



There are people in the valleys. We asked them to leave early; they have stayed in the valleys until they are reached by the floods," she remarked, noting that if they are reached by the floods they will start blaming the government if aid is not forthcoming.

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday said that the government will build houses for families affected by the mud flow disaster that happened in Hanang District, Manyara Region so that they can return to normal life.

This affirmation was given in receiving a dummy cheque for 2bn/- from Treasury registrar Nehemia Mchechu, being contributions from 270 public institutions to help the disaster victims.

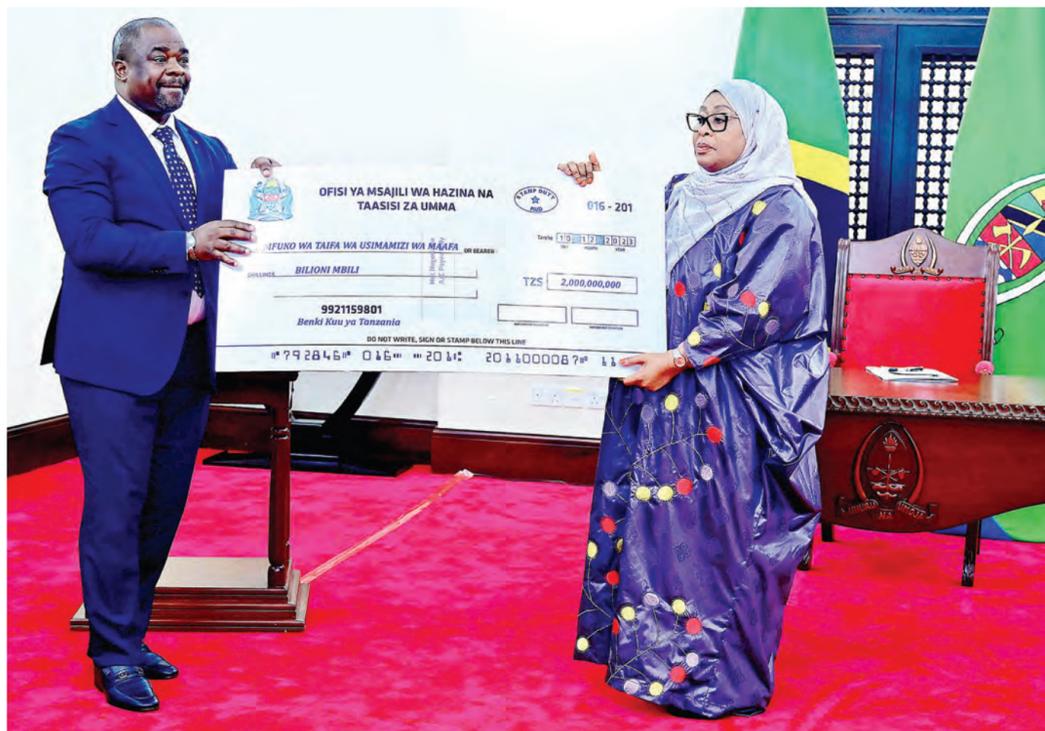
The houses will be built with the donations being collected from development stakeholders including public entities, the private sector, businessmen and various individuals, she said.

Up to 107 households that had 322 residents are confirmed to have been destroyed or extensively damaged Katesh town and Gendabi peri-urban settlement from the mud flow after heavy rains the previous weekend.

Obtaining domestic equipment, food and

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Treasury Registrar hands 2bn/- for victims of Katesh mudflow



President Samia Suluhu Hassan receives a dummy cheque for 2bn/- from Treasury registrar Nehemia Mchechu at the State House in Dodoma yesterday, contributed by state-owned companies for the mudslide victims at Katesh in Hanang District, Manyara Region. Photo: State House

Govt seeking \$1.8bn for BBT-YIA second phase

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is seeking \$1.8bn for the second phase of the ambitious Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT), Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe has declared.

Closing the first BBT programme at the Makutupora national service camp here late last week, he said the programme initiated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan has so far attracted \$610m in funding, to be spent on drilling wells for women farmers in various regions.

"BBT is a reality and President Samia is still looking for \$1.8bn to fund the next phase of the youth-driven agricultural programme," he said of the programme addressing the challenges faced by youths and women in the agriculture sector. This includes access to land, capital, technology and markets, where under this initiative grants and soft loans are provided to youths and women involved in commercial crop value chains.

This will facilitate the growth of a sustainable and successful occupational outlet and gainful self-employment for youths and foster agro-sector development as a whole.

The selected beneficiaries are youth entrepreneurs already engaged in commercial agriculture, youth entrepreneurs seeking to set up such units, youths trained to work in agro-sector industry and even youths with little interest in agriculture, he said.

BBT-YIA (youth initiative in agriculture) relies on government resources, development partners, NGOs and the private sector, fostering the outline of a new deal with a broad section of the country's 16m youths.

Upwards of 51 per cent of youths are those aged 15 to 24 years, and another 46.6 per cent are those aged 25-34 years engaged in farming, where statistics show that eight per cent of the 15 to 24 years age group and 16 per cent of those aged 24 to 34 years find opportunities in off-farm agrifood systems.

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SPORTS

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Simba SC lacked self-belief in CAF CL clash against Wydad AC, says Benchikha

Page 18



Company hands over sports kits to Dar soccer teams

VP resurfaces in church, Samia says 'rumours part of public life'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

AFTER not being seen in public for about a month, Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango yesterday resurfaced in church,

saying that the work that God raised him to do has not yet been completed.

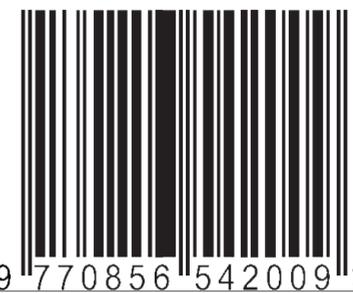
Speaking to worshippers at the Blessed Maria Theresa Ledochowska Parish in the capital, the VP urged members of the

public to make good use of social media "because it is hurting many."

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Mazingingu temporary bridge connecting Kilosa town and Dumila village built next to the bridge under construction in Morogoro Region that was swept away in the ongoing rain and caused inconveniences yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi



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As VP surfaces in church, Samia says 'rumours part of public life'

FROM PAGE 1

wake of a media buzz on his health and whereabouts, compelling Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to respond, affirming that the VP is well and conducting state business abroad.

He expressed gratitude for the concern and prayers said for him, with his reappearance at a Sunday mass sparking relief, ending widespread speculation on his health in particular.

"Those of you who remember and like to read the Bible, maybe I should remind you of one part and you will finish Psalm 118:17, it says I will not die but I will live... Rest in peace, I am safe. I went out to do special activities for about a month and I have not lost weight at all."

He said social media is good but some people use it while ignoring what other people feel. "You hurt many people, you see my grandchildren who have not seen me for a month have run to follow me there as many of them have been hurt by words that have no basis."

"Those who said I have died, I still haven't finished the work that God wants me to do. When the time comes I will return to my creator; so thank you very much, I know you really prayed for me, I saw the sisters there who shed tears and I shed tears in the car."

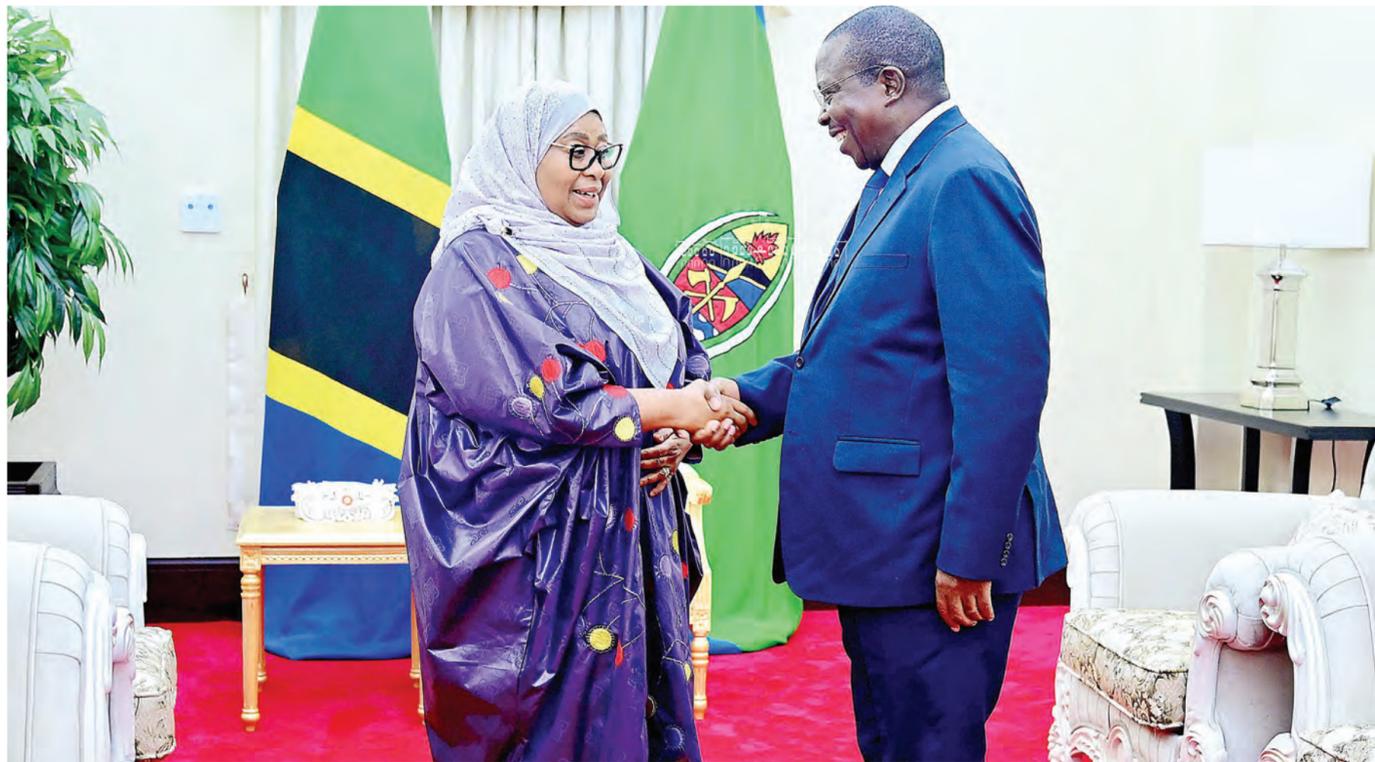
He later visited President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Chamwino State House, where he said he returned to the country Saturday night at eight o'clock and in the morning went to the church to thank God for his safe return.

He assured the president that he is safe and healthy, quipping that everyone he greets wonders if it is him or someone else.

"I thank all of you for praying for me and the Tanzanians who, after receiving incorrect information, got a big shock. Many have prayed for me. I thank them with all my heart," he said, extending a hand of forgiveness for those who spoke negatively on his condition or whereabouts.

"We leaders are also human beings, we have children, grandchildren, family, friends, colleagues," he said, saddened by those who posted photos of him with a dying out candle, etc. It is a very big disturbance for which there is no reason, he declared.

"We should learn to use the internet for good things to wish our fellow Tanzanians well, we should not use these tools to spread bad things," he said. President Samia welcomed back the VP, remarking that as a leader he is a public figure, "so there are those who will be wondering where he really is, why we don't see him. But there are a few heretics who decide to create stories and bring chaos to the country, so we leaders should accommodate such expression," she candidly remarked.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with the Vice President Dr Philip Mpango at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

Treasury Registrar hands 2bn/- for victims of Katesh mudflow

FROM PAGE 1

healthcare follow up are key services included in the use of the funds, as the mudflow victims are going through the pains of losing family members and property.

With the donations, nothing will stop the government from quick implementation of the housing construction programme for the disaster victims, hinting that cost-effective houses requiring 25m/- to 30m/- will be built rapidly to restore routine family life.

She praised public institutions for handling that amount,

noting that it is an indication that they are improving in their operations and able to fulfill their role of serving the community.

Saying that public organizations must be in touch with what is happening in society to serve the public, she also thanked the private sector and all those who showed patriotism, unity and cooperation. It helped the country to solve the challenge without heavily relying on foreign aid, she said.

The president castigated the habit of throwing waste in drainage canals as it causes flooding when it rains, instructing the

district and regional authorities to control this tendency.

People need to build a culture of listening and acting on alerts issued by government agencies especially about rain, not waiting until they are hit by disasters and being compelled to seek assistance, as it can't always work, she stated.

"There are people in the valleys. We asked them to leave early; they have stayed in the valleys until they are reached by the floods," she remarked, noting that if they are reached by the floods they will start blaming the government if aid is not forthcoming.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that until yesterday morning, deaths resulting from the disaster had reached 87, with those injured standing at 139. Thirty of them are in hospital and others have been discharged, he said.

"There are 19 people at the Manyara regional referral hospital in Babati for advanced treatment, eight at Tumaini District Hospital, as well as three at the Gendabi Health Center. They are all doing well, and we have an expected referral to the Muhimbili National Hospital and regional hospitals," he stated.

An assessment using electronic systems and the 2022 Population and Housing Census data indicated that 107 households were destroyed, where 322 people were staying.

The data will be used to find out the value of properties lost in the disaster, including livestock, to facilitate issuing of compensation, which has to involve tenants who lost relatives and property.

The government will not hesitate to take action at any time against anyone who embezzles money or other contributions intended for the victims, he had insisted.



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Angela Kairuki (C) receives a donation worth 128m/- from the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) chairman, Wilbard Chambulo to assist victims of the Hanang District tragedy. Others from left are Tanzania Forestry Services CEO, Silayo Dos Santos, government spokesman, Mubhare Matinyi, and Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination, Dr Jim Yonazi and the TATO CEO, Sirili Akko. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DC calls on public to report foreigners living in illegally

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA District Commissioner Felician Mtahengerwa has called on the public to share information on foreigners living in the country illegally as well as those forging their citizenship documents to acquire national identification cards.

Mtahengerwa gave the call yesterday in Arusha during the launch of the national identification card distribution exercise where 338,325 ID cards were given to residents. The residents included those who for a long time completed registration procedures.

"If you suspect anyone in your area who may not be a legal citizen, inform us so that appropriate measures can be taken against them," he said, noting that it is every Tanzanian's responsibility to defend and ensure safety of the country.

"Being patriotic mean to show your patriotism by prioritising the nation's welfare; you assist authorities through provision of information on foreigners entering our country without relevant documents and those attempting to illegally get the national identification numbers from the National Identification Authority (NIDA)

According to the District Commissioner, President Samia Suluhu Hassan heard the cries of

Tanzanians who were not in possession of their ID cards, adding that almost 90 per cent of the people who applied for the cards have been issued to them.

Mtahengerwa urged citizens to safely keep their IDs and avoid giving them to anyone with ill intentions, citing that some people may use the IDs to commit crimes and place their owners into serious trouble.

The Arusha DC also called upon people whose relatives have relocated to other regions to provide their information so that they can have access to their IDs in the ward offices in the regions they have moved to.

According to the Registrar from NIDA, Julieth Raymond, the authority planned to register 314,753 people according to the national population census data however, until October this year, it has registered 394,687 which is equivalent to 125 per cent of the set target.

"During the exercise, we surpassed the objectives by recording a 125 per cent registration. We have already started to distribute them and almost 92 per cent of those who applied have collected their IDs," she said.

Raymond added that the IDs will now be available in all local government offices at ward level, asking Arusha residents to visit the wards office to get their IDs.

Govt seeking \$1.8bn for BBT-YIA second phase

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Other sectors employ around 19 per cent and 31.5 per cent of youths aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years, respectively, where those being attracted into agri-food systems will be

placed in block farms.

The preliminary training seeks to foster skills in producing maize, rice, cassava, beans and other export crops, as Tanzania has the hallmarks of an emerging food powerhouse

and a net exporter of agricultural produce.

Block farms formed via the BBT programme are expected to enable the youth investors to tap into the potentiality of this sector and y real-

ise significant returns in the medium term, experts say.

Upwards of 162,492 acres of arable land have been set aside for crop production in regions like Mbeya, Dodoma, Kagera and Kigoma, they added.

UDSM retirees claim payments worth over 300bn/- for 40 years

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 3,500 retirees from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) have urged the government to intervene so that they are paid their various claims worth over 300bn/- they have been demanding for more than 40 years now.

Their claims are linked to service offered at the university which they have claimed have not been paid until now despite following up for a long time.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, some of the retirees said they have been struggling for more than 40 years without success, thus asking the government to help them.

The secretary of the retired elderly committee of the University of East Africa, now the University of Dar es Salaam, Evarist Majaliwa, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, said they need to be paid the money to help them and their families.

"What we need is to be paid for our long-term claims. We have been struggling since the days of the first phase government until now;

We have started this movement to

fight for our rights since 1978 when the East African Community broke up and some of our comrades have died," he said.

The elders, most of whom have claimed retirement since 1977, said they have submitted their claims to the university and to various government offices, including the Ministry of Finance, but are yet to be paid.

While showing various documents of their claims to the reporters, they claimed that they have consulted various public offices but they have not been paid until now.

UDSM Director of Human Resources, Asha Hayeshi, despite acknowledging the claims, said that they are nowhere in the records of the university and also the elders have not proved the claims against the university despite the claims being also submitted to the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

"No one has a bad intention to refuse to pay them. They failed to prove their claims despite going to court," said Hayeshi.

"Treasury letters confirm that when the community broke up all people were paid and that they do not have any claims," she added.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) Jenista Mhagama (L) receives 200 gas cylinders and gas stoves for mudslide victims at Katesh in Manyara Region from Oryx Tanzania sales supervisor Shaban Fundi held at Katesh over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Germany applauds government for strengthening legal system

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

GERMANY has applauded the government for strengthening legal system in the country, citing the ongoing Mama Samia Legal Aid campaign as a clear example of reforms in the legal sectors.

The applause was expressed by the Liaison Officer in Dodoma, Richard Shaba in a statement he read on behalf of the German ambassador in Tanzania.

Speaking during the launch of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV) in Dodoma Region, he said such re-

forms are bearing fruits and has helped broaden education on human rights and GBV.

The event held at the University of Dodoma (UDOM) was organized GIZ in collaboration with the ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and brought together different stakeholders including UDOM students who were the key target.

Shaba also expressed Germany's commitment to supporting the government in broadening legal services as well as promotion of human rights in the country.

"Today's event is a result of co-operation between GIZ and the government through the ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs" he said, adding that such efforts are important in social development.

Earlier, Katharina Kuehn, Project Manager for Society in Action for Equality (SAFE), noted that in a world where GBV persists as a global challenge, the event provided a unique opportunity for participants to reflect on personal experience and observations concerning GBV and explore collaborations among

different as law and art.

Aligned with the theme "Invest to prevent violence girls and women", she added that the event also underscored the importance of addressing entrenched social norm affecting women's participation in various spheres, including work, education, economic activities, and decision-making processes.

Kuehn observed that GIZ through Access to Justice for Women and Children, SAFE as well as Promotion of Rule of Law and Judiciary in Africa (PROLA) projects is supporting MoCLA in Tanzania in their efforts with regard to strengthening human rights, especially women's and chil-

dren's rights, fighting GBV and facilitating access to justice and legal aid.

Speaking at the event, Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs, Dr Pindi Chana, stated that the government in collaboration with other stakeholders are working hard to end GBV. She called on students at the university to be good ambassador in the fight, helping affected people at the learning institution and beyond, stating that the campaign ought to be every day and only celebrated at the global designed week.

Dr Chana also expressed concerns that GBV is deeply rooted in some traditional and cultural practices, calling on members of the public to

jointly support the government in fighting it. "GBV is taking different forms and at times performed at early stages of life where the affected do not know what to do", she said.

The ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, in partnership with the UDOM and GIZ Tanzania, united forces to confront the pervasive issue of GBV as part of this year's 16 Days of Activism.

Bringing together an inclusive array of stakeholders including students from UDOM's Legal Aid Clinic, the Gender Club, and the film and theatre department, the organizations facilitated discussions on GBV tailored to individual context.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Performance and Analytics Team Lead

Department/Unit: Performance and Analytics

Location: Dar es Salaam

Reports to: Deputy Chief of Party

OVERVIEW:

The Global Health Supply Chain Program Technical Assistance-Tanzania (GHSC-TA-TZ) supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH). In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC-TA-TZ assists the Government of Tanzania by providing strategic planning and implementation assistance; improving the delivery of health commodities to service sites; providing capacity-building support to broaden stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system; and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.

JOB SUMMARY:

The Performance and Analytics Team Lead will champion data use, analysis, and data quality improvement efforts throughout the supply chain and promote the use of data-driven decision-making to improve the health supply chains.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Responsibilities may include, but not be limited to:

- Coordinate all project-related reports to ensure timely submission to USAID
- Ensure timely entry of data into DATIM and DIS
- Leverage data from a range of existing systems (including eLMIS and DHIS2) to analyze the performance of the supply chain, highlighting pain points; link supply chain data with other health services data.
- Elevate the use of supply chain data in programmatic decision-making; identify barriers to data quality and use, and develop and implement recommendations for addressing them
- Provide technical input into dashboards from and across information systems, including eLMIS dashboards
- Ability to do diligent and thorough root cause analyses
- Coordinate Data Quality Assessments and monitoring visits in collaboration with key stakeholders in both Mainland and Zanzibar
- Coordinate Data verification activity between VIMS data and paper-based in collaboration with the IVD program

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Extensive experience in public health programs i.e with three years or more senior management preferred
- Bachelor's degree in computer science, statistics, medicine, pharmacy, or health informatics
- Advanced degree in public health, health informatics, statistics or M&E is an added advantage
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Skills in data visualization tools such as PowerBI or Google Analytics
- Experience in health commodities supply chain management
- Experience in HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, reproductive health, and essential medicines programs strongly desired
- Experience in using the eLMIS and DHIS2
- Proven track record in systems performance assessment and M&E responsibilities, including development/implementation in PMP management and analytics
- Proven strong leadership skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships
- Ability to work on a team to develop strategies and manage the implementation of projects
- Ability to handle multiple tasks, set priorities, and work independently.
- Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills are highly desired
- Experience managing a USAID-funded contract or grant is a plus
- Experience working with the Government of Tanzania and other NGOs preferred

How to apply:

Interested candidates are invited to send their cover letters, Curriculum Vitae with names and contact details of 3 work-related references, enclosing certificate copies of relevant education and training. Submission may be sent to - ghsc.recruitment@gmail.com by 28th December, 2023

Only candidates meeting the minimum requirements will be contacted. If you have not heard from us within two weeks after the closing date, kindly assume that your application was not successful.

GHSC is an equal-opportunity employer.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. In Tanzania, TNC is working with different stakeholders to achieve community development through sustainable and equal fisheries resources management.

Effective governance is a cornerstone of community development, playing a pivotal role in the conservation of natural resources, ecosystems, and their services. In this regard, good governance is indispensable for the sustainable conservation of natural resources. Development partners, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), in collaboration with the government and local communities, have a vital role in promoting awareness at the village level while upholding the principles of good governance.

Although the Lake Tanganyika Program, in partnership with Sustain Lake Tanganyika, is actively promoting community-led conservation practices for fisheries resources in ten villages of Nkasi District Council, there is a scarcity of knowledge concerning the "gaps" in community governance capacity, the existing CSOs operating in these villages, their objectives, capabilities, and their potential contributions to support community conservation efforts. Therefore, TNC seeks to collaborate with Nkasi District experts to identify like-minded CSO working in Nkasi District, identify gaps and provide capacity-building support.

The purpose of the consultancy is to (i) assess the effectiveness of community governance in Natural resources management (ii) identify Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and like-minded organizations active in the conservation of natural resources and (iii) deliver capacity building in Nkasi DC by primarily focusing in ten villages where TNC is carrying out conservation work with communities and local government.

Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal.

E-mail : procurement.lake@tnc.org

Note : The deadline to submit proposals is set on **26th December 2023.**



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila (2nd-L) presents appreciation certificate to Barrick Communication Officer Abella Mutiganzi (2nd R) and Barrick Corporate Communications and Country Liaison Manager Georgia Mutagahywa (R) to support gender awareness training conducted by the Police Force at the climax of 16 days of activism against gender based violence held at the Dar es Salaam Police College over the weekend. Left is head of the Dar es Salaam Police Academy, SACP Lazaro Mambosasa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

German commits additional £36.4 m in support of SADC activities

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and the government of Germany have concluded bilateral negotiations on development cooperation with Germany making a financial commitment of an additional £36.4 million in support of the SADC regional programmes.

The SADC side was led by Executive Secretary, Elias Magosi while on the Germany side was led by Birgit Gerhardus, Head of the Division for Southern Africa at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The programmes that continue to be supported over the years include regional economic integration, trans-boundary water management, trans-boundary protection and use of natural resources, strengthening national regional linkages and support of the strategic management pillar of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

The SADC Executive Secretary acknowledged that since 1985 the German has continued to support the implementation of SADC programmes.

He said the on-going programmes are aligned with the SADC Vision 2050 and the RISDP, including the Prioritised RISDP

2020-2030 projects.

He assured the German government that SADC does not take the gesture of support lightly.

Magosi committed that the Secretariat will collaborate with the German government in the implementation of the availed support, to enhance results and impact on regional integration, poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

"Peace, Security and Democratic Governance are the foundation for socio-economic development in our region. For this reason, we continue to pay particular focus on strengthening political cooperation, and enhancing democracy, good governance, and human security in the region", he remarked.

Birgit Gerhardus expressed that the German is committed to supporting SADC in the implementation of the regional integration agenda.

Gerhardus highlighted that the planned commitments are an outcome of technical consultations that facilitated the joint identification of interventions.

Both sides expressed the need to enhance communication and visibility of the SADC-German Cooperation, through success stories on the results and impact achieved in the implementation of German-funded projects.

Police, Barrick wins RC's praise for making 16 Days of Activism successful

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila has lauded the Police Force in collaboration with Barrick for making the just-ended 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (GBV) a successful one.

Police and the mining company have been able to provide education on how to deal with GBV in pri-

mary schools, secondary schools, in business areas in Dar es Salaam.

RC Chalamila made the remarks over the weekend when wrapping up the 16 Days of Activism that was held at the Police Academy and attended by various stakeholders.

The RC said that with the success achieved in the 16 Days of Activism by creating awareness about the negative impacts of GBV, "collective effort still needed to curtail the

barbaric behavior in the general public."

"We still have a noble task to increase the fight against the vice," the RC said.

According to RC Chalamila, GBV remains a social problem that my lead to psychological torture, hence the need to find out remedies is paramount.

He tasked the police force and Barrick to remain united in various

campaigns aimed at bringing about positive changes in the society like the 16 Days of Activism.

Head of the Dar es Salaam Police Academy, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP) Dr Lazaro Mambosasa said that the police force using its experts in the gender desks spread throughout the large network of its stations will continue to provide education and help victims of similar acts but to ensure

that those who commit such acts are quickly brought to justice.

Georgia Mutagahywa, Barrick corporate communications and country liaison manager said that the mining firm has been at the forefront of dealing with human rights violations, "and it will always continue to cooperate with the government and various stakeholders in the fight to eradicate gender-based violence."

Gift Mswoya, gender desks coordinator in the ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups said that during the 16-Days of Activism they reached more than 10 primary and secondary schools in Dar es Salaam.

According to her, they also reached people in the market outlets and people's gatherings through different media platforms.

LHRC calls upon for effective implementation of human rights

By Carlos Banda

LEGAL and Human Rights Center (LHRC) has called for the effective implementation of human rights as a sustainable development goal to realise the country's progress on advancing human rights observation and national development.

Anna Henga, LHRC Executive Director, gave the statement over the weekend during the commemoration of 75 years of universal declaration of human rights (UDHR) and International Human Rights Day.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, the LHRC Boss said that many people around the world are still facing challenges due to the violation and lack of observation of human rights as a sustainable development goal.

"Although, we are celebrating the 75 years of the universal declaration of human rights, there are still many challenges, where 2 billion people are living in hunger, absolute poverty, etc. meaning the development rights have been violated. We have made reflections and reached a realization that the main reason is that the 17 sustainable development goals are not implemented effectively," she said.

She also added that: "The first goal is focused on addressing poverty - however, people are still living in absolute poverty. We know more than 80% of Tanzanians are poor, only 20 per cent live in the middle and upper classes of the society. So this is still a major challenge. There are many groups whose rights are being under-

mined - for example, 47 per cent of all acts of human rights abuse are against children, the second group is women where 33 per cent of all crimes against human rights target women.

On the other hand, Henga also expressed optimism in the future of Tanzania human rights commitment citing that the ongoing law reforms undertaken by the government giving an example of the recent 'media coverage bill for the elections period' taken to parliament for discussion and the for 4-R philosophy by President Samia Suluhu Hassan namely; Reform, Rebuild, Reconciliation and Resilience which play a key role garnering major changes in the country's laws and policies.

For his part, Zlatan Millisic, the UN Tanzania resident coordinator, commended Tanzania's stride to achieving human rights as he noted the legal reforms undertaken by the government to achieve equality, dignity and justice for all guided by President Samia 4-R philosophy.

"The UN in Tanzania commends the government for its noticeable achievement in this domain. Tanzania's ratification of six core international treaties and its ongoing commitment to meeting the human rights obligations is commendable. Also, noting the government's recent initiatives guided by principles of reforms, reconciliation, resilience and rebuilding mark a pivotal point in our effort," he said.

EMBASSY OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF RED CROSS DAR ES SALAAM

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from Embassy of the United States of America and International Committee of Red Cross. We shall sell Household furniture's, Vehicles & Generator by public auction on Saturday December 16, 2023 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am; Sofa set, Chest drawer, dining table, chairs, Book case, Dresser, Office table, Chairs, Beds, Mattress, Fridge double door, Washer, Electric cooker, Garden Table, Garden chairs, Computer set, Printers Scanner, TV Set, Nordic Truck Trade Mill, Big Safe, Heavy duty Shredder, Toyota used engines: 1HZ diesel, V806 diesel, V8 petrol, Assorted Toyota used parts etc.

Vehicles Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
1	Toyota Land Cruiser Hard Top	1HZ Diesel Engine	2012	Not Paid
2	Toyota Land Cruiser Hard Top	1HZ Diesel Engine	2016	Not Paid
4	Generator 32KVA - 3 Phase	Cummins Engine Diesel	-	Not Paid
4	Generator 40 KVA - 3 Phase	Perkins Engine Diesel	-	Not Paid
1	Generator 110 KVA - 3 Phase	Perkins Engine Diesel	-	Not Paid
2	Digital Voltage Stabilizer 80KVA	Orion Y80 - 25	-	Not Paid

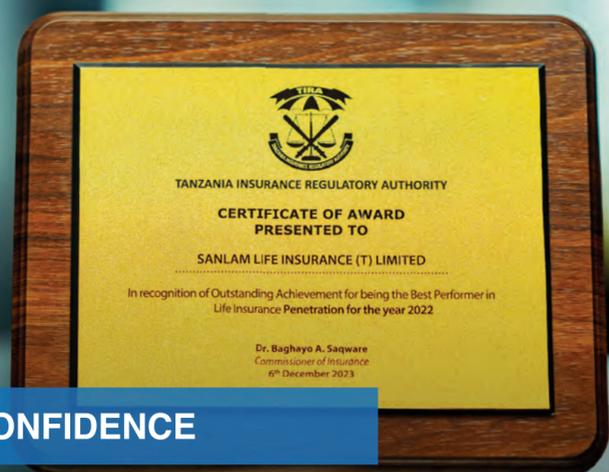
All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from December 13th to 15, 2023 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder for Furniture has to make full payment to cashier immediately. For Vehicle or Generator winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by December 21, 2023 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 4 working days, the Vehicle or Generator will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via CRDB and NBC Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties.
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.

For further information contact:
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA)
CELL NO: 0754 284 926

DAR ES SALAAM
E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com



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On 6th December 2023, Sanlam Life Insurance (T) Limited was recognized by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) for outstanding performance in Life Insurance penetration for the year 2022.

On the same occasion, the Regulator also announced Sanlam Life Insurance as the best Insurer in the year 2022 by contributing a Gross Written Premium (GWP) of TZS. 163 billion, which is the highest in the market.

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World Bank Group President Ajay Singh Banga looks at seaweed products produced by Muungoni entrepreneurs in South Unguja over the weekend. Photo: Rahna Suleimani

AICC supports flood victims in Katesh, Manyara Region

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) has provided 12m/- and 200 blankets to flood victims in Katesh, Hanang District in Manyara Region.

The recent floods and landslides washed away houses, rendering many families homeless.

The head of AICC public relations unit, Fredrick Maro handed over the donation to Manyara Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga on behalf of the Centre's managing director, Ephraim Mafuru.

The Regional Commissioner thanked AICC for the timely donation that she said was needed by the flood victims most of whom are temporary sheltered in Katesh secondary school and government premises.

The brief handover ceremony was attended by Permanent Secretary Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) Dr Jim Yonazi and Manyara Regional Administrative Secretary, Karoline Mthapula.

Visiting the area to meet with those who lost relatives and pay homage to intense round the clock rescue and relief operations President Samia Suluhu Hassan said the government will relocate to safe places those who had

no homes due to the mudslide and those in risky areas.

The President said the government has identified areas where all those in camps will be relocated, as well as those to be recommended to relocate.

This will follow a comprehensive report on the incident to decide which areas are suitable for residents to put up permanent habitats, she said, expressing eagerness to see a comprehensive report on the incident, indicating steps that need to be taken.



The President said the government has identified areas where all those in camps will be relocated, as well as those to be recommended to relocate

'IWPG Tanzania is conducting promotional activities for peace'

By Guardian Reporter

DR Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups has announced the government intention to cooperate with International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) in eliminating violence against women.

"Minister Gwajima said: "I am ready to collaborate with IWPG and will attend the International Women's Peace Conference next year. I look forward to maintaining

active exchanges through ongoing meetings."

Dr Gwajima made the pledge recently when addressing more than 200 women who participate at the in the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women' the event that was held in the Arusha Region.

It was organised by the champion Women Group where members of the Tanzania branch of the International Women's Peace Group led by IWPG Dar es Salaam branch manager Pendo Addie participated.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is a day established by the Latin American Women's Association in 1981 to commemorate each year on November 25th, with the aim of eradicating violence against women.

Lilian Msaki, Arusha chairperson of the peace committee (Health Africa, Regional Representative) said: "Peace is the only way to fight violence, through the introduction and promotional activities of

IWPG. We can change the world, and we must work together for peace."

Msaki made the statement at the '2023 International Women's Peace Conference' held in Incheon, South Korea in September.

She said the theme 'The Changes Brought by PLTE to Tanzania,' highlighted the current wind of women's peace education in Tanzania.

She also conveyed that IWPG organises the annual international loving peace art competition

worldwide, contributing to instilling the 'heart of peace' in children and youth, and promoting the development of a culture of peace.

The women who attended the event underscored the need to eliminate violence against women and necessities to restore human rights. They stated that IWPG seems to be a good organization for the future.

IWPG holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is registered with

the Department of Global Communications (DGC).

It is an international women's peace organization with a vision to protect precious lives from war and pass on peace to future generations with a motherly heart.

To achieve this vision, IWPG, headquartered in Seoul, South Korea, collaborates with over 110 branches worldwide and more than 560 affiliated organizations, actively engaging in peace activities.



TANZANIA-ZAMBIA RAILWAY AUTHORITY (TAZARA) HEAD OFFICE

VACANT POSITION

The Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) is a bi-national railway company owned jointly by the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia. The railway stretches from the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to New Kapiri-Mposhi in Zambia, covering a distance of 1,860km. TAZARA handles both freight and passenger traffic for Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Great Lakes Region and other Southern African countries. TAZARA's Corporate Head Office is in Dar es Salaam, with two Regional Offices in Dar es Salaam and Mpika, respectively.

The Authority seeks the services of a committed, vibrant, innovative, strategically-focused and business-oriented national in the following position.

REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGER, TANZANIA (BASED IN DAR ES SALAAM)

Reporting to the Managing Director, the successful candidates will manage, plan and control regional train operations.

Duties:

The main duties for the Regional General Manager include:

- Developing and implementing marketing plans;
- Planning and determining resources needed;
- Recommending any change to tariff rates and fares;
- Co-ordinating the activities in the region;
- Effective implementation and monitoring of manpower development plans and maintenance of industrial harmony;
- Initiating and approving departmental budget proposals as well monitoring and controlling budget expenditure;
- Submitting regular, comprehensive operational and financial reports on the regional activities to Head Office.

Qualifications:

- A degree from a recognized University or its equivalent, preferably in Business Administration or Engineering;
- The candidate should have vast experience in interpersonal skills, leadership and tact to deal with a diverse workforce and clients;
- At least five (5) years of experience at Senior Management level;
- Excellent communications skills;
- Post graduate degree and experience in railway transportation or related industries will be an added advantage; and
- This position is contractual and open to Tanzanian nationals only.

Remuneration:

An attractive salary plus fringe benefits commensurate with the position will be offered to the successful candidate.

Mode of Application:

Interested candidates should write to the address below describing how they qualify and enclose detailed curriculum vitae (CV), copies of Certificates, three references and contact telephone number(s) by 6th January 2024. The envelope must be clearly marked "Regional General Manager - Tanzania" and addressed to:

**The Corporation Secretary
Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority
TAZARA, Head Office
PO Box 2834, DAR ES SALAAM
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

Note:

Electronic applications with scanned copies of qualifications and other relevant documents may be sent to marco.mabala@tazarasite.com

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TANZANIA INVESTMENT CENTRE

CALL FOR INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FROM POTENTIAL INVESTORS FOR THE PALM OIL PLANTATION AND OTHER CROPS AT TIC FARM No. 205 AT BASANZA (3,249.76 Ha) IN KIGOMA REGION

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), has allocated 3,249.76 Hectares of land in the Kigoma Region for investment in palm oil plantation, palm oil processing and other crop cultivation. The farm No. 205 is located at BASANZA in Uvinza District Council-Kigoma Region.
- Through Tanzania's Five-year Strategic Development Plan initiative to reduce the domestic gap in edible oil supply, the Government has offered this land for that purpose and is looking for a suitable investor to implement the project.
- The land allocation process will be completed through the TIC competitively approved land bank allocation manual. TIC therefore invites potential domestic and foreign investors to submit information and project proposals indicating that they are qualified to invest in this land as follows:
 - Technical and financial capability in agricultural commodity cultivation, processing and marketing experience in the past five (5) years supported by the company's current audited financial statements specifically to indicate:
 - Quantity of current land area under cultivation;
 - Quantity of agricultural commodity cultivated;
 - Quantity of agricultural commodity processed/produced;
 - Linkages with the market to sell value-added agricultural commodities and quantity of processed commodity sold;
 - Experience in developing and implementing out-grower schemes which bring about an identifiable improvement in the livelihoods of the out-growers; and
 - Company Net Worth for the previous five (5) financial years
 - Project proposal for the farm project indicating project scope, implementation timelines during establishment and operations, investment capital breakdown, evidence of sufficient funding for the project, projected financial statements and other project economic benefits.
- Successful developer upon payment of statutory government land fees preferred developer shall be granted a long-term lease "as is, where is" basis that will feature specific project agreed development conditions and timelines. Moreover, the developer shall arrange financing for the project without providing recourse to land unless the project development has attained 60% of the TIC-approved total investment cost as per Certificate of Incentives. The proposal should therefore indicate the lease rental fee to the landlord.
- The Developer, for the performance of its obligations during the Implementation (Phase I) and Operation (Phase II) periods shall provide an irrevocable and unconditional performance guarantee from a Bank (Bank Guarantee) for a sum to be agreed between TIC and the Developer.
- Applicants who had earlier submitted their proposal for the same farm are also invited to submit their application in line with the requirements of this notice.
- The deadline for application submission is on Monday 12th February 2024 at 14:00 hours EAT. The hard copy of the proposal should be submitted to:

**The Executive Director,
Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC)
Head Office,
P.O. Box 938
Golden Jubilee Tower,
1st Floor, Ohio Street,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**

Further enquiries should be communicated by E-mail at info@tic.go.tz or Phone numbers +255 734 989 470 and +255 737 879 087

'Cranky Uncle game' launches in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

IN a ground-breaking effort to counter vaccine misinformation, a free, evidence-based game, 'Cranky Uncle Vaccine', is now available as a mobile app in Tanzania.

The game, created by developers at GoodBeast, equips players with the skills to identify misinformation while building their knowledge of vaccine safety, efficacy, and importance along the way.

"In a world overflowing with misinformation, the true vaccine is knowledge; and the tools to discern it are more crucial now than ever before," says Awet Araya, Social and Behaviour Change Manager, UNICEF Tanzania.

'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' was developed as a collaborative effort by UNICEF, in partnership with the Sabin Vaccine Institute; Irimi, a public health behavioural design company; and the Senior Research Fellow Dr. John Cook of the Melbourne Centre for Behaviour Change at the University of Melbourne.

Dr. Cook developed the original 'Cranky Uncle' game using cartoons, humour and critical thinking to expose the misleading techniques of science denial to build public resilience against misinformation.

The idea of a vaccine version of the game was conceived early in the pandemic by Dr. Angus Thomson, Senior Social Scientist at Irimi,

and Cook when writing UNICEF's Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide. UNICEF and Sabin joined the collaboration to develop the game and assisted with tailoring, developing, and testing the game's resonance and relevance to local culture and traditions. Regional, multi-lingual versions of the game were co-designed in East and West Africa and South Asia, later evolving into country-specific adaptations for Tanzania.

"Games and humour are perfect allies for tackling vaccine misinformation," says Cook. "They are interactive, engaging, and can be scaled up to reach enough people to make a difference in building resilience against misinformation."

'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' centres around a character called 'Cranky Uncle' (an archetypal science-denying individual) who insists he knows better than the world's scientists, and a health worker who shares factual information on the safety, efficacy, and importance of vaccines. Throughout the game players are mentored by the Cranky Uncle character, who teaches them different misinformation techniques ('tricks') that he uses to mislead people about vaccines.

"The game is evidence-based, starting with the literature review conducted which identified and classified the top 10 fallacies used globally to push vaccine misinformation,"

says Dr. Kate Hopkins, Director of Research in Sabin's Vaccine Acceptance and Demand Initiative.

The team worked with end users—young people, community health workers and parents/caregivers—to discuss and localize the script and characters to their context and ensure the final content is culturally relevant. A pre- and post-game play survey was administered as part of the pilot studies.

"This exciting programme is about taking the initiative and getting out ahead of this challenge, rather than always being on the back foot. We want to vaccinate people against vaccine misinformation," says UNICEF's Surani Abeysekera who specializes in Social, and Behaviour Change with the Immunisation Section in New York, HQ.

Results have shown that 'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' is effective in helping users discern vaccine-related misinformation from vaccination facts. A global dashboard, engineered by GoodBeast (who also developed the mobile app) and supported by UNICEF, tracks data analytics.

'Cranky Uncle Vaccine' which also rolled out in Ghana, is being tested in other countries including Rwanda and Pakistan for roll out in 2024, and will be scaled programmatically, embedded in the ongoing immunization activities of local UNICEF offices, Ministries of Health, and community-based organizations.



Minister of State in Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemani Jafo (C) speaks with Diaspora leaders on behalf of President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan during the 62nd anniversary of Tanganyika Independence held in Dubai on Saturday. Photo: VPO

Dodoma residents urged to improve environmental sanitation to control waterborne disease outbreak

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Doodoma

RESIDENTS in Dodoma city have been advised to beware of the on-going rains by keeping their environment clean to control and prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases including cholera.

The call was made yesterday by Head of the Department of Sanita-

tion and Solid Waste Management at Dodoma City Council office, Dickson Kimaro when briefing journalists on the importance of environmental sanitation in various areas within the fast-growing capital city.

He challenged the residents to ensure their residential areas are in a clean condition, especially during this rainy season. He said the move would help to control the outbreak of intestinal diseases, including cholera.

"It is important for citizens to take precautions by joining efforts and working together to improve environmental sanitation in all areas across the city to help avoid and curbing possibilities for the outbreak of diseases," he said.

Kimaro directed workers involved in waste collection in various areas of Dodoma city to ensure they implement their daily duties in accordance with the recommended health regula-

tions, including wearing and making effective use of tailor-made tools for protecting them from getting numerous diseases as well as possible disasters.

"Some workers in the sanitation department are holding a negative tendency of ignoring to use the provided personal protective gears (PPE) as well as the use other relevant tools provided to them as per the set occupational safety and health regula-

tions," he remarked.

He insisted that it was sensible for the workers in the sanitation sector to bow to the set regulations and precautions in order to stand on the safe side.

Kimario asked food vendors and fruit sellers specially those displaying their commodities besides the streets to follow the recommended environmental hygiene rules to protect themselves and their customers.

"I ask those who sell fruits in the markets and those who walk on the streets to make sure that they follow the health regulations to avoid getting the diseases. Fruit buyers must ensure that they wash them properly before eating," he added.

He also underscored the need for the residents to use the on-going rains to plant trees in their areas, a move which will help to restore the destroyed vegetation.



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BULYANHULU



Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-23-11-08 – SUPPLY OF SANDVIK LH 621 UNDERGROUND LOADER

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

Underground Loader LH 621 Specifications:

- 1 x Sandvik LH 621 underground loader – Powertrain Volvo TAD1344VE engine (352 kW, Euro Stage 2/Tier 2) dry type air filtering and double wall exhaust pipe, catalytic purifier and muffler; Dana SOH 9000 series converter with lock-up; Dana SOH 8000 series power shift transmission with modulation and automatic gear shifting and DeClutch; Kessler axles with spring applied hydraulic operated wet disk brakes and limited slip differential; Tires 35/65 R33L5**; ROPS & FOPS certified safety cabin with AC and heating; Seat with low back rest and 2 – point seat belt; High strength structure with optimized material thickness; All tanks (hydraulic and rear tanks) and cabin base welded to the frame; Central hinge with adjustable upper bearing; Automatic central lubrication; Bucket GET abrasion system 8.0m3, width 3160mm, max density 2400kg/ m3; Sandvik intelligent control system with 7" touch screen display; LED driving and working lights; LED brake and parking lights as well as blinkers; Flashing beacon; Dual horn configuration with separate alarms for start and reverse; Electrical filling pump for hydraulic oil; Door interlock for brakes, boom, bucket and steering hydraulics; Load sensing hydraulic system with piston pumps; ORFS – fittings and MSHA approved hoses; Separate brake hydraulic circuit, Automatic brake activation, ABA; Site commissioning and training.

Key documents:

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

Submission of Quotes:
Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com.

The reference "BUL-RFQ-23-11-08 – SUPPLY OF SANDVIK LH 621 UNDERGROUND LOADER" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement.

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

Key Dates:

- Last date to submit quotes: **18th December 2023**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



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BULYANHULU



Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BUL-RFQ-23-11-09 – SUPPLY OF SANDVIK TH663i UNDERGROUND TRUCK

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

Sandvik Truck TH663i Specifications:

- 1 X Sandvik TH663i Underground Truck – Powertrain Engine Volvo TAD1643VE-B (565kW/760hp, Euro Stage II/Tier 2) with engine brake; Fully automatic Dana transmission with Electric shifting System and retarder; Includes converter with lock-up and drop box; Kessler D111 series axles with spring applied, hydraulically released, liquid cooled multi – disc brakes; Tires 35/65 R33-E4; ROPS & FOPS certified safety cabin (height 2909mm); Air conditioning and heater, with cyclone prefilter; Mirrors defrost; Auto Mine trucking readiness; High strength structure with optimized material thicknesses; Central hinge with adjustable lower bearing; Dump box capacity 36.0m3 (SAE heaped 2:1, SAE J1363), width 3500mm; Filling pump for hydraulic oil; Door interlock for brakes; Hydraulics with steel piping, ORFS-fittings & high temperature hoses; Automatic brake activation, ABA; Sandvik intelligent control system and 5.7 in LCD color display; LED driving and working lights; LED parking, brake and indicator lights; Reversing and side camera; Reverse alarm; Flashing beacon; Signal horn for box up; Site commissioning and training.

Key documents:

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

Submission of Quotes:
Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com.

The reference "BUL-RFQ-23-11-09 – SUPPLY OF SANDVIK TH663i UNDERGROUND TRUCK" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement.

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

Key Dates:

- Last date to submit quotes: **18th December 2023**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

TGNP reaches ten million teenagers, women in 5yrs

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has reached over ten million teenagers and women countrywide during the past five years through empowerment of Women Rights Organisations (WROs) to push for women's rights and creation of a database on gender related issues.

The Tapo Women Voice and Leadership Tanzania Database was implemented with funding from the Global Affairs- Canada targeted at facilitating data collection teams from selected WROs and developing a database on women affairs that can be referred by financiers in gender-based programmes.

The project that reached 260 WROs across the country further targeted at complementing the government's efforts in realizing women's rights and gender equality.

Flora Ndaba, TGNP acting head of programme, activism and movement building said that commenced in 2019 targeted at bridging gender equality gaps and advocating for policy reforms connected to women's rights.

She said the project reached

WROs in the regions of Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Mtwara, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Shinyanga, Kigoma and Mara.

"The project had targeted at addressing different challenges such as lack of shared vision and common understanding on movement building and activating poor coordination of WROs members," said Ndaba.

According to her, TGNP had learned that WROs also faced knowledge challenges that needed to be fully addressed. Such challenges involve lack of conceptual clarity on women's movement building, limited understanding of feminism ideology and principles among WROs.

"We had learned that there is a limited number of skilled feminist facilitators in WROs. There is an intergenerational gap within most women organizations and movements," said Ndaba.

She said that outcomes have improved the capacity of WROs and groups to organize, coordinate and build consensus to influence key policy, legal and social change to advance women and teenagers' rights and empowerment.

The project has led to growth in a comprehensive information management system on WROs and women movement operationalized. This followed the development of a data prototype management system to generate reports and analysis.

With the facilitation to develop databases by WROs enjoyment of human rights have increased among women and teenagers hence the advancement of gender equality in the country.

"The project has enhanced inclusive collaboration and collective social action across the women's movement of Tanzania to effect policy, legal and social change that advances gender equality in Tanzania," said Ndaba.

She asserted that there has been increased production and use of knowledge by Tanzanian women and women's organizations, that strengthen evidence-based decision making to advance women's rights.

Ndaba said some of the WROs even didn't have abilities to run their own websites and social media but through the project they have been capacitated.



Claudia Simon Mapunda (L) the winner of the 10m/- cash prize through the ongoing Vodacom Tanzania PLC campaign dubbed 'Sambaza Shangwe, Gusa Maisha,' holding a dummy check presented to her by Masta Shangwe (L) at Mburahati Barafu grounds in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Chana unveils under-five registration programme for Dar es Salaam residents

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr Pindi Chana has launched a programme meant to register all children under five years for Dar es Salaam Region, calling them to fully exploit the opportunity where children will get birth certificates freely.

Speaking shortly after launching the programme over the weekend at Mbagala's Zakhem Grounds in Temeke District, Dr Chana said the RITA coordinated programme was designed to register all under five children and give the certificates without pay.

"Birth certificates are of paramount importance for our children as they continue schooling since they will easily be connected and recognised by government systems," she said, congratulating Dar es Salaam residents for showing up in big numbers.

RITA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Frank Kanyusi said RITA was expecting to register over 200,000 until the exercise winds up in Dar es Salaam early next year.

"We are planning to ensure that by end of next year all children under five must have been registered and get their birth certificates," Kanyusi explained.

According to Kanyusi the exercise would be conducted at all health centres, district hospitals and regional hospitals in Dar es Salaam Region.

"Dar es Salaam Region has reached 60 per cent for issuing birth certificates for children for instance the 2022 population census shows the region has 624,755 children who have already got birth certificates and 248,298 children were yet to be registered," he stressed.

UNICEF Representative in Tanzania, Elke Wisch said birth certificates for children were a significant document helping the government to have plans for them.

"We recognise the importance of birth certificates that is why we decided to join hands to support RITA in implementing the programme," she said.

Speaking at the same venue, a representative from TIGO, Rukia Mtingwa apart from congratulating RITA for doing a good work TIGO through its network has helped the programme to reach more Tanzanians easily.

Since the programme started to be implemented already 25 regions had registered all children and it climaxes in Dar es Salaam to make 26 regions.

Firm donates 200 gas cylinders, stoves to Hanang' flood victims

By Guardian Reporter

AID continues to flow to victims of mudslides in Katesh, Hanang District, Manyara Region as Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited (OGTL) has provided them with 200 gas cylinders and stoves.

The donated cooking facilities were handed over to the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs), Jenista Muhagama, an event that was witnessed by Manyara Regional Commissioner, Queen Sendiga.

Speaking yesterday after receiving the donated equipment, Muhagama commended Oryx Gas Tanzania for its contribution to the people of Hanang, saying the donation came at the right time when the residents are in need of clean cooking energy.

"We are thankful to Oryx especially at this difficult time. People here are in need of clean cooking energy as most of their properties have been damaged," she said.

OGTL head of sales department, Shaban Fundi said they reached the decision to donate the gas cylinders and stoves as part of showing solidarity with their fellow Tanzanians whose houses and other properties were washed away with the mudslides.

"We are aware that people in Katesh have been adversely affected by mudslides and are in need of cooking energy," he said, adding that Oryx continues to pray for quick recovery of those admitted at various hospitals.

He said the company will continue to cooperate with the government and Tanzanians in finding solutions to the challenges facing people in Hanang by ensuring availability of clean cooking energy.

According to government spokesperson Mobhare Matinyi the number of injured people who had admitted at hospitals in Manyara Region reached 133 as of Friday.

According to Matinyi, Manyara Region referral hospital has 18 patients, Hanang district hospital (Tumaini) has 26 patients while Gendabi has 7 patients.

He said there were 440 people in camps.



We are aware that people in Katesh have been adversely affected by mudslides and are in need of cooking energy



TANZANIA INVESTMENT CENTRE

CALL FOR INVESTMENT CONCEPT NOTES FROM POTENTIAL INVESTORS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF MKULAZI FARMS AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT CITY, AT MKULAZI AREA, NGERENGERE, MOROGORO REGION, TANZANIA

1. Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) is a One Stop Agency set up under the Tanzania Investment Act No. 10 of 2022 to promote, coordinate and facilitate investment in Tanzania. Through the TIC the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has allocated 60,103 hectares of land for the development of an agricultural City (investment in large-scale commercial farming for cultivation of crops and modern livestock keeping).
2. The site is situated alongside the TAZARA railway line linking Dar es Salaam with the Zambian border, approximately 100 km from Dar es Salaam. Mkulazi is well-positioned to serve the growing local, regional, and global demand-supply gap in both the sugar and rice markets and products of livestock as well as other agricultural commodities with the potential to reduce imports of key products and boost the export capabilities of Tanzania.
3. The farm will be subdivided and subtitled into 10,000 Hectares farms. While four farms are intended for the cultivation of a variety of crops depending on the land suitability, one farm is designated for establishing a modern and high-technology livestock-keeping and processing facility centre. The soil in Mkulazi is suitable for cultivating a variety of crops including sugar cane, rice, maize, sorghum, etc. The allocation of the Mkulazi farm measuring 60,103 Hectares will be guided by the Tanzania Investment Centre land allocation Manual. The remaining 10,103 will be allocated in future dates towards the development of agro-processing zones, and agriculture value addition industries.
4. As stated in the Tanzania Investment Policy, 1996 potential investors are assured priority access to land set aside by the government for investment. The Mukulazi land parcel is part of the Land Bank under the title deed of the land secured by TIC from the Ministry of Land and Human Settlements and the whole land is under the TIC land bank.

5. Therefore, TIC is now inviting both local and foreign investors to apply for allocation by submitting Investment Concept Notes to develop and operate sections the agricultural city or establish end-to-end livestock-keeping and process facility centre.

6. The preliminary evaluation criteria for the investment Concept Notes are as follows:

- i. Certified copies of legal entity documents
- ii. Quality of the Investment Concept Note (Project Title. The project title should be clear and concise. Project Objective, Background and Context, Target Audience and Beneficiaries, Project Activities, and Methodology, Expected Outcomes and Impact, Monitoring, Budget and Resources, and Project implementation schedule).
- iii. Quantity of current land area under cultivation;
- iv. Quantity of agricultural commodity cultivated;
- v. Quantity of agricultural commodity processed/produced;
- vi. Linkages with the market to sell value-added agricultural commodities and quantity of processed commodities sold
- vii. Approved project will have to be commenced within 24 months by signing a performance contract and submitting a Bank Guarantee the sum will be agreed upon between TIC and the prospective Investor
- viii. Alignment to the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and National Five-Year Development Plan.
- ix. Value for money in terms of benefits to the Government of Tanzania including, Economic development stimulation, increase of exports /import substitution, Employment and economic boost, Development of resources and Resource transfer, Increased production, and Increase in a country's income:
- x. Evidence of the financial capacity of investors by submitting five years of audited financial reports
- xi. Investor track record or experience in undertaking similar projects.
- xii. Plan to involve out-growers scheme with examples from good experience. (where applicable)
- xiii. Capacity to develop an agricultural city with important agricultural infrastructures and facilities, to serve as model farms
- xiv. Proposed annual rental fee to be paid to TIC

7. Upon completion of the evaluation of the submitted Investment Concept Notes, TIC will shortlist prospective investors that will meet evaluation criteria and thereafter invite successful applicants to submit full Request for Proposals (RFP) based on TIC-approved Terms of Reference for the call for proposals within TIC land bank allocation procedures and guidelines.

8. The window for Investment Concept Note submission will be open starting 10th December 2023 and will be closed on Monday 12th February 2024 at 1400 hours EAT. The hard copy of the proposal should be submitted and addressed to:

**The Executive Director,
Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC)
Head Office,
P.O. Box 938
Golden Jubilee Tower,
1st Floor, Ohio Street,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**

Further enquiries should be communicated by E-mail at info@tic.go.tz or Phone numbers +255 734 989 470 and +255 737 879 087.

Please, note that late submissions will not be accepted. The proposal must be marked: Investment Concept Note for Agriculture City at Mkulazi Area, Ngerengere, Morogoro, Tanzania

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023

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

Environment matters starting to distort local government options

WHILE local government authorities in the city of Dar es Salaam appear to be increasingly aware of environmental hazards in their day to day work, there is less ability to clear hard waste than was the case earlier. An environment official in Temeke municipality has raised the issue of effects of hard waste in disease levels, saying cash that would go to economic activity is used in medical care. This was another reflection on the environment issue, which was taken up in a different way recently by the call to station two health officers to help with disease prevention.

Some of the problems like slow waste collection seem to be related to the rise in fuel prices which could conceivably touch go slow measures on the part of hard waste collectors wishing for a rise in the charges paid by residents. Such hikes are sensitive issues and with civic polls not far from here, not many local leaders wish to go from house to house to appeal for understanding of such a move. It is thus left to sporadic collection of hard waste in 'off radar' areas not seen by top leaders.

Thus when a district official sounds alarm about hard wastes ruining health in the area and costing the government plenty of funds in obtaining drugs and other medical needs, plausibly sets the stage for demanding comprehension of the threat posed by hard waste to public welfare. Whether that sets the stage for a proper review of charges is perhaps a little obvious but it can't be upstaged by 'reading the lips' of local government officials. But admittedly it is a vexing question.

One positive feature is that there are a bigger number of welfare and even business groups working on hard wastes, taking up bits and

pieces of hard waste centres like schools or specific areas. Often civic organisations engage in role model actions or pilot schemes of what can be done in a particular area, and at most they have a complementary impact of policy actions being conducted on the ground. That's why an event to hand some tasks to a cluster of environmental volunteers enabled the council to express a rallying cry on the importance in the city of Dar es Salaam.

There are scores of technical and business projects that have over time been mooted as to how hard wastes can be used profitably. Often some clear ideas fail to be translated into policy action, for instance the lack of biomass units in the city of Dar es Salaam, as ownership, regulatory and enforcement issues cripple such a project from the start. Pupils are taught how to use hard waste usefully but not where it matters, as what is involved in profitable use of waste has other aspects.

So as the municipal official noted, there are dangers associated with a rising waste collection problem, but there is an auxiliary problem of wishing to empower small economic actors who cannot take up waste in sizes that allow them a measure of regulatory prerogatives. It would require a sort of decentralization of service agencies such that they can accommodate other service providers, for instance producing biogas energy from solid waste points. This calls for control over such wastes over a fairly big zone, after negotiations with the government to set out the terms. Then there will be no need for hiking waste collection fees if someone needs the waste for economic purposes, that it is a raw material for his business project.

Kudos to diplomats for big role model gesture in climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

SENIOR Tanzanian diplomats placed in various foreign countries took the fairly novel initiative of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro as a group or as a team, in a private sector initiative from Zara Tours, a northern circuit travel firm. Ten ambassadors and high commissioners were towards the end of last week slated to use seven days to climb the mountain, to inspire 228 local residents vying to climb the mountain, to raise the national flag as part of Independence Day celebrations. It is actually an initiative that has its roots in efforts by the former chief of defence forces, Gen. Mirisho Sarakikya who was posted as High Commissioner to Kenya for many years, initiating an annual climb for diplomats during and after his tenure ended.

Envoys involves are those who represent Tanzania in Cuba, France, Malaysia, Belgium, European Union, Saudi Arabia, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Japan. The campaign 'Let's go to the top 2023'. The other climbers notably include officers and unit members of the military (TPDF), along with officials of government departments and non-governmental organisations, all teaming up for a special Independence Day event. They will use three gates to climb, from the western part of the mountain gate to its central and eastern parts, and districts.

Gen. George Waitara, a former CDF chairing the board of trustees of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) appealed to the envoys before the trip to the top started, that they keep up the spirit of inviting people from other countries to visit Tanzania, and climb the mountain where

they can. He also referred to the need to invite investors to take up opportunities in tourism infrastructure and hotels. It is an issue envoys had in the past discussed with the union and Zanzibar presidents.

As changing the climate of business to attract large investors is unavoidably a slow process, it was not clear if the mountain climbing occasion had elements of networking and milestones in solving some of the bottlenecks in getting tourism sector investors.

There is a clash between regulatory liberalisation that investors want, and a protectionist channeling of potential investments into areas where regulatory cum operating agencies like TANAPA operate. Issuing of hunting blocks has usually been problematic while exporting live animals is prohibited.

Liberalisation in that area could also spark a breeding industry for all sorts of wild animals, instead of pushing visitors to come to see them here because they don't have them where they come from.

All sorts of wildlife imagery and excitement is freely available on television for those who want merely to see them, and other attachment spheres are needed to attract visitors, and especially investors.

There is plenty of scope for widening what tourism investors could actually do in that area. It is possible that all these ideas were put across in meetings between diplomats and the two presidents as the meetings were extensive, but bringing up concrete decisions that alter the tourism investment atmosphere may indeed take a while to be realized. It relates to how far the country has accepted liberalisation as such.

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Why the UN COP28 climate talks must serve farmers to achieve a 'just transition'

By William Warshauer and Joao Campari

Food and agriculture is a top agenda item at UNFCCC COP28, as the world considers how to tackle the climate impacts of what we eat and how we produce it. The stage has been set for COP28 to be a "food COP", but for commitments to translate to action, it must also be a "farmers' COP".

As countries unite at COP28 around the Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action, the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation and other country-led initiatives, it is farmers, fishers, and food producers who will be vital to actually implementing urgent climate action on the ground and in the water.

In addition to being critical to reducing emissions from food production, farmers and fishers are also some of those most affected by climate change. A just transition in agricultural production therefore presents a multi-faceted opportunity to reduce carbon emissions, restore nature, and ensure better and more resilient livelihoods for the world's 600 million smallholder farmers, all while bolstering global food supplies.

To capitalize on this opportunity, farmers, fishers, and food producers must be empowered to adopt nature-positive production practices that enhance their livelihoods while simultaneously protecting nature and the climate.

Much attention will rightly be paid to how negotiators integrate food systems approaches, that consider food production, consumption and loss and waste, in the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation on Agriculture and Food Security, or Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement. But if we are

to translate global commitments into local action, all eyes must be on how finance is released to food producers so that they are incentivized to use practices that benefit climate, nature and people.

Money matters

Farmers and fishers are tending land and water to feed themselves and their communities, and to improve their livelihoods. While they are some of our most important environmental stewards, and many have a bond with nature, we cannot expect large-scale transitions to nature-positive practices while food producers are financially incentivised to implement unsustainable practices that focus on increasing yield at any cost.

Aid agencies and private financiers must fulfil existing financial pledges while allocating more climate finance for transformative solutions within the agriculture and food sector. In addition, studies have shown that USD540 billion of environmentally damaging agri-food subsidies need to be repurposed each year. WWF is part of the working group on repurposing agrifood subsidies and supports, introduced at COP26, and is working with governments and private investors to rapidly change how agriculture and food is financed, to aid a transition away from unsustainable practices that produce a narrow range of unhealthy foods to nature-positive, climate-resilient food systems that provide everyone with enough healthy and nutritious food.

Effective and equitable resource

distribution is critical. Farmers, fishers, and rural women must benefit from better access to the financial support available if we are to make food systems more resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

Seeing is believing

Building trust is also essential for the transition to more resilient food systems. While there is significant evidence that nature-positive production practices can deliver comparable yields and incomes to current practices, without degrading our natural world, farmers continue to face new challenges in the face of climate change. Increasing the availability of measurement tools and technology, and integrating them in national strategies for food systems, will help farmers implement practices demonstrated to be most effective. Alongside finance, smallholders need full access to comprehensive information, training, and expertise that helps them maximize both productivity and sustainability. Partnerships like that between TechnoServe and WWF help provide farmers with pragmatic advice and support on how to adopt practices suited for their unique realities that sustain both their livelihoods and their environment.

Spread the word

If food systems transformation is to be achieved at the speed required, governments, businesses, development organizations, and food producers must work together to develop and implement scalable models. This can be challenging

given the fact smallholders are often dispersed across large rural areas. Innovative solutions like radio, video and chat bots accessed by mobile phones, as used by TechnoServe to support tens of thousands of coffee farmers across five countries to implement nature-positive production practices, can help drive scale and accelerate impact.

As we head towards a pivotal COP30 in Brazil, an agricultural and environmental bellwether, climate talks must now focus both on driving more ambitious global commitments, and on equipping and empowering smallholder farmers to implement solutions on the ground and in the water. Tangible action in landscapes, seascapes and riverscapes, especially those that are undergoing rapid conversion and degradation due to unsustainable food systems, relies on COP28 delivering enhanced financial support for nature-positive food production.

Supporting smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change and adopt nature-positive practices not only serves their needs and rights to a decent livelihood, but it also protects a vital and increasingly precarious source of food and food security for the entire world. There is a clear opportunity for negotiators and financiers to seize at COP28.

William Warshauer, president and CEO of TechnoServe, a non-profit providing business solutions to poverty

Joao Campari, global leader, food practice, at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Africa's call to action at COP28? Fund adaptation

By Collins Nzovu

THE environment minister of Zambia, chair of the African Group at COP28, outlines the continent's priority at the ongoing climate talks.

For Africa, the climate crisis is a daily reality – one we have been living with for decades. Amid all noise around climate change, what we Africans need to see is action to help us adapt. How are we to cope with the lethal droughts, the devastating storms, and rising seas which threaten our way of life? We hope to get some answers to these questions at COP28 in Dubai which is ongoing as we speak.

Adaptation is fundamental to nature. It is how species evolve, how they survive and thrive in different environments. Now it is the human species that needs to adapt to a new environment, one caused by our own burning of fossil fuels, which has poisoned the skies and changed our climate.

Evolution often takes millennia, but we don't have that kind of time. Our adaptation needs to be rapid. We need to ensure our homes and buildings can withstand storms, floods, heatwaves, and other extreme weather conditions. We need our agriculture

to thrive amid the altered climate. And we need training in new skills and jobs as climate change makes some work no longer viable.

Rich countries, the ones that have caused the most climate pollution, have agreed to fund these adaptation efforts. But scrutiny has laid bare the shocking gap between the adaptation needs of vulnerable countries and the funding that has been made available so far. Last month, the UN's Environment Programme (UNEP) published its Adaptation Gap report, which highlighted the scale of the problem. It revealed that the gap is 50% larger than previously thought and that the adaptation needs are now 10-18 times as great as the flows of international public finance.

In the words of UN Secretary-General, António Guterres: "Lives and livelihoods are being lost and destroyed, with the vulnerable suffering the most. We are in an adaptation emergency. We must act like it. And take steps to close the adaptation gap, now."

This yawning adaptation gap is sadly the result of years of developed countries' reluctance to fund adaptation. Over the years, we in the Global South

have seen how developed countries are comfortable funding mitigation activities that reduce emissions but seem not to care much about the people already suffering the impacts of climate change. Could it be because the people who need adaptation are not their people?

Given that climate change is largely driven by fossil fuel burning by developed countries, it not just their moral obligation but their legally-binding obligation under the climate convention to provide the necessary support to developing countries. The Global South must not allow them to get away with neglecting their responsibility. It is an outrage that they haven't properly funded the adaptation needs arising from their actions.

We note with concern how, over the years, our developed country partners have made grand promises that they then fail to fulfil. In 2009, for instance, they made their now famous pledge to commit \$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020, which long remained elusive. In 2021, they promised to double their adaptation support, which they also have not delivered.

By Special Correspondent

Ubungo municipality jubilating over two years of sixth phase government

UBUNGO municipal council is implementing objectives of the government to improve social services to the people of Ubungo. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has provided money for implementing development projects in various sectors touching the lives of people and empower them economically. The support seeks resolve challenges facing service provision in health, education, environment, infrastructure plus economic empowerment.

A result there are noticeable improvements of the welfare of the community and the economy of residents of the municipal council, on the basis of remarks by municipal director Elias Ntiruhungwa.

The council has received 52.7bn/- for implementing various development projects, with 27.4bn/- used in people centered development projects like construction of hospitals, he said Upwards of 25.3bn/- was set aside from internal sources of revenues, used to implement development projects.

The sixth phase has seen rapid developments in sectors of health, education, economic empowerment, resolving challenges facing people for a long time. The core issue is fighting poverty, obtain quality social services in urban and rural areas to foster prosperity and economic uplift to people everywhere

Hashim Komba, the Ubungo district commissioner, explained strategies of safety and security in ensuring that the residents of the district are safe and can participate in productive activities.

On the economic front, Ubungo district was preparing areas for investments and continue looking for investors in various areas, with a Chinese investor lined up by the government for the construction of a massive business center, which its enthusiasts say it will be the largest in east and central Africa, with imported

A four lane highway on each side of the Morogoro Road will to a large extent reduce congestion, he said, while Jafary Nyaigesha, the .mayor, says the council is ensuring that all the money provided by the sixth faith government, is being spent properly as planned, so as to bring development to Ubungo residents.

The council has succeeded to girls secondary school, using 3bn/-, while directing hawkers to use conducive areas of doing their businesses without ruining their trades. The council has discussed with Tanzania Roads Agency (TanRoads) for the latter to build kiosks on road reserves along Morogoro Road, which it has agreed to do.

Denis Nyoni, heading pre-primary and primary education for the council, said that the council used 8.3bn/- during the sixth phase, where 2.7bn/- was from the government and 5.6bn/- was raised from internal sources.

The council runs 208 primary schools, built two new schools. Tegeta and Msakuzi South primary schools at 475m/- to cut walking distances especially for girls, enhancing their learning capacity. Classrooms were added in Makabe, Msumi, Makoka and Milenia ya Tatu, with 500m/- issued for desks.



Ubungo municipal director Elias Ntiruhungwa in an exclusive interview on land surveying and formalisation project, funded by the World Bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Secondary education officer Voster Mgina said that the council has succeeded to improve secondary education infrastructure, with 14.6bn/- used, where 13bn/- was government allocation and 1.6bn/- emanating from internal revenues. The key project, a girls' school for science subjects known as Dar es Salaam Girls Secondary School, has 1,080 boarding students.

Nine dormitories, 240 classrooms, nine teachers' houses and 123 pit latrines were built, plus rehabilitation of 21 teachers' houses, purchasing 2640 tables and chairs. A pass rate of 88 per cent in form four national exams, 92 per cent pass rate in form two and 99 per cent passing rate in

form six were registered, he stated.

Improving teaching techniques by training on using modern technology was conducted to raise the passing rates, he said.

Industries, Trade and Investment department head, Mary Mwakyosi, said that the council received 3bn/- used in improving the business environment and investment climate, like the construction of the new markets, rehabilitating others and improving the collection of revenues.

The council has set up a bricks factory to push council projects and earn revenues by selling bricks. It has also built a commuter bus stand at Mloganzila, food vending building at the major upcountry bus stand,

accommodating upwards of 80 such vendors. It also has trade frames in Manzese, improving Simu 2000 terminal.

The council has set aside 600m/- to build the Mabibo market, while the council's chief medical officer Dr. Tultitweli Mwinuka said that 400m/- was allocated in 2021/22, while 1.2bn/- was set aside in 2022/23 to enhance accessibility of drugs and medical equipment in hospitals and health centers. Diagnostic equipment such as X-rays, ultrasound and laboratory equipment have been purchased to enhance the quality of health care in the municipality.

A total of 66 new staff members have been added, with others obtaining skills training,

he said, community development officer Rose Andrew stating that the council has loaned out 2.7bn/- to 436 entrepreneurial groups, including 133 youth groups obtaining 1bn/-; 275 women groups accessing 1.5bn/-, along with 28 groups of people with disabilities getting 290m/- in loans. Rearing livestock, flour milling, gypsum making and shoe and skin products factory at Sinza are some of the loaned project.

Andambile Kyomo, the financial director, said revenue rose from 9bn.- in 2021 to 31.2bn.- by end of 2022.

War-torn Ukraine experiences surprisingly 'low return' on its African investment

By Peter Fabricius

UKRAINE'S Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba was being rather undemocratic – by his admission – then he told visiting African journalists last month that the returns on Ukraine's investment in better relations with Africa had been low.

Kyiv has increased its diplomatic engagement with Africa over the past year. Kuleba highlighted his visits to 12 African countries in the past 12 months, and Ukraine is opening nine more embassies, adding to the existing 11 in Africa.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told the journalists this expansion would cost Ukraine UAH1 billion, roughly \$26-million. This comes at a time when the country is desperate for more weapons to try to repel the Russian invaders, and to repair or replace the estimated \$411-billion of infrastructure that Russia has destroyed.

That's just the damage in the 50% of its territory that Ukraine has recaptured from Russia since the war began. He said Ukraine expected the figure to at least double when it regains control over the approximately 20% of its overall territory that Russian forces still occupy in the east and southeast.

For Ukraine, this is always a matter of when and not if. Though the country's counter-offensive has been going grindingly slow over the past year, and Russia is counter-advancing – though equally slowly – on some other fronts.

Food donations to African nations

Yet amid this fierce and bloody battle for freedom and independence, and ultimately for sheer survival, Ukraine had managed to donate 170,000 tonnes of free food to Africa under its Grain from Ukraine aid programme, Shmyhal said.

And every sheaf of that grain has had to be fought for too. Russia blockaded Ukraine's Black Sea ports when it invaded Ukraine in February 2022. In July 2022 the United Nations (UN) and Turkey negotiated the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), through which Russia agreed to lift its blockade selectively to allow only food to be shipped out.

In July this year Russia pulled out of the deal. When seven African leaders visited Ukraine and Russia to meet Presidents Volodymyr Zelensky and Vladimir Putin separately in July this year, restoring the BSGI was one of their main demands. They said the cut in supply of Ukrainian and Russian grain because of the war had spiked food prices and caused food insecurity.



A farmer watches as a combined harvester pours grain on to a truck in a field near Kyiv, Ukraine on 4 August 2023. (Photo: EPA-EFE/ Sergey Dolzhenko)

Putin refused. But Ukraine has managed to continue shipping out grain by keeping the Russian navy and air force at bay with anti-ship and anti-aircraft weapons provided by the West and following more strategic sea lanes. These transport the grain cargo ships through the waters of North Atlantic Treaty Organization members Bulgaria and Romania.

So it's been a heroic effort to get that grain out to Africa and elsewhere. It hasn't been an entirely altruistic endeavour. Zelensky told the African journalists that Ukraine earned desperately needed foreign currency to finance its war effort. But he said Ukraine wanted to show the world that it remained a guarantor of global food security.

The notable number of African countries that abstained from the 2022 UN General Assembly vote condemning Rus-

sia's aggression was surprising. Seventeen of them abstained, while Eritrea voted against the resolution. It was the highest proportion of any region refraining from blaming Russia.

African nations that abstained – particularly South Africa – claimed it was a vote for non-alignment and reluctance to intervene in a distant conflict. Probably, it had more to do with anti-Western sentiment in parts of the continent. Regardless, for the beleaguered Ukrainians, it felt like abandonment in their greatest hour of need, an act of bad Samaritanism.

Kuleba said the return on Ukraine's African investment had been low because of a lack of return visits to Kyiv by his peers. Also, he made clear that Ukraine had to battle for every African vote in the UN as grimly as it fought to recover every acre of its territory. He lamented that when

Ukraine persuaded an African nation to support it in a particular resolution, it couldn't count on that country to vote the same way the next time.

Ironically, though, Ukraine itself abstained on the 27 October UN General Assembly resolution demanding a ceasefire and humanitarian truce in the fighting in Gaza. Zelensky told the African journalists this was because Ukraine's amendment, which called for a reference to Russia's aggression against Ukraine in the resolution, was rejected.

Ukraine decided to show that it would not "only seek fairness and justice in one war and no such justice and fairness in another".

Maybe that was a tactical victory for Ukraine, but it was indeed a strategic mistake, undercutting its criticism of those who abandoned it on the Ukraine resolu-

tions. It also put Kuleba in the ironic – and surely rather uncomfortable – position of being in the abstainers' dock with his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor at a joint press conference in Pretoria.

The point remains that African states should surely be able to at least vote to condemn Russia's violation of the UN Charter in its invasion of Ukraine, even if that does nothing else to help Ukraine maintain its freedom and independence.

Pandor and her government are fond of saying being non-aligned doesn't mean South Africa is neutral – that is, it isn't indifferent to the suffering of Ukrainians.

But from the perspective of an embattled Kyiv, that distinction is purely semantic.

Rwanda: How the country views the UK's asylum deal

By Mayeni Jones

LAST week, Rwanda has been at the centre of a debate in UK politics about whether the government's latest attempt to off-shore some of its asylum seekers to the East African nation will work. But what do people in Rwanda make of the scheme?

The atmosphere in Hope Hostel is eerie.

Its 50 double rooms are cleaned daily, toiletries and slippers wait for new arrivals that are yet to come. Located in the affluent Kagugu suburb of Rwanda's capital, Kigali, you can see the presidential palace from some of the rooms' balconies.

It used to be a refuge for survivors of the 1994 genocide, in which about 800,000 people were slaughtered by ethnic Hutu extremists targeting the Tutsi minority.

Last year, it was then repurposed to host the asylum seekers who were going to be relocated from Britain.

It has 50 double rooms and can host up to 100 guests.

Qurans and prayer mats have been set up in each room.

Ismail Bakina, the hostel's managing director, says they were told many of the new arrivals would be Muslims from the Middle East and they wanted to accommodate their faith.

All the signs around the hostel are in English and Arabic.

And the restaurant has a big halal placard above the kitchen. Two prayer rooms on the top floors have breath-taking views of Kigali's rolling green hills.

A BBC crew visited the hostel a year ago as it was getting ready to receive the first arrivals from the UK. Now, a year-and-a-half later, it still stands empty.

It is part of what we now know is a £240m (\$300m) payment the UK made as part of its deal with Rwanda to settle some of its asylum seekers here.

The refugees would be given the option to stay in Rwanda or re-settle to another country.

Twenty-five-year-old journalist Providence Uwase is happy about the arrangement and thinks the deal could be good for Rwanda.

"Money is being injected into the country. Remember the UK has already provided the first instalment, which in return will support economic growth here," she tells the BBC.

"And the fact that Rwanda takes these asylum seekers in, might change the negative depiction of this country."

But not everyone agrees.

Many of the people we speak to will not criticise the government on the record. They worry there might



Cameronian Berenice Nonga says Rwanda is a good home for refugees but wants to be re-located to the US

be repercussions in a country which rights groups have criticised for not allowing free expression.

A 42-year-old Kigali café owner, who spoke to the BBC on the condition of anonymity, is torn about whether the scheme will benefit the country.

"I think it's double-sided.

"On a positive note, by bringing these people here, in the long term... we'll become more multicultural. But the downside is that this is a tiny, densely populated country with minimal or no access to basic opportunities. What happens if foreigners come in

to compete for the same opportunities?"

It is also not clear whether the new legislation, if passed in Westminster, will get stuck in a court battle.

Last month the UK Supreme Court judged a previous version of the scheme unlawful on the basis that it could not be sure Rwanda was a safe third country to send vulnerable asylum seekers to.

Opposition politician Victoire Ingabire agrees.

"I was surprised that the British government wanted to push this deal forward. They've signed a new treaty, but Rwanda's human rights re-

cord was one of the problems highlighted by the Supreme Court. If human rights issues are not addressed I think this treaty will face another legal challenge," she says.

The Rwandan government says it has always been important to both Rwanda and the UK that their partnership meet the highest standards of international law.

It also objects to being called unsafe, adding that the funding by the British government will ensure the asylum seekers it sends to Kigali are well taken care of.

In a press conference with British Home Secretary James

Cleverly on Tuesday in Kigali, Rwandan Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta said his country had a long history of welcoming refugees from around the world, including African migrants who were stuck in Libya and are now having their asylum cases processed in Rwanda.

He was referring to the Gashora transit camp, which we visit on a hot Thursday afternoon.

Forty-two-year-old Berenice Nonga is one of the residents.

She is happy here, but applied for asylum in the US. Her application has been successful and she hopes to move

soon.

"Rwanda is really good, it's home for all the refugees, the people are welcoming, they take good care of us. But since I never intended to spend all my life in Rwanda, that's why I asked to be resettled somewhere else so that I can give my child a good life."

She is not the only one. Of the almost 2,000 people who have been relocated to the transit camp in Gashora since it was set up in 2019, none opted to stay in Rwanda when given the option, preferring instead to move to another country.

Back in Kigali, 26-year-old South Sudanese refugee John (not his real name) also says he does not want to stay in Rwanda.

"I have no reason to stay in Rwanda. I don't see my life staying in Rwanda. All I do here is a struggle, I'm trying to build up a life out of a struggle."

John moved to Rwanda in 2017.

"I'm grateful to the government of Rwanda for giving me refugee status, but when I think about my growth, I don't feel proud to be in Rwanda."

He says although some refugees like the dozens of female students Rwanda took in from Afghanistan live in good hostels and are well taken care of, others like him are left to rot in camps for years. He does not think the UK should send its asylum seekers to Rwanda.

"Suella Braverman [who was home secretary at the time] came here to look into the living conditions of refugees. But she didn't meet the people who would have told her the truth about what it's like to be a refugee here before deciding to send asylum seekers here.

"It wasn't the real investigation of how to bring refugees in Rwanda. I don't agree with bringing refugees to Rwanda. **BBC**

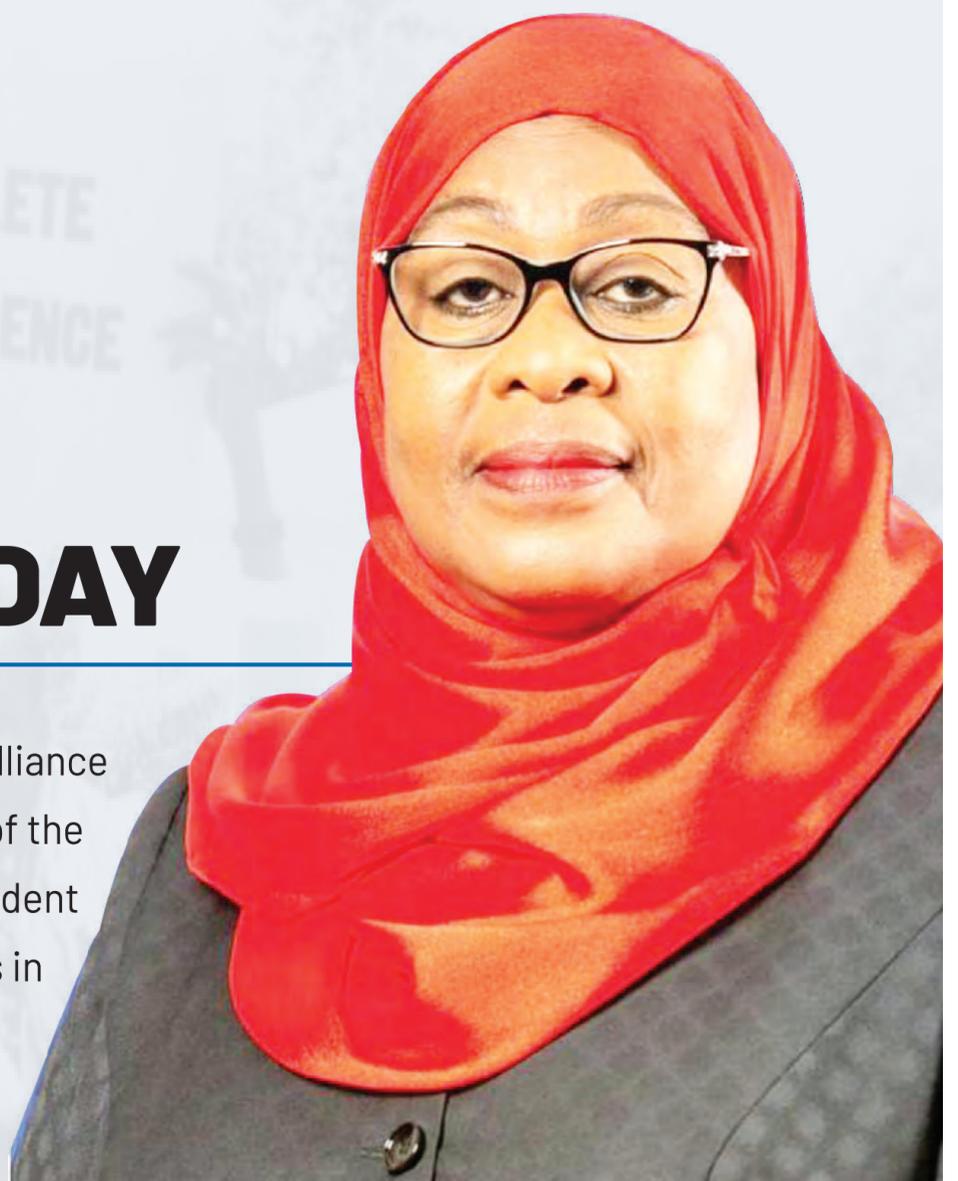


HAPPY 62 INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Alliance One Tanzania Limited (AOTTL) join the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency President **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan** and fellow Tanzanians in celebrating 62nd year of independence.

AOTTL through its ESG (Environment, Social & Governance) policy will continue to work towards contributing positively to the national socio economic strategies and development of our nation.

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency President **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**



Nape applauds Airtel, Jubilee Insurance, Axieva for introducing health insurance

By Francis Kajubi

NAPE Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communications, and Information Technology has commended Airtel Tanzania for its collaboration with Jubilee Insurance and Axieva in introducing a new health insurance product to be offered across the country.

Nape said yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the new product comes at the right time when President Samia Suluhu Hassan signs the Universal Health Insurance Bill, providing an opportunity for more people to benefit from the scheme.

He said the new health insurance product dubbed 'Afya Bima Health Insurance' pioneered by Airtel in collaboration with Jubilee Insurance and Axieva will save the lives and economy of many low-income earners who were not covered by health insurance, forcing them to use cash and sometimes sell their assets to pay for their own or their dependents' medical bills.

"I commend Airtel Tanzania, Jubilee Insurance, and Axieva because this service is easily accessible through Airtel Money, making it convenient for many Tanzanians to join from anywhere without inconvenience," said Nape.

According to him, the government has made significant investments in expanding various health service infrastructures, including building dispensaries at the village level, health centers at the ward level, district hospitals, regional referral hospitals, zonal

hospitals, and national hospitals.

Therefore, he said, the introduction of 'Afya Bima' will help many Tanzanians benefit from the quality healthcare provided in public hospitals.

He asserted that the government's investment in healthcare infrastructure would not be meaningful if people receive insurance services at a snail's pace.

"The product targets all people, especially those who cannot afford to pay for medical treatment when they fall ill, such as motorcyclists, taxi drivers and street food vendors. So, this is a significant solution for them to access healthcare while continuing with their lives," said Nape.

Airtel Money Director Charles Rugambwa, said that Afya Bima, is one of Airtel's strategies to bring innovative and easy-to-join services to Tanzanians through digital means, all Airtel Money customers can join using smartphones or non-smartphones handsets.

"Since the product is for everyone, and this is the season leading to the New Year, I urge Airtel Money customers to gift their loved ones by paying for Health Insurance packages, this is a meaningful gift. Everything starts on the Airtel Mobile Money App," said Rugambwa.

On his part, Jubilee Insurance CEO, Dr. Harold Adamson, expressed joy in partnering with other stakeholders to introduce this new service to all people, more importantly those using the Airtel. He said the product has three sub products namely Afya Poa, Afya



Minister for Information, Communications, and Information Technology Nape Nnauye (C), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday about the new Afya Bima Health Insurance product. On the left is Jubilee Insurance CEO, Dr. Harold Adamson and on the right is Airtel Money Director Charles Rugambwa.

Supa, and Afya Dhahabu, allowing customers to choose packages based on their needs.

"Afya Poa aims to reimburse lost income when a patient is hospitalized. The patient will be reimbursed between 20,000/- and 50,000/-. It also provides a funeral insurance benefit of up to 1mn/-, and for accidents, disability, or death, a benefit of up to 500,000/-. The cost of its packages ranges from 6,000/- to 35,000/- depending on the customer's needs," he said.

Afya Supa and Afya Dhahabu offer the benefit of receiving medical services without pay-

ment. Afya Supa covers medical expenses of up to 5mn/-, including both inpatient and outpatient treatment.

The product has packages ranging from 15,000/- to 45,000/- per year, depending on the customer's requirements. Afya Supa also includes maternity benefits of up to 2m/-.

Airtel Tanzania's Director of Corporate Communications Beatrice Singano, said that the company is all out to ensure that ICT service providers use their skills to assist all citizens, adding value to the sector.

She said that the new product will benefit approximately 17.5 million people using the Airtel, allowing them to access affordable medical treatment in over 600 healthcare facilities nationwide, providing relief to citizens during illnesses and enabling them to continue working.

Customers joining Afya Bima Health Insurance will be able to access medical services based on the hospitals registered by the Ministry of Health, including public hospitals, private hospitals, and mission hospitals, as per the provided list.

Elephants and dozens of the creatures die of thirst at Zimbabwe national park

By James Reynolds

DOZENS of elephants have died of thirst in Zimbabwe's popular Hwange National Park and conservationists fear losing more as a drought caused by climate change and the El Niño global weather pattern dries up watering holes.

Harrowing images showed the exhausted carcasses of elephants lying on the ground, dried out in the sun on hard soil. Even in Decem-

ber, Hwange can reach highs upwards of 30C.

Scientists say the seasonal El Niño event, poised to cause a devastating six month drought in Zimbabwe between October and next March, has been made worse by climate breakdown.

The National Park also has no major river running through it, and animals rely on solar-powered boreholes, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authorities (Zimparks) official said.

'We are relying on artificial water because our surface water has declined. Since elephants are water dependent, we are recording more deaths,' Zimparks principal ecologist at Hwange National Park, Daphine Madhlamoto, said.

The carcass of an elephant lies near a watering hole in Hwange National Park on December 7

Officials inspect the carcass of an elephant in Hwange National Park on December 7

There are as many as 45,000 elephants in Hwange, and the adults each require some 53 gallons (200 litres) of water daily.

But with water sources dwindling, the solar-powered pumps at the 104 boreholes or wells have not been able to draw enough water.

Reuters reported dozens of carcasses near watering holes, and park officials said other elephants have died in the bush providing ready prey for lions and vultures.

'The park has been witnessing the impact of climate change. We have been receiving less rains,' Madhlamoto said.

Zimbabwe's rainy season runs from November to March, but it has barely rained so far this year.

The drought is expected to continue into 2024, according to Zimbabwe Meteorological Services.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said an El Niño event

would likely have adverse effects until next March, 'potentially leading to drought conditions in Zimbabwe'.

Relief Web cited regions facing issues with food production, supply chain disruptions, widespread crop loss, livestock fatalities, increased disease, crop pests and challenges around water and hygiene.

Zimparks said animals are now being forced to walk long distances to search for water and food, and several

herds of elephants having crossed into neighbouring Botswana.

Conservation groups are trying to supply extra water by desalting watering holes and pumping more water through solar wells to help deal with the crisis.

Zimbabwe has an elephant population of nearly 100,000, but the capacity only for a little more than half of them, meaning the national parks are overwhelmed, Zimparks said.

NIT keen to boost quality assurance in modern teaching methods and research

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT) has celebrated the 10th Convocation with keenness to work continuously in sustaining and increasing quality assurance through contemporary teaching methods and research.

Speaking during the 10th Convocation held at NIT main campus Mabibo, Dar es Salaam over the weekend, the institute's acting Rector Dr Zainabu Mshana said: "With all the major transformations we have seen in the last couple of years, we are now working tirelessly to make our Institute a truly centre of excellence in logistics, management, and transport technology, linking what we do with the National Strategic Projects such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), revival of Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL), Development of Blue Economy and Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station Project."

Dr Zainabu added: "Today is an event that evokes different feelings and emotions for graduands, it is an exciting day and the beginning of a new phase of life, and it is a special moment to celebrate what has been achieved."

She went further congratulating all the NIT academic and administrative staff, for making such a huge effort to educate, train and qualifies all graduands.

"We all know that human capital is one of the most important foundations in building a modern society, and as far as I can see, NIT is doing an excellent job in preparing Tanzanians for the future."

She pointed out that NIT is also encouraging innovative ideas to enable intersections of different disciplines and professions within their Institution. "We hope that graduands of NIT will work together with other actors such as educators and transport professionals to prevent road crashes; we also hope that they will work with government and civil society leaders to build frameworks that protect the environment while promoting economic growth," she said.

The Acting Rector also said that NIT is optimistic that experts produced at the Institute will transform



UDART director general, Gilliard Ngewe (2nd-L) shakes hands with one of the NIT graduates who performed well during the Institutes 10th convocation held at NIT main campus Mabibo, Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Looking on (3rd R) is the institute's acting Rector Dr Zainabu Mshana. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

the country's economy by connecting urban and rural audiences to essential information. "We aim to produce graduates who are not only ready for demanding jobs, but who will have the skills and the drive to act as entrepreneurs for the creation of new jobs."

She concluded by saying, "So, stay connected with your classmates, your lecturers and your fellow alumni. Be generous with your knowledge and your time and imagine how you can collaborate to bring about the change that

is necessary in our societies. Once again, I commend you for your determination and congratulate you on your achievements. May the journey you begin today be all that you have dreamed of."

On behalf of the NIT Governing Council Eng. Prof Ulingeta Mbamba, a member of the Council Prof Patrick Makungu said: "NIT through the years has been living the vision to create Thought leaders and Change masters. Since 1975 NIT has been imparting knowledge and skills, it has

grown and evolved into a prestigious Transport Institution which has been giving to the transport industry successful professionals."

Prof Makungu added: "With NIT's focus on delivering quality education and creating a culture of learning, it has been consistently named among the best institutes in the country."

He also said that through the support of the illustrious alumni base, NIT has been gauging the various on-the-ground expectations of the corporation and has

positioned itself as a competitive and reputed institution of higher learning.

He said that the institute has now earned an outstanding reputation for itself and created an indelible mark at the national and international levels in the fields of Logistics and Transport Management.

"The forces of technology and dynamics of globalization require an institute to be very adaptive in its outlook and responsive to changes in the external environment. The multidimensional bouquet of Programs offered at NIT caters to all aspects of Logistics, Transport Management and technology in the context of today's environment. These programmes are focused around the National goals which are stipulated in the Tanzania Development Vision and the second National Five Year Development Plan," he said.

He noted: "I sincerely thank the NIT staff for sowing the seeds of dedication, commitment and sincere efforts to reap the benefits as we see today at the 10th Convocation 2023. I congratulate the proud parents and family members of the graduating batch and thank them for gulping the right values which have kept them motivated throughout their journey at NIT."

Gilliard Ngewe, UDA Rapid Transit Company (UDART) director general said that the transport sector is the basis of sustainable development and asked the graduates at the NIT to ensure that they support the sector for the benefit of the people and the nation as well.

He has urged the graduates to follow the law so that passengers and means of transport in the country continue to remain safe.

He said that the contribution of NIT to the Bariki Seme, a graduate of the Diploma in Shipbuilding and Repair Engineering congratulated NIT for establishing the Shipbuilding and Repair Engineering programme, saying that will contribute to the growth of the blue economy in the county.

"I also express my gratitude to the shipbuilding company Dar es Salaam Merchants Group (DMG) for continuously supporting the government initiative in promoting the blue economy by building and repairing marine vessels. I also thank DMG for awarding the best students in the shipbuilding and repair engineering programme at NIT," he said. Concludes, "Through this award, it increases motivation to the students to study hard and to increase creativity in shipbuilding technology to promote blue economy."

BUSINESS

NGO set to support 16,000 entrepreneurs in Singida

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

HAND in Hand Eastern Africa Tanzania is set to help 16,000 entrepreneurs in Singida Region to create 11,200 businesses that will create 17,388 jobs and thus increase their income and promote gender equality.

Glory Temu, organisation manager in Singida Region unveiled this here yesterday when introducing projects, the event which was in line with the NGO office inauguration.

Glory said that projects that are executed by the NGO includes Inua, which will empower 6,250 entrepreneurs—80 being women and the rest are men, forming 4,375 fruits business, creating 5,688 jobs.

According to her, the project will take 14 months and will be executed in four phases, which are encouraging people to join groups, business training, connecting group members to obtain loans from financial institutions and connecting group members to markets.

Glory said: “The expected results of this project are to increase profits and commercial stability for members, raise income, formalize value-adding activities in the project and help groups create Community Based. Organizations

(CBOs) and benefits from economic levels.”

She further said that another project is meant to support 9,750 entrepreneurs, 80 percent of whom are women, who will create 6,825 businesses and 11,700 jobs.

Glory also said that the project is scheduled to take 16 months which, among other things, will help remove gender barriers that prevent women's empowerment; additional gender training that will deal with harmful laws to defend equality and participation of women.

Albert Mwambungu, organization chief executive officer (CEO) thanked the Singida Regional Government for accepting the organization so that it can implement the projects for the benefit of the people and that they will cooperate with the government every step of the way to achieve the intended goals.

Jane Sabuni, organization manager said the Hand in Hand Eastern Tanzania organization is implementing various projects in the regions of Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, Dodoma and Singida where it has been able to reach 37,000 non-burning members, establish no less than 38,000 businesses and create 39,000 jobs.

TATO donates 128m/- to Hanag' mud flow victims

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) has donated 128m/- to help survivors of the mudslides tragedy at Katesh in Hanang District, Manyara region that claimed dozens of lives, scores injured and others rendered homeless.

According to TATO, they diverted funds mobilized from its members for a 40 years grand anniversary in order to help the victims.

“We've been touched by the plight of the mudslide victims and unanimously decided calling off the TATO's 40 years grand anniversary that was scheduled on December 9, 2023 so that we can reallocate the resources to support our dearest brothers and sisters in Katesh” said TATO Chairman, Wilbard Chambulo as he handed over the relief to the Natural Resources and Tourism Minister, Angellah Kairuki.

The relief items made up of 37,800 liters of mineral water, 2000 liters of cooking Oil, 10 metric tons of wheat flour and 4,000 corrugated Iron sheets, all worth \$51,200 (128m/-) in TATO's efforts to offer a sigh of relief to the survivors.

“Our hearts go out to those who have lost their loved ones, and we stand in

solidarity with the communities grappling with the aftermath of this natural catastrophe,” said the Chairman.

He said the donation intends to provide immediate support to those in dire need for them to rebuild their lives shattered by the unfortunate incident. “TATO acknowledges the urgency of the situation and remains committed to assisting the Hanang communities throughout the recovery process.”

Chambulo explained that the relief would address immediate nutritional, hygiene, and clothing requirements of the affected families.

Receiving the relief, Minister Kairuki hailed TATO for complementing government efforts in restoring hope to the victims of the tragedy.

“I'm so grateful to TATO members for your generous hearts. I urge other corporate bodies to borrow a leaf from TATO in joining forces with the government to mitigate the impact of the mudslide on the survivors,” Kairuki said.

TATO is a leading organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the tourism industry in Tanzania. The association comprises reputable tour operators and TATO works towards ensuring sustainable and responsible tourism practices, contributing to the socio-economic development of Tanzania.

TCRA commits to keeping pace with technological advancement

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to ensure Tanzania remains at the forefront of the digital era, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has reiterated its commitment to fulfilling its mandate by focusing on enhancing and advancing digital revolution, digital literacy and inclusion.

Marking the 46th anniversary of African Telecommunications Union (ATU) on December 7th, TCRA Director General Dr. Jabiri Bakari acknowledged Tanzania's significant progress in expanding access to telecommunications and ICT services.

He reaffirmed TCRA's unwavering commitment to regulating the communications sector and enabling achievement of the Government's digital revolution goals.

“TCRA also facilitates inclusion of marginalized groups through enhanced SIM card registration processes where citizens are assured of registration to embrace digital services including mobile financial services,” insisted he.

As of September 2023, Bakari said Tanzania had about 671 million active registered SIM Cards, thus comparing with a population of 61.7 million as per 2022 census, this makes the overall penetration of 109%, meaning that there are 109 subscriptions per 100 population (people) in Tanzania by September 2023.

The communication sector regulatory executive emphasized that this year's ATU theme, “Towards a Digital Revolution and Inclusion of the Marginalized: Addressing Accessibility Factors,” underscores the importance of ensuring universal access to the benefits of the digital revolution and inclusion and TCRA as a member of ATU will remain firm to fulfilling its mandate to ensure citizens are well served with communication services.

“The industry has witnessed the growth of digital financial inclusion services. As of September 2023, the mobile



TCRA Director General Dr. Jabiri Bakari

money subscriptions had reached 51.4 million users constituting 76.6% of the total registered active SIM cards. The enhanced simcard registration processes has also added SIM Card Registration procedures for visitors with age above 65 years of age or with defective fingerprints that experience challenges when capturing the biometric information, procedures,” he emphasised.

Enhanced Digital Literacy

Ensuring the youth's digital technology proficiency, DG Bakari envisioned “a future where no one is left behind,” adding: “our vision extends beyond connectivity; it encompasses empowering individuals through digital literacy and skills develop-

ment,” Bakari explained.

“We are spearheading the establishment of digital clubs in schools and colleges in collaboration with all stakeholders. These clubs will foster ICT awareness, cultivate opportunities for ICT skill development, promote responsible digital citizenship, and contribute to the advancement of digital Tanzania.”

With regards to enhanced adaptation of instantaneous changing digital technologies landscapes the DG was optimistic that his regulatory body will not be left behind, so is Tanzania.

“TCRA understands the necessity of adapting to the emergence of new technologies in the sector such as 5G, artificial intel-

ligence, internet of things, big data analytics and edge computing and therefore, creates an environment that fosters innovation while ensuring compliance with regulatory standards,” he insisted.

The DG further discussed the release of the IMT multi-band frequency spectrum in the 700 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2600 MHz, and 3500 MHz bands on 11th October 2022 through auctioning saying it has enabled service providers to broaden the communication services in the country, enabling the roll out of 5G technology services to different parts of Tanzania, enhancing penetration of latest digital communication technologies.

Established in 2003 under TCRA Act number 12,

the Regulatory Authority is tasked with regulating the communications sector in Tanzania. Its purview encompasses telecommunications and internet services, broadcasting and online journalism, and postal services, including courier operators. Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, TCRA actively participates in various regional and international communication bodies, including ITU, ATU, PAPU, CTO, UPU, EACO, and CRASA to ensure it collaborates to develop and implement regional and international sector regulatory frameworks, ensuring that Tanzania remains at the forefront of communications advancements through TCRA's technical representation.

WB calls for IDA beneficiaries to execute people-centred projects

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

WORLD Bank has called on the beneficiaries of the International Development Organization (IDA) to listen to the people what kind of investment they want.

Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank's Senior Managing Director (SMD) made the call on Thursday when visited some of the IDA-funded projects in Mfufuni village, Bumbwini and Jang'ombe in the Indian Ocean Archipelago. The visit was part of the just-ended three-day IDA 20 Midterm Review (MTR) meeting that brought on board representatives from over 70 countries, which are the recipient of the World Bank arm support.

The meeting is themed: “Building Back Better from the Crisis: Toward a Green, Resilient and Inclusive Future”.

The meeting reviewed the progress to date on IDA20's pol-

icy and financial commitments and to evaluate IDA's response to overlapping crises. The participants will discuss themes and issues that would need to be addressed during the IDA21 negotiations to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet.

Trotsenburg said the bank is determined to support low-income earning communities to get out of poverty trap.

He said that through IDA countries which are the beneficiaries of the fund get soft loans and invest in projects that have direct impacts to communities.

“But, we want all projects must have people's consent so that they have a say on those projects,” said Trotsenburg.

“I'm so happy for visiting this project in Mfufuni and I've seen many women are actively engaged in it. This is a good thing as it will take them into the next step,” he said.

Dr. Saada Mkuya Salum, Zan-

zibar Minister of State Office of the President, Finance and Planning, said the global lender has satisfied with the way Tanzania executes IDA-funded projects.

She said in Tanzania the IDA monies go direct to the project, which is an important aspect in the funds from the World Bank arm.

“So these achievements give us impetus to continue encouraging the global lender to get more funds from this window,” the minister said.

Leila Mohammed Musa, Zanzibar Minister for Education and Vocational Training said that 607 teachers were trained on science and mathematics and other 2,400 were drilled on science, mathematics and English language.

According to her, so far 22 innovation centres have been built in Unguja and Pemba islands and 22,422 students from 49 secondary schools have been using

those centres.

Mwanakhamis Adam Ameir, deputy principal secretary in the ministry of Education and Vocational Training said that construction of the Jang'ombe Innovation Centre started in 2016 and completed in January this year at the tune of \$35million from IDA support.

She said that the centre has been instrumental in bolstering students' performance in science and mathematics.

Pass marks have grown from 44.6percent in 2020 to 48.1percent last year.

Shadrack Mziray, acting chief executive director of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) said that the fund received \$65million from IDA out of \$883million needed.

Mziray said that so far \$101.9million has been disbursed to 280 households in Zanzibar including Mfufuni village.



Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank's Senior Managing Director (SMD)

NBC, BMF team up to train midwifery

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

NBC Bank, in collaboration with the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation has officially launched the implementation of a midwifery training scholarship programme, whereby 100 nurses will be benefited.

Lack of sufficient skills among midwives in the country has been identified as one of the major challenges in addressing maternal and infant mortality during childbirth.

The programme's launch took place over the weekend at the Morogoro College of Health Science, involving the signing of MoU between stakeholders including the college, Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, government through the Morogoro regional health Authorities, and the beneficiaries.

The signing is a continuation of a similar event that took place in July of this year, involving the program's key players; NBC Bank and the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation.

Dr. Kusiryu Ukio, the Morogoro regional chief medical officer (RMO), mentioned several challenges hindering efforts to address maternal and infant mortality during childbirth.

He highlighted that despite

the government's significant efforts in tackling the deaths, there are still several obstacles, including many midwives lacking the ability to handle emergencies during childbirth.

The RMO also mentioned other factors contributing to the deaths, such as some of the midwives fail to treat newborns with immediate medical needs and some midwives not following partographs of pregnant women, which hampers their ability to monitor the health of the unborn child and take necessary precautions before delivery.

"However, we are taking several initiatives as the government, especially here in Morogoro, where we ensure that we strengthen the capacity of midwives through our government programs and collaborations with partners like this one. We also ensure that every district hospital has a competent and skilled team to handle various obstetric emergencies... and that is why we emphasize to midwives to refer promptly when they encounter challenges beyond their capabilities to save the lives of both the mother and child," he said.

The launched program, known as the Mkapa Fellows Scholarship Program, involves a back up of 211m/- from NBC Bank, aimed at enhancing the



Some of the beneficiaries of the scholarship program for midwifery training for 100 nurses, funded by NBC Bank through the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (standing in the back), showcasing their scholarship MoUs during the launch of the program's implementation at Morogoro College of Health Science over the weekend. The launch was led by the Chief Medical Officer of Morogoro Region, Dr. Kusiryu Ukio (seated in the middle). Others present from the left, include the Head of Communication and Public Relations at NBC Bank, Mr. Godwin Semuny, the CEO of the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, Dr. Ellen Mkondya Senkoro and the Acting Principal of Morogoro College of Health Science, Dr. Damas Missanga (second from the right).

skills of 100 midwives in a one-year diploma program in midwifery at the Morogoro College of Health Sciences. The funds are part of the money raised by the bank through its charity marathon event called the 'NBC Dodoma Marathon' held in July in Dodoma.

Godwin Semuny, NBC head of communications and public relations explained that the initiative aims to support the government's efforts to improve the healthcare sector in Tanzania, particularly in addressing

maternal and infant mortality during childbirth.

He stressed the bank's belief that investing in the education and training of midwives can significantly contribute to saving lives and improving healthcare outcomes for mothers and newborns.

"As a responsible institution to the community we serve, NBC Bank recognizes the urgency of addressing deaths resulting from various challenges in childbirth in our country. We believe that by investing in

the education and training of midwives, we can contribute significantly to saving lives and improving health outcomes for mothers and newborns," said Semuny.

The bank's move comes at a time when Tanzania, despite various government efforts, still faces challenges in accessing quality healthcare services for pregnant women, leading to high maternal and infant mortality rates during childbirth.

Dr. Ellen Mkondya Sen-

koro, the CEO of the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, stated that through the newly launched program, registered nurses from public health centers will have the opportunity to advance their careers and attain a diploma in midwifery.

She highlighted the aim of empowering these midwife nurses to enhance their skills and expertise in order to improve the quality of care for pregnant women and reduce the risk of maternal deaths. She expressed gratitude to NBC Bank for their support in expanding access to quality healthcare services and promoting safe childbirth in underserved communities.

"The programme's beneficiaries are being empowered to enhance their skills and expertise in order to improve the quality of services for pregnant mothers and reduce the risk of maternal deaths. We believe in equal access to quality healthcare services for all. Through this scholarship program, we are expanding the reach to communities that have been underserved and improving safe childbirth. The improvements in these services will result in healthy mothers and newborns... for this, we are very grateful to our partners, NBC Bank," acknowledged Dr Senkoro.

Dr. Damas Missanga, acting principal of Morogoro College of Health Science, urged the students to make good use of the scholarship by considering the various training offered at the college, emphasizing the readiness of the college to ensure that the students graduate with high proficiency to fulfill the intended goals of the program.

Some beneficiaries of the program, Yusuph Chinguile, Angelina Amosi, and Simon Bundala, expressed gratitude to the sponsors of the program, mentioning that since the training began in mid-October, they have been learning to handle challenging childbirth situations, which is more crucial compared to their previous education on uncomplicated childbirth.

"Many of us came here without sufficient skills to handle uncommon challenges during delivery. Our previous knowledge was limited to normal, uncomplicated childbirth. That's why many of us find it difficult to save the lives of mothers and babies when faced with significant challenges and lacking nearby professionals... so we are very grateful to NBC Bank and the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation for introducing this program," said Nurse Simon Bundala.

EAC, Trademark Africa unveil innovative app to develop trade by eliminating NTBs

By Guardian Reporter

A GROUNDBREAKING development for regional trade, the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat has unveiled a new mobile application (App) dedicated to the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) - the EAC NTBs App.

This innovative App is set to revolutionise the region's trading landscape by streamlining the reporting, monitoring, and resolution of impediments traders face as they conduct business across borders. The development of the EAC NTBs APP was funded by the Netherlands through TradeMark Africa (TMA).

The EAC NTBs App, seamlessly blending SMS, email, and phone reporting methods, offers economic operators a one-stop solution for effectively reporting Non-Tariff Barriers to trade. By streamlining the NTB reporting process, the App will aid traders and producers in tackling obstacles that impede their trade efficiency and competitiveness. Additionally, it ensures transparency and quick resolution of issues by engaging technical and policy-level mechanisms, such as National Focal Points, the National Monitoring Committees (NMCs) and the Regional Monitoring Committee (RMC).

Speaking during the launch of the App, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs, Annette Ssemuwemba said the EAC NTBs App marks a pivotal moment in creating a smooth trading environment across the EAC region.

"We are dedicated to eradicating the barriers



that impede economic growth, and integration. This innovative solution serves as a powerful tool to empower traders, producers and economic operators offering them with a unified platform to promptly address and resolve NTBs," she added.

She noted that the removal of NTBs holds paramount significance in fostering a more efficient and equitable trade environment. Noting that these barriers, often in the form of procedural complexities, or administrative hurdles, hinder the smooth flow of goods and services across borders.

"Empowering the private sector to report NTBs encountered and enabling them to track the progress of the NTB through the App is key to enhancing the business environment in the region, it is our hope that this will be the turning point in effectively identifying and swiftly resolving NTBs in the region," said Ssemuwemba.

"At TradeMark Africa, we believe in fostering a vibrant and condu-

cive trade environment that propels economic growth and regional integration. This revolutionary app is a testament to our commitment to providing strategic solutions in digital trade," emphasised Director, Trade Policy, and Trade Facilitation, Benedict Musengele.

NTBs pose a major problem for traders and producers, as they can reduce profits and limit market access. NTBs include issues that can hinder trading effectively such as discriminatory requirements for special licenses and permits, excessive paperwork, complicated customs procedures, and bureaucratic delays at borders.

A recent EAC Regional Meeting Committee (RMC) report (2023) estimated the direct costs of NTBs at USD16,703,970 and total trade impact at USD94,918,000 decreasing trade by an average of 58%.

However, since 2017, EAC has resolved 89.5% of the reported NTBs (EAC Time Bound Programme report, 2023). In addition, there has

been a relatively steady decrease in reported NTBs. In recent years, from 2021 to 2023, the number of reported NTBs complaints has remained stable, ranging between 8 and 11 cases annually with a significant improvement in the resolution of NTBs reported to an average of 88.3 days.

Between June 2022 and June 2023, a total of 16 NTBs complaints were reported within EAC. Out of these, 9 NTBs have been resolved while 7 complaints remained in progress. A significant number of NTB complaints were addressed (56.25%) and resolved within the given timeframe. However, a notable portion of complaints, specifically (43.75%) were still in progress by end of June 2023.

The EAC NTBs App allows the users to report the complaints in one of the three (3) EAC official languages; English, Swahili and French and can be downloaded from the Apple Store, Google's Play Store, and other Android devices.

Digital health insurance to support well-being of mothers and newborns

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania has been providing the much-needed health insurance support to infants born during this festive season alongside their mothers and newborns through its campaign dubbed: 'Sambaza Shangwe, Gusa Maisha'.

The beneficiaries receive free comprehensive medical insurance for the year provided by the company's digital product, VodaBima.

Explaining the essence of providing medical insurance assistance during this festive season when handing over the donation at the Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital,

Vodacom's head of Central Zone Joseph Sayi

Stated that the health insurance donation aims to allow mothers to relax and enjoy the festive season knowing that the burden to access health care for themselves and their newborns is catered for, for the next twelve months.

"Our motivation is to touch as many lives as possible, with a focus on the health of mothers and babies. We are aware that this hospital receives many patients, and our coming here is a continuation of the existing collaboration we have with the government and its institutions to ensure that citizens have access to quality services."

Dr. Baraka Mponda, acting chief medical officer at the Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital, said: "The initiative supports the government's strategy to ensure all its citizens have access to health services. It aligns with the recently passed 'Universal Health Coverage' bill into law, which aims for health insurance for everyone. Vodacom has started implementing this by visiting the hospital and providing significant health insurance coverage for 100 mothers and 100 children. We are grateful for

this assistance as it will play a great role in supporting health insurance for mothers and their newborns, which aligns with government policies and the ministry in general, and urge more partners to follow this path."

Unlike the previous festive campaigns, this year Vodacom aims to touch lives and share joy with communities in different regions such as Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mbeya, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, and Zanzibar isles. The company is sharing a gift of love by donating 2,000 comprehensive health insurance covers to mothers and their newborns. The initiative is implemented in collaboration with several government hospitals where the beneficiaries will enjoy free medical care for one year.

Mothers in Zanzibar and their newborns have also benefited from the VodaBima health insurance support from Vodacom. A total of 100 mothers and 100 newborns at the Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital received this donation at an intimate handover event attended by the hospital and Vodacom staff, ensuring that they would not have to worry about their healthcare needs for the next year.

Khadija Salum Said, head of the maternity ward at Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital, noted: "By providing free health insurance, and comprehensive one for the entire year, mothers and their children will not have to worry about medical care."

"Mothers who give birth and newborns face health challenges in this stage which results in more deaths. This donation will assist a great deal in saving lives and reducing infant mortality. This is a bold move towards addressing health challenges mothers and children face across the country."

African countries urged to remove barriers hindering youth businesses

NAIROBI

KENYAN President William Ruto has called for elimination of bottlenecks that were slowing down growth of youth-led enterprises in Africa, worsening poverty and unemployment.

Speaking over the weekend at the official opening ceremony for Youthconnekt Africa in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Ruto stressed that abolishing obsolete policies and regulations and hastening integration will be key to

spurring growth of start-ups owned by the youth.

"Governments should simplify business regulations, facilitate access to capital and promote regional integration to ensure that enterprises led by youth thrive and create opportunities," Ruto said.

He added that African youth require mentorship, market linkages and digital skills to unlock their entrepreneur potential, become self-reliant and contribute to economic growth.

Kenya is hosting the 2023

Youthconnekt Africa Summit from Dec. 8 to 12 that will convene over 20,000 youth, policymakers, industry leaders and donors to discuss diverse themes, including digitization, green finance, creative industry, borderless commerce and how they can unleash opportunities for the continent's youth.

The five-day summit to be held under the theme of "Youth Innovating a Borderless African Renaissance", will provide a platform for young people to gain skills and knowledge required to grow their

businesses.

Ruto noted that establishment of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will open new opportunities for entrepreneurial youth to help solve the unemployment crisis.

In addition, Ruto said that policy reforms alongside benchmarking with international best practices are key to unlocking youth-led innovations and revitalizing cross-border enterprise in the continent.

The Kenyan leader said African countries should

bridge digital divide in order to promote youth involvement in the continent's growing e-commerce and virtual jobs.

Prime Minister of Lesotho Sam Matekane said that Africa should leverage youth bulge to hasten digitization that promises economic vitality and job creation.

Matekane said that support for youth-led enterprises will hasten realization of Africa's integration agenda besides promoting peace, stability and cohesion.

Tanzanian experts emerge from CALA programme, ready to transform agriculture

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

IN an important advancement for African agriculture whereby nine Tanzanian leaders were among the 78 graduates of the Centre for African Leaders in Agriculture (CALA) programme.

Held recently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the ceremony signifies a critical step forward for African agricultural development.

CALA programme—a visionary initiative led by AGRA and implemented alongside partners like the African Management Institute (AMI) and Policy Link, provided an intensive 16-month experience. It focused on practical leadership skills and the effective rollout of national agriculture initiatives, with a special emphasis on innovative strategies to mitigate post-harvest losses.

CALA's Second cohort for the Advanced Leadership programme began in 2022 and consists of 80 participants from 8 countries - Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Selected from over 1,000 applicants, the 80 individuals represent the continent's most dynamic leaders in agriculture, with 45% of the leaders drawn from government agencies across the 8 countries, 26% from the private sector and 29% from civil society.

The nine graduates from Tanzania represent a remarkable array of professionals, each bringing their unique expertise to the forefront



CALA graduates and attendees in Addis Ababa on December 7th, 2023, shortly before the graduation ceremony. About Seventy-Eight (78) Food Systems Leaders graduate from AGRA's Center for African Leaders in Agriculture (CALA) Programme.

of agricultural development and among them include:

Dr. Honest Kessy, who is the Director of National Food Security in the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, plays a crucial role in shaping national food security policies and strategies. Nyabundege Frank, the managing director at Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), which is instrumental in the financial aspects of agricultural development, providing vital fiscal insights and support.

Bahati Hakimu, the acting head of regulatory services at the Sugar Board of Tanzania, which oversees regulatory compliance and standards, ensuring the integrity and sustainability of the sugar industry.

Tulumba Mloge, an Advisor to

the CEO at SAGCOT Centre Limited, demonstrating a unique combination of leadership and strategic guidance. Prudence Lugendo, working as a Policy Specialist and Projects Manager at SAGCOT, effectively combines policy knowledge with project management skills, playing a key role in implementing agricultural initiatives.

Anasia Maleko, general manager at TAHAFresh Handling Ltd, brings a wealth of experience in overseeing agricultural operations, contributing significantly to operational efficiency and productivity. Happymark Pangani, an Agriculture Officer at Mufindi District Council, directly influences agricultural practices at the district level, impacting local farm-

ing communities and practices.

Each individual in this group represents a crucial aspect of agricultural development, collectively driving forward Tanzania's agricultural sector.

The graduates are poised to play a pivotal role in advancing African agriculture, reflecting a comprehensive approach to addressing agricultural challenges on the continent.

Their training equips them to align national goals with regional objectives and effectively implement key agricultural programs.

AGRA President Dr. Agnes Kalibata highlighted the critical nature of this issue, stating: "Fifty percent of CALA graduates are focused on solving post-harvest losses."

This statement underscored the programme's role in transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle into a thriving business.

The graduates, handpicked from a pool of over 1,000 applicants, embody the dynamic and promising future of African agriculture. Their diverse professional backgrounds, spanning government, private sector, and civil society, reflect a holistic approach to tackling the continent's agricultural challenges.

Prof. Jean Jacques Muhinda, AGRA's Regional Head for East and Southern Africa, emphasized the graduates' role in synchronizing their country's agricultural priorities with regional objectives, ensuring that food system transformations

are grounded in the realities of local communities.

This year's graduation marks the second cohort to complete the CALA programme, following the first virtual ceremony in 2022. The 78 leaders, representing a cross-section of the public, private sector, and civil society, received certificates acknowledging their leadership roles in Africa's journey towards Food Security and Sustainability. The programme's design, tailored for leaders implementing country-level agricultural initiatives, provided the delegates with skills for effective implementation of flagship programmes and fostered cross-sector collaborative leadership.

The graduating class now joins the inaugural cohort of 80 delegates in the prestigious CALA alumni community, where they will continue their collaborative learning and development. This expanding community underscores the CALA programme's commitment to nurturing agricultural leaders who can drive transformative change.

The CALA programme is an AGRA-led initiative, delivered in collaboration with implementing partners including the African Management Institute (AMI), CALA's lead implementation and learning partner, and USAID's Policy LINK. Policy LINK, a part of the global Feed the Future program, has played a crucial role in designing and rolling out the leadership programme's coaching component, adding a unique dimension to the learning experience.

TAHA, SIDA promote high-value fruits farming to lessen climate change effects

By Guardian Reporter

A KEY player in horticulture industry is working overtime to intensify high-value fruits farming, as it seeks to mitigate the effects of climate change, boost income for farmers and enhance nutrition.

The rising heat compounded by climate change is currently taking its toll on horticulture, threatening to scorch the green industry that contributes 17 percent of food security basket, earns the economy \$750 million annually, thousands of jobs and nutrition

Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA)

through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) financed Growing Wealth through Horticulture (GROWTH) project being implemented in six regions in the country, has successfully managed to turn the avocado, marula and spices value chains into gold rush occupation. The regions benefiting from the GROWTH project SIDA support are Pwani, Kilimanjaro, Arusha Manyara, Dodoma and Tanga. A rapid assessment done in northern Tanzania comprising Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro where avocado is more favorable, saw the number of small-scale farmers who embraced the butter fruit farming hit 1,993 in 2023, up from 794 in 2022, equivalent to 60 per cent upsurge.

The production area under the commercial avocado cultivation also jumped from 1003.2 acres to 1,672 acres in the period under review, meaning the northern Tanzania's avocado groves would be sequestering a total of 4,347.2 tons of carbon dioxide annually. It is scientifically proven that a one-acre avocado grove sequesters up to 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide each year.

TAHA's production lead, Gilliard Daniel estimates that avocado production in the Northern Zone would also rise to 20,064 metric tons worth 36.12bn/- by 2027 going by the current price of 1,800/- per kilogramme, up from 12,038.4 metric tons worth Sh 21.67 billion per annum before GROWTH project.

Sida's desires and, indeed, the quest of TAHA is seeing farmers growing their wealth through horticulture, while protecting the environment and adopting to and mitigating impacts of climate change.

The Sida's support in climate-smart agricultural technology uptake, modern farming, and access to markets have not only spiced up the industry, but also uplifted production and productivity of horticultural crops, making farmers and other players in the value chain smile all the way to banks to stuff up their wallets.

The Executive Associate to the TAHA CEO, Simon May says the whole idea of the Sida-funded GROWTH project is to facilitate horticultural transformation to meet multiple challenges of climate change, food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and environmental degradation.

"As the data loudly speaks, through the GROWTH project, we aim at increasing competitiveness and sustainability of the horticultural industry, boosting productivity by improving knowledge on efficient and sustainable farming methods, with emphasis on integrating environment, climate change and biodiversity," Mr May clarifies.



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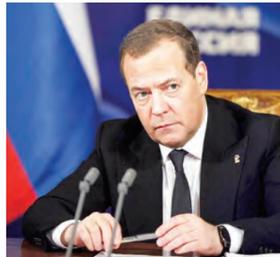
WORLD

Medvedev says Olaf Scholz's claims that Russia stopped gas supply to Europe a lie

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev called German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's claims that Russia stopped gas supplies to Europe a lie.

"The German lies blatantly! They rejected [the gas supplies] themselves, they embarrassed themselves before their own people because of



their hatred for Russia, and now they wriggle and lie," Medvedev said on his X page.

Previously, Scholz claimed, speaking at the SPD party congress, that energy prices have "increased everywhere."

He justified it by claiming that it was Russian President Vladimir Putin who "stopped the gas supply through an operational gas pipeline". **Agencies**

COP28: UN chief urges leaders to agree on deep emission cut

DOHA / DUBAI

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday he will not give up appealing for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, adding that the war undermined the credibility and authority of the Security Council.

Guterres was speaking at the Doha Forum conference as Washington vetoed on Friday a proposed UN Security Council demand for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

"I urged the Security Council to press to avert a humanitarian catastrophe and I reiterated my appeal for a humanitarian ceasefire to be declared," Guterres said.

"Regrettably, the Security Council failed to do it, but that does not make it less necessary," he said.

"I will not give up," Guterres added.

Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told the gathering that Doha will continue to pressure Israel and Hamas for a truce despite "narrowing" chances.

Qatar, where several political leaders of Hamas are based, has been leading negotiations between the group and Israel.

Sheikh Mohammed said hostages were released from Gaza because of negotiations and not because of Israel's military actions.

The head of UNRWA, the UN aid agency for Palestinians, said the dehumanization of Palestinians has allowed the international community to tolerate Israel's continued attacks on Gaza.

"There is no doubt that a humanitarian ceasefire is needed if we want to put an end to hell on earth right now in Gaza," UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said.

The United States and Israel oppose a ceasefire because they believe it would only benefit Hamas. Washington instead supports pauses in fighting to protect civilians and allow the release of hostages taken by Hamas in a deadly Oct 7 attack on Israel.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a session at the COP28 UN Climate Summit, Dec 1, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (PHOTO / AP)

Guterres also urged leaders at the COP28 climate conference to agree on deep cuts to emissions and stop global warming exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius.

He said that despite pledges, emissions are at a record high and fossil fuels are the major cause.

Oil-producing powers clashed on Saturday with the rest of the countries over a possible agreement to phase out fossil fuels at the climate summit in Dubai, jeopardizing attempts to deliver a first-ever commitment to eventually end the use of oil and gas in 30 years of global warming talks.

"I urge leaders at COP28 in Dubai to agree on deep cuts to emissions, in line with the 1.5-degree limit," Guterres said adding that fossil fuel companies and their backers should use their enormous resources to lead the renewables revolution.

IEA: Not enough to limit warming to 1.5C

A raft of new pledges announced at the COP28 climate summit - from tripling renewables to reining in methane emissions - won't be enough on their own to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Sunday.

So far, 130 countries have agreed to triple renewables and double the rate of energy efficiency improvements, while 50 oil and gas companies have

agreed to cut out methane emissions and eliminate routine flaring by 2030 under the Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter. If everyone delivered on their commitments, it would lower global-energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 4 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2030, the IEA analysis said.

That is about a third of the emissions gap that needs to be closed in the next six years to limit warming to 1.5C above preindustrial levels, as agreed to in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"They would not be nearly enough to move the world onto a path to reaching international climate targets," the IEA said. "The IEA will continue to monitor the ongoing developments at COP28 and update its assessment as needed."

The IEA has previously said that countries would need to deliver in five key areas at COP28 to keep 1.5C a possibility.

In addition to adding renewables, boosting energy efficiency and cutting methane, it said a large-scale financing mechanism is needed to triple clean energy investment in poorer nations. The IEA also said the world would need to commit to a decline in the use of fossil fuels, and end new approvals of unabated coal-fired power plants.

The COP28 summit runs through Dec 12.

UN: Killings hit record high in 2021 amid post-lockdown stress

VIENNA

THE number of murders and other intentional killings surged to a record high across the world in 2021, driven in part by the stress and economic pressures of COVID-19 lockdowns, a UN report said on Friday.

Around 458,000 people were killed intentionally, higher than the 400,000 to 450,000 recorded every year since researchers started collating the data in 2000, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Study on Homicide said.

Escalations in gang or political violence played their part but the after-effects of lockdowns, where people were cooped up inside for long periods, also took their toll.

"The noticeable spike in killings in 2021 can be attributed in part to the economic repercussions of COVID-related restrictions," the report reads.

Initially, the lockdowns that rolled out across the world from 2020 may have reduced the number of murders, as potential killers largely stayed inside and only mixed with people in the same household, the study said.

But "in the longer term, the negative social and economic repercussions of lockdowns, which may include increased stress and anxiety, unemployment or loss of income, can be expected to affect homicide trends by creating an environment of 'strain' that drives individuals to commit crime," the report said.

In Colombia, strict lockdown measures imposed in March 2020 led to a sharp but short-lived drop in homicides, the researchers found. That was followed by a surge in 2021.

Overall, countries in the Americas continued to have the highest homicide rate of the five global regions - more than six times Europe's, which was the lowest.

In 2021, eight of the 10 countries with the highest homicide rates were in Latin America and the Caribbean, the report said, citing factors such as crime groups competing for control of markets, weak rule of law and social inequality.

Honduras, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico were among those with the highest homicide rates. The two in the top 10 outside Latin America and the Caribbean were Myanmar and South Africa.

In Ecuador, the government blamed a surge of killings on drug gangs that use the country as a transit point en route to the United States and Europe.

The UNODC homicide study, published every four to five years, analyzed developments up to 2021 as that was the latest year with a full set of data.

The study said it looked at killings of one person by another that were intentional and unlawful.

Agencies



Another special flight with 100 evacuated Russians from Gaza Strip lands in Moscow

MOSCOW

ANOTHER group of Russian citizens, evacuated from the Gaza Strip, arrived in the Russian capital of Moscow yesterday morning, the Russian Emergencies Ministry's press office said in a statement.

"An Il-76 plane, operated by the Russian Emergencies Ministry and carrying a group of Russian citizens and members of their families, has landed at the Domodedovo Airport," the statement reads. "The special flight of the Russian Emergencies Ministry brought home 100 more of our compatriots."

Since the start of the humanitarian mission to evacuate Russian citizens and their family members from the zone of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the Russian Emergencies Ministry dispatched 11 special flights bringing home 1,051 people, including 473 chil-

dren, the ministry added.

Tensions flared up again in the Middle East on October 7 after militants from the Gaza Strip-based radical Palestinian group Hamas launched a surprise incursion into Israeli territory, killing many Israeli kibbutz residents living near the Gaza border and abducting more than 200 Israelis, including women, children and the elderly.

Hamas described its attack as a response to the Israeli authorities' aggressive actions against the Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City.

Israel declared a total blockade of the Gaza Strip and launched bombardments of the enclave and some areas in Lebanon and Syria, as well as a ground operation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Clashes are also reported in the West Bank.

Agencies

PM Modi extends wishes to South Korean President as both countries celebrate 50 years of diplomatic ties

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi extended his wishes to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol yesterday as both countries celebrated 50 years of diplomatic ties.

He further emphasised that India and South Korea have mutual respect, shared values and growing partnerships.

PM Modi (pictured) took to his social media X, and said, "We are celebrating 50 years of establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Republic of Korea today. It has been a journey of mutual respect, shared values and growing partnerships."

"I extend warm wishes to @President_KR Yoon Suk Yeol and look forward to working closely with him to deepen and expand our Special Strategic Partnership," PM Modi added on X.

Earlier in September, the country's envoy Chang Jae-bok announced that South Korea will provide USD 4 billion to India as a line of credit over the next three years for "high-value" projects.

Addressing a press conference, the envoy told reporters that President Yoon Suk Yeol and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a discussion on the matter during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

Sharing details of the meeting, the envoy said the two leaders agreed to improve strategic communication and cooperation.

South Korea will provide the loan



under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF). South Korea announced this fund in 1987 to promote economic cooperation with developing countries.

PM Modi and President Yoon also agreed to strengthen space development cooperation. The envoy informed that two leaders were scheduled to speak for 20 minutes but the discussion stretched to over 40 minutes.

President Yoon and Prime Minister Modi agreed to improve strategic communication and cooperation. Our countries are co-partners in the Indo-Pacific region," he informed reporters.

ANI

UN special rapporteur condemns lack of accountability for crimes in Afghanistan

KABUL

THE United Nations Special Rapporteur for Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, condemned the lack of accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and human rights violations, TOLONews reported.

Richard Bennett, during a conference on 'Accountability for Crimes Committed in Afghanistan', said the country, for decades, has been experiencing impunity for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The conference was held on Friday in New York, US.

"I would like to stress the importance of this event, as accountability is the bedrock of the human rights system and Afghanistan has been experiencing impunity for decades ... for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of human rights or international humanitarian law," the UN Special Rapporteur for Afghanistan said.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Executive Director and Director of Programmes of the International Centre

for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Anna Myriam Roccatello, stressed that the member states, particularly those that are involved in various phases of the conflict in Afghanistan, should consider opening cases for their own citizens."

The representative of Norway, who was also present at the conference, highlighted that Afghan women should attend the meetings in Afghanistan, TOLONews reported.

"The representative of Norway in this conference emphasised the global support for women in Afghan-

istan and added that women should attend the meetings about Afghanistan," the representative said.

Andreas Lovold, Norwegian ambassador and deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, addressed the need to create a joint platform with Afghan women where they can speak openly.

"We should, as member states, do whatever we can to provide that platform because it's not only about talking and discussing about the current situation, it's about the future of their country," he said. **ANI**

Agencies

Canada's surging cost of living fuels reverse immigration

TORONTO

THE dream of making it big in Canada is turning into a battle for survival for many immigrants due to the high cost of living and rental shortages, as rising emigration numbers hints to newcomers being forced to turn their back on a country that they chose to make their adopted home.

Trudeau has made immigration his main weapon to blunt Canada's big challenge of an aging and slowing population, and it has also helped fuel economic growth. That drove Canada's population up at its fastest clip in

more than six decades this year, Statistics Canada said.

But now a reversal of that trend is gradually taking hold. In the first six months of 2023 some 42,000 individuals departed Canada, adding to 93,818 people who left in 2022 and 85,927 exits in 2021, official data show.

The rate of immigrants leaving Canada hit a two-decade high in 2019, according to a recent report from the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC), an immigration advocacy group. While the numbers went down during

pandemic lockdowns, Statistics Canada data shows it is once again rising.

While that is a fraction of the 263,000 who came to the country over the same period, a steady rise in emigration is making some observers wary.

For a nation built on immigrants, a rising trend of people leaving Canada risks undermining one of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau government's signature policies, which granted permanent residency to a record 2.5 million people in just eight years.

Reuters spoke with a half a dozen people who have either left the country or are preparing to do so, because of the high cost of living.

To be sure, emigration as a percentage of Canada's overall population touched a high of 0.2 percent in the mid 1990s, and currently stands at about 0.09 percent, according to official government data.

While the numbers are small now, lawyers and immigration consultants warn that a pick-up could cast a shroud over Can-

ada's appeal as the one of the favoured destinations for newcomers.

"There's a real importance in creating positive experiences in those early years" so that people decide to stay, said Daniel Bernhard, CEO of ICC.

Immigrants blame the skyrocketing housing costs as the biggest reason for their decision to consider a new country.

On average in Canada about 60 percent of household income would be needed to cover home ownership costs, a figure that

rises to about 98 percent for Vancouver and 80 percent for Toronto, RBC said in a September report.

Myo Maung, 55, migrated to Canada from Myanmar over three decades ago and made a successful career as a real estate agent and a restaurateur. But he plans to retire in a country like Thailand since he cannot see himself maintaining his living standard in Canada on his retirement income.

Phil Triadafilopoulos, a political science professor specializ-

ing in immigration at the University of Toronto (UoT), said rapid immigration is exacerbating the housing shortage.

"It's not surprising then that people who have options... either go to another country or go back home having had a taste of the situation in Canada," Triadafilopoulos said.

Last month Trudeau's government capped its target for new residents at a half million per year from 2025 onwards to ease pressure on the housing market.

But for some it is too little too late.

Agencies

Egypt's Sisi, Russia's Putin call for ceasefire in Gaza

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Saturday vowed to make joint efforts to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

In a phone conversation, "the two presidents agreed to continue making earnest efforts to reach a ceasefire, stressing the imperative need for the international community to assume its responsibilities in this regard," the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

Sisi and Putin also called for "concerted international efforts to reach a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian issue, based on the two-state solution," as well as the establishment and recognition of an independent Palestinian state in accordance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Egyptian leader also updated his Russian counterpart on Cairo's ongoing efforts to push for a ceasefire "to prevent further deterioration of the miserable humanitarian situation the people in Gaza are living in."



Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi speak to the media at the Russia-Africa summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Oct 24, 2019. AP

UN resolution

On Friday, the UN Security Council failed to adopt a draft resolution on that would have demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza due to a veto cast by the United States. Many countries expressed disappointment and regret over the US veto of the Gaza-related draft.

"We express great disappointment and

regret that the draft has been vetoed by the US," said Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN.

Zhang said that two months of fighting had already caused an unprecedented amount of death and destruction. "An immediate ceasefire is the overriding prerequisite," Riyadh H. Mansour, permanent observer of Palestine to the UN, pointed out that it is be-

yond regrettable and disastrous that the Council was prevented from upholding its responsibility.

Mohamed Abushahab, deputy permanent representative of the United Arab Emirates to the UN, expressed his deep disappointment with its outcome. However, he noted that this disappointing outcome will not deter his country from continuing to implore Council members to act and bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Dmitry Polyanskiy, first deputy permanent representative of Russia to the UN, said that "today will become one of the darkest days in the Middle East" as the United States has once again blocked calls for a ceasefire.

Nicolas de Riviere, permanent representative of France to the UN, said that he voted in favor of the draft resolution, adding that France will continue to commit to fully mobilizing the Council on all aspects of the crisis, whether it is security, humanitarian or political.

Ishikane Kimihiro, permanent representative of Japan to the UN, said his delegation voted in favor of the draft as the loss of all civilian life, whether Palestinian or Israeli, is tragic. He also expressed regret that the text had failed to be adopted.

US obstructs UN Security Council resolution demanding immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS

THE United States on Friday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution demanding immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

The resolution, drafted by the United Arab Emirates and backed by more than 100 countries, gained support from 13 of the 15 Security Council members, with Britain abstaining.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter to urge the organization's most powerful body to call for a ceasefire.

Article 99 states, "The secretary general may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."

The text of the resolution called for an immediate halt of fighting between Hamas and Israel and the protection of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians under international humanitarian law. It also demanded the

"immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

"Palestine's ambassador to the United Nations, Riyadh Mansour, told the council that the result of the vote was "disastrous," adding: "Millions of Palestinian lives hang in the balance.

Every single one of them is sacred, worth saving." He stated that it was "beyond regrettable" that the Security Council was hindered from fulfilling its duties -- via a newly adopted resolution -- amidst the crisis.

Rather than enabling the council to execute its charge by at least issuing a definitive appeal, after two months of mass killings and atrocities, "the war criminals are given more time to perpetrate their crimes," Mansour remarked.

"How can this be justified? How can anyone justify the slaughter of an entire people?" he added. Speaking after the vote, U.S. deputy permanent representative to the United Nations Robert Wood said the resolution was "rushed" and "unrealistic."



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Explaining Britain's abstention from the draft resolution, Barbara Woodward, the British permanent representative to the United Nations, said her country could not vote in favor of a resolution that fails to condemn the atrocities Hamas committed on innocent Israeli civilians on Oct. 7.

French permanent representative to the United Nations Nicolas de Riviere said the UN chief was

correct to raise the alarm over the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Gaza.

"It is for this reason that France voted in favor of this resolution and it is for that reason that we plead for an immediate and lasting humanitarian truce," he added.

At the Security Council's emergency meeting Friday morning on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian

question, Guterres issued a stark warning that "the conditions for the effective delivery of humanitarian aid no longer exist.

"According to the UN chief, more than 17,000 Palestinians have reportedly been killed since the start of Israel's military operations, including more than 4,000 women and 7,000 children. Tens of thousands are reported to have been injured, and many are missing, presumably under the rubble.

Guterres also warned that Gazans are running out of food. He cited the World Food Programme as saying that there is "a serious risk of starvation and famine.

"The top UN official also warned that "Gaza's health system is collapsing while needs are escalating." "The eyes of the world -- and the eyes of history -- are watching," demanding that the international community "do everything possible" to end the ordeal of the people of Gaza, he said.

Xinhua

ADDIS ABABA

Global community expresses concern as Sudan conflict spreads

THE international community has expressed concern over the continued fighting in Sudan as the conflict spreads into new areas.

Members of the Expanded Mechanism for the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan made the call in its joint declaration issued late Thursday following its recent meeting convened by the African Union (AU), according to a statement issued Thursday by the AU.

The expanded mechanism "expressed our grave concern at the continuing conflict in Su-

dan, which is spreading to new areas hitherto unaffected by the fighting, with credible reports of grave crimes, in particular, war crimes, crimes against humanity and sexual assault," the statement read.

It reiterated that there can be no sustainable military solution to the crisis in Sudan, and only an inclusive, representative, Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led dialogue among all Sudanese stakeholders can lead to a peaceful and sustainable solution to the crisis.

It further demanded that

the parties to the conflict in Sudan, namely the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), to "immediately agree to a comprehensive and unconditional ceasefire and return to the negotiating table in order to seek a peaceful return to a transition to civilian constitutional rule in Sudan."

The expanded mechanism brought together representatives from the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations, the League of Arab

States, the European Union, the permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC), the African members of the UNSC, Sudan's neighboring countries, countries designated by the IGAD to engage the belligerents, and Comoros, among others.

The expanded mechanism expressed grave concern at credible reports of atrocity crimes throughout Sudan, and stress that accountability must be part of any response in the search for peace in Sudan, to ensure justice and healing for victims and affected communities.

It further demanded that the parties to the conflict in Sudan to facilitate safe humanitarian access and ensure the protection of civilians, in line with international humanitarian law and international human rights law as well as the provisions of the agreements already reached in the Jeddah talks.

It commended countries neighboring Sudan, which have welcomed large numbers of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers, and further urges increased international financial and logistical support to host countries and communities.

Xinhua

China vigorously advances construction of New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor

THE New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is an international trade and logistics passage jointly built by Chinese provincial regions and ASEAN countries.

The passage takes provincial regions in western China as key transportation hubs and stretches southward to destinations across the globe, making use of various transportation modes including railway, maritime shipping and highway.

In recent years, China has been vigorously promoting the construction of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor. According to statistics, the trade volume between the 13 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities jointly building the passage and the ten ASEAN countries exceeded \$130 billion last year, an increase of 73.3 percent compared to that in the beginning of the corridor's operation in 2017. This figure has exceeded \$100 billion for three consecutive years.

Rail-sea intermodal trains departing from Chengdu International Railway Port in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan province, for south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region have been operating steadily with a continuous increase in shipment volume.

According to Huang Jun, director of the dispatching workshop of the Chengdu North Railway Station under China

Railway Chengdu Group, the Sichuan-Guangxi rail-sea intermodal trains, which start from Chengdu and export cargoes to ASEAN countries via the port of Qinzhou in Guangxi, reduce shipping time by over a half compared with traditional river-sea transportation.

And more changes are happening to forge better connectivity.

A new rail line between Chengdu and Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan province, was opened at the end of 2022. The railway, together with the international freight line of Lancang-Mekong Express, shortens the trip between Chengdu and Laos' capital Vientiane to two days and 17 hours.

In July this year, the Lancang-Mekong-Sichuan Express was launched. The train service originates from Rayong province, Thailand, and travels via the China-Laos Railway from Vientiane to Chengdu International Railway Port. It then heads to Budapest, Hungary in Europe, through China-Europe freight trains.

The service connects the China-Laos Railway and the China-Europe freight service, reducing the logistics transit time to a minimum of 15 days.

As of October this year, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor had established 139 logistics stations in 69 cities



Vehicles to be shipped are parked in an international logistics park in southwest China's Chongqing municipality. (Photo by Sun Kaifang/People's Daily Online)

of 18 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities in China, reaching 480 ports in 120 countries and regions worldwide.

In the first three quarters of this year, the rail-sea intermodal trains of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor transported 633,000 twenty-foot equivalent units, growing 14 percent year on year.

"In addition to the rail-sea intermodal transport, other modes of transportation such as the rail-road, river-rail-sea, road-sea and the air transportation are also being developed rapidly," said Liu Wei, director of the logistics and operation center of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

Provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities involved in the construction of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor are working together to promote the deep integration of transportation modes, establishing an efficient intermodal transport system for Asian and European countries and regions, Liu noted.

As hardware facilities are becoming more advanced, the level of logistics operations and service support is also improving. Guizhou and Yunnan provinces are implementing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) rules in the construction of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor according to their respective local conditions. Chongqing municipality has comprehensively implemented a fast customs clearance mode for railways and innovating new forms of foreign trade.

What's even more gratifying is that this passage is now empowered by digital development. By building digital and information platforms, provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities jointly constructing the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor have launched a series of convenient online services.

For example, the international trade "Single Window" of Ningxia Hui auto-

nomous region has launched 781 services in 19 major categories, and 38 types of import and export regulatory certificates can be applied through the "Single Window." Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region is promoting the integration of 5G, new infrastructure, and transportation infrastructure, enhancing the sharing capabilities of information platforms, and promoting the intensive and efficient development of transportation resources.

In 2022, 78 routes were opened along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, bringing rice from Laos and durians from Thailand to China and Europe, and taking specialties of west China like Guizhou's chili sauce to overseas destinations.

Leveraging advantageous industries such as automotive and electronic information, Chongqing saw its trade volume with Belt and Road countries and regions reach 333.4 billion yuan (\$46.81 billion) last year. The municipality has attracted investment from 319 Fortune Global 500 companies.

Chinese enterprises have collaborated with Laos to develop modern agricultural industrial parks, and are exploring an integrated banana supply chain featuring transport, trade and production with Cambodia.

People's Daily

Red Cross praises China for Gaza humanitarian stand

GENEVA

AMID the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), commended China's support for upholding international humanitarian law.

In a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua, Spoljaric elaborated on the dire situation she witnessed during her visit to southern Gaza last week and called on all parties to the conflict to deescalate the situation and respect international humanitarian law so that civilian suffering is minimized and avoided.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is deteriorating, said Spoljaric. "What I saw in Gaza is a devastating humanitarian situation, it is increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for the civilian population to find safety."

"There's not enough medicine. There are not enough surgeons to operate and there are not enough operating theaters," she said. "The situation has greatly deteriorated in the last few days and it keeps deteriorating as the current situation persists."

Spoljaric highlighted the formidable challenges encountered by humanitarian workers in Gaza, citing insecurity and inadequate access to essential resources like electricity and water as severe impediments to aid operations.

"The operational environment in Gaza is extremely complex and difficult. For security reasons, our chances of reaching people who really need help are getting smaller and smaller. But also because it is still difficult for us to move the materials and goods needed for aid to come in," she said.

"We need fuel to be delivered to Gaza regularly to run generators, especially in hospitals. Because without electricity, hospitals cannot continue to operate and will collapse," she added.

Xinhua

We should be thankful to Indian farmers for ensuring global food security: EU Commissioner for Agriculture

NEW DELHI

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of Indian farmers towards global food security, the European Commission for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski said that both India and the European Union (EU) have huge potential to increase the trade relations.

The EU official said that the discussions regarding the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have been positive and the agreement regarding the protection of geographical indication will play a crucial role in promoting the food products of both India and the EU.

Speaking to ANI, Wojciechowski said, "The main target of this visit is to strengthen and improve trade relations between the European Union and India, and I am very satisfied after the meeting with representatives of Indian authorities and Indian business, I am accompanied by the most important sectors of the food system from the European Union".

He said that the European food export to India was 1.4 billion Euros last year and Indian import to the EU was 3.7 billion Euros and there is potential to increase this trade further.

"The second reason is especially important and that I am under the impression of the success and achievements of Indian farmers... In India, agricultural production in the last decade increased by 24 percent from 2004 to 2020. This is a great achievement for all small farmers," Wojciechowski added.

The EU official further praised the contribution of the Indian farmers for their productivity stating that it helped in ensuring global food security.

"...The Indian farmers, we should be thankful to them for their contribution to ensure global food security. And the small farmers...not bigger than 2 hectares. They managed only 12 per cent of agricultural land in the world, but they produce 35 per cent of food. This is the success story of Indian farmers and the majority of farmers in Asia. Because in Asian countries, the majority of farmers are very small, but they are very productive. We are thankful for them because food security is the global challenge for all of us," he further said.

On being asked about the ongoing negotiations regarding the free trade deal, the EU official affirmed hope that his visit will be a positive step in the direction adding that the two countries need to strengthen their bilateral relations.

"My talks are very important because we have the Free Trade Agreement negotiations and we have an agreement about the protection of geographical indications.... And I hope that it will be helpful to improve our cooperation during the Free Trade negotiation agreement," Wojciechowski added.

ANI



Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) president, Suleiman Mahmoud Jabir.

Five East African countries to participate in 2024 Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2024 Mapinduzi Cup is scheduled to involve 12 outfits from five countries forming the CECAFA region, including Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

The Guardian understands Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) will today launch the competition, slated for January 1-13 in the Isles, in front of the media.

The federation will issue information on adjustments made on the showdown, with the tournament slated to have three groups containing four teams.

The participating outfits will be battling for qualification for the semi-final spots, with the wildcard awarded to the second-best team from all clusters overall for the last four opportunities.

The two-week showdown will be graced by Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda taking on top teams from Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania in what is viewed as an opportunity for East African clubs to raise their level of performance in continental showdowns.

Since 2013 clubs from Kenya and Uganda have been invited to take part occasionally albeit missing in previous editions with Rwanda and Burundi making an appearance this year, thus, bringing all countries on board.

In a letter addressed to Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) FC that won the competition's title in 2016, through the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA), the outfit has accepted an esteemed invitation to participate in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup in Zanzibar.

Rwandan football powerhouse, APR FC, is among the teams invited to take part in the forthcoming showdown after confirming participation. Aigle Noir CS will not participate

in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup after late changes made with exclusive Monday press to reveal Burundi's flag bearer for the competition.

Team between Gor Mahia and Police FC from Kenya is highly anticipated to make the final cut on Monday to represent the country in the East Africa additional showpiece.

Zanzibar's KMKM and Malindi will not take part in the tournament, as a result, the Isles will be represented by the tournament defending champions Mlandege, KVZ, Kipanga, and Chipukizi.

Record champion, Azam FC, the winner of Mapinduzi Cup a record five times, will represent Mainland Tanzania together with 2022 champion Simba SC, 2021 champion Yanga and 2023 runner-up Singida Fountain Gate FC.

It has to be noted that, on January 12, 2024, Zanzibar will celebrate the commemoration of 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution whereby Zanzibar President, Hussein Mwinyi, and Tanzania President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, will be available at the stadium.

The Mapinduzi Cup, a knockout football tournament held annually in the Isles, takes its name from the Swahili word 'Mapinduzi', which means Revolution, paying homage to the Zanzibar Revolution.

During their stay in Zanzibar, all invited teams will not only compete on the pitch but also have the unique opportunity to explore historical sites, thanks to the Local Organizing Committee's arrangements.

The ZFF is committed to ensuring teams' seamless participation by providing essential support.

Among the extensive list of provisions, they will facilitate access to stadiums for training and matches, hotel accommodation (full board), internal transport, and other supplies

TOC bemoans inefficient affiliate members

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has lamented that only a few National Sports Associations (NSAs) host national championships, a development that affects the growth of sports in the country.

Gulam Rashid, TOC president, revealed in Dodoma last weekend, saying the committee has noted with concern that some sports associations are not holding their respective sports' national championships, contrary to and a violation of their associations' constitutions.

He said failure to hold national championships means the associations are denying the athletes the opportunity to show their potential.

"It is very worrisome that almost 75 of all Sports Associations which are affiliated to TOC do not hold its annual National Championships," the TOC president pointed out.

"This is not good for the development of sports in the country, for our sports to grow this must change," Rashid, who was recently presented with



Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) president, Gulam Rashid.

an honorary award by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) for his outstanding achievements in sports, noted.

Rashid also disclosed that many National Sports Associations (NSA) are failing to execute their roles, duties, and obligations due to a lack of resources including finances.

The TOC official issued his statement when he presided over the opening of the seminar for NSA secretaries-general held in Dodoma.

Rashid said except Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) all NSAs face financial challenges given the government is not providing subventions to the associations.

He said the government through the National Sports Council (NSC) does not provide funds directly to the NSA for their administrative activities.

According to the TOC boss, the government sometimes funds sports programs and national teams' participation in foreign and local assignments, hence,

the need for the National Sports Associations to have their strategic plans.

The TOC president said sports nowadays are a big industry in which millions of dollars are being invested, he for that matter asked the secretaries-general of the NSAs to have marketable strategic plans to attract partners.

Meanwhile, TOC has also lamented the lack of good working communication between the committee and some of its member National Associations, saying the committee in most cases hardly gets good responses from the associations.

TOC Secretary-General Filbert Bayi said his committee regularly writes letters to National Sports Associations but it always gets no responses.

The TOC Secretary-General disclosed such a tendency is detrimental to the development of sports in the country and called upon leaders of National Sports Associations to stop it.

Tigers Club wins 2023 National Baseball Champions League silverware

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TIGERS Baseball Club has triumphed in this year's National Champions League (TNBL) which ended in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

The league that had two seasons brought together four teams- Giants, Tigers, Dragons, and Fighters.

Tigers beat Dragons 4-3 in an entertaining final- which was graced by Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro- to lift the title.

Other top officials from various institutions and organizations, including the United States of America (USA) Embassy and Japan Embassy envoys in Tanzania, and Toyota Tanzania officials were also in attendance.

Ndumbaro hailed the Tanzania Baseball and Softball Association (TaBSA) for taking the game to another level in the country. He however challenged the association to have modalities that would see the sport being played in all parts of the country.

"We are very happy with the efforts which TaBSA are taking in promoting the growth and development of sport in the country," the minister noted.

"You must take this sport to all parts of the country, take it to schools, and then it will be one of the sporting events at National Inter-Primary Schools Games (Umitashumta) and National Inter-Secondary Schools Games (Umisseta)," he said.

TaBSA Chairman, Abdul Kheri

Muhammed, hailed all participating teams and said he is happy with the level of completion shown by all competing teams.

"The competition among teams has been very good, we are very delighted and happy with the competition, we hope this is the beginning of new and big things in baseball in the country," he said.

Alpherio Nchimbi, TaBSA Secretary-General, hailed the government for its commitment to the development of sports in the country and disclosed that the next season's showdown is expected to kick off a week before Easter.

He also disclosed that Jonathan Mahundi from Tigers Club was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP)

while Alfa Maisha from Dragons was the Most Disciplined Player.

The Most Upcoming Umpire prize went to Anvar Pepo and the Most Upcoming Scorer was Mukhsin Mukhsin.

"We are happy with the support we get from the government and let me promise that we will continue working hard to promote the sport in the country," Nchimbi stated.

"We also thank the Japanese and USA embassies in Tanzania for their continued support of our sport, our friends from Zanzibar who have been with us all along, the Japan -Africa Baseball and Softball Foundation (J-ABS), and others who are helping us in the development and growth of the game in the country," he said.



Betway Tanzania's Calvin Mhina (Standing 3rd R) joins the Wajuba FC team, the overall winner of the 2023 Mbuzi Fixture competition, in celebrating the triumph after the competition's conclusion at Mbagala, Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT



Dares Salaam's junior basketball players take part in training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Company hands over sports kits to Dar soccer teams

By Guardian Correspondent

BETWAY Tanzania, a prominent international online betting and gaming brand owned by Super Group, remains committed to enhancing sports development in the country.

As part of its impactful initiative, known as 'Kits for Kitaa' (translating to kits for the street), the betting firm contributes essential sports equipment such as footballs, jerseys, and socks to grassroots soccer teams.

The initiative involves providing kits to organized street teams, which then engage in the traditional 'Mbuzi Fixture' competition, where the winning

team receives goats as prizes.

On November 25, 2023, four teams based at Mbagala Zakhem in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam- Mizozo FC, Mnarani FC, Wajuba FC, and Mtoni Boys FC- received kits from Betway Tanzania and participated in the Mbuzi Fixture competition.

Wajuba FC emerged as the overall winner, having edged Mnarani FC 2-1 in the final.

Calvin Mhina, Betway Tanzania's Marketing Manager, expressed the company's commitment to giving back to society through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) while simultaneously backing

grassroots sports.

He highlighted the positive feedback received since the program's launch in March 2023 and emphasized the importance of continuing to support grassroots football.

During the kits handover event, Mhina stated: "Today we are at Mbagala, and we are pleased that the program resonates with sports fans here, similar to when we held it in Tegeta last year. That's the essence of our slogan 'For the Love of the Game'."

Wajuba FC's captain spoke highly of the initiative, emphasizing how it encourages the culture of participating in sports among community mem-

bers.

He revealed: "Most times our teams cannot mobilize enough funds to buy proper kits such as the ones provided by Betway, and as a result, some of us are discouraged from taking an active part in sports."

"For me and all the teams here, the kits will positively change how we engage in sports and we will start arranging competition on our own," he added.

Betway Tanzania aims to expand the 'Kits for Kitaa' program to more streets in Tanzania, contributing to the growth and enrichment of the sports sector in the country.

Nancy 'proud but not happy' to be first Black coach to win MLS Cup

LOS ANGELES

FRENCHMAN Wilfried Nancy became the first Black coach to win the Major League Soccer title after his Columbus Crew beat Los Angeles FC on Saturday but said the moment held mixed emotions for him.

The 46-year-old former French lower division player won his first major title at the end of his first campaign in Columbus after joining them a year ago from Montreal.

While there have been several Black coaches in recent years in MLS, including his better known compatriots Thierry Henry and Patrick Vieira, Nancy is currently the only Black coach with an MLS club.

Asked about the significance of the achievement, Nancy said: "Obviously I'm happy. I'm so proud of that. Because there is a lot of work behind that. There is a lot of courage also behind that.

"But I'm not happy at the same time. Because this is not normal. Simple as that. So I'm proud to represent, yes, to be the only Black. But I'm not happy with that. So this is something that has to change. I know that MLS tries to do that, but this is not only in MLS," he added.

MLS has a number of policy initiatives in place aimed to increase opportunities for Black coaches, which Nancy acknowledged. But he said the lack of representation was an issue well beyond the North American league.

"This is everywhere," he said.

Nancy has won plaudits for the way his Crew team have performed this season with an eye-catching, possession-based style of football and he was delighted that his team were able to beat LAFC with that approach.

"I am so happy because the most important for me was not to win, it was to be ourselves and my players did it.

"That's why we had the possibility and that's why we won so I'm really proud of that as a coach. Yes, we can talk about tactics. We can talk about a lot of things but the performance that we had tonight was spot on," he said.

Nancy took an unorthodox route towards becoming a head coach. After the last stop of his lower division journey in France concluded in Orleans, he ended his playing career in Canada, with the University of Quebec.

While there he began coaching at a private French language school and eventually joined Montreal's youth coaching staff.

AFP

Bayern thrashed by 'merciless' Frankfurt in Bundesliga as Leipzig win in Dortmund

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich suffered a jolt to their title defence, losing their first league game of the season 5-1 in Frankfurt on Saturday while RB Leipzig triumphed 3-2 at 10-men Borussia Dortmund.

In a wet and wild contest in Frankfurt, the hosts raced into an extraordinary 3-0 first-half lead, with Omar Marmoush, Junior Dina Ebimbe, and Hugo Larsson scoring the goals as Dino Toppmoller's side outmuscled a timid Bayern.

Joshua Kimmich dragged Bayern back into the match just before half-time but French midfielder Ebimbe had other ideas, capping a scintillating counter-attack after a mistake by Dayot Upamecano to make it four.

Ansgar Knauff added a fifth to put the game out of reach for Thomas Tuchel's side to complete a memorable performance for Frankfurt, who become the first team to score five goals against Bayern in the first 60 minutes of a league game since Frankfurt themselves, in 1975.

A stunned Tuchel said after the game that his side were punished by a Frankfurt team who were callous in front of goal.

"We didn't defend consistently and were punished mercilessly today," Tuchel told German broadcaster ARD.

"That's why this result is very difficult to digest on the scoreboard. We deserved to lose. Not 5-1, but we deserved to lose. That is the bottom line."

Leaders Bayer Leverkusen retain their three-point cushion and travel to third-place Stuttgart on Sunday on a weekend when six of the Bundesliga's top seven face each other.

In a game contested between two sides in the chasing pack, Leipzig beat Dortmund in an absorbing contest at Signal Iduna Park.

Dortmund were dealt an early blow with Mats Hummels' red card, which denied the visitors a penalty but they went on to take the lead in the 32nd minute through a Ramy Bensebaini own goal.

Ten-man Dortmund clawed their way back into the contest through Niklas Sule's close-range finish on the stroke of half-time - but Leipzig's Austrian forward Christoph Baumgartner tapped in to put Leipzig back in front early in the second half.

AFP

Man U embarrassed by Bournemouth, Liverpool go top of Premier League

LONDON

MANCHESTER United's shambolic season took another turn for the worse in a 3-0 home defeat to Bournemouth as Liverpool went top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp admitted Liverpool were fortunate to win 2-1 at 10-man Crystal Palace after Jordan Ayew's harsh red card changed the game late on.

Liverpool's victory in the day's early kick-off gave them a one-point lead over second placed Arsenal, who blew the chance to regain top spot later as they crashed to a 1-0 defeat at surging Aston Villa.

Third placed Villa's club record 15th consecutive home league victory lifted them to within two points of the leaders.

United's season hit a new low as Bournemouth secured their first ever victory at Old Trafford in style.

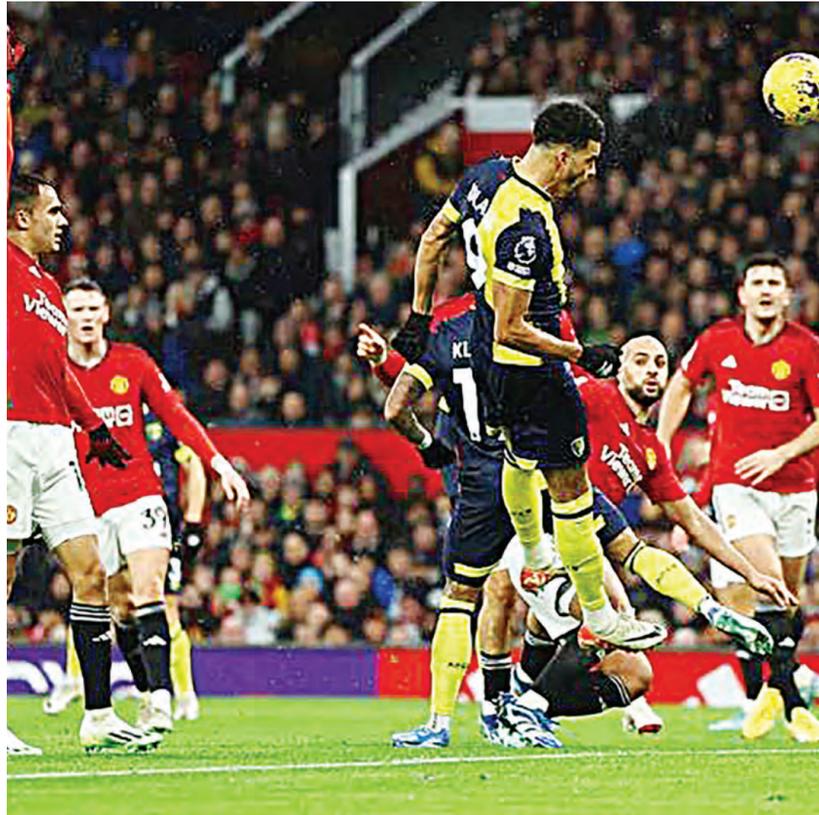
Erik ten Hag's side had risen to sixth thanks to six wins in eight Premier League games.

But a dreadful display put the Dutchman's position back under the spotlight ahead of a likely exit from the Champions League at the group stage in midweek.

Dominic Solanke put Bournemouth in front after just five minutes when he turned home Lewis Cook's cross.

Philip Billing rose to head home Marcus Tavernier's cross in the 68th minute before Marcos Senesi set the seal on a famous victory for Andoni Iraola's men.

"I think as a squad we are not good enough to be consistent and we have to work to improve that," Ten Hag said.



AFC Bournemouth's Dominic Solanke scores a goal before it was later disallowed during their Premier League match against Manchester United at Old Trafford, Manchester on Saturday. REUTERS

"Of course, I'm annoyed and disappointed, definitely."

- Villa on record-breaking run -

At Villa Park, Unai Emery's side completed a memorable week by following Wednesday's 1-0 victory against champions Manchester City with another statement success against the team who started the weekend in first place.

John McGinn's seventh minute goal proved decisive as the Scotland midfielder con-

trolled Leon Bailey's pass before turning to drill a powerful finish past David Raya from close-range.

There was late VAR drama when Kai Havertz's goal was disallowed for handball as the Arsenal forward bundled it over the line in stoppage-time.

It was a sweet moment for Villa boss Unai Emery, who was sacked by Arsenal after less than two seasons in charge in 2019.

The Spaniard has revitalised

Villa since arriving from Villarreal last season, with four wins in their last five league matches giving fans hope of a first title since 1981. Arsenal's first defeat in five league games was a frustrating setback after their recent march to top spot.

Hinting he was unhappy with the disallowed goal, Arteta said: "It's clear and obvious for me.

"I'm really proud of the way the team played in this stadium against this team. We de-

served to win."

Of Villa's title dreams, Emery said: "It was a fantastic three points in a tough week. We have to be happy but also keep balance."

At Selhurst Park, Liverpool fought back to maintain their own title challenge.

Palace were denied a first-half penalty by a VAR intervention but were awarded a spot-kick early in the second period as VAR spotted a foul on Jean-Philippe Mateta by Jarell Quansah.

Mateta converted the penalty, but the Eagles were undone by two controversial yellow cards shown to Ayew.

Liverpool took advantage of the red card within seconds as Mohamed Salah's deflected shot brought up his 200th goal for the club.

Substitute Harvey Elliott then fired home a 91st-minute winner from outside the box to take Liverpool a point clear of Arsenal at the top of the table.

"I'm a very happy manager in this moment, but I know we were lucky as well," said Klopp. "For 76 minutes it was a really bad performance."

At the bottom of the table, Chris Wilder kickstarted his second spell in charge of Sheffield United with a 1-0 win over Brentford.

Burnley remain off the bottom on goal difference after holding on for a 1-1 draw at Brighton.

Wilson Odobert put the Claret's ahead, but Simon Adingra rescued a point for Brighton, who remain eighth.

Nottingham Forest eased the pressure on manager Steve Cooper by ending a four-game losing streak with a 1-1 draw at Wolves.

AFP

Aston Villa have the ingredients to be Premier League champions

By Sam Dean

THERE have not been many weeks like this in the modern history of Aston Villa, one of English football's great institutions, and at full-time the feeling in the air at Villa Park was that there could still be so much more to come.

Unai Emery has never been the sort of manager to luxuriate in his success, even if he would be entitled to do so after back-to-back wins over Manchester City and Arsenal. The Spaniard pumped his fists and slapped the hands of the Villa supporters at the end but, as soon as he got inside, you can be sure he started to consider what comes next.

"We have to enjoy it and be proud of ourselves," he said. "But still be demanding."

What does come next for Villa? Well, after 16 matches they are only two points behind the league leaders. The title race is beginning to unfold and Villa are now unquestionably in it, after four days in which they demonstrated their bravery, strength and considerable collective ability.

Unlike so many other teams in this division, Villa did not mould their game in the face of City and Arsenal's creative class. Villa played their football, their way, with courage and an unshakable faith in the high-



Unai Emery has a fundamental understanding of his squad and how to get the best out of them. Agencies

stakes system that Emery has imposed.

Perhaps it is still too early to say that Villa can win the Premier League. Perhaps those Thursday nights in Europe will eventually catch up with them. Perhaps a couple of injuries will undermine their cause.

But, as the relentless John McGinn whirled his arms towards the home fans at the final whistle, it was fair for 40,000 Villa supporters to ask: why not? Why not us, and why not this year?

To look at Emery's preferred lineup is to see a spine of impressive strength. In Emiliano Martinez, they have one of the world's most imposing goalkeepers.

In Ollie Watkins, they have one of the league's deadliest forwards. In between, they have players of physical power and technical quality.

And in the dugout, Villa have a manager who can perfectly read the flows and rhythms of a football match. His substitutions here were

early and decisive, and they provided fresh energy at the precise point it was needed. Leander Denoncker added steel in midfield, while Matty Cash shut down Arsenal's dangerous left side.

Villa's winner came from the sort of move that Pep Guardiola and Mikel Arteta would draw on a tactics board. The ball was worked from back to front with precision, and the finish was emphatic.

On this occasion, Villa also had another precious quality that every ambitious side requires: luck. It was nifty at times, and they relied on the wastefulness of Arsenal's forwards. It was far from being as dominant a performance as they produced against City in midweek, but that did not matter.

Perhaps the greatest weapon at Emery's disposal is Villa Park, which

heaved and rocked throughout the evening. On nights like these there is an aggression and intensity to this stadium which is matched by the players on the pitch. Or maybe it is the players on the pitch who create that atmosphere in the stands. Whichever way round it is, the end result is intoxicating.

Asked about a title challenge, McGinn said he is "banning the T-word". He might be able to do so within the first-team squad, but he will not stop the rest of the world from considering Villa's chances. And he certainly will not stop the Villa fans from dreaming of something that, after four glorious days, feels more achievable than anyone could have previously imagined.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man U embarrassed by Bournemouth, Liverpool go top of Premier League

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Azam FC eyes fifth NBC PL win on the spin

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM Complex Stadium opens its doors to Azam FC and JKT Tanzania this evening with the hosts keen on potentially opening up a four-point lead at the top of the 2023/24 NBC Premier League table.

Azam FC continued the club's stellar recent league form last time out by recording a fourth straight victory in the league when the squad saw off Kinondoni Municipal Council FC 5-0 at the same venue.

The results took them to the top of the table, pipping defending champions, Yanga, by one point albeit having played two more games.

Azam FC's home form has been particularly strong, as they have won six of the squad's previous seven league games on home soil while scoring at least two goals in all but one of the matches in the run.

The key to the good form has been their attacking potency, as they have scored at least three goals in their last four games in the league.

It is also worth remembering that Azam FC now boasts the best offensive record in the division, having scored 29 goals in 11 games this season (2.6 goals per game).

However, Azam FC head coach Bruno Ferry does not expect JKT Tanzania to roll and anticipate a tough encounter as they bid to keep their winning momentum going.

The French noted: "It is another big game because we will play a good team with good organization. This team is difficult to play so we need a plan."

"We trained hard, the players are ready. We are in good momentum, so the goal for us is to continue winning and to stay on top of the table," Ferry revealed.

"To score one or five goals is not easy, it is a lot of work. There is no easy game. You cannot start a game by saying this will be easy."

The gaffer stated: "There are no easy games in this championship because you have a lot of good teams. What is important is to win, scoring five goals can't happen all the time. What we want is to win whatever the score." Ferry has a nearly fully fit squad. However, Senegalese central defender Malickou Ndoye will be absent having just returned from an injury layoff and so not yet match-fit.

"There is no injury concern. Everybody can play. Malickou Ndoye came back, he started training yesterday so he needs time. Everybody is okay."

JKT Tanzania, meanwhile, played out a wild 2-2 draw with Singida Fountain Gate FC last time out, conceding in the 75th minute to throw away two points at Liti Stadium.

Malale Hamsini's side have now drawn each of their last two NBC Premier League outings, dropping points against Ihefu SC and before Friday's stalemate. In terms of the wider head-to-head picture, JKT Tanzania has failed to win any of the squad's previous six matches against Azam FC.

They have lost four meetings with Azam FC across all competitions, recording just two draws in that time.

Simba SC lacked self-belief against Wydad AC, says Benchikha



Simba SC midfielder, Saidi Ntibazonkiza (L), attempts to get the better of Wydad AC's defender, Amine Aboulfath, when the clubs met in a 2023-24 CAF Champions League Group B tie played in Marrakesh, Morocco on Saturday and had Wydad AC edging Simba SC 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By correspondents Michael Mwebe & Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha says a lack of self-belief cost his side on Saturday, as it slumped to a 1-0 defeat to Wydad Athletic Club in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B game.

The two clubs took on each other in a crucial Group B fixture of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League which took place at Stade de Marrakech Stadium in Marrakesh on Saturday.

As the match appeared headed for a goalless draw, midfielder Zakaria Draoui ignited the home crowd's excitement with a late goal for the Moroccan club.

The win, as a result, secured a confidence-boosting win for Wydad AC, the former CAF Champions League winners, keeping them in contention for a place in the last-eight round after this crucial victory.

Moroccan goalkeeper Ayoub Lakred's penalty save in the first half kept Simba SC in

the game following Wydad Wydad AC captain Yahya Jabrane's failure to put the ball in the back of the net.

The Msimbazi Street outfit displayed a good brand of football only to be spoiled by the late goal.

Commenting on the loss, Benchikha, the 2022/23 CAF Coach of the Year prize contender, said his players played well but failed to

hold on to the final whistle.

"We lost the game because we didn't believe in ourselves that we were coming to win this match, with Wydad AC being in a difficult situation after two group matches we failed to capitalize from the situation, but it's Wydad AC, the biggest clubs always have the best touch until the final minute," Benchikha noted.

The Algerian gaffer said he has been satisfied with what he saw on the field, especially from the tactical point of view, after his players played closely and protected the ball when they were either in possession or not.

"From a coaching point of view, apart from results I am pleased with my squad, we didn't only defend but

also attack with kept pressure on their key players including Yahya Jabrane but failed in some details that's why they dominated us in possession," the tactician noted.

"I understand the magnitude of these games, my players too. We need to be very optimistic, especially in these situations, we have many competitions and we need to balance results to have the right outcome," Benchikha pointed out.

Simba SC will bank on their next two home matches to claim maximum points and be better placed to make a breakthrough into the quarterfinals.

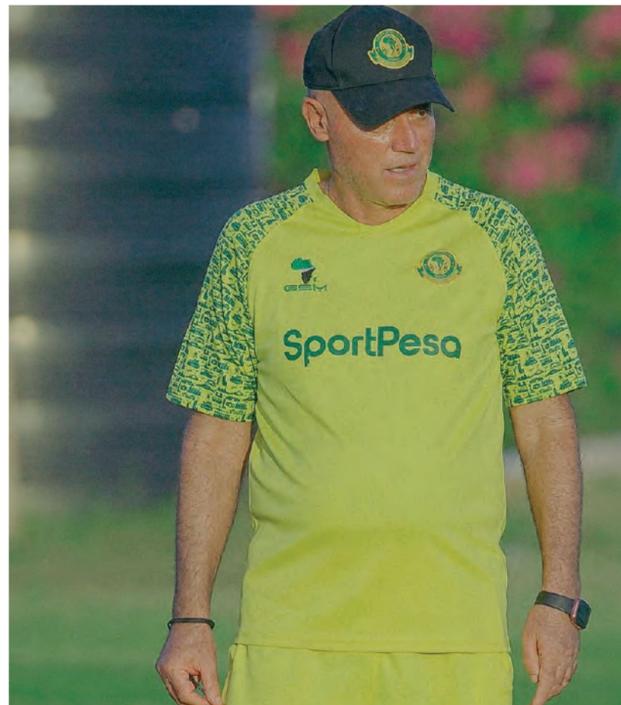
Benchikha is optimistic the rematch against Wydad AC, scheduled to take place in Dar es Salaam, will give his charges a clear picture of the club's direction, especially in the CAF Champions League.

Interestingly, these two teams will face off again on December 19, with Simba SC hosting the Moroccans in what promises to be another action-packed encounter. Both teams are eager to close the gap between the two clubs.

The outcome has resulted in a switch of positions, given Simba SC now languishes at the bottom of Group B with two points, while Wydad AC has moved to third place with three points.

Second-placed Jwaneng Galaxy has collected four points and the table-topping ASEC Mimosas has notched seven points.

Gamondi bullish about Yanga's chances for 2023/24 CAF CL last eight qualification



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Ángel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi is confident his team can boost hopes for progression to the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal in the remaining three games.

Gamondi's men, popularly known as Yanga, played out a 1-1 draw with hosts Medeama SC of Ghana in a Group D encounter that took place in Kumasi last Friday.

Group D leader, Egypt's Al Ahly, was earlier held to a 0-0 draw by CR Belouizdad of Algeria in Alexandria the same day.

With three games to play, two of them being at home against Medeama and CR Belouizdad, Gamondi believes his footballers have fate within their control.

In his post-match press, Gamondi was bullish about Yanga's chances

of reaching the knockout phase despite being bottom of their group at the halfway mark of the CAF Champions League campaign.

The Argentine stated: "I know the points we have. I am suffering for that but I believe in my team. I believe in football anything is possible."

"When you represent a big team like Yanga you need to work for everything. You have to play even if you know it will be difficult to qualify," the gaffer noted.

"I promise you, we will fight to the last game. Even if we do not have the possibility of qualifying, we must believe," he disclosed.

He said: "The club's slogan is 'Daima Mbele, Nyuma Mwiko', forward ever, backward never. You see how we play away, we did this in Algeria and today. For this, I feel very

proud." Gamondi added: "I am sad because we want to give better results to the fans but we have not. It is football. When you analyze big teams like Manchester United, Chelsea, and PSG, they lose games and points. Winning three games, we do it. We will go for the three games."

The Argentine coach's outfit will host Medeama SC and CR Belouizdad in their next two CAF Champions League outings before traveling to Egypt to wrap up the group stage with a duel against Al Ahly.

On Wednesday next week, Yanga will host Medeama SC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

CR Belouizdad is set to host Al Ahly at the same time. Only a draw in that contest would give Yanga the chance to sneak into second place.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

NO CONNECTION...

... NO CO-OPERATION

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKI
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

eastAfrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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