



**National Pg 3**  
Z'bar to buy modern ambulance boats

**National Pg 4**  
Increase of divorce, death rates shock Minister

**National Pg 7**  
Agriculture tech to farmers, innovators told

# NFRA to import sugar, factories to sign contract on performance

*He also pledged to work on concerns by the Budget Committee regarding loans taken out by the government for production projects*

By Correspondent Paul Mabeja, Dodoma

THE government has mandated the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to import and store sugar to address scarcity of the sweetener, an oft repeated drawback.

Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba unveiled this development in winding-up discussions on the central government 2024/2025 Budget estimates in the National Assembly yesterday.

He said NFRA was going to address the challenges that include rises in prices for the sweetener raising concerns among the public.

"We will now use NFRA to purchase and store sugar as the agency has been helpful in storing other food crops," he said, pointing out that sugar producers will now be required to disclose the cost of production as well as publishing distributors in each region.

NFRA will remove the system of having

only five agents throughout the country, he said, elaborating that the government will set up a system to manage the sugar price cap for the benefit of consumers and remove the system of monopoly self-determination among local sugar producers who were also mandated as sole importers.

Sugar production companies will be required to sign an annual performance agreement with the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) while ending their sugar import mandate, remaining with production roles, he explained.

He said the government has been issuing tax waivers and exemptions, but such moves have not often benefited common people as traders seize the opportunity to keep prices high and their tax obligations low or negligible.

"We have been giving exemptions on sanitary pads but nothing changed," he said, also pointing at fuel subsidies, rejecting demands in relation to sanitary pads customs duty

TURN TO PAGE 2



Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba concluding response to MPs' arguments before the 2024/2025 Budget was adopted in the National Assembly yesterday. Photo: Ibrahim Joseph

## 9,061 projects worth 38trn/- in line as carbon component rises

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has registered 9,061 environmental projects billed at 37.55trn/-, with 50 focusing on carbon trade.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office (VPO) made this observation when contributing to the conclusion of debate on the Finance Bill 2024/25 in the National Assembly yesterday.

Noticeably, the government has registered 1,340 energy projects that enhance availability of clean cooking energy, he said, asking the public to get more involved in the conservation and care of the environment, in the wake of climate change challenges.

He said that a total of 50 projects were registered in the carbon trading sphere, with the Tanganyika District in Katavi Region receiving 14bn/- on account of various conservation projects in villages.

In October 2022 the Vice President's Office

TURN TO PAGE 2

## WHO hails drop in HIV, maternal mortality rates

*Laboratory capacities were enhanced by installing 2,315 pieces of equipment at 2,312 health facilities, including 807 haematology analysers, 740 chemistry analysers, and 763 urine analysers*

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TANZANIA has made progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal mortality rates and epidemics like Marburg and covid-19 in the past two years, a World Health Organisation (WHO) report shows.

Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, the WHO Tanzania country representative said in a foreword that the UN agency's unwavering commitment to advancing health outcomes and promoting well-being across Tanzania has been resolute.

He cited unprecedented challenges posed by global health crises and local dynamics, underlining that the report is "a testament to collective dedication and steadfast commitment from the country office, partners, donors and the government to advancing health and well-being across Tanzania.

In alignment with the country corporate strategy, the country office has made efforts to achieve the 'health for all' agenda, efforts that "have seen remarkable milestones,

TURN TO PAGE 2

## SPORTS Page 20



Simba secure key players ahead of crucial pre-season in Egypt

## Page 19



Kylian Mbappé scores on return from broken nose and France draws 1-1 with Poland at Euro 2024

## EAC delivers \$113m in budget estimates

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

EAC council of ministers chairman Deng Aloor Kuol has tabled the fiscal 2024/2025 budget estimates of the East African Community (EAC).

The minister, holding the regional cooperation portfolio for South Sudan and chairman of the EAC council of ministers, proposed the EAC finance bill before the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) here yesterday.

Total allocations for EAC organs and institutions are pegged at \$112,984,442 with 61 percent of the figure expected to come from the eight partner states contributions, set at \$67,785,519 in total.

The remaining 39 percent, equivalent to \$43,936,292 will be raised from EAC revenues and donations from partner states, he said, asking the House to debate and approve the proposals.

The proposals are focused on sustainable economic transformation

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan greets Lieutenant General Salim Haji Othman (3rd R), the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) chief of staff and Major General Marco Gaguti (2nd R), the head of administration at army headquarters, after arriving at the National Defence College (NDC) premises at Kunduchi in Dar es Salaam yesterday. President Samia, presented the 4Rso philosophy of reconciliation, resilience, reforms and rebuilding, at keynote lecture for course participants and officers. Photo: State House





## NFRA to import sugar, factories to sign contract on performance

FROM PAGE 1  
waiver.

He similarly addressed payments of unpaid claims with contractors not knowing when their claims would be paid, noting that the government has made efforts to largely pay out those claims.

He said the government will take a lead in the use of gaso in vehicles, while affirming that there is no need for the traders to strike as the gov-

ernment is responsive to their complaints.

Hamad Hassan Chande, the deputy minister, referred to a seven per cent increase in salary for pension calculation, insisting that many in trade union ranks have shown appreciation for the move, as well as MPs.

He also pledged to work on concerns by the Budget Committee regarding loans taken out by the government for production projects.

## 9,061 projects worth 38trn/- in line as carbon component rises

FROM PAGE 1

prepared the National Rules and Guidelines for the Management of Carbon Business, the procedure used to register new projects, he said.

He said the country loses nearly \$500m a year in undoing negative effects of climate change, in allocating funds for conservation and environmental management programmes.

Chroniclers say that by February 2024, 39 carbon projects had been registered and 4.8bn/- received by the Mbulu and Kiteto districts, with 30 projects in health and education in eight villages built, wholly funded by earnings from the conservation projects.

The opportunity for districts to earn revenues from the sale of carbon credits was first aired in October 2018 on the basis of multilateral environment funding arrangements.

Early this month communities in eight villages in Tanganyika District participating in the Ntakata Mountains carbon project received their eighth and ninth shares of carbon revenue payments, totalling 14.25bn/- for 2023.

"This brings the total share of revenues to 22.5bn/- since the inception of the project, with the rev-

enues earned through a contract with a nature-based investor, Carbon Tanzania, from forest protection activities.

National parks are also involved, as by late November last year a feasibility study was being conducted where TANAPA and Carbon Tanzania aim to determine the potential number of carbon credits in that sphere.

In April this year Carbon First (T) Ltd and the Ruangwa District Council signed an agreement to participate in carbon trading, as a continuation of government expectations to raise \$1bn through carbon trading this year.

A similar example is signing a deal for one of East Africa's biggest land-based carbon credit projects tied with TANAPA, covering Katavi Plains, Ugalla River, Mkomazi Game Reserve and Gombe National Park, among others.

The minister said that as carbon credit trade thrives, villagers in many parts of the country have been motivated to venture into the business by deliberately setting aside part of their

He lauded public officials for the implementation of projects in various sectors directly affecting the environment, including the registration of 222 water projects and 1,894 construction projects.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks to the leaders of the Tanzania Traders Community, a nationwide umbrella body for traders' associations, at his Mlimwa office in the capital yesterday. Photo: PMO

FROM PAGE 1

through fiscal consolidation and investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts for improved livelihoods.

The proposed budget will dedicate more resources to the secretariat, on account of an overview of the region's economic performance outlook, and the priorities for fiscal 2024/2025.

He also covered findings of the EAC audit report for fiscal 2022/2023, highlighting priority interventions and expected outcomes, affirming that the EAC budget estimates come at a time when EAC economies are experiencing unfavourable financial conditions with negative spill-overs from geopolitical conflicts.

There are also impacts of climate

## EAC delivers \$113m in budget estimates

change weighing on the partner states' finances and economic performance, he said, pointing at high fuel and food import prices making it costly to seek out financial markets.

This has put pressure on exchange rates and foreign reserves, he said, noting however that economic performance in the EAC region in 2023 was upbeat, with GDP growth rates ranging from 2.8 per cent to 8.1 per cent.

The partner states' economies GDP growth rates are expected to be higher than global and Sub-Saharan Africa average growth rates of 3.2 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively, he stated.

This is largely due to strong per-

formance in different sectors, supported by sustained public investments, he said, outlining priority programmes and key achievements for the outgoing financial year.

The listed areas are regional security, private sector engagement, trade facilitation, monetary union transparency and technology innovations.

Others are economic welfare enhancement, sustainable agriculture projects for robust services, the EAC Automotive Industry Platform (JAIP) for industry development and start of implementation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), among others.

Regional peace and security is allocated \$5.1m, trade and investment

promotion has \$4.7m, institutional development \$10.4m; while multi-sectoral infrastructure development has \$6.2m.

Enhancing social and productive sectors was allocated \$20.3m and EAC organs and institutions will be handed \$66.3m, he specified.

"This budget embodies a strategic approach aimed at fostering sustainable economic transformation through fiscal consolidation and targeted investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation," the minister declared.

Earlier on at the opening of the session, Secretary General Veronica Mueni Nduva took oath as an ex-officio EALA member in accordance with Article 48 of the treaty.

## Kenyan president backs down on tax increase after deadly protests

NAIROBI

KENYAN President William Ruto yesterday said he won't sign into law a finance bill proposing new taxes, a day after protestors stormed parliament and several people were shot dead. It was the biggest assault on Kenya's government in decades.

The government wanted to raise funds to pay off debt, but Kenyans said the bill caused more economic pain as millions struggle to get by. The chaos on Tuesday led the government to deploy the military, and Ruto called protesters' actions "treasonous."

The president yesterday said the bill caused "widespread dissatisfaction" and he has listened and "conceded." It's a major setback for Ruto, who came to power vowing to help Kenyans cope with rising costs but has seen much of the country, led by youth, unite in opposition to his latest attempt at reforms.

"It is necessary for us to have a conversation as a nation on how to do we manage the affairs of the country together," he said.

Kenyans faced the lingering smell of tear gas and military in the streets a day after the latest protests saw thousands storm parliament, an act of defiance that Ruto had called an "existential" threat. At least 22 people were killed, a human rights group said, and police were accused of some shooting deaths.

Ruto acknowledged deaths, calling it an "unfortunate situation," and offered condolences. He said about 200 people had been wounded.

Nairobi has seen protests in the past, but activists and others

warned the stakes were more dangerous. Ruto on Tuesday vowed to quash unrest "at whatever cost," even as more protests were called at State House on Thursday.

"We are dealing with a new phenomenon and a group of people that is not predictable. If it would have been the normal demonstrations, I'd say it will fizzle out with time, but we don't know whether these people will fear the army," said Herman Manyora, an analyst and professor at the University of Nairobi.

He said the president missed an opportunity in his national address Tuesday night to adopt a more conciliatory approach.

Kenya's High Court yesterday ordered the military deployment suspended after a challenge by the Kenya Law Society.

There were no reports of violence yesterday but there was fear. Civil society groups reported abductions of people involved in recent protests and expect more to come. The High Court ordered police to release all people arrested in the protests. Ruto said those allegedly abducted had been released or processed in court.

Many young people who helped vote Ruto into power in 2022 with cheers for his promises of economic relief now object to the pain of reforms. Part of the parliament building burned Tuesday, and clashes occurred in several communities beyond the capital.

At least 22 people were killed, the Kenya National Human Rights Commission said. Commission chairperson Roseline Odede said 300 others were injured and 50 people were arrested.



Veronica Nduva, the new East African Community (EAC) secretary general, signs the oath shortly after being sworn in by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Speaker Joseph Ntakirutimana (R) as a member in Arusha on Tuesday. Photo: Cynthia Mwilolezi

## WHO hails drop in HIV, maternal mortality rates

FROM PAGE 1

transformed health outcomes and strengthened resilience in the face of diverse challenges," he stated.

Notably, Tanzania has witnessed a substantial reduction in maternal mortality rates, with pregnancy-related deaths declining sharply from 556 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 104 in 2022, he remarked.

"This achievement reflects our persistent efforts in maternal health interventions and the healthcare system strengthening," he elaborated, underlining WHO commitment to equitable access to vaccines and public health protection.

He said Tanzania made significant strides in vaccination coverage, increasing from below 2.89 per

cent in 2021 to 53.8 per cent by leveraging WHO-supported initiatives.

"In 2023, our swift and coordinated response to the Marburg virus outbreak exemplifies our readiness and effectiveness. Within 90 days, we successfully contained the outbreak, safeguarding communities and preventing further spread," he stated.

Another landmark achievement was the adoption of the Universal Health Insurance bill by the legislature, facilitated by technical guidance and reviews from WHO and partners, he said.

"This milestone paves the way for equitable access to services and financial protection for all Tanzanians under review," he said, citing the role of the country office in that

regard.

"Through collaboration we have been able to scale up critical health initiatives, strengthening health systems and responding swiftly to health challenges," he stated, insisting that with collaboration and support the UN agency expects sustainable work "to achieve a healthier future for all Tanzanians."

The WHO Tanzania 2022-2023 biennial report unveiled yesterday shows that through WHO's guidelines, 1,457,000 (94 per cent) out of 1,548,000 people living with HIV were on antiretroviral therapy and the country is progressing well towards the 95-95-95 global targets for 2025 and is set for ending AIDS by 2030.

The number of health centres

was increased by 30 per cent during the period, the number district hospitals rose by 40 per cent in the Mainland from 2015 to 2023, while 10 district hospitals were built in Zanzibar from 2021 to 2023.

Laboratory capacities were enhanced by installing 2,315 pieces of equipment at 2,312 health facilities, including 807 haematology analysers, 740 chemistry analysers, and 763 urine analysers, the report noted.

The government procured 32 CT scans, 6 MR and 199 digital X-ray machines and universal coverage for TB, where the report shows Tanzania has been progressing well with the treatment coverage increasing from 38 per cent in 2015 to 78 per cent in 2023, it added.





Some shops closed in Arusha city yesterday in the traders' strike pressuring the government to solve operational problems including numerous taxes. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

## Zanzibar to purchase modern ambulance boats to serve islets

THE government of Zanzibar is set to purchase modern ambulance boats to transport patients from the islets around Pemba to referral hospitals in Unguja.

Deputy Minister for health Hassan Khamis Hafidh unveiled this here yesterday in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Mtambwe legislator Dr Mohammed Ali Suleiman who wanted to know what the government was doing to address transportation challenges in the islets such as Kokota.

Hafidh said the ministry was aware of the transport challenges facing residents in the area, adding the current boat needs a lot of fuel to move within a short distance.

He said that the challenge has not stopped the services of transporting patients because there are different boats that have been accommodated in the M-MAMA programme to continue transporting patients.

He said the ministry of health continues with its efforts to engage companies to provide services of transporting pregnant mothers and children.

He said that the main problem with

Wete boat is that there is a huge need for fuel as well as the lack of mechanical service while Kojani Island services continue to be provided through boats that exist via the M-MAMA system.

In response to another question which was asked by Wingwi representative Kombo Mwinyi Shehe who wanted to know why the Ministry of Health did not give the work to private companies so that residents get better services,

the deputy minister said that they have started, adding that after starting to work with private companies, services have improved, including the availability of drugs in health centres by 90 percent.

He said that the assessment of the effectiveness of service delivery is usually done every year, a full report on the assessment of maternal and child mortality will be issued after completing at least one year.

## Introduce courses that appeal to fresh school leavers, IAE directed

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government wants the Institute of Adult Education (IAE) to come up with a strategy to introduce programmes that attract applicants who are fresh from school.

Prof James Mdoe, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at the 62nd graduation ceremony conferring certificates, diplomas and degrees to 482 graduates.

He also challenged the institute to establish master's degree programmes to increase specialisation of experts in the education sector.

Prof Mdoe said that the strategy will increase the number of students enrolled annually by the institute.

"I commend the institute for the work done so far to implement the ministry's directives to ensure the quality of education," he said.

He further challenged the institute to work out an alternative source of income to enable it to implement its duties.

Prof Mdoe also urged the graduates to work diligently, professionally and shun corruption.

Dr Naomi Katunzi, IAE Governing Council Chairperson, said that the board will ensure the institute provides skills training to produce enough experts.

She said that the new education policy among others insists on skills training to enable those completing basic education to use their skills in developmental issues.

The chair expressed the board's commitment to collaborating with the institute's administration to find new alternative sources of finance.

Dr Katunzi advised the new graduates to observe discipline when performing their duties.

"We hope and depend on you to be good ambassadors of the institute now that you have completed your studies," she said.

Rector of IAE Prof Michael Ng'umbi said that the graduates were from Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Mwanza campuses.

He said in this year's graduation, 154 graduates equivalent to 32 percent were male while 328 graduates equivalent to 68 percent were female.

Prof Ng'umbi said that the institute's plans to open new campuses in Ruvuma and Kilimanjaro regions, making a total of five campuses.

"We plan to establish evening courses and specific programmes aimed at equipping students with skills to cope with global changes in technology," he said.

*"We hope and depend on you to be good ambassadors of the institute now that you have completed your studies"*

## How to Buy Nipashe and The Guardian Newspapers at [www.ippmedia.com](http://www.ippmedia.com) or [epaper.ippmedia.com](http://epaper.ippmedia.com)

### Through the website [epaper.ippmedia.com](http://epaper.ippmedia.com)

1. Open the [epaper.ippmedia.com](http://epaper.ippmedia.com) website from your browser, select the version of publication you want to purchase, whether **Nipashe** or **The Guardian** by clicking "Read"
2. It will send you to another page where you need to fill in your information and the package you want to join. Then click "**subscribe**"
3. It will take you to the payment page where you can pay with either **bank card** or **by mobile money** transfer after correctly filling in your required information
4. Through **mobile Money**, choose the mobile network, write your number and tick the box to accept the terms and conditions. The **push SMS** will pop out on your phone to deduct

the amount after allowing the transaction from your mobile account. When the payment is completed, you will receive a payment confirmation **email** and **SMS**, then login into your account and start reading the publication of your choice

5. Through the **bank card**, you enter your card information and allow the amount to be deducted from your account after accepting the terms and conditions. Then log in to your account and finally enjoy the publication of your preference

### Through the [www.ippmedia.com](http://www.ippmedia.com) website

6. Open your browser [www.ippmedia.com](http://www.ippmedia.com) website on the right hand side you will see "**E-Paper**" click on it and follow the processes same as **number 1-5**







## EXPERIENCED TEACHERS NEEDED TO SERVE AND TEACH AT AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### HAVEN OF PEACE ACADEMY

Haven of Peace Academy (HOPAC) is a faith-based educational institution owned and operated by Haven of Peace Trust. HOPAC was founded in 1994 for children of missionaries and has evolved into a Christian international school with a diverse student population that includes children of missionaries and full-time Christian service workers, children of expats working in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, and children of Tanzanians working in the non-profit, for-profit, and public sectors. The school is located in Kunduchi at the junction of Salasala Road and Bagamoyo Road in Kinondoni Municipality in Dar es Salaam and is currently inviting applications for vacancies of competent, experienced, and qualified teachers.

The following positions are open for the school year 2024/2025 starting August 2024:

#### Primary / Whole School

- Physical Education Teacher
- Sports Coordinator
- Bible Teacher
- Teacher Assistant

#### School Administration

- Information Technology Technician
- Procurement Officer
- Gardener

The ideal teacher or candidate has to be self-motivated, a team player, adaptable, and willing to learn with experience working in multicultural, international settings, and fluent in English.

HOPAC follows the Cambridge curriculum and is an ACSI/MSA accredited school.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

##### Teaching staff

- Bachelor's degree in education/teaching or PGDE
- Three years teaching experience
- Experience with Cambridge International curriculum preferred
- Minimum of three years teaching experience, preferably in a multicultural setting
- Fluent in English, the medium of instruction
- Committed Christian

##### Non Teaching Staff (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN AND PROCUREMENT OFFICER)

- Bachelor's degree in IT or Procurement, or preferably in relevant field
- Training or Certification in relevant field
- Solutions Experts or Multimedia Systems Technician
- Committed Christian, actively living for God and involved in a local church.
- Minimum three years related experience in the essential functions of the relative field.

##### Gardener

- Experience in the same position
- Committed Christian, actively living for God and involved in a local church.

If you are confident that you match the above criteria, please send your Application letter and CV only to arrive on or before **4<sup>th</sup> July 2024**, to [personnel@hopac.sc.tz](mailto:personnel@hopac.sc.tz) or physically addressed to Personnel Department, Haven of Peace Academy, P. O. Box 70027, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA.

## Minister seeks to meet colleagues over alarmingly high divorce rates

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr Pindi Chana yesterday said she was planning to meet Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) George Simbachawene and health counterpart Ummu Mwalimu to discuss how to reverse rising divorce rates and deaths.

"A report by the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) shows that there are increased male death rates caused by both communicable and non-

communicable diseases hence adversely affecting living conditions for children deprived of care from both parents," Dr Chana said.

Speaking during the launch of Vital Human Events Statistics Report and opening of Sustainable Child Registration Training organized by RITA in Dodoma, Chana said RITA has registered "alarming" 800 divorce incidents.

"This number is shocking and shows a steady increase compared to previous years and this calls for an urgent intervention to reverse the alarming situation," she said.

She said the annual increase in divorce

registrations contributes largely to child abuse due to absence of joint parental care.

"I plan to have a meeting with the Minister for Home Affairs to discuss among others, issues of fatal road accidents captured in RITA report," she said.

She said her meeting with Simbachawene and Mwalimu is meant to chart out best ways to minimize the alarming divorce rates.

"It is evident that figures regarding single mothers and divorce are alarming."

Dr Amina Msengwa, RITA Advisory Board Chairman, told the minister that come 2025, the agency will have registered all children under the age of five as earlier directed by President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"We are optimistic that all citizens will be registered by 2030," she said.

Dr Msengwa said the Board would continue to work closely with RITA management to ensure it fulfils its responsibilities professionally by implementing the primary goal that established the agency.

Frank Kanyusi, RITA Chief Executive Officer, said there has been a positive outcome in human events registration following the government efforts and contributions by stakeholders.

"We promise to continue managing established programmes to ensure sustainability and enable citizens to register key events promptly," he said.



Jane Goodall Institute

TANZANIA  
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT



**Ms. Janeth Christopher Mduma**, pictured above is no longer an employee of The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania effective from **19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**. As a result of her departure, she does not have mandate to make any business transactions, dealings or/and communications for and on behalf of the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania.

The Management



## THE ARAB CONTRACTORS OSMAN AHMED OSMAN & CO AND ARAB CONTRACTORS TANZANIA LTD



# OBITUARY

We are very sad to let you know of the sad demise of

**Eng. Hossameldin Elrifly**

Senior Vice Chairman of the Arab Contractors & Vice Chairman of the steering committee of Julius Nyerere Hydropower project & Chairman of Arab Contractors Tanzania LTD

**Eng. Hossam** was one of the pillars of the project and had a great impact on the success of the largest project in Tanzania.

Our heartfelt condolences to his family.

We hereby invite all for the remembrance service on Thursday (**27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**)

timing :**5-7:30pm** at the Arab Contractors Tanzania Ltd. Head Quarters

Oysterbay Msasani Road House no 28

Rest in peace

**Eng. Hossameldin Elrifly**



[www.arabcont.com](http://www.arabcont.com)



[info@arabcont.com](mailto:info@arabcont.com)



### UDOM students showcase exam cheating control system

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

STUDENTS at the University of Dodoma (UDOM) have innovated various systems to control examination leakage and facilitate selection of courses using artificial intelligence (AI).

Speaking at different occasions during the opening of Research and Innovation Week at the University's Faculty of Computer Science, Informatics and Virtual Education yesterday, the students said innovation came after a series of challenges facing them.

UDOM Vice Chancellor Prof Lughano Kusiluka called upon the students to use their capabilities in research by addressing challenges and improving their economic status.

He said there is no reason for young graduates to roam the streets looking for a job. Instead, they should use their professions to become self-employed so that they can support themselves.

He said that students should use the research they did along with various innovations to develop systems that help the general public in addressing challenges.

"Use the education you got here to employ yourself; don't start walking around the streets looking for a job while you have education to help you start your own projects," he said.

On the systems to prevent leakage of exams, he said it will help reduce the risks that students face.

He said the innovation week brought positive results as student's showcased creativity as well as helped citizens in technology issues.

He called upon other universities to organize exhibitions to help the public recognize various innovations taking place within their premises.

One of the students, Irene Mawena, said the systems are meant to address the challenges which usually arise during examinations.

UDOM organises the innovation week whereby two days are dedicated for maintenance of electronic devices for residents of the city of Dodoma for free.



**Use the education you got here to employ yourself; don't start walking around the streets looking for a job while you have education to help you start your own projects**

### COPRA sets guidelines for marketing of crops

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Cereals and Other Produce Regulatory Authority (COPRA) has set guidelines for marketing of several cash crops produced in the country.

The crops in question include sesame, legume, soybeans, pulse, chicken pea and mung bean.

This is meant to formalize, regulate and standardize marketing systems of the crops in question which attract significant demand within and outside the country.

Speaking in an interview here yesterday, Director General of COPRA Irene Madeje said guidelines are meant to ensure that farmers involved in cultivation of the mentioned crops sell their produce at good prices.

"Our role is to facilitate efficient and effective production, processing and marketing services to promote growth, competitiveness and innovation in the cereals and other produce industry as well as enhance food security and increase customer care," she said.

With the new set guidelines, Madeje said that farmers of the crops will from now start to market their produce through a formal receipt warehouse marketing system.

She said that the authority was working to set up a modern digital agriculture produce marketing system to enable Tanzanian farmers to benefit from the international crop markets.

"COPRA is working to conduct a series of activities across three key functions along crop marketing value chain which include development and standards setting, quality assurance, coordinating and promotion along the value chain as well as policy formulation," she said.

Among the key objectives of the authority, according to Madeje, are enhancing quality and boosting consumer confidence through management practices and compliance with international standards, improving productivity through capacity building of growers as well as fostering innovation and adoption of advanced technologies across the value chain.

Others are to improve availability and quality of data by fostering reliable information systems, harmonizing stakeholders for growth by fostering networks and engagement mechanisms, namely coordinating and oversight.

"We also strive to create a conducive crop business environment for all actors in the value chain for cereals and other produce to create thriving businesses," she said.

COPRA was established through the Cereals and Other Produce Act of 2009 to develop and oversee crops which do not have a dedicated board.

It was officially established in 2023 to oversee all cereals, horticulture, spices, oilseeds and nuts, pulses and beans as well as pyrethrum and roots.



Canisius Karamaga, the fees and charges manager for the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), briefs reporters at his office in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the various fees and charges that investors need to comply with. Left is NEMC communications manager, Irene John. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## NEMC appeals to investors to pay due fees or face penalties

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has called on investors in various projects to pay their fees and environmental charges owed to avoid being penalised.

Canisius Karamaga, NEMC tolls and fees manager, said this when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He said that the fees are important to enable the Council to carry out its activities that are in the interest of safeguarding citizens such as environmental impact assessment before projects start.

"These fees help NEMC carry out its duties on time. For example, when we receive information about floods or any other emergency, our officers rush to

the affected area to conduct assessment and advise the government on the steps to take to avoid harm," he said.

"The purpose of the fees and charges is for the council to get funds so that the projects can be assessed and investors advised how to run their activities without affecting the environment."

Karamaga said that the fees and charges have a procedure and time to pay in accordance with the law, adding that contrary to that, those who accumulate face a five percent interest

penalty for each month that they have delayed payment.

"For example, if an investor wants to build a factory, we must advise how to build it and how to assess the impact on the environment, things to do and things not to do," he said.

Karamaga said, apart from protection of the environment, another aim of conducting environmental impact assessment is to enable investors to implement projects that do not cause conflict with neighbouring

communities.

Karamaga said it is important for Tanzanians to take care of the environment as climate change has had a major impact on the country's infrastructure and sometimes people die due to disasters.

"We must take care of the environment because if we ignore it, it reminds us of its importance and that is why we see various disasters such as floods, fires, hurricanes and others caused by climate change," he said.



Tanzania's 'goodwill ambassador for tourism' in the US, Macon Dunnagan (C), poses for a photo with other tourists at Rongai Gate on Monday shortly before they began a six-day Mount Kilimanjaro Expedition - his 51st climb of the mountain. L-R: David Lyon (New York City), Gary Edwards (Isle of Palms, South California), Collin Curny (Dyre, Indiana) and Murray Liscome (South Africa). Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa,

## Residents of Mbeya get free avocado seedlings

Mbeya

MORE than 300 residents of Mwansekwa, Itagano and Nsalaga wards in Mbeya city have been given free avocado seedlings to plant in their areas to improve their nutrition and income.

The seedlings were distributed to the residents by Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson through her charity organisation Tulia Trust.

Speaking when distributing the trees, Information Officer for the trust Ahadi Kalinjila said the speaker who is Mbeya

Urban MP, decided to distribute the seedlings as part of efforts to conserve the environment.

He said avocado is among fruits with a stable market both locally and abroad, adding that if residents can take care of seedlings, they can benefit and address various nutritional challenges.

He said the institution distributed 150 seedlings to the people of Mwansekwa Ward, 150 seedlings to residents of Itagano Ward and 50 seedlings to residents of Nsalaga Ward.

"The government has created a friendly environment for selling fruits abroad and even within the country. So, we are sure that apart from taking care of the environment, if taken good care of, the seedlings will be a source of income when they start to bear fruit," he said.

He said that avocado fruits currently have a good market even within the Mbeya Region, explaining that there are some investors who have started to process the crop and produce various products, including cooking oil.

Some of the residents who benefited from the gesture thanked the politician while promising to take care of it and make sure it grows.

Local leader Elias Mwaweya said that avocado fruit is important for the health of the people, promising to ensure that they manage the trees to the fruit-producing stage.

Itagano Ward Councillor Yuda Mbalamwezi said the ward is one of the areas in Mbeya City where avocado trees flourish.





## CALL FOR REQUEST OF APPLICATIONS

**RFP:** Capacity Building Grant to Empower Farmers and Processors in Post-Harvest Handling, Management Skills, Business Development, and Market Access For Cereal Commodities

**RFA Number:** USAID TC-RFA-002

**Date of Solicitation:** June 27, 2024

**Questions Due Date:** July 11, 2024, at 05:00 PM EAT.

**Closing Date and Time:** July 27, 2024, at 05:00 PM EAT.

### INTRODUCTION

USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula (Let's Save Food) Project is a five-year, US\$24M project that has been co-created to improve food handling, storage, and value addition, facilitate market access, inform, and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste and strengthen local organizations capacity to lead in post-harvest management. Overall, the project will contribute to reducing post-harvest losses from 30-40% for horticulture to 15% and from 13% to 7% for cereals by the end of the Project. The project objectives will be achieved through four interlinked Intermediate Results which are:

IR1: Improve food handling, storage, and value addition at producer and commercial levels.

IR2: Facilitate market access to ensure agricultural goods reach consumers.

IR3: Inform and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste.

IR4: Strengthen local organizations' capacity to lead on post-harvest management.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this grant opportunity include, but are not limited to:

- Enhance post-harvest handling techniques for farmers and processors in the cereal commodities sector focusing on maize, rice, and common beans.
- Improve management skills and business development strategies for participants.
- Supporting farmers and processors in developing business strategies, including value addition and product diversification, to enhance their competitiveness in the market.

### A. Specification/Requirement

For comprehensive details and to download the Request for Applications USAID TC-RFA-002, kindly visit: <https://t.ly/tvzPi>

### B. Submission Instructions

Interested local organizations are invited to download the Request for Application by accessing the following link: <https://t.ly/tvzPi>. This will provide comprehensive details on the submission instructions for the Request for Application process.

### C. Clarification on the Advert

- All correspondence related to the RFA shall be made in English.
- Should there be any uncertainty, the Applicant shall seek clarification in writing through e-mail to: [tc.grants@taha.or.tz](mailto:tc.grants@taha.or.tz)
- Any clarification sought by the applicant in respect to the RFA shall be titled CLARIFICATION - (Insert RFA Title).
- TAHA will only respond to requests for clarification received no later than **Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 05:00 PM EAT.**

### D. Important Notice

Please be informed that the invitation for partnership with TAHA and local organizations does not impose any legal obligations. TAHA does not make any commitments, either explicit or implicit, to provide compensation for expenses incurred by applicants.



## CALL FOR REQUEST OF APPLICATIONS

**RFP:** Capacity Building Grant To Empower Farmers And Processors In Post-Harvest Handling, Management Skills, Business Development, And Market Access For Horticulture Commodities

**RFA Number:** USAID TC-RFA-001

**Date of Solicitation:** June 27, 2024

**Questions Due Date:** July 11, 2024, at 05:00 PM EAT.

**Closing Date and Time:** July 27, 2024, at 05:00 PM EAT.

### INTRODUCTION

USAID Tuhifadhi Chakula (Let's Save Food) Project is a five-year, US\$24M project that has been co-created to improve food handling, storage, and value addition, facilitate market access, inform, and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste and strengthen local organizations capacity to lead in post-harvest management. Overall, the project will contribute to reducing post-harvest losses from 30-40% for horticulture to 15% and from 13% to 7% for cereals by the end of the Project. The project objectives will be achieved through four interlinked Intermediate Results which are:

IR1: Improve food handling, storage, and value addition at producer and commercial levels.

IR2: Facilitate market access to ensure agricultural goods reach consumers.

IR3: Inform and promote policy and regulatory frameworks that reduce food loss and waste.

IR4: Strengthen local organizations' capacity to lead on post-harvest management.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this grant opportunity include, but are not limited to:

- Capacity-building programs to enhance postharvest handling, business management, and market access.
- Improve postharvest management practices across the value chain to reduce food losses.
- Support in developing business strategies for increased competitiveness.

### A. Specification/Requirement

For comprehensive details and to download the Request for Applications USAID TC-RFA-001, kindly visit: <https://t.ly/tvzPi>

### B. Submission Instructions

Interested local organizations are invited to download the Request for Application by accessing the following link: <https://t.ly/tvzPi>. This will provide comprehensive details on the submission instructions for the Request for Application process.

### C. Clarification on the Advert

- All correspondence related to the RFA shall be made in English.
- Should there be any uncertainty, the Applicant shall seek clarification in writing through e-mail to: [tc.grants@taha.or.tz](mailto:tc.grants@taha.or.tz)
- Any clarification sought by the applicant in respect to the RFA shall be titled CLARIFICATION - (Insert RFA Title).
- TAHA will only respond to requests for clarification received no later than **Thursday July 11, 2024, at 05:00 PM EAT.**

### D. Important Notice

Please be informed that the invitation for partnership with TAHA and local organizations does not impose any legal obligations. TAHA does not make any commitments, either explicit or implicit, to provide compensation for expenses incurred by applicants.



## THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - FINANCE AND PLANNING

### BOOSTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR ZANZIBAR (BIG-Z)

IDA CREDIT NO: 69140-TZ

## REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

RFB Reference No. TZ-POFP-415760-GO-RFB

### SUPPLY OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT FOR ZANZIBAR MUNICIPALITIES.

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the UN Development Business on 26th August 2021 with a reference No. WB-P811333-08/21.
- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar Integrated Development Project (BIG-Z)**, implemented by the President's Office, Finance and Planning Zanzibar intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the **Supply of Solid Waste Management Equipment for Zanzibar Municipalities**.
- The Principal Secretary President's Office Finance and Planning - Zanzibar now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply of Solid Waste Management Equipment for Zanzibar Municipalities as itemized in the table below**.

Lot	Description of Goods	Quantity	Final Destination (Project Site)
Lot 1	Compactors	11 units	7 units Kibele Landfill-Unguja 4 units Baraza la Mji, Mkoani -Pemba
Lot No.2	Tippers	15units	9units Kibele Landfill-Unguja 6 units Baraza la Mji, Mkoani -Pemba

Bidders may Bid for one or both Lots, as further defined in the Request for Bids document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.

### The delivery period is a maximum of 180 days.

- Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) in line with the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Fourth Edition November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from President's Office Finance and Planning, Project Coordinator, Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar Integrated Development Project (BIG-Z) **First Floor, Sea View - Wing, Vuga Street, P.O. Box 1154**, Telephone +255 242 235 128, E-mail: [pmt@bigz.mofzanzibar.go.tz](mailto:pmt@bigz.mofzanzibar.go.tz) and inspect the bidding document during office hours from **7:30 a.m.** to 3:30 p.m. local time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays.
- The bidding document in **English** may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 70.00 (United State Dollar Seventy Only) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be direct deposit or Telegraphic Transfer to the following Bank Account:

**Account Name** : President's Office, Finance and Planning Revenue  
**Account Bank Name** : The People's Bank of Zanzibar  
**Account Number** : 0799739001  
**Branch Code** : 005  
**Swift Code** : PBZATZTZ  
**Currency** : USD

The bidding document is being provided in the hard copy. However, only for the convenience of the bidders, in filling the various forms, a soft copy will be provided through email upon request. But bidders should note that in case of any difference in the hard copy and soft copy, the one in the hard copy will prevail.

Bids must be delivered to **Office of the Boosting Inclusive Growth for Zanzibar Integrated Development Project (BIG-Z) First Floor, Sea View - Wing, Vuga Street, P.O. Box 1154** on or before **06<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 10:00 a.m. local time**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend in person at **the President's Office Finance and Planning Conference Room, Zanzibar, thereafter** the deadline for bid submission.

- All bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** of an amount indicated in the respective lots below or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency and clearly addressed to the Principal Secretary, President's Office, Finance and Planning. The Bid Security shall be valid for twenty-eight (28) calendar-days beyond the bid validity period, i.e. 148 calendar-days after the bid's submission deadline.

Lot	Description of Goods	Quantity	Bid Security (TZS) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency
Lot No.1	Compactors	11 units	120,000,000.00
Lot No.2	Tippers	15units	100,000,000.00

- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

**The address referred above is:**  
**President's Office Finance and Planning**  
**Attn: Project Coordinator, BIG -Z Project**  
**P.O. BOX 1154**  
**First Floor, Sea View-Wing, Vuga Street**  
**Zanzibar - Tanzania**  
**Email: [pmt@bigz.mofzanzibar.go.tz](mailto:pmt@bigz.mofzanzibar.go.tz)**

**The Principal Secretary, President's Office Finance and Planning**



## Take new agriculture tech to farmers, innovators told

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE institutions and stakeholders in development of technologies have been challenged to speed up innovation and ensure new tools being developed reach farmers across the country.

This will help transform Tanzania's agriculture landscape and heighten the level of production and productivity and enable the country to attain food security.

The call was made here yesterday by Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mussa Hassan Zungu in his remarks to officiate the 3rd edition of Tanzania Agriculture Stakeholders Learning Event (TASLE) which convened in Dodoma for two consecutive days.

Held under the theme 'Commercialising Innovation for Sustainable Food Systems' the annual gathering organised by Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) seeks to spur use of modern technologies by the farmers in the country.

"There's nothing more crucial in any nation than food security; you may have a strong army but it is imperative to note that there's no life without food," he said.

He said the government has kept on increasing the budget towards agriculture research, saying the relevant institutions and experts must use the resources to bring about transformation in the sector.

He said that the budget for the sector currently stands at 1.2trn/-, the amount which he said must be spent patriotically in order to get the needed value for money.

On the use of agro technologies, he spoke of the need for farmers in the country to start adopting the use of simple technologies to process produce within their farms instead of relying on giant factories.

"For instance, it is irking to see

the poor manner in which the majority of the youth sell pieces of piled sugarcane pieces along the streets while farmers can possibly purchase mini-sugar mills and produce sugar in their own farms," he said.

He underscored the need for more youth and women in the country to venture into the sector and desist from the white-collar job syndrome.

"Investing in women and youth is the current vision of nearly all countries around the globe and Tanzania is no exception," he said.

AMDT Chief Executive Officer Charles Ogutu said the forum was meant to ensure that numerous agricultural technologies being invented reach farmers on time.

"We will continue to stage this gathering annually in order to motivate and stimulate more innovations in the sector to ensure farmers benefit from the same," he said.

AMDT is a Tanzanian-owned trust established to support better coordination between value chain development initiatives, improve understanding of agricultural market systems, improve productivity and market access for micro, small and medium enterprises, maximise the impact of programmes and effectively contribute to reducing poverty in Tanzania.



**There's nothing more crucial in any nation than food security; you may have a strong army but it is imperative to note that there's no life without food**

## Central China solidifies role in boosting Africa trade ties

CHANGSHA

IN the predawn mist off Kenya's coast, fishermen cast their nets into the ocean, chasing wild anchovies. Little did they know, this catch would soon embark on a journey to China, where it would be made into tasty snacks destined for supermarkets across over 30 countries.

Jinzai Food Group Co., Ltd. in central China's Hunan Province drives this international operation. Since 2022, after Kenya's aquatic products gained access to the Chinese market, the company has emerged as one of the largest importers of these products.

"The company's sales of dried small deep-sea fish have surpassed 1 billion yuan (around \$140 million) and tens of thousands of tonnes of fish are imported each year," said Zhou Jinsong, the company's chairman.

Zhou added that the company has set up a fish-processing factory in Kenya, supports the local government in conducting fishing surveys, and helps train fishermen into skilled industrial workers.

Jinzai exemplifies the thriving economic and trade exchanges between Hunan and Africa. The province has stayed at the forefront of China-Africa economic and trade relations. Featuring advanced agricultural technology, equipment manufacturing and infrastructure construction, Hunan has sustained an annual growth rate of 23.1 percent in economic and trade cooperation with Africa, according to official data.

In addition to Hunan, the five other central provinces of China, have been encouraged to establish inland reform and opening-up highlands. The region will accelerate the development of platforms such as the pilot zone for deepening economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa, as highlighted in a May press briefing by the Ministry of Commerce.

Guided by the national strategy, the provinces, located far away from

borders and coastlines, are actively driving institutional and practical innovations in economic and trade cooperation with Africa.

The China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, regularly held in Changsha, Hunan's capital city, has become a crucial showcase for African agricultural products, enhancing their international visibility.

In the city's China-Africa Economic and Trade Headquarters building, hosts from both countries sell African products via live streaming to help them gain a footing in Chinese and global markets. Spanning over 100,000 square meters, the building commenced operations in mid-June and is expected to achieve a trade volume with Africa totalling 30 billion yuan over the next three years.

Numerous construction companies from neighbouring Hubei Province have ventured into Africa, undertaking diverse engineering projects in sectors such as energy, transportation, municipal construction, housing, telecommunications, and metallurgy.

North of Zambia's capital Lusaka, about 88 kilometres along a major highway, lies rows of modern standard factories and a grid of straight roads. This area is Jiangxi Province's first overseas economic and trade zone, the Zambia-Jiangxi Economic Cooperation Zone, which was completed after five years of construction.

The area will be developed into a new eco-friendly urban area that combines industry, trade, logistics, comprehensive services, leisure, healthcare, education, and essential living facilities, said Xu Jianfeng, the zone's general manager.

"We see the booming trade as a win-win situation which keeps growing," said South African Ambassador to China Siyabonga Cyprian Cwele. "And the massive growth in bilateral trade has been translated into direct benefits to our people."



Kinondoni District Commissioner Saad Mtambule (R) greets Rajab Mchatta, director of the Tanzania Photographers and Videographers Forum, at the forum's 2024 annual conference opening session in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Centre is Mbezi Juu ward councillor Anna Lukindo. Photo: John Badi

## Abandon colonial education system, African nations told

JOHANNESBURG

THE Pan-African Parliament (PAP) has urged African countries to abandon colonial education systems and adopt curricula that promote economic growth.

Fortune Charumbira, president of PAP, the legislative body of the African Union (AU), made the remarks in Johannesburg, South Africa on Monday during the third ordinary session of the PAP's Sixth Parliament. About 250 members of

parliament from African countries will discuss African issues from June 24 to July 5.

"Africa is indeed politically 'independent,' but I believe we still need to decolonize our education systems and focus on heritage-based education that supports the economic development of Africa," he said.

"Africa must take concrete steps in decolonizing education, making sure that heritage-based education is accessible to every child and

developing academic curricula which are relevant and spur economic growth, sustainable development, and prosperity in Africa."

Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre, chief executive of AU's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) continental secretariat, said that by 2050, Africa's population would exceed 2.3 billion, comprising mostly youth who need quality education.

"There are necessary efforts we

need to carry out to make sure that they get educated, trained, and acquire skills to not only create decent living conditions and foster economic growth but to shape the future of our continent in a brand-new way. It is our common responsibility," she said.

Some of the issues to be discussed during the session include the state of education in Africa, the African Continental Free Trade Area, peace and security.



Ambassador John Ulanga, the International Trade and Economic Diplomacy director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, makes a presentation on opportunities available in the East African Community zone market, during the women entrepreneurs training at the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) at Kurasini, in the city of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Sand mining employs ex-militiamen in CAR

BANGUI

IN a country which lacks industries, sand extraction has become a job provider for many young former fighters Jeannet Kotisila owns a sand quarry and employs over 150 ex-militiamen as day labourers.

"Before working as a sand miner, many people in the neighbourhood were unemployed. But ever since

taking on this occupation they have a better life, they gave up on some of the things they used to do. Some of these workers were militiamen. This job has enabled them to start over, given them a good life," he said.

There are no official figures on the number of Central Africans working in sand quarries but this professor estimates that the sector is a significant contributor to the

economy. However, the lack of regulations means the workers have no guarantee on their health, security and income level.

"In terms of advantages, it's already a good thing that these former fighters have surrendered their weapons and took up a normal job," said Hermann Elokoua, a Professor and researcher at the University of Bangui.

"But the disadvantage is that these people aren't organized, which means they don't earn enough. Although they earn some money, this money won't be enough to take care of them when they fall ill."

As the CAR's capital Bangui keeps expanding, the work of sand miner is more essential than ever.

Experts advocate for a better management of sand mines for the workers to earn a decent living.



THURSDAY 27 JUNE, 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

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

## Newsdesk

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

## Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## Youth street revolt in Nairobi adds to Africa's urban crises of slow reforms

WIDE sections of political leaders and their advisers in senior government positions in various countries have an ingrained belief that economic reform, including offloading majority shareholding in utility companies, is just intended to please some foreign stakeholders. There was a time any exercise of share sale or reform attempt was tied with corruption, that a minister had taken bribes from the company soon to benefit from such transaction. The political system was clearly overwhelmed by such opposition, as it has been in most African states.

Kenyan President William Ruto made something of declaration of war on the rioters who ransacked Parliament buildings and put on fire some sections, to show acute displeasure with this year's Finance Bill, already approved by MPs. The president had indeed attempted to be a patron, meaning father figure, to the youths vehemently disputing the prerogative of the legislature in that regard, using the streets to institute a veto on the process. The result was invading the parliamentary compound, doing anything they wished with police exasperated.

The way the Kenyan leader described the situation was nearly as a state of emergency, no longer a policy dispute but a law and order issue where the very existence of the state was endangered. That is up to everyone to evaluate, but there is a background to that situation, and an equally complicated scenario of the causes and possible solutions. The battle on the ground is a bit simplistic, that the tax raised simply be removed and then life goes on, and others think that the bill is approved, signed and applied - in which case life continues as usual.

Neither of those options can be reached without a scuffle, and

as things are, the youths took the matter a bit too far, and the political system could react in an unexpected manner, as the word 'severely' looks inappropriate. Policy debate has now given way to law and order, and no one can say when a sane discussion of policies, cost of living issues, can be restarted. Nor it is clear if there is indeed an overly difficult cost of living of living situation the youths are protesting, or it is a result of different political factions repeatedly using youths to bring the political system to undue compliance, and from tools they become stakeholders.

As most countries, even developed countries often have unsettling revolts from youths sections of society, it is easy to see this situation as one of those things, but each situation has its determinants. When a political system becomes rowdy at any level of its operational mechanisms, it has to overreach itself to clear its clear overgrowth of bad behaviour, for whatever reasons. It is a period that is often characterised by extensive violations of human rights, for the freedoms that society usually enjoys become an alarming factor of chaos and destruction.

While upper echelons of Kenyan political society may wish to brush aside this event and ensure that it is business as usual in parliamentary work and societal liberties, it is worth admitting that a watershed has been crossed, or a red line in political language. Instead of just descending on trouble makers and loudmouths insulting those in leadership, it is better to agree on a corrective set of actions that lessen the government debt and place aside acute tax increases. It is possible to shut up hundreds of ringleaders if the police go after them, but dangers exist - social decomposition, causing capital flight, worsening the situation altogether.

## Dar hosting English teachers' general assembly for Africa is surely an uplift

THERE is some big news out there that Tanzania, unabashedly proud of its virtual monoculture in public communication as the flagship Kiswahili speaking country, is now set to host the general conference of the African English Teachers Association at the University of Dar es Salaam next year. This is what the media has learned from leaders of the Tanzania English Language Teachers Association (TELTA), affirming that the meeting will be attended by more than 600 teachers from various countries. Upwards of 300 local teachers will attend.

English language teachers have just concluded the fifth annual conference where delegates took the conference appear to be poised to attend the conference, as the conference was attended by 300 delegates in the profession as well. TELTA lists achievements as including grooming proficient English language teachers, as well as leaders in the profession across the country with various programmes. There is likely to be an impact at the level of schooling or exam passes, but at a public level the dwarfing of English is a done deal; university ditched English in panel discussions more than a decade ago due to students' awful exposure there.

Six teachers were sent to attend the Great Lakes Region English Teachers Conference in Addis Ababa, while the US Embassy funded nine teachers to participate in another meeting of African English Teachers held in Cairo. The idea as well as in the latest conference is to motivate English language teachers to adopt advanced teaching methodologies and tools. That looks interesting

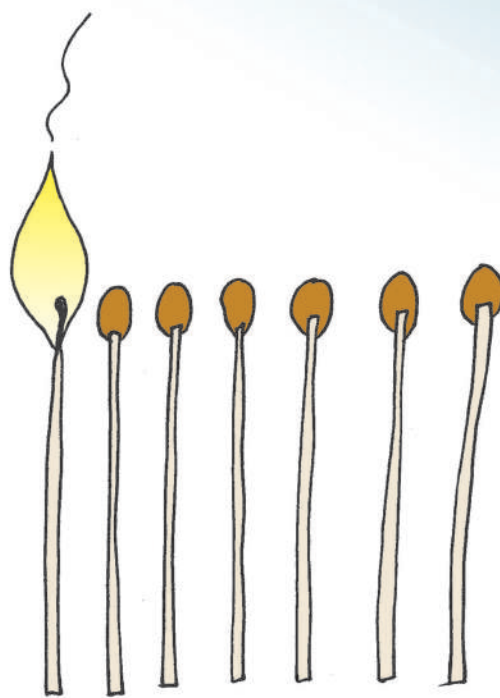
as it ought to mean effective methodologies and tools, so that pupils learn the foreign language and it remains in their young minds, not dissipate in a Swahili wave.

Noticeably, this year the language teachers mark 20 years of this initial access programme, with an embassy official said it is a micro scholarship programme for students. She credited the fact that students benefitted from that programme to the presence of dedicated English language teachers willing to learn and adopt new methodologies of teaching. Excellent, but there is need for vision on the place of the English language in the country, if there are goals to be achieved after 20 years of learning how to effectively instruct the language in classrooms.

Still the wider public goals on the language are unlikely to be fixed by language teachers but by society, as decades of indoctrination in the equivalence of the national language with any foreign language failed to convince parents, if they can choose, where to send their children to study. English medium is a byword for preparing a well capacitated future for a child as being able to converse is the first skill that a job aspirant needs, for most jobs where interviews are relevant. During the writing of a new education policy in 2014, one parameter was to push, carry forward using Kiswahili to secondary school and finally, in colleges.

How far the language establishment has travelled along that road or how far English is a working language in schools is a bit murky; they write exams in visibly correct English but expression is still a problem. TETLA has a lot to tell.

## Kariakoo Crisis



ABIDJAN

ON a misty morning in rural Cote d'Ivoire, Delphine Papo deviates from her usual routine.

Instead of trekking 4 kilometers through the fog to her cocoa plantation, she's headed to a special class. The Watté United Brothers Cooperative (SCUW) is hosting a demonstration of cocoa tree fertilization, and Delphine is eager to attend.

"I have heard from other farmers that their harvest increased dramatically after joining SCUW's cooperatives on-farm training. I want to join today to access fertilizer, apply it correctly in my field, increase my yields, and cater better for my children".

In Cote d'Ivoire, most smallholder farmers acquire fertilizers through informal credit, cooperatives, and microfinance institutions, driven by the hope for increased crop yields. However, improper application of these fertilizers often leads to disappointments, with harvests and incomes falling short of expectations.

Today in Watté, a suburb of the Southwestern port city of San Pedro, Delphine joined six other cocoa growers, including

## Cultivating hope: Ivorian cocoa farmers' path to empowerment



Training on cocoa fertilization with farmers

Etienne Bardo, for the mobile good agricultural practices training session dubbed OCP School Lab.

Under the shade of cocoa trees, with posters as blackboards and machetes and fertilizers as course materials, the class begins. The learners closely follow the instructors as they demonstrate the appropriate fertilizer doses and application techniques for cocoa trees. They also cover the recommended pruning and hoeing practices. A key point emphasized is fertilizer spreading in a circle, one meter away from the tree trunk.

Delphine and Etienne have

been selected to replicate the demonstration. As they perform the steps from memory-- sizing, pruning, hoeing, and spreading, Delphine has an epiphany. "Comparing how I applied fertilizer today to my old method is like comparing day and night," she admits. "I now see what I need to change."

This transformative experience is made possible by the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism's trade guarantee project in Cote d'Ivoire. The \$2 million guarantee scheme enables farmers like Delphine and Etienne to receive

capacity-building in fertilizer use and good agricultural practices. It also helps them obtain fertilizers on credit from OCP Africa, an international fertilizer distributor. Farmers contribute 20% upfront and pay the remaining 80% after harvest.

The initiative goes beyond just providing access to fertilizers. It equips smallholder farmers with the technical skills and know-how to enhance their yields and income. Etienne looks at his plantation with renewed hope: "My plantation has completely changed since I started applying the fertilizers from SCUW. I know my yields will improve now. I will buy a car, send my children to school, and then build my house."

The holistic approach, combining fertilizer use with good agricultural practices, aims to improve productivity and empower farmers in Côte d'Ivoire. As an innovative financial solution, the trade credit guarantee seeks to unlock access to quality, affordable fertilizers, fostering a thriving agricultural landscape across Africa.

## AfDB seeks Japan's help for climate projects in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) meets Japanese officials to discuss infrastructure, climate change, and investment in African energy and green tech.

An African Development Bank delegation in Tokyo held meetings at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), with Takashi Koyari, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, as well as representatives of several Japanese ministries and corporations.

The team, which is led by Vice Presidents Kevin Kariuki, Solomon Quaynor and Kevin Urama, is in Japan to strengthen partnerships with the Japanese government and corporations and drive investment into key African sectors such as infrastructure, clean energy, and start-up ecosystems.

Welcoming the delegation, Koyari expressed confidence that the government's extensive knowledge and experience in water-related infrastructure and disaster management, gained through the implementation and management of national infrastructure systems could provide valuable insights for the African Development Bank's projects and initiatives.

Quaynor stressed that climate change is an important strategic area for the Bank Group, adding



that Africa's rapid urbanisation is exacerbating climate change. He noted that inadequate urban planning at the subnational level is leading to widespread informal settlement and lack of urban services.

The African Development Bank is taking a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change that focuses on aligning with the Paris Agreement, mobilising climate finance, and integrating climate considerations into all its operations, Kariuki said. He shared the success story of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) project in Ethiopia, which has moved the country closer to becoming a net wheat exporter, as an example of the Bank Group's climate interventions.

He also discussed the Bank Group's Climate Action Window (CAW), a dedicated fund for climate finance in Africa's least developed countries.

Through the climate action window, we have actually

established that there's more demand. There is a huge demand for adaptation projects.

Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank

Several Japanese corporations presented examples of their infrastructure products and activities covering drainage pumps, dam management and renovation, water desalination and managing climate-related floods and other extreme weather events.

In response to the presentations VP Quaynor enquired about the potential for a commercial, scalable opportunity with drainage pump vehicles in African cities.

If the drainage pump vehicles are affordable, we could probably see people who want to buy several and actually use it to implement drainage in different parts of town. So, there could be a commercial, scalable opportunity with the drainage pump.

Solomon Quaynor, Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization at the African

Development Bank Group Executive Director for Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Austria, and Saudi Arabia Takaaki Nomoto expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage with the Japanese private sector, stating, "This is a very good opportunity for us."

He also noted that several corporate participants in the meeting have experience in Africa and that there was potential for collaboration, highlighting the Bank's focus on quality infrastructure in Africa.

On Monday, the Bank delegation also held meetings with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The discussions focused on reinvigorating the partnership between the two institutions, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2009 covering natural resources, renewable energy, infrastructure, private sector trade facilitation, and liquidity support for the private sector.

The vice presidents emphasised the importance of collaborating with JBIC to encourage Japanese companies to invest in Africa. They highlighted the continent's vast potential in renewable energy, critical minerals, and green hydrogen production, as well as the need for value addition and local manufacturing in the critical minerals value chain.



# From horror to delight: How Australian cried in Uganda and later fell in deep love with Arusha

Guardian Correspondent

**G**EMMA Sisia's first sojourn in East Africa was in 1994 when she travelled from Australia to Uganda as a teacher in Masaka, a town then devastated by HIV/Aids.

For the first time, she saw orphaned children taking up the daunting task of fending for their younger siblings. But what nearly traumatised her was the fact that the children missed one of the basic human rights—education.

"Knowing the value of education, I shed tears," she said in an interview recently.

As a teacher, shedding tears was not enough, she thought. This experience challenged her to do something more than teaching but she didn't know exactly, what, how and where. Years later, the teacher whose hobby is traveling found herself in Tanzania.

A chance conversation with a tour guide in Arusha led to a lifelong partnership and eventually marriage. But her experience in Uganda kept on haunting her, she felt indebted and felt obliged to do something, not necessarily in Uganda.

"As a teacher, I thought of doing something I could contribute to directly before seeking assistance from others," she said.

"I settled on building a fee-free school that admits learners from disadvantaged background."

With a two-acre donation from her father-in-law, Gemma's dream found its home in Tanzania. She built St Jude School in 2002. Today, the school spans 70 acres, acquired through generous support of donors.

Fondly referred to as Gemma by locals, her efforts to educate underprivileged children have earned her



**Australian teacher Gemma Sisia experienced horrific conditions facing children in Uganda in the 1990s and promised to do something for children. Photo courtesy of Gemma Sisia**

widespread admiration. Through the school, she has given countless needy children the gift of life-changing education, laying a foundation for a brighter future.

Located in the picturesque city

of Arusha, the school now educates 1,800 pupils from underprivileged background, providing them with a top-tier education.

The journey began partly with a dream inspired by her upbringing. "I

saw my parents educating the seven of us back in the day. It became a calling for me to do the same, not just for my children but for society," she said.

The school employs 135 teachers dedicated to nurturing the intellectual potential of pupils from all over Tanzania. On a recent visit, Gemma was seen off by her A-level and O-level pupils on a trip sponsored by Peak East Africa and Intrepid East Africa, allowing the children to explore Tarangire and Lake Manyara national parks.

Admission to the school is highly competitive. Prospective pupils must come from government schools, pass an internal aptitude test, and excel in entrance exams. This process ensures that the school nurtures the brightest minds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. In a unique give-back programme, A-level pupils are required to teach in public schools for a week, preparing them for future leadership roles while supporting their communities.

The School offers more than just education. "We provide nutritious meals and basic healthcare, which are essential for cognitive development and academic performance," said Nzinyangwa Mcharo, the academic senior manager. This holistic approach ensures that pupils are healthy and ready to learn, breaking down significant barriers to education.

The school's success is fuelled by partnerships with organizations like Intrepid East Africa, which provide financial support and enhances the school's visibility. These collaborations align with global efforts to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, particularly

those related to quality education and reducing inequalities.

"We think that this partnership is crucial in providing financial support, enhancing visibility, fostering community development, and creating opportunities for students," said Gemma.

Running a free school for underprivileged children comes with its challenges. "Our main challenge is fundraising, as we provide 100% support to our students," said Gemma.

Ensuring consistent funding is crucial, especially with 350 staff members and 300 suppliers relying on the school. Despite these hurdles, the school remains committed to its mission, adapting and persevering through economic downturns and shifting donor priorities.

Our main challenge is the aspect of fundraising considering that we provide our children with 100 per cent support," she said.

"It is also not easy having 350 staff waiting for salaries monthly, 300 suppliers wanting their invoices paid monthly. We have become miracle workers just to ensure that all these stakeholders are sorted out." The school relies heavily on donations and sponsorships to provide free education and services. Ensuring a consistent flow of funds can be challenging, especially during global economic downturns or changes in donor priorities.

The school stands as a testament to the transformative power of education. By offering free, high-quality education, the school breaks the cycle of poverty, empowering pupils to pursue higher education and secure better-paying jobs.

This ripple effect extends to families and communities, driving positive change across Tanzania. As Gemma and her team continue their work, the school remains an inspiration, showing that it is possible to overcome economic challenges through education.

By Marina Daras, Gloria Aradi & Pascal Fletcher,

## Can Kenya police end Haiti crisis?

**A**fter months of controversy and legal challenges still in play, Kenya has sent its first deployment of 400 police officers to curb gang violence in Haiti.

Rocked by decades of instability, the Caribbean nation has seen an escalation of violence following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse three years ago.

Rival armed groups took control of the capital, Port-au-Prince, earlier this year, forcing Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign weeks later.

Armed gangs now control an estimated 80% of the city.

"A robust use of force" is needed to tackle them, says the UN, which has approved a policing mission made up of 2,500 officers from various countries - including 1,000 pledged by Kenya's President William Ruto.

But there is fierce opposition at home to Mr Ruto's decision - not least because Kenya's police are accused of committing abuses in their own country.

Working with Haitian police, and headquartered at a US-built base, Kenyan officers will aim to take back key sites that have fallen under gang control, including the nearby airport and sea ports.

Haiti has not had an election since 2016.

So elections are to be organised within a year, and to allow that to happen, the Kenyan-led mission is being tasked with restoring security.

Their deployment has been authorised for one year, with a review to be held after nine months.

What will the Kenyan police find in Haiti?

Gang violence on average killed or injured more than one person per hour in the first three months of this year, according to UN data.

Close to 600,000 Haitians have been forced from their homes, according to the UN's migration agency.

Schools and police stations have in some places been turned into shelters by families fleeing the violence.

Haiti's police force has just 9,000 officers. By contrast, it is estimated that as many as 8,000 Haitians belong



to 200 or so armed gangs - with roles ranging from commanders to informants. Recruitment has increased in recent years.

The gangs now have as much firepower as the police, says Emmanuel Paul, a security adviser who works with humanitarian groups in Haiti.

"Virtually the same types of weapons are used on both sides - classic assault rifles, AK-47 Kalashnikovs of various makes," he tells the BBC.

Columbia's President Gustavo Petro has even accused the military in his country of selling missiles and ammunition to armed men, who could have smuggled them into Haiti.

Why is Kenya doing this?

We are doing it for the people of Haiti. The responsibility for security in Haiti is a shared responsibility," says Mr Ruto.

But critics say Kenya is merely doing the bidding of the US and hopes to curry favour with the superpower, especially on the security front.

On a recent visit to Washington, Mr Ruto also mentioned wanting to boost Kenya's international standing in this arena.

The East African nation's subsequent designation as a major non-Nato ally by the US has certainly achieved that.

But at home, President Ruto is facing significant opposition and Kenya's High Court has ruled that the deployment is unlawful. This delayed the arrival of the first officers.

The court stated that the Kenyan government had no authority to send police officers abroad without a prior reciprocal agreement.

Such an agreement was then signed on 1 March, but opposition party Thirdway

Alliance Kenya has filed a fresh lawsuit, arguing that the deployment remains in breach of the law.

"This mission is sanctioned by the United Nations (UN). The request came from the UN and the US. There is no request by Haiti neither is there one that is capable of being put in place," says Charles Midega, a lawyer for the petitioners.

"The president has not followed the procedure as per the Kenyan constitution and laws on deployment. And most importantly, the president has not gazetted Haiti as a reciprocating country as a pre-requisite for deployment."

**Are Kenya's police ready for this kind of mission?**

Although Kenya has a history of taking part in peacekeeping missions, its police force has never set foot

outside of Africa.

It is believed that the deployed unit will come from the General Service Unit (GSU), a paramilitary wing often deployed during demonstrations and terrorist attacks.

It has not been used against international criminal networks like the Haitian gangs.

But the Kenyan government said the deployed officers had received specialised training, including lessons in French and Haitian creole to ease communication with their counterparts.

Another hurdle in sight will be the chain of command.

"There are going to be Kenyan police, but other countries are sending soldiers," says Mr Paul.

"That's going to be the first headache of the mission - how to coordinate the police and the military, given that they

have different training backgrounds and have different missions."

Newly appointed commander Godfrey Otunge will be spearheading the Kenyan taskforce and will have a hefty task on his hands.

**How effective are Kenya's police?**

Kenya's police officers have long been criticised for human rights abuses, and several rights groups have expressed concerns about their deployment to Haiti.

On Tuesday, police in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, were accused of using live rounds against anti-tax hike protesters.

The Kenya Medical Association said that at least five people were shot dead.

Mr Ruto defended the police, saying "legitimate" protests had been "hijacked by a group of organised criminals."

In a letter to the UN Security Council last August, Amnesty International highlighted the Kenyan police's record of using excessive force.

It also accused Kenyan police of killing dozens of protesters last year and unlawfully arresting and detaining others.

But police chief Japhet Koome denied this, and last year accused opposition politicians of planting bodies hired from mortuaries at protest scenes in order to pin the deaths on his personnel.

How have previous foreign interventions fared in Haiti?

Haiti has seen three major peacekeeping mission in the last 30 years, which have failed to prevent the crisis deepening further.

In 1994, some 25,000 military personnel from Caribbean nations were sent under a UN-mandated operation.

Ten years on, 9,000 UN peacekeepers led by Brazil and known as the Minustah were sent.

This time around, it is believed that the UN-mandated taskforce will total 3,000 officers at most, including civilians contractors deployed on site for logistical support.

Haiti's transitional presidential council recently appointed former Prime Minister Garry Conille to lead the country until elections are held.

Haitians have seen peacekeeping missions come and go, with no



# This city is worried about immigration, but who has the solution?

By Ed Thomas

Mike and Graham have been collecting bins for four decades between them. Their patch includes Peterborough's Lincoln Road, where Lithuanian restaurants vie for space with job agencies advertising new positions in Polish.

"It seems like every nationality lives here," says Graham. "I don't see much integration, they keep themselves to themselves."

"They don't respect our country," he says.

Over a quarter of Peterborough's population is foreign-born, well above the almost 17% average for England and Wales. A sense of disquiet over the change that can accompany immigration is hardly new, but it is what Graham says next that is perhaps more revealing. I ask if he'd stop further immigration.

"You can't stop it," says Graham. "You'd have an empty hospital." If Graham is struggling to live with immigration, he's also of the view that the country currently depends on it.

The BBC's Your Voice, Your Vote project has heard from thousands of you about concerns over immigration. We spent several days in Peterborough talking to people about it, and again and again I heard concerns about social cohesion and pressure on public services caused by immigration - and not just from those who were born in the UK.

Net migration to the UK rose significantly after Brexit, peaking at 764,000 in 2022, and was an estimated 685,000 in 2023, according to the Office for National Statistics. An Ipsos survey of 3,000 people in February found 52% of people wanted immigration to be reduced.

Migration has been a high-profile issue in the campaign and there have been bad-tempered clashes between politicians offering very different visions of an issue that regularly tracks as one of the most important for voters.

On the outskirts of Peterborough we visited the Ortons Shopping Centre, a busy place where discount stores mix with independent shops.

Sarah works for the NHS. She was born in the city and raised her children here. Immigration, she says, has made the city grow very quickly. "We don't have the resources for everybody," she tells me.

She reels off a list of pressure points: "The hospital, it's hard to get accommodation in the city now, especially social housing and school places." Her grandchildren, she says, have struggled to get a place in the schools closest to them.

These sound like common issues in most towns. "I don't think it's all down to immigration," Sarah admits, "but I think it has had a major impact on them."

We found Emma waiting with her son and toddler daughter buying fish and chips. Immigration is a big issue for her in this election.

She is on the council house waiting list, and gets housing benefit, but because of high private rental prices she has to top it up by hundreds of pounds every month.



Rejoice is working but points out that there are some benefits she can't claim

"The new houses that were built were given to all the foreigners that were coming in," she says.

In the past year, Peterborough council has bought 40 homes to be used by Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

"It's not fair, I've always worked my life," she says. "I don't like it, it makes me angry."

Peterborough council says the demand for social housing exceeds supply, and that is prioritising those with the highest needs. The homes were bought for legal refugees, it points out, who have the right to live and work in the country.

These are hard choices for councils. The Institute for Fiscal Studies, an independent economics research institute, says Peterborough receives less funding for local services (that's bin collections and adult and children's care) and public health (drug and alcohol abuse) than it should do according to need. Places with growing populations can often find themselves falling victim to funding formulas from central government that do not take account of their recent growth.

Haji moved here as child about 50 years ago from Pakistan, and we met him in a traditional Pakistani sweet shop, where for £7 you can get a box full of treats.

"We worked hard," he says reflecting on his and his family's contribution to Britain. "We paid our taxes, National Insurance contributions, the hospital, education system." He pauses before adding "everything was brilliant", with the emphasis on the was.

He says he is concerned about migration. "I think it is too much, to be honest, the country has too much on its plate."

"People who don't contribute towards the system, I think they don't have the right to live here."

The ONS says the increase in net migration is mostly down to non-EU citizens coming on work and study visas.

This is a key challenge for the Conservative and Labour parties who say they will bring down net migration: many of the people who come to the UK come to work.

That Ipsos research on attitudes to migration also showed little appetite for reducing the numbers of medics, care workers, fruit pickers, teachers, labourers or lorry drivers coming to the UK to work.

Significant numbers of people settle in London and the South East, but Peterborough is attractive because it is well

connected by road and rail, and newcomers work in food packing and logistics jobs - the city is part of a transport, logistics and warehousing triangle that's grown significantly in the past decade or so, mostly down to online shopping.

Care is also a sector with big demand for workers. PJ Care, which provides specialist neurological care for adults, says it has hired more than 32 people from overseas, and its recruitment manager tells me they would struggle without them.

One of their employees is Rejoice, from Malawi. She says she's thriving, excelling at her job - but still, she's worried about her future, "When you look at the news, it makes you feel scared. What will become of me?"

She's watching the general election debate closely, as all parties pitch their plans on immigration. They have very different approaches.

- The Conservatives want to reduce the number of economic migrants and introduce a cap, and want to press ahead with their policy of sending people who arrive on small boats to Rwanda.
- Labour would scrap the Rwanda scheme and divert £75m pounds to a new border and security command. It has pledged to cut net migration and reduce the number of foreign born workers in sectors including construction, IT, social care, health and engineering.
- The Liberal Democrats manifesto does not mention reducing immigration numbers. The party would abolish the current salary threshold for migrant workers in favour of what it calls a "merit-based" system. They would also end the recently introduced ban on foreign care workers bringing dependents to the UK and reverse the increase in income thresholds for family visas. The party says it would scrap the Rwanda scheme, and "provide safe and legal routes" for asylum seekers.
- In their "contract" Reform UK say they would freeze non-essential immigration, but they concede that there would be exceptions and that healthcare workers count as essential. They say they would return small boat arrivals to France, but they don't explain how they would persuade France to accept that.

The Greens say they would replace the Home Office with a new Department of Migration, end immigration detention for migrants unless they are a danger to public safety, and would allow those seeking asylum to work while their application is being processed. They would also end the minimum income requirements for spouses of those holding work visas.

Rejoice is here on a work visa, with her husband and two children. She is one of 70,000 carers who came to work in England from abroad in 2022-2023, up from 10,000 in 2020-2021, according to industry body Skills for Care. It says about a third of the care workforce in Peterborough comes from abroad, and the demand for workers is expected to continue as the population ages.

She works full-time and pays taxes, but is keen to point out that she can't claim some benefits, like free childcare. But Rejoice says she feels vital: "This country needs people like me, someone that can put their heart out there and help someone from the heart, giving their all."

"If we were to remove every migrant worker from this country, I think there would be a collapse in the health care system in this country."

Set against this picture is a very public debate about small boats and illegal migration. Home Office figures show that in the 12 months until March, 38,000 people entered the UK illegally, the vast majority on small boats from France.

In conversations on the streets, there is not much distinction made between legal and illegal migration.

Just off Lincoln Road we are welcomed inside Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (Parca), which has been running for three decades. Asylum seekers Adil and Mohammed are having English lessons, and their English is very good.

Both fled war in Sudan and describe a desperate journey to reach the UK, taking a small boat from Libya to Italy. Adil says 300 people left on the boat, but only 200 people arrived. "One hundred people dead," he says quietly. "Women, children, young boys." It's hard to even imagine what that was like.

Why make another risky journey from Calais to the UK? Adil says it was because he believed he would not get any support in France.

Parca was set up by Moez Nathu, who was a refugee before finding sanctuary in Peterborough. He says migrants believe that when they get to the UK, "you get five-star hotels to sleep, you'll get feeding by Home Office".

While he wants refugees to be supported, he says it creates an impression that people arriving here will have an easy life. The answer, he believes, is to allow asylum seekers to work almost as soon as they arrive, sending a message that if you come to the UK, you will be expected to work.

There were 69,298 asylum applications for the year ending March 2024, relating to relating to 86,719 people. But the number of asylum cases awaiting an initial decision is higher - 86,460 cases, relating to 118,329 people.

And government figures from the same time said there were 104,517 individuals in receipt of asylum support, of which 34% were in hotel accommoda-

tion. Just outside Parca, we find Irena delivering parcels. She's originally from Latvia and says she works up to 60 hours a week. I jokingly ask what she would do if she were the next prime minister. "I would close the borders!" she says. It's not the answer we expected.

Irena arrived here 15 years ago, when the UK was part of the EU, and she's now a British citizen and planning to vote in the general election.

It becomes clear her issue is illegal immigration. "I don't understand why France doesn't close the borders, why they let people risk their lives and cross the channel. If they say the first safe country is OK, why do you pass several safe countries and then England in the end. Why?"

Does she see any conflict between her own journey and her views now? "I'm working. I'm all the time working," she says, adding that she never asked the state for anything.

Close by we speak to two men inside an eastern European cafe, they are from Peterborough and believe the change here has been for the better. They both point enthusiastically at the restaurants that line Lincoln Road. All of this, they say, would not have happened without immigration.

Rania Alia cofounded Helping Empower Lives in Peterborough. She's originally from Egypt and is passionate about supporting the most vulnerable here and helping them settle in Britain.

She points to wider forces: "If you don't want the refugee to come to this country, stop the war, make peace."

And what of the argument that the country cannot cope with so many people arriving here? "I do not think the asylum, or refugee, is the reason for the crisis we are having," before adding: "We have this because of Covid, the cost of living is getting very high - refugees don't cause these problems."

Rania is a reminder that by no means everyone in Peterborough feels the same about immigration, and what we did hear again and again were questions of what people saw as fairness - be it from Emma, who can't get a council house, or from Rejoice who works, pays taxes but doesn't always feel appreciated.

And for many we spoke to in the city, who were uneasy about the surge in net migration, there was also a widespread understanding that the services they rely on, from health to having parcels delivered, were dependent on the very same people coming from abroad.

The challenge for the parties is to convince voters that after long periods of large-scale migration, they have a credible plan to address the issues and concerns of voters.

And then for whoever wins the keys to No 10, the next challenge will be to deliver that vision.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI


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


Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO







**Advertisement**

**BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

**Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 55km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast, and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-06-02	<b>Installation of Belt Sampler Plant at TOMRA Ore Sorting Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory/Company/Firm profile</li> <li>High level schedule of similar work indicating all major milestones.</li> <li>Must be capable of installing large scale rock material sampling belts in mining industry.</li> <li>Experience in conducting similar projects in large scale Underground mines across the world.</li> <li>International accreditation with more than 10 years of experience.</li> <li>Updates of installation and mechanization history for all Mineral processing conveyor belt auto samplers.</li> <li>Proof of previous installation and mechanization history for all Mineral processing conveyor belt auto samplers.</li> <li>Resumes of all technical stuffs with more than 10 Years experience in Mineral Processing and sampling technology automation.</li> </ul>

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


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

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest 1800hrs on the **04<sup>th</sup> July 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

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

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED.



**MKOMBOZI COMMERCIAL BANK PLC**

**NOTICE TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS OF MKOMBOZI COMMERCIAL BANK PLC**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc shall be held on 27th July, 2024 at Maranta Hall, Msimbazi Centre, Dar es Salaam from 9.00 a.m.

**AGENDA**

1. Confirmation of Quorum and Opening of the Meeting.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting held on 29th July 2023.
4. Matters arising from the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.
5. To receive, discuss and adopt the Directors' report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023.
6. To receive, discuss and approve the Bank's financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and adopt external auditor's report on financial statements of the Bank for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023.
7. Appointment of Statutory Auditors.
8. To set a date for the next Annual General Meeting.
9. Any other business.
10. Closure of the meeting.

**Take further notice that:**

1. A member wishing to attend the meeting must come with a copy of their receipt of purchased shares of the bank or a Share Certificate of the same.

1. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a PROXY to attend and vote on their behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association. A PROXY FORM must be deposited at the registered office of the bank so as to arrive not later than three (3) days before the meeting. The form should be in the following format:

**"Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc"**  
 I/We..... of ....., being a Member/Members of the above-named Company, hereby appoint..... of ..... as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the bank to be held on the **27<sup>th</sup> July, 2024** and at any adjournment thereof.

**Signed this ..... day of ..... 2024**

1. All shareholders and/or representatives will be required to register before entering the meeting hall on the date of the meeting.
1. The booklets containing financial statements and other information of the bank will be available at the bank's branches and the bank's website <https://mkombozibank.co.tz/> a week before the meeting.

For further information contact the Bank's offices at:

Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc  
 Plot No.40, Behind St Joseph Church  
 Mansfield Street  
 P.O.Box 38448  
 DAR ES SALAAM  
 Tel.no. +255 22 2137806/7,  
 Toll free no. 0800 750 040  
 Email: [shareholders@mkombozibank.co.tz](mailto:shareholders@mkombozibank.co.tz)  
[info@mkombozibank.co.tz](mailto:info@mkombozibank.co.tz)

**PAULINA KUNJUMU**  
 COMPANY SECRETARY  
 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
 JUNE, 2024



**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY (TSF) MONITORING EQUIPMENTS.**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company"), a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") is in north-western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5 km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of prequalifying Contractors for supply and Installation of Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) monitoring equipment and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible Contractors to submit expressions of interest for this work as detailed below.

**NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS WORK. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.**

**Scope of Work:**

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
GGME01879	<b>SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY (TSF) MONITORING EQUIPMENTS</b>

**II. INFORMATION REQUIRED**

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>
Company Profile and updated organogram
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics
Copy of Current Business License
Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate
NSSF Compliance certificate
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association
Compliance with Mining Act – Approved Local Content Plan.
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>
Contractors audited financial statements for the past three consecutive years.
At least 1 reference from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position.
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate
Environmental compliance certificate
Workers' compensation fund certificate
Safety and Environmental policy
<b>OTHER POLICIES</b>
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment
Grievance Procedure
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Program
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01879)</b>
Proven track record of supplying instrumentation for TSF slope monitoring and ground acceleration – supported by successful case studies and/or examples (could be anonymized) where instruments have been applied successfully in similar applications
Provide detailed technical specifications:
· Instruments and sensors (e.g. range, resolution, operating depth, etc.)
· Details of modules for remote communication (type of data cable or gateway communication)
· Mechanisms for securing against theft and vandalism
Provide technical details of installation arrangement for the instruments e.g. drawings illustrating how the accelerometers and tiltmeters will be installed
Qualified personnel – provide a legitimate record of experience and expertise of the technical personnel who will be providing technical support during installation and servicing
Quality management systems – provide evidence of compliance to best practice (e.g. relevant ISO accreditation)

**III. Interested applicants must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting "GGME01879 – SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITY (TSF) MONITORING EQUIPMENTS" on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL.**

Interested applicants must also provide full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the company, name of the principal contact and signed by an authorized representative.

**IV. All LOIs and support documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company's Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) without copying any individual from the Company. Submission must not be later than **8.30AM (EAT)** on the **10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**. (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, please split the submissions into multiple email.**

**V. Shortlisted Candidates will be notified within forty-five (45) calendar days from the submission deadline. Candidates not contacted within the forty-five (45) calendar days must consider themselves unsuccessful.**

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=









Thursday 27 June 2024

# Afreximbank, CDC pledge \$2bn facility in supporting of Africa health, pharmaceutical products manufacturing

PARIS

**A**FRICAN Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank or the Bank) and the Africa Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) have renewed their partnership with a new cooperation agreement announced yesterday on the sidelines of the Global Forum for Vaccine Sovereignty and Innovation in Paris, France.

Through this collaboration, Afreximbank has committed a USD2 billion facility to the "Africa Health Security Investment Plan" to support the health product manufacturing ambition of the continent. This initiative will focus on the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) and the Platform for Harmonized African Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM).

This initiative is pivotal in addressing Africa's health investment challenges, promoting economic development, and strengthening health security across the continent. It also intends to complement GAVI's innovative financing mechanism, the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) which is set to provide up to USD 1 billion financing to African manufacturers of health and pharmaceutical products over the next ten years.

African pharmaceutical companies face severe impacts of the global health, security and economic challenges, yet they are the drivers of investments and technology advancements that the health sector needs. Low investor confidence, lack of appropriate infrastructure, trade related barriers, and regulatory challenges are some of the constraint to investment in Africa's health sector. While funds might be available, many potential investments do



not materialize due to financial and non-financial obstacles. Coordinated efforts at the continental level are essential to reverse this trend and align with the New Public Health Order.

Closing the investment gap will be crucial to achieving the African Union's ambition of manufacturing 60% of vaccines needed locally by the year 2040 as well as implementing all other countermeasures necessary to ensure self-reliance especially during

crises such as pandemics and outbreaks.

While commenting on the signing, Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank said: "We are pleased to be part of yet another momentous event that will change the course of health security in Africa. This facility will help strengthen the manufacturing of health and pharmaceutical products in Africa through our comprehensive and existing

interventions such as Project Preparation funding, Project and Trade Finance as well as Guarantees. Furthermore, we intend to put our full weight behind this facility with equity investments through our subsidiary FEDA - the Fund for Export Development into Africa."

"Today is a big day for African vaccine manufacturing as well as health products manufacturing in general, as we welcome these major investment announcements that will change the face of health products manufacturing in Africa for years to come. Protecting our future, means investing in our ability to achieve self-reliance on all health countermeasures; vital to accomplish our mission of safeguarding Africa's health" said H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa CDC.

The "Africa Health Security Investment Plan" will allow Afreximbank to support and finance key health projects identified by the Africa CDC. The joint effort combines institutional and financial resources, financial tools such as equity and debt financ-

ing, guarantees, venture capital, capacity building, and risk-sharing to boost and attract more health investments in Africa.

The 'Africa Health Security Investment Plan' is built on three key pillars: Technical Assistance and Advisory Services: A single-entry point for health project preparation and implementation, with capacity-building support from the Africa CDC.

Investment Project Pipeline: A clear, forward-looking list of health investment projects in Africa, accessible through Afreximbank Project Portal.

Regulatory and Normative Support: implementing programs to remove bottlenecks and create a conducive environment for trade and investment, guided by the Technical Steering Committee of Africa CDC-AFCFTA.

The Africa Health Security Investment aims to tackle Africa's health investment challenges, promote economic growth, and enhance health security across the continent.

By Special Correspondent

## AfDB secures \$18m GEF funding for Zambezi Basin and E-waste projects

THE African Development Bank has secured more than \$18 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for two major projects aimed at bolstering environmental sustainability and resilience across Africa.

The first project, "Strengthening Zambezi River Basin Management towards Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Health," has been allocated \$10.57 million. This initiative aims to improve the collaborative management of water, energy, food, and environmental resources within the Zambezi River Basin, which spans

eight southern African countries: Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The second project, "Global Electronics Management (GEM) program (Horn of Africa Regional Child Project)," has received \$7.83 million to address the growing challenge of electronic waste (e-waste) in Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia.

GEF approved the funding during its 67th Council meetings held in Washington DC, from 17-20 June 2024. Established ahead of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Facility is the largest source of multilateral funding for biodiversity, addressing interrelated environmental challenges globally. The African Development

Bank is one of its implementing agencies with direct access to its resources. The Zambezi River Basin project, estimated to cost \$9.45 million, is expected to benefit millions through advancements in agriculture, fisheries, and dam operations. It focuses on promoting trans boundary cooperation, integrated planning, and adaptive manage-

ment practices to boost the basin's resilience and ecosystem health.

The \$60-million GEM program aims to significantly reduce e-waste generation and increase circularity in the electronics sector of developing countries.

Anthony Nyong, Director of Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank,

stated, "Through these projects, the African Development Bank continues to lead the way in promoting environmental sustainability and resilience, driving positive change for both people and the planet." He added, "Over the years, we have also increased our interventions on issues related to chemicals and waste across the African continent."

These projects represent a continued commitment by the African Development Bank to foster sustainable development and resilience throughout Africa, addressing critical environmental challenges through innovative and collaborative approaches.

## Do business with government's strategic projects, NEEC boss tells women groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) through 'Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia' programme has urged women, youths, and special groups in Mtwara Region to register to get the qualification to do business with large industries and various government projects to curb poverty and take part in building the country's economy.

Beng'I Issa, NEEC executive secretary made the remarks here on Tuesday when the council introduced the programme in Mtwara Region, saying the groups need to register and meet the criteria so that they can be connected to do business with industries and various ongoing government projects to get rid of low incomes and participate in the country's economy.

"Mtwara Region has the opportunity of large industries and various government projects that are being implemented and coming. You will be connected with it commercially to participate in building the national economy," said Beng'I.

She also said that the Mtwara Region has a lot going on, including gas, airport, and port expansion, so those groups will be required to provide services such as cement, sand, pebbles, and even food, protection, and hygiene activities.

She further noted that investments made by foreigners or local businessmen must have a plan to involve Tanzanians in finding skilled and unskilled jobs and providing various services.

Beng'I said that to get those opportunities they need to organize themselves to be in those groups or



National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) executive secretary Beng'I Issa addressed women, youth, and special groups when the council introduced the "Strengthening the Economy with Mama Samia" program in Mtwara Region on Tuesday and Mtwara Regional Commissioner, Patrick Sawala (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

individually and be registered, have NIDA credentials, bank accounts, and have business and capital, and that will help to get real statistics and plan the priorities of the region

She said that the programme has two phases, the first one is to get information and create a database and the second phase is to provide empowerment and the program is for the whole country.

Mtwara Regional Commissioner, Patrick Sawala said that

they have received the programme and will implement it together with experts to ensure that citizens use the opportunity to participate in the economy of their country.

"We have presented a program and I ask the citizens to use the opportunities of agriculture, breeding, fishing, and agro-processing," he said, adding that the region also has seaweed cultivation, rooster breeding, cultural tourism, and visiting parks.

He said that all the villages and

townships in the region are hoping to get electric energy which will be a springboard for starting small industries and businesses to help develop products for the people.

One of the Mtwara residents Khadija Mela said that those who have started business should continue and those who are not in business should join groups or individuals to get empowerment.

## CGK Africa drives to enhance youths on financial literacy

By Correspondent-Emmanuel Onyango

YOUNG Tanzanians have been cautioned to avoid extravagant expenditures and instead learn how to invest in order to develop their newly established economic startups at this time when Tanzania is faced with unreliable employment opportunities.

The concern was issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam by educators at the third financial literacy training program that brought about 200 youths who had good chance to discuss and learn more about different aspects that focused on financial skills and capability.

The six hour training session which was hosted by a registered Dar es Salaam based financial organization known by its name 'CGK Africa Ltd', attracted two highly motivated key speakers from the banking sector.

These included the Head of Treasury and Financial Markets of the NBC Bank Mr. Peter Nalitoela and the Managing Director of UBA-Tanzania Mr. Gbenga Makinde which is a subsidiary company under the umbrella of the United Bank of Africa (UBA).

In their presentations, the two financial experts instructed their audience to create basic financial education awareness while interacting in their business dealings with a view to contemplate on how to become good financial managers in public or private sectors.

Among the basic topics highlighted by key speakers during the session included how to maintain proper budgeting, building and improving credit, maintaining savings and investments, borrowing and repaying debt, and

investing money in both public and private sectors for economic development.

"Building a budget forces a person to take control of spending habits, and if a person or an organization has a good credit, banks and lenders are more likely to approve their credit applications", said Nalitoela and added that, lending is a critical part of the banking system in order to support economic growth while also protecting against risks.

CGK Africa's Managing Director Naomi Nana told The Guardian in an exclusive interview that, "her organization has championed community development with a steadfast commitment to empower Tanzania youths by conducting trainings and workshops focusing mainly on financial literacy".

According to her, this is the third training session that is being hosted by the organization with the aim of developing professional growth and talented management for good leadership so as to enable youths attain entrepreneurship skills for their development careers.

In August 2023, the Central Bank of Tanzania (BOT) introduced an initiative that aims to expand financial knowledge under the program dubbed, "National Financial Literacy Program (NFLP)".

The BOT realized the need for establishing the program after the Financial Capability Baseline Survey report which was released in 2014 ten years ago, indicated that the majority of adult population in the country had low level of financial capability with only 40 percent having financial knowledge and skills.



By Special Correspondent

FOREIGN investment in Africa saw a slight decline in 2023, but the clean energy sector stood out as a significant positive, according to a new report from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released on 20 June 2024.

The World Investment Report 2024 indicates that the value of international project finance deals in African nations plummeted by 50 per cent to \$64 billion in 2023, following a 20 per cent decrease in 2022. The value of announced Greenfield projects in Africa also dropped from \$196 billion in 2022 to \$175 billion in 2023.

Despite these declines, the number of project announcements across the continent rose by 7 per cent, reaching over 800. Africa attracted an increasing share of global Greenfield megaprojects, including six projects each valued

## Significant foreign investment in Africa's clean energy sector in 2023 encouraging-UNCTAD

at over \$5 billion.

The largest Greenfield announcement in 2023 was a green hydrogen project in Mauritania, which is anticipated to bring in \$34 billion in investment. Other significant hydrogen projects were announced in Egypt, totalling \$10.8 billion, and in South Africa, where three energy producers announced green hydrogen projects totalling \$7.1 billion. Morocco also saw substantial investment in this sector.

The electric vehicle value chain is also driving investment in Africa. A notable example is a Chinese manufacturer's plan to establish a



\$6.4 billion electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility in Morocco. Africa secured \$10.8 billion in project finance for wind and solar power production, with major

projects located in Egypt, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is crucial for funding infrastructure and public services such as power and renewable energy, according to UNCTAD. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, emphasised that "Investment is not just about capital flows; it is about human potential, environmental stewardship, and the enduring pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable world."

Over the past three years, Africa has accounted for about 30 per cent of all investment values relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDG) in developing countries, with the figure slightly lower at 27 per cent in 2023. However, progress in other SDG-relevant sectors, such as health, telecommunications, and transport, remains limited.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement Investment Protocol, adopted in 2023, is expected to boost intra-regional FDI. Additionally, several African countries have introduced national investment policies to attract more investment. Kenya and Nigeria, with assistance from UNCTAD, introduced national investment policies in 2019 and 2023, respectively. Nigeria's investment policy focuses on investment promotion, facilitation, and sustainable development, and encourages responsible investor conduct in line with global standards on the environment, human rights, health, labour, safety, corporate social responsibility, and anti-corruption measures.

## KCB, EU in drive to support Tanzanian SMEs

By Guardian Reporter

KCB Bank Tanzania has embraced financing opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tanzania in partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union (EU), and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

This initiative aims to provide Tanzanian SMEs, particularly women in business and the blue economy sectors, with access to finance. Abdul Juma, KCB Bank head of retail represented the bank in this partnership, securing a EUR 20 million credit line as part of the EUR 350million Tanzania Gender & Blue Economy Facility.

Speaking yesterday at the meeting of EIB credit lines to Tanzania banks for on-lending to SMEs with focus on gender and blue economy Juma highlighted the importance of empowerment, sustainability, and the transformative impact of the blue economy on Tanzania's future.

He announced that the EUR20million allocation would fund projects like women-led fishing cooperatives and environmentally friendly aquaculture ventures along Tanzania's coastline, aiming to boost economic growth while preserving marine resources.

The event concluded with Juma addressing questions about the fund's disbursement and impact, emphasizing KCB-Tanzania's commitment to transparency and accountability.

KCB-Tanzania's announcement received widespread praise, symbolizing hope for a brighter, more inclusive future. Juma concluded by emphasizing that this partnership is not just a financial transaction but a promise to empower women, protect the environment, and drive sustainable economic growth in Tanzania's blue economy.



Abdul Juma, KCB Bank head of retail

## Youth key to transforming agricultural sector

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has great potential to food self-sufficient by producing food locally without importing from abroad if the young population is properly involved in the agricultural sector as what is needed is their manpower and knowledge.

Speaking at the launch of the 2024 AYuTe Africa Tanzania Challenge competition in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Resident Director of Heifer Project International, Mark Tsoxo, said that there are more young people in Tanzania and that today's agriculture needs manpower and innovative technology and the available resources can greatly transform the agricultural sector.

"It's not that young people don't like to participate in agriculture, young people like results more than the means to achieve results, so we need creativity to be able to attract young people to agriculture," he said.

The AYuTe Tanzania Challenge was officially launched last year by Heifer International in collaboration with Sahara Ventures to help innovative young people in agriculture get opportunities for capital, training, and meeting with investors.

He emphasized that modern



Jumanne Mtambalike, chief executive officer Sahara Ventures

agriculture requires the use of technology and with the AYuTe campaign, which is an acronym for Agriculture, Youth, Technology, they want young people to help make the agricultural sector vibrant and competitive to also create jobs.

Tsoxo has also said that the foundation is at the forefront of environmental protection in its activities and stressed that the purpose of the fund is to eliminate hunger, reduce poverty, and protect the environment.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer of Sahara Ventures, Jumanne Mtambalike, said that working with the foundation they have been able to help Tanzanian youth, especially those engaging in agricultural activities by using innovative technology to

bring their solutions to the market and thus create jobs.

Mtambalike said that more than 65 percent of the jobs that come from Africa are in the agricultural sector and that the agricultural sector has contributed 32 percent of GDP in Africa.

"Therefore, in collaboration with the foundation, we believe that the work we are doing is very important work in empowering young people and creating those opportunities," said Mtambalike.

On his part, the Project Manager of AYuTe Challenge Tanzania, Emmanuel Senzigue, has said that the winner of this year's competition will receive 28m/-, the first runner-up 21m/-, and the second runner-up 14m/-.

The AYuTe Challenge Tanzania competition was officially

launched last year by the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega, who emphasized that technology can be a springboard to attract many young people to participate in agricultural activities such as breeding and fishing.

Minister Ulega called to continue to increase and improve the use of technology in agriculture as it is the beginning of making many young people excited about the sector.

The program is designed to improve the agricultural landscape by focusing on small farmers and also aims to promote innovative ideas to support and encourage youth participation in agriculture, recognizing that it is the largest employment sector in the country.

Tanzania is proud to have a large youth population, which is more than 60 percent of the total population, while more than 40 percent of cultivated land is unused.

In this context, Heifer Tanzania's efforts are strategically aligned to harness the potential of the country's large population to promote self-sufficiency and increase productivity. This approach is also in line with the government's goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating youth unemployment.

## Urgent action required to address SSA's energy equity: WEF report

By Madhumita Paul

Sub-Saharan Africa is grappling with significant equity challenges, demanding urgent improvements in energy access, affordability and a fair energy transition, according to a new World Economic Forum (WEF) report.

The 14th edition of the Forum's report *Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2024*, created in partnership with Accenture, highlighted these issues. Despite the challenges, the region demonstrates the strongest growth in Energy Transition Index (ETI) scores, driven by enhancements in energy access and affordability.

ETI assesses 120 countries, evaluating their energy system performance based on equity, sustainability, security, and readiness of the enabling environment, including policies, regulatory framework, infrastructure, innovation, education, human capital and finance and investment. The assessment focuses on three key areas: Equity, security, and sustainability.

Energy equity involves various dimensions within and across nations and stakeholders. The lack of affordable access to modern forms of energy remains a critical concern, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where large segments of the population still lack electricity access. In this region alone, 600 million people, or roughly 53 per cent of the population, live without electricity. Hundreds of millions more have only limited or unreliable electricity.

However, the latest WEF report noted that sub-Saharan Africa has seen remarkable energy transition growth of 10 per cent over the past decade. Tanzania has emerged as a leader in the region, with a significant 37.7 per cent increase in electricity accessibility across both rural and urban areas from 2011 to 2020. Ethiopia launched its National Electrification Programme in 2017, aiming for universal energy access by 2025, with a specific goal of providing off-grid power solutions to 35 per cent of its population. Zimbabwe has experienced a rise in renewable energy generation, primarily through hydropower, leading to improved energy access and substantial job growth in the clean energy sector. Despite progress in improving energy and carbon intensity, South Africa's energy sector still has considerable room for improvement.

Out of 120 countries, 107 have shown progress over the past decade, with 30 countries seeing their scores increase by more than 10 per cent. Although ETI scores reached their highest in 2024, transition momentum has slowed over the last three years. The concept of transition momentum highlights countries that are rapidly transitioning and those that face risks. Sub-Saharan Africa leads with the highest positive momentum, driven mainly by advancements in energy security and regulations. The region has diversified its imports and significantly improved grid reliability.

However, there is still substantial room for improvement, especially in equity and finance, to expand access to electricity and clean cooking. Decentralised renewable energy solutions, such as mini grids, can help eradicate energy poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa by increasing energy access and establishing an electricity market. These solutions can also improve supply reliability and reduce local pollution from diesel use.

"This year's ETI delivers a clear message: urgent action is needed. Global decision-makers must make bold moves to regain momentum in the transition towards an equitable, secure, and sustainable energy future. This is critical for people, entire economies, and the fight against climate change," said Espen Mehlum, Head of Energy Transition Intelligence and Regional Acceleration, World Economic Forum.

ETI 2024 Scores: Europe continues to lead the ETI rankings, with the top 10 list for 2024 fully composed of countries from that region. Sweden (1) and Denmark (2) top the rankings, having both placed in the top three countries each year for the past decade. They are followed by Finland (3), Switzerland (4), and France (5). These countries benefit from high political commitment, strong investments in research and development, expanded clean energy adoption - accelerated by the regional geopolitical situation, energy-efficiency policies, and carbon pricing.



# Angel investment to fix African startup funding woes

KIGALI

A crop of investors allocating capital to early stage-startups is emerging in Africa. They deploy funding in a way that traditional and commercial lenders cannot. They tend to be patient in nature and their lending requirements are not strict.

This class of capital allocators are called angel investors.

They are individuals who typically provide financial and non-financial support, including equity or debt funding, mentorship and access to business networks for small businesses, or startups, in exchange for potential future returns.

This rising class of investors deployed more than \$22.5 million across 408 deals at an average ticket size of \$552,000 in the first and second quarters of 2023, according to estimates by the African Business Angel Network (ABAN).

These investors deploy their investments through networks of angels mainly operating across key startup ecosystems in Africa - Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt. ABAN estimates there are 68 angel networks spread across more than 34 African countries and the diaspora.

"There is an increased 'democratisation' of angel investing. Angel investing was previously seen to be a preserve of ultra-high net worth individuals. We are now seeing more syndicates that work to pool individuals to invest," Joshua Murima, Head of Investor Relations at Briter Bridges, says.

Murima asserts that the availability of capital at early stages, which is what many angels unlock,

is always a good indicator that the ecosystem is moving in a good direction, but he insists that market dynamics are somewhat the main determinant of startup success.

Angels in Africa invest predominantly in technology entrepreneurs who are innovating for finance, agriculture, education, healthcare, commerce, clean energy, as well as entertainment, and supply and logistics.

Most of the angels surveyed by ABAN are based in Africa's top investment destinations, with Nigeria leading (19 per cent), followed by South Africa (10 per cent), and Kenya (8 per cent).

Angel investing in countries like Rwanda is yet to take off.

For instance, Business Angels Rwanda (BAR), a network of angel investors in Rwanda, has invested once in 2020 and it was the only deal, according to one female member of the network who preferred anonymity.

In comparison, she says, Nairobi Business Angels which was created at the same time as BAR has made more than 30 investments in Kenya.

"The legal framework in Rwanda is not suitable. We do not have a Startup Act like other African countries do," she notes, adding that their network has tried to set up as a non-profit to organise itself but has failed to get the required documentation from the authorities.

According to ABAN's 2023 Angel Investment Survey, angels who invested in Africa last year used their own money, with 36 per cent generated from their salaries and 29 per cent from their wealth.

A small minority of angels, representing 17 per cent, invest other people's money.



A group of youths and other participants during a past interactive session at the Norsken start-up hub in Kigali. Photo by Craish Bahiz.

Majority of angels who invest on the continent, or 60 per cent to be precise, prefer investing in the form of equity. In other words, they invest to acquire stakes in ventures where they deploy capital.

Twenty per cent of angels deploy blended finance - a mix of funding such as loan guarantees, grants and venture capital, while 18 per cent invest in the form of debt.

Angels use a combination of investment instruments to deploy capital.

At least 32 per cent of angels in Africa prefer equity/shareholders agreement as their investment instrument, 29 per cent favor simple agreement for future equity (SAFEs), and 19 per cent would rather use convertible notes - short

term debt instruments that can be converted into equity.

Fewer than 20 per cent of angels use loan agreements and grants.

The majority of angels in Africa, or 75 per cent, are interested in investing in startups at the idea phase or the pre-product market fit stage.

This, the report says, is in line with existing literature that suggests many angels prefer to invest in the formative stage of a startup, usually in their first or second year of operation, when startups are figuring out who the right customers are and how to satisfy their needs.

For those startups, angel investing is proven to be a gamechanger, thanks to growing legal frameworks

across Africa that are enabling this type of investing to flourish across the continent.

Fadilah Tchoumba, CEO of African Business Angel Network (ABAN), is convinced that legal frameworks also present potential for African investors to manage risk perception.

"Legal frameworks for angel investing in Africa, still in their infancy, present both challenges and opportunities for building a solid foundation to support current and future investors and manage risk perception," she says.

Nearly half of African angel investors who were surveyed by ABAN, or 45 per cent, said they prioritise economic impact such as job creation in their investment

decision-making processes.

While it suggests that angels in Africa are driven by a desire beyond just generating profit, they are looking for financially viable businesses with the potential for strong economic returns alongside job creation.

That doesn't necessarily imply that angels in Africa are interested in investing in social impact ventures such as those that create impactful solutions for education, healthcare, and environment, among others.

Some believe that angels in Silicon Valley, for instance, invest expecting social returns, or what one writer Alex Danco calls the Social Subsidy of Angel Investing. This makes them more patient to early-stage startups that usually require years to build up their ventures from the ground up.

It is different from angels elsewhere where most angels are purely investing expecting financial returns. They are more often than not concerned by how fast their money will be diluted with follow-on capital, and as a result, they are looking for quick exits.

Murima doesn't necessarily agree, rather he argues that it is the other way round.

"The larger majority of Africa-focused investors could be seen as impact investors given the different sectoral and thematic inclinations e.g., financial inclusion, gender etc.," he weighs in.

However, he suggests that there has been a gradual adjustment away from the traditional notion that these impact investors don't care about returns. "There's now a widespread belief that you can make money whilst doing good as well."

## Increase tax on alcohol, invest in rehab programmes to end drug abuse-experts

KIGALI

To do away with the problem of alcoholism in the country, experts are of the view that the government should - among other possible measures - increase taxes on substances like alcohol and cigarettes, to discourage their use but also generate revenue that can be reinvested into prevention and rehabilitation programmes.

Alcohol is the most abused substance - in addition to cannabis, cigarettes, opiates, and cocaine - by adolescents and young adults aged 13 to 24, accounting for 28.5% of the 3,301 individuals surveyed, according to a 2023 pilot study conducted by the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) across the country.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights drug abuse as a major global concern impacting the society. Annually observed on June 26, the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking underscores the need to address this issue, emphasizing the theme "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention."

The campaign aims to raise awareness about the harmful consequences of drug use, including physical and mental health issues, fatal overdoses, and broader societal challenges. It calls for collective efforts to prevent drug abuse and support individuals affected by its impact.

Aline Flora Nakuzwe, the Head of Icyizere Psychotherapeutic Center at Ndera Neuropsychiatric Teaching Hospital, emphasized the escalating risks associated with alcohol consumption highlighting the gradual progression from casual drinking to addiction, which often leads to severe mental health challenges among young people.

"Many individuals begin drinking alcohol because it's socially accepted and appears to



Alcohol is the most abused substance by adolescents and young adults aged 13 to 24, according to a 2023 pilot study conducted by the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) across the country.

have no strict limits. However, this initial casual consumption can gradually develop into addiction, eventually leading to significant mental health challenges," she said.

"Signs of addiction often include an increase in consumption and time spent using the substance. For example, if someone who used to spend one or two hours drinking beer now spends over five hours, or more, it indicates a deepening addiction. These behaviors show how someone can become more dependent on alcohol or drugs."

As noted, the onset of addiction often manifests through behavioral changes, where individuals may begin neglecting their daily responsibilities or forgetting tasks due to excessive drug consumption. This loss of control over everyday behaviors underscores the escalating impact of addiction on one's life.

Nakuzwe also pointed out ongoing efforts by Ndera Hospital to tackle drug abuse in the society where students are educated about the dangers of substance abuse, utilizing personal narratives from former addicts to illustrate the potential consequences.

This helps to underscore the

message to the younger generation that even though alcohol is legal and locally made in Rwanda, excessive consumption has serious consequences.

Bagambambake Mudashishwa, the Executive Director of the Anti-Drug Organization Rwanda (ADOR), told The New Times that substance abuse often leads to mental disorders like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) when individuals do not receive proper treatment.

"Drug addiction can often lead to mental disorders and, if not treated sustainably, may result in conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder. We are dedicated to comprehensive training and awareness initiatives aimed at sustainable treatment," he said.

"Our goal is to provide essential knowledge to psychologists, therapists, and people affected by substance abuse, equipping them with the skills to identify and address the root causes of addiction during treatment. Through these efforts, we aim to tackle the underlying issues of drug abuse and support long-term recovery."

Mudashishwa emphasized the importance of providing strong support systems to effectively

deal with addiction by understanding the challenges faced by people struggling with drug abuse.

"Victims of drug abuse often struggle to recognize their own challenges. It's vital for employers and those around them to offer support rather than dismissal. Providing time for individuals to seek medical help and recover is essential, showing compassion towards those with drug-induced mental disorders."

He pointed out that industries can take proactive measures to reduce the alcohol content in their products hence playing a crucial role in addressing the problem of substance abuse in the youth.

"Lowering the alcohol content in beverages produced by local industries is essential to promote responsible consumption and safeguard health in Rwanda. This approach could also help consumers avoid becoming intoxicated even when drinking their usual amount, addressing concerns related to excessive alcohol consumption."

Emmanuel Nshimiyimana, the Executive Director at Youth Mentoring Agents for Development Organisation (YOMADO), highlighted wider social impacts of increased substance abuse that include greater demand for rehab services and higher rates of teenage pregnancy.

"Drugs, especially alcohol, are becoming increasingly popular among youth, often driven by peer pressure and unemployment. This trend not only leads to individual struggles but also societal challenges such as increased need for rehab centers and rising teen pregnancy rates."

"Addressing family conflicts is essential in the fight against drug abuse. Strengthening family bonds and fostering open communication can significantly reduce the risk of substance use among youth."

## Major buybacks put spring back in A shares' step

BEIJING

A-share market investor confidence will be boosted and bourse performance will be buoyed amid record performance among listed companies' buyback plans, said experts.

According to market tracker Wind Info, over 1,900 A-share companies have announced their share buyback plans as of Monday. Among them, more than 1,600 companies have already carried out repurchases, with the total buyback value amounting to over 96.4 billion yuan (\$13.3 billion), hitting a record and overtaking the full-year figure of 91.4 billion yuan seen in 2023.

A large number of industry giants have conducted share buybacks this year. Tongwei Group, the world's largest solar silicon provider, announced in late April a buyback plan of between 2 billion and 4 billion yuan. Video surveillance firm Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology released in April a repurchase plan of over 2.89 billion yuan while dairy giant Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group announced in late May it would repurchase no more than 2 billion yuan of its shares. Biotech company Wuxi AppTec and logistics giant SF Express have each announced 1-billion-yuan buyback plans twice so far this year.

Computer, medicine, electronics and engineering equipment are the industries launching the most share buyback plans this year, according to Wind Info.

Zhang Qiyao, chief strategist at Industrial Securities, said that share buybacks will turn into an important positive signal for the market, as they reflect the companies' confidence in

their profitability and income growth. Investors will thus derive positive sentiment on the companies' development.

Looking back on the previous rounds of drastic market fluctuations, A-share companies' collective share buybacks, which were promoted by supportive government policies, helped stabilize market performance and investor sentiment. The indexes usually picked up significantly after such repurchases, he said.

Related buyback policies have been optimizing since the end of 2023, which have partly contributed to the record high repurchases seen so far this year, Zhang said.

As the buyback scale expands in the A-share market, it can be seen that prices of companies announcing repurchase plans usually rise significantly, outperforming the benchmark indexes. Investors should keep a closer eye on these companies, especially as regulators have stressed the importance of share buybacks, he added.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission, the country's top bourse watchdog, released late last year its amended regulations for A-share companies' buybacks. Listed companies are encouraged to use repurchase tools according to relevant laws to provide returns to investors in an active manner, according to the new regulations.

The set of new guidelines released by the State Council - the nation's Cabinet - in April underlined the importance of listed companies' market value management. In specific, listed companies will be encouraged to cancel shares after repurchases.



## WORLD

## Haiti PM vows to retake country as first Kenyan police arrive

PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE first contingent of Kenyan police arrived in the Haitian capital on Tuesday to launch a long-awaited peacekeeping mission in the Caribbean country that has been ravaged by gang violence, even as deadly protests back home prompted doubts.

"At last the multinational force is here to support our national police," Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille said at a press conference, saying work to retake the country would begin "slowly, without major fights unless necessary."

"But I want no one to doubt our objectives," he said. "The state will regain power and reaffirm its authority so all Haitians can live peacefully in this country."

The mission was first requested by Haiti's previous government in 2022. But support sagged and Conille's predecessor was forced to resign in early March after traveling to Nairobi to secure Kenyan support while violence escalated back in Haiti.

The gang wars have now displaced over half a million people and nearly five million are facing severe food insecurity. Armed groups, which now control most of the capital, have formed a broad alliance while carrying out widespread killings, ransom kidnappings and sexual violence.

"Kenya's sole purpose is to serve as agents of peace," Kenyan Foreign Minister Monica Juma told the press conference, saying police would prioritize protecting civilians, opening up routes for movement of people, goods and humanitarian aid, and protecting state institutions.

The deployment has lagged, she said,

because as it is not a UN mission - though ratified by the UN Security Council - and time was needed to develop the plans together.

But even as uniformed Kenyan police disembarked from a Kenya Airways plane with weapons in hand in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince, police back in Nairobi opened fire on anti-tax hike demonstrators trying to storm the parliament, with at least five protesters killed and dozens wounded.

Though a Kenyan security source said the Nairobi violence was unlikely to disrupt plans to send more Kenyan police to Haiti, it has led some to question Kenya's ability to lead the security mission.

"The police should be able to operate well in their own country, but they can't," said Enock Alumasu Makanga, an ex-Kenyan police officer now working in private security. "How do you think they can manage then when they arrive in Haiti?"

## Forceful response

Aid groups on Tuesday expressed concern that armed groups in Haiti would respond forcefully to the mission and that children will be caught in the crossfire - including many who have been recruited into gangs.

In a joint statement, Save the Children, Plan International and World Vision called for public disclosure on the mission's training, operational plans, rules of engagement and accountability mechanisms.

Previous missions in Haiti left behind slain civilians, a devastating cholera outbreak and a sexual abuse scandal, for



Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille speaks to the press next to Kenyan National Security Advisor Monica Juma (R) during a press conference in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday. AFP

which reparations were not made.

As the line of Kenyan police streamed out of the plane in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday morning, a small crowd of mostly airport personnel greeted them on the tarmac.

The Kenyan police are expected to be joined by officers from some 15 other nations, including other countries in Africa and the Caribbean, as well as Canada, France, Germany, Britain and Spain. All together, the security forces will form a 2,500-strong peacekeeping mission funded primarily by the United States which has pledged \$360 million, though much of this has been held up by some lawmakers.

In a statement, US President Joe Biden hailed the arrival of the Kenyan police as a turning point that "will bring much needed relief" to the nation of nearly 12 million.

Kenya had volunteered to lead the UN-backed force last July, but deployment was repeatedly delayed by Kenyan court challenges and worsening violence in Haiti.

Willy Mutunga, the former chief judge of Kenya's Supreme Court,

said the decision by President William Ruto to send police to Haiti despite security challenges at home was a sign of how his government had put the interests of its foreign backers ahead of those of the people it represents.

But at a departure ceremony on Monday for the first 400 officers to be deployed, Ruto said the mission "is one of the most urgent, important and historic in the history of global solidarity."

At the arrival ceremony, Juma said she considered the mission the start of "a very strong relationship" between two nations tied by a history of forced removals and slavery.

Conille said that while gang-controlled areas had become "hell," he believed armed groups were tired of fighting and urged members to lay down their arms so normal life can resume and ministers can prepare for long-delayed elections.

"Enough is enough," Conille said. "The government is taking responsibility to affirm itself so activities can resume freely in the country."

Agencies

## Xi extends congratulations on complete success of Chang'e-6 mission

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Tuesday extended congratulations on the complete success of the Chang'e-6 mission, which brought back the world's first samples collected from the moon's far side.

On behalf of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission (CMC), Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the CMC, extended warm congratulations and sincere greetings to the Chang'e-6 mission headquarters and all those who participated in the mission in a congratulatory message.

The return capsule of the Chang'e-6 probe, carrying the moon samples, landed precisely in its designated area in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, at 2:07 p.m. (Beijing Time) on Tuesday.

Xi noted that Chang'e-6, for the first time in human history, collected samples from the moon's far side and returned to Earth, marking another landmark achievement in Chi-



Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, observes the landing and recovery of the Chang'e-6 returner at the Beijing Aerospace Control Center in Beijing on Tuesday. The return capsule of the Chang'e-6 probe, carrying the moon samples, landed precisely in its designated area in Siziwang Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Xinhua

na's endeavor to build a strong country in space as well as in science and technology.

Over the past 20 years, all those involved in the lunar exploration project have scaled the heights of science and technology, and made

remarkable accomplishments that have captured worldwide attention, Xi said.

"The outstanding contributions you have made will always be remembered by the country and the people," he said.

Xi called for meticulous research on the lunar samples, the continued implementation of the country's major space projects, including deep space exploration, and enhancement of international exchanges and cooperation.

He also urged efforts to make new contributions to revealing the mysteries of the universe, to promoting the well-being of humanity, and to building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, observed the landing and recovery of the Chang'e-6 returner at the Beijing Aerospace Control Center.

Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, read out Xi's congratulatory message at the center.

Launched on May 3, the Chang'e-6 mission went through 11 flight stages in 53 days. It made key-technology breakthroughs in such areas as lunar retrograde orbit design and flight control, intelligent and rapid sampling, and takeoff and ascent from the far side of the moon.

Carrying four international payloads, the Chang'e-6 probe also facilitated practical and efficient international cooperation. Xinhua

## Canada's Trudeau to stay in office after special election 'disaster'

OTTAWA

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made clear on Tuesday he would stay in office amid fresh questions about his future after the ruling Liberal Party lost a safe seat in a special election.

The official opposition Conservatives won the race in the Toronto-St Paul's constituency for first time since 1988. The election was called after the previous legislature quit.

The victory marked the first time since 2015 that the Conservatives had broken the Liberals' control of vote-rich Toronto, which is home to dozens of seats and key to Trudeau's hold on power.

"I hear people's concerns and frustrations. These are not easy times and it is clear I and my entire Liberal team have much more hard work to do," Trudeau (pictured) told reporters in Vancouver.

"My focus is on your success and that's where it's going to stay," he added.

The next federal election must be held by end-October 2025 and a range of polls show the Liberals, who have been in power since November 2015, would lose badly to the Conservatives.

The loss indicates Liberals in less safe Toronto area seats might be vulnerable, underlining the party's challenge.

"What a disaster for the Liberals," said Philippe Fournier, editor-in-chief of the 338Canada website, which models electoral projections across the country.

The Conservatives have announced four main goals: axing a carbon tax introduced by the Liberals, addressing the government's budget deficit, tackling a housing crisis and combating crime.

In a social media post, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre said: "Trudeau can't go on like this. He must call a carbon tax election now."

Some political analysts have mused that the Liberals might do better if they changed leader.

Scott Reid, a media commentator who served as chief spokesman to former Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin, said the party had to respond to the clear desire for change.

"The prime minister is surely going to have to reconsider his own future," he said by email.

Names of potential candidates include former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney and Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc.

But in Canada, party leaders are chosen by special conventions which are held on fixed dates. It is therefore almost impossible to ditch a prime minister who wants to stay.

The Liberals took 40.5 percent of the vote in Toronto-St Paul's compared to 42.1 percent for the Conservatives. In the 2021 election, the Liberals won by 49 percent to 22 percent.

David Coletto of the Abacus Data polling firm said if the swing to the Conservatives were replicated across Ontario, the most populous province, the Liberals could be reduced to just a handful of seats.

But one Liberal Toronto legislator who helped campaign said the constituency contained many Jewish voters, some of whom felt Trudeau was not supportive enough of Israel.

"I don't think you can discount the dissatisfaction with the prime minister. But in this particular instance, there was a referendum on (our) position on Israel," said the legislator, who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the situation.

Agencies



## Reforms key to unleashing new quality productive forces - experts

BEIJING

THROUGH a series of institutional reforms, China will further remove the bottlenecks that strain the development of new quality productive forces, experts said.

The institutional reform in the field of science and technology is essentially forming a new production relation that is in line with the new quality productive forces, with priority given to addressing the obstacles that hinder their development, Liu Dongmei, secretary of the Party Committee of the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development, told China Economic Roundtable, an all-media talk

platform hosted by Xinhua News Agency.

First introduced in 2023, new quality productive forces refer to advanced productivity freed from the traditional economic growth mode and productivity development paths. It features high-tech, high efficiency and high quality.

With innovation playing the leading role, "new quality productive forces" has become a catchphrase in China's policymaking initiatives, promising an era marked by breakthrough innovations and comprehensive sustainability.

One crucial aspect of these reforms lies in the coordination among different departments in terms of

formulating strategy, allocating resources, and the layout of major facilities to maximize the efficiency of resource utilization, as technological innovation relies heavily on the synergy among multiple factors, including technological and financial ones, Liu said.

Another focus of reform should be the alignment between central and local governments, Liu added, highlighting the pivotal role of local government in pushing technological innovation, as well as the role of central government in guiding the local bodies.

Echoing Liu's analysis, Huang Hanquan, head of the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research af-

iliated to the National Development and Reform Commission, said institutional reforms ought to be multifaceted and comprehensive, thereby facilitating the smooth flow of high-quality factors of capital, data and talents towards high-quality productive forces.

Noting that China still falls short in terms of original and disruptive innovative achievements, Huang underscored the need to strengthen basic research by reforming the sci-tech system, optimizing the evaluation regime for research projects, and enabling researchers to wholeheartedly engage in basic research.

Another barrier to innovation lies in a lack of application of techno-

logical breakthroughs to industrial chains, said Huang, urging deeper reforms in technology services to expedite the application of technological achievements in factories and transform them into tangible productivity.

In particular, both Huang and Liu highlighted the role of talent management in driving technological innovation.

There is still room for creating a more enabling environment for innovation efforts through enhancing the long-term research evaluation regime and non-consensus projects review, as well as expanding stable funding for basic research so that the potential and vitality of talents

can be stimulated, Liu said.

In a bid to nurture talents with critical and innovative thinking, Huang called for deepening the integration of science and technology, education, and talent development to enable the curriculum and talent cultivation models to better serve talent development. Xinhua



**First introduced in 2023, new quality productive forces refer to advanced productivity freed from the traditional economic growth mode and productivity development paths**





## WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange returns to Australia after US legal battle ends

CANBERRA

WIKILEAKS founder Julian Assange returned to his homeland Australia aboard a charter jet yesterday, hours after pleading guilty to obtaining and publishing US military secrets in a deal with Justice Department prosecutors that concludes a drawn-out legal saga.

The criminal case of international intrigue, which had played out for years, came to a surprise end in a most unusual setting with Assange, 52, entering his plea in a US district court in Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands. The American commonwealth in the Pacific is relatively close to Assange's native Australia and accommodated his desire to avoid entering the continental United States.

Assange had flown from a London prison to Saipan in a charter jet and flew in the same aircraft to the Australian capital Canberra on the same day.

He was accompanied on the flights by Australian Ambassador to the United States Kevin Rudd and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Stephen Smith, both of whom played key roles in negotiating his freedom with London and Washington.

The flights were paid for by the "Assange team," Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said, adding his government played a role in facilitating the transport.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told Parliament that Assange's freedom, after he spent five years in a British prison fighting extradition to the US, was the result of his government's "careful, patient and determined work."

"Over the two years since we took office, my government has engaged and advocated including at leader-level to resolve this. We have used all appropriate channels," Albanese said.

Assange's lawyer Jennifer Robinson, speaking outside the Saipan court, thanked Albanese "for his statesmanship, his principled leadership and his diplomacy, which made this outcome possible."

It is unclear where Assange will go from Canberra and what his future plans are. His South African lawyer wife and mother of his two children, Stella Assange, has been in Australia for days awaiting her husband's release.

Another of Julian Assange's lawyers, Barry Pollack, expected his client would continue vocal campaigning.

"WikiLeaks's work will continue and Mr. Assange, I have no doubt, will be a continuing force for freedom of speech and transparency in government," Pollack told reporters outside the Saipan court.

Assange's father John Shipton said ahead of his son's arrival that he hoped the iconoclastic internet publisher was coming home to the "great beauty of ordinary life."

"He will be able to spend quality time with his wife, Stella, and his two children, be able to walk up and down the beach and feel the sand through his toes in winter, that lovely chill," Shipton told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The plea deal required Assange to admit guilt to a single felony count but also permitted him to return to Australia without any time in an American prison. The judge sentenced him to the five years he'd already spent behind bars in the UK fighting extradition to the US on an Espionage Act indictment that could have carried a lengthy prison sentence in the event of a conviction. He was holed up for seven years before that in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

The conclusion enables both sides to claim a degree of satisfaction.

The Justice Department, facing a defendant who had already served substantial jail time, was able to resolve – without trial – a case that raised thorny

legal issues and that might never have reached a jury at all given the plodding pace of the extradition process.

Assange, for his part, signalled a begrudging contentment with the resolution, saying in court that though he believed the Espionage Act contradicted the First Amendment, he accepted the consequences of soliciting classified information from sources for publication.

The plea deal, disclosed Monday night in a sparsely detailed Justice Department letter, represents the latest – and presumably final – chapter in a court fight involving the eccentric Australian computer expert who has been celebrated by supporters as a transparency crusader but lambasted by national security hawks who insist that his conduct put lives at risks and strayed far beyond the bounds of traditional journalism duties.

The criminal case brought by the Trump administration Justice Department centres on the receipt and publication of hundreds of thousands of war logs and diplomatic cables that included details of US military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Prosecutors alleged that he teamed with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to obtain the records, including by conspiring to crack a Defence Department computer password, and published them without regard to American national security. Names of human sources who provided information to US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan were among the details exposed, prosecutors have said.

But his activities drew an outpouring of support from press freedom advocates, who heralded his role in bringing to light military conduct that might otherwise have been concealed from view and warned of a chilling effect on journalists.

Among the files published by WikiLeaks was a video of a 2007 Apache helicopter attack by American forces in Baghdad that killed 11 people, including two Reuters journalists.

The indictment was unsealed in 2019, but Assange's legal woes long predated the criminal case and continued well past it.

Weeks after the release of the largest document cache in 2010, a Swedish prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for Assange based on one woman's allegation of rape and another's allegation of molestation. Assange has long maintained his innocence, and the investigation was later dropped.

He presented himself in 2012 to the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he claimed asylum on the grounds of political persecution, and spent the following seven years in self-exile there, welcoming a parade of celebrity visitors and making periodic appearances from the building's balcony to address supporters.

In 2019, his hosts revoked his asylum, allowing British police to arrest him. He remained locked up for the last five years while the Justice Department sought to extradite him, in a process that encountered scepticism from British judges who worried about how Assange would be treated by the US.

Ultimately, though, the resolution sparing Assange prison time in the US contradicts years of ominous warnings, by Assange and his supporters that the American criminal justice system would expose him to unduly harsh treatment, including potentially the death penalty – something prosecutors never sought.

Last month, Assange won the right to appeal an extradition order after his lawyers argued that the US government provided "blatantly inadequate" assurances that he would have the same free speech protections as an American citizen if extradited from Britain. **Agencies**

# Africa undergoing rapid changes, India looks at it as natural partner, says EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

AFRICA is undergoing rapid changes today, from being the cradle of human civilisation to becoming the land of the future, and India looks at it as a 'natural partner' with trust and mutual respect, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

Noting that India-Africa relations are "deep-rooted," the Foreign Minister emphasised that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has redefined India's engagements in Africa.

The EAM (pictured) was addressing the Africa Day celebrations in the national capital on Tuesday.

"Africa, we all know, is today undergoing very rapid changes. These span the range from being the cradle of human civilisation to becoming the land of the future. It is a continent with the youngest demographics, one with vast natural resources, expanding capabilities, growing markets and most of all, rising ambitions," Jaishankar said.

"India, the most populous country in the world and currently the fifth largest economy, looks at Africa as a natural partner. Anchored in trust and mutual respect, it is focused now on value addition within Africa, with production, research, localisation and local employment," he added.

He highlighted India's efforts to support Africa's development, with a special focus on people-to-people ties.

"Now you all know that India-Africa relations are deep-rooted and go back in history. Prime Minister Modi redefined our engagement in Africa by outlining its 10 guiding principles. These include our commitment to liberate Africa's potential by building local capacity and creating local opportunities; keeping our markets open; sharing India's experience with the digital revolution to support Africa's development; improving delivery of public services; extending education and spreading digital literacy in Africa; improving Africa's agriculture; addressing the challenges of climate change; and working with African nations to keep the oceans open and free for the benefit of all nations, among others," he said.

"People-to-people relations are an important dimension of our relations with Africa, and we have extended e-Visa facilities to 33 African countries. We have also expanded our diplomatic footprint in Africa with the opening of 16 new diplomatic missions, taking the total number of Indian missions in the continent to 45," Jaishankar added.

Stating that India is proud of its long-standing educational ties with Africa, the EAM stated that India has been at the forefront of providing capacity-building and training to African candidates under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.



"Almost 40,000 Africans have been trained in India under ITEC in the last 10 years. India has also launched the second phase of the tele-education and tele-medicine project. Since 2019, more than 15,000 youth from 22 African countries have been provided scholarships for various degree and diploma courses in disciplines like, computer application, business administration, commerce, social sciences, and humanities. It is also a matter of pride for us that over 23,000 African students live and study in India," Jaishankar said.

He added, "We have also established Indian educational institutions in Africa. The Indian Institute of Technology in Zanzibar (Tanzania), the National Forensic Science University in Uganda, the Entrepreneurship Development Centres in Rwanda, the various Centres of Information technology in several countries testify to India's commitment to advancing the AU's focus for this year, 'Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century'."

The Foreign Minister highlighted that the Indian government has completed 206 projects in 43 African countries and 65 projects are being implemented under Indian concessional loans with a total outlay of over USD 12.37 billion.

He added that 81 more projects are in the preparatory stage, which cover drinking water and irrigation schemes, power plants and transmission lines, cement, sugar and textile plants, technology parks and railway infrastructure.

The EAM further emphasised that India is Africa's fourth largest trading partner and the African Continental Free Trade Area Agree-

ment (AfCFTA) has opened up prospects for a deeper economic integration.

"On the trade and economic front, India is the fourth largest trading partner for Africa with a bilateral trade of about USD 100 billion and cumulative investments of more than USD 75 billion.

The African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) opens up prospects for a deeper economic integration. India is the first developing country to provide non-reciprocal duty-free market access to LDCs through its duty-free tariff preference (DFTP) scheme. This has benefited African LDCs by extending duty free access to 98.2 per cent of India's total tariff lines. 33 of these beneficiary nations are in Africa," Jaishankar said.

Stating that India has always stood by Africa in times of trouble, the EAM said that during Covid pandemic, around 150 metric tonnes of medical aid were provided to 32 countries in Africa.

"Our 'Vaccine Maitri' is well known and the bulk of the beneficiaries were also in Africa. India has also given medical equipment, ambulances, cancer treatment machines like 'Bhabhatron' to many.

Traditional medicine is a domain where in fact we can do very much more, bearing in mind that the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre is actually located in India.

As for our HADR response, we have also provided relief material to countries hit by natural disasters whether it is Zambia, Malawi, Kenya or Mozambique," Jaishankar further added.

ANI

## US homeless suffer disproportionate impact of heat wave

NEW YORK

THE intense heat wave that recently shattered temperature records across the United States is subsidising this week in parts of the country, temporarily bringing relief to Americans. However, it continues to disproportionately affect the homeless, who have far fewer means to escape the searing weather.

Despite the relief in the northeastern part of the United States, people from the Plains to the Southeast continue to suffer from heat waves, with temperatures reaching up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (about 37.8 degrees Celsius), the National Integrated Heat Health Information System said on Monday.

High temperatures and humidity will increase the risk for heat-related illnesses to occur, particularly for those working, living or participating in outdoor activities, stated the National Weather Service (NWS). Considering the early arrival of high temperatures this year, experts expect the number of heat-related deaths across the country to exceed last year's toll of 2,302.

"For those of us working to end homelessness, the focus sharpens on how extreme temperatures affect those without stable housing," Texas Homeless Network (THN), a non-profit organization working to prevent and end homelessness, warned in April. "The question of how to assist those without access to a cool, safe space during heat waves is pressing."

According to the THN, there are a devastatingly large number of ways in which the extreme weather caused by climate change disproportionately affects people experiencing homelessness, who are "200



A homeless man is pictured in San Francisco, California, the United States, Dec. 23, 2023. Xinhua

times more likely to die from heat-related causes than sheltered individuals." Extreme heat events can trigger a variety of heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat stroke, which can be fatal.

Unhoused individuals who are exposed to the elements for long periods without relief are at an increased risk of experiencing heat-related illness and death. In addition, extreme heat can exacerbate pre-existing health conditions that are statistically more prevalent among people experiencing homelessness, including respiratory issues, cardiovascular and pulmonary disease.

Unhoused people are also at increased risk of third-degree burns from the sun and hot surfaces, as well as severe dehydration. "People who are unsheltered during heat waves may find it more difficult to sleep. High temperatures make it difficult to preserve food, leading to spoilage and potential illness in those who do not have refrigeration," said the THN on its website.

Amid dangerous heat, "the home-

less are usually the first to die," Yale Climate Connections, a news service on climate change, reported in 2023.

The U.S. public at large "tends to look away from the poorest of the poor even under the best of circumstances. When they're actually dying on streets, the need to look away is nearly impossible to resist," it added.

Another important factor contributing to the high rate of heat-related mortality among the homeless is the lack of medical supplies, said Mark Bueno, outreach medical director at Circle the City, a nonprofit aid group that focuses on the homeless population in the state of Arizona.

"People die because they can't reach a doctor or a pharmacy." It's challenging for the homeless, who lack cars or other means of transportation, to walk several miles to reach doctors for treatment in temperatures around 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius), Bueno explained.

The same difficulty applies to filling prescriptions, as many unhoused indi-

viduals may not be able to obtain the medicines they need during the scorching summer.

To make the scenario worse, the number of homeless people in the United States has been increasing and exceeded 650,000 in 2023, the highest since reporting began in 2007, according to data published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The government keeps failing to catch up with enough care for the homeless, let alone protect them from sizzling weather.

Forty percent of the homeless live in streets without shelter; abandoned buildings or other places not meant for human habitation, said the HUD. "Homeless people not only struggle to survive, but also face an increasing risk of criminal conviction." Food and medicine shortages, rising suicide rates, drug and substance abuse and extreme weather combine to deteriorate their situations.

Excessive heat causes more weather-related deaths in the United States than hurricanes, flooding, and tornadoes combined. In addition to the confirmed tolls, many deaths are not confirmed as heat-related due to the stigma of homelessness and lack of family connections.





Steven Mukwala. Agencies

## Ugandan striker closer to joining Simba after contract expiration at Asante Kotoko

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi &amp; Agencies

SIMBA are in the final stages to land Ugandan international Steven Mukwala who bade farewell to Ghanaian Premier League giants Asante Kotoko on Monday after spending two years with the Kumasi-based team.

Mukwala signed a two-year deal with Kotoko after joining the Porcupine Warriors from Ugandan side Kampala Capital City Authority Football Club in 2021/2022.

The 25-year-old striker is on the verge of joining Simba's attacking line after impressing with the Kumasi-based side.

According to reports, he will be joining Simba as a free agent on a three-year contract.

Simba target re-organisation as they seek to overtake Young Africans that have dominated the Tanzania League for the past three seasons.

Mukwala had been a hit in the West African nation scoring over 25 goals in 65 league appearances and was the club's top scorer in the Ghana Premier League during his two-year stint.

According to Transfermarkt, the striker scored 14 goals in 28 in the league games in the 2023-2024 season as Kotoko finished sixth in the 18-team league standings.

In his debut season, Mukwala scored 11 goals and added five assists in 31 league games.

He starred in Super Clash against big rivals Accra Hearts of Oak SC by

scoring in both games including a brace in the second leg at the Baba Yara Stadium.

In a video shared on his social platform, Mukwala, who started Uganda Cranes' two World Cup qualifiers early this month, thanked everyone associated with the club including the King.

Mukwala also expressed gratitude to the life patron of the club, Asantehehe Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, and former club Chief Executive Officer Nana Yaw Amponsah.

"Hello Warriors, this is the saddest day of my career as I say goodbye to the home that has given me a platform to grow my football career. I am glad to have been part of a profound family. I hold you dearly in my heart.

"I want to thank His Majesty the King, and in a special way, I want to thank Nana Yaw Amponsah for supporting me and signing me to play in one of the biggest clubs in Africa," he said.

Asante Kotoko confirmed the striker's departure and wished him well in his next adventure.

"Steven Mukwala leaves Asante Kotoko upon expiration of his contract after spending two years with us. The club is grateful for the moments shared together and wishes him the best for the future," Kotoko wrote in a statement.

Mukwala came through the ranks at Edgars Soccer Academy and featured for Vipers SC and URA before moving to Ghana in 2022.

## John Bocco's retirement now raises unanswered questions

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER seven years of service at Simba SC, veteran striker John Bocco was bade farewell by the club last week, having served it successfully.

Bocco, who joined Simba in the 2017/18 season after featuring for Azam FC, won four Mainland Tanzania Premier League titles, two Federation Cup tournament titles, five Community Shields, one Mapinduzi Cup title, and one Muungano Cup title with the Msimbazi Street-based side.

Time has flown fast, given halfway through the just-ended season, Bocco turned into coaching - serving as Simba's U-17 squad's new gaffer.

This might be a good start for the former talisman, as young strikers rising from local clubs' youth ranks will have a role model to look up to in terms of longevity and goal-scoring prowess.

Bocco is one of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League strikers boasting longevity and goal-scoring prowess in recent years.

The likes of Meddie Kagere, Chris Mugalu, Fiston Mayele, and George Mpole have, in recent years, shown extraordinary goal-scoring form in the league. Still, the quartet lacked the longevity backed by the goal-scoring form that Bocco had.

Bocco is Mainland Tanzania Premier League all-time goal scorer with 154 goals he netted during his time at Simba and Azam, breaking the record set by former Young Africans striker Mohamed Hussein, alias 'Mmachinga', who netted 153 goals.

Arguments can be made that at 34 years old, Bocco would still have what it takes to play for any team in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League and register goals.

Players of the same age, including Erasto Nyoni, Kelvin Yondani, Salum Abubakar, and Shomari Kapombe, are playing in the league.

Tanzania's football stakeholders believe Bocco could still play for another club and bang in goals, apart from excelling for the national team - a team that has seen him make 74 appearances and notch 14 goals.

Other followers could claim that his injury record - which slowed his goal-scoring form in his last two seasons - made his retirement a wise move.

It is rare for a Mainland Tanzania Premier League side to have a local striker playing at



Simba SC's legend John Bocco. Agencies

the top level for 10 consecutive years. The majority of them showcase their talents for either one or two seasons and never recover.

Where are Jerry Tegete, Hussein Javu, Said Bahanuzi, Elias Maguli, and many others who played impressively in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League for a few seasons and later on fizzled out?

As captain of Azam and Simba, Bocco won the league title and the Golden Boot prize with both clubs. His discipline backed by his longevity contributed to his quality in front of goal.

In today's world, it is hard for a football fan, particularly in Tanzania, to come across a top striker of Bocco's caliber with no scandals on and off the field. Local football has produced many goalkeepers, defenders, and midfielders that have played at the top level in the country for many years, but Bocco showed it is possible for strikers to do the same.

Bocco has shone for 16 seasons since featuring for Azam in 2007, having led the outfit to win promotion to the Premier League during the playoffs which were held in Dodoma.

As the towering attacker goes to retirement, there is no direct replacement for him, thus, the question is who will wear his shoes?

Waziri Junior, now 28, has had ups and downs while failing to

showcase his goal-scoring form with Azam and Young Africans in different tenures.

Since Bocco left Azam in 2017, the club has hardly acquired a proven local striker who scored over 10 goals for three consecutive seasons, the same question goes to his other former outfit Simba.

Habib Kyombo, Charles Ilanfy, and Yusuph Mhilu were projected as footballers who would become top strikers at Simba but failed to replicate the form they showcased in their previous clubs.

Kyombo had, before moving to Simba, been featuring for Singida Big Stars, Ilanfy was previously playing for Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and Mhilu had been playing for Kagere Sugar.

When a soccer fan looks at Young Africans, the club's promising striker Clement Mzize has great qualities - a good physique ideal for a center forward and pace - but he is not clinical in front of goal.

This is why Mzize's numbers have, at the end of his participation in the past two Mainland Premier League seasons, not been pleasing.

Mzize, at 20 years old, has many years to become a top striker if he would work on his finishing skills.

Bocco scored 14 goals in top-flight football in his second season, and in the third season, he scored 19 goals to become the

top goal-scorer, can Mzize replicate such a feat?

It is hard for a soccer follower to have a direct answer, for Mzize to score consecutively he needs to be clinical and play regularly at Young Africans.

He hardly plays much because he is not clinical in front of goal, and that is why foreign strikers Kennedy Musonda (Zambia) and Joseph Guede (Ivory Coast) start ahead of him.

Tanzania's senior national football team is mainly fed by Mainland Premier League clubs but there is a challenging aspect that the majority of the country's top teams have foreign forwards.

The clubs have opted for such a move simply because local strikers have failed to reach the standard players like Bocco set at Simba and Azam, and, possibly at Young Africans, a club he has not played for.

During Bocco's time at Simba, he went toe-to-toe with strikers like Emmanuel Okwi and Kagere, a two-time Mainland Tanzania Premier League top goal-scorer.

Kagere scored 20+ goals in two consecutive seasons while Bocco came close with 15+ goals in each of the two seasons before winning the Golden Boot prize in 2020/21 with Simba, having scored 16 goals and ended ahead of teammates, Mugalu with 15 goals and Kagere with 13 goals.

This signifies Bocco's prowess and dedication on training grounds. The forward transformed the two aspects into league games and forced every coach he played under to start him in matchday squads and, later, he became the Mainland Tanzania Premier League all-time goal-scorer.

Do the country's top clubs allow local strikers to grow? Some football fans may say these teams do not have time to wait for local players to grow because of the outfits' short-term plans, which have come about thanks to the failure of local forwards to impress for a long time.

Bocco has done his share with plenty of success and, as he embarks on his new journey as a coach starting at Simba's U-17 team, the young ballers will surely be motivated to become great footballers because they have an idol they can look up to.

Through his experience as a top player, he would pass his footballing knowledge to the young players aspiring to become top strikers in the country.

## Balakrishna Aces tames Azania Bank Pak Stars in 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup



Balakrishna Foundation Aces' cricketer Ankit Baghel (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize from Caravans Cricket Club's Chairman, T. G. Thulaseedas, following the player's outfit's win over Azania Bank Pak Stars in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament clash in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Correspondent

BALAKRISHNA Foundation Aces boosted its pursuit of an impressive run in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament following the club's eight-wicket victory over Azania Bank Pak Stars in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Asif Butt-led Balakrishna Foundation Aces chose to bowl first after winning the toss against Azania Bank Pak Stars during their encounter at the renowned Leaders Club venue in Kinondoni.

Balakrishna Aces needed a victory to keep their knockout stage's qualification hopes alive and they smoothly went on to realize their plan.

Azania Bank Pak Stars' opening batsman, Humayun Taj, started strongly, scoring 56 runs in 54 deliveries when the squad was put in to bat first.

However, he could not find a partner that would have supported him in setting a respect-

able target, therefore, Azania Bank Pak Stars fell for 109 runs in their allotted 20 overs.

Arun Yadav was a Balakrishna Foundation Aces' cricketer who stood out amongst the club's bowlers with his four wickets giving away 21 runs in 3.4 overs.

Seasoned pace bowler Ally Mpeka also chipped successfully, given the pacer took three scalps giving away 20 runs in four overs.

Needing 110 runs to come out victorious, Balakrishna Foundation Aces lost Yadav for a duck early on in the chase, as the opening batsman was run out by veteran player Wahid Husain.

Ankit Baghel, slotted in at number three, took matters into his own hands scoring an unbeaten 82 runs in just 39 deliveries - with his score including five sixes and eight boundaries.

The victory was ultimately achieved by Balakrishna Foundation Aces in just 10 overs - helping the cricketers improve

their net run rate.

Undoubtedly, Baghel was adjudged the Ras Logistics Man of the Match for his explosive batting which catapulted Balakrishna Foundation Aces to the comprehensive win.

Yadav's disciplined bowling efforts were regarded as the Medinova Specialised Polyclinic Moment of the Match.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket tournament organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Juuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Seaciff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.



## Denmark advances to last 16 at European Championship after 0-0 draw with Serbia

MUNICH

DENMARK advanced to the last 16 at the European Championship after a gritty 0-0 draw with Serbia on Tuesday.

Its reward? A matchup against host nation Germany – on Saturday in Dortmund.

“Playing against Germany here with the Danish team, it can’t be better, can’t wait,” Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said. “It’s a great team but we’re a great team as well. And when we play the big the big nations, we always step up.”

The Danes finished Group C with three points, the same as Slovenia, but ended up in second place because of a better disciplinary record. Slovenia, which drew 0-0 with group-winner England, also advanced to the knockout stage at Euro 2024.

Denmark had most of the chances even though Serbia needed a victory to reach the next round. And almost all of those Danish opportunities came through Christian Eriksen, who was making a record 133rd appearance for his country.

Denmark and Slovenia finished even on points, goal difference and goals scored. There were also six yellow cards apiece for the players for both teams. But Denmark had a better disciplinary record after Slovenia assistant coach Milivoje Novakovic received a yellow card in his side’s opening match against Denmark.

Serbia finished just a point behind.

“We’re disappointed because of the result. We haven’t been able to make the step that was lacking,” Serbia coach Dragan Stojkovic said. “We were looking for this one opportunity, one goal, but unfortunately we didn’t succeed.”

“This is football. We have to be very proud. Serbia showed themselves positively in a very even group.”

Slovenia’s result against England also eliminated Croatia, which finished third in Group B.

Tennis great Novak Djokovic was in the stadium in Munich to cheer on Serbia. He walked onto the field before the match to chants of “Nole, Nole” from his country’s fans.

Tuesday’s match had the longest wait for the first attempt in a Euro 2024 game, with Denmark defender Alexander Bah heading the ball wide in the 16th minute.

The Danes went closer five minutes later when Eriksen’s shot was pushed around the right post by Serbia goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic.

Denmark put the ball in the net moments later but it was disallowed because Jonas Wind had wrestled Rajkovic to the ground as both players and the ball went over the line following a corner from Eriksen.

Serbia also had a goal ruled out early in the second half. Luka Jovic, one of three halftime substitutes for Serbia, was offside before Joachim Andersen bundled the ball into his own net.

Disappointed Serbian fans hurled plastic cups onto the field after the disallowed goal, causing a brief stoppage as stewards ran to clear them.

AP

## Argentina advances to Copa America quarterfinals, beats Chile 1-0 on Martínez 88th-minute goal

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

AFTER nearly 90 minutes of total domination, Lionel Messi and defending champion Argentina advanced to the Copa America quarterfinals after the ball ricocheted in front of the net during a frantic scramble that led to the breakthrough.

Lautaro Martínez scored off the last in a series of rebounds in the 88th minute, lifting the Albiceleste over Chile 1-0 on Tuesday night and into the quarterfinals with a game to spare.

“The ball ended up right at me and I was able to convert it,” said Martínez, who scored the second goal in last week’s opening 2-0 win over Canada.

Messi started the buildup to the goal with a corner kick that was sent toward goal with a glancing header by defender Lisandro Martínez. The ball landed in front of goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, where Argentina’s Giovanni Lo Celso and Chile’s Nicolás Fernández were wrestling. Lo Celso kicked the ball off Bravo and it rebounded to Chile’s Igor Lichnovsky, who tried to poke it wide.

Lautaro Martínez, who entered in the 73rd, calmly one-timed that rebound into the roof of the net on Argentina’s 21st shot. Players stood and waited for three minutes while the goal, Martínez’s 26th for the national team, was confirmed in a video review.

“We deserved the win. It was not an easy match,” Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. “We managed to win at the moment least expected.”

Argentina leads Group A with six points, followed by Canada with three, and Chile and Peru with one each. The Albiceleste finish the first round against Peru at Miami Gardens, Florida, on Saturday, when Canada meets Chile in Orlando, Florida.

Playing a day after his 37th birthday, Messi frequently flaunted his talent to spin around and slalom through defenders before an adoring sellout crowd of 81,106 at MetLife Stadium, site of the 2026 World Cup final. Argentina dominated 22-3 in shots and 11-0 in corner kicks. Chile didn’t take its first attempt until the 72nd minute. AP

# England coach Southgate targeted after a 0-0 draw with Slovenia at Euro 2024



England coach Gareth Southgate applauds on the pitch after a Group C match against Slovenia. AP

COLOGNE, Germany

TOP of the group, unbeaten and on the favorable side of the draw for the knockout phase of Euro 2024. It’s a case of job done for England at this stage of the tournament.

Try telling that to the fans who jeered loudly and threw beer cups as the final whistle blew on a 0-0 draw with Slovenia at Cologne Stadium on Tuesday.

Criticism of England’s performances in Germany has been fierce.

“I’ve not seen any team qualify and receive similar,” manager Gareth Southgate said.

Southgate believes he and his England team could be paying the price for its success under his leadership. Safe passage through to the round of 16 maintains his personal record of advancing from the group stage of every major tournament he’s taken charge of, dating back to the World Cup in 2018.

“I think probably expectation (is different). We’ve made England over the last six or seven years fun again. I think it has been enjoyable for the players,” Southgate said. “We’ve got to be very, very careful that it stays that way.”

England hasn’t been fun to watch at these Euros with a 1-0 win against Serbia its only victory in Group C. That was followed by a 1-1 draw with Denmark and the scoreless draw with Slovenia.

Three games, two goals and a whole lot of underwhelmed fans.

The performance against Denmark was apparently so uninspired that former captain and now BBC presenter Gary Lineker used an expletive to describe it. And despite claiming he was “oblivious” to Lineker’s stinging critique, it contributed to the “unusual environment” Southgate said he was working in at this tournament.

The atmosphere was hardly helped by plastic beer cups being thrown on the field as Southgate and his players went to applaud England supporters after the match.

“I’m not going to back down from going over and thanking the fans who were brilliant during the game,” he said. “They might feel differently towards me. But for me, we only will succeed if we are together.”

Southgate led England to the semifinals of the World Cup in 2018 and the final of the last Euros. But his team will likely need a sharp upturn in form if it is to live up

to its pre-tournament billing as one of the favorites for the European title.

Still, England has at least ended up on the opposite side of the draw to Spain, France, Germany and Portugal and will play one of the best third-place teams in the next round after advancing as group winner.

“That was the aim before the start of the tournament. Come top of the group and control our destiny,” captain Harry Kane said.

The result also meant Slovenia reached the round of 16 for the first time and Croatia was eliminated.

“We are such a small country, with such a big heart and mental strength. That’s why I’m very proud of my team,” coach Matjaz Kek said. “This is only the beginning for a new and beautiful era for Slovenian football.”

While it was a proud night for Slovenians, it was another performance that highlighted England’s attacking issues, with substitute Cole Palmer coming closest to scoring a winner in stoppage time.

“You can’t go into every game with such pressure and score four goals. Football doesn’t work like that,” Southgate said. “It is important to win the group to control your own destiny.”

AP

# Kylian Mbappé scores on return from broken nose and France draws 1-1 with Poland at Euro

DORTMUND, Germany

KYLIAN Mbappé, wearing a mask to protect his broken nose, marked his return at the European Championship with a goal against Poland.

It wasn’t enough for a victory on Tuesday, though, and it’s not enough to solve France’s growing problems at Euro 2024.

Mbappé removed his protective mask to celebrate in front of his team’s fans after converting a 56th-minute penalty. But Robert Lewandowski secured a 1-1 draw for Poland with a 79th-minute spot kick that he got to take twice, leaving the French as the runners-up to Austria in Group D and dropping them into the same half of the draw with Portugal and Cristiano Ronaldo, host nation Germany and Spain – three of the continent’s heavyweight nations.

Austria beat the Netherlands 3-2 in a match played at the same time.

The result also means France has yet to score an open-play goal at Euro 2024, having beaten Austria 1-0 on an own-goal and then drawn 0-0 with the Dutch – when Mbappé was missing after breaking his nose against the Austrians.

Les Bleus have advanced, sure, but they haven’t been convincing.

“I would be a lot more concerned if there were no chances, but obviously there is a little bit of room for improvement,” France coach Didier Deschamps said. “Maybe there are other teams who have given



Kylian Mbappé of France scores the opening goal by penalty kick during a Group D match between France and Poland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Dortmund, Germany, Tuesday, June 25, 2024. AP

off something a bit different, but the fact we haven’t scored limits our performance. We are here where we want to be.”

Mbappé returned to the starting lineup against last-place Poland, which was already eliminated before the match began, and was clearly impaired by wearing a black mask that limits his peripheral vision.

He largely kept away from overly physical challenges and didn’t compete for the ball in the air. He was often seen hanging back at the edge of the area, waiting for the ball to come to him.

Deschamps said it was “complicated” for Mbappé.

“I thought he was quite good on his feet with the mask – he needed to get used to it,” the

coach said. “But when he sweats, that sticks in his eyes and he needed to wipe his eyes.”

Still, Mbappé remained France’s most dangerous attacker and finally got his first goal in six matches at the tournament – taking in

four at Euro 2020 and two at Euro 2024 – after Ousmane Dembele was tripped in the area. It was the Real Madrid-bound striker’s 48th goal for France.

Mbappé played the full game, starting as a central striker before end-

ing up on the left wing, in another underwhelming display from France – a two-time European champion and the World Cup runner-up in 2022.

A match against the runner-up in Group E, which could be Belgium, Romania, Slovakia or

Ukraine, awaits in the last 16 on July 1.

Then it gets a whole lot harder for the French.

At least they advanced, which cannot be said for Poland.

Making likely his last appearance at a European Championship, the 36-year-old Lewandowski departed with a goal – even if he needed two attempts to get past goalkeeper Mike Maignan with his stutter-step run-up.

Maignan saved the first kick but was adjudged to have come off his line before making the save.

Lewandowski had another opportunity, performed the same routine, and this time found the bottom corner for his 83rd international goal, even with Maignan diving the right way.

The same thing happened to Lewandowski against France at the World Cup, when Hugo Lloris was goalkeeper. Again, Lewandowski scored on the second attempt after Lloris en-

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





## SPORT

England coach Southgate targeted after a 0-0 draw with Slovenia at Euro 2024

PAGE 19

## Olympic track and field seeing dollar signs with splashy cash infusions into the sport

EUGENE, Ore.

ONE aspiring Olympian is taking a break from his day job at the deli section while he makes his run for Paris. Another athlete worked as a nanny, but when she left to focus on running at the Games, the family understood.

When these runners and hurdlers learned they would be racing for a big, fat first-prize check worth \$50,000 to go with the gold medal at this summer's Olympics, they were, understandably, excited.

"That'd be big," American hurdler Dylan Beard said this week at U.S. track and field trials, while taking a break from his job at the Walmart Supercenter in Wake Forest, North Carolina. "I mean, I wouldn't even know what to do with that much money."

In a move that many in track – and the Olympic world, in general – felt was long overdue, World Athletics, the governing body for track, announced earlier this year that there would be a first-of-its-kind cash prize available for all of track and field's winners in Paris. That's a prize pool of \$2.4 million spread across 48 events.

That move, combined with the recent rapid-fire introduction of track meets featuring enhanced prize pools – and even a new track league fronted by sprinting great Michael Johnson – represents the biggest publicly touted cash infusion into the sport in decades. It could be a lifeline for track athletes, who have struggled for attention since Usain Bolt left the spotlight.

The sport has seen a widening gulf between haves – such as Noah Lyles, Sha'Carri Richardson and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone – and the have-nots since the heyday of the 1980s. That's when the likes of Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses and Jackie Joyner-Kersey were mainstream stars who could often be seen on the track in the day, then on "The Tonight Show" at night.

For Olympic steeplechaser Evan Jager, who won silver at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, a current ESPN documentary about former sprinter Butch Reynolds, who starred in the sport in the '80s and early '90s, highlighted one key difference between today and yesteryear.

"It was like \$70K for some of the appearance" fees for running in meets, Jager said. "Granted, he was at the top of the sport at the time, but you don't hear too many athletes getting that much money in appearance fees (today) at some of these meets."

Johnson's Grand Slam Track league will sign athletes to actual contracts, then add appearance fees for some others, with plans to bring 96 runners together four times a year to compete for \$100,000 first-place prizes. (Some field athletes are, predictably, upset at not being included in the rollout, but Johnson says he's taking things one step at a time.) Johnson touted a \$12.6 million prize pool and said he had secured more than \$30 million to bankroll the league, which will start in 2025.

In addition to the \$50,000 first prizes for the Olympics, World Athletics this month announced the start of the Ultimate Championship in 2026, which will bring together the best in the sport to compete for a prize pot of \$10 million and first prizes worth \$150,000.

Also, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian recently went public with plans for an all-women's track meet in September that will feature Olympic silver and bronze medalist Gabby Thomas and promised the largest purse ever for a female-only track meet.

All of this looks like progress to three-time Olympic medalist Brittney Reese, who is not competing but remains active in the track community.

"AP

# Simba secure key players ahead of crucial pre-season in Egypt



Simba SC holding midfielder Mzamiru Yassin. Agencies

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club have announced the re-signing of their stalwart defensive midfielder, Mzamiru Yassin, to a new two-year contract. This decision comes as Yassin's previous contract concluded at the end of the last season.

Recognizing his invaluable contributions on the field, the club's technical team strongly recommended his retention, prompting the management to secure his services for an additional two years.

Yassin, who has been a pivotal figure at Simba for several seasons, expressed his enthusiasm about continuing his journey with the club. His commitment and performance have made him a fan favorite and a key player in Simba's midfield. The club's decision to extend his contract highlights their strategy of blending experienced players with new talent to maintain a competitive edge.

As the Msimbazi Street-based side are gearing up

for a significant overhaul of their squad preparing for the upcoming season, the team is set to head to Egypt for an intensive pre-season training camp. The camp will include both current squad members and new signings, alongside the technical bench led by their new coach.

The announcement was made by Ahmed Ally, the club's information and communication officer, who emphasized the importance of this pre-

season tour in building a cohesive and formidable team.

In another strategic move, Simba have confirmed the extension of Kibu Denis and Israel Patrick Mwenda's contracts.

Mwenda, a versatile defender capable of playing both right and left back, has been with the club since July 2021, after transferring from KMC. Initially on a one-year contract, Mwenda's impressive performances have earned

him a new two-year deal, extending his stay with Simba until 2027.

The club's statement praised Mwenda's abilities and potential, marking him as a crucial component of their plans for the 2024/25 season.

"Israel is a young player who still has the strength to serve the team. We have high expectations for him and believe he will continue to be a valuable asset for another three years," the statement read.

Simba have also decided to retain their reliable right back Shomari Kapombe by extending his contract for another year. This extension includes a performance-based clause that could see Kapombe remain with the club for an additional year if he continues to deliver on the field.

Kapombe, who joined Simba from Azam FC in July 2017, has been instrumental in the team's success, helping secure four Premier League titles and participating in numerous international competitions.

A source within Simba confirmed Kapombe's contract extension, highlighting his discipline and dedication.

"Kapombe is one of the native players who have the discipline to take care of their talents and standards. We are confident he will continue to contribute significantly to the team," the source stated.

Despite facing a chal-

lenging season last year, which led to significant changes within the squad, Simba remain focused on reclaiming their dominance in Tanzanian football.

The club has bid farewell to six players, including Luis Miquissone, Shabani Chilunda, Kennedy Juma, Henock Inonga, Saido Ntibanzokiza, and John Bocco, creating room for new talent to join the ranks.

These changes are part of Simba's broader strategy to strengthen their squad as they aim for success in both the CAF Confederation Cup and the Mainland Tanzanian Premier League. The club's ambition is to restore their dominance, which saw them win four consecutive Premier League titles from the 2018/19 season to the 2021/22 season. Since then, their long-time rivals, Young Africans, have taken over the league's top spot.

Simba's management is determined to bring back the glory days and has taken decisive steps to build a competitive team for the upcoming season. The pre-season camp in Egypt will be crucial for integrating new players and developing team chemistry under the guidance of the new coaching staff.

As Simba's fans eagerly await the new season, the club's recent signings and contract extensions signal a commitment to excellence and a clear vision for the future. With experienced players like Yassin and Kapombe, and promising talents like Mwenda on board, Simba are poised to tackle the challenges ahead and reclaim their position at the pinnacle of Tanzanian football.

## Ajith Augustin stars as Harab Motors Pak Stars beat Aurobindo AKSC in Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Correspondent

IN what was widely seen as the clash of the weekend, Harab Motors Pak Stars overcame Aurobindo AKSC, securing a six-wicket win over the latter in this season's Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tie played at the Leaders Club venue in Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

Aurobindo AKSC won the toss and elected to field first, limiting Harab Motors Pak Stars to 106/10 in 18 overs.

Upsetting all spectators who came to the ground expecting big hits from Harab Motors Pak Stars' cricketers, Aurobindo's bowlers led an onslaught that left the batting side puzzled.

Aurobindo AKSC's bowler Harsheed Chohan seemed unplayable, dismissing the dangerous Ivan Ismail and Zafar Khan.

He impressively ended the day notching three wickets, with spinner Riziki Kiseto also excelling with three wickets to his name.

The only notable performance from the batting side was showcased by Zamoyoni Ramadhani who scored 39 runs off 22.

In return, Aurobindo AKSC played a calculated innings, not going for flair



Harab Motors Pak Stars' Ajith Augustin (R) is presented with the RAS Logistics Man of the Match award by Tanzania's senior national cricket team's coach, Rivash Gobind, when the cricketer's outfit beat Aurobindo AKSC in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tournament match in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

but rather the victory with all batsmen contributing to the cause. Ajith Augas-

tin was the leading run-getter with his unbeaten 38.

Aquib Liaqat of Harab Motors Pak Stars was the pick of the outfit's bowlers having taken three out of the four wickets that had fallen.

Aurobindo AKSC, for that matter, leads the rest of the pack with two wins on the trot.

Augustin was awarded the Ras Logistics Man of the Match honour for his crucial 38 runs and two wickets.

Ramadhani's lone effort for Harab Motors Pak Stars was regarded as the Medinova Specialised Polyclinic Moment of the Match.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket tournament organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Seaciff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

