga garnered the second through Ngushi, who pounced on a poor clearance by one of Jamhuri SC within the outfit's penalty area and beat the keeper with a low shot.

Shomari made it 3-0 for Yanga when he again latched onto a ball inside Jamhuri SC's area and calmly scored with his right foot.

Mzize made matters worse for Jamhuri SC after notching the fourth for Yanga, dribbling past one of the Zanzibar club's defenders and the goalkeeper to easily poke the ball home with his right foot.

Makudubela made it 5-0 for Yanga when the winger got the better of a Jamhuri SC defender on the edge of the area and slotted home with his left foot.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

