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'Unaddressed depression during pregnancy risk to mother, child'

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

DEPRESSION during pregnancy, if left untreated, can have severe consequences for the mother and the unborn child, a health expert has warned.

Sifa Hyera, a clinical psychologist with Saifee Hospital, a consultant facility in the city, made this remark over the weekend at a panel discussion on maternal mental health, hosted by the Dodoma-based Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital, the leading national facility in mental health issues.

She said the challenge can potentially lead to poor social connections and psychological development issues later in life, sharing critical insights into how depression during pregnancy disrupts the vital emotional and physical bond between mother and child.

"The bond between mother and child is a powerful connection that begins dur-

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Fountain Gate coach Matano seeks time to implement tactical overhaul

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Pep Guardiola accepts Erling Haaland deal may damage prospects of other players



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Police hold three over sale of counterfeit maize seeds

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CCM National Chairperson, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, shares a light moment with Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi during the second day of the party's special general meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

CCM congress selects Samia, Dr Mwinyi for October polls

By Guardian Reporters

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi were yesterday endorsed as the party's presidential candidates for the 2025 general elections.

More than 1,200 delegates to the extraordinary CCM national congress endorsed the incumbents as

How Wasira eclipsed Pinda in vice-chairmanship post

expected without voices of dissent.

Two resolutions were passed after a presentation on the successful implementation of the CCM 2020 election manifesto,

indicating successes in key development projects and strategic initiatives.

The resounding support of the union and Zanzibar leaders comes in the wake of the week-

end consensus on appointing a new vice chairman for the Main

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Minister ends three day investment liaison tour

By Guardian Correspondent, Prague

TANZANIA and the Czech Republic intend to enhance diplomatic and economic relations, focused on investment, tourism, transport, health and education.

Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, made mention of this agreement at a joint press conference in the Czech capital over the weekend, with Jan Lipavský, the host Foreign minister.

He said diplomatic ties between the two countries date back to the 1960s, while there is need to modernise these ties to address current economic challenges and opportunities.

During his three-day working visit, the minister cited investment, trade, tourism, infrastructure, energy, health and education as key focus areas, tied to creating an enabling environment for the private sector.

This is crucial for stimulating investment and overcoming trade barriers, he said, noting that the two sides had agreed to expedite the signing of an air services agreement to start direct flights between them.

This will enhance tourism, a vital revenue stream for Tanzania particularly as the number of Czech tourists visiting the country steadily grows, he said, highlighting that the Czech Republic has already made significant investments in

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Many Tanzanians still lack access to clean and safe water for domestic use as captured by our roving photographer at Tegeta A kwa Madawa area in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

PM, Second VP list successes since 2020

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has highlighted its achievements in fulfilling the promises outlined in the CCM election manifesto for the 2020-2025 period.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa

outlined the various achievements at the extraordinary national congress of the ruling party here yesterday, underlining that government initiatives was fostering economic growth, improving public services and enhancing the living standards of people in the two

parts of the union.

He pointed at major strides in port improvements and the standard gauge railway (SGR) as pivotal elements in driving economic transformation, in a report on the implementation of the manifesto from November 2020 to Decem-

ber 2024.

Since the launch of SGR train services from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma last August, over 1.2m passengers milled in an out of the trains, generating over 30bn/- in revenue by mid-December, he said.

By October 2024, DP World had

fully eliminated waiting times for container ships at Dar es Salaam Port, allowing vessels to dock directly upon arrival, he stated.

As a result of these efficiency gains, the average operational

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'Unaddressed depression during pregnancy risk to mother, child'

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ing pregnancy and extends throughout life. While hormonal changes during pregnancy are normal, when they lead to depression, they can severely affect both the mother and the baby," the specialist stated.

Depression is manifested through various emotional symptoms, such as persistent sadness, irritability and a loss of interest in activities, she explained, underlining that depression can be identified through symptoms like hopelessness and sleep disturbances.

The latter can either be insomnia or excessive sleep, tied with changes in appetite and weight fluctuations, she elaborated, noting that depression can have various causes, where a family history of mental health issues increases the likelihood of developing the condition.

A range of cases stem from prolonged environmental or community stress, such as relationship tensions or societal pressures, she stated, while acknowledging challenges of diagnosing and treating depression during pregnancy.

She reassured the listeners that the condition is treatable through a combination of psychotherapy and drug dispensation, where early intervention is key to minimise the risks to mother and baby.

Depression in pregnancy can cause premature birth, stunted growth and delayed psycho-developmental milestones, as the

emotional bond that develops between the mother and child during pregnancy is crucial.

Children born to mothers who experienced depression during pregnancy may face challenges such as difficulty forming relationships, socializing, and controlling anger, she stated.

While not all children of depressed mothers will experience these challenges, the risks are significantly heightened, as globally 60 percent of pregnant women experience some form of depression, she said.

Early treatment is essential to reduce its negative impact on the baby, she said, as one in seven mothers could experience postpartum depression, after delivery.

This is a condition marked by symptoms like anger, feelings of inadequacy, and in extreme cases, thoughts of suicide or infanticide, she said, underlining that the drastic change in a mother's routine after childbirth—particularly sleep patterns—can be overwhelming and contribute to postpartum depression.

"In one case I encountered at Muhimbili Hospital, a mother became severely depressed after childbirth and even attempted to harm her baby," she said.

Raising awareness about maternal mental health, educating the public and healthcare providers are vital, plus early treatment to protect mothers and their children from the long-term effects of depression, she added.



Official in charge of voter registration in Mtwara Region demonstrates how to update permanent voter register yesterday. The exercise is scheduled to take place in the region from January 28, 2025 to February 3, 2025. Photo: Courtesy of INEC

Minister ends three day investment liaison tour

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the Zanzibar tourism sector.

The two sides also expect to finalise an agreement for avoidance of double taxation, while efforts are underway to resolve remaining issues before the signing in the new few months, he stated.

The minister reassured po-

tential Czech investors of the country's political stability, breath of natural resources and strategic location, making it opportune to explore investment opportunities in the country.

Czech-Tanzanian partnership was visible with Airplanes Africa Ltd, setting up an assembly plant for Skylander-600 aircraft in

Morogoro, he said, describing this investment as an example of growing economic ties

The plant as the potential to significantly enhance the local tourism sector by cheaper provision of aircraft capable of accessing remote national parks and reserves, he stated.

Greater Czech involve-

ment in the transport sector is expected, especially in taking up portions of the development and operation of the standard gauge railway (SGR).

He appealed for enhanced participation in the country's ambitious railway projects instead of relying on third-party contractors to supply equipment.

The visit is part of a broader strategy to engage with various countries in the context of economic diplomacy where the minister visited various companies during the visit.

Engaging with prominent business leaders had elicited interest in investing in Tanzania's rapidly expanding market, he added.



Construction workers lay tarmac along Nyerere Road at Darajani Chang'ombe area in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

PM, Second VP outline successes since 2020

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costs at the port have been reduced by 47 percent, from 34.52bn/- per month in 2023 to 17.93bn/- per month in 2024, he specified.

Similarly 1,633 water projects have been completed, where the proportion of the rural population with access to water increased from 70.1 percent in 2020 to 79.6 percent in 2024, while urban water access rose from 84 percent to 90 percent, he said.

There was a substantial increase in the education budget, which grew from 312.5bn/- in 2020 to 796.38bn/- in 2024, he said, explaining that the number of pupils in the free education mode has risen, from 14.94m in 2020 to 16.16m in 2024.

Infrastructure improvements have led to an increase in the number of primary schools from 16,656 in 2020 to 19,783 in 2024, with 26 new secondary schools for girls across 26 regions, while in the health sector, 183 new health centres have been built, mostly with facilities for emergency maternal care, he said.

Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, the Zanzibar Second VP, said that 114 schools had been built, with the pass rate for Form IV students improving from 55.4 percent in 2020 to 85.6 percent in 2023. Form VI students achieved a wholesome 99.9 percent pass rate, he told the gathering.

The tourism sector has seen the number of tourists rising from 620,867 in 2020 to 1.92m by November 2024, while tourism revenue surged from \$700m in 2020 to \$3.3bn in 2024, he said, paying homage to "The Royal Tour" documentary, along with registering the development of 1,695 tourism projects.

Zanzibar has also built large markets and 14 trade centres, along with setting up a seaweed processing plant capable of handling 30,000 tonnes annually. It will guarantee 25,000 formal job openings and an additional 66,000 informal job openings, he said.

In addition, 21 islands have been designated for investment, with 15 already attracting investors, enabling the creation of 424 projects generating over 22,000 formal jobs and more than 100,000 informal engagements, he stated.

There is also a social pension programme for senior citizens aged 70 and above where each recipient gets 50,000/- per month. Those in retirement obtain a minimum stipend of 180,000/-, he added.

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land, Stephen Wasira (79).

The veteran cabinet minister and activist was described by observers as having accomplished career defined by service and high-flung advocacy for the ruling party, notably in radio shows and television panels over the past few years.

Prior to the nomination speculation was being directed at former premier Mizengo Pinda, who has shown remarkable expertise and advocacy in the agro-sector field since leaving the post in 2015.

Yet remarks by the Mara Region based politician now taking the place of ex-vice chairman Abdulrahman Kinana showed he was closer to current moods in the party, as visibly more conservative than the former premier.

Pinda attracted attention in

CCM congress selects Samia, Dr Mwinyi for October polls

the ruling party late 2010 when he took up the demand for a new constitution after the general election, as then Attorney General Fredrick Werema (now deceased) and Justice Minister Dr Batilda Buriani affirmed that there was no need for a new constitution.

The then premier, in a televised interview, promised to 'advise' President Jakaya Kikwete on the issue, the result of which was that of an ill-fated constitution making process that culminated inconclusively by October 2014 and never restarted.

Reading the resolution during the meeting yesterday here, Spe-

cial Seats MP Ng'wasi Kamani made reference to under Article 101(5)(b) of the CCM Constitution, on the candidacy of the incumbent Head of State and party chairperson.

Article 103(c) of the CCM Constitution provides that the CCM National Executive Committee (NEC) has the authority to select a candidate for the presidency of Zanzibar, she stated.

What appeared to be rushed nominations drew disquiet from some members, prompting President Samia to seek expert advice from former leaders on whether such a decision was feasible.

Former president Jakaya Kikwete clarified that each party has its own procedures for selecting candidates, and that the decision made at the meeting is final, pointing out that in Namibia for instance, "candidate selections can take up to a year."

"If we decide today that Samia and Mwinyi are our candidates, we have the authority to do so. The remaining task is to seek legal advice, but everyone will soon know that CCM has completed its candidate selection process," he declared.

He also commended the leaders for their hard work, as

evidenced by the successful implementation of the party's manifesto, which showed that CCM members have made the right choice in supporting the leadership.

He praised the tangible benefits that have positively impacted Tanzanians under their leadership.

"CCM's victory is guaranteed; this year's win is unquestionable. Other parties may have candidates, but I don't see how they can defeat us. It's not about tricks—our government has delivered many impactful projects that benefit the people directly," he added.

TCB predicts threefold increase in cotton production this season

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) has projected a significant increase in cotton production for the current cultivation season, expecting a total of 500,000 tonnes, more than three times the 149,000 tonnes produced last season.

Edward Nyawile, TCB Senior Agriculture Officer, revealed the forecast in an exclusive interview with this paper at the weekend.

Nyawile attributed the increase to various government strategies, including enhancement of extension services, which saw the recruitment of 740 new officers under the government's "Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agriculture" drive.

The government has also selected eight key cotton-producing districts which account for over 70 percent of the country's cotton output each season. The districts are Bariadi, Itilima, Maswa, Meatu, Busega, Igunga, Bunda, and Kishapu.

Nyawile highlighted that the government has provided 400 tractors across the districts, allowing farmers to pay half of the cost when the tractors are used to plough their fields. This initiative is a significant relief for farmers.

In addition, the government has procured 60 drones for spraying cotton farms across the country, a move aimed at combating insect infestations and encouraging farmers to expand their cotton farms, further boosting production.

TCB also focuses on sustainable farming practices, planning to increase the use of bio-fertilizers and distribute 12 million litres of insecticides to farmers nationwide during the current crop season.

Nyawile emphasised that the introduction of technology for insect control will significantly enhance cotton production and contribute to the country's economic growth.

TCB has identified 5,200 lead farmers who will be responsible for educating their peers on best practices for cotton cultivation. As part of this initiative, 2,500 bicycles have been distributed to farmers to support their outreach efforts and increase cotton production for economic development.



Dodoma City Council Special Needs Education Officer Issa Kambi, observes a child with disability during admission process at a special school located at Chang'ombe Ward in Dodoma City at the weekend. Looking on is the child's mother Mwajuma Hassani (L). Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

UNESCO pledges to help bolster Tanzania's digital transformation

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced its commitment to supporting Tanzania in its efforts to achieve digital transformation.

The pledge was conveyed by Tawfik Jelassi, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, in a letter to Dr. Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General of Tanzania's ICT Commission, during Dr. Mwasaga's recent official visit to France.

Jelassi praised Tanzania's proactive approach and progress in advancing its digital revolution, emphasising the importance of digital skills as a cornerstone for successful and sustainable digital transformation.

"We are pleased to support Tanzania's Ministry of Information, Communication, and Information Technology and the ICT Commission in enhancing digital competencies," he stated.

He highlighted the role of UNESCO's Public Competence Framework on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Transformation as a dynamic tool designed to aid member countries in adapting to technological changes.

"In this context, we recommend that Tanzania's ICT Commission and UNESCO collaborate on a comprehensive needs assessment study to evaluate digital skills across government sector and the broader public. This would be followed by targeted capacity-building initiatives to address identified gaps," Jelassi said.

He outlined the pro-

posed training initiatives, which will cover fundamental areas such as data management, privacy, cybersecurity, and AI. For senior

officials, the focus will extend to competencies such as collaboration, strategic foresight, and human-centered public service design.

Jelassi commended Dr. Mwasaga's leadership at the ICT Commission, expressing confidence in its ability to position Tanzania as an

international hub for innovation. "We look forward to working with you and assure you of our full support in this digital transforma-

tion journey," he said. Speaking on Tanzania's readiness to accelerate its digital transformation, Dr. Mwasaga credited the col-

laborative efforts between the ICT Commission and UNESCO Office in Dar es Salaam, to UNESCO Country Representative Michel Toto.



DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC

RELOCATION OF OFFICE PREMISES

We are pleased to inform the general public that effective from 20th January, 2025, DSE Offices will be operating from Morocco Square, Exchange Tower along Mwai Kibaki road, near the DART stand, Morocco.

New Physical Address: Morocco Square, Exchange Tower, Mwai Kibaki road and 44 Ursino Street Regent Estate, Kinondoni, Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

All other contact information including telephone, postal, e-mails and website addresses will remain unchanged.

Thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to serving you at our new office.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Lake Tanganyika Program (LTP) is a The Nature Conservancy Program The aim is conserve and support protection of at least 30% of near-shore Key Biodiversity Areas and other critical biodiversity habitats by June 2030.

Working in Lake Tanganyika riparian countries, the Lake Tanganyika program has direct intervention through TNC in Tanzania and with partners Sustain Lake Tanganyika (SLT), Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) and Community Economic Empowerment and Legal Support (CEELS), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) in Nsumbu Zambia, Word Wildlife Fund (WWF) in DRC and Lake Tanganyika authority (LTA) as a lake wide governing body working in coordinating conservation efforts in all Lake Tanganyika riparian countries headquartered in Burundi.

A strong Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system is essential for the Lake Tanganyika program as it enables evidence-based decision-making and adaptive management in this complex freshwater ecosystem. By implementing a robust MEL system, the program seeks to systematically track progress, measure impacts, and assess the effectiveness of conservation and stakeholders' engagement efforts. This system is also meant to enhance accountability to stakeholders and funders, ensuring that partners are aligned and effectively contributing, and facilitating the continuous learning needed to adapt strategies and improve outcomes for long-term sustainability.

The program is currently seeking a qualified MEL Consultant to support program monitoring, enhance data collection and monitoring systems, engage partners in monitoring efforts, and facilitate learning processes for the period of 6 Months.

The deadline for submission of proposals is set on 3rd February 2025 at 11:59 pm EAT.

Interested and technically competent vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal via the e-amil: procurement.lake@tnc.org

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Residents of Lugela Street at Nyahanga Ward in Kahama Municipality, Shinyanga Region fill in a shallow grave where body of the late Asha Mayenga (62) had been buried after being killed by unknown individuals near a farm at Malindi Village, Busoka Ward, late last week. Left is the deceased's body in a body bag. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia

Conservation subject in early childhood education seeks to address degradation

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has introduced environmental conservation as a subject in early childhood education to address the impacts of climate change caused by human activities such as farming, livestock keeping and charcoal burning.

The initiative was unveiled at the weekend during a training session for early childhood and primary school head teachers in Makambako Town Council.

Jerome Mwakifuna, a national facilitator for the training, stated that the government's new education curriculum includes environmental conservation as a key subject for young learners to combat climate change effects.

Other subjects introduced for early childhood learners include science, arithmetic and Kiswahili.

"The new curriculum emphasises hands-on learning to foster self-reliance. Early childhood, especially under eight years of age, is the ideal stage to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning," Mwakifuna said.

Makambako Town Council Academic Officer, Shaban Ambwindile, called on parents to embrace the curriculum changes and actively support their children's education.

"Parents play a critical role in shaping children's future alongside teachers and their environment. Early investment in education lays the groundwork for children to achieve their dreams," he remarked.

Makambako early childhood and primary education officer, Samweli Komba, encouraged trained teachers to effectively apply the skills acquired during the sessions to deliver quality education.

"As policies, science, and technology evolve, it's crucial to prepare these children to understand and adapt to the world they live in," he said.

Furaha Mgeni, a teacher, expressed commitment to implementing the new curriculum. Mgeni emphasised that the curriculum would significantly help children become more self-reliant and urged parents to collaborate in fostering education and child development.

Allocate sufficient funds for irrigation projects, RC tells councils in Dodoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule has called on all district councils in the region to allocate sufficient funds for drilling wells to support irrigation farming.

The initiative aims to boost agriculture productivity and improve livelihoods of farmers by reducing dependence on rain-fed agriculture.

Senyamule made the call during a visit to the Prisons Service's demonstration farm at Msalato area in Dodoma at the weekend.

During the visit, she emphasised the importance of irrigation farming to transform agriculture in the region, urging councils to prioritise development of water infrastructure to facilitate sustainable farming practices.

"Each district council must ensure that funds are set aside for

drilling wells to support farmers in adopting productive irrigation techniques," she said.

She added: "The government has already made substantial investments in the agriculture sector, and now it is up to local councils to complement the efforts by providing the necessary infrastructure to enable farmers to thrive."

The regional commissioner further emphasised that councils should support farmers by creat-

ing innovative irrigation solutions that help them move beyond subsistence farming and increase their crop yields.

Senyamule also urged extension officers to take a proactive role in educating farmers across the region about modern and sustainable irrigation techniques.

By providing farmers with the knowledge and tools they need, Senyamule believes productivity can be significantly enhanced,

benefiting both individual farmers and the broader agriculture-driven economy.

The RC encouraged farmers to take advantage of such resources, noting that the demonstration farms offer valuable opportunities to learn from experts.

She praised the collaboration between the Prisons Service and local farmers, highlighting the success of the initiative in demonstrating advanced agricultural practices.



The government has already made substantial investments in the agriculture sector, and now it is up to local councils to complement the efforts by providing the necessary infrastructure

PCCB asks teachers to support anti-corruption clubs in schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Dodoma Region has urged teachers to play an active role in supporting anti-corruption clubs in schools to create a strong foundation for pupils to combat bribery in future.

Faustine Malecha, assistant investigation officer at PCCB Dodoma, made the statement at the weekend during a meeting with education officers of various levels where discussions were held on new education curricula and strategies to tackle corruption.

Malecha emphasised the impor-

tance of supporting anti-corruption clubs in schools, noting that the clubs are vital in educating pupils about prevention of corruption and encouraging them to take an active role to create public awareness among their peers.

He stressed that establishing such clubs in schools is an essential step in preparing pupils to become future anti-corruption advocates who can drive positive change in the society.

Idda Siriwa, an official with PCCB Education Desk in Dodoma Region, urged the officers to be vigilant against corrupt practices, as the same contribute to national



setbacks and hinder development. She stressed the need for officials in the education sector, particularly at the ward and regional levels, to lead the fight against corruption.

Sirwa added that the ongoing efforts by PCCB are crucial, as failure to address corruption could lead to difficulties in understanding the severe consequences of accepting bribes.

Mashaka Manjalloh, Dodoma City Quality Assurance Officer, expressed gratitude to PCCB for reminding them of their responsibility to maintain integrity in their daily work and ensure that anti-corruption principles are upheld within the education system.



Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority (ZURA) Public Relations Manager Mbarak Hassan Haji briefs reporters at Maisara grounds in Zanzibar yesterday where he announced the isles' new electricity tariffs. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PROVISION OF SAND BLASTING ABRASIVES

Ref: MST-TZ-20250120-001

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage & Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing various services in the description to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

There are ONE (1) planned package for Terminal as follows,

Package-1: PROVISION OF PPE (Ref: MST-TZ-20250106-001)

Brief Description of the Scope of the Materials:
The scope of the Sand Blasting Abrasive Materials shall include steel grit and platinum grit, the items shall conform to related international standards.

Minimum Requirements for all Packages
Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Company Profile;
- An experience list for similar services supplied in the last five (5) years;
- Confirmation that they can supply equipment as new, advanced, mature, High automation, complete and safe and reliable equipment;
- A copy of their own and main suppliers ISO and OHSAS current certification or equivalent;
- Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
- Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Industry standards for similar works.
- Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in **English** language by sending the above documents to zhaoning@docgi.cn; renhulin@docgi.cn; tiany@docgi.cn (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before **17:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on 2/Feb/2025. Subject of the email should be **MST-TZ-20250120-001 EOI -*— [COMPANY NAME]**.

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only prequalified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.



Representatives of Akili Platform Tanzania (APT) take part in public opinion collection on the draft National Development Vision 2050 in Tabora Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent

Iringa Region out to hit 42 million trees in 2025 target

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IRINGA Region is set to plant 42 million trees in 2025, in line with the government's commitment to environmental conservation, benefiting both current and future generations. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have played a crucial role in implementing and supporting government initiatives aimed at achieving the ambitious goal. Speaking during a tree distribution event at the weekend organised by One Acre Fund Tanzania Ltd at Itimbo Village, Ihimbo Ward, Kilolo District Forest Officer, Aigen Mwilafi, emphasised the importance of collaboration. "As a district, we plan to plant 12.5 million trees annually. One Acre Fund Tanzania Ltd has been instrumental in helping us achieve this target. Without such partnership, it would be very challenging to meet our goals," Mwilafi said.

He also highlighted that the tree-planting initiative has not only contributed to environmental conservation but has also been pivotal in restoring soil fertility in degraded areas, which in turn has boosted agricultural productivity.

Dorcas Tinga, Communications Officer for One Acre Fund Tanzania Ltd, shared that the organisation has distributed 4.5 million tree seedlings across Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe and

Songwe regions. Kilolo District received 250,000 seedlings, benefiting 3,500 farmers.

"We remain committed to promoting tree planting and supporting environmental conservation efforts in these regions," she said.

Joachim Mkemangwa, a farmer at Itimbo Village spoke about the positive impact of tree planting to support their livelihoods.

"The trees have provided us with fresh air, improved weather conditions, organic fertilizer, and additional income. The droughts we used to face are now less frequent," he said.

The annual seedling distribution and planting campaign was officially launched this month at Lugalo Girls Secondary School in Kilolo District.

The initiative underscores the region's dedication to sustainable environmental practices, aiming for long-term ecological restoration and improved community resilience.



As a district, we plan to plant 12.5 million trees annually. One Acre Fund Tanzania Ltd has been instrumental in helping us

Singida launches toilet use campaign to tackle recurrent cholera outbreaks

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner Halima Dendego has announced the launch of a comprehensive operation aimed at identifying households without toilets to ensure they have the facilities as part of ongoing efforts to combat frequent cholera outbreaks in the region.

The move comes in response to the region's persistent battle with the disease, which is often linked to poor sanitation and hygiene.

Speaking during Regional Con-

sultative Committee (RCC) meeting at the weekend, Dendego expressed her concern over the recurrent cholera outbreaks as a result of lack of basic sanitation facilities in some areas.

She described the situation as 'shameful' and made it clear that the government will take firm stance against households without proper toilets.

"Starting from today, we will begin an immediate operation to identify households without toilets before the rains start; those lacking proper sanitation facili-

ties will face action," she said.

Dendego emphasised that the effort is a critical step towards improving public health and preventing further outbreak of cholera which has caused significant harm in the region in recent years.

The regional commissioner also urged local leaders, including councillors and parliamentarians, to focus on educating the public about child nutrition and the importance of providing school meals for all pupils.

Earlier, Singida Regional Medi-

cal Officer, Dr Victorina Ludovick, provided a detailed overview of the health situation during the meeting.

Dr Ludovick reported that cholera outbreaks continue to pose a major challenge for the region. Between January and December 2024, outbreaks were recorded in Manyoni, Iramba and Ikungi districts, leading to seven fatalities.

By the end of December 2024, the region had reported a total

of 464 cholera cases, with Manyoni District recording 253 cases, Ikungi 184 cases, and Iramba 27 cases.

Dr Ludovick noted that despite ongoing efforts to curb the outbreaks, including promoting construction and use of improved toilets and hygienic practices, the situation remains dire.

In terms of sanitation infrastructure, the RMO revealed that 2.2 percent of households in Sin-

gida still lack access to toilets, while 75.5 percent of households have access to improved toilets and 24.9 percent continue to rely on traditional pit latrines.

The regional government's new operation is expected to include increased surveillance of communities, public awareness campaigns on hygiene practices, and support for families who need assistance in building or improving their toilets.

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NOTISI YA SIKU 14/MNADA WA HADHARA

Kwa idhini tuliyopewa na NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited tunatoa Notisi ya siku 14 kuanzia tarehe ya tangazo hili kwa mdaiwa tajwa hapo chini kwenye jedwali alpe deni anadodawa na benki Pamoja na riba. Kushindwa kufanya hiyo mali iliyowekwa kama dhamana itauzwa kwa njia ya mnada wa Hadhara kufidia deni hilo. Mnada utafanyika mahali dhama ilpo tarehe na muda kama inavyoonyeshwa kwenye jedwali hapo chini.

No.	JINA LA MDAIWA/MDHAMINI	AINA YA DHAMANA	TAREHE
1.	ELI TUNU MALAMIA	NYUMBA YA MAKAZI YENYE HATI NA. 48176 KIWANJA NA. 130 KITALU 'B' ENDO LA TEGETA HANISPA YA KINONDONI YENYE JINA LA ELI TUNU MALAMIA	14-02-2025 SAA 4:00 ASUBUHI NA KUENDELEA

Masharti ya Mnada

- Dhama itauzwa kama iliyoye.
- Mnunuzi atatakiwa kulipa siku ya mnada asilimia 25% ya bei iliyotikiwa.
- Malipo ya asilimia 75% yalipwe ndani ya siku kumi na nne (14). Kukamilisha malipo yote. Kushindwa kufanya hiyo mnunuzi atakuwa amepoteza malipo yote ya awali ya asilimia 25%, na mnada kurudiwa.
- Gharama za kuona, kukagua, kuhamisha umliki, kumtoa mdaiwa/mpangaji na zingine zinazoambatana na hilo ni jukumu la mnunuzi.

Kwa Taarifa zaidi wasiliana na: AU Mkurugezi Mtendaji
Mkurugezi Mtendaji NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited
Best Group (T) LTD P. O. BOX 20268, DAR ES SALAAM
7 Ghana street. Tel: +255 22 2130113 / 255 22 2125710
Posta house, 5th floor. P.O. BOX 1088 DAR ES SALAAM

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A LIQUIDATOR
CEREBRAL CODERS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the Members of the above company i.e. **CEREBRAL CODERS LIMITED** with registration no. 137093197 (the company) has resolved to wind up the company voluntarily and Mr. Frank Ntabaye (Advocate) of Jewel Building, 2nd Floor, Plot No. 493, Mwai Kibaki Road, Regent Estate, Mikocheni, Dar Es Salaam-Tanzania has been appointed as a liquidator for the purpose of winding up the effective from 09 October 2024.

The Public is Hereby notified Accordingly.

Any person who has claims against the company is required within Twenty-One (21) days after the issuance of this notice to send to the liquidator, full particulars of any claim against the company supported by appropriate documentation thereof. Claims which are not supported and substantiated shall be excluded from the benefits of any distribution to be made.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Mr. Frank Ntabaye,
Jewel Building,
2nd Floor, Plot No. 493
Dar Es Salaam - Tanzania

218330501

CWS
TENDER NOTICE

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Church World Service invites applications from qualified, competent, eligible, and interested firms for the supply of goods as stated below: -

Item No	Tender Number	Description	Closing Date
1	CWS/RDP/TZ/KSL/001/2025	Supply of Galla and/or Boer Goats in various locations. i) Kasulu District - 66 Goats ii) Kaliua District - 434 Goats	January 31 st , 2025

Tender documents detailing the requirements of the above tenders are available through the link below: -
https://supplier.coupahost.com/quotes/public_events?customer=cwsglobal

Completed tender documents should be submitted through https://supplier.coupahost.com/quotes/public_events?customer=cwsglobal, clearly indicating the tender number and description being applied for.

For any questions or clarifications, reach out to: KasuluProcurement@cwsafrica.org

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Church World Service reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids/proposals and is not bound to give any reasons for its decision.

TWIGA
Minerals Corporation Limited
BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast, and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-25-01-02	Surface and Underground Drilling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 years of drilling experience in the mining industry with the ability to demonstrate a track record and evidence / references for at least 3 similar prior successful projects on any mine. At least 5 years of Underground drilling experience in the mining industry. Experienced key personnel to be assigned to the project. Documented HSE record for the past 5 years. Proven ability to capitalise new, Tier one OEM drilling and support equipment; compliant to the Barrick Drill Site and Safety Standards. Ability to provide a minimum of 3 underground drill rigs and 2 surface drill rigs for the intended scope of work. Provide list of drill Rigs with pictures, year of manufacture, model and proof of ownership Proven ability to successfully provide and complete underground grouting operations.

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.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an indigenous Tanzanian Company as per Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 18:00 on the **27th January 2025**

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.
Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

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

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

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

218331201



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR LEAD ARRANGER AND SPONSORING BROKER FOR THE PROPOSED TANZANIA MORTGAGE REFINANCE COMPANY LIMITED (THE ISSUER) MEDIUM TERM NOTE PROGRAM II

1. BACKGROUND/ Preamble

Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company, (TMRC) is a private financial institution established on January 10, 2010, to support banks in mortgage lending by refinancing their mortgage portfolios. It operates as a non-deposit-taking financial institution regulated by the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) and the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA). TMRC facilitates the Tanzania Housing Finance Project by providing long-term liquidity to Primary Mortgage Lenders (PMLs).

2. SCOPE OF WORK

Capital Markets and Securities Act (CMS) requires the TMRC (The Issuer) to engage a Lead Arranger and Sponsoring Broker who will lead the Medium-Term Note (MTN) documentation preparations, issuance and listing of Tranches. The sponsoring broker is expected to engage key stakeholders and regulators in the process, review the mortgage market and project its growth, review the economy and include the review in the Information Memorandum as well as provide an overview of the MTN structure.

2.1 Lead Arranger Scope of work:

- 2.1.1 Advise on structuring the MTN II program to align with TMRC's medium- to long-term funding needs, incorporating various options such as Sukuk, green bonds, and social bonds.
- 2.1.2 Advise and Recommend capital-raising alternatives and implementation strategies that address TMRC's funding requirements and timing.
- 2.1.3 Advise TMRC and its legal and other advisers, as to the structure and timing of the offering and assist TMRC in determining the appropriate terms (including size of long- and short-term issues, interest rate, pricing, and tenor) for the offering.
- 2.1.4 Advise and assist TMRC in the identification and selection of placing agent(s), Reporting Accountants, Legal advisers and other intermediaries or professional advisors and coordinating their work under the guidance of TMRC's Management.
- 2.1.5 Advise alongside the Legal counsel on regulatory and other requirements with respect to the Offering, and coordinate with internal and external legal advisors to finalize contractual documents such as indentures, and subscription agreements as needed.
- 2.1.6 Prepare and review documentation as may reasonably be required by TMRC in relation to the offering, including information memorandum, pricing supplements, timetables and placing agreements as may be required by relevant regulations.
- 2.1.7 Reviewing presentations as may reasonably be required in relation to the Offering, including for the Board of Directors of TMRC, counterparties to, and stakeholders in, the Offering and regulators (if applicable).
- 2.1.8 Liaising with the relevant advisors (including legal counsel and reporting accountants) to ensure that each advisor completes the relevant documentation and/or provides the relevant information required for documentation purposes.
- 2.1.9 Ensure that the documentation will reflect best practices for a capital market transaction of this nature, adapted as appropriate for the Tanzania market and will contain provisions satisfactory in form and substance to TMRC.
- 2.1.10 Ensure that documentation is wide and broad enough to enable the issuance of different tranches such as Diaspora bonds, green and blue bonds, social bonds and Sukuk bond issue that meet Sustainable Development Goals as defined by the United Nations.
- 2.1.11 Assist TMRC in obtaining the relevant and respective statutory approvals for the Offering. These approvals should also allow offerings to be listed in different stock exchanges other than the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).
- 2.1.12 Coordinate the marketing and roadshow process for the Offering and subject to suitable market conditions.
- 2.1.13 Lead the marketing of the Offering (advising and structuring the marketing strategy, preparing, in conjunction with TMRC, marketing materials, distributing investor presentations and the holding of road shows), to existing shareholders and potential new investors for book building.
- 2.1.14 Lead the distribution and placement of the Offering (both locally/regionally and internationally (if appropriate), including the distribution of materials and information, where necessary. (Note that fees will be paid based on successful placement).
- 2.1.15 Acting as overall project manager regarding the Offering, which will include, inter alia, the preparation of timetables, the preparation of general transaction correspondence and appropriate meeting minutes and the briefing of and ongoing liaison with all regulatory authorities (if required), in conjunction with TMRC and providing regular feedback to TMRC at each stage of the Offering.
- 2.1.16 Keep TMRC fully informed about the Offering including updating on the progress and advising TMRC of any potential problems or delays.
- 2.1.17 Provide a report on the status of the matter as regularly as reasonably required by TMRC.
- 2.1.18 Perform such other services incidental to the Offering as may be mutually agreed between the Lead Arranger and TMRC.
- 2.1.19 Conduct pre-marketing activities and investor sounding, analyze feedback from potential investors and report to TMRC together with suggestions for appropriate sizing and pricing to optimize the return and achieve successful Offering.
- 2.1.20 Advise TMRC on continued investor feedback and marketing requirements during and after the offer.
- 2.2 Sponsoring Broker Scope of work

2.2.1 Regulatory compliance ensures the bond issuances meet the requirements for listing on a designated stock exchange, locally and internationally when applicable.

2.2.2 Prepare and file the necessary regulatory documents with relevant authorities, including the stock exchange and securities regulators.

2.2.3 Conduct due diligence to confirm compliance with market regulations and listing standards.

2.2.4 Market access acts as the official liaison between TMRC and the stock exchange for all listing-related matters.

2.2.5 Register TMRC with the exchange and ensure the corporate bond is properly classified and recorded.

2.2.6 Provide guidance to TMRC on fulfilling market-specific requirements.

2.2.7 Review offering documents, term sheets, and other disclosure materials to ensure they meet exchange and regulatory standards.

2.2.8 Leverage relationships with institutional and retail investors to support the issue and distribution of bonds.

2.2.9 Oversee the bond settlement process in coordination with placing agents, clearing houses and exchanges.

2.2.10 Assist TMRC in meeting post-listing requirements such as periodic disclosures, performance reporting, and investor updates.

2.2.11 Ensure TMRC adheres to governance and operational standards set by the exchange and regulatory authorities.

3. SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS

The Prospective Lead Arranger and Sponsoring Broker is expected to submit Bid Documents separately sealed as follows:

3.1 Technical Proposal:

This is a capability statement indicating the technical ability of the prospective Lead Arranger and Sponsoring Broker to undertake the assignment. The submission should indicate experience in similar assignments and customers in Tanzania, proven record of accomplishment and related credentials on working in similar transactions within local (Tanzanian) entities and International entities; recommendation letters from two recent clients employing a similar service; certified copy of Practicing Certificate (Where applicable)/CVs for all professionals/Key management personnel who will be involved in the transaction and working partnership (if any) with a local company/licensed investment adviser by the CMSA.

3.2 Financial proposal:

This is the fee structure for the proposed assignment and shall include fees and pricing breakdown.

4. DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAME

Proposed timeline for execution of the project

S/N	Deliverables	Timeframe
1.	The Inception report, acceptable to the client. Consultant's understanding of the scope of the assignment based on the Terms of Reference The proposed methodology Action work plan	Two (2) weeks after commencement of the assignment.
2.	The draft raft report is in accordance with the scope of work.	Five (5) weeks after receipt of the client's comments on the inception report.
3.	Final Report to the client containing all items under the scope.	Two (2) weeks after receipt of the client's comments on the draft report.

5. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE LEAD ARRANGER AND SPONSORING BROKER

The Lead Arranger and Sponsoring Broker should be a Licensed Dealing Member of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange with a solid track record in similar assignments with comprehensive experience in public bond issuance and Initial Public Offers (IPO) as well as significant knowledge in the housing finance market.

6. DOCUMENTS COMPRISING THE PROPOSAL

The Proposal shall comprise of the following documents:

- Documents establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder.
- Technical Proposal
- Financial Proposal (All prices shall be quoted in local currency VAT exclusive).
- Any attachments and/or appendices to the Proposal.

7. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Lead Arranger and Sponsoring Broker will report to the Chief Executive Officer or appointed representative; and will work on day-to-day activities closely with TMRC Chief Finance Officer.

8. TIMING OF THE ASSIGNMENT

It is expected that the assignment will last for a period of three months from the time of signing the contract for the pre-issue activities and approvals for the MTN II program, and ongoing for the post issue activities/support.

9. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND LATE PROPOSALS

Complete Proposals must be submitted to TMRC Office, 15th Floor, Golden Jubilee Tower, Main Building, Wing B, Ohio Street, Dar es salaam not later than Friday, 07th February 2025 at 03:00PM.

TMRC shall not consider any Proposal that is submitted after the deadline for the submission of Proposals.

Police hold three over sale of counterfeit maize seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

POLICE in Njombe Region in partnership with the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) have apprehended three individuals accused of selling counterfeit maize seeds in Kidugala Dillage, Wanging'ombe District.

Njombe Regional Police Commander Mahamoud Banga disclosed the arrests during a press briefing at the weekend.

The suspects were allegedly found in possession of 286 kilogrammes of counterfeit Tembo brand seeds, falsely marketed as genuine to unsuspecting farmers.

"The suspects exploited the high demand for seeds in the region by deceiving farmers into buying fake inputs. Unfortunately, some farmers have already planted the seeds which failed to germinate," said Banga.

Police received reports from six farmers who fell victim to the scheme, although the total number of affected farmers remains unclear.

Banga assured that investigations were ongoing, and the suspects will face charges for selling counterfeit maize seeds once the process is complete.

Frank Luoga, a local agriculture input supplier, cited shortages of seeds and fertilizers as a key factor behind the prevalence of counterfeit inputs in the region.

"Farmers have been struggling to find seeds since the start of the farming season, creating opportunities for criminals to take advantage," said Luoga.

He urged the government to ensure availability of agriculture inputs to help curb production and distribution of counterfeit products.

In a separate incident, police have arrested Brujo Mapunda, resident of Iringa, for allegedly hacking into a businessman's bank account at Usuka Village and stealing 19.8m/-.

Banga explained that the suspect used fraudulent claims of upgrading devices to 4G to gain access to the victims' phones. Once in possession of the devices, the suspected fraudster accessed account details, including passwords, enabling unauthorised money transfers.

NCC reviewing draft building codes with World Bank input

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE National Construction Council (NCC) is conducting a two-week review of the draft building codes, incorporating feedback provided by the World Bank (WB).

The review is being led by a team of engineers under the supervision of NCC CEO, Dr Matiko Mturi.

Speaking during the review process, Geoffrey Mwakasenga highlighted the NCC's mandate to prepare, coordinate, and oversee standards, regulations, and guidelines for the country's construction sector.

"These regulations will serve as the foundation for construction laws, which the Council also supervises," he said.

The proposed regulations aim to establish a national framework to ensure building safety, user safety, and environmental sustainability, both inside and around structures.

Mwakasenga urged all stakeholders in the construction industry to adopt the finalised regulations, stressing their importance in mitigating the risks posed by substandard construction practices.

"We encourage all construction stakeholders to use these regulations once they are finalised to minimise or eliminate risks in construction," he said.

Architect Mariahildergard Byarufu emphasised the regulations' potential to improve construction standards and promote accessibility for individuals with special needs.

"These regulations will ensure that buildings meet the required standards and provide independence for people with special needs when accessing facilities," Byarufu remarked.

The NCC continues to collaborate with various stakeholders to finalise the regulations and drive transformative changes in the construction sector.

President Samia to officiate ALAT meeting next month

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is scheduled to officiate the upcoming general meeting of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT), set to take place next month in Mwanza.

ALAT Chairman Murshid Ngeze said this here at the weekend during the opening of the executive committee meeting.

He highlighted the significance of the meeting, noting that it marks an important milestone for the association and its members.

He also emphasised the importance of unity within ALAT, stressing that no institution can succeed without a strong sense of cohesion.

"The upcoming general meeting is expected to be an important event for ALAT, as it reflects the association's commitment to foster unity and international collaboration for the betterment of local authorities across Tanzania," he said.

UN officials call attention to Sudan's 'dangerous situation'

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Human Rights Office's chief spokesperson, Ravina Shamdasani, has warned of escalating risks to civilians in Sudan due to targeted ethnic violence in Al Jazirah, which threatens the ongoing conflict in Khartoum.

Ravina noted, "The situation for civilians in Sudan is becoming increasingly perilous following reports of numerous brutal killings in ethnically motivated attacks in the south-eastern state of Al Jazirah, alongside indications of an impending struggle for control of Khartoum."

Speaking at the bi-weekly press briefing in Geneva on Friday, she urged an immediate cessation of violence, addressing both the President of the Transitional Sovereign Council and the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces.

"Retaliatory attacks - marked by shocking brutality - against entire communities based on actual or perceived ethnic identity are increasing, as is hate speech and incitement to violence. This must be urgently stopped," she emphasised.

Ravina pointed out that the ongoing power struggle, which has persisted for nearly two years, is fuelled by both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.

She stressed that these groups are accountable for the actions of those who fight on their behalf.

On January 13, drone strikes in the city of Omdurman reportedly resulted in the deaths of around 120 civilians and left over 150 others injured.



Nzega District Commissioner Naitapwaki Tukai (3rd L), poses with some parents and guardians of orphaned and special-needs children shortly after handing over school supplies at her office at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Global growth to improve slightly this year, says IMF

By Special Correspondent

GLOBAL growth is expected to improve slightly this year with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raising its forecast by one-tenth of a percentage point.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, it said it expects global growth to reach 3.3 per cent this year, and to remain at this level in 2026.

IMF chief economist Pierre-

Olivier Gourinchas said in a blog posted on Friday that with many governments newly elected in 2024, economic policy uncertainty is elevated.

He added that although the global growth outlook is broadly unchanged from October, "divergences across countries are widening".

The US economic growth forecast for 2025 has been revised upward by 0.5 percentage points

to 2.7 percent.

Its forecast for the Eurozone has, however, been downgraded by 0.2 percentage points to 1 per cent.

The growth outlook for emerging market economies remains stable, with the IMF saying it expects growth in sub-Saharan Africa to pick up this year to 4.2 percent.

It forecasts that global inflation will continue decelerating,

dropping to 4.2 percent in 2025 and 3.5 per cent in 2026.

The IMF said this would allow for a further normalisation of monetary policy and end the global disruptions of recent years.

However, it revised world trade volume estimates slightly downwards for both years due to a sharp increase in trade policy uncertainty.

It warned against an intensifi-

cation of protectionist policies, in the form of a new wave of tariffs.

The IMF said this could exacerbate trade tensions, lower investments, reduce market efficiency, and again disrupt supply chains.

"Unilateral policies that distort competition - such as tariffs, non-tariff barriers, or subsidies - rarely improve domestic prospects durably," said Gourinchas.

The IMF's new forecast comes

days before the inauguration of US President-elect Donald Trump, who has suggested he will impose a 10 per cent tariff on global imports.

Africa reports over 200 disease outbreaks 2024

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has raised alarm over a sharp rise in public health emergencies across the continent, with more than 200 disease outbreaks reported last year.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya, addressing an online briefing on Thursday about the multi-country mpox outbreak and other health crises, stressed the urgent need for concerted efforts to combat mounting public health emergencies.

"We see that the number of disease outbreaks in 2024 was more than in 2023... In 2024, we had 213 events, while in 2023, we had 166. We hope that this year will be different from the last year," Kaseya said.

The Africa CDC chief identified cholera, measles, dengue, mpox, and diphtheria as the top five high-burden diseases in Africa for 2024.

Cholera was "the first killer in Africa," as the African continent reported some 204,115 cholera cases and 3,747 deaths last year. Measles followed closely, with 234,320 cases and 3,220 deaths in 2024.

Mpox ranked third in fatalities among the five high-burden diseases, with 21 African countries reporting 77,888 cases and 1,321 deaths since the start of 2024, according to data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency.

Kaseya highlighted the pressing need for Africa to address public health emergencies more effectively, citing the compounded effects of climate change, urbanisation, and other contributing factors.

The Africa CDC chief also called for significant investment in laboratory infrastructure, critical public health facilities, and local vaccine and medical equipment production. He emphasised the need to boost the continent's public health workforce, improve genomic sequencing for priority diseases, and bolster national public health institutes to enhance their role in managing health emergencies.



Carpenters make desks for pupils set to begin Form One at Muhoji Secondary School, Bugwema Ward in Musoma Rural Constituency, Mara Region, at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent

Malawi unveils five-year cholera eradication plan

LILONGWE

MALAWI has launched a five-year cholera control plan, aiming to reduce the disease's annual incidence rate by 90 percent and achieve a case fatality rate of less than 1 percent by 2030.

Dubbed the Malawi Multi-sectoral Cholera Control Plan (MMCCP), the initiative, launched on Thursday, will enhance the coordination and implementation of multi-sectoral interventions for cholera pre-

vention and control in the country.

Malawian Health Minister Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda said the MMCCP is very necessary as records show that "the country has faced repeated outbreaks since the first cholera cases were reported in 1973."

From March 2022 to January 2025, Malawi recorded 61,639 cases of cholera and 1,786 cholera-related deaths. The recurrent outbreaks in this southern African

country have been attributed to limited access to safe water, inadequate sanitation, and generally poor hygiene practices at the household level.

According to the minister, a series of natural disasters, including tropical storms and cyclones Ana, Gombe, Hiday, Freddy, and Chido, also "exacerbated already existing risk factors and caused untold havoc to the already overstretched health systems in the country."

Joseph Seriki, focal person and regional coordinator for the global task force on cholera control, described the MMCCP as a landmark document that represents a unified commitment to eradicating cholera in Malawi.

He described the recent cholera outbreaks in Malawi as a reminder for urgent and sustained action to address the root causes of the disease and strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TEMEKE HIGH COURT SUB - REGISTRY
(ONE STOP JUDICIAL CENTRE)
AT TEMEKE

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 521 OF 2025
In the Matter of the Estate of the Late STEVEN SHADRACK KANGERO

In the Matter of an Application for Letters of Administration

BY
MKUNDE STEVEN KANGERO.....PETITIONER.

TO: JOYCE STEVEN KANGERO
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
4610 GREENWOOD STREET,
LINCOLN NEBRASKA 68504 USA.

SUMMONS TO APPEAR

You are hereby summoned to appear in this court on 4TH March, 2025, 12:00 a.m before Hon. S.D. MWAIPOPO, JUDGE GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the Court this 17TH January, 2025

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TEMEKE HIGH COURT SUB - REGISTRY
(ONE STOP JUDICIAL CENTRE)
AT TEMEKE

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 521 OF 2025
In the Matter of the Estate of the Late STEVEN SHADRACK KANGERO

In the Matter of an Application for Letters of Administration

BY
MKUNDE STEVEN KANGERO.....PETITIONER.

TO: MOHAMED STEVEN S. KANGERO @MOHAMED STEVEN KANGERO@SANTOS STEVEN S. KANGERO
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SUMMONS TO APPEAR

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In the Matter of the Estate of the Late STEVEN SHADRACK KANGERO

In the Matter of an Application for Letters of Administration

BY
MKUNDE STEVEN KANGERO.....PETITIONER.

TO: SHADRACK FRANKLIN KANGERO
DAR ES SALAAM

SUMMONS TO APPEAR

You are hereby summoned to appear in this court on 4TH March, 2025, 12:00 a.m before Hon. S.D. MWAIPOPO, JUDGE GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the Court this 17TH January, 2025

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In the Matter of the Estate of the Late STEVEN SHADRACK KANGERO

In the Matter of an Application for Letters of Administration

BY
MKUNDE STEVEN KANGERO.....PETITIONER

TO: FAITH SHADRACK KANGERO
AUSTRALIA

SUMMONS TO APPEAR

You are hereby summoned to appear in this court on 4TH March, 2025, 12:00 a.m before Hon. S.D. MWAIPOPO, JUDGE GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the Court this 17TH January, 2025

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TEMEKE HIGH COURT SUB - REGISTRY
(ONE STOP JUDICIAL CENTRE)
AT TEMEKE

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 521 OF 2025
In the Matter of the Estate of the Late STEVEN SHADRACK KANGERO

In the Matter of an Application for Letters of Administration

BY
MKUNDE STEVEN KANGERO.....PETITIONER.

TO: STEVEN JUNIOR MAXWELL
SPAIN

SUMMONS TO APPEAR

You are hereby summoned to appear in this court on 4TH March, 2025, 12:00 a.m before Hon. S.D. MWAIPOPO, JUDGE GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the Court this 17TH January, 2025

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TEMEKE HIGH COURT SUB - REGISTRY
(ONE STOP JUDICIAL CENTRE)
AT TEMEKE

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION CAUSE NO. 521 OF 2025
In the Matter of the Estate of the Late STEVEN SHADRACK KANGERO

In the Matter of an Application for Letters of Administration

BY
MKUNDE STEVEN KANGERO.....PETITIONER.

TO: DAGLESS SHADRACK KANGERO
DUBAI, UAE

SUMMONS TO APPEAR

You are hereby summoned to appear in this court on 4TH March, 2025, 12:00 a.m before Hon. S.D. MWAIPOPO, JUDGE GIVEN under my hand and Seal of the Court this 17TH January, 2025

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

KATIKA MAHAKAMA KUU YA TANZANIA
MASJALA NDOGO YA TEMEKE
(TEMEKE KITUO JUMUISHI HUDUMA ZA MAHAKAMA MIRATHI NA NDOA)

MIRATHI NA 521 YA MWAKA 2025.

MAOMBI YA BARUA ZA USIMAMIZI WA MIRATHI YA MAREHEMU STEVEN SHADRACK KANGERO NA

MKUNDE STEVEN KANGERO.....MWOMBAAJI

TAARIFA YA KAMAIDA
(Kamuni ya 75)

Watu wote wanaodai kuwa na haki ya marehemu aliyetajwa hapo juu wanafahamisha kufika na kuangalia shauri hiki katika jilada kama wanafika kabla ya kutolewa kwa utibitisho wa barua ya usimamizi wa mirathi kwa mwombaji hapo juu.

Mpingamizi yoyote kuhusu maombi haya yawe yameandikishwa mnamo au kabla ya tarehe 4 mwezi Machi, 2025. Saa 12:00 Mchana. Sikuu ambayo Shauri hili limepangwa kusikilizwa Mbele Mhe. Jaji S.D. MWAIPOPO, Imesiniwa Dar es Salaam, leo tarehe 17 mwezi Januari, 2025.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR

MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2024

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

TUCTA labour law ideas low on competition ethos

MEMBERS of a parliamentary committee examining the Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, have some work to do in pouring over a number of suggested adjustments to the bill handed by the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA). The TUCTA president says that the purpose of the proposals is to ensure better protection of workers' rights. That goal has never been irrelevant in legislation but it needs to be wisely balanced so that it is in tandem with other goals, especially flexibility in hiring or wages.

Details on the proposals are serene enough, and it is understandable if the trade union congress has misgivings about it, as changes in labour law in the past decade or two have not been the best for trade unions.

There was a time the unions were locked in a partnership with the ruling party in an atmosphere where the private sector was still marginal. Labour legislation was at that time basically a set of rules about public sector employee management, itself tied up with vibrant proximity to party sittings, roles.

From the time that the private sector started to expand in the late 1980s, it was working on the margins of labour law, as many such units remained in informal sector settings. There were major companies that purchased shares in public firms and culturally joined up to buttress the public sector outlook, especially as in most instances they had virtual monopoly in their spheres of industry or commerce. From ethics of solidarity and partnership with the ruling party, the tone shifted to protecting local firms and jobs.

The public sector set up was shaken in 1992 at the time of extensive civil service restructuring when the basics of information technology were taking root. Powerful clerks whose business is to get one's file in this or that registry started losing their grip on the social and administrative set up of courts and other institutions, though digital referencing has arguably taken upwards of three decades to dig in. Some of the more mundane sources of inefficiency and corruption were tamed by technology shift.

The current discussion on labour law amendment is still geared to the public sector, where definitely the Social Welfare and Community Development Standing Committee of the National Assembly will find it hard to take up some of TUCTA's proposals belonging to another epoch. One such idea has TUCTA advocating for extending unpaid emergency leave from 30 days to five years, which it explains as related to the need to better support employees in critical personal circumstances like leadership roles or educational pursuits. In short, they don't have to find other jobs.

A casual reader, not a social welfare expert, could understand an idea that maternity leave provisions for mothers of premature babies be extended until the child reaches 40 weeks of age, instead of 36 weeks in the current draft. Yet it would be much harder to lift that comprehension to another level as TUCTA demands that maternity leave and child care leave be treated separately, with no overlap between the two. That formulation is evidently paradoxical: child care is now done on behalf of... employer.

Bilateral relations important lever in changing condition, crises in Africa

THE secretariat for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) had a weighty visitation toward midweek lately, as the acting executive secretary met with Lord Collins of Highbury, a British cabinet emissary. The visit was pegged to discuss mutual interests and enhancing cooperation between the UK and the SADC zone in diplomacy, socio-economic development mainly. For aficionados, there was explicit UK interest in addressing sexual violence within the SADC regional integration agenda.

Lord Collins is in actual fact Foreign Affairs deputy minister to use wider lexicon applied in most countries, and at first glance there must have been other needs the cabinet official was mindful about. There is indeed a point about preventing sexual violence in conflict areas but even in this sphere international liaisons have to do more work, without asking diplomats to do the job during intermittent visits of this sort. Armed conflict is a situation where norms breakdown and people act more or less at their worst, but it all relates to attitudes of organisations that send them to war.

More often than not, international diplomacy figures use their positions to keep in check how soldiers or militias act during war, and at times a militia leader is arrested and sent to The Hague. Still the discussions in the Botswana capital of Gaborone had the UK reissue a vow on strengthening its engagement with the zone, for instance in energy, climate change and infrastructure development. To have started the talk at SADC level implies that there are no intense bilateral projects at issue, and the UK wishes for a groundbreaking engagement at the zonal level, hopefully designed to be low-cost but spread over a substantial area.

At another level we get an im-

pression that there is a bit of a safe zone for Britain in the SADC zone, so the preliminary brick-building is minimal. The UK has an economic partnership agreement with South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique. This relationship groups countries whose economies are closely lined with South Africa, sharing a customs union with Pretoria or rather between themselves. That may help to explain the relative calm in the region despite localized tensions, as belonging to a regional organisation eliminates ad hoc drastic changes in regulatory expectations and moody changes in economic policy settings.

That is why collaboration at the regional level in areas like climate change, water security, regional trade and wildlife protection can also be boosted with delving into security collaboration norms, whether they take up all the relevant agenda. Yet, the fact that the meeting was held with the SADC secretariat rather than proceeding from a firm bilateral footing that then builds inroads into the regional setting indicates that the visit was limited in its scope. It was more of an institutional exploration that a proper project that the UK may be wishing to put into place; it must have a bilateral key.

With this anchor in the partnership with the customs union zone, the UK woks with SADC in its transfrontier conservation areas tied to the Zambezi ecosystem as a frontal project.

Maintaining stable ecosystems is essential to stem recurrence of floods and punishing droughts which have for several years ravaged the sub-region. Noticeably and not least, UK authorities have endorsed the climate investment fund market mechanisms, to raise \$7.5 billion over the next decade, not just for the region but massively relevant to it.

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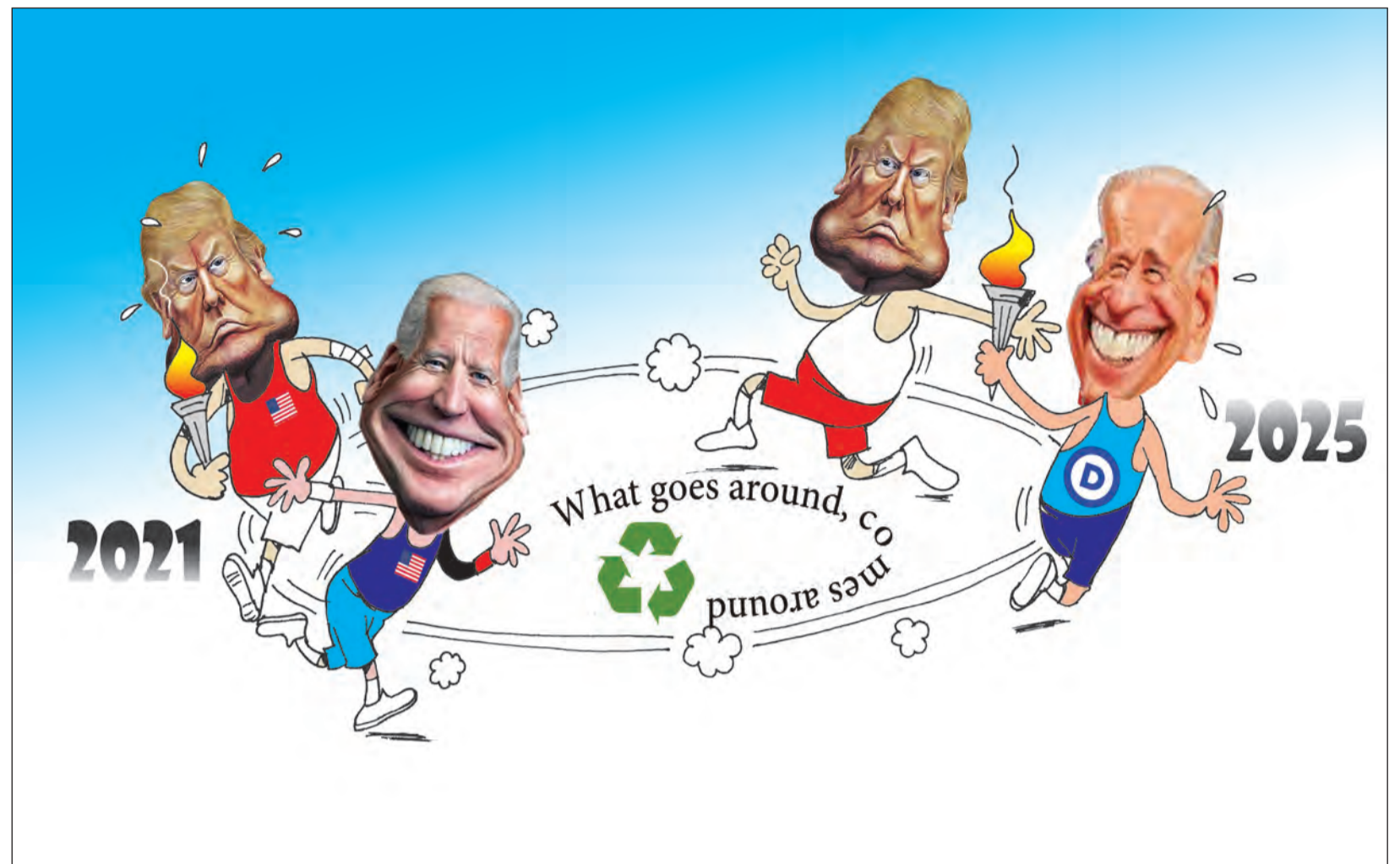
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Appeal for research on indigenous crops to avert hunger catastrophe

By Busani Bafana

THE Neglected indigenous crops, rich in nutrition and resilient to climate change, are key to tackling global hunger only if governments invest in research and development (R&D) to tap the potential of such innovations.

More than 150 Nobel and World Food Prize Laureates have called for investment in moonshot technologies to realize the potential of innovative solutions such as these hardy crops, warning that without swift action, there is a "food insecure, unstable world."

Neglected crops are indigenous crops that have been lost or forgotten over time. They are important for the food security of resource-poor farmers and consumers, especially in Africa.

In an open letter to the "Agricultural R&D Moonshot: Bolstering U.S. National Security" meeting in the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture in Washington, DC, this week, the Laureates called on world leaders to prioritize urgent agricultural research to meet the food needs of nearly 10 billion people by mid-century. They urged for financial and political support to develop "moonshot" technologies with the greatest chance of averting a hunger catastrophe in the next 25 years.

"The most promising scientific breakthroughs and emerging fields of research that should be prioritized to boost food production include research into hardy, nutrition-rich indigenous crops that have been largely overlooked for improvements," the laureates of the Nobel Prize and the World Food Prize said, citing other moonshot technology candidates as improving photosynthesis in staple crops such as wheat and rice to optimize growth and developing cereals that can source nitrogen biologically and grow without fertilizer.

"The scale of ambition and research we are advocating will require mechanisms to identify, recommend, coordinate, monitor and facilitate collaborative implementation of the proposed food security moonshots," the Laureates said, in advocating for research investment to ensure the world's future food and nutrition security.

While agricultural research had favourable returns on investment, the Laureates bemoaned that it was failing to provide people in developing countries with a nutritious diet in a resilient, environmentally sustainable, and cost-effective manner. The Laureates are convinced that improving agricultural productivity will be enough to meet the world's future food needs but caution that if we do not prioritize agricultural R&D the global farming systems will be tied to the increased use of diminishing non-replenishable resources to feed humanity.

The world was "not even close" to



Hardy, nutrition-rich indigenous crops such as sorghum should be searched as innovative solutions to ending hunger and malnutrition. More than 150 Nobel and World Food Prize laureates call on world leaders to prioritize urgent agricultural research to meet food needs of 9.7 billion people by 2050

meeting future food needs, with an estimated 700 million people already going hungry and an additional 1.5 billion people needing to be fed by 2050, the Laureates said, urging for the transformation of the global food value chain.

Other moonshot initiatives that should be researched include the enhancement of fruits and vegetables to improve storage and shelf life and to increase food safety, and the creation of nutrient-rich food from microorganisms and fungi.

In 2007, African Union member countries pledged to invest one percent of their GDP by 2020 in science and research, an ambitious bid for science-led development but a goal many countries have failed to meet.

Science, technology and innovation have been identified as key to Africa's development under the Africa Agenda 2063—a development roadmap for the next fifty years adopted by African Heads of State.

Climate change is projected to decrease the productivity of most major staples when substantial increases are needed to feed a world, which will add another 1.5 billion people to

its population by 2050.

For maize, the major staple for much of Africa, the picture is particularly dire, with decreasing yields projected for virtually its entire growing area. Increasingly common extreme weather events associated with climate change will only make matters worse. Moreover, additional factors such as soil erosion and land degradation, biodiversity loss, water shortages, conflict, and policies that restrict innovation will drag crop productivity down even further.

"Yet as difficult and as uncomfortable as it might be to imagine, humanity is headed towards an even more food insecure, unstable world by mid-century than exists today, worsened by a vicious cycle of conflict and food insecurity," said the laureates, who include Robert Woodrow Wilson, who won the 1978 Nobel Prize for Physics for his discovery that supported the big bang theory of creation and Wole Soyinka, the first Black African to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

"The impacts of climate change are already reducing food production around the world, but particularly in Africa, which bears little histori-

cal responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions yet sees temperatures rising faster than elsewhere," Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank, who received the World Food Prize in 2017, said in a statement. "In low-income countries where productivity needs to almost double by 2050 compared to 1990, the stark reality is that it's likely to rise by less than half. We have just 25 years to change this."

Other notable signatories to the letter include the 14th Dalai Lama, Ethiopian-American plant breeder and U.S. National Media of Science recipient Gebisa Ejeta, Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank and Cary Fowler, joint 2024 World Food Prize Laureate, who is also the outgoing U.S. Special Envoy for Global Food Security who coordinated the appeal.

"We must take bold action to change course," said the Laureates, adding, "We must be prepared to pursue high-risk, high-reward scientific research with the goal of transforming our food systems to meet the nutritional needs of everyone sustainably."

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Empowering women: A gender lens of Tanzania's vision 2050

THE Tanzanian Vision 2050 is a strategic framework designed to transform Tanzania into a high-income, inclusive, and sustainable economy by 2050. It prioritizes human capital development, equality, and empowerment across critical sectors, including education, health, and gender equity.

June last year, the Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT), in collaboration with the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) and WildAF, organized a national convening to raise awareness about the drafting process of Vision 2050 and to collect women's perspectives for incorporation into the new National Development Vision.

Participants advocated for a gender-sensitive Vision 2050, derived from substantial participation of both women and men, to ensure that the nation's progress includes all its citizens.

Reflecting on the 1995 Beijing Conference, where the global community united to empower women and girls through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Vision 2050 advances its goals by promoting girls' education—especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)—eliminating harmful practices like child marriage, and improving health and reproductive care.

Additionally, it strengthens protections against gender-based violence (GBV) to foster an inclusive society where girls can thrive and contribute to national development.

Gender stakeholders have widely praised Vision 2050 as a progressive framework that endorses gender equality principles. This roadmap underscores the importance of inclusivity in shaping sustainable development and reaffirms the commitment to equitable opportunities for all.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has highlighted the potential of Vision 2050 to capitalize on Tanzania's youthful population and create a gender dividend by prioritizing, investing in and protecting human capital.

This approach is seen as critical to rebuilding a high-productivity, inclusive, and more resilient economy.

International gender specialist and consultant Leticia Mukurasi noted that Vision 2050 shows significant progress by incorporating aspects that stakeholders have been advocating for over years, despite advancements in Vision 2025.

Speaking during a Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) media orientation session, she highlighted the Vision's early acknowledgment of gender equality,



International gender specialist and consultant, Leticia Mukurasi (standing), addresses journalists during a recent media orientation session in Dar es Salaam ahead of the 30th Beijing Declaration anniversary. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

which contrasts with its later placement in the 2025 Vision.

"In education, progress is evident. Maternal mortality has dropped from 602 to 104 per 100,000 live births, and more girls now attend school compared to the past when early marriages were prevalent," Mukurasi remarked.

"I remember when I was young, many girls did not go to school or make it to higher education institutions," she noted.

She criticized Vision 2050 for lacking statistical data, emphasizing the need for detailed analysis as the population is projected to double to 149 million.

The Vision 20250 falls short in providing statistics to show how things have changed over time. In other words, it does not effectively utilise statistical analysis and evaluation, said Mukurasi.

TGNP Executive Director Lilian Liundi highlighted milestones achieved in women's leadership and parliamentary representation since the Beijing Conference. She noted, "The Beijing Conference aligns closely with Vision 2050, as reflected in the improved number of women holding parliamentary seats."

Despite this, university students have identified shortcomings in Vision 2050's first draft concerning youth economic empowerment. During a TGNP workshop in Dar es Salaam last December, students from various universities discussed gaps in inclusive economic development, gender, and social issues while contributing to preparations for the Beijing Conference's 30th anniversary.

Flora Ndaba, TGNP's Acting Head of Activism and Movement Building, explained that the workshop aimed to gather student perspectives for the Vision's second draft

and reflect on achievements and challenges since the Beijing Conference.

Scheduled for March 2025 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the anniversary will bring stakeholders from 189 member states to advance gender equality initiatives. The 30th anniversary will be celebrated during the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69).

CSW69 will focus on reviewing and appraising the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review will assess current challenges affecting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, contributing towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The significant anniversary will provide an opportunity to reinvigorate political commitment to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

Ndaba also emphasized the importance of sensitizing students to the Generation Equality Forum, which focuses on women's economic empowerment.

Over 40 students from institutions such as Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), University of Dodoma (UDOM), Mzumbe University, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tumaini University, Ardhi University, NIT and Tengeru Institute of Community Development and others participated, addressing economic, gender, and technological issues absent from Vision 2050's first draft.

Students shared diverse perspectives. Julieth Msofe from Kigamboni Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Memorial Academy called for greater emphasis on protecting national resources and combating corruption.

Tengeru Institute's Dady Thomas urged the inclusion of mental health strategies, noting its growing societal impact. Similarly, Ruth Mkanza from DIT stressed the need for climate change mitigation plans, arguing that Vision 2050 should integrate development strategies with climate resilience.

African leaders to approve national energy pacts at Dar summit

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is set to take centre stage in shaping the future of Africa's energy landscape as it prepares to host the African Energy Summit in Dar es Salaam later this month.

Scheduled for January 27-28, the historic event will bring together heads of state from across the continent, as well as over 1,500 key stakeholders from governments, international organizations, and the private sector.

The summit will aim to drive Africa's energy transformation and tackle the critical issue of energy access for millions of people across the continent.

The significance of the African Energy Summit cannot be overstated. It will serve as a platform for forging ground-breaking agreements that aim to revolutionize energy access, with a target of providing sustainable energy solutions to 300 million people across Africa by 2030.

The ambitious goal is part of a broader, continent-wide initiative to increase the adoption of clean, renewable energy sources and reduce Africa's dependence on traditional, polluting energy sources like coal and oil.

A key highlight of the summit will be the adoption and signing of the Africa Energy Compact, a comprehensive strategic framework designed to advance sustainable and equitable access to energy for all Africans. The compact will serve as the cornerstone of Africa's roadmap for clean and inclusive energy development, marking a critical step towards addressing the energy gap that has long plagued the continent.

But the Africa Energy Compact is not the only major achievement expected from this summit. Another key milestone will be the endorsement of the first phase of National Energy Compacts for 2025-2030, which will see 14 countries, including Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo, unveil their national energy plans.

The plans will focus on enhancing energy access, improving the reliability of electricity, and ensuring that energy solutions are affordable for millions of African households and businesses.

A third milestone to be reached at the summit will be the approval of the Dar es Salaam Declaration. The declaration will embody Africa's collective vision for a sustainable and equitable energy future, underscoring the need to boost renewable energy adoption, improve energy infrastructure, and ensure energy equity across the continent. It will serve as a guide for African nations as they work to meet the continent's growing energy needs and achieve their energy goals.

Innocent Luoga, Commissioner for Electricity and Renewable Energy at the Ministry of Energy, recently highlighted the importance of the Mission 300 Initiative, which will be a central focus at the summit.

The transformative initiative aims to bridge Africa's electricity access gap by expanding energy infrastructure in underserved areas, particularly in rural and remote regions.

According to Luoga, Mission 300 will be signed by 14 countries at the summit, marking a major milestone in cross-border energy collaboration.

"Mission 300 is a game-changer for the continent," said Luoga during a media workshop in Dar es Salaam.

He said: "It is a transformative project that will help us close the electricity access gap by expanding and improving energy infrastructure in regions that have long been neglected. The summit will be a key moment for us to align our efforts and work towards achieving the ambitious goal of bringing electricity to 300 million people by



2030."

Luoga also stressed the critical role of journalists in raising public awareness about the summit and its goals.

"The media has an important role to play in ensuring that the public understands the significance of this summit and the impact it will have on people's lives," he added.

As host country, Tanzania has played an instrumental role in Africa's energy transformation efforts, and its leadership in promoting renewable energy is expected to be one of the key themes at the summit.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's diplomatic efforts have placed Tanzania at the forefront of the continent's energy dialogue, positioning the country as a champion of renewable energy and sustainable development.

Under President Suluhu Hassan's leadership, Tanzania has made significant strides in electrifying rural areas.

Today, over 99 percent of the country's villages are connected to the national grid, and more than 32,000 hamlets have been electrified. The efforts have a profound impact on Tanzania's social and economic development, improving healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for millions of people.

One of the key objectives of the Tanzanian government is to ensure that clean cooking solutions are accessible to all households. Through the National Clean Cooking Energy Strategy, Tanzania is working to ensure that 80 percent of households

have access to clean cooking solutions by 2034. The initiative will not only help reduce deforestation and carbon emissions but also protect public health by reducing reliance on traditional, polluting cooking methods.

Tanzania's progress in renewable energy and electrification is a source of pride for the country, and it will serve as an important model for other African nations to follow. The country's success in rural electrification has significantly improved quality of life for its citizens, particularly in terms of health, education, and economic development.

"We are honored to be at the center of these vital discussions," Luoga reflected. "This summit marks an important step toward ensuring access to electricity for 300 million Africans by 2030, and Tanzania is proud to be leading the way."

In the lead-up to the summit, there has been growing excitement among stakeholders, with experts, policymakers, and energy professionals looking forward to the opportunity to share ideas, forge new partnerships, and collaborate on innovative solutions to Africa's energy challenges. The discussions will focus on critical issues, including the development of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower, as well as the expansion of electricity access to underserved rural and urban areas.

Another key area of focus will be the promotion of clean cooking energy, which will be essential for safeguarding public

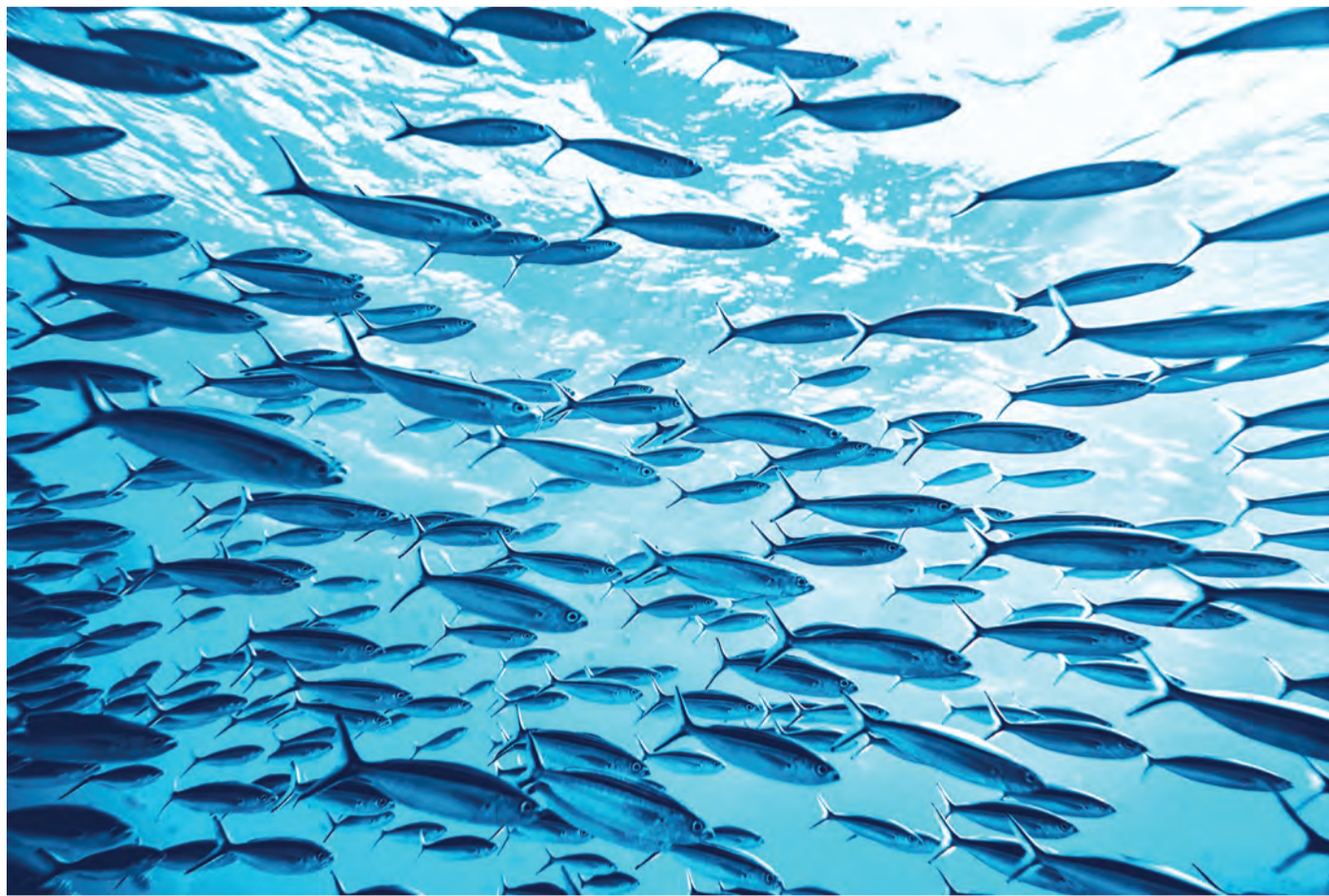
health and protecting the environment. Clean cooking solutions, such as improved cookstoves and clean fuels, are vital for reducing harmful emissions and preventing respiratory diseases, which disproportionately affect women and children in many African countries.

As the summit approaches, the role of the media in disseminating accurate information about the event and its objectives cannot be overstated. Journalists will play a crucial role in ensuring that the summit's outcomes are widely understood by the public and that the discussions and agreements made in Dar es Salaam lead to tangible improvements in energy access and sustainable development across Africa.

The African Energy Summit 2023 is not just a diplomatic event; it is a call to action for African governments, businesses, and citizens to work together towards a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous energy future for the continent. The decisions made at this summit will shape Africa's energy landscape for decades to come, and Tanzania is proud to be leading the charge.

By Borge Brende

Achieving net-zero emissions: Global leaders identify six critical levers for climate, nature



Blended finance can boost climate and nature initiatives

THE global fight against the climate crisis is no longer just an environmental issue but a defining economic challenge.

As the world races to achieve net-zero emissions and halt the alarming decline of biodiversity, leaders from across the private, public and philanthropic sectors are stepping up to tackle these challenges head-on.

Never has an impartial platform, such as the World Economic Forum, been more important for people to catalyse solutions.

Contrary to rising assumptions, these leaders have an unmistakable and urgent message: climate risk is inextricably tied to financial risk and pertinent to national security, economic resilience and global competitiveness.

When the balance of power is shifting, the stakes are higher than ever. Our strategic investments today in climate action will define tomorrow's trade relationships, technological dominance and geopolitical alliances.

Climate change is a challenge of resource management and a race for technological innovation. Those who lead in clean energy, artificial intelligence (AI), and sustainable practices and access to critical materials and resources will secure their economic futures and global influence.

Recently, global leaders across the capital stack gathered at the Forum's GAEA (Giving to Amplify Earth Action) session during the Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2024 in New York, and the Forum's August Leadership Meetings.

And they defined the six critical levers that will drive the transformation of climate and nature systems across geographies, value chains and economies. These six levers are not mere theoretical ambitions but urgent imperatives that demand swift, coordinated action.

The comeback of blended finance vehicles

Blended finance is a transformative tool in the global effort to tackle the climate crisis, aligning public, private and philanthropic capital to overcome traditional financing barriers and drive high-level investments.

By leveraging philanthropic catalytic capital and reducing risk, sometimes through junior equity, first loss or other forms of de-risking, it incentivizes private sector involvement and enables governments and corporations to unlock solutions at scale and pace.

When public debt levels are off the roof, the private sector needs to lead with upfront investment, as we've seen throughout history.

"Harnessing the power of philanthropic capital in blended finance structures is one of the most powerful approaches to support the transition towards an impact economy," says Tom Hall, CEO of UBS Optimus Foundation Network.

"Blended finance is a strategic tool that reimagines the power of investing, facilitates innovation and pools the resources required to create a multiplier effect and maximize the impact of our efforts."

Expanding the climate and nature capital stack

If philanthropy wants to be truly consequential in climate change, it should step up to play a role in the early stages of climate action. Today, less than 2% of total global philanthropic capital (close to \$1 trillion) is currently directed toward climate initiatives, creating a significant funding gap.

While philanthropy alone is a minimal asset in the global economy, its risk tolerance, agility, nimbleness and ability to crowd in other types of capital, allows it to convene other commercial and public capital. That's because it takes on some of the risks from climate and

nature interventions.

Philanthropy can be truly consequential when aligned with public and private funding, removing specific obstacles and market failures to pave the way for private investment. Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy or Three Cain Group's Allied Climate Partners are examples of this.

Corporate philanthropy, in particular, is key to driving early-stage innovations, reducing market risks and accelerating systemic change.

Developing robust systemic impact metrics

To implement climate and nature initiatives at the necessary scale and urgency, utilizing robust, data-driven metrics measuring performance and impact is essential to enhancing coordination, attracting investment and empowering informed decision-making.

"One of the big things I'm really excited about is finding excellent solutions for better data through innovation and technology," says H.R.H. Princess Beatrice.

"This is what's needed to attract increased capital and harness opportunities in climate and nature initiatives. Otherwise, the possibilities for financing and scale of impact are very restricted.

"We need to be able to make a solid, evidence-based case to bring in multi-sector partners and investors to this crucial area."

Advancing Global South investments

The Global South, facing severe climate impacts, is critical to achieving a sustainable future and must be at the forefront of action. These regions, while vulnerable, have the potential to lead the green economy, for example, by leapfrogging with clean en-

ergy.

Investment in green energy solutions will reduce emissions, improve energy access and boost local economies, creating jobs and health benefits. Investing in the Global South is a moral obligation and a strategic necessity for a sustainable global energy future.

Supporting the transition in Asia

Asia is at the heart of the climate challenge and is home to over half the world's population and responsible for more than half of global emissions.

At the Forum August Leadership Meetings, leaders came forward with proposals for clean energy finance, vehicle electrification and coal retirement, emphasizing that philanthropy must drive investment to scale these solutions.

"Coal plants in Asia will exhaust the remaining carbon budget if left to operate to the end of their economic lives," says UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, Mark Carney. "Financing their early retirement will require blended finance and energy transition credits backed by high integrity voluntary carbon markets.

He adds: "Philanthropists can play a critical role with catalytic capital and support for workers and communities to ensure a just transition."

Unlocking capital for the ocean economy

The ocean economy is crucial to addressing climate and nature challenges, yet it has long been overlooked.

Oceans regulate climate, sustain life and provide food security while also offering immense economic opportunities through sustainable fisheries, marine tourism and renewable ocean energy.

"Recognizing the vital role oceans play, we launched the Blue

Oceans Community this year to drive impactful action for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources in Asia," says Lim Seok Hui, CEO of the Philanthropy Asia Alliance.

"Through initiatives like scaling marine protection alongside sustainable fisheries management, advancing blue carbon solutions and conducting vital marine biodiversity surveys, the community is fostering cross-sector collaboration to secure a sustainable blue economy.

"We invite more members and partners to join us in advancing this collective mission and amplifying impact for our oceans."

At the August Leadership Meetings, an ocean venture investment fund was proposed to channel capital into the blue ecosystem, attracting more financing from institutional investors through philanthropic engagement.

"The World Economic Forum's GAEA initiative is creating great partnerships between philanthropists, governments and businesses to have a lot of catalytic impact.

"I am experiencing it with my OceanX initiative working with others in support of ocean innovation and conservation and as a co-chair of the committee, I am seeing it happen in several other areas," says Ray Dalio, founder of Dalio Family Office.

Co-creating the journey to sustainability

The next decade is going to be crucial to keep momentum towards a sustainable future and avoid the world losing hope. We will need coordinated, unified action to overcome political, economic and institutional barriers.

GAEA (Giving to Amplify Earth Action) is leading this charge. Initiatives such as the GAEA Awards this year at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025 in Davos, Switzerland, are spotlighting clear evidence that it is possible for systems change and collaboration across value chains to push systems forward in half the time.

With a clear roadmap and growing momentum, it's time for bold, collective action to create lasting change. Those who lead in climate finance will shape the global economy, securing both the planet's future and economic stability.

Why the private sector is key to building a safer, more sustainable world for children

By Catherine Russell

THE world is a tough place for millions of children who are facing conflicts, climate-related disasters, economic instability and a growing digital divide - all of which are threatening their lives, development and well-being.

As UNICEF's Global Outlook 2025 - Prospects for Children report shows, the outlook for children 2025 doesn't look much better. With only five years remaining before the global deadline to secure a sustainable future is reached, two-thirds of the child-related UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators are at risk of not being achieved unless there is immediate, accelerated action.

The scale of children's humanitarian needs is at a historically high level, with more children impacted every day. In 2025, we estimate that 213 million children in 146 countries and territories will need humanitarian assistance over the course of the year - a staggeringly high number.

Humanitarian and climate crises hitting children

This includes crises in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine. But it also includes humanitarian emergencies in places like Burkina Faso, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, and Myanmar - places that are not often featured in global media coverage.

At the same time, children are at growing risk from the intensifying climate crisis. Today, more than 1 billion children - nearly half the world's children - live in countries that are at extremely high-risk for the impacts of climate change.

They are increasingly exposed to droughts and heatwaves, more powerful storms and more extensive flooding, air pollution and disease. Disasters linked to climate change are disrupting children's supplies of nutritious food and safe water; and they are undermining essential social service delivery.

Climate change and conflict are also forcing children to leave their homes and communities - often multiple times. At the end of 2023, nearly 50 million children were displaced due to conflict, violence, and natural disasters - accounting for 40% of all forcibly displaced people globally.

Extreme weather including floods, droughts and storms are displacing an estimated 20,000 children every day. And, on average, children's displacement lasts five years, meaning that many children spend up to a



Harnessing the innovation of the private sector is key to building bridges and resilience for children in a highly fragmented world.

quarter of their childhood in host locations, often with their basic rights denied.

Funding not enough to meet humanitarian needs

Unfortunately, funding is not keeping pace with the growing humanitarian needs. UNICEF depends on flexible humanitarian funding, or funding that is not earmarked for specific emergencies, to respond quickly to emerging crises, anticipate future risks, and equitably allocate resources to where they are needed most. This is also critical for reaching children in emergencies that have been largely forgotten by the international community.

The private sector can play a critical role in revers-

ing this trend by supporting with flexible resources and technical expertise, both of which will help us to save children's lives and strengthen the social systems that they rely on for the longer term.

The private sector can also play a key role in helping to mitigate the negative impacts of the climate crisis on children. It has the expertise, resources, and capacity to effect substantial transformations in addressing climate change with innovation, speed, and scale. By leveraging these capabilities, we can multiply the impacts of climate action.

UNICEF's Today and Tomorrow Initiative (TTI) is the world's first climate risk financing platform for children, aiming to reduce the number

of children directly impacted by tropical cyclone disasters, while building communities' resilience.

Up to \$100 million in coverage via a child-focused parametric insurance policy is being provided in eight pilot countries - reaching an estimated 13.5 million children and their family members over three years. By working with more private sector partners on this initiative, we could expand its impact to cover other climate-related disasters in more geographical areas.

Beyond climate change and conflict, economic crises and poverty also affect the lives of millions of children. Today, nearly 400 million children live in countries in debt distress. In 2024, developing countries spent 14% of government revenues on interest payments alone - double what they spent 15 years ago.

The debt crisis, compounded by declining quality official development assistance (ODA), means that countries are not investing adequately in areas like education and healthcare, which undermines their ability to repay the debt and creates a damaging cycle of intergenerational poverty.

The most vulnerable children, including girls and those with disabilities, suffer disproportionately from the loss of essential services. This failure

to invest fully in children's futures directly affects business by limiting the availability of skilled, educated workers in the future. It is imperative that the private sector joins advocacy efforts for debt relief and supports the development of innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, to ensure investment in current and future generations.

UNICEF is exploring how sovereign debt solutions could play a role in the achievement of the sustainable development goals for children through financial restructuring with the objective of enabling indebted countries to make their debt more manageable in exchange for achieving pre-agreed benchmarks for children.

Private sector key to delivering digital services to children

The private sector has a key role to play in the delivery of digital services to children and families. Today, nearly 26% of people in low-income countries are connected to the internet, compared to more than 95% in high-income countries. Far too many children - especially girls - remain locked out of the internet, reflecting a mix of affordability, the absence of basic infrastructure, including electricity and broadband, and weak digital skills and literacy.

Digital inequalities risk

being deepened in a world where government services are increasingly delivered through digital public infrastructure (DPI). The growing focus on DPI is a welcome step towards digital transformation. But realizing DPI's potential - and minimizing the risks to marginalized children - will require a concerted effort from governments, international organizations and the private sector.

The challenges we face are global, but the solutions must address both global and local needs. We need systems that go beyond service delivery to build resilience into every area of a child's life so that they don't just respond, they anticipate.

This could include disaster preparedness frameworks to safeguard communities, inclusive healthcare that responds to both immediate and future risks, or education systems that can adapt during emergencies.

To navigate this changing global environment, meet the SDG child-related targets and ensure that we can deliver on our promise of equity - for every child, everywhere - we must scale up with the private sector to deliver action on child rights and ensure that children are protected, supported, and able to thrive.

Chinese tourists hoped to boost tourism growth as Egypt hosts record number of visitors in 2024

CAIRO

IT has always been my dream to travel to Egypt. Its rich civilization, full of mysteries and stories, captivates me," said Ji Siqi, a Chinese tourist who kick-started her seven-day trip to Egypt with a visit to the Egyptian Museum in downtown Cairo.

At the museum, a Chinese family, who identified themselves only by their surname Rui, said they were impressed by the abundance of Egypt's cultural relics and historic sites.

"Children should learn about ancient civilizations to broaden their horizons, so we come here," the mother of the family told Xinhua, as they neared the end of their 13-day family trip that covers destinations including the cities of Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, and the Red Sea resort city of Hurghada.

Both Ji and the Rui family are among the tens of thousands of Chinese visitors traveling to Egypt, an increasingly popular destination located about 7,000 km from China.

In 2024, about 300,000 Chinese tourists visited the North Af-

rican country, home to the world-renowned pyramids and temples, the Chinese embassy in Egypt revealed in mid-December. Egyptian authorities said the figure represented a remarkable 63 per cent increase compared to 2023.

Chinese tourists are part of the 15.7 million visitors who arrived in Egypt in 2024. This figure surpasses the previous record of 14.9 million set in 2023 and marks the second consecutive year Egypt has exceeded its 2010 tourism peak of 14.7 million visitors, according to Egyptian authorities.

In a statement released by the Egyptian cabinet on Jan. 1, Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly announced that the country aims to attract 18 million visitors in 2025.

Analysts say that with the strong relations between the two countries, the Chinese market will undoubtedly play a key role in driving the expansion of Egypt's tourism sector this year.

As part of its ambitious strategy to expand its share of the Chinese tourism market, Egypt aims to attract 3 million Chinese tourists annually by 2028, former Egyptian Minister of Tourism and



Antiquities Ahmed Issa announced in November 2023.

At the 2024 China Outbound Travel and Tourism Market, a trade fair held in Beijing in October 2024, Egyptian tourism authorities revealed that a series of measures have been taken to attract more Chinese tourists, including adding Chinese-language signage at tourist sites, encouraging hotels to serve Chinese cuisine, and hiring more Chinese-speaking tour guides.

Amr El-Kady, CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Authority, highlighted Egypt's willingness to collaborate with Chinese trav-

el agencies on joint marketing campaigns to provide Chinese tourists with an updated and enriched travel experience.

El-Kady also noted that Egypt's official tourism website is now available in Chinese, offering comprehensive information on tourist attractions, activities, and upcoming events in the country.

Mohamed Othman, chairman of the Cultural Tourism Marketing Committee in Upper Egypt, noted that Chinese tourists now prefer destinations with historical sites, natural beauty, and modern amenities, making Egypt a popular choice.

He urged Egyptian travel agencies to strengthen cooperation with Chinese companies and increase flight connections between the two countries.

On RedNote, China's Instagram-like social media platform, thousands of users have shared their travel experiences in Egypt, offering reviews and insights that highlight their unique cultural explorations.

"I would definitely consider coming back for a second trip, because there are still many sights in Cairo I haven't explored, and I didn't get the chance to dive deep into the local culture," said Fang Zixuan, a visitor from Shanghai, on her last day in Egypt.

Kenyan social enterprise out to counter effects of textile waste

NAIROBI

HOME-grown businesses in Africa are developing a new industry to tackle the environmental damage created by fast fashion.

Upcycling, where poor quality, discarded clothes are made into desirable products, is becoming more widespread in countries like Kenya.

Social enterprise group Africa Collect Textiles (ACT) employs women at a factory in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to create something new out of fashion waste.

The country imports around 200,000 tonnes of used textiles each year, a lot of which ends up in landfills.

There it takes years to decompose, generating the greenhouse gas, methane, and releasing toxic chemicals and dyes into the soil and groundwater.

But ACT aims to be part of the solution.

Operating in both Kenya and Nigeria, it says the problem is that many developing countries lack the infrastructure to dispose of textile waste in an environmentally-friendly way.

ACT has set up collection bins in high traffic areas like malls and universities where people can easily

dispose of old clothes.

These are collected and are sorted in the workshop according to their quality and wearability.

"When these clothes reach the landfills, they are either burnt to reduce their volume or they are left to decay. What we do not know is that some of the clothes that are being made right now take almost 200 years to decompose," says ACT's communication manager, Nathalie Naina.

"The solution ACT is providing is one that rather provides a zero waste solution, low carbon emissions, but also kick starts a circular ecosystem for textile in the world."

Many of the products produced by ACT are sold at The Artisanal Gallery in Nairobi, co-founded by Crista Victoria Mehta.

The high-end store is a far cry from the teaming markets where traders do their best to sell off tonnes of discarded textiles, most of it used clothes rejected by other countries.

She says people are becoming more selective in what they buy and they consciously look for items which add value to the local economy without damaging their environment.

"We are able to tell people that this is not just a basket or a carpet but is actually



made from jeans material, it immediately invokes a sense of a more conscious buying decision," she says.

"They suddenly know that if they have footwear or textiles lying in the house, they can come and donate it and it is going to be rebirthed into a beautiful product that others can buy."

African countries like Kenya often bear the brunt of fast fashion waste.

But the products produced by ACT are not only a testament to the creativity of the seamstresses, but also add value to the local economy without damaging the environment.

"With organisations like

ACT, they are trying to put recycling systems, infrastructure in the country so that we can collect these clothes from people," says Betterman Simidi, founder of Clean Up Kenya.

He says every step towards cleaning the environment should be encouraged. "We can even resell them

just to extend their end of life. But also, we can try and find recycling solutions for this clothing."

Textile waste is an urgent global problem, with only 12 per cent recycled worldwide, according to fashion sustainability non-profit Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Even less, only one per

cent are cast-off clothes recycled into new garments.

It says this is a global problem which needs global solutions.

In the meantime, ventures like Africa Collect Textiles are doing what they can to tackle the textile waste.

Mpox cases in Africa over 77,800 as death toll climbs to 1,321 -CDC

ADDIS ABABA

THE number of mpox cases reported in Africa since the start of last year has surpassed 77,800, with the death toll rising to 1,321, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has disclosed.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya, address-

ing an online media briefing on Thursday evening, said the African continent has reported 77,888 mpox cases since the start of 2024, including 16,767 confirmed cases and 1,321 deaths.

Sierra Leone became the latest African country to report mpox cases as it confirmed its first outbreak on January 10, bringing the total

number of affected countries to 21, according to Kaseya.

Data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency show that among the 21 affected countries, 13 are currently experiencing active transmission of the mpox virus.

Noting that eight African countries are currently in the control phase, the Africa CDC chief said that four of these

countries – South Africa, Gabon, Morocco, and Zimbabwe – have gone more than 90 days without any confirmed mpox cases.

The Central Africa region remains the most affected by the ongoing mpox outbreak, which has affected all five regions of Africa, both in terms of the number of cases and the death toll.

Kaseya outlined the Africa CDC's key priorities for the next three months in the fight against the virus, including intensifying the response in hotspot areas through the deployment of epidemiologists and community health workers.

He said countries need to decentralize mpox testing, enhance laboratory infrastructure, and combat misinforma-

tion about the virus.

In mid-August last year, the Africa CDC declared the mpox outbreak a public health emergency of continental security. Shortly afterward, the World Health Organization designated the viral disease as a public health emergency of international concern, marking the second time in two years it activated its highest level

of global alert for mpox.

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, was first detected in laboratory monkeys in 1958. It is a rare viral disease typically transmitted through body fluids, respiratory droplets, and other contaminated materials. The infection often causes fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.



Gold set for third straight weekly gain

BENGALURU

Gold prices eased during the end of last week, but were still headed for a third consecutive week of gains, as US inflation data and dovish comments from a Federal Reserve official revived hopes the central bank might cut interest rates more than once this year.

Spot gold fell 0.3 percent to \$2,706.71 per ounce as of 0941 GMT on Friday last week. Bullion has gained about 0.6 percent so far this week.

US gold futures dropped 0.7 percent to \$2,732.00.

"Gold gained support this week, buoyed by weaker-than-expected US economic data, including PPI and CPI figures, alongside dovish remarks from Federal Reserve policymakers," said Zain Vawda, market analyst at MarketPulse by OANDA.

"Persistent uncertainties surrounding 2025 further bolstered the metal's appeal."

US data released on Wednesday last week showed softer-than-expected core inflation, raising bets on a Fed rate cut, with rate futures traders pricing in nearly even odds of two cuts by year-end.

Echoing this sentiment, Fed Governor Christopher Waller said three or four cuts could be possible if US economic data weakens further.

Gold is considered an inflation hedge, while lower rates boost the non-yielding asset's allure.

As President-elect Donald Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration approaches, attention is also centred on his policies, which could stimulate inflation. He has pledged to impose trade tariffs.

"While upside risk to inflation increases

the prospects of shallower rate cuts, this also means lower or steady real rates which will be supportive for gold investment," ANZ said in a note.

"We expect exchange-traded funds flows to turn positive after three years of consecutive outflows."

Fitch Ratings: The agency suggests a potential consolidation of the gold price down to \$2,000 per ounce in 2025, with a further decline to \$1,800 in 2026.

This outlook is based on expectations of decreasing demand and profit-taking due to the high gold prices, as well as a slowdown in central bank buying activity.

Elsewhere, gold discounts in India increased to their widest in six months as a rise in domestic prices dampened demand and jewellers awaited the annual federal budget.

Strategists at J.P. Morgan, led by Natasha Kaneva, forecast that gold will average \$2,950 per ounce in 2025, with potential to rise towards \$3,000.

This projection is linked to anticipated economic disruptions and inflationary pressures due to the upcoming Trump administration's policies.

Capital Economics, the research firm projects modest gold price growth to around \$2,750 per ounce by the end of 2025, driven by renewed Chinese demand and central bank purchases, despite expectations of a stronger dollar and rising Treasury yields.

Spot silver was down 0.9 percent to \$30.49 per ounce. Palladium eased 0.5 percent to \$936.31.

Platinum added 0.6 percent to \$937.50 but set to register its worst week since November.

Tanzania honey fetches wider exports markets

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

TANZANIA honey products continue to carve own niche in capturing foreign markets following a Tabora-based company to secure a vast market for the natural sweet syrup in some overseas countries.

Earlier this month, the Tanzania International Bee Company, exported at least 12 tons of organic honey to Albania and Kosovo in southern Europe, as well as in North Macedonia and Serbia.

The company has sealed a deal with the world's reputable food company, RR NTS BESI, for the exportation of 150 tons of organic bulk honey per year.

Musiba Kitema, the director of Tanzania International Bee Company told The Guardian during an exclusive interview that the achievements resulted from improved efforts by the government to heighten the economic sector.

"Currently, among others, the government has worked to put in place a workable Digital Traceability System (DTS) which assists the foreign companies to trace the whole stages involved in the honey value chain through a tailor-made code," he said.

He added, the cloud-connected system is providing technical opportunity for the foreign honey purchaser companies to be assured over the quality of the locally produced honey, exacerbating to influx of the companies in Tanzania.



Kitema stated that although the foreign honey market attracts good prices, the company is working to start exporting finished processed and packaged products.

"For instance, currently the company buys one kg of organic raw honey from between 3.5 and 4 USD, but after processing, they market it in their overseas markets at a better price of between 50 and 60 USD per kg," he informed.

He underscored over the need for the local honey producers to work teeth and nail in order to export the proceeded honey in order to realize attracting profits.

However, he expressed, as per the agreement entered with the company, after processing the honey, the company is supposed

to package it under the local brand name in order to market Tanzania's honey products globally," he said.

"Formerly we exported honey to Netherlands whereby they packaged it under the brand name of 'Kilimanjaro Honey' and the consignment which we exported recently will be marketed under the name of 'Tabora Honey'," he informed.

He said the company, Tanzania International Bee Company, is in contract with over 200 beekeepers in Katavi, Tabora and Kigoma so as to ensure availability of enough honey tonnages for exporting.

"We're assisting the beekeepers under the contract on better ways to produce improved products

which reflects the needed international standards," he added.

He hailed the newly refurbished Tanzania Beekeeping Development Organization (TABEDO) for working diligently to support the smooth growth of the sector.

Beekeeping in Tanzania is a common economic activity practiced by both traditional and novice beekeepers in the production of bee products mainly honey and beeswax.

According to the ministry of tourism and natural resources, production potential of bee products is about 138,000 MT of honey and 9,200 MT of beeswax per annum, from estimated 9.2 million honeybee colonies.

Telephone subscription increases by 7.7pc

By Guardian Reporter

The number of telecom subscription increased by 7.7 percent during the fourth quarter of last year to 86.8 million from 80.7 million during the quarter ending September 2024, latest communication statistics by Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) have shown.

During the quarter under review, distribution of telecom subscriptions per region shows Dar es Salaam ranked first by having 15.98 million of all active subscriptions, Mwanza ranked second with 5.75 million subscriptions, Arusha ranked third with 5.23 million subscriptions.

Other top regions include Mbeya, which was ranked fourth with 4.99 million subscriptions and Dodoma ranked fifth by having 4.64 million of all active subscriptions.

Regions with the lowest contribution to the country's total subscriptions are Kaskazini Unguja 79,398 subscriptions, Kusini Unguja 119,480 subscriptions, and Kusini Pemba 134,017 subscriptions.



Vodacom was leading the market (31 percent) followed by Yas (30 percent) and Airtel (23 percent).

For M2M, Vodacom was leading the market with more than half (54.0 percent) of all M2M subscriptions. Airtel ranks second with 33.5 percent, followed by Halotel with 7.2 percent.

The report shows no difference in charges when calling within and outside the network.

All operators charged 30/- per

minute, except Halotel Tanzania who charged 10/- (on-net) and 20/- (off-net) per minute.

The industry average for local voice tariff in the quarter ending December 2024 remained the same at 26/- and 28/- per minute for on-net and off-net respectively, as in quarter ending September 2024.

The report further shows that RoW voice tariffs differ across networks, unlike local tariffs with the exception of Halotel.

Further, December had the highest traffic compared to other months of the quarter.

The report indicates that more on-net and off-net traffic were generated in the Airtel network (38.2 percent and 29.0 percent, respectively).

The traffic minutes to international increased by 25 percent. Moreover, there was an increase of 14 percent in traffic minutes from international.

This result shows that subscribers originated more calls to international than received from international in this quarter.

OPEC's share in India's annual oil imports jumps after 8-year drop

NEW DELHI

OPEC's share in India's crude oil imports edged up in 2024, rising for the first time in nine years, while top supplier Russia's share remained steady, data obtained from trade sources showed.

Russia's share in the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer is expected to drop in 2025 after Washington last Friday announced sweeping sanctions targeting Russian producers and tankers, disrupting supply from the world's No. 2 producer to India and China and tightening ship availability.

India imported 4.84 million barrels per day of oil in 2024, up 4.3 percent from the previous year, the data showed.

The share of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in India's

2024 crude imports rose to nearly 51.5 percent, up from 49.6 percent in 2023, while Russia's share in 2024 remained at about 36 percent, the data showed.

There is higher demand for Middle Eastern barrels from Asia refiners, especially India, due to lower Russian supplies, said Priti Mehta, senior research analyst at consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

Indian refiners have stepped up purchases of Middle Eastern grades since late 2024 as Russian supplies fell, refining sources told Reuters last month.

The share of Middle Eastern oil in India's December crude imports rose to a 22-month high to about 52 percent, the data showed.

However, Russia continued to be the top oil supplier to India, followed by Iraq and



Saudi Arabia in December.

In recent years, Russia became India's top supplier as its refiners were drawn to Russian oil sold at a discount after

Western nations imposed a price cap and shunned purchases from Moscow. That caused OPEC's market share in India to shrink to nearly 50

percent in 2023 from 64.5 percent in 2022.

OPEC's share has also been consistently declining since 2016 as Indian refiners diversi-

fied their purchases to reduce costs.

As of January 19, 2025, the global oil market is experiencing notable developments influenced by supply dynamics, geopolitical factors, and policy changes.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that in 2025, global oil production will surpass demand, leading to downward pressure on prices.

Specifically, the EIA forecasts Brent crude oil prices to average \$74 per barrel in 2025, an 8 percent decrease from 2024, with a further decline to \$66 per barrel anticipated in 2026. This trend is attributed to an expected increase in global oil production by 1.8 million barrels per day (b/d) in 2025, reaching 104.7 million b/d, while demand is projected to rise by 1.05 million b/d,

totaling 104 million b/d.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) notes that new US sanctions on Russia, announced on January 10, 2025, target major oil producers and numerous tankers, complicating oil trade logistics and potentially affecting supply flows.

Additionally, there is heightened speculation regarding a stricter US stance on Iran's oil exports, which could further influence market dynamics.

Despite these geopolitical tensions, the overall market outlook suggests a trend toward lower oil prices due to anticipated oversupply. The IEA's forecast aligns with this perspective, projecting a decrease in Brent crude oil prices to \$74 per barrel in 2025 and \$66 per barrel in 2026.

Kilosa tomato farmers trained on crop processing

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has bankrolled a special training aimed at imparting the tomato growers and entrepreneurs in Kilosa district of Morogoro region with key technical knowledge to process the popular edible berry fruit.

The four -days agro- clinic, conducted in sync between the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Kibaha center and the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) brought together a total of 15 beneficiaries.

Held in Dumila town, Kilosa district, the timely training is part of the ongoing project, christened 'Reducing Post-Harvest Losses and Increasing Farmers' Income Through Tomato Products', which is being implemented by TARI Kibaha under financial auspicious from COSTECH.

This training aims to empower the participants on simple, but better tomato processing skills, as well as shaping their business management," said Dr. Mariam Mtunguja, the lead researcher and the coordinator of the project.

Dr Mtunguja stated that, since tomato is one of the short- time perishable crops, most of the farmers and sellers of the fruit often incur economic losses, thus a need to process it in their own shadow.

She added that, through the project, the state-owned agricultural institute determines to ensure the local tomato produce and sellers are benefiting from their executions, saying plans are afoot to extend the similar training to more areas.

Speaking for her part, Elina Dastan, the Kilosa district Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperation Officer (DAICO) hailed the COSTECH for supporting the training, as well



Experts from the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Kibaha center and the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) during a workshop to train tomatoes farmers in Kilosa district, Morogoro region on tomato processing. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

as TARI and SIDO.

She observed, the initiative will play a catalyst role to improve livelihood among the tomato farmers in

the district.

"Hopefully, after this training the participants will be able to conduct their business more successful, the

development which will see them pocketing improved profits," she said.

She highlighted some key ar-

reas which the participants will be trained as efficient tomato drying technologies, packaging techniques that increase the shelf life of dried tomato products, production of more valuable tomato products, as well as business management and profitability analysis.

She challenged the participants to make brave use of the training in order to acquire better skills, but also to become good ambassadors for imparting their counterparts with the vital knowledge.

Tomato farming is a crucial part of Tanzania's agricultural landscape, with tomatoes being the largest vegetable crop grown predominantly by smallholder farmers.

Despite this, the varieties cultivated often lack resistance to pests and diseases, resulting in low yields. The fragility of tomatoes also poses significant challenges during transportation, leading to high post-harvest losses.

CMC Motors to cease operations in E.Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

CMC Motors Group has announced its decision to gradually wind down operations in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda in full compliance with local regulations and distributorship agreements.

This decision follows a thorough evaluation of the business in light of sustained market challenges, including economic pressures, currency depreciation, and rising operational costs.

Over the past 40 years, CMC Motors Group has played a vital role in supporting East Africa's agricultural sector through the delivery of quality service, mechanization solutions, and steadfast support to its customers.

However, despite restructuring efforts and a transformation program initiated in 2023, the market conditions have not provided a sustainable path forward.

The company is committed to supporting its employees during this transition and will ensure a smooth and orderly wind-down in adherence to all relevant agreements and regulations.

In April 2023, the company laid off 169 employees and exited the passenger vehicle market.

The declining sales of various models of vehicles by CMC Motors over the years has seen rivals seize the dealership rights.

In March 2024, CMC lost its dealership of UD Trucks to Isuzu East Africa. In 2022, CMC Motors lost the Renault truck dealership to Caetano Kenya.

This followed another string of losses in its dealership of Jaguar Land Rover to Inchcape and Suzuki cars franchise in 2018 to Toyota Kenya.

Other subsidiaries under CMC Holdings Ltd include Cooper Motor Corporation (Uganda) Ltd, Hughes Motors (Tanzania) Ltd, and a 33 percent shareholding in Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers Ltd.

By Kyle Wiggers & Anthony Ha

TikTok has gone dark in the US, the result of a federal law that bans the popular short-form video app for millions of Americans – at least for now.

TikTok users began receiving a message about the ban around 10:30 p.m. Eastern. As of Saturday evening, the app was also no longer available in the Apple or Google Play app stores.

"Sorry, TikTok isn't available right now," the company's message reads. "A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now."

The message also suggests this may only be a temporary disappearance. TikTok credits President-elect Donald Trump for indicating "he will work with us on a solution to reinstate TikTok once he takes office," with users urged to "stay tuned!"

The company warned earlier this week the app's disappearance was imminent, saying Friday that it would "go dark" unless President Joe Biden's administration made a "definitive statement" that it wouldn't enforce the ban.

Bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate passed last April a law requiring TikTok's owner ByteDance to either sell the app or see it banned in the United States due to concerns over potential Chinese surveillance, with Biden quickly signing the bill. And while efforts to force ByteDance to divest go back to Trump's first administration, he has taken a different tone recently. Trump asked the Supreme Court to delay the ban and said he would "most likely" give the company a 90-day extension.

The Supreme Court issued a ruling upholding the law Friday; and the Biden administration seemed inclined to leave the app's fate in the hands of the next president. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre noted that with the law taking effect right before Trump's inauguration on Monday, "actions to implement the law simply must fall to the next Administration." Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco issued a similar statement that "the

TikTok goes dark in the United States



next phase of this effort – implementing and ensuring compliance with the law after it goes into effect on January 19 – will be a process that plays out over time."

TikTok, however, suggested this was not enough assurance for "critical service providers" to continue listing or hosting the app in the United States unless the Biden administration made the aforementioned "definitive statement." Jean-Pierre called TikTok's response "a stunt" and claimed there's "no reason for TikTok or other companies to take actions in the next few days before the Trump administration takes office on Monday."

Stunt or not, TikTok is gone for now.

As for the app's long-term prospects, Trump has said he plans to "negotiate a resolution" that would presumably involve a sale or other concessions from ByteDance, which has repeatedly said it's not interested in selling yet seems optimistic about its prospects under Trump.

Trump reiterated to NBC News on Saturday that he will "most likely" give TikTok a 90-day reprieve from the ban once he takes office Monday.

"I think that would be, certainly, an option that we look at. The 90-day extension is something that will be most likely done, because it's appropriate. You know, it's appropriate. We have to look at it carefully. It's a very big situation," Trump told the

outlet.

Many potential buyers have thrown their hats in the ring, hoping for a shot at TikTok's 170 million users, from billionaire Frank McCourt making a "people's bid" to Perplexity AI proposing a merger.

There was even a report suggesting that the Chinese government was considering a sale to Elon Musk as part of a broader deal with the Trump administration. A TikTok spokesperson called that report "pure fiction."

In the meantime, alternative Chinese-owned apps like RedNote and Lemon8 have received a boost as TikTok users search for alternatives.

Trump's inauguration marks new era for cryptocurrency

By Tom Wilson,

Advocates and holders of crypto will soon influence US policy on the emerging technology after a slew of nominations and advisory appointments by President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office on Monday.

The crypto industry has spent years fighting lawsuits and enforcement actions by the US government. It hopes the incoming Trump administration will mark a shift in policy. Political appointees will be vetted for potential conflicts. Some have committed to selling their interests.

The industry is hosting a sold-out black tie ball in Washington on Friday, with tickets ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000. David Sacks, Trump's artificial intelligence and crypto czar, is scheduled to attend. Below are some facts on the crypto positions of key members of the incoming administration and Trump's inner circle.

A billionaire hedge fund manager, Trump's pick to be Treasury Secretary has spoken favorably about crypto.

"Crypto is about freedom and the

crypto economy is here to stay," he told Fox News in July. "I think everything is on the table with bitcoin." According to a financial disclosure filed last month, Bessent holds shares in a BlackRock bitcoin exchange-traded fund worth between \$250,001 and \$500,000. Bessent will divest his interests in the fund and other investments within 90 days of his confirmation, he wrote last week to the U.S. Treasury. Bessent did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump's choice for Secretary of Commerce is a vocal supporter of bitcoin. Lutnick is CEO of New York brokerage firm Cantor Fitzgerald, which earns fees to manage billions of dollars' worth of U.S. Treasuries for Tether, the company that issues the eponymous stablecoin.

"Do I own bitcoin? Of course I do," Lutnick said at the Bitcoin 2024 conference in July. "Does Cantor Fitzgerald own bitcoin? A shedload of bitcoin." Lutnick did not respond to a request for comment.

The Tesla chief and world's richest man, chosen by Trump to oversee a government cost-cutting effort, the



Incoming US President Donald Trump and outgoing Joe Biden

so-called Department of Government Efficiency, has long championed crypto including bitcoin and dogecoin.

His public comments and actions of his companies have in recent years influenced the price of bitcoin and dogecoin, a smaller token conceived as a joke during an earlier crypto bubble. The acronym for

Musk's cost-cutting agency, DOGE, is a nod to dogecoin, which is now the world's seventh-biggest crypto token based on its circulation of \$4.5 billion, according to data provider CoinGecko. In 2021 Tesla bought \$1.5 billion of bitcoin, becoming one of the biggest companies to own crypto before selling most of its holdings. It held unspecified digital assets total-

ing \$184 million in September 2024, a company financial report showed. Musk did not respond to a request for comment sent via Tesla on what crypto assets he may hold.

Set to work with Musk at DOGE, the former presidential candidate and entrepreneur is the founder of Strive Asset Management. Strive, which said in September it managed over \$1 billion in assets, last month filed to launch an exchange-traded fund that invests in corporate bonds for bitcoin investments.

The company's wealth management arm, launched in November, seeks to integrate bitcoin into Americans' investment portfolios, Ramaswamy said in a press release.

In June 2023, Ramaswamy held \$100,001 to \$250,000 of bitcoin and \$15,001 to \$50,000 worth of the smaller token ether, according to a financial disclosure.

A former PayPal executive, Sacks was appointed White House artificial intelligence and crypto czar in December, tasked with developing a U.S. legal framework long sought by the crypto industry.

Sacks is a co-founder of venture capital firm Craft Ventures. The firm has invested in crypto firms including BitGo and Bitwise, its website shows.

Sacks did not respond to requests for comment.

Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, a real estate tycoon and donor to the incoming president, founded crypto venture World Liberty Financial in November.

World Liberty, which sells a proprietary token, lists on its website Trump as among those entitled to a large share of any of the company's revenues. Witkoff did not respond to requests for comment.

Eric Trump told Reuters last year he was very involved in World Liberty, which he, his elder brother Don Jr. - seen as the most influential family member in the presidential transition - and younger half-brother Barron helped to form.

Eric told a bitcoin conference in December the technology was a "financial revolution," and that his father would make the United States the crypto capital of the world.

WHO 'makes last-ditch effort to keep US from leaving as Trump takes over'

LONDON/GENEVA

THE World Health Organization is drawing up a list of reasons why the US should remain in the WHO for its own good, two sources familiar with the process told Reuters, as part of an attempt by its supporters to lobby incoming President Donald Trump.

Trump moved to quit the UN health agency during his last presidency and is expected to take similar steps in his new administration, possibly as soon as he is inaugurated on Monday.

The US is the WHO's biggest donor, and experts agree its exit would be a blow for the Geneva agency and the health of the world more broadly. But it could also leave the US out in the cold during emerging outbreaks as well as for routine disease surveillance, which could impact the country's national security and pharmaceutical industry, the list suggests.

The WHO has not pushed publicly for a change of heart from its member state, instead saying the administration needs time and they hoped to continue the partnership for the health of the world.

The list comes at the request of prominent American global health advocates, one of them told Reuters, saying they would use it to stress the risk to the US of a WHO



The logo of the World Health Organization is seen at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, June 11, 2019. AP

exit. "It would be a deep wound to the WHO, to health globally, but an even more grievous wound to the US national interest and we are making that case as forcefully as we can," said Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health at Georgetown University in Washington and director of the WHO Collaborating Center on National and Global Health Law.

Even if Trump announces his decision on day one of his presidency, by domestic law there is a one-year notice period before the US leaves the agency, during which time the advocates - including scientists, businesses, former officials and civil society - hope to change his mind.

It is not yet clear if they will present their findings directly to the Trump transition team or via a public letter.

Other figures have also campaigned for the WHO in recent weeks, including former British prime minister and WHO envoy Gordon Brown.

Health sources said the WHO has also been holding meetings and preparing for months, and is ready to argue its case.

"I know they have been identifying activities of WHO which would still be in the interest of the

US, even in the eyes of a Trump administration," said a Geneva-based diplomat from a major donor country, briefed on the WHO's preparations.

The list outlines how the US outside the WHO would be deprived of vital information about any emerging disease - including H5N1 avian flu - that could become the next pandemic, the sources said.

"If we hollowed WHO out ... that is going to come back to the US. Germs don't respect borders," said Gostin.

It also details the importance of access to international flu surveillance data as well as the cost for US pharmaceutical companies of missing out on the latest WHO information.

The World Health Organization did not respond to a request for comment on the list.

Gostin and two other experts in America said other steps may be taken in the next 12 months if Trump signals a plan to exit, including potential lawsuits questioning whether the administration can leave without consulting Congress, which made the decision to join the WHO in 1948.



UN chief urges Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory

BEIRUT

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory within the agreed timeframe.

"It is now essential to see the withdrawal of the Israel Defense forces from Lebanese territory and the simultaneous deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces across southern Lebanon in the agreed timeframe," Guterres said at a press conference held in Beirut to conclude his two-day visit to the country.

"Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected, and the Lebanese state must have full control of weapons throughout Lebanese territory," he added.

He emphasized the importance of implementing UN Resolution 1701 in all its dimensions.

"The United Nations - including through the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon and UNIFIL - is committed to supporting the parties uphold their obligations under resolution 1701 and ensuring that the cessation of hostilities holds," he said.

"This would lay a platform for the full implementation of the resolution and its ultimate goal, a permanent ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel," he noted.

Responding to a question about guarantees for maintaining the ceasefire in Lebanon, Guterres said he is convinced that the agreement that was established between Hezbollah and Israel will be respected.

He called on both parties to ensure commitments to the ceasefire are realized, adding that the newly established mechanism should be used to address outstanding issues.

The UN chief also vowed to support Lebanon throughout its reconstruction process.

"Working hand-in-hand with Lebanese authorities and partners, the United Nations will intensify our support for recovery and reconstruction across Lebanon," he said.

He also praised the missions conducted by UNIFIL troops in Lebanon, saying they carried out more than 730 missions in close cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces, facilitating their redeployment to more than 50 positions.

He added that UNIFIL has also facilitated 39 humanitarian missions - in coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Lebanese Red Cross, various UN entities, and NGOs.



In this Dec 1, 2018, file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with the then US President Donald Trump in Buenos Aires, Argentina. XINHUA

Xi tells Trump nations can be partners, friends

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping held a telephone conversation on Friday with United States President-elect Donald Trump, in which he congratulated Trump on being elected for the second time as US president.

Trump thanked Xi for his congratulations and said he cherishes his great relationship with Xi. In addition, the two heads of state exchanged views on major international and regional issues of common concern, such as the Ukraine crisis and the Palestine-Israel conflict.

"The two heads of state agreed to establish strategic communication channels and maintain regular contacts on major issues of common concern for the two countries," the Foreign Ministry said in a news release.

During the conversation, Xi noted that both leaders attach great importance to their interactions, and both hope that China-US relations will have a good start in the new US president's term. He also said that he is willing to push for greater progress in China-US ties from a new starting point.

Xi emphasized that "the two great countries, China and the US, are both pursuing their own dreams" and are committed to enabling their peoples to live a better life.

The two countries "have broad common interests and vast room for cooperation", and they can become partners and friends, enable each other's success, achieve common prosperity and benefit both countries and the world, he added.

Xi noted that it is inevitable that China and the US - two major countries with different national conditions - will have some divergences between them.

"The key is to respect each other's core interests and major concerns" and find a proper solution to problems, he said.

Trump said he hopes to maintain dialogue and communication and is looking forward to meeting with Xi at an early date.

The US president-elect added that

the US and China are the most important countries in the world today and should maintain long-lasting friendship and work together to safeguard world peace.

Xi said the Taiwan question matters to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and he urged the US side to handle it with prudence.

The essence of China-US economic and trade ties is about mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and confrontation and conflict should not be the choice of the two countries, he said.

The two sides should strengthen cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, and they should do more major, substantial and good things to benefit the two countries and the world, Xi said.

Both sides should "keep China and the US - like two giant ships - sailing on the course of stable, healthy and sustainable development", he added.

Also on Friday, the Foreign Ministry announced in a statement that President Xi's special representative, Vice-President Han Zheng, will attend Trump's inauguration ceremony on Monday in Washington, DC.

The statement reiterated the three principles that China follows in viewing and developing its relationship with the US - "mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation".

"We stand ready to work with the new US government to enhance dialogue and communication, properly manage differences, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and jointly pursue a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship and find the right way for the two countries to get along with each other," the statement added.

Beijing's announcement of sending Han to attend Trump's inauguration ceremony shows China's unchanged commitment to constructively managing bilateral ties and the consistency of its US policy, observers said.

South Sudan imposes curfew following violent riots

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan on Friday imposed a curfew across the country in the wake of targeted revenge attacks on Sudanese nationals triggered by graphic footage on social media of South Sudanese nationals being killed in Sudan.

The curfew, which will come into force at 6 p.m., local time (1600 GMT), aims to prevent public and private property violations, the Inspector General of the South Sudan National Police Service Abraham Manyat announced on state television.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and call on citizens to report any criminal violations," he said. "The police will not tolerate any violations that harm public security and will deal with them according to the law."

Peter said four people were injured Thursday night in clashes between security forces and rioters, who attacked, looted, and vandalized businesses owned by Sudanese nationals in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The riots came after video clips circulating on social media platforms of Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) soldiers executing unarmed civilians, including South Sudanese nationals, in Wad Medani, Al Gezira State of Sudan.

There have since been attacks on Sudanese nationals in Juba, Aweil, and Warrap State, according to reports. South Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on Wednesday summoned the Sudanese Ambassador to South Sudan Isam Mohamed Hassan Karar to protest the killings of its nationals.

John Samuel Bwogo, undersecretary in South Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, has requested that the Sudan Sovereign Council allow a high-level committee from Juba to visit Wad Madani, where the alleged attacks took place.

He urged both the Sudan Sovereign Council and the rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces to protect South Sudanese nationals caught up in the violence.

Xinhua

Cultural exchanges being boosted as US TikTok users migrate to alternative Chinese app

SACRAMENTO

DRIVEN by fears of a potential TikTok ban starting Jan. 19, U.S. TikTok users found a new digital home on RedNote, a popular Chinese social media platform.

Their migration to the app, known as Xiaohongshu in China, has opened up unexpected avenues for cultural exchanges between Chinese and American users.

TikTok faces a possible ban on Sunday as the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday upheld a law that could either ban the popular app or force ByteDance to sell TikTok to an American company.

As worried U.S. TikTok creators and fans seek alternative platforms, RedNote has skyrocketed to the top of the Apple and Google App Stores on Monday.

The influx of American users onto a predominantly Chinese-

language platform sparked a lively interchange of ideas, customs and linguistic curiosities.

Language hurdles have aroused curiosity, inspiring users to exchange details of their daily lives and traditions. Participants from both nations are using the platform to learn about each other's culture and build bridges that transcend politics and geography.

Live audio chatrooms now host discussions on social differences

and help clear up misconceptions, with one popular room drawing over 200,000 users at once.

Chinese users on RedNote welcomed their American counterparts, expressing enthusiasm about this rare opportunity to direct contact. One Chinese user, named Abe, captured the mood in a post that garnered widespread attention: "We haven't been able to really talk like this for so long,

Xinhua

To define China-US relations by mutual benefit, win-win cooperation

OVER the past few years, China-U.S. relations have gone through ups and downs, but one thing remains unchanged: only through cooperation can the two countries achieve mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

The 2025 Consumer Electronics Show recently concluded in the U.S. city of Las Vegas once again demonstrated how Chinese and American interests are deeply intertwined, and proved that the two countries can

benefit from win-win cooperation.

It is reported that over 1,300 Chinese companies participated in the event, accounting for about 27 percent of all exhibitors.

The latest cooperation achievements between Chinese and American tech companies garnered substantial attention. For example, Chinese artificial intelligence company APLUX and U.S. tech giant Qualcomm jointly unveiled Ultra Magnus, the

first humanoid robot prototype. The robot can communicate freely and naturally with visitors and serve them beverages, demonstrating efficient service capabilities.

During the event, Chinese and American companies engaged in face-to-face exchanges across multiple consumer technology sectors, including artificial intelligence glasses, health wearable devices, new energy vehicles, and smart homes. The two countries boast immense potential for

cooperation, which will benefit the two peoples.

Under the current circumstances, common interests between China and the U.S. are expanding rather than shrinking. This is a sentiment shared by the vast majority of businesses and people from both sides, and serves as an important foundation for the two countries to work in the same direction for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Looking back at 2024, China hosted over 3,800

economic and trade events. American companies had the largest exhibition area at the seventh China International Import Expo, and took the largest share of overseas participation at the second China International Supply Chain Expo. Many U.S. corporate executives frequently visited China. These China-U.S. business exchanges have opened up opportunities and fostered mutual success.

The cooperation between Chinese and American enter-

prises demonstrates that as long as the two countries stay committed to mutual respect, mutual benefit, and equal-footed consultation, follow economic and market rules, and expand and deepen mutually beneficial business cooperation, they can achieve win-win outcomes.

In the past 46 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the U.S., the international situation and the bilateral relationship have gone

through tremendous changes. However, a comprehensive examination of China-U.S. relations reveals a wide range of common interests shared by the two sides, with mutual benefit and win-win cooperation being the essential characteristics of bilateral relations.

This is sufficient to enlighten both sides that they should be partners rather than rivals; help each other succeed rather than hurt each other; and seek com-

Trump arrives in Washington as inauguration celebrations begin

STERLING, Virginia

PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump arrived in the Washington area on Saturday evening for a celebration of his return to power ahead of an inauguration ceremony that has been upended by record cold temperatures.

Trump flew aboard an Air Force plane sent by outgoing President Joe Biden to the Republican's base in Palm Beach, Florida, where Trump prepared his transition after winning the Nov 5 election over Democratic Vice-President Kamala Harris. His wife, Melania, daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner, accompanied him on Saturday's flight.

After arriving at Dulles airport in suburban Virginia, Trump traveled to his golf club in Sterling, Virginia, on the outskirts of Washington.

Elvis Presley impersonator Leo Days serenaded the incoming president and first lady ahead of a reception for about 500 guests and fireworks display. An aide posted a video on social media showing the singer crooning as the Trumps watched.

The 78-year-old Trump is due to hold a rally with supporters inside the Capital One Arena in downtown Washington on Sunday, the eve of his inauguration, as well as a post-inauguration event Monday afternoon.

Frigid weather forecast for Monday prompted Trump to move the inauguration ceremonies from the iconic west front of the US Capitol



US President-elect Donald Trump, right, and Melania Trump watch fireworks at Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Va, on Saturday, ahead of the 60th Presidential Inauguration. AP

building indoors to the Capitol Rotunda, and the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capital One Arena.

In the Capitol Rotunda, Trump will be sworn in at 12 pm ET (1700 GMT) then deliver an inaugural address, a speech that typically sets the tone for the president's four-year term. He told NBC News the theme would be "unity and strength, and also the word 'fairness.'"

It will be the first time since Ronald Reagan's second inauguration in January 1985 that the big event has been moved indoors.

Crowds without seats in DC

Most of the more than 220,000 ticketed guests who had been due to watch from the US Capitol grounds will be unable to view the

swearing-in inside the building. Just a fraction will be able to fit inside the 20,000-seat Capital One Arena where the inauguration will be broadcast and parade entertainers and participants are expected to perform.

On Saturday, Trump fans who had planned to attend the inauguration were already walking around downtown Washington.

Arthur Caisse, a 78-year-old retired professor, and his brother Richard Caisse, a 64-year-old small business owner, had traveled from Connecticut to see Trump's second inauguration, after coming for the launch of his first term in 2017.

"It's so disappointing because all of us traveled so long and far to get here, and then to go through the congressional pro-

cess to get tickets to the inauguration. Finally we got tickets, now, boom. They're saying we may not even be able to go to the (National) Mall," Arthur Caisse said.

"I'm not disappointed because on Monday we're getting our country back," Richard Caisse chimed in.

Debbie Koch, a 60-year-old information technology professional who traveled from Wisconsin with her sister, said they were still planning to attend the Sunday night arena rally if they can get inside.

"We don't know for sure," she said. "We're just excited to be here."

Asked on Saturday how they would manage the crowds of Trump inauguration ticket holders who would not fit into the Capitol Rotunda or the stadium, the Secret Service referred the question to event organizers.

Trump's inauguration committee didn't respond to requests for more information on Saturday.

Once he returns to the White House on Monday afternoon, Trump is expected to begin signing dozens of executive orders and directives to crack down on migration, boost US energy production and other priorities.

Trump, whose first term lasted from 2017 to 2021, had refused to attend the inauguration of Biden, who defeated him in 2020. He left Washington for Florida ahead of the ceremony, vowing "we will be back in some form."

Two weeks earlier, his supporters had attacked the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, seeking to delay lawmakers from certifying Biden's victory.

Biden is expected to attend Trump's inauguration ceremony today.

Agencies

Iran, Russia don't want anyone to influence their policies – Iranian president

MOSCOW

THE comprehensive strategic partnership treaty between Russia and Iran sends a message that the two countries will not tolerate any external pressure and are capable of ensuring security in the region, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said.

"Moscow and Tehran don't want anyone from outside to determine their roles. We are capable of pursuing independent policies and are ready to devel-

op security and economy in the region together, to bring peace and stability here. We don't need the West," he said in an interview with the Soloviovo Live television channel.

According to the Iranian president, the signing of the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty with Russia has demonstrated that the two countries "have this very approach."

If the two countries followed instructions from outside, "they would have changed their poli-

cies many times," he added.

On January 17, Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran signed a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty after their talks in the Kremlin.

The treaty covers all spheres of bilateral cooperation and opens up new prospects in various areas of cooperation, including defense, fighting against terrorism, energy, finance, transport, industry, agriculture, culture, science and technologies.



Agencies

MOSCOW

THERE is currently no alternative to the UN, and Russia sees its function as imperative, especially in ensuring national security, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, when commenting on the United Nations' anniversary.

"Today, there is still no alternative to the UN. In accordance with the Foreign Policy Concept, Russia prioritizes its activities, including in terms of ensuring national security. We do this through the development of balanced solutions to armed conflicts, defending the key interests of our country and like-minded nations among the international majority," the diplomat emphasized.

Systemic crisis

Zakharova pointed out that the UN has faced many challenges in its history. "The Cold War, which put humanity on the brink of a nuclear apocalypse many times and created significant obstacles to the collective search for solutions to global threats, was the biggest challenge.

The fleeting 'unipolar moment' in international relations also negatively affected

Currently no alternative to UN, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman says

the UN's role. The United States and its satellites, believing themselves to be the victors of the Cold War, took license by carrying out various unlawful ventures, often simply ignoring the organization and its Charter," the diplomat said.

"Now, the UN-centered system is once again in crisis. The organization is widely accused of excessive bureaucracy, inefficiency, redundant efforts, poor resource management, etc.

However, the UN's faltering authority and limited effectiveness are not primarily due to any 'inherent flaws,' but in the collective West's destructive approach, which undermines the organization from within," she said.

According to Zakharova, given the aforementioned context, it is obvious that it will only be possible to fully restore the credibility and prestige of the UN if "the Westerners abandon baseless claims to their own exceptionalism and display their willingness for equal international cooperation grounded in the balance of interests."



"It is possible to make progress towards achieving the lofty goals enshrined in the UN Charter and finding effective solutions to the global problems of the modern era only through the combined efforts of all member states," the diplomat emphasized.

Fruit of Great Victory

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman reiterated that the establishment of the United Nations was the fruit of the Great Victory in World War II, achieved at the cost of unparalleled sacrifices by Soviet soldiers and millions of lives lost in the USSR and other countries of the anti-Hitler coalition.

"The Soviet Union, which was succeeded by Russia, stood at the origins of the United Nations. It was in Moscow in the autumn of 1943 that the allies in World War II, representatives of the USSR, Great Britain and the US, reached an agreement on the necessity of establishing an international organization that would shield future generations from another global conflict.

This idea was further refined under the Soviet lead and was finally brought to life at the San Francisco Conference of 1945," she noted.

The diplomat pointed out that the UN became the core for the new Yalta-Potsdam system of international relations. "The Charter of the organization stipulated the

fundamental international legal norms, which shaped the standard of conduct of states on the world stage.

First and foremost, it refers to the sovereign equality of nations, the right of peoples to self-determination and non-interference in internal affairs.

The territorial integrity postulate should also be mentioned, albeit with a crucial reservation: in accordance with the unanimously adopted Declaration on Principles of International Law of 1970, it only applies to those states, the governments of which represent all their people with no discrimination on any basis," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman recalled.

According to Zakharova, in the UN, the international community gained a uniquely legitimate and representative platform for negotiations.

"A firm institutional basis has been laid for the establishment of equal multilateral cooperation in the interests of tackling a wide range of issues related to maintaining peace and security, ensuring progressive social and economic development, and promoting human rights," she emphasized

Agencies

Three years on, RCEP sees significant progress in promoting regional open cooperation

THE Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is the free trade agreement with the largest participating population in the world, as well as the largest economic and trade scale, and the greatest development potential.

Since the RCEP came into force in January 2022, it has delivered increasingly prominent institutional dividends such as tariff reductions, simplified customs procedures, and trade and investment facilitation. It has played a crucial role in safeguarding the stability and smooth flow of regional industrial and supply chains, propelling the Asia-Pacific into a new period of high-quality economic development.

On the morning of Jan. 2, 2025, a freight train loaded with fresh fruits and vegetables set off from Wangjiaying West Station in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province,

bound for Laos along the China-Laos Railway.

This marked a new milestone for the railway, which has transported over 50 million tons of cargo, including 11.58 million tons of cross-border goods, since its full operation on Dec. 3, 2021.

Over the past three years since the RCEP came into force, the China-Laos Railway has emerged as a crucial transport corridor linking China, Thailand, Cambodia, and other countries. With the opening of more shipping routes, goods from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan can now directly reach Xiamen Port and Quanzhou Port in southeast China's Fujian province, as well as ports in east China's Shandong province.

According to a study conducted by the Asian Development Bank, by 2030, the RCEP is expected to add \$245 billion

annually to regional income and 2.8 million jobs to regional employment. With the continuous improvement of regional connectivity, the RCEP will unleash more trade benefits.

Providing tremendous opportunities for regional enterprises

Boten town in northern Laos' Luang Namtha province, located only 3 kilometers from the Chinese border town of Mohan in Yunnan, is a crucial border station for transporting goods between China and Laos by land.

"Three years ago, there were only about a dozen customs clearance companies in Boten. Now, there are around 150," said Zhang Jianli, head of the freight transfer division at the Boten Station of the China-Laos Railway.

Inside the offices of these customs clearance compa-

nies, business agents were busy submitting documents, inspecting goods, and paying taxes to ensure timely shipment of goods for their customers.

Thanaleng Dry Port, a border checkpoint located between Lao capital Vientiane and border city Nong Khai in northeast Thailand, primarily handles goods that need to transit through Laos before reaching China or Thailand.

With the opening of the China-Laos Railway, the time needed to transport goods from Vientiane to Boten has reduced from two days by trucks to only around four hours, enhancing the logistics efficiency in the region.

By implementing tariff commitments, rules of origin, trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and other trade regulations, the RCEP has maximized the in-

tegration of 27 trade arrangements and 44 investment agreements of its members in the region. This has effectively advanced the development of the multilateral trading system and helped maintain the stability of industrial and supply chains across the region.

An executive from the United Overseas Bank in Singapore said that the RCEP has broken down tariff barriers among its members and simplified trade rules. Singaporean enterprises can enjoy an average of 92 percent tariff reduction in China, which provides them with more favorable conditions for expanding their presence in the Chinese market.

Unny Sankar Ravi Sankar, minister of economic affairs of the Malaysian Embassy in China, noted that the RCEP provides abundant opportunities for businesses and investors in the region, contributing to the

stable economic development of the Asia-Pacific.

Invigorating regional economic integration

In December 2024, the RCEP Support Unit (RSU) was officially established in Jakarta with the joint efforts of China, the non-ASEAN rotating chair of the RCEP that year, and the ASEAN chair Indonesia.

Kao Kim Houn, secretary-general of ASEAN, said that the establishment of the RSU was another significant milestone in the development of the RCEP. It will help implement the RCEP in a more comprehensive and high-quality manner and provide support to relevant institutions.

Over the past three years, the RCEP has been unleashing benefits in trade, investment, and regional value chains. As the largest economy of the RCEP, China has been an ac-

tive promoter of high-quality implementation of the agreement. In the first three quarters of 2024, imports and exports between China and other RCEP members totaled 9.63 trillion yuan (\$1.31 trillion), a year-on-year increase of 4.5 percent.

China's continuous expansion of high-level opening up has injected stability and vitality into the economic development of the Asia-Pacific, providing tremendous opportunities for regional countries to share China's development benefits.

Data released at the Boao Forum for Asia Bangkok Roundtable in August 2024 indicated that Cambodia is expected to graduate from LDC (least developed country) status by 2028 due to the development dividends brought by the RCEP.

People's Daily



The High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Bishwadip Dey, celebrates Vishwa Hindi Diwas with Tanzanian students learning Hindi at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) of the High Commission of India. The students sang Hindi songs that captured the hearts of everyone at the event.

Indian diaspora in Tanzania celebrates Vishwa Hindi Diwas

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THOUSANDS of members of the Indian diaspora gathered at the National Museum of Tanzania to celebrate "Vishwa Hindi Diwas 2025," a day dedicated to promoting the Hindi language globally, including in Tanzania.

The event, organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) under the High Commission of India in collaboration with the Swarna Ganga Community, highlighted the linguistic diversity and cultural richness of India.

It took place on January 11 and featured competitions, cultural programs, and moments of reflection that underscored the significance of Hindi as a unifying force.

In a report issued by Vishnu Mishra of the SVCC, it was noted that the event celebrated the language's role in preserving Indian heritage and fostering global connections.

"This year's Vishwa Hindi Diwas was a beautiful reminder of the power of Hindi to unite communities, spark creativity, and preserve cultural traditions. By nurturing and promoting Hindi, we ensure it remains a powerful medium for global communication and cultural unity," Mishra stated.

Celebrated annually on January 10, Vishwa Hindi Diwas marks the adoption of Hindi as one of India's official languages in 1950. The event honors the linguistic richness and cultural diversity embodied by Hindi and emphasizes its global relevance.

This year's celebration included months of preparation, highlighted by Pre-Hindi Diwas Competitions aimed at encouraging Tanzanian youth to explore their creative talents and deepen their connection to the language.

The event commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, led

by the High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Bishwadip Dey, and renowned Indian folk singer Padma Shri Smt. Malini Awasthi, along with other dignitaries.

The chairman of the Swarna Ganga organization delivered a welcome address, and the High Commissioner read a speech from the Prime Minister of India, emphasizing the importance of Hindi in fostering unity and preserving culture.

The cultural performances, including traditional Indian folk music and dance by Padma Shri Malini Awasthi, captivated the audience, which included both Indian and Tanzanian attendees.

Tanzanian students learning Hindi at the High Commission showcased their talent by singing Hindi songs, which deeply resonated with the audience.

Spontaneous dances and enactments of famous Hindi plays and movie scenes added to the vibrant atmosphere, creating an unforgettable evening.

The event showcased the artistic contributions of Hindi to global culture, from Bollywood to classical arts. Through its rich traditions and modern expressions, Hindi demonstrated its versatility and enduring relevance in connecting people worldwide.

The SVCC and the High Commission of India lauded the participants, emphasizing the importance of fostering cross-cultural exchanges and celebrating the unifying power of language.

As Tanzania embraced Vishwa Hindi Diwas, the celebration served as a reminder of the deep cultural bonds between the two nations and the universal appeal of Hindi as a language of connection and creativity.

K'njaro International Marathon 2025 now launched in Moshi

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 23rd edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon 2025 was on Friday launched at Salinero - Kilimanjaro at an event that brought together different stakeholders ahead of the February 23, 2025 event.

Speaking during the event, the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu, who was represented by the Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary, Kiseo Yusuf Nzowa, pledged more government support to the event and lauded sponsors and organizers for the success that the event has had over the past 23 years hence putting Moshi and Tanzania in general on the world map.

The RC further lauded the event for its contribution in promoting sports tourism and the economy of Moshi and Kilimanjaro Region in general.

"We are proud of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon as it has proved to be one of the biggest international events in the region as it brings together over 12,000 participants and an equal number of spectators from more than 56 countries and all these are potential tourists. This is such a big milestone," said the RC, adding that no other event can match Kilimanjaro Marathon in terms of turn out and impact on the economy.

He said there is dire need for all the involved stakeholders to work closely together in exploring ways of ensuring benefits from the huge event are maximized and that the marathon continues to grow year after year.

"We have been hosting the marathon for 23 years now and the impact affects almost all families in Moshi and its surroundings as there is always booming business including all hotels and lodges be-



The Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary, Kiseo Yusuf Nzowa, waving the flag to officially launch the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon 2025 in Moshi on Friday as sponsors and other stakeholders look on. Photo: Correspondent

ing fully booked. I call on all business people to observe quality of their products and services to ensure visitors get value for money," said Babu.

"I congratulate all the sponsors led by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor) and YAS Kili International Half Marathon (21km) and CRDB Bank 5Km Fun Run. Supporting sponsors - Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, and TPC Sugar Ltd.

"Official suppliers - GardaWorld Security, CMC Automobiles, Salinero Hotels - Kilimanjaro, Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel. Without you it would not be easy," he said as he also called on Tanzanians to prepare for the international event to ensure most of the prizes remain home.

Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Marketing Director, Khensani Mkhombo, expressed the company's pride in having sponsored the event for the past 23 years through Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, making it one of the longest-running sponsorships in Tanzania.

She emphasized that their support has been driven by a deep commitment to promoting Tanzanian tourism and culture - goals that the event has consistently championed.

"We've witnessed the event grow year after year, and we are thrilled to have played a role in

promoting not only athletics but also tourism," Mkhombo stated.

"This year, we're taking the Marathon experience to the next level as we continue to expand our full weekend celebration. From Friday to Sunday, we will host the widely anticipated Kilimanjaro Concerts, and we're certain our consumers will be amazed by the incredible 3-day experience we've planned.

"Along with that, we're supporting small businesses, local pubs, and bars with various promotions to ensure the event is about much more than just Race Day," she added.

Regarding the 2025 prizes, Mkhombo shared that Kilimanjaro Premium Lager will contribute a total of Tsh 30 million. The first male and female winners of the 42km race will each receive Tsh 5.5 million, while the first Tanzanian male and female finishers will be awarded bonus prizes of Tsh 550,000 each.

Reflecting on the event's long-standing partnership with Athletics Tanzania, Mkhombo noted: "Our mission has always been not only to promote athletics and identify emerging talent, but also to bring people together to celebrate the excitement and camaraderie such an event fosters.

"We are extremely proud of what we've achieved over the years."

On his part, the YAS Chief Commercial Officer, Isack Nchunda, said: "We are proud to mark a decade of sponsoring the 21km category of the Kili Marathon 2025, a race that brings together over 6,500 runners, including some of Africa's finest athletes.

"This milestone reflects our deep commitment to supporting sports and championing excellence."

He said this year, runners and spectators alike can expect an elevated experience, from top-tier race organization to an electrifying atmosphere.

"We also encourage all athletes to secure their spot early by registering via Mixx by YAS, formerly Tigo Pesa, our seamless mobile payment platform. Let's make Kili Marathon 2025 a race to remember - full of energy, resilience, and triumph!" he added.

CRDB Bank's North Zone Business Manager, David Peter, said they are proud to be associated with the Kilimanjaro International Marathon, one of the biggest sporting events in the country that has been on the frontline in promoting healthy lifestyles, tourism and business in general, especially in the Kilimanjaro region and for the Moshi residents where the race happens every year.

"To us, this is the right platform to promote

our bank as we expect to reach many Tanzanians in Moshi and the surrounding areas and engage them through the CRDB Bank 5Km Fun Run," he added and urged participants to register in numbers as CRDB looks forward to use the platform to engage as many customers as possible.

The event organisers thanked the headline sponsors Kilimanjaro Premium Lager and YAS for setting aside a total purse of Tsh53 million in prize money for the Full and the Half Marathon and their various prize categories.

The organizers also said that the event will this year also be supporting the Tumaini la Maisha (TLM) charity that aims to reach every child in Tanzania who develops cancer, and treat them with high quality cancer treatment free of charge with the hope for a continued and healthy life, adding that the event will set aside 5% from every entry paid for and it will go towards the charity.

All money donated to TLM in the 2025 event will go towards The Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre [KCMC] in Moshi, to support the Children Cancer Ward.

"KCMC is an important partner to the marathon due to its medical support at the event and the finish area each year and the support on route as the runners pass by the hospital on race day," said the organizers.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, which will be held on Sunday, February 23, at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU), is organized by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Wild Frontiers Events are responsible for all the inbound travel and international marketing of the event.

Delaware Upanga SC-A stuns Aga Khan SC in 2024 TCA DC Super League

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

AJAY Yadav led Delaware Upanga SC-A's scintillating bowling as they commanded a three-wicket victory over Aga Khan SC in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) DC Super League's recent clash in Dar es Salaam.

The Harsheed Chohan-led Aga Khan SC went in to bat first in the duel that was held at the Leaders Club venue and were bowled out for 192 runs in 48.3 overs of the 50-over showdown match.

A brief stay by promising opener Dhruvit Mehta happened to be a noticeable blow that Aga Khan SC faced in the first few balls.

Mehta - dismissed in the fourth over, ended up posting just five runs, leaving his teammates with a tricky duty as far as amassing a convincing figure was concerned.

Fellow opener Abhik Patwa managed to hold on for several more overs but could not repel the Delaware Upanga SC-A bowling challenge.

Patwa, an experienced batsman, ended up notching 12 runs and Aga Khan SC had reached

30-2 once the batsman made his way back in the ninth over.

Sivaraj Selvaraj, who registered 25 runs, and Jumanne Mohamed, who ended with 17 runs, sought to boost their squad's score.

There was later a setback for the batting side given a budding cricketer Laksh Bakrania made his way back without a run to his name.

Seif Athuman turned out to be the batsman with the significant showing for Aga Khan SC, given the cricketer was one run short of a half-century.

Athuman propelled the batting team to 162-8 once the hardworking cricketer made his way back after 42.2 overs.

Arslaan Premji, who posted 23 runs, and Riziki Kisetu, who secured 20 runs, moreover fought to push their squad's total to three digits.

Aga Khan SC's cricketers were, to some extent, buoyed by 24 extras given away by the Delaware Upanga SC-A bowling unit.

The extras were made up of six byes, one no-ball, 12 wides, and five leg byes.

Yadav orchestrated a fero-



Delaware Upanga SC-A's Ramesh Alluri (2nd L) bowls against Lions Cricket Club in a past tournament clash in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

cious bowling attack by Delaware Upanga SC-A, grabbing 3-24 and a 2.40 economy rate.

Vikram Rathore, who posted 2-20, and Rajendra, who took two wickets in 10 overs, moreover made matters worse for Aga Khan SC.

Needing 193 runs from 50 overs to come out victorious, the Delaware Upanga SC-A cricketers, led by Asuri Rajendra mounted a determined chase to secure the win, notching 193/7 in 48.2 overs.

It was not plain sailing for Delaware Upanga SC-A, given the batting unit was compelled to work

hard and ultimately overcome Aga Khan SC's zealous bowling challenge.

Opener Rishen Patel and skipper Rajendra put on solid batting performances to propel Delaware Upanga SC-A to the win.

Patel turned out to be the batsman with the most runs for the eventual winners, having notched 63 runs.

He duly made up for a frustrating day his fellow opener Rathore had experienced via an exit for a duck.

Patel saw Delaware Upanga SC-A reach 155-6 once he got back

in the 39th over.

Kush Pandya, Ramesh Alluri, and Maker Mukesh moreover chipped in with two digits to boost Delaware Upanga SC-A's pursuit of a triumphant chase.

Pandya notched 12 runs, Ramesh registered 11 runs, and Mukesh secured 19 runs for their squad.

Delaware Upanga SC-A needed just 16 runs to come out victorious once Yadav left the crease in the 43rd over, given the batting side was 177-7.

Skipper Rajendra, slotted in at the low order, staged a late surge, having garnered 38 runs not out to make certain of his squad's victory.

The skipper formed an unbeaten partnership with Omari Ramadhani, with Ramadhani, a youthful performer, chipping in with nine runs not out for the club.

Even though Delaware Upanga SC-A's bowlers Bakrania and Chohan fought vigorously, their efforts ended in vain.

Bakrania ended up garnering 2-42 and a 4.20 economy rate, whereas Chohan had better stats,

chipping in with 2-25 and a 6.25 economy rate in four overs.

The league, as revealed by a TCA officer, features the top cricket teams in Tanzania, put into two groups.

Group A teams are Aga Khan SC, Delaware Upanga SC-A, Patel Brotherhood A, Dar Indian Titans, and Pak Stars A.

Group B clubs are: Caravans, Strikers, Aces A, Gymkhana, and Lions A.

The showdown began on January 4, 2025, marking an exciting start to Tanzania's premier cricket competition.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by TCA Chairman, Balakrishna Sreekumar, who highlighted the league's significance in elevating the standard of cricket in Tanzania.

Sreekumar stated: "This league is not just about competition... it's about fostering talent, building camaraderie, and taking Tanzanian cricket to new heights."

The 2024 TCA DC Super League is off to a thrilling start, promising top-tier cricket action in the weeks to come.

Slot admits doubts before Liver late show

By Sam Tobin

ARNE Slot admitted he feared history was repeating itself as Liverpool laboured against Brentford on Saturday, before substitute Darwin Nunez scored twice in stoppage time to extend the Reds' Premier League lead.

Liverpool racked up 35 shots in 90 minutes of regular time, with the visitors unable to overcome Brentford's low block and dogged defending.

Back-to-back league draws against Manchester United and Nottingham Forest had seemingly opened the door for second-placed Arsenal to reel in early pace-setters Liverpool.

But Nunez, who was mocked by the Brentford fans when he was introduced, scored twice in three minutes with the visitors' 36th and 37th shots to secure a dramatic 2-0 victory, opens new tab.

Slot told reporters he had feared his team's profligacy was becoming a costly habit, but was glad he was wrong.

"Yes, of course I had doubts about that because, before we scored the two goals, it felt as if I was looking at the same game again and again ... so many times in recent weeks, against Tottenham (Hotspur in the

League Cup) as well, we missed a lot of chances.

"Against Forest we missed a lot, so it would have been a bit surprising if I felt 'OK, after all these chances missed today, we will probably score in the last five minutes'.

"But the boys, the players proved me wrong again."

Slot, however, said Liverpool's recent performances did not suggest they were going through a spell of poor form. He added that based on statistics such as expected goals "there's nothing changed with us between now and the start of the season".

"What you do see is that it is, at this moment of time, a bit harder for us to convert our chances into goals," Slot said.

The absence from the squad of Diogo Jota, who scored the equaliser against Forest on Tuesday, will not help on that front but Slot backed Nunez to keep contributing.

"He's having a good season," Slot said. "He scores goals, he works very hard for the team, he assists, but he's in competition with a lot of good players, so that's why he's not every single game on the pitch. But I'm very happy with him."

REUTERS

Barca's Flick frustrated after Getafe draw

MADRID

BARCELONA manager Hansi Flick could not hide his frustration after his side were held to a 1-1 draw at lowly Getafe on Saturday, extending their winless run in LaLiga to four matches.

Flick lamented Barca's wasted chances in a game they dominated with almost 80% of possession and twice as many goal attempts as the home side.

"We wanted to win and we had chances to win. I'm very disappointed that we could not score more goals," Flick told a press conference.

"You can see what it's like to play here in Getafe. They defend well. We created chances, but we weren't on target. We have to keep going. I repeat that we had chances, especially in the first half. After that, I think we lacked a bit more passing accuracy.

"There was a lot of emotion in this stadium, in all the actions,

in the contacts. I have never experienced anything like this before. It's something new for me and I have to get used to it."

The febrile atmosphere of a sold-out Getafe Coliseum has been a problem for Barcelona who have failed to win at the South Madrid stadium for five consecutive seasons.

Barcelona are third in the standings on 39 points, four behind second-placed Real Madrid and five adrift of leaders Atletico.

Real, who have a game in hand, host Las Palmas on Sunday.

"If only we were able to score another goal, but there is nothing I can do now and have to accept the result," Flick said.

"But that is still a long way to go and we will fight until the end trying to win LaLiga. We missed two points but earned one so we have to look ahead and try to improve moving forward."

REUTERS

Conte highlights Napoli improvement after Atalanta win

ROME

NAPOLI manager Antonio Conte praised his side following a narrow win over Atalanta at Saturday, highlighting the significant growth the team has shown over the past few months.

Romelu Lukaku's late header secured a 3-2 victory for Napoli, boosting their Scudetto hopes and avenging their 3-0 home loss to Atalanta in November.

"I had already said before the match that this team has grown a lot. Don't forget that just over two months ago, Atalanta put three goals past us at home," Conte told reporters.

Villa's Watkins makes Arsenal suffer once again

LONDON

ASTON Villa striker Ollie Watkins proved a thorn in Arsenal's side yet again as he completed his side's comeback with the equaliser in a 2-2 draw that damaged the London club's Premier League title hopes on Saturday.

Arsenal were on course to erase the memory of last season's home defeat by Villa -- the last time they lost in the league at The Emirates -- when Gabriel Martinelli and Kai Havertz scored from close range either side of halftime.

Victory would have put Arsenal back to four points behind leaders Liverpool but Villa burst into life when Youri Tielemans headed them a lifeline on the hour and Watkins met a Matty Cash cross with a volley to level eight minutes later.

It set up a frantic finale in which Arsenal thought they had won it when Mikel Merino's volley bounced down and in via a deflection off Havertz into the net but it was ruled out for handball against the German.

Arsenal are on 44 points to Liverpool's 50 having also played one more game. Villa moved up a place to seventh.

It was England striker Watkins who scored a sublime goal in April to seal a 2-0 Villa win that ultimately proved fatal for Arsenal's hopes of catching Manchester City in the title race.

His goal on Saturday could have an equally damaging impact on Arsenal's chase of Liverpool and fans of the



Arsenal's Leandro Trossard shoots wide during their Premier League match against Aston Villa at Emirates Stadium, in London, Britain on Saturday. Agencies

north London club might be sick of the sight of him.

Watkins has scored six Premier League goals against Arsenal, four of them away. Since he joined Villa in 2020 no visiting player has scored more goals at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsenal will contest that they scored a late winner when Merino's volley bounced down and in via a deflection off the arm of Havertz, but they only have themselves to blame for allowing two precious points to slip through their fingers.

"The scoreline is nowhere near a reflection (of the game)," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta told reporters. "I'm not happy, I think the difference between the teams was very obvious."

On the disallowed goal that left him on his knees on the touchline, Arteta added: "The decision is made. It's difficult because we have so much emotion, the celebration and it's tak-

en away from you. Not easy."

Liverpool's stoppage-time victory at Brentford and the absence of key defender William Saliba put something of a dampener on the pre-match mood at The Emirates.

ARSENAL DETERMINED

Unai Emery's Villa arrived knowing a repeat of last year's win would put them fourth, but Arsenal looked determined to keep hanging on to Liverpool's coat tails.

Leandro Trossard was the catalyst for Arsenal and he created both goals in almost identical fashion.

In the 35th minute, he burst down the left and crossed for Martinelli to prod a volley that Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez could not quite prevent from crossing the line.

Trossard lashed an effort just over the bar before finding space on the left in the 55th

minute to cross low into the area where Havertz timed his run well to guide an effort past Martinez.

Villa has not got started in the second half but halved the deficit when substitute Lucas Digne crossed for Tielemans to place a diving header past David Raya.

Arsenal were suddenly rattled and Tielemans struck the post with a shot before Watkins stunned the home fans.

Cash floated a sublime cross into the area and it was met by the lurking Watkins who guided his volley high into the net before wheeling away to celebrate in front of the visitors' ecstatic supporters.

After VAR disallowed Arsenal's effort in stoppage time, the hosts almost won it at the death when Trossard's shot shaved the far post.

Meanwhile, Arsenal's squandering of two Premier League points in Saturday's 2-2 draw

with Aston Villa was compounded by concerns about an injury to defender William Saliba that ruled him out of the game.

Saliba was not even in the squad after suffering a hamstring injury in the 2-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur in midweek.

The Frenchman is integral to Arsenal's defence and his absence with a back injury in the second half of the 2022-23 campaign undermined their chances of staying with Manchester City in the title race.

"I think tomorrow we will have more information, we will have more tests on him and we will be more clear about it," manager Mikel Arteta told reporters.

"For sure (we are worried), especially with the numbers we have in the squad and looking at our bench. Very worried."

Arteta was forced to re-shuffle his defence with Jurrien Timber switching to the cen-

tre alongside Gabriel and midfielder Thomas Partey filling in as a makeshift right back.

Arsenal led 2-0 with goals by Gabriel Martinelli and Kai Havertz but Villa hit back and Ollie Watkins equalised after Youri Tielemans headed his side back into contention.

Arteta was full of praise for his side's display but criticised the defending for the second goal as Matty Cash flighted over a cross that Watkins converted with a sumptuous volley.

"We can fault ourselves as well because defending the way we did especially with one of the goals, it cannot be part of our game if we want to be at the highest level in this country," Arteta said. "The rest, what else can I ask the team to do against a really good side?"

Arteta will hope the scans on Saliba show no serious injury as the statistics suggest he is vital to Arsenal.

With Saliba in the team Arsenal have a 72% win rate while in the games he has missed since joining that dips to 38%.

Second-placed Arsenal's draw left them six points behind Liverpool who also have a game in hand and Arteta hinted at movement in the January transfer window.

"You look at the performances, I don't know how many teams are playing at this level in the league," he said. "When you look at the bench, probably you say I think we are very short."

REUTERS

Pep Guardiola accepts Erling Haaland deal may damage prospects of other players

By Andy Hampson

PEP Guardiola accepts Erling Haaland's bumper new contract could prevent Manchester City signing any more top-level strikers.

The City manager's comments come as the club appear to be closing in on a deal for Eintracht Frankfurt forward Omar Marmoush.

The prolific Haaland (pictured), who has scored 111 goals in just 126 appearances for City, committed himself to the reigning Premier League champions until 2034 when he signed a remarkable new nine-and-a-half year deal last week.

His long-term presence in the squad will limit opportunities for others up front, meaning any new recruits will have to accept a back-up role or - potentially like Marmoush - offer something different to get into the team.

Guardiola said: "The bigger strikers will not come to be a replacement for Erling, so we have to find them young to accept the role.

"Or they're different players - like Oscar (Bobb), (James) McAtee, Phil (Foden), and maybe without Erling we'll play a different way, with a

false nine, with alternatives, with more runners from outside, more runners for the channels inside. We will find solutions.

"We could not go to sign (Kylian) Mbappe, for example, as a top-class player because normally we play with just one striker.

"But of course we have alternatives just in case Erling cannot play all the minutes. We have other options."

City are understood to have agreed a fee with Frankfurt for Egypt international Marmoush, who can operate across the front line.

He will effectively replace Julian Alvarez in the squad after the Argentinian left for Atletico Madrid last summer.

Haaland's new deal locks down one cornerstone of the team at a time when other members of an ageing squad are likely to be moving on.

Captain Kyle Walker has asked to leave the club and, after being left out of the last two games, could again be absent as City travel to Ipswich on Sunday.

Another veteran star, 33-year-old playmaker Kevin De Bruyne, is now into the final six months of his contract



and could be open to approaches from elsewhere.

Guardiola said: "Of course it can happen. I'm pretty sure when Kevin was 22-23 and could offer 10 years maybe we wouldn't accept it, but now it's different.

"But I'm not thinking about what will happen next season. I'm thinking about Ipswich and, three days later, Paris. And three days later, Chelsea. Then we have a tough month in February.

"This is what I'm thinking. Next season I'm not thinking about for one second."

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Villa's Watkins makes Arsenal suffer once again

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Simba secure top spot in Group A with crucial win over CS Constantine



CS Constantine goalkeeper Zakaria Bouhalya pictured yesterday failing to stop a shot from Simba SC winger Kibe Denis (not in picture) during their CAF Confederation Cup Group A match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

By Guardian Correspondent

SIMBA SC claimed a crucial 2-0 victory against CS Constantine at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium yesterday, propelling them to the top of their CAF Confederation Cup Group A standings.

The win guarantees Simba a second-leg home advantage in the quarterfinals.

Simba's breakthrough came in the 60th minute when Kibu Denis unleashed a stunning 20-yard strike after combining well with Fabrice Ngoma and Elie Mpanzu.

The goal left CS Constantine goalkeeper Zakaria Bouhalya with no chance.

The win was sealed in the 80th minute when Leonel Ateba calmly converted a cross

from overlapping fullback Shomari Kapombe.

With this result, Simba now lead Group A with 13 points, edging out CS Constantine, who sit in second place with 12 points. Both teams have already secured their spots in the quarterfinals.

By topping the group, Simba avoid facing past champions like RS Berkane, Zamalek, and USM Alger -

teams that have all claimed the CAF Confederation Cup title in the last five seasons - in the quarterfinals.

CS Constantine approached the match defensively, often with ten players behind the ball, relying on counterattacks. Simba dominated possession and created several chances throughout the game.

In the first half, Jean Ahoua made Simba's first sig-

nificant attempt in the 16th minute, only to be denied by Bouhalya.

Mohamed Hussein's cross struck the crossbar in the 29th minute, while Ahoua missed an opportunity to connect with Leonel Ateba's delivery in the 37th minute.

The second half saw Simba intensify their attacks. Mpanzu squandered two clear chances in the 52nd

and 55th minutes before Kibu broke the deadlock.

The match was played behind closed doors due to a one-match crowd ban and a \$40,000 fine (approximately Tsh. 100 million) imposed by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

This disciplinary action followed fan misconduct during Simba's 2-1 win over CS Sfaxien in December 2024.

Simba last reached the quarterfinals in the 2021/2022 season, where they were eliminated by Orlando Pirates on penalties after a 1-1 aggregate draw.

This season, the Tanzanian giants are determined to go further, aiming for their first CAF Confederation Cup final.

With their group stage performance setting a strong foundation, Simba are poised to make a deep run in the competition.

Simba starting XI

Moussa Camara, Shomari Kapombe, Mohamed Hussein, Fondoh Che Malone, Abdulrazack Hamza, Fabrice Ngoma, Yusuph Kagoma, Jean Ahoua, Leonel Ateba, Elie Mpanzu, Kibu Denis



Fountain Gate coach Matano seeks time to implement tactical overhaul

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FOUNTAIN Gate FC's newly appointed head coach, Kenyan Robert Matano, says he needs more than two weeks to fully instill his tactical system and create a balanced approach for the team.

Despite the challenges, Matano (pictured) praised the warm reception he has received since taking over on January 10.

Matano replaced Mohamed Muya, who was dismissed on December 29 following a crushing 5-0 defeat against league leaders Young Africans.

The Manyara-based club, known for their attacking prowess, ranks fourth in the league with 24 goals scored. However, they have the worst defensive record, conceding 32 goals.

Speaking about his initial challenges, Matano stated: "The biggest challenge I've faced over the past week is establishing a balanced system with the players available. It will take time, but I can already see progress."

"While our attacking strength is evident, we need significant improvement in defense, as we currently have the poorest defensive record in the league."

Matano has prioritized preparation and requested friendly matches to assess the players' response to his instructions.

"I've asked the management for two or three friendly matches to evaluate the players' adaptation to my system."

"We recently played a match against Mbuni FC of Arusha, who compete in the Championship League, to test our progress and experiment with different tactics," he said.

Fountain Gate's management is optimistic that Matano's expertise will steer the team toward stronger performances in the second half of the season.

The team's early return to training highlights their determination to improve after a disappointing run of form.

Since October 25, Fountain Gate have played eight matches, securing just one victory, one draw, and six losses.

These results left the team in sixth place, prompting the decision to part ways with Muya.

Nicknamed "The Special One," Matano brings a wealth of experience to Fountain Gate. Before joining the team, he coached Sofapaka in Kenya, where he led the club to a seventh-place position with 21 points from 15 matches (five wins, six draws, and four losses).

Previously, Matano managed Tusker FC for six years, winning the Kenyan Premier League title in the 2021-2022 season. He has also coached other top Kenyan teams, including AFC Leopards and Ulinzi Stars.

Fountain Gate hopes Matano's tactical acumen and leadership will inspire the team to a stronger finish in the league.

Yanga devastated by CAF Champions League exit

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) saw their hopes of advancing in the CAF Champions League dashed on Saturday afternoon after a goalless draw with Mouloudia Club d'Alger (MC Alger) at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The match, which concluded their group-stage campaign, marked the end of their continental journey for this season, leaving both players and fans heartbroken.

The Premier League champions knew a win over the Algerians would be enough to secure a spot in the knockout stages, but despite dominating possession, Young Africans failed to capitalize on their chances.

Their inability to produce a decisive moment of quality in front of goal ultimately cost them dearly, and they were left to rue missed opportunities.

Sead Ramovic's side, who had entered the competition with high hopes, exited the CAF Champions League in front of a subdued home crowd.

The team's poor start to the group stage, with only one win from five matches, had already put them in a difficult position.

The draw with MC Alger, though a point earned, was not enough to salvage their campaign, and it became



clear that the damage had already been done in the earlier stages.

Ramovic (pictured), visibly disappointed but composed, reflected on his team's exit. He admitted that Young Africans were devastated by the result but emphasized the importance of learning from the

experience.

"Our main goal was to win the game so we could go into the next round. From the first minute, we took the game into our hands. The opponent did great with game management," Ramovic said.

Despite creating several chances, including three or

four very good opportunities, Young Africans were unable to convert.

Ramovic gave credit to MC Alger for their disciplined defensive approach.

"I have to give MC Alger the biggest respect. How they played was not easy. They played a low block, and we

tried to play them on the sides, but the process should have been better," he acknowledged.

In his post-match comments, the Serbian coach took full responsibility for the team's shortcomings, while praising his players for their efforts.

"It's very disappointing to be out, but again, I give a lot of credit to my players. I take full responsibility, and my players only deserve the best praise for everything they did. We didn't do everything right, but we'll learn."

Looking ahead, Ramovic remains optimistic about the future.

"We all know it's very painful to be out, but we also have to see the process. The process is more important for me as a coach."

"It's important to see how the players improve because, in the long term, we will have a lot of great success. Now it's a setback, but we will not stay down," he said.

With the Champions League campaign over, Young Africans are determined to analyze their performance, refine their tactics, and come back stronger.

Their focus is now on further developing their game and preparing for future challenges, with the belief that the lessons learned will pay off in the long run.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

