



**National Pg 3**  
TRA surpasses revenue target, collects 7.79trn/-



**National Pg 4**  
Study L. Tanganyika rising water levels, scientists urged



**National Pg 5**  
SBL, NCT partner to boost hospitality skills for youth



Page 13



Engineer Abdulhamid Mbaba (L) pictured yesterday briefing William Lukuvi (3rd-R, front row), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), on progress in the implementation of the Mkombozi irrigation system project during a visit to the site in Pwaga Division, Iringa Region. Photo: Correspondent Kastus Tegemeo

## Zanzibar holding on to mandatory travel insurance, adds \$44 to visa

*This income will contribute to improving various services, including the public health infrastructure and emergency services for visitors that will be more efficient compared to existing insurance options*

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR is going ahead with its mandatory travel insurance payment required for all incoming visitors from foreign countries.

Juma Makungu Juma, the Finance and Planning deputy minister for Zanzibar, told a session of the House of Representatives here yesterday that mandatory travel insurance will be demanded at all points of entry.

He said that the government's move in the policy is meant to heighten the tourism sector "with a major focus on enhancing visitor safety," a position that stakeholders say duplicates insurance cover embedded in the travel arrangements back home.

In that case the requirement took effect

yesterday, with travellers adding \$44 to e-visa arrangements with travel agencies for health cover, applicable for those entering through seaports and airports.

The deputy minister made these affirmations at a question and answer session, insisting that the initiative is designed to mitigate potential risks and ensure all travellers enjoy a safe experience while in Zanzibar.

Dr Mohammed Ali Suleiman (Mtambwe- ACT Wazalendo), queried whether the government had conducted research to ensure that the insurance plan would not adversely affect the islands' tourism sector.

In response, the top Treasury official cited the absence of a specific covering provision to

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Mnazi Bay natural gas wells drilling billed for early '25

By Guardian Reporter

A FRENCH exploration and drilling firm is expected to start drilling in three natural gas wells at the Mnazi Bay Block in Mtwara Region early next year.

The Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) said in a statement yesterday that the drilling work involves an estimated budget of \$80.2m (218bn/-), affirmed after discussions on Monday with Maurel et Prom Exploration Production (T) Ltd (M&P).

The block's operator expects its gearing to finalise plans for the significant initiative, with the meeting involving top officials of the two parties including Simon Nkenyeli, the PURA exploration and production manager, and Sylvain Pichelin, the M&P (T) general manager.

M&P provided clarification on the proposed project budget, an important step before PURA authorised contractual expenditure, the regulator affirmed, noting that of the three wells, two (MB5 and MS2) are intended for starting production, and one (Kasa) is at an exploratory stage.

An environmental impact assessment for the project has been completed and compensation for affected people slated to start after the verification exercise is

TURN TO PAGE 2

## UN, EU launch climate response 33bn/- facility

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) yesterday launched a \$12m (33bn/-) disbursement fund for the local climate adaptive living facility.

Aine Mushi, the UNCDF country coordinator, said that the new phase will build on the successes of the first phase in Kondoa, Chamwino and Mpwapwa districts in Dodoma Region.

It will similarly be used to expand operations in climatically vulnerable coastal regions, including Zanzibar, by 2027, as UN agencies assist the government in rolling out effective plans aimed at combating the impacts of climate change.

Over 10,500 people in increasingly arid



**This is great news for us as the government collaborates with various stakeholders in efforts to mitigate climate change effects**

areas of Dodoma have benefited from community-identified projects designed to help them adapt to climate change, she said.

Funded by the European Union (EU) and Sweden, the planned climate-smart community projects are designed to facilitate investments in water infrastructure and climate-smart agriculture to enhance rural livelihoods.

"Other initiatives will include coastal protection efforts, along with raising climate awareness and building capacity at the community and local government levels," the coordinator noted.

Christine Grau, the resident EU ambassador, underlined that while climate change is a global crisis, its effects are felt locally.

TURN TO PAGE 2

## TIC hosts 60 Japanese firms for infrastructure 'dialogue'

By Guardian Reporter

AT least of 60 Japanese companies are expected to share experiences with local firms as the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) hosts the Tanzania-Japan Infrastructure Dialogue starting tomorrow in Dar es Salaam.

Baraka Luvanda, the country's envoy to Japan, stated at a TIC briefing yesterday that the companies bring valuable expertise from numerous projects implemented chiefly in Asia.

The dialogue is a result of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi last year, where Japan

expressed its willingness to mobilise resources to address Africa's infrastructural challenges.

At the meeting, TIC reported a significant increase in investment project quality, capital inflows and job creation during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2023/2024 (April to June).

Gilead Teri, the TIC executive director said that the centre registered 198 projects valued at \$1.619bn, expected to generate 96,278 job opportunities, a 53.1 percent increase in the number of registered projects compared to fiscal 2022/2023.

At that time 129 projects valued at \$1.007bn were recorded, projected to

create 14,631 jobs, in which case capital investment has grown by 60.72 percent in the outgoing financial year, he stated.

Job creation projections similarly surged by an impressive 558.04 per cent, he pointed out, noting that the figures underscore the growing confidence in Tanzania's investment climate.

They also underline the positive effects of TIC's initiatives to enhance the business environment, he elaborated, pointing at key sectors driving growth such as manufacturing, which attracted a total of \$636.84m.

Similarly well performing sectors in investment attraction were commercial building, human resources, transportation and tourism, he said.

"This surge highlights Tanzania's increasing appeal as an investment destination, with key sectors contributing to economic growth and creation across the country," the director added.

## SPORTS

Page 20



Samatta recalled to Taifa Stars squad for crucial DR Congo showdown

## Page 19



Manchester United's endless crisis continues, and Erik ten Hag's future hangs in the balance





## UN, EU launch climate response 33bn/- facility

FROM PAGE 1

making community-level resilience building crucial.

The EU is working with Belgium and Ireland bilaterally as part of the blue economy Team Europe Initiative (TEI), collaborating with Tanzania and UNCDF to empower vulnerable communities to respond and adapt to climate change, she stated.

The projects go back to 2022, utilising performance-based climate resilience grants to allocate financing to local governments through

national fiscal transfer systems, she elaborated.

Dr Kemilembe Mutasa, the Vice President's Office (VPO) director of environment, hailed the long association with UNCDF funding, asserting that the new phase will significantly enhance government initiatives in climate change adaptation.

"This is great news for us as the government collaborates with various stakeholders in efforts to mitigate climate change effects," she added.

## Mnazi Bay natural gas wells drilling billed for early 2025

FROM PAGE 1

finalised, it said.

The discussions also focused on local service providers in the project as well as in carrying out the work, with PURA reminding M&P "to ensure compliance with the local content legal and regulatory requirements."

PURA will be closely monitoring project implementation to ensure that local service providers are fully involved, it further noted.

The Mnazi Bay Block has five wells already producing natural gas at an average of 74.24m standard cubic feet per day, with the M&P operating firm holding 60 percent participating interest in production activities, while TPDC retains a 40 percent stake.

Drilling at the three wells will fa-

ilitate the availability of more geological data regarding the gas availability extent in the block, a further step in exploring natural gas for more than 50 years.

The first local natural gas discovery was made in 1974 on the Songo Songo Island (Lindi Region) followed by Mnazi Bay (Mtwara Region) in 1982, and eventually at the Killiwani North fields, adjacent to Songo Songo.

Natural gas from Songo Songo was first commercialized in 2004 and from Mnazi Bay in 2006, propelling further exploration in on-shore and offshore sites.

Since 2010, Tanzania has witnessed further natural gas discoveries with the latest estimated natural gas reserves (2016) pegged at 57trn cubic feet, it added.

## Minister appeals for preventive measures as NCDs take toll on Z'bar's health system

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Health ministry has warned that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continue to pose a significant threat in the isles, leading to serious health complications and overstretching workforce.

Zuhura Salehe Amour, NCDs Unit assistant manager in the ministry, made the remarks here yesterday at the opening of a meeting for NCDs activists.

Amour stressed the importance of adhering to guidelines aimed at controlling the rise of such diseases. She highlighted the urgent need for public awareness and proactive measures to combat NCDs.

Amour noted that Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has initiated a special plan targeting three major cancers—breast, cervical and prostate—collectively referred to as reproductive cancers.

She explained that a dedicated screening programme was underway in various districts, conducted in partnership with specialists from Ocean Road Cancer Institute.

The Ministry of Health also plans to enhance public awareness through educational campaigns and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and various agencies.

"The government is committed to constructing a big cancer hospital to centralise all cancer treatment services," she said.

Dr Said Gharib Bilali, chairperson for NCD Alliance-Zanzibar, urged activists to deliver accurate information about causes of the diseases and effective prevention strategies.

"If the public can avoid the main triggers of these diseases by following expert advice and educational resources, we can significantly reduce their prevalence," he said.

## DRC lists highest number of sexual violence victims

KINSHASA

NEW data reveal that teams with Doctors Without Borders and the DRC's health ministry treated more than two victims and survivors of sexual violence every hour in the country last year.

To be precise, 25,166 victims of sexual violence sought care in 2023, the group said on Monday.

This figure is by far the highest number ever recorded by Doctors Without Borders also known as MSF in DRC.

It is based on data from 17 projects set up in five provinces with 4 located in the DRC's war torn east.

Victims who are mostly women and girls were treated in displacement camps near Goma, the capital of the North Kivu province.

Residents of eastern DRC have suffered from armed violence for

decades. More than 120 armed groups fight for power, land and mineral resources while others try to defend their communities.

Some armed groups have been accused of mass killings, rapes and other human rights violations. The violence has displaced some 6 million people in the east.

Earlier this week, Human Rights Watch said both Rwanda and Congo's army have killed displacement camp residents, committed rapes and obstructed aid.

The frightening trend has continued, with teams having treated 69 per cent of the numbers across all of 2023 in just the first five months of 2024.

*It is based on data from 17 projects set up in five provinces with 4 located in the DRC's war torn east*



Chief Sheikh Abubakary Zubeiry bin Ally (L), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a laptop to one of the participants (R) of a one-week entrepreneurship seminar for women from nine mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar regions organised in the city by the TAAWANU Islamic Foundation. Second left is the chairman of the foundation's Tanzania chapter, Sheikh Hashimu Kamgunda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

protect tourists from potential disasters while in Zanzibar, even when such visitors hold insurance from their home countries.

"The government has consistently assisted visitors facing difficulties in various situations," he said, noting that as a tourist destination, Zanzibar still lacks a reliable system to manage and safeguard visitors.

The move reflects the government's commitment to enhancing Zanzibar's tourism sector and its efforts to maintain high standards, pointing out that Zanzibar is not yet integrated into international insurance systems.

He said that traveller insurance is not a novel concept globally, with countries such as Qatar, Mauritius as well as in Europe and the Americas maintaining similar require-

## Zanzibar holding on to mandatory travel insurance, adds \$44 to visa

ments to ensure visitor safety.

Assessments indicate that the introduction of visitor insurance aligns with the Zanzibar Development Vision 2050, aiming at elevating tourism quality significantly in two decades.

The government's rapid infrastructure improvements and focus on the blue economy further support this vision, he stated, underlining that introducing traveller insurance was set out in budget estimates.

Its execution is managed by the Zanzibar Insurance Corporation under the supervision of the Fi-

nance and Planning wing of the President's Office, he stated, elaborating that no specific funds were committed for its start.

The rollout costs will be absorbed by ZIC without incurring additional expenses, he said, pointing at the outbreak of Covid-19 as the crucial background, in the wake of which the United Nations recommended initiating visitor insurance systems to protect tourists in the case of emergencies or pandemics.

At that time visitors faced additional costs for quarantine accommodation, medical treatment and hospital stays if they contracted the

virus, which deterred many from travelling due to such financial concerns, he elaborated.

Policy implementation by ZIC is expected to enhance efficiency and transparency in delivering the services promptly and reliably, while the government expects dividends from the service by the end of the year.

This income will contribute to improving various services, including the public health infrastructure and emergency services for visitors that will be more efficient compared to existing insurance options, he added.



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Yusuph Mwenda (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, primarily on revenue collections in the country for the third quarter of this year. Story on Page 3. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ADDIS ABABA

THE World Bank and Ethiopian government have signed a \$70 million financing agreement to support the East African country's development.

The agreement, in the form of a concessional loan, was signed by Ethiopian Minister of Finance Ahmed Shide and the World Bank's Country Director for Ethiopia Maryam Salim, the ministry said in a statement.

The funds will be used for the

## WB, Ethiopia sign \$70m financing accord for governance upgrading

implementation of Ethiopia's governance modernization project, which aims to enable more efficient service delivery in the country. The project focuses on enhancing the government's capacity to mobilize and manage its financial and human resources, according to the ministry.

The project consists of three main components, seeking to improve capacity building of the public administration, boost domestic revenue mobilization, and advance public financial management.

In July, Ethiopia's House of Peoples' Representatives, the lower chamber of the Ethiopian Federal

Parliamentary Assembly, approved financial agreements totalling \$1.5 billion with the World Bank's International Development Association, a fund for the world's least developed countries. The agreements include a 1 billion U.S.-dollar grant and a \$500 million concessional loan to Ethiopia.





Manyoni East constituency legislator Dr Pius Chanya addresses a meeting at Kilimatinde village in Solya ward yesterday, chiefly on the countrywide local government elections scheduled for November 27. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

## CHRAGG calls on parents to act on rise in number of homeless children

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has expressed concerns over the increasing number of street children in the country, calling on parents to protect and guide their children for better future.

Amina Talib Ali, CHRAGG commissioner, voiced the apprehension here yesterday after six days visit to Kagera Region, noting that throughout areas her team visited, they noted increasing number of street children.

Ali and other commissioner visited the region in order to get views of different stakeholders ahead of preparation for the national work plan on human

rights and business, especially on children's rights.

"These children have rights just like others and it is therefore the responsibility of parents to ensure they get the rights as indicated in Law of the Child Act 2009," she said.

She also thanked UNICEF Tanzania for being in the forefront in supporting the government in protecting children.

CRAGG tour in Kagera Region started on 23 to 27th September and the commissioners held meetings with representatives of fishers at

Nyamukazi fishing point in Bukoba municipality and Igabilo in Bukoba district council, management of Kagera Sugar Company, civil society organizations, famers and other stakeholders.

Jovith Paschal, a patron at Tumaini Children Centre, said the institution receive children from different backgrounds, including those neglected by their parents and those who ran away from their homes due to various reasons such as poverty, violence, early marriage and family conflicts as well as

negligence by parents.

He explained that due to the problem in the society, the centre always provides child care education to leaders who have the responsibility to protect children at grassroots level. "The leaders have also been handy in identifying and reporting children living on the streets," he said.

The magnitude of street children is found in all urban centres of Tanzania and the situation is reportedly worse due to fast-growing population.

## Girls demand 18 years as lawful marriage age

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

SOME girls who lead the fight against child marriage in the country have urged the government to amend the Marriage Act of 1971 to enable female children achieve their dreams.

They urge for the legal marriage age to be set at 18, rather than the current provisions that allow girls as young as 15 to marry with court approval or parental consent.

According to the Law of Marriage Act, the minimum age for marriage in Tanzania is 15 years for girls (with parental consent) and 18 years for boys.

Additionally, the girls requested that the government should actively enforce laws aimed at protecting children from child marriage and increase investment in programmes and services that help prevent and eliminate such practices.

Speaking in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region yesterday at the conclusion of a tour meant end child marriage which took place in the regions Mara, Shinyanga, Tabora and Dodoma regions, the champions underscored the need for legislators to also push for law review.

Leila Khatib, a girl from Dar es Salaam, said the urgent government's decision to amend the law would help as the majority of girls are unable to realise their dreams due to early marriage.

"Apart from national and international agreements to protect girl child rights, the government is yet to put in place strong laws to ensure that girls remain safe throughout their lives," she said

Veronica Shadrack from Tabora Region said that the practice not only violates children's rights but also places them at significant risk of sexual, physical, psychological and economic abuse.

Shadrack who is one of the survivors of child marriage, said that many young girls who are married

at an early age become trapped in a cycle of poverty.

"When girls marry young, they are often pressured to have children early, which causes serious health issues because their bodies are not fully developed to handle pregnancy and childbirth," she said.

Mwajabu Hassan from Tabora added that child marriages perpetuates a cycle of violence and undermines overall wellbeing of victims.

"Under both national and international laws, the Tanzanian government has a duty to protect children from such marriages. The Law of the Child Act of 2009, along with international agreements provide clear directives to protect children from harmful customs and practices," she said.

Liliani Kimati, coordinator of the Tanzania End Child Marriage Network (TECMN) expressed concern that the reasons that hinder changes to the marriage law remain unclear, despite a High Court ruling in favour of such amendments.

Kimati noted that significant challenges in understanding issues related to child marriage still exist.

She pointed out that the practice of marrying off young children continues at alarming levels and called for various stakeholders to intensify efforts to combat it.

The tour in the regions was represented by six of 87 organisations that form TECMN, including Msichana Initiative, My Legacy, Medea, Plan International, Theatre Arts Feminist Group and Binti Makini Foundation.

...significant challenges in understanding issues related to child marriage still exist



Election officials overseeing the updating of the national Permanent Voters' Register on Pemba Island take the confidentiality oath yesterday shortly before the opening of two-day training on the issue. The updating will be conducted across the Isles from October 7 to 13. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TRA surpasses July-September revenue target, collects 7.79trn/-

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) has surpassed its revenue collection target of 7.42trn/- by collecting over 7.79trn/- between July and September this year.

TRA Commissioner General Yusuph Mwenda made the announcement in Dar es Salaam yesterday while briefing journalists on revenue collection for the first quarter of this financial year.

He stated that the authority achieved 105 percent of its target, representing 18 percent growth.

Mwenda noted that during the same period last year, TRA collected 6.7 trn/-. He further highlighted that for the three consecutive months this year, TRA's collection was 105 percent in July, 104 percent in August and 105 percent in September.

For September alone, TRA col-

lected 3.18 trn/-, a record-breaking amount. Mwenda attributed this success to several factors, including a strong economy and favourable investment policies that have expanded the tax base and supported business sustainability.

He also acknowledged cooperation with the public and taxpayers who voluntarily paid their taxes.

"Our commitment to our cus-

tomers is to address their business-related issues to ensure business growth," he said.

TRA chief pledged that the authority would continue fostering a conducive environment for businesses to thrive without oppression. He also stated that TRA has plans to identify tax evaders, warning that strict action will be taken against them when found.



...during the same period last year, TRA collected 6.7 trn/-. He further highlighted that for the three consecutive months this year, TRA's collection was 105 percent in July, 104 percent in August and 105 percent in September



for a living planet

### Supply of Rangers Equipment for VGS in Ruvuma Landscape

#### Introduction

WWF is implementing the SECAD project component that focuses on the buffer zone and particularly on the five WMAs in the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor (SNWC) by securing habitats and species, promoting nature-based solutions and sustainable production practices for harmonious co-existence between people and nature. WWF Tanzania also been continually capacitating the Village Game Scout (VGS) through training on Natural resource conservation, data collection using mobile phones, and funded periodic biodiversity surveillance. These VGSs provided the forefront conservation efforts by working tirelessly to protect vital natural areas within Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and other protected regions of the Ruvuma Landscape.

Rangers regularly face dangerous and life-threatening situations by putting their lives on the line daily to safeguard wildlife amidst the global poaching crisis and illegal wildlife trade. To ensure that rangers can perform their duties safely and professionally, it is crucial to support the rangers with protective gear to improve their health, welfare, and working environment.

WWF Tanzania aims to support the procurement of these rangers' protective gear to enable them to work effectively and efficiently in conducting patrols and conservation in the safest way.

#### Application Procedure & Submission of Applications

WWF TCO invites applications from competent, qualified, and experienced bidder(s) through the following address:

Secretary, Procurement Committee  
WWF Tanzania  
White Star Street, Plot 252, Mikocheni  
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077

Interested applicants may access the Full Detailed Specification Document through the following websites:  
[https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/)

All applicants should direct their electronic copy to the procurement e-mail at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

For any clarifications, please contact [rkatondo@wwftz.org](mailto:rkatondo@wwftz.org) copy [mfeisal@wwftz.org](mailto:mfeisal@wwftz.org).

All applications should reach us by or before **Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024.**

WWF TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof. Late application shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to [fcci@wwftz.org](mailto:fcci@wwftz.org)



## Scientists urged to study Lake Tanganyika rising water levels

By Guardian Reporter

SCIENTISTS from countries sharing Lake Tanganyika have been urged to collaborate in research to identify the cause of the rising water levels on the lake to address the situation which affects the environment.

Sylvain Mukanga, Lake Tanganyika Basin Management Authority (LTA) Executive Director, made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening a two-day meeting of ministers from the member states which share the world's second deepest lake.

Experts attending the meeting discuss the effects of rising water levels on Lake Tanganyika.

Mukanga noted that the meeting which involves experts from the Vice President's Office (VPO), sectoral ministries and other experts from Zambia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo should provide solutions to the challenge of rising water levels.

He stated that Lake Tanganyika's water levels have been increasing every year due to unknown factors, adding that and now is the time to discuss better ways to understand and mitigate this issue.

He also explained that the rise in the lake's water levels significantly contributes to environmental degradation which leads to floods and negatively affects the livelihoods of people living around the lake basin.

"Since 2019, heavy rains have caused floods, soil erosion and strong winds, resulting in the rise of Lake Tanganyika's water levels. This is dangerous as the floods have caused damage to infrastructure in various areas surrounding the lake," he said.

Jamson Bakuza, a representative from the Ministry of Water, expressed concerns over the rising water levels on the lake, saying more measures need to be taken to address the situation.

He said that the water rise led to destruction of infrastructure and the damage of around 50 homes at Katubuka area as well as the emergence of dangerous epidemic diseases.

The meeting is a preparation for a ministerial meeting involving representatives from the four countries bordering Lake Tanganyika which is expected to take place on October 4, 2024, in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania will be represented by Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment).

The ministerial meeting will be preceded by the LTA Advisory Committee meeting.

The lake is shared among four countries namely Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia with RDC holding 45 percent and Tanzania 41 percent.



**Since 2019, heavy rains have caused floods, soil erosion and strong winds, resulting in the rise of Lake Tanganyika's water levels. This is dangerous as the floods have caused damage to infrastructure in various areas surrounding the lake**



National Social Security Fund director general Masha Mshomba pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Radio One director Deogratius Rweyunga (in white shirt) an award handed Independent Television/ITV for having made timely remittances of workers' contributions to the fund. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Minister wants enhanced indigenous seed production and training at TARI

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MINISTER for Agriculture Hussein Bashe has directed the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) to increase research and production of indigenous seeds by enhancing the capacity of its researchers through both local and international training institutions.

Bashe made the directive here yesterday during his visit to TARI Naliendele Research Centre in Mtwara Region.

During the visit, Bashe inspected and received reports from researchers on seed research for cashews, sesame, peanuts and vegetables.

"I also direct preparation of documents for establishment of the agriculture research fund and its regulations to enable TARI to manage financial resources generated from crop levies with the goal of supporting agriculture research development in the country," he said.

Bashe gave an example of collections from levies on cashew sales, whereby in the Mtwara and Lindi regions, the levy is 25/- per kilogram while the levy on sesame is between 1/- and 2/- per kilogram in the same regions.

"Once the agriculture research fund is established, we will introduce a system for other crops so that the collections can fund various activities such as research or capacity-building for researchers," he said.

On seed production, Bashe directed experts to start categorizing different seed types for each crop such as indigenous, modern, organic and hybrid seeds so that when a farmer goes to a store, they have the option to choose the type of seed they want from a variety of options for the same crop.

TARI Naliendele experts reported that they have developed 64 high-quality seed varieties of cashewnuts.

## Kenya unveils new health insurance scheme to polish up service delivery

NAIROBI

KENYA has launched a new health insurance scheme called Social Health Insurance Fund, with senior officials saying that it will promote equity, fairness and better service delivery.

Debra Mulongo Barasa, cabinet secretary for Health, presided over the launch in Kakamega County in western Kenya. She said that the new scheme will help reduce the financial burden on citizens seeking critical services such as dialysis, chemotherapy, dental care and surgery.

According to Barasa, more than two million Kenyans have already enrolled in the new scheme, which requires a minimum monthly contribution of 300 shillings (about 2.32 U.S. dollars).

"We have already begun

activation of the Social Health Insurance Fund in both public and private hospitals, ensuring that registered citizens receive quality services, including consultations, diagnosis and treatment, at affordable costs," Barasa said.

Kenya initiated the transition to the new health insurance scheme in July this year, following concerns that the previous state-managed National Health Insurance Fund had failed to distribute benefits equitably.

Under the new scheme, all salaried employees will contribute 2.75 percent of their monthly income, while the government will subsidize healthcare costs for low-income earners and the unemployed.

Barasa said that the new health insurance scheme will pool resources to help achieve universal

health coverage and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for terminally ill patients.

Primary healthcare at grassroots-level facilities will be fully covered by the government, while advanced services like chemotherapy, dialysis, optical and dental care will be heavily subsidized through contributions from high-income earners.

Harry Kimtai, principal secretary of the State Department for Medical Services, said that the Social Health Authority, a state-run agency, will manage the new scheme, which was developed following studies and consultations with key stakeholders.

Kimtai said that monthly contributions will be based on individuals' income levels, with high earners paying up to 27,000 shillings.



Education stakeholders from Luswisi village in Ileje District, Songwe Region, pictured at the weekend making an inspection tour of teachers' houses at a school in the area where buildings have gone without maintenance since the school was established in 1978. They made the visit as part of a fundraising event. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROVISION OF DOMESTIC SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM Ref: MST-TZ-20241001

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in providing Spare parts and Consumables for Reverse Osmosis and Sewage Treatment Equipment System near Chongoleani area, Tanzania.

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

There are two (2) packages planned for Storage and Terminal as follows:

1. Package-1: Supply of Spare parts and consumables for reverse osmosis system and sewage treatment equipment.(Ref: MST-TZ-20241001-001)
2. Package-2: Upgrade and modification of the existing sewage treatment equipment to accommodate a treatment capacity for 800 people.(Ref: MST-TZ-20241001-002)

Should you be interested in participating any or all of the packages, please provide below minimum requirements clearly specifying the package(s) of interest, including the reference number(s).

**Package-1: Supply of Spare parts and consumables for reverse osmosis system and sewage treatment equipment.(Ref: MST-TZ-20241001-001)**

The scope of the materials shall include the Spare parts and consumables for reverse osmosis system and sewage treatment equipment, including sewage treatment equipment, supporting civil structures, grilles, fans, pumps, pipes, automatic control systems and equipment accessories. The designed treatment water is minimum 200m<sup>3</sup>/d, with a high degree of automation, and the effluent meet the EACOP pollutant discharge standards.

**Package-2: Upgrade and modification of the existing sewage treatment equipment to accommodate a treatment capacity for 800 people.(Ref: MST-TZ-20241001-002)**

The scope of the materials and services for Package 2 includes the upgrade and modification of the existing sewage treatment equipment to accommodate a treatment capacity for 800 people. The work will likely involve the addition of the following components:

1. Pre-treatment tank with a capacity of 60m<sup>3</sup> \*1;
2. Biochemical tank with a capacity of 60m<sup>3</sup> \*1;
3. Nitrification return pipelines\*2;
4. Sludge filter press.

The upgraded system must meet the required sewage treatment standards with a high level of automation and ensure reliable, safe, and efficient operations.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

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

- a. Company Profile;
- b. Certificate of incorporation
- c. Valid relevant Business Licence
- d. Proof of Registration of Tanzania Revenue Authority
- e. Proof of Tanzania Tax Clearance Certificate for the latest year available
- f. An experience list of similar services provided in the last Three (3) years;
- g. Confirmation that they can supply equipment as new, advanced, mature, High automation, complete and safe and reliable equipment;
- h. A copy of their own and main suppliers ISO and OHSAS current certification or equivalent;
- i. Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.
- j. Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Industry standards for similar works.
- k. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
- l. Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to zhaoning@docgi.cn; renhulin@docgi.cn; (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 14<sup>th</sup> /Oct/2024. Subject of the email should be MST-TZ-20241001-001/002 EOI — [COMPANY NAME].

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

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

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





Janeth Kwilasa (2nd-L) of Airtel Money takes part in a recent panel discussion on SMEs held in Dar es Salaam. The annual event brought together various innovation ecosystem stakeholders for an exchange of ideas on critical issues related to human capital development. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

## SBL, NCT partner to boost hospitality skills for youth

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National College of Tourism (NCT) to advance hospitality skills training. The MoU signing ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend.

The partnership aims at equipping over 1,000 hospitality students and graduates with essential skills and practical experience, boosting their employability and contributing to continued growth of the country's tourism and hospitality industries.

The collaboration is part of SBL's "Learning for Life" programme, an initiative under its broader sustainability agenda 'Spirit of Progress' designed to improve livelihoods and create employment opportunities for Tanzanian youth. Through the programme, students

from NCT will receive specialized training in business and hospitality skills, including communication, leadership, personal branding, budgeting and time management. Additionally, the students will gain hands-on experience in hospitality operations through internships and practical training sessions.

Speaking about the partnership, John Wanyancha, SBL Corporate Relations Director, emphasized the company's dedication to youth empowerment.

"We are delighted to partner with the National College of Tourism to create pathways for young people

to thrive in the hospitality industry. Our Learning for Life programme is not just about education; it's about providing real-world skills that will help students secure meaningful employment and contribute to the overall growth of Tanzania's tourism sector," he said.

Dr Florian Mtey, Principal of the NCT, praised the partnership as a transformative opportunity for students.

"This collaboration will significantly enrich the learning experience of our students by combining theoretical knowledge with practical industry experience.

The skills and hands-on training they will receive through this programme will prepare them to meet the demands of the hospitality and tourism industry in Tanzania," he said.

In addition to the internships, SBL will organize training of trainers' programmes for selected NCT tutors to help them deliver the Learning for Life curriculum. The partnership will also extend beyond the classroom, with SBL supporting training of students at a selected academy offering mixology and other practical skills essential for success in the hospitality sector.

## Othman cites union 'bureaucracy' for Isles slow pace of development

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

THE opposition ACT Wazalendo national chairman Othman Masoud Othman has claimed that Zanzibar has regressed in development due to delays in registering international companies by the government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Speaking at a public rally held at Ditia Wawi grounds in Chake Chake District, Pemba South Region yesterday, Othman said that a United Kingdom company was hired in 1996 to establish a system for registering international companies, aimed at bolstering Zanzibar's economy.

"They drafted a law and established the necessary procedures. I was taken to the UK for about two months to learn how to manage that process but our colleagues stalled the initiative," he said.

He further stated that when the matter was presented to the House of Representatives, some members questioned whether the government of the United Republic had sanctioned the initiative.

"The then Minister for Finance Ambassador Amina Salum Ali said 'yes, we have been permitted,'" he said.

"However, to satisfy the committee, she later travelled to the mainland to meet with the late Minister of Finance Prof Kighoma Malima to secure an official letter of approval. She was subsequently informed that Zanzibar could not proceed, contrary to earlier statements."

Othman emphasised that Zanzibar's development is hampered by restrictions on key growth sectors, including customs duties, excise duties, oil and gas as well as maritime transport.

ACT-Wazalendo Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) Ismail Jussa noted that the government's reliance on service taxes in its annual budget is detrimental to the business sector in Zanzibar and contributes to

rising living costs for its residents. He claimed that there is widespread hunger in Zanzibar, with many struggling to afford three meals a day due to a downturn in the business sector, leading to reduced money circulation.

"The government budget has been about sharing poverty and benefitting the elite whose appetites are insatiable. A country's budget should elevate living standards and reduce the cost of living," he said.

Jussa pointed out that as each budget is tabled and passed, people face tax increases that worsen their financial struggles, with the government prioritising service taxes over production.

He compared Zanzibar's economic situation to that of island nations which have built strong economies.



**However, to satisfy the committee, she later travelled to the mainland to meet with the late Minister of Finance Prof Kighoma Malima to secure an official letter of approval. She was subsequently informed that Zanzibar could not proceed, contrary to earlier statements**

## WHO raises concern over malaria surge in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a warning over an "extremely concerning malaria surge" in Ethiopia.

In an Ethiopia Health Cluster Bulletin report released on Monday evening, the United Nations agency said the East African country reported over 5.9 million malaria cases, including 1,023 deaths, between the start of this year and September 22.

This is an "extremely concerning malaria surge" as compared to 4.5 million cases reported between January 1 and December 31 last year, according to the report.

Most cases were recorded in Oromia, Amhara, Southwest Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, and Benishangul-Gumuz, with 50 percent of the total cases identified in Oromia, Ethiopia's largest region.

The WHO found that since 2018, the number of malaria cases reported yearly has been

continuously increasing in Ethiopia.

The health agency also noted that humanitarian partners have continued to support the Ethiopian government with the last-mile delivery of life-saving malaria supplies to less accessible areas.

Malaria is endemic in Ethiopia with higher prevalence in areas below 2,000 meters of altitude, which covers three-quarters of the country's land mass, with an estimated population of 52 million.



Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) officials Margareth Frank (2nd-L) and Sada Rashid (2nd-R) attend to clients yesterday at their booth at the Industrial Exhibition - TIMEXPO77 in progress in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## DR Congo rebels generate \$300,000 per month - UN

KINSHASA

REBELS in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have consolidated control over the Rubaya coltan-mining region, imposing a production tax estimated to generate around \$300,000 in monthly revenue, the United Nations Security Council heard on Monday.

The M23 movement, a Tutsi-led organization purportedly backed by Rwanda, seized the area,

which produces minerals used in smartphones and computers, following intense fighting in April.

Bintou Keita, head of the UN mission in Congo, told the Security Council that trade from minerals in the Rubaya area accounts for over 15 percent of global tantalum supply.

DR Congo is the world's top producer of tantalum which is considered a critical mineral by the United States and the European Union.

"This generates an estimated \$300,000 in revenue per month to the armed group," Keita said. "This is deeply concerning and needs to be stopped."

"The criminal laundering of the DRC's natural resources smuggled out of the country is strengthening armed groups, sustaining the exploitation of civilian populations, some of them reduced to de-facto slavery, and undermining peace-making efforts," Keita added.




**Advertisement**  
**BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

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

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

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

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-09-01	Photon Assay sample analysis for Gold, Copper and Silver.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory/Company/Firm profile</li> <li>High level schedule of similar works indicating all major milestones.</li> <li>Experience in conducting similar projects in large scale Underground mines across the world.</li> <li>International accreditation with more than 10 years of experience.</li> <li>Must have Chryso Photon Assay equipment for Gold, Copper and Silver sample analysis.</li> <li>Updates calibration history of all testing machines</li> <li>Proof of previous sample analysis using Photon Assay equipment for Gold, Copper, and Silver.</li> <li>Resumes of all technical stuffs with more than 5 Years experience in Material Testing Laboratory.</li> </ol>

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

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Time frame to complete the project. (including site mobilization stage).
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate i.e statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest 1800hrs on the **08<sup>th</sup> October 2024**.

Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.  
Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

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



# Xi urges greater national achievements, contributions to humanity's peace, development



CHINESE President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, addresses a reception to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 30, 2024. (Photo/Xinhua)



THE Communist Party of China and state leaders Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attend a reception to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China together with around 3,000 Chinese and foreign guests at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 30, 2024.

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping on Monday said the Chinese people will score more remarkable achievements and make greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and development of humanity.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while addressing a reception held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the

People's Republic of China (PRC).

Li Qiang presided over the reception. Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attended the event together with around 3,000 Chinese and foreign guests.

In his address, Xi, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, first paid high tribute to the people of all ethnic groups in China, to the officers and soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force, and to other

political parties and personages without party affiliation.

Xi extended sincere greetings to compatriots in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, in Taiwan, as well as overseas Chinese. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to friendly countries and international friends who care about and support the development of the PRC.

On the new journey in the new era, the central task of the Party and the country is building China into a strong country and

achieving national rejuvenation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization, said Xi.

Advancing this unprecedented great cause steadily is the best way to celebrate the anniversary of the PRC, he stressed.

Xi emphasized that, to advance Chinese modernization, it is imperative to always uphold the core role of the Party in exercising overall leadership and coordinating the efforts of all sides, unwaveringly follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics,

deepen reform across the board and expand opening up, uphold a people-centered approach, and remain committed to peaceful development.

Xi stressed the importance of fully, faithfully and resolutely implementing the policy of One Country, Two Systems, under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy.

He also called for efforts to ensure

and advance long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao.

"Taiwan is an integral part of China's territory," said Xi, urging efforts to deepen economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait and resolutely oppose separatist activities aimed at "Taiwan independence."

Noting that people of all countries live on the same Earth and share a common destiny, Xi called for efforts to promote the building of

a community with a shared future for humanity.

After 75 years of strenuous efforts, the Chinese modernization has unfolded promising prospects, said Xi, while also cautioning against potential risks and challenges on the road ahead.

"We must remain mindful of potential dangers and be well-prepared," said Xi, urging efforts to resolutely overcome uncertainties and unexpected risks and challenges.

## Xi pays tribute to fallen heroes on Martyrs' Day

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and other Party and state leaders on Monday attended a ceremony at Tian'anmen Square in central Beijing to present flower baskets to fallen heroes.

The event was held to mark Martyrs' Day, observed one day prior to National Day. This year, the country celebrates the 75th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

At around 10 a.m., Xi and other leaders -- Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng -- arrived at the square. They were joined by representatives from all walks of life.

Among the more than 2,400 flower-bearing attendees were veterans, relatives of martyrs, recipients of national medals and honorary titles, role models, students and children.

As the ceremony started, all attendees sang the national anthem, followed by a moment of silence in tribute to the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of the Chinese people and the development of the PRC.

Nine large flower baskets, with ribbons that read "Eternal Glory to the People's Heroes," were placed in front of the Monument to the People's Heroes.

Xi and other leaders approached the foot of the monument, where he straightened the ribbons on the baskets before leading other officials in a walk around the monument to pay their respects.

The ceremony was presided over by Yin Li, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Beijing's Party chief.

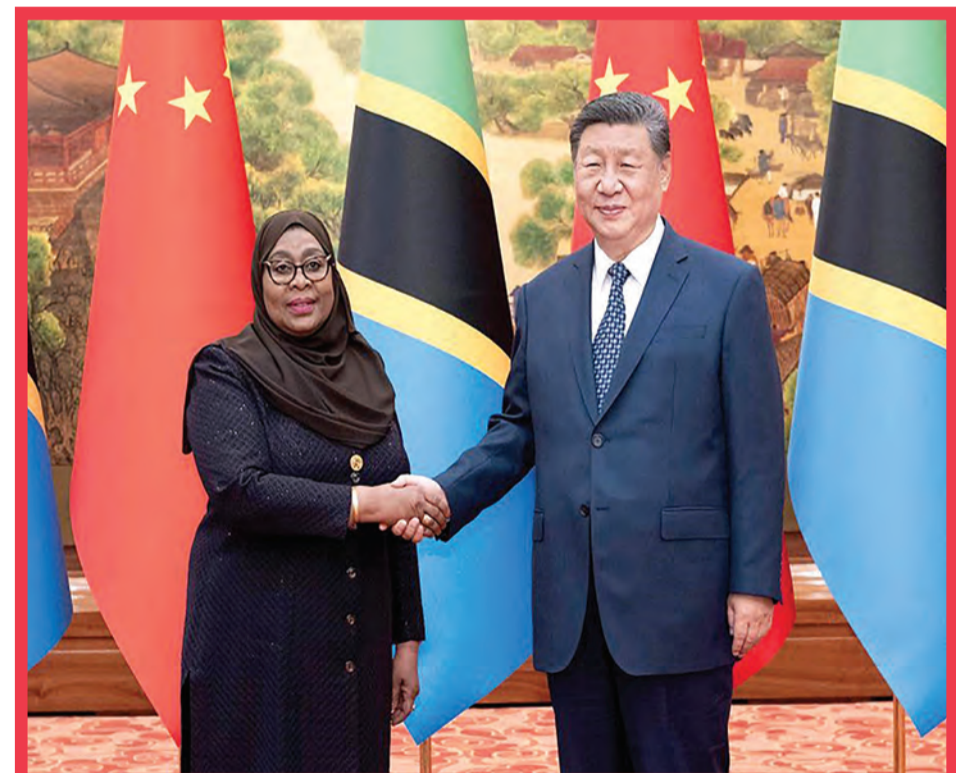


Xi Jinping straightens the ribbon on a flower basket during a ceremony to present flower baskets to fallen heroes at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 30, 2024.



CHINESE President Xi Jinping and other Party and state leaders including Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attend a ceremony to present flower baskets to fallen heroes at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 30, 2024. The event was held to mark Martyrs' Day, observed one day prior to National Day.

## President Samia sends congratulatory remarks to President Xi Jinping.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the FOCAC 2024 in Beijing, China on 4th Sept, 2024.

**His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, BEIJING,**

**Your Excellency,**  
On behalf of the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania and indeed my own behalf, I would like to seize this opportunity to convey my profound congratulations to you and through you to the people of the People's Republic of China on the auspicious occasion of commemoration the 75th Anniversary of the

founding of your nation.

Cognizant of this important occasion, I commend your country for the remarkable milestone achieved over the years in socio-economic development, technological advancement and notable contribution to the global peace and security. As this vital occasion reassures you of Tanzania's resolute commitment to strengthen and positively transform the existing bilateral ties crafted through our sacred all-weather friendship and adherence to One China Policy doctrine.

In the same context, I commend the Government of China for successful hosting the recently-held FOCAC Beijing Summit that culminated in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration on Jointly Building an All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era and its Plan of Action (2025-2027). On that note, I would like to inform you that Tanzania is poised to fully implement the FOCAC Action Plan so as to reap its intended objectives.

The United Republic of

Tanzania is also committed to work closely with China in all realms of cooperation particularly the priority areas of our development agenda including infrastructure development; industrialization; agriculture and food stems transformation; investment; human capital and skills development; access to clean and safe energy and digitalization.

While wishing you personal good health and prosperity, please, accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



## Speech of Ambassador Chen Mingjian at the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

TODAY, we are gathered here to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, I would like to extend a sincere welcome to all the guests attending the reception, and congratulate all the Chinese compatriots in Tanzania on the holiday. My heartfelt gratitude also goes to all the friends who have been consistent contributors to the friendship between China and Tanzania!

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. In the past 75 years, China has developed from an impoverished and backward land into achieving self-sufficient, self-improvement and self-reliance. China's GDP has increased over 223 times at constant prices. China has carried out reform and opening up, turning China into the world's second largest economy, top trader in goods, second top trader in services and second largest consumer market. China has built itself into a moderately prosperous society in all respects and have wiped out absolute poverty, contributing 70 percent to world poverty reduction. In the new era, we have focused on high-quality development. China's economic aggregate accounts for 17% of the world's total, contributing over 30% to world economic growth in the past ten years, making China the major engine driving global economic growth.

At present, China's economy has seen a significant development: More than half of the global renewable power generation capacity comes from China, ranking first in the world for many years in a row, and making positive contributions to the global green economy transition and global response to climate change. Digital economy including AI, cloud-computing and 5G has become a new fashion, ranking second in the world. China also ranks first in terms of e-commerce and

mobile payment transactions in the world. China has made significant progress in technological innovation. From Chang'e lunar mission to BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, and to China's deep-sea manned submersible "Striver" setting a national diving record, are all results of China's significant advancement in science and technology, making China the only middle-income economy top 30 in the Global Innovation Index.

Last July, the 3rd Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of CPC held successfully. The session adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization and put forward over 300 reform measures, sending a strong message that China will expand high-standard opening up and share outcomes in the high-quality development. These important measures put forward by the Session will provide institutional safeguards for further deepening reform comprehensively and expanding high-quality opening up, sharing its new development dividends with the world economy. China's opening up welcomes participation of Tanzania and other countries.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Tanzania. After 60 years of spring blossom and autumn fruits, it indeed deserves a high-profile celebration. China and Tanzania have held a series of celebration events, including the reception for Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, the China-Tanzania Youth Dialogue, the Forum for Shared Development of China-Tanzania and China's hospital ship Peace Ark's visit to Tanzania, starting a craze of jointly celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

Let me summarize briefly: In terms of bilateral political



CHINESE Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian makes a speech at the celebration in Dar es Salaam.

relations, Tanzania is China's long-standing friend and the place where China's Africa policy - sincerity, real results, amity and good faith - was first proposed in the new era. Our bilateral relations have been elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership in 2022. "China-Africa Dar es Salaam Consensus" which embodied the common understanding of Sino-African think tanks was also published here.

In terms of bilateral practical cooperation, China is the largest trading partner and source country of investment of Tanzania. High-quality agricultural products from Tanzania, such as cashew nuts, avocados, aquatic products and honey, have brought into Chinese market. The export of chili from Tanzania is currently in progress. It is expected that Tanzania's export

to China will continue to expand. As Tanzania's largest source of investment, China's investment in Tanzania has yielded remarkable results, not only creating a large number of job opportunities, but also greatly promoting the construction of major infrastructure in Tanzania. A series of landmark projects, including the Magufuli Bridge, the SGR and the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant, are the vivid practices of China building a China-Tanzania community with a shared future. Yesterday, I read newspaper, and it covered the speech of Minister for Works, Hon. Bashungwa. He said there are only 2 meters left for Magufuli Bridge closure. Taking this opportunity, I would like to share a good news, that is Tanzania will be a guest country once again at the 7th China International Import Expo.

In terms of people-to-people

exchanges, this year marks China-Tanzania Tourism and Culture Year. The beautiful scenery of Mount Kilimanjaro, Serengeti and Zanzibar have attracted more and more Chinese visitors to Tanzania, surpassing 44 thousand people last year. I believe this figure will increase further this year.

It is worth mentioning that, a Chinese TV series, Welcome to Mile recorded mainly in Tanzania, has been aired via Azam TV. This TV series featured by Chinese Medical Team to Africa tells the story of the long-standing China-Tanzania friendship that surmounts mountains and oceans, arousing public interests of Tanzania friends.

The 2024 FOCAC Beijing Summit was successfully concluded recently. I was honored to accompany the participation

of the Tanzanian president H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan and the delegation. The Summit is another grand reunion of China-Africa big family, and also the largest diplomatic event China has hosted in recent years, with the highest attendance of foreign leaders. During the Summit, the leaders of China and Africa gathered around the theme "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future" to chart the way forward for cooperation and produced fruitful achievements. China and Africa adopted unanimously, the Beijing Declaration on Jointly Building an All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era and the Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027) of FOCAC. China and Africa will advance modernization in six aspects and ten partnership actions

hand in hand, and the Summit announced the new measures for China-Africa results-oriented cooperation across the board in the next three years. The international community spoke highly of the role this historic Summit played in setting a new monument for China-Africa relations and a stellar example for South-South cooperation.

Tanzania has always been actively participating in, advancing and benefiting from the FOCAC. The Tanzanian presidential delegation successfully attended the Summit. President Samia delivered remarks on behalf of the East Africa at the opening ceremony, held meeting with President Xi Jinping. The two leaders agreed to elevate the common values and leading role of our bilateral relations. Chinese, Tanzanian and Zambian presidents jointly witnessed the signing of MoU on the revitalization of the TAZARA railway, which became one of the highlights of the Summit. China and Tanzania signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of connectivity, agricultural product, trade etc. President Samia held talks with a number of major Chinese enterprises and investors had expressed their interests in various fields. I believe and hope that China and Tanzania will conduct closer cooperation under the ten partnership actions.

President Xi Jinping once quoted a famous African proverb, if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together, highlighting the interdependence and interconnectedness of peoples. China will forge ahead with Tanzania, continue to be friend and partner of Tanzania on the path to modernization, and make greater contribution to jointly building an All-Weather China-Tanzania Community with a Shared Future in New Era.

Cheers! Ansanteni sana!

## Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

REMARKS by Honourable Prof. Palamagamba J. A. M. Kabudi (MP), Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs on the occasion of celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

First and foremost, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency Chen Mingjian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Republic of Tanzania, for your kind and welcoming remarks. I am truly thankful Your Excellency Ambassador for inviting me to join you in this auspicious occasion, celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. Indeed, this is a reflection on the journey that brought us here and a reminder of our shared history, friendship, as well as the aspirations that continue to define our diplomatic relations.

Before I proceed, I bring with me greetings from Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania to His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China for commemorating this auspicious occasion in the history of the People's Republic of China.

Furthermore, I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciations to Her Excellency Chen Mingjian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Republic of Tanzania and through her to the esteemed Embassy's staff for devoting their time and working tirelessly to organize this magnificent event.

As we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, we are inspired by the modernization of China and significant transformations in global history. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, the country has undergone profound economic, social, and political changes, moving from an agrarian society to one of the world's leading industrial and technological powers. Over the past 75 years China has made tremendous achievements in

Economic Growth; Poverty Reduction; Urbanization and Infrastructure as well as Space and Science.

Alongside celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, it is worth noting that this year we also celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United Republic of Tanzania and the People's Republic of China.

In our gathering here today, let us reflect on the long-standing diplomatic relations, a rock-solid political trust and solidarity built by our founding fathers, the Late President Mwalimu Julius Kamburage Nyerere and Chairman Mao Zedong over the past 60 years. Ever since, our growing ties and friendship has been all round and all-weather and elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation Partnership that connects our historical bond to our aspiration for a shared future.

It is because of this strong foundation, the successive leaders of our two nations have been exchanging both Working and State Visits with a view to strengthening further bilateral relations between our two countries and enhance people to people exchange.

It will be recalled that earlier this month, upon the invitation of His Excellency President Xi Jinping, Her Excellency President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan visited China and attended the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The two leaders held a separate bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the FOCAC Summit; a critical outcome of those talks was a renewed commitment to take practical steps in enhancing the Tanzania-China relations.

The FOCAC 2024 Summit was an opportunity for both Tanzania and China to reflect on the various milestones achieved over the 60 years of our bilateral relations and explore new paths for broadening cooperation in key priority areas for our country's development including infrastructure development; industrialization;



MINISTER for Constitution and Legal Affairs Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi hails the 75th Anniversary of the Founding People's of China in Dar es Salaam.

agriculture and food systems transformation; promotion of investment; human capital and skills development; supporting access to clean and safe energy and digitalization of the economy.

The theme of the 2024 FOCAC Summit was "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future". Indeed, the forum brought yet another milestone in marking the long cordial relations and all-weather friendship between Tanzania and China and African countries at large.

The highlight of the forum for Tanzania was the pronouncement by China that it considers relations with Tanzania-China

to be a demonstration model for South-South cooperation and instrumental in guiding the overall China-Africa relations.

In that regard, Tanzania welcomes the ten (10) points for cooperation between China and Africa which were announced by H.E. President Xi Jinping. We welcome in particular the decision to revitalise TAZARA - the freedom railway that is a symbol for solidarity and friendship between Tanzania and China and crucial significance to boost regional trade between neighbouring land locked states.

Further achievement during the FOCAC 2024 Summit was the decision to extend Duty

Free Treatment to products from developing countries including Tanzania corresponding to 100 percent of the tariff lines that enter the Chinese market.

These indeed are the surest ways to put to action the intent to have win-win relations, based on the principles of sincerity, amity, real results and good faith - introduced by President Xi Jinping which form the bedrock of the Tanzania-China relations.

I therefore, take this opportunity to reiterate the Government of Tanzania's commitment to continue strengthening relations with China in all aspects and support China on various issues of common interest at bilateral and multilateral levels

so as to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Tanzania will continue to support the One China Policy and will take dedicated practical steps to reflect the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership status of our relations.

It is refreshing to note that the key components of the Tanzania-China relations are already under implementation through various initiatives. Today I will highlight just a few.

In July this year, the Naval Peace Ark Hospital Ship of the People's Liberation Army Navy of China docked in Dar es Salaam for its mission harmony and friendship in collaboration with Tanzania Peoples Defence Force (TPDF) to commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations. Since its inaugural mission in 2010, the Naval Peace Ark has visited Tanzania 3 times (2020, 2017 and 2024). During the stay in Dar es Salaam, the ship performed free medical services and check up to approximately 8,000 people.

China has continued to dispatch its medical teams to Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. Since the program started in the late 1960s to date, more than two thousand Chinese medical personnel have been dispatched serving Tanzania's in various areas.

It should be also noted that during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in late 2019, China was quick to offer COVID-19 vaccines to Tanzania which helped in our efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

Similarly on trade, Tanzania and China have signed various agreements that create market access to Tanzania's products in the Chinese market. These include among others, agreements for exporting honey, sunflower seed cakes and dried chillies.

In addition, Tanzania takes pride in the fact that currently various agricultural products including dry cassava, soybeans, fish maws, seafood products are now being sold to the Chinese market.

Today, Tanzania and China

continue to work hand in glove to ensure smooth cooperation on issues of mutual interest. Our two countries have a shared desire to deepen economic, political, cultural and social engagement that started 60 years ago.

Currently, China tops the list of trading partners of Tanzania for seven consecutive years with bilateral trade volume of USD 8.8 billion compared to US Dollar 8.3 billion in 2022 - about five percent increase in just one year.

Further to that, China is also leading in source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Tanzania. For instance, from January 2021 to June 2024, the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) registered 1,360 projects with an investment capital of about US Dollar 11.5 million; and expected to create more than one hundred fifty-five thousand jobs (155,000). These projects are in manufacturing, commercial facilities, agriculture, transportation and services.

In Chinese culture, this year is recognized as the Year of the Dragon, a symbol of strength, innovation, ambition, and good fortune.

As we embark on the journey toward the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China next year, let me reaffirm Tanzania's commitment to fostering a prosperous friendship that embodies good fortune, strength, and opportunities for all with the People's Republic of China.

In conclusion, may I request you all here present to raise your glasses and join me in a toast:

To the good health and prosperity of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China;

To the friendship between Tanzania and China; and to the good health and prosperity of all of us.

Cheers!  
Xie Xie, Asante Sana!!



## It is open archives which count, even as presidential centre helps

THE recording and publishing of 'printable' memoirs of our country's presidents so far and a small number of top officials like former prime ministers is increasingly becoming an industry.

This is in part thanks to an effort dating back roundabout quarter of a century ago by an academic entrepreneur to cover the gap in available material or archives.

The effort was tied up with organising conferences where former national leaders could reflect on their experience and offer insights to the younger generation. The thrust of the effort was the early 2000s optimism that Africa was anchored in assured democratic change.

Much of this is now taken for granted, a large part having fallen by the wayside and much of the wisdom having become hard to accommodate among the leaders who followed the late 1990s.

Examples of exemplary leadership were soon to be awarded by a prize and up to five million dollars in prize money, with a few landing those prizes.

This project, widely regarded as philanthropic, has a lot of bearing on the idea of a presidential centre intended for the national capital.

The facts behind the project, complete with the list of stakeholders involved in their latest work in the form of the memoirs and memories on former Prime Minister Edward Moringe Sokoine, are revealing indeed.

It has been clearly stated that documenting the speeches of a particular leader was in the main what was being targeted. Yet, for the most part, the speeches are well preserved in the archives of the state broadcasting corporation

beginning before Independence.

The main parameter of researching on the past, if the idea is not just laudatory praises, is less of speeches than the proper archives, which are still far from an agreed parameter of public life in most of Africa.

Western democracies have a rule envisaging opening government archives after a lapse of at least 30 years. The reason is ostensibly to avoid needlessly causing inconveniences in opening archives inopportunistically.

Carefully orchestrated praises of national founders could be hard to reinforce in the wake of some findings, in which case in some countries collective interest may have impeded the opening up of state archives even after 50 years.

In that connection, researchers or academic profilers would find themselves limited to monologues of national leaders on what happened at a specific period, without much avenue to check on what else there was to bear on what they said or felt.

The Hansard is also a good record of what happened at a particular moment, but this is limited in how far it can cover gaps as it doesn't show all that was happening in the corridors of those wielding power or otherwise in positions of authority.

That could stand as a much more interesting part, while for the current generation at least, all this could admittedly prove hard territory to make inroads into.

So, surely yes, support from the top leadership will always come in handy with the establishment and operations of national and other archives - particularly if the facilities will easily accessible to the public.

## Greater application of digital tools in agriculture could see hefty dividends

SOME top-level economic managers are mapping out how to extensively use digital tools on farming, especially small holder agriculture whose mainstay is in villages.

Highly placed officials of the African Development Bank (AfDB) have been brainstorming over how to reach a vast economic sector in Africa worth US\$1 trillion a year.

Yet most of the people working in the agricultural sector are invisible, as they are just populations and not part of audiences known as social media - and feature mainly as basic markets.

While observations by bank sector gurus are revealing, it is evident that ground-breaking changes are worked upon, which may ultimately grant the now 'invisible' peasants a measure of visibility.

For example, at the local level, farmers in many areas are being provided with customary land occupancy (some say ownership) titles. This does not remove them from clan control but there are transactions they are thereafter able to do, which by definition cuts the level of the prevailing 'invisibility'.

In fact, their visibility has always been there but often for the wrong reasons, including the impact of crop failure and massive hunger, not to mention disasters like a waves of invasions of pests, wildlife intrusions or destruction of crops by "stray" livestock.

It would make seldom make big news as rural dwellers return to invisible presence, especially in the absence of electricity. Luckily, now rural settlements on hills are seen from afar at night, courtesy of numerous points of reliable light.

This is the preliminary situation AfDB is seriously considering to see vastly improved changed using digital tools, definitely presuming electricity is already there in the first place.

The bank says that smallholder farmers often live in remote areas with little connectivity, leaving them with no digital footprint and limiting their access to better prices, loans and innovative agricultural inputs like seeds strong enough to sustainably withstand the impact of climate change.

Yes, indeed, but each of these needs has specific demands, with connectivity just part of the story.

Mobilising access to the digital economy is already in progress in selected African countries, with three million farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria being drawn into the digital economy.

AfDB is working jointly with communications service provider Mastercard, with this not limited to the farmers but bringing them into a 100-million-people networking with vast business connections. That will be done in at least ten years.

While all this is laudable, progress closer to the ground is registered when other land under customary ownership or occupancy is transacted as personal property and then soon redeveloped.

Cash is added into the economy when the peri-urban owner is paid and a new occupant invests there. Handy cash lumps speed up all digital access spheres one may have been dreaming about, less by selling crops or livestock as momentary gestures but not as part of true business.

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## AI has invaded newsrooms; what's next?

By Venkata Susmita Biswas

JUST like many other professionals, journalists have incorporated GenAI into their workflows. And it is not restricted to spell-check and grammar-checks.

GenAI - or generative artificial intelligence - is artificial intelligence capable of generating text, images, videos or other data using generative models, often in response to prompts.

Generative AI models learn the patterns and structure of their input training data and then generate new data having similar characteristics. Now, the question is what guardrails are needed to regulate AI in newsrooms.

Have you heard of OkayNWA? This newsroom in Northwest Arkansas solely employs AI reporters. Yes, you read that right. AI reporters.

OkayNWA calls itself an AI-powered newsroom where AI-reporters Eva Eventful, Wendy Weather, Cultural Carrie generate short reports on local events.

Sure, OkayNWA is a one-off. But the use of AI, especially generative AI in newsrooms, is more widespread than one might expect. And why shouldn't it be? AI has applications in every function of delivering news to readers/viewers.

News-gathering? Yes. News processing? Yes. News distribution? Yes. And this is why I sat down with a group of news publishing experts at the 2024 Digital Government (Diginews) Conference to discuss the varied applications of generative AI in newsrooms.

The conference, which took place in Croke Park in Dublin in February 2024, brought together key stakeholders to gain an insight into the government's objectives for digital transformation and delegates in attendance heard directly from those responsible for driving this forward.

We discussed how some of India's leading newsrooms are already using it, what policies should be put in place to regulate the use of AI, and much more.

We found that Indian Express Online, The Economic Times Digital, Medianama, and The Print all use generative AI to summarise stories, create explainers, and generate headlines and sub-headlines, albeit with human oversight.

Nandagopal Rajan, chief operating officer at Indian Express Online, said that he does not believe in using AI to generate news from scratch and without an editor clearing the content but that his team does use AI to create news capsules known as "Express Shorts" in multiple languages.

Medianama, which covers digital and tech policy news in India, has three applications of GenAI. A four-minute long news report could be



read in the form of an explainer or question-and-answer style, in an atomised format, or as slides in a presentation deck.

Nikhil Pahwa, founder and editor of Medianama, meanwhile said that "there are many ways to play with AI, depending on the user-need that you want to serve...because news is a form of service to our readers".

At Economic Times Digital, generative AI has been integrated into the content management system (CMS) itself. Deepak Ajwani, editor, The Economic Times Digital, said that GenAI should be included in a journalist's toolkit alongside calculators and Microsoft Excel.

"Keep testing to check the level of perfection and use it because it will definitely save your time," he remarked.

Nisheeth Upadhyay, editor (operations), The Print, said his company has an AI use case for news distribution. The AI model would rate stories on a number of parameters and the highest rated story would be shared on social media in order of ranking.

In addition to all the text-based applications of generative AI there are numerous solutions available for video content. There are AI tools that can generate videos from text or even snip up long videos in shorter ones because - short is the new black.

Suparna Singh, who led NDTV as its president until 2023 and initiated the news channel's digital journey, has identified areas where AI can help in video news production. Her new AI startup - Frammer - can generate short videos for different platforms in a few clicks.

While applications are diverse and powerful, all experts agreed on one thing: human oversight is non-negotiable. In essence, the sub-editor will be much in demand in AI-powered newsrooms. "However, the newsrooms that are scaling up on AI are the ones where sub-editors did not have much currency anyway,"

said Nandagopal.

Introducing AI into newsroom workflows needs consideration too. Pahwa recommended starting with multiple small use cases since "the propensity to make mistakes is less in small tasks".

He recommended breaking down tasks into steps and implementing checks and balances every step of the way, noting: "You will see that productivity of the organisation will drastically increase."

Nandagopal believes that one of the problems with how AI is being used now is that it is "coming out as a business solution and not an editorial solution".

Increased productivity will have an impact on jobs, causing organisations to become leaner. However, Singh argued in favour of humans keeping their jobs, asking: "Can AI take over our jobs? Maybe. Should it? No."

She said that journalists must control the extent to which AI is used and that it is our responsibility as providers of news to do so.

A challenge with digital news is that only a few stories that are published each day are read. Every newsroom is trying to make more people discover more stories and that is where AI is being deployed.

Upadhyay put it eloquently when he said, "it is important to not just know when to use AI but also when not to use it".

He wondered if the time saved by a reporter when using AI may be put towards more creative areas of news production or gathering.

Not everyone had answers to all questions, but many had questions worth pondering upon. And thus we came down to discussing a crucial factor of using AI in the newsroom - dos and don'ts.

All this is because, like we have established, AI has become an indispensable co-pilot to journalists in almost all newsrooms.

So, considering that it was a human who was reviewing everything the

AI generated, what other guidelines would a newsroom follow?

Singh recommended disclosures to readers when AI develops any kind of content. For his part, though, Nandagopal said disclosures should be made internally to reporting managers whenever someone in the newsroom uses AI for tasks such as cleaning copy.

Meanwhile, Indian Express Digital currently does not have a policy on AI but has given its team a list of things to avoid.

Deepak Ajwani, editor, The Economic Times Digital

Medianama has a set of dos and don'ts as well as a set of banned use cases. Pahwa cited an example of a policy that states that if there is a "significant journalistic impact" that is when a disclosure is made to a reader.

But how do we assess such an impact? Well, that's another question for every newsroom to answer for itself.

Disclosures could inadvertently assign shame to the user, although this should not have to be the case. "I have never been ashamed of using Merriam-Webster or Collins Dictionary, so no shame should be associated with using AI," ET's Ajwani said.

It was clear that Indian newsrooms are actively using generative AI and building use cases for more applications across a wide range of departments. It is only a matter of time before AI becomes as ordinary as the ever dependable spell check on a text editor.

**Venkata Susmita Biswas is the executive editor of afaqs!, which operates an online publishing platform intended to provide news, advertisement, media and marketing updates. She writes about video streaming, e-commerce, social media platforms and everything in between. She also analyses the marketing and business strategies of brands.**



By Adonis Byemelwa

# Warioba honours Sokoine's legacy at book launch, celebrates integrity and leadership

**I**N a stirring tribute to the late Edward Moringe Sokoine, former Prime Minister of Tanzania, retired Chief Justice Joseph Sindi Warioba delivered a powerful reflection on the legacy of a man who epitomized integrity, patriotism, and a relentless fight against corruption.

Speaking during the launch of the book 'Edward Moringe Sokoine: His Life and Leadership' in Dar es Salaam on September 30, 2024, Warioba described Sokoine as a principled leader who guided Tanzania through some of its most turbulent periods with unparalleled dedication.

Warioba praised Sokoine's unwavering commitment to Tanzania's welfare, recalling the key moments when Sokoine stepped up to lead the country during the dissolution of the East African Community (EAC), the formation of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), and the war between Tanzania and Uganda.

Appointed by then-President Julius Nyerere at the age of 39, Sokoine was a symbol of youthful leadership. His fresh approach ushered in a new era for the Tanzanian cabinet, with many young ministers joining his team. "He was a leader who hated corruption and economic sabotage with a passion," Warioba said, underlining Sokoine's moral firmness.

However, Warioba did not shy away from revealing the challenges Sokoine faced. Sokoine's fervor for justice led to the establishment of special courts to tackle economic sabotage, but these swift decisions sometimes stirred controversy.

"Sokoine rejected my advice," Warioba recounted, explaining how he, as Attorney General at the time, was forced to challenge the Prime Minister's policies, threatening to resign unless changes were made to protect human rights. Despite the clash, Sokoine's leadership prevailed, and with President Nyerere's intervention, the laws were eventually revised to include provisions for bail, marking a crucial turning point.

Yet, even as Sokoine's anti-corruption campaign gained momentum, betrayal brewed within his inner circle. Government officials and political allies who once stood beside him began to distance themselves, claiming the Prime Minister had overreached. "Leaders he trusted began blaming the police, claiming the Prime Minister had overstepped," Warioba said, a stark reminder of the loneliness that can accompany true leadership.

Sokoine's humility was equally remarkable. Despite holding one of the highest offices in the land, he remained deeply connected to his Maasai roots. Warioba fondly recalled visiting Sokoine's modest home, where he cared for both modern and traditional livestock, symbolizing his refusal to be separated from his cultural heritage. "He didn't want to separate his modern cows from the traditional ones," Warioba said, reflecting the simplicity and grounded nature of a man who never let power cloud his principles.

Current Tanzanian leaders, notably President Sa-



Judge (rtd) Joseph Warioba (right) described late Edward Moringe Sokoine, former Prime Minister of Tanzania, as a principled leader who guided Tanzania through some of its most turbulent periods with unparalleled dedication.

mia Suluhu Hassan, echoed Warioba's sentiments, urging today's politicians to follow Sokoine's example. Speaking at the same event, President Samia stressed the importance of integrity, discipline, and hard work in leadership.

"Edward Sokoine was entrusted with significant responsibilities, including the role of Prime Minister at a young age, due to his loyalty and dedication to his country. His legacy remains a beacon for all leaders," she said.

The President further highlighted Sokoine's role in pivotal national projects, such as overseeing the construction of the Tazara Railway and advocating for women's inclusion in the military.

However, as the book on Sokoine's life was celebrated, it also served as a stark contrast to the leadership many Tanzanians see today. Political analysts have often criticized the current generation of

leaders for falling short of the high bar set by figures like Sokoine.

While Sokoine's leadership was defined by selflessness and a tireless commitment to public service, many modern leaders seem more focused on consolidating power and advancing personal interests. "We no longer see the same integrity in our leaders today," noted political commentator Juma Ngoma. "Sokoine was a man who truly lived for the people, but in today's political landscape, leaders are quick to abandon the fight against corruption once it threatens their political survival."

In comparison to the youthful leadership Sokoine embodied, current young leaders in Tanzania appear to lack the same fire and vision. Where Sokoine was known for taking bold, decisive actions—even when it was unpopular—today's politicians often shy away from confronting corruption with-

in their ranks.

"Sokoine had a vision for a clean and just government, but it feels like that vision has been lost," said another political analyst, Dr. Pius Makene. "The young leaders we have today are more interested in maintaining the status quo than challenging the deep-seated issues of corruption and economic sabotage."

Warioba's reflection and the release of the book serve as a wake-up call to Tanzanian leaders. As Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango, who spearheaded the book's development, pointed out, Sokoine's legacy is a crucial resource for future leaders. He urged the government to provide support to retired leaders to document their memoirs while still alive, ensuring that Tanzania's history is not lost to time.

Behold, Warioba's heartfelt tribute to Sokoine painted a picture of a leader who was not only fierce

in his convictions but also humble in his approach to governance. Sokoine's legacy remains a masterclass in leadership—one that today's leaders should study closely.

The Minister of State in the President's Office for Public Service Management and Good Governance George Simbachawene captured it perfectly when he remarked, "Sokoine's life provides a masterclass in integrity and discipline—qualities that are essential in today's leadership." Yet, the question of whether today's leaders can measure up to Sokoine's towering legacy looms large. Many of them, despite their youthful age, seem unwilling or unable to shoulder the weight of public trust with the same commitment that Sokoine did.

Sokoine's brand of leadership wasn't merely about occupying a position; it was about embodying the values of service and sacrifice. He fought relentlessly against economic sabotage and corruption, even when it meant clashing with his allies or going against the grain.

His firm stance on justice and accountability, illustrated by his push for special courts to tackle economic crimes, is a far cry from the political maneuvering and backtracking often witnessed today.

When Sokoine faced opposition from those within his inner circle, he didn't waver. He took principled stands, even at the cost of popularity, unlike some modern politicians who seem more focused on public relations than on making difficult decisions.

Political analysts today lament that the current generation appears more concerned with maintaining political survival than confronting systemic corruption head-on. As Juma Ngoma pointed out, the fire that drove Sokoine's leadership seems largely absent in the corridors of power today.

Sokoine's humility, grounded in his Maasai roots, also set him apart. His refusal to separate his modern lifestyle from his traditional one was emblematic of his deep connection to the people. He lived simply, untainted by the trappings of power, while too many of today's leaders seem far removed from the everyday struggles of ordinary Tanzanians.

The question is not only whether current leaders dare to follow in Sokoine's footsteps, but whether they have the moral compass to truly serve the nation. With Tanzania at a crossroads, leaders must decide if they will rise to the occasion or remain mired in political self-preservation. The answers will determine if Sokoine's legacy will shine as an unattainable ideal or a guiding light for generations to come.

## Caution necessary in handling electronic money transactions

By Thomas Lyimo

**A** few decades ago, transferring money between towns or cities was a major challenge. People had to physically travel with money to ensure it reaches its destination. Formal methods of money transfer were limited and expensive, and only a few could afford them. Just think about how rare it was for people to have bank accounts in those days—owning one was considered a luxury, a status symbol.

However, in recent years, this scenario has drastically changed. The number of people with bank accounts has increased significantly. Even for those without a bank account, mobile financial services now offer many of the same functionalities.

Transactions that once required a bank can now be done with just a mobile phone, marking a true revolution in the financial world. The challenge today is no longer how to transfer money, but rather how to manage and receive it efficiently.

Almost all mobile phone users today utilize the financial services provided by their cellular networks. These services are much more affordable than traditional banking. Once you register your SIM card, you gain access to these services without the need for a physical card or account maintenance fees—customers are only charged for the services they use.

In a society where financial demands often arise unexpectedly, access to these mobile financial services has become essential. Many believe that money can solve most problems, and as people migrate in search of better opportunities, they increasingly rely on these services to send money quickly across distances. The beauty of mobile transfers is their speed: you send money, and it arrives within minutes.

Emergencies such as funerals often require immediate financial support. Thanks to electronic money transfers, relatives can send funds to cover costs while planning their travel, sometimes making money even more crucial than a person's physical presence. This is one reason why electronic financial services, especially those offered by mobile phone networks, have gained widespread popularity.

Several features of these services make them particularly attractive. For instance, the ability to transfer money between bank accounts and mobile phone accounts allows users to choose the most convenient withdrawal points based on their location. In many places, mobile money agents are more accessible than bank branches, making mobile services a practical choice.

Another key benefit is the ability to access transaction records. Users can easily trace payments to and from their accounts, providing peace of mind and greater control over their finances.

However, despite the many advantages, there is a risk of incurring unnecessary costs if transactions are not carefully planned. To avoid this, consider the following



Member State delegates at the general debate of the just-ended 79th session of the UN General Assembly

factors when transferring money between bank accounts or mobile financial services:

**Necessity and urgency:** Before initiating a transfer, ask yourself if it's really necessary. There's no need to send money electronically if you can meet the recipient in person. By opting to hand over cash instead of transferring electronically, you can avoid extra charges. Electronic transfers should be

reserved for urgent situations when meeting in person is not feasible.

**Availability of alternatives:** It's important to compare costs. For example, transferring money within the same network (either bank-to-bank or mobile-to-mobile) may be cheaper than between different networks. Consider withdrawing cash from one source and sending it via the same method the recipient uses to minimize fees.

**Economic considerations:** Always value the economic impact of your decisions. Every coin counts and unnecessary fees can hinder your financial goals. Avoid incurring additional costs if you can simply meet the recipient and give those cash. Make sure your financial decisions are logical and cost-effective.

In conclusion, while electronic money transfers offer convenience, they also

come with costs—some visible and others hidden. Users may overlook these fees because of the efficiency of the service, but it's important to weigh the benefits against the costs to ensure financial success. Every small loss adds up over time, so it's crucial to consider each transaction carefully. Electronic money transfers should be a tool for efficiency, not a source of financial leakage.



By Gerald Flynn

# Journalist who revealed deforestation in Cambodia now charged with deforestation



Ouk Mao showed reporters timber cut from the Phnom Chum Rok Sat community forest by loggers working for Lin Vatey.

It was late in the afternoon of Sept. 16 when Ouk Mao finally answered his phone. The environmental journalist had spent much of that Monday making preparations in case he was jailed the next day.

Mao was accused of illegal logging in the northeastern province of Stung Treng. Mao is known in his community for having played a key role in exposing a land grab perpetrated by mining company Lin Vatey, which has ties to senior figures within the Cambodian military.

His reporting on Lin Vatey's logging and mining operations had earned him the ire of local authorities, so he wasn't overly surprised when, on Aug. 20, he was summoned for questioning at the Stung Treng Provincial Court. But he was surprised by the charges: illegally clearing state-owned forest and incitement. These are crimes that carry jail sentences of 10 and two years respectively, as well as fines totaling tens of thousands of dollars. The questioning was set for Sept. 17, leaving Mao convinced he would be jailed.

"It is just a pretext to arrest me," Mao said. "They are angry at me because I covered the news in the community forest of Phnom Chum Rok Sat that affects the high-ranking officials, so the court accused me of clearing forest because I have talked a lot about deforestation."

While Mao wasn't jailed after questioning as he'd feared, the investigating judge did place him under judicial supervision, meaning Mao will be surveilled by authorities and will have to report his movements to them periodically for an indefinite period of time. This, Mao said, is a punishment for having spoken out against Lin Vatey's land grab in the community forest.

A report, published Sept. 5, detailed how Lin Vatey's political connections had been leveraged to grab nearly two-thirds of the Phnom Chum Rok Sat community forest in Stung Treng province. Most of the forest is now sectioned off by the mining company, which has shuttered an Indigenous-led ecotourism venture in the name of extracting resources both above and below the ground.

Ever since the company moved into the community forest, ushering in rampant deforestation, it was Mao who covered the issue for the local online outlet he works for. As a result of his reporting on Lin Vatey's activities, he's received threats, been evicted from his home, and been labeled "a social polluter" by local authorities who repeatedly told him he would be arrested if he persisted. As far as Mao is aware, he hasn't received any threats directly from Lin Vatey or its directors, but has been plagued with anonymous phone calls since he began to expose the company's role in the destruction of the Phnom Chum Rok Sat community forest.

The case of Phnom Chum Rok Sat has already seen Moeung Ratha, the community forest's elected leader, jailed on charges that the community dismissed as spurious. He's currently being held in pretrial detention, one of the estimated 11,000 prison inmates who haven't yet had their day in court but nonetheless remain behind bars.

Before he was arrested, Ratha had led members of the community in May 2024 to seize timber logged by Lin Vatey in a bid to resist the mining company's destruction of the forest that provided for the community. It was Ratha who reached out to Mao about Lin Vatey in the hope that media coverage might reverse the company's land grab, but so far authorities have only acted against those seeking to sound the alarm.

Since Ratha's arrest, other members of the community have fled, some even leaving Stung Treng province, and the company's plans to convert the forest into an industrial marble mine now move forward largely unopposed. But Mao has remained defiant in the face of mounting pressure.

"I am committed to speaking the truth and I am not fearful of prison because I am not defending the forest for myself or my family – I am defending the forest for the people across the nation," he said in a phone interview. "If the court finds me guilty, that is their power, but normally when I speak the truth, it affects the rice pots [interests] of the rich."

## No evidence, no trial and no justice

At around 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 17, Mao attended the provincial court in the town of Stung Treng. Two legal advisers, including one from local human rights NGO Adhoc, working pro bono, accompanied Mao.

Instead, it was just Mao, the judge, the prosecutor and

the court clerk. By Mao's recollection, the clerk was asking the questions, mostly related to his activities in the Phnom Chum Rok Sat community forest and his role as a journalist.

"The clerk asked me what I saw when I visited Phnom Chum Rok Sat community forest so I told them I saw excavators clearing the community forest and that as a journalist, it's my job to report on that," he said in a second phone interview on Sept. 18. "They accused me and the community leader of clearing the forested land. I said that's not true, my only job is to report."

No evidence was presented, no official documents issued, and no trial was held, but the judge nonetheless decided to place Mao under indefinite court surveillance. If he leaves the village where he now lives, he must inform the court. No date was given for a court hearing, and Mao was left with no recourse to challenge the judge's decision.

Im Phana, one of the Adhoc lawyers, confirmed there was no proof presented to suggest Mao had been involved in clearing forest or that his reporting on Phnom Chum Rok Sat constituted incitement.

"It is the discretion of the investigating judge," Phana said. "This measure means the judge allows Mao to leave on bail. In the criminal procedure, there are two measures that they judge can implement: send the accused to a detention center, or return home with administrative restrictions in place."

The judicial surveillance and restrictions on movement can be legally applied to Mao as a defendant even in the absence of any evidence or trial, Phana said.

"If the judge wanted to detain him, they could do on that day, but the judge decided not to and put him under judicial surveillance," he added, noting that the restrictions and surveillance would remain in effect until the judge completes their investigation.

Phana didn't have a date or an estimate for how long this process would take, but noted that it was representatives from the provincial department of environment and forestry, and not Lin Vatey, who had filed the complaint with the court.

"He is only a journalist who received information from the community," Phana said of Mao. "As a journalist, he has the right to cover the news."

## Shooting the messengers

Mao's ongoing legal harassment isn't a one-off, but rather the latest in a long-running series of crackdowns on the free press in Cambodia. Exposing environmental crimes, and those who profit from them, has long carried a deadly risk in the country.

In 2012, the body of journalist Hang Serei Oudom was found in the trunk of his car, with authorities determining that he was killed with an ax while investigating illegal logging networks in Ratanakiri province. Following the illegal timber trails in Kratie province resulted in another Cambodian journalist, Taing Try, being killed by a bullet to the head; key suspects included local military personnel. Similarly, military police were involved in the murder of Chut Wutty, arguably Cambodia's most prominent and effective forest activist, who was gunned down while investigating illegal logging in the Cardamom Mountains.

Between 1994 and 2023, at least 15 journalists have been killed working in Cambodia, with at least 12 of them working on sensitive issues at the time of their death. According to rights group LICADHO, no perpetrators have been brought to justice in any of these cases.

But recent years have seen fewer physical attacks on journalists. Instead, authorities have found increasingly creative ways to silence critical reporters in Cambodia.

Over the course of 2023, journalism monitoring group Cambodian Journalists Alliance Association (CamboJA) documented 32 cases of harassment affecting 59 journalists, with monitoring reports showing a further 16 cases over the first half of 2024. This is on top of the government shuttering independent outlets such as online broadcaster VOD, bilingual newspaper The Cambodia Daily and coercing the sale of the Phnom Penh Post – all of which have been silenced between 2017 and 2023.

This has left many Cambodian reporters with little institutional support and coincided with a rise in reporters operating alone and online, leaving them more vulnerable to legal threats or attacks.

## 'A pattern is emerging'

Over the course of 2022 and 2023, Mongabay investigated a massive illegal logging operation in what is now Veun Sai-Siem Pang National Park in Stung Treng province. We uncovered that the ultimate beneficial owner of

the operation was Meuk Saphannareth, deputy director of Cambodia's prisons department and a three-star military general.

Despite reporting evidence of illegal logging well beyond the concession that Saphannareth's company, TSMW, was legally allowed to clear, the operation continues to this day, attracting more attention from local reporters.

Kim Den was one such journalist working for a local online publication in Stung Treng province who covered the TSMW logging operation, only to find himself jailed for five years after being convicted of clearing state-owned forest in December 2023.

Mirroring Den's conviction was the government's case against Indigenous rights activist Chhorn Phalla, who was among five activists charged with instigating damage against state-owned forests, despite having a storied track record of defending the forests of Ratanakiri province.

Phalla was sentenced to six years in prison in July 2022, but had been imprisoned since his arrest in 2021. The appeals court eventually dropped charges against all five activists in October 2023, only for them to be convicted again on dubious charges in February 2024. Phalla lost his appeal in June 2024 and is set to spend a year in prison, largely on account of his environmental activism.

Chin Malin, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice, did not respond to questions sent by Mongabay regarding these cases or the common thread that links them.

But Naly Pilorge, outreach director of LICADHO, said Cambodia's courts have long been weaponized to silence critics.

"In the context of land conflicts, Cambodians facing land loss at the hands of well-connected individuals and companies are often accused of trespassing onto their own property as a means to secure their legal claims," Pilorge told Mongabay. "Similarly, a pattern is emerging whereas protectors of Cambodia's remaining forests are accused of perpetrating the very crime they are standing against. These activists are often the only effective measure against environmental destruction, they must be protected, not prosecuted and often imprisoned without any credible evidence."

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Kenyan MPs begin process to impeach deputy president

NAIROBI

**M**EMBERS of parliament in Kenya have started the process of removing the country's deputy president from office.

Those who back the effort accuse Rigathi Gachagua (pictured) of having a role in June's anti-government demonstrations - which turned deadly - as well as an involvement in corruption, undermining government and promoting ethnically divisive politics.

The deputy president has dismissed the allegations.

This is the culmination of a major fallout between Gachagua and President William Ruto.

Yesterday, the speaker of the National Assembly allowed the impeachment proceedings to begin after a motion to start things off was backed by 291 MPs, way over the threshold of the 117 MPs required.

The impeachment itself is expected to sail through both houses of parliament easily, after the main opposition joined forces with the president's party following the recent protests. But there is no date yet for when that will actually take place.

Multiple efforts to stop the impeachment attempt through the courts failed.

The power struggle between the president and his deputy has led to concerns of instability at the heart of government, at a time when Kenya is in the throes of a deep economic and financial crisis.

Ruto chose Gachagua as his running-mate in the 2022 election, when he defeated former Prime Minister Raila Odinga in a bitterly contested election.

Gachagua comes from the vote-rich Mount Kenya region, and helped marshal support for Ruto.

But with members of Odinga's

party joining the government after the youth-led protests that forced Ruto to back down from increasing taxes, the political dynamics have changed - and the deputy president looks increasingly isolated.

Gachagua has, however, struck a defiant tone, saying he has the backing of voters in his native central Kenya region.

"Two-hundred [legislators] cannot overturn the will of the people," he said.

For the motion to pass, it would require the support of at least two-thirds of members of the National Assembly and Senate, excluding its nominated members.

Backers of the motion are confident that it will be approved.

Raila Odinga lost the presidential election but is once again close to the centre of power

But Gachagua has made it clear that he will not go down without a fight. "The president can ask MPs to stop. So, if it continues, he's in it," he told media outlets before Tuesday's parliamentary session.

Ruto has in the past vowed not to subject Gachagua to "political persecution", similar to what he says he experienced when he was deputy to his predecessor, Uhuru Kenyatta.

But the rift between Ruto and Gachagua has been apparent in recent months.

The deputy president has been conspicuously absent from seeing off his boss at the airport when he travels abroad, and receiving him when he returns.

Interior Secretary Kithure Kindiki, a law professor who is trusted by the president, appears to be taking on some of the deputy president's responsibilities - something that also happened when Ruto and Kenyatta fell out.

Like Gachagua, Kindiki comes from Mount Kenya - the region which forms the largest voting



block in Kenya.

Dozens of legislators have rallied behind Kindiki as the region's preferred "mouthpiece", intensifying speculation that they are pushing for him to succeed Gachagua.

That has left the deputy president largely isolated with only a handful of elected politicians backing him. In a further sign that he is in political trouble, the police's Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) recently recommended charges against two MPs, a staff member and other close allies of the deputy president, after accusing them of "planning, mobilising and financing violent protests" that occurred in June.

Gachagua defended the accused, denouncing the charges as an "act of aggression" and an "evil scheme"

to "soil" his name and lay the groundwork for his impeachment.

In parliament last week, Kindiki - under whose ministry the DCI falls - pledged to remain neutral, but made it clear that "high-level individuals" will be prosecuted. "We are dealing with the aftermath of the attempted overthrow of the constitution of Kenya by criminal and dangerous people who almost burnt the parliament of Kenya. We have a job to do," he said.

But many of the young people who were at the forefront of the protests dismiss suggestions that Gachagua's allies were behind it, and see the bid by lawmakers to oust him as an attempt to deflect attention from bad governance.

They say that if the deputy goes, the president must go too.

In the Senate, an opposition legislator has filed a censure motion against the president. It does not bear the same weight as impeachment and has no legal consequence.

Ruto, who is expected to host legislators from his party later this week, will be weighing the political risks of moving against Gachagua, but some lawmakers say they do not want him to wade into the debate - a tough ask.

For now, Gachagua's fate rests with legislators, but one man might still extend him a renewed lease of political life - the president.

## It's time for rich polluters to pay for the climate crisis they created

By Hilda Flavia Nakabuye

**T**HE world is standing at a critical juncture. Climate change is not just a future threat—it's here, and it's already devastating lives. From record-breaking heat waves to floods and landslides, the planet is sending us clear signals that we cannot afford to ignore.

But for many of us in the Global South, this crisis is not new. It is a daily reality that we have been living with for years, despite contributing almost nothing to the problem.

I am from Uganda, a country that contributes less than 0.02% of global CO2 emissions and ranks as the 36th most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change. I grew up on a farm, and I saw firsthand how changing weather patterns—flooded roads and mudslides—kept me from attending school.

What was once a reliable planting season turned into a guessing game of whether the rains would come at all or whether they'd wash away everything in their path.

Our plantation didn't survive. Neither did many others in my region. And in the end, it wasn't just our farm that was lost—it was our livelihood, our food security, and for me, an entire year of education.

Nakabuye marches with fellow Make Rich Polluters Pay activist Marinel Ubaldo across the Brooklyn Bridge during the Youth Climate Strike in New York City on September 20, 2024.

What frustrates me most is that Africa, a continent rich in resources and biodiversity, continues to bear the brunt of a crisis we did not create. Our people are paying with their lives and futures for the emissions and actions of the world's wealthiest.

According to Oxfam, the richest 1% emit as much planet-heating

pollution as the poorest two-thirds of humanity and their carbon emissions are enough to cause 1.3 million excess deaths due to heat. The richest continue to be indifferent to the fact that it is the poorest and frontline communities who pay the price.

According to UNICEF, girls worldwide spend 200 million hours every single day collecting water. Think about that for a moment—200 million hours. The climate crisis is making this burden even heavier.

As water sources dry up, girls are forced to walk further and further, giving up education and opportunities to secure the most basic human need. By 2030, water insecurity is expected to displace 700 million people globally—most of them girls and women. This is not just a climate crisis; it's a social justice crisis.

Africa, despite its negligible carbon footprint, is on the frontlines of environmental disasters, while the fossil fuel industry continues to rake in record profits. This system is built on injustice. A system where the few benefit while the rest of us suffer. It's a system where the powerful can pollute, and the poor pay the price.

But it doesn't have to be this way. In Uganda, we're organizing. I founded Fridays for Future Uganda to demand climate justice and to fight for a sustainable future where communities can thrive, not just survive. And we're not alone.

Across the world, movements like Make Rich Polluters Pay are calling for those responsible for the climate crisis—the fossil fuel giants and the ultra-wealthy—to be held accountable.

The solutions are within reach, but it requires the political will to act. Right now, in New York, there's a bill sitting on Governor Kathy Hochul's desk that could set a powerful precedent. The Climate Change



Nakabuye speaks to a crowd of over one thousand at the Youth Climate Strike rally in New York City recently

Superfund Act would force major fossil fuel companies to pay their fair share for climate damages in the state.

Governor Hochul has the power to sign this into law and ensure that everyday people aren't left footing the bill for the climate crisis. We need similar actions across the globe. This November, at COP29 in Baku, leaders from the Global North, including the United States,

must agree on a new goal for climate finance that includes taxing the ultra-wealthy and fossil fuel companies. Rich countries, whose emissions have fueled the climate crisis, must step up and take the lead. It's time for rich polluters to pay for the destruction they've caused.

We cannot wait any longer. The climate crisis is here. The people who have contributed the least to

this crisis are the ones suffering the most. We need to hold those responsible to account and demand that they pay for the loss and damage we are experiencing.

The future we want is equal—one where renewable energy powers our economies, where girls are in classrooms instead of walking miles for water, and where communities in Uganda, New York, and beyond can thrive.

I urge you to take action. There are many ways you can do that. One is to support the Make Rich Polluters Pay campaign by signing the petition and raising your voice. Climate justice isn't just a demand—it's our right. Together, we can build a better, fairer future for everyone.

Hilda Flavia Nakabuye is a Ugandan climate and environmental rights activist and founder of Fri-



By Odongo Kodongo

# Kenyans to lose from Adani airport deal: Finance experts explains why



Entrance to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport

THE proposal submitted early this year by Indian conglomerate Adani Group to Kenya Airports Authority to develop and renovate parts of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport has recently been made public.

To facilitate informed public engagement with the proposal, as a project finance student, I thought it would be useful to provide an expert view on its key technical aspects.

Adani exploits a provision in Kenya's Public Private Partnerships Act of 2021 that allows private companies to initiate project proposals and channel them to the government for consideration.

Briefly, Adani seeks to run Jomo Kenyatta International Airport via a 30-year build, operate and transfer arrangement. Under this arrangement, ownership of the airport remains with Kenya Airports Authority, known as the deal sponsor. The airport business is handled by Adani's subsidiary, Airports Infrastructure Plc, called the special purpose vehicle.

Airports Infrastructure Plc, which was registered in Nairobi on 31 August 2024, is fully owned by the United Arab Emirates incorporated Global Airports Operator LLC.

Global Airports Operator is a subsidiary of Adani Airports Holdings Limited of India, which in turn is fully owned by Adani Group.

The proposal omits information on Adani Airports Holdings Limited's extent of ownership of Global Airports Operator. This leaves room for speculation about Global Airports Operator's beneficial owners.

The proposal shows that the project requires a cash outlay of US\$2.05 billion including capital expenditures, operating expenses and financing costs. This cost is spread over the project's development period of about 25 years.

However, my examination identifies important flaws in the structure of the proposed deal.

### Airport's cash flows

The first flaw is that the Adani Group, the project operator, will have access to all of the airport's cash flows. This should not be the case in a typical private public partnership deal like the one proposed.

In such deals, the project operator should only have access to cash flows generated by the new project - that is, the proposed new terminal building and runway and their associated infrastructure. It should not have access to cash flows from the existing assets and operations of the deal sponsor.

Secondly, the proposal shows that the proposed renovation of the existing terminal buildings will be financed from money generated from the airport's existing operations. The renovations should therefore be undertaken by Kenyan Airports Authority and not included in Adani's proposed deal. Including them in the deal would complicate cash flow separation and risk sharing.

To be sure, in instances where there are substantial risks associated with the new project's capacity to generate cash flows, the project operator might require ad-

ditional guarantees. In such cases, governments often provide guarantees limited to a small proportion of the required cash flows.

The third flaw is that Adani proposes that the government pay for the developed assets when the partnership ends. This is wrong: the government must not buy assets that it already owns.

### Guaranteed return on investment

There are other provisions that require further scrutiny, as well. The revenue sharing model proposes a fixed concession fee of US\$47 million to the government in 2025. Thereafter, the government would receive a fixed fee plus a variable component calculated to ensure that Adani earns an 18% internal rate of return on its capital investment in the project. Internal rate of return is the average annual profit earned by a project in its lifetime.

For Adani to achieve this enviable outcome, the Kenyan Airports Authority would have to take a higher risk by accepting a concession fee that fluctuates with the project's performance while Adani's cash flows are predetermined by its desired profit.

This is neither fair nor equitable risk-sharing. As the project operator and major equity capital provider, Adani must take responsibility for the project's performance by accepting greater fluctuation in its cash flows.

### Affordability of services

Fees for aeronautical services (what airlines pay Adani for using the airport) for the first three years will be determined by the need for Adani's 18 percent profit. This is problematic.

The internal rate of return is derived from cash inflows and outflows over the project's lifetime.

Therefore, to determine user charges for an isolated period of the contract such that the internal rate of return remains fixed would push those fees to very high levels.

Indeed, Adani's own calculations show that the proposed user charges would make the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport more expensive than the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa. For some transport corridors, the Nairobi airport's charges as a proportion of airfares are more than double Bole's.

### Passenger traffic

Adani's project proposal is flawed when it comes to passenger traffic too.

First, the agreement assumes what it calls a "meteoric surge" in passenger numbers based on an assumed constant annual growth rate of 4.5%. This is too optimistic relative to the airport's historical performance.

Second, Adani's projections assume full capacity use over the 30-year period. Any financial modeller knows that full capacity is difficult to achieve.

Overall, because of the long period of projections and optimistic stance, Adani's forecasting assumptions should be subjected to rigorous stress testing (sensitivity analysis). This has not been done.

### Tax holidays

Carefully tucked away in the project's feasibility report is an unheralded pitch to the government for a tax holiday if Adani wins the tender.

Adani argues that, if granted, a tax holiday would lower the charges to airlines. In my view, this is the proposed project's deal breaker.

Kenyan policy does allow for tax holidays of various kinds to incentivise capital formation and investments in critical but unattractive sectors. It's doubtful that the airport business fits this description and therefore merits such an incentive.

Further, the evidence shows that such tax in-

centives hardly offer meaningful economic growth benefits to African countries. More importantly, an analysis of the proposed tax holiday's effect on cash flows should be provided to aid its assessment. Adani omits such an analysis.

### The land question

A component of Adani's strategy involves developing and operating facilities, such as offices and convention centres. This is subject to confirmation of land availability. Adani does not propose to buy the land. Rather, it appears that Kenya Airports Authority would have to provide the land.

This begs several clarifications.

If the Kenya Airports Authority owns the land, the opportunity cost of the land utilisation by Adani needs to be incorporated in the cost-benefit analysis.

If the Kenya Airports Authority has to buy the land, the question becomes that of the source of the purchase money and whether land acquisition would be the best use of that money by an authority seeking to outsource tasks, such as renovations, due to cash flow constraints.

### Final thoughts

The Public Private Partnerships Act requires a justification when an open tender approach is not used for a proposed project. That this has not been done is worrying, given that the consultant hired by the government to advise on this transaction recommended open tendering.

Adani's argued benefits of its privately initiated proposal - quicker turnaround time, customisation, and risk mitigation - are not convincing. Such benefits are better realised through an open tender, which provides additional benefits such as competitive pricing and transparency.

Adani labelled its proposal "private and confidential". It is reasonable to expect that it signed a non-disclosure agreement with Kenya Airports Authority to protect its submission from leaking to potential competitors. The proposal has now been released and its content is open knowledge.

If the government were to stop processing Adani's proposal and open the tender to all interested investors, Adani might seek legal redress since its competitors would easily design their bids to beat its own. Any unbiased court will find that the "breach of confidentiality" violates Adani's rights.

### Adani will win the suit.

One way or the other, circumstances now make Adani the winner and Kenyans the loser in this fiasco.



**The first flaw is that the Adani Group, the project operator, will have access to all of the airport's cash flows. This should not be the case in a typical private public partnership deal like the one proposed**

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 181 00 -**

Across:

- Capital city of Ukraine
- descent from an ancestor
- the amount of money expected
- Portuguese called it "Montewara"
- Enemy in Kiswahili
- the code in Kiswahili
- a fool
- South African President in 1994
- seafaring people of Liberia

Down:

- frightening water creatures in Japan
- Education in Kiswahili
- a person harmed
- treating people equally
- each of the limbs
- not familiar
- to one side
- having a high temperature
- either of the two halves
- white fluid from mammals
- a tusked wild pig
- mischievous child

Yesterday's Solutions

S A G E R P S A D S A  
 I H O S T I L E H E A T E R S  
 N D O L A T A R Y A N S  
 G S I C I L Y A R Y A N S  
 E F T A N W E T A S E R U  
 R N O R W A Y T I N E  
 A T E A S E  
 S A L I M I A C E D I  
 K C N P V E A S E D

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

DELAY	ODITY
ANANDA	DREAD
RIDE	MKE
BROWN	DIN
ROME	MALI
ERA	TEA
MBEYA	

felix: 0789437309 | felixmagezi@gmail

**RADIO One** **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One**



# BUSINESS

## NSSF automation levels double for three years

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Social Security Fund (NSSF) has nearly doubled the automation of its operations to 82 percent, up from 42 percent just three years ago. This development is part of the fund's ongoing strategic plan, which runs through 2025/2026.

NSSF director general Masha Mshomba (pictured) revealed these figures yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a progress meeting with editors from various media organizations under the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF).

According to Mshomba, the automation now encompasses all aspects of the fund's operations, including the introduction of online registration for members, as well as the processing of contributions and benefits. "This has enabled us to enhance control and provide greater convenience to our members," he said.

He also reported that the fund's total assets have grown significantly, rising to 8.5trn/- from 4.8trn/- three

years ago.

The current funding level of the NSSF stands at 90 percent, well above the 40 percent minimum requirement, which highlights the fund's financial health. The NSSF disburses 11 billion shillings monthly to 30,000 pensioners.

The funding level indicates the NSSF's capacity to meet current and future obligations, including pension payments, health benefits, and other social security services.

Mshomba also outlined the NSSF's ongoing efforts to recruit more members from the informal sector. This initiative is aimed at extending social security coverage, which aligns with the goals set forth in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that beneficiaries can maintain a reasonable standard of living.

Traditionally, the NSSF has catered to formal employees, primarily in the private sector. However, with the growing informal economy, the fund has shifted its focus to informal workers, such as small-scale traders, fish-



ermen, farmers, and artisans. The recruitment approach mainly targets groups rather than individuals.

To accommodate the irregular income patterns typical of informal sector workers, the

NSSF has introduced flexible payment structures. These allow members to contribute at their convenience without being restricted to fixed monthly payments.

Mshomba added that the NSSF has been con-

ducting educational campaigns to raise awareness among informal workers about the advantages of social security, including retirement pensions, health coverage, maternity benefits, and other protections.

Additionally, the NSSF has partnered with mobile network operators to enable members to make contributions through mobile money platforms, a crucial development for reaching workers in remote or rural areas.

By focusing on the informal sector, the NSSF aims to increase financial security for workers who might otherwise lack access to traditional social security programs. This expansion could also stimulate national savings and contribute to long-term economic growth.

However, Mshomba cautioned that Tanzania might fall short of achieving the SDGs' goal of extending social security coverage to the informal sector. He urged the government to create incentives to support this expansion, such as offering contribution top-ups, similar to programs in neighboring countries like Rwanda.

The director general also highlighted that the NSSF invests members' contributions in various sectors, including real estate, equities, and government debt instruments, with government securities making up 50 percent of the portfolio.

These investments are intended to grow the fund's reserves and ensure its long-term ability to meet obligations to members.

## Dr Tulia urges Mbeya residents to use cleaner energy

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson (pictured) has challenged food vendors and residents in Mbeya Region to use clean energy, specifically gas to protect the environment and save time for economic activities.

Dr Tulia (pictured), who is the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), made the remarks on Monday at Uyole street in Mbeya alongside representatives from a local gas company—one of the stakeholders dedicated to championing the clean cooking energy drive. She emphasized that it is high time for the residents to shift from dirty to cleaner sources of energy.

The Mbeya Urban Member of Parliament also demonstrated to the residents on how to use gas in cooking whereas she cooked food at one of the restaurants.

While at the restaurant, Dr. Tulia explained that the goal was to promote clean energy use in support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's campaign to ensure Tanzanians abandon the use of charcoal and firewood.

She added that Tanzanians are learning from President Samia, who is the champion of clean energy drive in and outside the country. She said Tanzanians



need to support the presidents by ensuring they use clean energy in cooking.

"When cooking with gas you do not only protect the environment but also your health. Using gas saves time, thus allowing people to engage in other economic activities," she added.

OGTL Project Manager for clean cooking energy, Peter Ndomba said they have been assisting various groups, including food vendors in accessing clean cooking energy.

Ndomba said since the clean energy promotion campaign began, they have distributed over 70,000 gas cylinders and stoves.

"We understands President Samia Suluhu's mission to ensure that within the next 10 years, 80 percent of Tanzanians should be using clean cooking energy, and our company has

embraced this agenda practically." He said.

He said the company has noticed that many food vendors still use firewood and charcoal, hence decisions to initiate a campaign to encourage them to use gas—an endeavour they are implementing in collaboration with the Tulia Trust Foundation.

"We are optimistic that many people will adopt clean energy and specifically gas. Groups such as food vendors are heavily reliant on firewood and charcoal, this method of cooking puts their lives at risk," he said, adding that over 33,000 Tanzanians die each year due to the use of dirty energy in cooking.

He said the company together with Tulia Trust Foundation has this week distributed 1,000 gas cylinders and stoves to food vendors in Mbeya Region.

## Global demand for Euro rises

By Burhan Khadbai

FOR the first time this year, issuance from the so-called 'E' name supranational borrowers - the European Union, European Investment Bank, European Stability Mechanism and European Financial Stability Facility - reached €1tn of outstanding bonds.

This was an important landmark, showing not just the rapid growth in the market for these bonds but also for European safe assets more generally given these issuers sit at the upper echelon of the capital markets with triple-A ratings.

The growth of European safe assets was explored at the European sovereign, supranational and agency forum, hosted by OMFIF's Sovereign Debt Institute earlier this month. The event brought together leading European issuers with asset managers and intermediaries for a series of high-level discussions.

Commenting on the growth of the 'E' name issuance, a senior official at one of those borrowers said it was 'just the start'.

He went on to say that 'if you look at the lending capacity of ESM, the EU and also of the EIB, it's only used for about a third to 40

percent of what is available', meaning the outstanding supply of bonds from these issuers could easily be at €2tn-€3tn if the full capacity was used.

One of the criticisms thrown at Europe is the fragmentation in its pool of safe assets compared to the US. 'What's clear within Europe is that we don't have a safe asset, but a lot of safe assets,' said a senior official at another borrower. 'We might prefer to have a lower number of safe assets with higher volumes to make it simpler to understand for clients.'

Instead, Europe has a number of safe assets with different capital structures for different purposes.

The EIB lends for projects and the ESM is a crisis protection mechanism, while the Next Generation EU programme is lending on behalf of member states to invest and transform the continent. 'But for the market itself, they see us as pretty much similar,' said an official at one of these borrowers. 'We price quite similarly so it's just a nuance. Whether it's by ESM, EFSF, EU or the EIB, we have the same investor base.'

'Fourteen years ago, it was not obvious that the euro was a safe asset,' said a senior official.



'We were in the middle of a crisis and, even on 12 March 2020, it was maybe not obvious that the euro was a safe asset. But since then, what we have seen is the continent being exposed to so many shocks so rapidly, regarding health, trade, energy, war, but the share of euro in reserve management has remained

stable. What we are seeing is a remarkable stability in the support that international investors provide to euro safe assets.'

This is backed up by the numbers: the euro is 'punching above its weight' at 14% to 15 percent of global reserves, down just slightly from 20 percent despite the decline in Eu-

rope's gross domestic product, said a senior official. Meanwhile, the dollar has declined from 73 percent in 2000 to 58 percent today.

'I was running the euro benchmark funding as a senior funding official between 2007 and 2010 and, the truth is, there was pure panic in the market,' said an official at a European borrower. 'We had to postpone global benchmark issues in euros for six weeks. Now there is far more resilience in the market and the euro itself is more established.'

In a survey of participants at the forum, over 80 percent agreed that the euro is growing in demand for global investors as a liquid and safe asset. But, going forward, there is more work to do in developing European safe assets further.

'Now the question is not whether the euro is a safe asset, but whether the euro is also perceived as a risky, profitable asset,' said a senior official at the forum. 'Here, I think that we have a lot of work to do, and this is, notably, what the Draghi report and other actors are pushing for.'

By Arunima Kumar

## Oil prices dip over stronger supply outlook

OIL prices edged lower on Tuesday as a stronger supply outlook and tepid global demand growth outweighed fears over escalating conflict in the Middle East and its impact on crude exports from the region.

Brent crude futures for December delivery slipped by 49 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$71.21 a barrel by 1117 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures lost 55 cents, or 0.8 percent, to \$67.62.

Brent fell as much as 2.5 percent earlier in the session and WTI crude plunged by 2.7 percent before paring losses.

A panel of top ministers from the OPEC+ producer group meets on Oct. 2 to review the market, with no policy changes expected. Starting in December, the OPEC+ comprising the Organizations of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) plus allies such as Russia is scheduled to raise output by 180,000 barrels per day (bpd) each month.

The possibility of Libyan oil output recovering also weighed on the market. Libya's eastern-based parliament agreed on Monday to approve the nomination of a new

central bank governor, which could help to end a crisis that drastically reduced the country's oil output.

"Opposing forces are keeping oil sideways trading for now," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo, pointing to Chinese stimulus, U.S. oil demand growth and slowing US crude supply growth on the positive side and a looming resumption of Libyan output on the negative side.

In China, manufacturing activity shrank sharply in September, a private sector sur-

vey showed on Monday.

Analysts say a slew of stimulus measures over the past week are likely to be enough to bring China's 2024 growth back to about 5 percent after several months of below-forecast data cast doubts over that target, though the longer-term outlook remains little changed.

Israel began ground incursions in Lebanon on Tuesday, with its military saying troops had begun raids against Hezbollah targets in the border area.

The attacks follow Israel's killing on Friday of Hezbollah head Hassan Nasrallah and represent an escalation in a conflict that now threatens to suck in the United States and Iran.

"Risk weighting for front-month oil futures is currently contingent upon what Israel might do next and if there is a direct confrontation with Iran," said independent oil analyst Gaurav Sharma.

In the United States, crude oil and fuel stockpiles were expected to have fallen by about 2.1 million barrels in the week to Sept. 27, a preliminary Reuters poll showed on Monday.



# Eight nations attend Geita mining, technology exhibition

By Correspondent Valentine Ofori, Geita

THE 7th edition of the Geita Mining and Technology Exhibition is set to take place from October 2nd to 13th, 2024, in Tanzania's mineral-rich Geita region.

The event is expected to attract stakeholders from at least eight countries, including China, India, South Africa, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo, Uganda, and neighboring

Kenya.

Tailored to drive the transformation of Tanzania's mining sector, the exhibition will feature over 600 local participants, including both large and small-scale mining firms. It will also host miners and other key players from across the country's mining value chain.

In an exclusive interview with this publication, Geita Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Mohamed Gombati assured that the regional government has made extensive preparations to ensure the event is conducted professionally to achieve its intended outcomes.

"The exhibition is set to provide a crucial platform for local mining stakeholders, particularly small-scale miners and companies, to adopt modern technologies that will enhance their performance and standards," Gombati noted.

The ten-day event will feature various activities, including a special day dedicated to mineral tourism, as well as sessions for financial institutions, insurance firms, and social security funds.

"There will also be a day for the indigenous people of Geita, known as Wana wa Geita, and a day dedicated to discussing local content in

Tanzania's mining sector," Gombati added.

Coordinated by the Ministry of Minerals in collaboration with the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), the event aims to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's economic philosophy of the 4Rs: Reconciliation, Reconciliation, Reform, and Rebuilding.

Eng. Gabriel Robert, Chairman of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), urged traders from both Geita and other regions to participate in the exhibition. He emphasized that the event will create valuable economic opportunities for all participants.

"The exhibition will not only benefit the mining sector but also the broader business community in Tanzania. It will open avenues for traders to exchange ideas, form market linkages, and conduct significant business transactions," Robert said.

Additionally, the event is expected to attract food vendors and other small traders, providing them with an opportunity to market their products.

## Zambia to host digital summit

LUSAKA

PRESIDENT Hakainde Hichilema is set to open the Digital Government Africa Summit later this week in Zambia, marking the second consecutive year the nation has hosted the high-profile event.

The summit, which is drawing over 500 delegates from 33 African countries, highlights the growing significance of digital transformation across the continent.

Home Affairs and Internal Security Minister Jack Mwiimbu emphasized the importance of the summit, noting that it provides African governments with a vital platform to foster connections, promote cross-border payment systems, and encourage collaboration among cybersecurity professionals. Mwiimbu further stressed that digital transformation will benefit governments in numerous ways, enhancing their operations and efficiency.

Technology and Science Minister Felix Mutati added that Zambia is using the summit as an opportunity to demonstrate

its advancements in digital security. Since hosting the inaugural summit last year, Zambia has made significant progress in securing its cyberspace, a milestone the government plans to highlight during the event.

In the education sector, Minister Douglas Syakalima pointed out that Zambia's introduction of free education has driven the rollout of digital infrastructure in schools. The recent launch of the Smart Village Project by President Hichilema underscores the government's commitment to integrating digital tools in education and ensuring Zambia's active participation in the digital revolution.

The Smart Zambia Institute National Coordinator, Percy Chinyama, echoed the sentiment, stating that the three-day event will play a crucial role in promoting digital transformation across Africa. The summit offers a unique opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate and share innovative ideas that can drive the continent's digital future.



Imani John, Managing Director of Access Bank Tanzania (L), addresses staff on the recent acquisition of African Banking Corporation (Tanzania) Limited (Banc ABC Tanzania) by Nigeria headquartered Access Bank Group. The event took place in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## \$250bn needed to plug global copper supply gap

JOHANNESBURG

DIVERSIFIED commodities major BHP has warned that the world will need \$250-billion in investment over the next decade to bridge the growing gap between copper supply and surging demand.

As the global transition toward electrification and decarbonisation accelerates, copper demand is projected to rise sharply, with the miner projecting a 70 percent increase by 2050.

BHP chief commercial officer Rag Udd has highlighted the scale of this challenge, stating that copper supply will need to expand by an additional ten-million tonnes a year over the next decade to meet rising consumption.

"To bridge this gap, we estimate the cumulative cost to be a quarter of a trillion dollars. This is a formidable challenge that will require significantly more investment globally than what we have seen over the previous decade," says Udd, reflecting on the findings of BHP's latest copper report.

In 'BHP Insights: How Copper Will Shape our Future', the company forecasts that copper demand will reach more than 50-million tonnes a year by 2050, with an average growth rate of 2 percent a year.

The period leading up to 2035 will see a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.5 percent - up from a 1.9% CAGR in the past 15 years. In absolute terms, this translates to an additional one-million tonnes of copper demand, every year, until 2035 - double the 0.5-million-tonne-a-year growth volume of the past 15 years.

The growth will not only come from advanced economies, but also from emerging markets. Unlike the staggered adoption of cars, electricity, and consumer electronics across different regions in the twentieth century, the twenty-first century will be marked by the concurrent adoption of copper-intensive technologies - such as electric vehicles, renewables, and data centres - in high-, middle- and lower-income economies.

However, mounting demand presents supply challenges. BHP ac-



knowledges that while global copper production has doubled over the past 30 years to reach about 22-million tonnes a year, mainly owing to expansion in Latin America, the Asia-Pacific region, and Africa, replicating the supply growth will be much harder. The industry has to achieve similar supply growth in less than half the time.

Despite optimistic forecasts for new projects, BHP notes a significant gap between expected supply and future demand, even when accounting for a positive outlook on copper scrap recovery.

Many existing copper mines are ageing and their output is expected to decline by around 15 percent by 2035. These mature mines will require substantial capital investment to maintain production levels, with upgrades to infrastructure becoming increasingly necessary.

Adding to the pressure is the ongoing decline of ore grades, which have fallen by about 40% since 1991. While advances in processing technologies have helped offset some of the impact, the trend highlights the need for reinvestment across the sector to sustain supply.

BHP warns that there are fewer "easy" projects available to replace dwindling supply. The projects that are available face escalating challenges, from regulatory hurdles to higher costs, which will inevitably impact the price of copper.

The company predicts that future supply will likely be sourced from either lower-grade brownfield expansions in well-established jurisdictions or higher-grade greenfield projects in riskier, emerging markets. Neither option, however, will come cheaply or quickly, BHP warns.

## European stock markets conclude lacklustre month in mixed results

FRANKFURT

EUROPEAN stock markets underperformed compared to their US and Chinese counterparts in September, primarily due to a lack of local catalysts and a dependence on global events. However, luxury consumer stocks excelled, driven by optimism surrounding a swift recovery in Chinese demand.

September proved to be a pivotal month for global stock markets as the Federal Reserve began its easing cycle with a significant 0.5 percent rate cut, while China launched the largest stimulus package ever, further enhancing risk-on sentiment in the last week of the month.

In Europe, the European Central Bank (ECB) implemented its second rate cut of the year, meeting market expectations.

In line with these global developments, major European benchmarks posted strong gains last week, with both the Euro Stoxx 600 and the DAX reaching new highs on Friday.

However, on a monthly basis, these indices ended the month mixed: the Pan-Euro Stoxx 600 declined by 0.28 percent, the DAX rose by 2.08 percent, and the CAC 40 fell by 0.14 percent.

Overall, European stocks underperformed compared to their global peers in September, primarily due to a lack of catalysts in the local markets and ongoing political uncertainties.

In contrast, three benchmarks on Wall Street - the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500, and the Nasdaq - rose between 1.9 percent and 2.7 percent for the month, concluding a positive month and quarter. The S&P 500 and Dow also reached new highs on Monday.

Chinese stock markets surged by 20 percent in one month following the People's Bank of China's announcement to cut several key lending rates, reduce the Reserve Requirement Ratio, and inject cash directly into the stock markets.

This suggests that European stock markets are largely reactive to external events and reliant on global influences, which may compel the ECB and governments to continue focusing on single-market unity and enhancing competitiveness with the US and China.

Meanwhile, major economies in the Eurozone continue to experience economic stagnation and political instability, which is likely to reinforce the ECB's need to cut interest rates further.

Consequently, European markets may maintain their upward trends in response to these macroeconomic developments.

A notable trend that emerged in the last week was the surge in European luxury consumer stocks, driven by China's easing policies.

The Stoxx Euro Luxury 10 index rose by 13 percent last week, marking its best weekly performance of the year and leading the sector to a 12 percent increase in September.

This index also emerged as one of the top performers in the Pan Euro Stoxx 600. Shares of LVMH, Hermès, and Richemont all soared by more than 16 percent week on week, despite a flat monthly performance.

It is worth noting that Hermès and Richemont have risen by 14 percent and 17 percent year to date, significantly outperforming Europe's largest luxury brand, LVMH, whose shares are down by 7 percent this year.

This disparity highlights how high-end powerhouses, particularly Hermès, have fared well despite sluggish demand in China.

Hermès, known for its Birkin bags, saw sales jump by 7 percent in the first half of the year in Asia and surge by 15.6 percent in Europe, with Chinese tourists contributing the most to revenue. In contrast, sales of LVMH and Richemont fell by double-digit percentages in Asia during the same period.

Other luxury brands, such as Burberry and Kering, have been significantly impacted by declining Chinese consumer demand, with their shares down by 48 percent and 36 percent year to date, respectively.

The uneven performance of European luxury stocks suggests that affordable luxury brands are more dependent on demand from China's middle class, while high-end luxury sales are less affected by the overall state of the Chinese economy.







## WORLD

## Xi says China will safeguard world peace

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping reaffirmed the nation's foreign policy goal of safeguarding world peace and promoting common development on Monday, saying that Beijing will always advance the common values of humanity and advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world.

Addressing a grand reception to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the president said China will continue to play an active part in the reform and development of global governance, and will endeavor to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

"In advancing Chinese modernization, we must adhere to the path of peaceful development," he told thousands of dignitaries at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

"We will always stand on the right side of history and human progress," he said, adding that China will also vigorously advocate "peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and do our best

to promote world peace and tranquility and human progress".

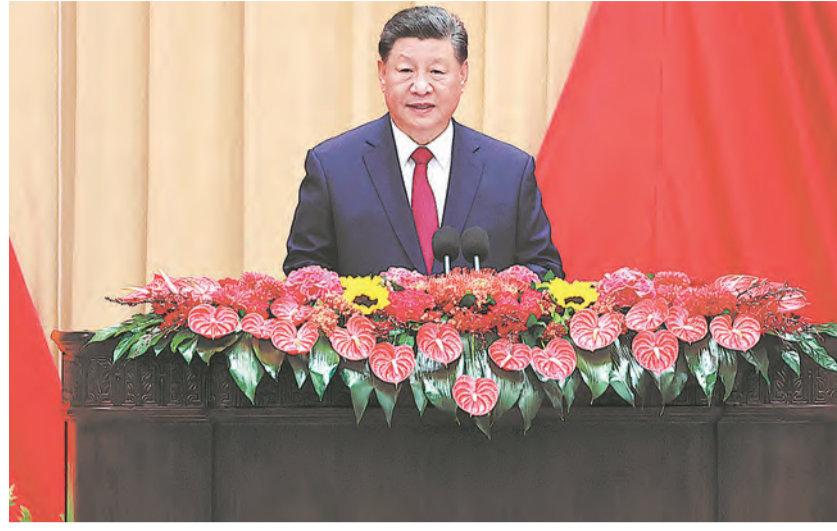
The reception, held one day before National Day, brought together dignitaries including Party and State leaders, foreign envoys and recipients of national honors.

In his speech, Xi called the founding of the People's Republic of China 75 years ago a landmark event that demonstrated that the Chinese people had stood up, ushering in a new epoch in history toward the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

China has been profoundly transformed, and "our nation is marching forward on an irreversible historical course of rejuvenation", he emphasized.

Meanwhile, the president pointed out that the best way to celebrate the nation's birthday is to carry forward the unprecedented cause of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization.

He reiterated the need to uphold the



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at a grand reception at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Monday (FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY)

leadership of the Communist Party of China, saying that the Party should always be at the core, leading and coordinating all efforts and undertakings.

"We should consistently enforce full and rigorous self-discipline of the Party, and steer China's great social transformation through the Party's self-renewal."

Xi reiterated pledges to deepen reform and opening-up across the board and to promote high-quality development.

"We will ensure that the future development and progress of our country are in the hands of the Chinese people," Xi said.

He highlighted the need to put the people above everything else in advancing Chinese modernization.

"We should never forget that the people always

come first. Everything we do should be for the people, and we should rely on the people in everything we do. We should ensure that all the Chinese people will benefit from our joint cause of promoting reform and development."

The president also highlighted Beijing's unwavering commitment to "one country, two systems", under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy.

"We will resolutely safeguard and promote the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao. With the strong backing of the motherland, our compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao will surely create an even brighter future," he said.

As for the Taiwan question, Xi underscored that people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are members of one and the same family bound by blood, and "blood runs thicker than water".

He pledged steps to deepen cross-strait economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation, bring the hearts of fellow Chinese on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait closer to each other, and resolutely oppose separatist activities for "Taiwan independence".

"Complete reunification is the common aspiration of all Chinese from home and abroad. It is an irresistible trend and a righteous cause reflecting the will of the people. No one can stop the wheel of history."

In addition, the president warned that the road ahead for the cause of Chinese modernization won't be smooth, saying that there could be obstacles and difficulties and even major challenges.

He concluded the speech on an upbeat note, saying that the Chinese nation, with a civilization spanning over 5,000 years, will create greater splendor on its new journey in the new era, and will make greater contributions to the noble cause of the peace and progress of humanity.

The foreign dignitaries at the reception lauded China's contributions to global development over the past decades, especially in tackling common challenges facing humanity.

Nicholas O'Brien, Ireland's ambassador to China, said his country remains committed to deepening its "strong and vibrant relationship with China", and to jointly promoting an open trading system and rules-based global order.

Seeram Ramakrishna, a senior professor of materials engineering at National University of Singapore and a winner of this year's Chinese Government Friendship Award, said that China has emerged as one of the leading countries in responding to challenges such as climate change.

"China has clearly been focusing on building an ecological civilization by putting a lot of resources in the sector," he said. "That is one of the key reasons we believe the continuous modernization of China will present a huge opportunity to the world."

Xinhua



The Communist Party of China and state leaders Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Han Zheng attend a reception to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China together with around 3,000 Chinese and foreign guests at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday. XINHUA

## PM Modi holds bilateral meeting with Jamaican counterpart Holness

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday held a bilateral meeting with Jamaican counterpart Andrew Holness in New Delhi.

The bilateral meeting was followed by delegation-level talks between the two leaders.

Visiting Prime Minister of Jamaica met PM Modi (pictured) at Hyderabad House here in the national capital earlier today.

The Jamaican PM is on an official

visit to India from September 30- October 3. This is his first visit to India, and also the first ever bilateral visit of a Prime Minister of Jamaica to India.

Prior to this, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Holness have met several times on the sidelines of multilateral meetings.

Before his meeting with Prime



Minister Modi today, Holness offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

"Honoring 'Father of the Nation'! PM @AndrewHolnessJM of Jamaica offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat today," Ministry of External Affairs said, sharing a post on X along with pictures.

The Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness arrived in New Delhi on Monday at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking his first-ever visit to India. The Jamaican

PM was warmly received by Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary. India and Jamaica share strong historical and cultural linkages, reflected in their shared colonial past, values of democracy and freedom, and passion for cricket, according to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs.

This visit is expected to bolster bilateral relations, enhance economic cooperation, and solidify the long-standing bonds between Jamaica and India.

ANI

## Japan's new PM Ishiba unveils cabinet ahead of snap election

TOKYO

JAPAN'S new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba yesterday unveiled his cabinet as he seeks to heal party divisions and secure a national mandate with an Oct 27 snap election.

The 67-year-old former defense minister, who last week won a close-fought contest to lead the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was confirmed earlier in the day as prime minister by parliament.

He is scheduled to hold his first press conference later in

the day in Tokyo.

The Ishiba administration's approach to diplomacy with Japan's closest ally, the United States, will be in focus, as he has repeatedly called for a more balanced relationship with Washington.

Ishiba must quell simmering anger over rising living costs and his scandal-plagued party.

The veteran lawmaker, seen as somewhat of a party outsider who failed at four previous leadership bids, has named a mixture of rivals and allies to cabinet posts.

It includes two leadership rivals in key positions, Katsunobu Kato as finance minister and Yoshimasa Hayashi to stay on as chief cabinet secretary, a post that includes the role of top government spokesman, the government announced.

Kato's appointment to the finance ministry will be closely watched given he served in key positions in former premier Shinzo Abe's administration, which pursued expansionary fiscal and monetary policies. The Nikkei stock index fell nearly 5 percent on Monday

in reaction to a surging yen following Ishiba's win over Sanae Takaichi, a monetary dove and fiscal expansionist, in Friday's leadership contest. The index recovered ground yesterday.

A close Ishiba ally, Takeshi Iwaya, a former defense chief, will take over as foreign minister, while Gen Nakatani will return to the defense ministry, a position he held in 2016. Yoichi Muto, a former junior minister, will take charge at the economy, trade and industry ministry.

In his victory speech on Friday, he spoke about the need to beef up Japan's security after recent territorial incursions by Chinese and Russian military vessels.

**Outside the tent**

Five of the lawmakers who contested the leadership race with him have not been included in his government nor given key party jobs.

Among them is Takaichi, a hardline conservative he beat by 215 votes to 194 on Friday in the closest leadership elec-

tion in almost seven decades. Local media reported she had declined a senior party post.

That could make it difficult for Ishiba, a perennial favorite in public opinion polls, to manage a fractious ruling group roiled by scandals including unrecorded donations at fundraising parties.

Yoshihiko Noda, the leader of the largest opposition party the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, said it planned to attack the LDP over its scandals in the upcoming election. "We cannot establish prop-

er governance through a pseudo-regime change," Noda said on public broadcaster NHK. But despite its troubles, the party which has ruled Japan for most of the post-war era remains likely to hold on to power in the upcoming election given Japan's weak opposition.

A third of respondents to a weekend poll by the Mainichi newspaper said they supported the LDP, versus 15 percent for the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan.

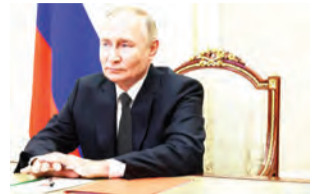
## Putin congratulates China's Xi on 75th anniversary of PRC's founding - Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin congratulated the leader of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Xi Jinping, on the 75th anniversary of the republic's founding yesterday, the Kremlin said.

"Dear Mr. President, dear friend, please accept my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China," Putin said in his message released on the Kremlin's website.

The Russian president extended his heartfelt wishes of good health and every success to his Chinese counterpart as he wished happiness and prosperity to all Chinese citizens.



Queen Maxima of The Netherlands pose for photo with the Group Chairman of United Bank for Africa (UBA) and Founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Tony Elumelu, at the UBA Africa Reception 2024 organised by the bank on the sidelines of the just ended UNGA79 in New York, United States recently.

## Zambia to host digital govt Africa summit

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA will host the second Digital Government Africa Summit aimed at finding solutions to drive digital transformation in Africa, a senior government official said Monday.

The summit, which runs from Oct. 2-4, will attract more than 500 delegates from 33 African countries. The event, which expects to tackle issues of how to implement e-government services, will allow delegates to engage in thought-provoking discussions, share innovative ideas, and explore cutting-edge solutions to drive digital transformation in Africa.

It will also offer opportunities for fostering collaboration and networking among the delegates. Jack Mwiimbu, minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security, said the summit will provide an opportunity for African governments to forge links, promote cross-border payment systems and allow interactions among professionals in cyberspace.

## Barrick, Mali reach agreement to settle disputes

BAMAKO

BARRICK Gold Corporation and the government of Mali have agreed to find a global resolution to the existing claims and disputes between the government and Barrick's Loulo and Gounkoto gold mining companies. Details of the agreement, based in essence on Barrick's original proposals, will be made public once the terms of the settlement have been finalized.

Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said the company's mutually beneficial relationship with Malian governments had endured for 30 years and occasional differences with successive regimes had always been amicably resolved.

"The current negotiations have proved challenging but we're encouraged by the government's recognition of the importance of securing the long-term viability of the Loulo-Gounkoto complex as a substantial contributor to the Malian economy. We look forward to working with the government to normalize our long-standing partnership," Bristow said.



# UNGA concludes general debate, stressing stability in an uncertain world

NEW YORK

THE General Debate of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) concluded here Monday, with a focus on updating institutions to address global challenges like regional conflicts, climate change, and AI.

The General Debate, themed "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations," opened in September.

With six years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN leaders emphasized urgent action, especially on gender equality. Over 100 world leaders participated in the High-Level Week, tackling issues such as sea-level rise, antimicrobial resistance, and nuclear disarmament, reaffirming their commitment to global cooperation.

## THE CONFLICTS

During the session, conflicts from Gaza to Darfur, Ukraine to Yemen, the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to Sudan, the Sahel region, and Haiti have left a devastating trail of destruction.

The loss of life and livelihoods, coupled with widespread property destruction, threatens not only the futures of individual nations but also the foundation of global peace and security. The escalating violence in the Middle East took center stage at the assembly.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized that this cycle of violence must end, urging all parties to step back from the brink. He stated that the people of Lebanon, Israel, and the wider region cannot afford an all-out war.

Guterres called for a recommitment to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) and an immediate return to a cessation of hostilities. He also reiterated his demand for a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all hostages.

UNGA President Philemon Yang



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (front) speaks at the Summit of the Future at the UN headquarters in New York, Sept. 22, 2024. Xinhua

echoed this sentiment, warning that recent escalations between Israel and Hezbollah could lead to broader conflict in the region. He stressed that peace hangs by a thread and the world must prevent an all-out war.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas received a long round of applause for his speech, declaring that "Palestine is our homeland" and accusing Israel of genocide, urging an end to the violence. Other leaders, including Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea, emphasized the urgency for collective action to address these challenges and reaffirmed the importance of the UN Charter in maintaining global cooperation.

Kenya's President William Ruto highlighted the interconnected nature of today's complex challenges, warning of rising factionalism, social upheaval, and the dangers of escalating conflicts.

## THE DEVELOPMENT

During the assembly, countries of the Global South collectively called for a larger role on the world stage and increased oppor-

tunities for development. Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo emphasized Africa's potential, rejecting handouts and calling for opportunities in a new global system to ensure access to education, healthcare, and jobs.

He stressed that African nations must take ownership of their own security. Liberian President Joseph Boakai emphasized that greed, insensitivity to the poor, the drug epidemic, money laundering, climate change, and social media necessitate a reevaluation of our approach to global peace and security.

He urged collective action to preserve the planet for future generations and stressed that conflicts threaten global stability, highlighting the need for collaboration for peace. Boakai also voiced concern about rising security challenges in West Africa, including terrorism and political instability.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose country holds the G20 presidency for 2024, urged the group to address climate change crises, combat hunger, and reform multilateral institutions.

He highlighted priorities such as social inclusion to tackle

hunger and inequality, accountability for climate change across all sectors, and reforming global governance to place the UN at the center of international decision-making. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized that all countries should enjoy sovereign equality, noting that as many Global South nations grow, the era of a few powers dominating is over.

He called for an equal, multipolar world where every country has a role, advocating for genuine multilateralism and more democratic international relations. Wang urged for extensive consultation and joint contributions to make global governance more just and equitable.

Wang reaffirmed China's support for UN reform towards a modernized "UN 2.0," stressing the need for a more suitable international financial system and balanced global governance. He also pledged China's commitment to fulfilling international obligations and increasing the representation of Global South countries within the UN.

## THE FUTURE

The development of artificial intelligence and addressing threats like nuclear and antimicrobial resistance were key topics during the UN General Assembly. U.S. President Joe Biden emphasized the need for a stronger, more effective, and inclusive UN and called for reforms to the Security Council to better promote peace.

The UN's Summit of the Future, held as part of the General Assembly, adopted a 42-page Pact of the Future.

This pact aims to tackle rising global risks and lay the foundation for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order.

It includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, covering areas like climate change, peace, security, and digital cooperation. Guterres called these agreements a step toward more effective, inclusive, and networked multilateralism, prioritizing dialogue and negotiation to end conflicts and reform the Security Council.

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) highlighted the need for collective action, noting that no nation can tackle global crises like climate change or technological risks alone.

"Facing transformation unseen in a century, it is highly relevant that we gather at the Summit of the Future and, together, adopt the Pact for the Future to galvanize our collective efforts for world peace and development," Wang, also a special representative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, told the summit on Monday.

Xinhua

## Russia wants to bring cooperation with Iran to higher level – Russian prime minister

TEHRAN

RUSSIA is interested in bringing cooperation with Iran to a higher level, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said during talks with Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref.

"Relations between Russia and Iran go back centuries, and are based on the principles of friendship, good neighborliness, and mutual respect. Russia is genuinely interested in bringing our cooperation to a higher level, giving it more substance," Mishustin said. He recalled that relevant decisions were made by the leaders of the two countries to foster this increased cooperation.

"We welcome Iran's firm decision to further strengthen its strategic partnership with Russia and fully support this approach," Mishustin said. He emphasized that Russia prioritizes expanding trade and economic cooperation, diversifying bilateral trade, and enhancing its structure, and



Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin

proposed continuing efforts to increase trade turnover.

"And, of course, we believe it is important to create the most favorable conditions for organizing a number of major investment projects in various fields," Mishustin said. He reiterated that in order to do this, the joint permanent Russian-Iranian commission on trade and economic cooperation, headed by

Energy Minister Sergey Tsivilev, would play a big role.

"We consider logistics and transportation infrastructure as the most promising sphere. Russia and Iran have great transit potential both in the Caspian region and in Eurasia. We are actively developing international corridors: the International North-South Transport Corridor connects Russia's Baltic and

northern ports with Iranian ones in the Persian Gulf and in the Indian Ocean, it provides all Eurasian states with direct access to the rapidly growing markets of the Asia-Pacific region and Africa," Mishustin said.

## Humanitarian cooperation

Moscow also attaches great importance to humanitarian cooperation, the prime minister added. "I know that Iran has recently seen a growing interest in Russian-language education, particularly higher education.

Over the past four years, the number of Iranian students studying at Russian universities has tripled to 8,000, which we welcome.

There is great potential in the field of our tourist exchanges; in particular, thanks to the decision on visa-free travel for tourist groups, the number of our citizens traveling to Iran increased by 52%, and today Iranian tourists have an opportunity to get an electronic visa to come visit Russia," Mishustin said.

The prime minister noted various projects that Moscow and Tehran have in the fields of infrastructure, transportation logistics, energy, agriculture, high-tech solutions, industry, cultural, and humanitarian issues, after which he suggested moving to discuss said subjects.

Agencies

## Malaysia plans national cloud policy, AI regulations

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA plans to create a national cloud policy and introduce regulations to encourage the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI), Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday.

The announcement comes amid a wave of investments by global tech firms in Malaysia over the past year, as they seek to build critical infrastructure to cater to growing demand for their cloud and AI services.

Anwar said Malaysia's national cloud policy will focus on four core areas, namely public service innovation and efficiency, economic competitiveness and growth, strengthening user trust and data security, and empowering citizens through digital inclusivity.

The government would also set up a national AI office to coordinate initiatives, including completing a five-year technology action plan as well as a regulatory framework to increase adoption of ethical and sustainable AI within the next 12 months, he said.

"We aim to position Malaysia as a hub for generative artificial intelligence and investments from tech partners will be critical in building a robust and secure digital infra-

structure," Anwar said at a groundbreaking ceremony for Google's new \$2 billion data center and cloud region in the country.

Google, which this week announced a multi-year partnership with a local tech firm to provide sovereign cloud services, said its investments in Malaysia would create 26,500 jobs and contribute more than \$3 billion to its economy by 2030.

"Our investments are designed to provide high performing and reliability, meeting demand for cloud and AI services across the country," Google President and Chief Investment Officer Ruth Porat said.

Digital investments have helped propel Malaysia's economy this year, with growth beating market expectations in the last two quarters and the ringgit currency becoming one of Asia's top performers.

Google's moves are a part of a wider expansion by global tech companies into Southeast Asia, as they vie for a greater presence in a region with a young tech-savvy population of 670 million.

On Monday, Google said it would invest \$1 billion in Thailand to build a data center and cloud region there, to meet growing cloud demand and support AI adoption

## Israeli raids in Lebanon may further destabilise the region, experts say

DAMASCUS

ISRAELI attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon, including killing Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah and other senior figures, have ignited wide concerns over a looming overall escalation across the Middle East, experts said.

The assassination of Nasrallah, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York, reflects not only a calculated show of power but also a broader strategy that could destabilize the whole region, said Mohammad Nader al-Omari, a Damascus-based Syrian analyst and international

relations expert.

The Israeli army continues airstrikes on targets in Lebanon in attempts to assassinate leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas.

On Monday, three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting a residential building in the al Cola area in central Beirut, marking Israel's first attack on the capital center since 2006, according to the Guardian.

The same day the leader of the Hamas movement in Lebanon, Fateh Sherif, was killed along with his wife and two sons in an Israeli raid on his home in the center of the

Rashidieh camp in southern Lebanon, Lebanese military sources told Xinhua.

According to al-Omari, two scenarios might emerge from now. The first, and more likely, is that Israel will expand military operations to restore its deterrence, which has been significantly weakened since the blow to its security dominance on Oct. 7, 2023.

The second scenario involves leveraging the Israeli campaign in Lebanon to invite U.S. and French mediation, to secure a favorable diplomatic outcome for Israel in both Lebanon and Palestine.

"The Israeli government, under Netanyahu, is driven by a right-wing ideological agenda

that seeks to consolidate the vision of a Greater Israel," al-Omari said. "Netanyahu is capitalizing on what he views as a strategic military success to justify broader regional military action," he added.

Netanyahu's speech at the 79th United Nations General Assembly reiterated his administration's commitment to extending Israeli military campaigns, including a direct warning to Iran.

"Netanyahu is trying to rebuild Israel's deterrent image and take advantage of domestic support by amplifying the narrative of victory, which risks dragging the region into a broader conflict," al-Omari said. "The U.S. backing em-

boldens Israel to push forward with its agenda, especially as the Biden administration seeks to shore up its foreign policy credentials ahead of the 2024 presidential election," he added.

Youssef Diab, a political analyst from the Lebanese University, regarded the death of Nasrallah as "a turning point" in the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, as it will result in a void at Hezbollah's leadership level. The assassination will also have a significant influence on the conflict between Israel and Iran, a primary backer of Hezbollah, he told Xinhua. "All eyes are directed to Iran and what it will say after this big event," he said.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei last Saturday called on all Muslims to mobilize their resources and facilities and stand by the Lebanese people and Hezbollah in the fight against Israel, according to a message published on his website.

He added Israel could not inflict any important harm on Hezbollah's strong structure. Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Qassem, said on Monday that the group would continue to defend Lebanon and support Gaza despite losing Nasrallah and many commanders. "Hezbollah's Islamic Resistance will go ahead with confronting the Israeli enemy in support of Gaza and Pales-

tine and in defense of Lebanon and its people," Qassem said during his first televised speech following Nasrallah's death.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed deep concern over the escalating situation in Beirut, urging relevant parties to "immediately return to a cessation of hostilities." "This cycle of violence must stop now, and all sides must step back from the brink," Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the secretary-general, said in a statement last Saturday. "The people of Lebanon, the people of Israel, as well as the wider region, cannot afford an all-out war," the statement said.



# SPORT

## Reaction to the death of Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REACTION to the death of Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo (pictured), who died Monday from brain cancer. He was 58.

"I am deeply saddened to hear about Dikembe's passing. He was a defensive force on the court who changed the way the game of basketball is played. But more importantly, Dikembe truly changed the world and improved countless lives through his humanitarian work in Africa. I will especially miss hearing his booming laugh. My condolences to his wife, Rose, his children and his family." – Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan.

"I had the privilege of traveling the world with Dikembe and seeing first-hand how his generosity and compassion uplifted people. He was always accessible at NBA events over the years – with his infectious smile, deep booming voice and signature finger wag that endeared him to basketball fans of every generation. Dikembe's indomitable spirit continues on in those who he helped and inspired throughout his extraordinary life. I am one of the many people whose lives were touched by Dikembe's big heart and I will miss him dearly." – NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

"As a basketball player, he might have been the best defensive player to ever play the NBA. I never saw (Bill) Russell playing, but he'd have to be awfully good to be as good as Dikembe. You're very fortunate as a coach when your best player is the one that works the hardest and keeps all the rules, which is what Dikembe did. But his legacy might be even bigger with the work that he did off of the court." – Former Nuggets coach Dan Issel

"Dikembe was not only great on the court, but a force for good off it, admired and loved by those who got to know him. His smile, his values and his dedication to basketball, as well as to helping others, will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with his family and his loved ones at this very difficult time. May he rest in peace." – Basketball Hall of Famer Pau Gasol.

"Honestly, I know him more for his commercials. It's just how I grew up. I never got to watch him play. It just shows the impact he's made not only on the court. I know he's done a lot of work worldwide and made an impact on everybody's lives in a different way." – Cleveland center Jarrett Allen, who revealed Monday that he wanted to bring back Mutombo's finger-wag celebration before being told that the Hall of Famer had died earlier in the day.

"Like many across the globe, my heart is heavy with the loss of Atlanta Hawks legend and humanitarian Dikembe Mutombo. I am grateful for the opportunity to visit with him and his wife Rose at their home last month

and express the gratitude and pride Atlantans and millions worldwide held for such a truly good man. He is not just a Hall of Famer – he is irreplaceable. My prayers are with his family and loved ones." – Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens.

"It's really hard to believe and it's hard for us to be without that guy." – Toronto Raptors President Masai Ujiri.

"He loved others with every ounce of his being. That's what made him so accessible. That's what made him real. Dikembe Mutombo was salt and light, and today, on the 30th of September, 2024, he has been called to rest. I love you, Dad. Rest easy." – Ryan Mutombo, Dikembe Mutombo's son.

"I was fortunate to have been able to call him a friend. My family and I were beyond proud to have him represent the Hawks organization on and off the court. With his jersey in the rafters, his life and legacy will always be remembered in Atlanta." – Hawks principal owner Tony Ressler.

"You paved the way for me and for many Congolese and African youth with your legendary basketball career and charitable actions. You are an NBA legend and an African icon and that will inspire the many coming generations." – Former NBA player Serge Ibaka.

"Georgetown lost one of its best in Dikembe Mutombo. Basketball fans remember him for his defense, rebounding and that trademark finger wag, but to those of us that knew him well, we will miss the father, teammate, mentor and friend. Dikembe left his mark on the Georgetown community in so many ways, but he will be best remembered for his unique gift of leveraging his platform as a Hall of Fame basketball player to maximize his global impact as a humanitarian." – Georgetown athletic director Lee Reed.

"Doing the thing's he's done – did – it's tough for everybody. It's tough for the world. Being a fan of his, and then having an opportunity to play with him, gives me a different perspective as a friend of his. Tough day, but he's going to be watching over us." – 76ers guard Kyle Lowry.

"Dikembe was beloved by the entire NBA community and his tireless humanitarian efforts left an indelible mark on our league." – Houston Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta.

"I knew him as a true humanitarian. ... I will love and miss him terribly." – Cindy McCain, the widow of late U.S. Sen. John McCain.

"He was one of the nicest guys on earth and had such a huge heart. He genuinely wanted to help as many people in the world that he possibly could. Just had a beautiful spirit about him." – former NBA player Etan Thomas.

## Sean 'Diddy' Combs appeals for release while he awaits sex trafficking trial

NEW YORK

SEAN "Diddy" Combs is appealing a federal judge's decision to keep him in jail while he awaits trial on sex trafficking charges.



The hip-hop mogul's lawyers filed a notice of appeal Monday in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after previously saying they would ask the appeals court to overturn Judge Andrew L. Carter's ruling and release him.

Combs, 54, (pictured) has been locked up at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn since pleaded not guilty Sept. 17 to charges that he used his "power and prestige" to induce female victims into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances with male sex workers in events dubbed "Freak Offs."

Carter rejected a defense proposal that would've allowed the "I'll Be Missing You" singer to be placed under house arrest at his Florida mansion with GPS monitoring and strict limits on visitors.

The judge said the plan, which included a \$50 million bail offer, was "insufficient" to ensure the safety of the community and the integrity of Combs' case. Carter said that "no condition or set of conditions" for Combs' release could guard against the risk of him threatening or harming witnesses.

Combs' lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, had suggested moving him from the Brooklyn jail, which has been plagued by rampant violence and horrific conditions, to one in Essex County, New Jersey. He later abandoned that idea.

Combs is due back in court for a status conference on Oct. 9.

AP

## SPORTS

## Dikembe Mutombo, a Hall of Fame player and tireless advocate, dies at 58 from brain cancer

By TIM REYNOLDS

DIKEMBE Mutombo, a Basketball Hall of Famer who was one of the best defensive players in NBA history and a longtime global ambassador for the game, died Monday from brain cancer, the league announced. He was 58.

His family revealed two years ago that he was undergoing treatment in Atlanta for a brain tumor. The NBA said he died surrounded by his family.

"Dikembe Mutombo (pictured) was simply larger than life," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "On the court, he was one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players in the history of the NBA. Off the floor, he poured his heart and soul into helping others."

Mutombo (pictured) was distinctive in so many ways – the playful finger wag at opponents after blocking their shots, his height, his deep and gravelly voice, his massive smile. Players of this generation were always drawn to him and Philadelphia 76ers star Joel Embiid, who was born in Cameroon, looked to Mutombo as an inspiration.

"It's a sad day, especially for us Africans, and really the whole world," Embiid said Monday. "Other than what he's accomplished on the basketball court, I think he was even better off the court. He's one of the guys that I look up to, as far as having an impact, not just on the court, but off the court. He's done a lot of great things. He did a lot of great things for a lot of people. He was a role model of mine. It is a sad day."

Mutombo spent 18 seasons in the NBA, playing for Denver, Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, New York and the then-New Jersey Nets. The 7-foot-2 center out of Georgetown was an eight-time All-Star, three-time All-NBA selection and went into the Hall of Fame in 2015 after averaging 9.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for his career.

He also was part of one of the league's most iconic playoff moments, helping eighth-seeded Denver oust top-seeded Seattle in the first round of the 1994 Western Conference playoffs. That best-of-five series marked the first time a No. 8 beat a No. 1 in NBA history.

"It's really hard to believe," Toronto President Masai Ujiri said Monday, pausing several times because he was overcome with emotion shortly after hearing the news of Mutombo's death. "It's hard for us to be without that guy. You have no idea what Dikembe Mutombo meant to me. ... That guy, he made us who we are. That guy is a giant, an incredible person."

Mutombo last played during the 2008-09 season, devoting his time after retirement to charitable and humanitarian causes. He spoke nine languages and founded the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation in 1997, concentrating on improving health, education and quality of life for the people in the Congo.

And on occasion, LeBron James pointed out with a laugh on Monday, Mutombo didn't necessarily improve the health of others.

"My fondest memory of Dikembe Mutombo? He fractured my face on my birthday in Cleveland with an elbow,"



James, the Los Angeles Lakers' star, said while taking several minutes Monday to pay tribute to Mutombo's life. "I never even got an opportunity to tell him about that. But yeah. I don't remember how old ... I was in Cleveland, my first stint, and I think I was turning 22 maybe?"

"I went to the hole and caught one of those Dikembe elbows, and if anybody know about the Dikembe elbows, they do not feel good. He fractured my face, and I went to the hospital that night, and I wore a mask for a little bit. That is my memory of Dikembe," James said.

James was close on the details: Dec. 29, 2004, was when that play happened, late in the first half, one day before his 20th birthday.

Mutombo told reporters that night he wasn't sure how James got hurt. "He was laying there and I was like, 'What happened, what happened?'" Mutombo told the Houston Chronicle after that game. "All I know, I was running to the basket. ... LeBron turned around to stop me going to the basket. The collision happened."

Ryan Mutombo, the Hall of Famer's son, said in a tribute posted on social media that his father "loved others with every ounce of his being."

"My dad is my hero because he simply cared," Ryan Mutombo wrote. "He remains the purest heart I have ever known."

Mutombo served on the boards of many organizations, including Special Olympics International, the CDC Foundation and the National Board for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

"There was nobody more qualified than Dikembe to serve as the NBA's first Global Ambassador," Silver said. "He was a humanitarian at his core. He loved what the game of basketball could do to make a positive impact on communities, especially in his native Democratic Republic of the Congo and across the continent of Africa."

Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo

has died at age 58 from brain cancer. AP correspondent Ben Thomas reports Mutombo was one of the best defensive players in NBA history.

Mutombo is one of three players to win the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year four times. The others: reigning DPOY winner Rudy Gobert of the Minnesota Timberwolves, and Hall of Famer Ben Wallace.

"He was always there to talk to me and advise me on how to approach the season and take care of my body and icing after games and stretching and trying different things like yoga," Milwaukee Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "He will be always remembered and may his soul rest in peace."

Philadelphia 76ers president Daryl Morey – who was with Mutombo for many seasons in Houston – was informed of his friend's death during the team's media day on Monday. Tears welled in Morey's eyes as he processed the news.

"There aren't many guys like him," Morey said. "Just a great human being. When I was a rookie GM in this league, my first chance in Houston, he was someone I went to all the time. ... His accomplishments on the court, we don't need to talk about too much. Just an amazing human being, what he did off the court for Africa. Rest in peace, Dikembe."





## FIFA bans Cameroon soccer great Samuel Eto'o from national team games for 6 months

ZURICH

CAMEROON soccer great Samuel Eto'o was banned by FIFA on Monday from attending any national team games for six months.

Eto'o, (pictured) who has been president of the Cameroon soccer federation since 2021, faced two charges from an incident at the Under-20 Women's World Cup in Colombia on Sept. 11.

FIFA did not specify details of what happened at the round of 16 game that Brazil won against Cameroon 3-1 after extra time.

Eto'o was judged to have broken disciplinary rules relating to "offensive behavior and violations of the principles of fair play" and misconduct of officials, FIFA said.

"The ban imposed on Mr. Eto'o prevents him from attending men's and women's matches involving (Cameroon) teams of all categories and age groups," FIFA said in a statement.

That period through March includes men's national team games in qualifying groups for the 2026 World Cup and 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

The 43-year-old Eto'o played for Cameroon at four World Cups from 1998 to 2014, missing only the 2006 edition, and scored a record 56 goals for the Indomitable Lions. He played in two Africa Cup of Nations title-winning teams, in 2000 and 2002.

He won three Champions League titles, including back to back in 2009 with Barcelona and 2010 with Inter Milan, in a storied career as one of soccer's top forwards.



## Atletico Madrid identifies one person who threw objects on the field during city derby

MADRID

ONE person who threw objects on the field during the Madrid derby in the Spanish league has been identified, Atletico Madrid said on Monday.

The Atletico-Real derby was interrupted for more than 15 minutes on Sunday after objects were thrown from a section of the stands usually used by the team's more radical fan groups. Spanish media said the club was expected to permanently ban the fans from its Metropolitan Stadium.

The club said it would apply its "internal policy for serious offenses to those involved in this incident."

"Atletico de Madrid would like to express its disapproval of the throwing of objects that occurred from a section of the south stand in the 68th minute of the match against Real Madrid," the club said. "From the moment these incidents took place, the club's security department has been working alongside the police to identify those involved, one of whom has already been identified."

Atletico said "such behaviour has no place in football and tarnishes the image of a stadium that hosted a spectacular atmosphere with more than 70,000 spectators, the vast majority of whom displayed exemplary conduct."

The government and La Liga also condemned the incidents at Metropolitan and said those responsible would be punished.

The match was interrupted shortly after Real's goal in the 64th. The referee sent the players to the locker rooms after Atletico fans kept throwing objects such as lighters onto the field.

Eder Militao celebrated his goal for Real near the sideline in front of Atletico fans, and Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was seen appearing to provoke Atletico fans after Militao scored.

Atletico coach Diego Simeone condemned the fans' attitude but also complained of the Real players who provoked them.

The match ended 1-1, with Angel Correa scoring for Atletico in stoppage time.

AP

## Why Atletico Madrid can't expel ultra group Frente Atletico from stadium

Football Espana

THE Madrid derby was in the global headlines for the wrong reasons on Sunday night, after it was halted for 15 minutes due to objects being repeatedly thrown on the pitch in the direction of Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois.

Atletico manager Diego Simeone asked for those fans not to be allowed back in, although did also ask for punishment for Courtois for goading the home support.

One of the fans responsible has been identified and banned for life by the club, while Marca report that 17 separate chants from the stands have been reported to the Anti-Violence Committee, 15 of which were from Atletico fans.

Those included the likes of 'Courtois, di\*' and 'Madridistas, sons of b\*\*\*\*\*', the latter being returned in kind from the Real Madrid fans.

The Anti-Violence Committee are also examining the images from the game regarding the throwing of the objects, and the message is that there will be severe sanctions for those involved.

All of the object-throwing incidents came from the South Stand, where the Atletico standing section is and their ultras traditionally are placed.

In amongst them are the radical far-right group Frente Atletico, which are in part responsible for Nazi salutes seen during the game too.

Many have called on Los Rojiblancos to expel the Frente Atletico, as Barcelona did with their neo-Nazi fan group Boixos Nois and Real Madrid with their Ultras Sur.

However the same outlet say that the club have explained they are powerless to take the same action. There are laws that prevent the expulsion of thousands of individual members without previous incidents to their name.

The club also do not recognise Frente Atletico as a group, nor are they a supporters club that can be easily identified.

Those in the offices at the Metropolitan are aware of the radical elements in amongst the South Stand [Fondo Sur], but also note that there are many more that do not belong to that side of things.

The fans that do commit crimes or break regulations and are identified can be chucked out, but Atletico cannot act en masse.

There is of course a logic to this, but to a certain extent, Atletico Madrid clearly are not doing enough to root out what is becoming a consistent issue, following on from incidents of racial abuse.

Ultimately it is their duty to ensure that opposition players can go to work without fear for their safety, be it physical or against verbal attacks.

# Manchester United's endless crisis continues, and Erik ten Hag's future hangs in the balance

By Henry Bushnell

MANCHESTER United is a mammoth club in cyclical crisis, and its latest, greatest attempt to stop the rot has instead revealed the depth of its problems. This, the 2024-25 season, was supposed to be a new beginning – with new owners, new executives, new processes, new players, new hope.

But it has begun just like last season, and the one before, and several others over the past decade: with groans and boos, with draws and defeats, with disappointment accumulating and mediocrity deepening. The latest in a long line of "new lows" was Sunday's 3-0 loss at home to wobbling Tottenham.

It felt like the umpteenth inflection point of the Erik ten Hag era. Ever since the early months of the Dutch manager's reign, his seat has been warming, then cooling, then reheating again and simmering toward a boiling point.

For two years, every time the boiling point neared, United's players responded. When they stumbled to losses in ten Hag's first two Premier League games, they rebounded with a win over Liverpool. Most recently, this past spring, when media reports cast Ten Hag as a dead man walking, they stifled and stunned Manchester City in the FA Cup final. That 2-1 win, and that trophy, saved Ten Hag's job.

But the root cause of ten Hag's troubles never budged. For a decade, United was directionless and rudderless. A prehistoric sporting department led by clueless executives left each successive United coach with an incoherent roster of overpaid, underperforming players.

And so, at the latest crossroads, after draws with Crystal Palace and FC Twente, the players still weren't good enough.

At the very moment to which ten Hag's early United teams rose – amid discontent, in prime time, at a packed Old Trafford, against a fellow



Erik ten Hag

"Big Six" club, Tottenham – this one failed.

They were hindered by a harsh red card, sure. But by the time Bruno Fernandes slipped and lunged at Tottenham's James Maddison in the 42nd minute, the howls had begun, and the conclusion was clear. Micky Van de Ven had surged through United's entire team, untouched; Brennan Johnson had put the visitors ahead in less than three minutes. While the match was still 11-v-11, Spurs were so obviously superior. They had 28 touches in United's box, compared to seven at the other end. They produced 2.0 Expected Goals to United's 0.3.

"What I saw in the first 30 minutes is below the level of what we can expect from a Manchester United team," ten Hag conceded postgame.

By the time he spoke, as fans trudged home in driving rain – many left early, prompting Tottenham supporters to sing: "Is there a fire drill?" – the customary outcry was underway. And it centered once again on ten Hag's employment. Pundits re-litigated the decision to retain him for a third season – which, at the time and even more so today, was shocking.

United leadership – now helmed by billionaire owner Jim Ratcliffe and his sports deputy, Dave Brailsford – had reportedly decided to move on from ten Hag prior to the end of the 2023-24 season. Widespread reports documented meetings throughout the spring with candidates to replace him. After the season, ten Hag reportedly heard radio silence while United brass met with potential coaches. Negotiations advanced with Thomas Tuchel and Roberto De Zerbi.

But then, buoyed by the FA Cup triumph, and perhaps by two forgettable wins to close the league season, Brailsford and Co. chose to move forward with ten Hag.

They apparently forgot that the EPL campaign had, in many ways, been United's worst in the Premier League era. The Red Devils had finished eighth, with a negative goal differential for the first time since 1989-90, and underlying numbers that suggested they were even worse. Their Expected Goal differential was -12.5, which ranked 15th out of 20.

That, in a nutshell, is why the decision was so baffling and worrying. Ever since Ratcliffe bought a stake in the club last year, and his company, INEOS, took control of football

operations, glowing profiles of the new men in charge have hailed their process-oriented, data-driven leadership and decision-making.

And yet, faced with their first major decision, they seemed to ignore a growing body of evidence that suggested ten Hag was a poor fit. Rather than sack him, they backed him with some \$230 million and five new signings. They gave him control over staff construction and say in recruitment – just like the ridiculed regimes of the past decade did winter after winter, summer after summer.

So here we are, with United unsurprisingly in crisis yet again.

Four of the five new signings started Sunday; and the result was a beat-down that, if not for goalkeeper Andre Onana, might have been worse.

Ten Hag is still the coach, for now – because process-oriented, data-driven leaders supposedly don't make rash decisions after a few bad results.

But United travels to FC Porto for a Europa League game Thursday. A trip to Aston Villa awaits on Sunday. Ten Hag's future might hang in the balance. And the crisis cycle, it seems, will keep spinning.

yahoo/sports

## Messi and Inter Miami are on the brink of the MLS Supporters' Shield. But they want more

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

THERE are any number of ways for Lionel Messi and Inter Miami to wrap up the Supporters' Shield and claim the No. 1 overall seed for the MLS Cup playoffs that start later this month.

Here's the easiest path: Win on Wednesday.

The preseason Major League Soccer title favorites – with a lineup featuring Messi (pictured), Luis Suarez, Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets – are on the brink of another trophy. They can clinch the Supporters' Shield, given to the team with the top MLS regular-season record, on Wednesday night with a win at Columbus.

"It's a great opportunity for us," Inter Miami midfielder Matias Rojas said. "We're taking it step by step. This team has built itself one step at a time. So, on Wednesday, we will go to win and achieve that goal."

It would take total collapse over their final three matches for Inter Miami to not go into the playoffs with the No. 1 overall seed, and the Supporters' Shield would become the second trophy in club history – following the Leagues Cup title that was won in 2023, not long after Messi arrived and instantly turned the club into a global phenomenon.

A Miami team – the long-defunct Fusion – has won the Supporters' Shield before. The Fusion won it in 2001, which became the club's final season because of attendance and revenue problems. Inter Miami has never been close to the top of the MLS table before; it was 19th out of 26 teams in 2020, 20th out of 27 teams in 2021, 12th out of 28 teams in 2022 and 27th out of 29 clubs last season.

This year was expected to be totally different and has delivered. The club opened 3-2-1 in its first six MLS matches and has gone 16-2-7 since. It is already, by far, the best record in club history and a 3-0-0 finish would give Inter Miami the MLS mark for most points in a regular season.

They could finish with 74, one more than New England's 73 in 2021.

"When a team like Inter has 65 points and has lost only four matches all season and you compare it with teams from previous seasons, we



should recognize all the good things we have accomplished this season," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said.

And it's not all Messi.

He's missed 15 of Inter Miami's MLS matches this season, either because of commitments to Argentina's national team or the two-month absence that he needed to recover from a badly injured ankle – an injury that happened

during his nation's run to the Copa America title in July.

Inter Miami, in MLS play this season, is 9-1-6 with Messi in the lineup. That's probably not a surprise; his teams have been hard to beat for the better part of the last 20 years. This part is the surprise: Inter Miami is 10-3-2 when Messi hasn't played in league matches.

With Messi, the team averages 2.06 standings points per match out of a

possible three, and the team averages 2.13 standings points without him. It makes no sense for the record to be better without the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and consensus greatest player ever in the lineup, but somehow, those are the numbers.

That proves the Inter Miami lineup isn't just Messi and a bunch of other guys, goalkeeper Drake Callender said.

"That's just, I think, the versatility of our team," Callender said. "We gained depth throughout the season because a lot of these guys didn't have many minutes to start the year. But they get more experience now, we have more options, and we have more versatility in how we want to play. So, I think we're in a pretty good spot going forward."

If the clinch – which comes with home-field advantage throughout the entirety of the MLS Cup playoffs, all the way to the final – doesn't come on Wednesday, Inter Miami's final two regular-season matches are at Toronto on Saturday and then at home against New England on Oct. 19. Inter Miami's playoff run will start at home on the final weekend of October.

The primary focus is the playoff title, the MLS Cup. But the No. 1 seed also matters, Alba said.

"We hope to win against a great team like Columbus, and we will go in with a winning mentality," Alba said. "Winning the Supporters' Shield would be a nice achievement in the club's history, but in the end, what we want to win is MLS Cup."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Manchester United's endless crisis continues, and Erik ten Hag's future hangs in the balance

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Aussems frustrated as Singida Black Stars drop points in intense JKT Tanzania clash

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SINGIDA Black Stars reclaimed their spot at the top of the NBC Premier League table following a dramatic 1-1 draw against JKT Tanzania at the CCM Liti Stadium on Sunday. Despite a solid performance, head coach Patrick Aussems expressed disappointment at missing out on a fifth consecutive win.

Reflecting on the match, Aussems emphasized that his team deserved all three points, lamenting their missed opportunities and an unfavorable decision that changed the course of the game.

"Yes, we dropped two points, but it's a game we should have won. We hit the post three times, and they were awarded a penalty. Five minutes earlier, we had a similar incident, but no penalty was given for us. That's football. When you fail to put the game to bed by scoring a second goal, anything can happen. Unfortunately, we conceded, and I don't think it was deserved. We played well, created chances, but sometimes the game just doesn't go your way," Aussems said in his post-match interview.

Singida Black Stars entered the match riding high on four consecutive victories and made their intentions clear from the start. They took the lead in the 15th minute when Elvis Rupia capitalized on a defensive mix-up between JKT's goalkeeper and a defender, steering the ball into an empty net. The goal triggered celebrations among the home supporters as Singida Black Stars controlled most of the first half.

Rupia nearly doubled the lead in the 32nd minute after a well-timed through ball from Arthur Bada, but his shot flew just wide. JKT Tanzania, however, began to show more attacking intent as halftime approached.

A crucial moment came when JKT's forward Ismail Kadar was brought down in the penalty area by Singida Black Stars defender Idd Habibu. JKT were awarded a penalty, but Hassan Dilunga's effort was brilliantly saved by goalkeeper Metacha Mnata, allowing Singida Black Stars to preserve their 1-0 lead heading into the break.

The second half saw a more aggressive JKT Tanzania, determined to find an equalizer. Their persistence paid off in the 67th minute when Shiza Kichuya's precise pass found Wilson Nangu, who slotted the ball into the back of the net, sending the JKT supporters into celebration.

Both teams pushed for a winner in the closing stages, but neither could find the decisive goal. The match ended 1-1, with Singida Black Stars maintaining their position at the top of the table, now with 13 points from five matches.

Despite the frustration of dropping points, Aussems remained optimistic. "We have another game on Friday, away to Mashujaa FC, and we'll aim to secure all three points. Let's also not forget that after five games, we've accumulated 13 out of a possible 15 points. If we continue this way, we'll be in a strong position," he said.

Aussems also called on fans to show up in greater numbers, expressing surprise at the low turnout for a team leading the league.

"Honestly, I expected to see more fans in the stadium, especially with Singida Black Stars being at the top of the table for the first time. But we move forward. We have two home games after Kigoma, and I hope the fans will turn up in larger numbers to support us," Aussems stated.

The result leaves Singida Black Stars in a commanding position as they prepare to face Mashujaa FC in Kigoma. Mashujaa will enter the contest with confidence after holding Azam FC to a goalless draw.

The tight standings make every point crucial as the Premier League race heats up, with Singida Black Stars determined to hold onto their spot at the top.



Said Nkya (L) the husband of the late Lina Nkya, a former player of the national women's golf team, hands over a dummy cheque of 4.3m/- to Fadhil Nkya, the second-place winner of the Lina PG Tour tournament and a professional golfer. The tournament took place recently in Kilimanjaro at the Moshi Gymkhana Club.

## Golf stars pay tribute to late patron Lina Nkya at memorial visit

By Guardian Correspondent

THE champions of the Lina PG Tour golf tournament visited the grave of the late Lina Nkya, a patron of women's golf development in the country, to honour and remember the good work she did in promoting the sport.

The champions' visit to Lina's grave took place on Sunday, September 29, shortly after the fourth round of the tournament, held at the Moshi Gymkhana Club course in Kilimanjaro. The competition included both professional and amateur winners from clubs across the country.

Speaking after the visit, Yasmin Chali, Director of the Lina PG Tour, said they came to pay their respects at Lina's grave, located near the golf course of Moshi Club, to honour her significant contribution to the development of women's golf in the country.

She thanked the tournament stars and the entire golf community for responding to the call to participate in the tournament and honour Lina Nkya's contributions to the growth of golf in Tanzania.

"We have come to visit her grave to honour the great work she did in nurturing the development of women's golf in the country. I thank everyone who came to participate in this tournament, which also leaves a legacy for our future generations," Yasmin said.

Among those who benefited from Lina Nkya's leadership are Angel Eaton and Ayne Magombe, who said Lina was their leader when they represented Tanzania in various international golf competitions.

"I remember Mama Lina Nkya for guiding us well when Tanzania finished second behind South Africa in the All-Africa Championship in Ghana, and later that same year, she led us in the World Championship in Argentina, where Tanzania also performed very well," said Ayne Magombe, a former national team player.

Angel Eaton, who also played for the national team before joining professional golf, said Lina Nkya was a mother of golf development, as she played a major role in the growth of women's golf in the country.

"We will never forget Mama Nkya because she was the one who led us to perform well internationally. Without her, I believe many of us wouldn't be where we are today," said Angel, who is the only female professional golfer.

Others who visited Lina Nkya's grave included Sophia Viggo, a former national team player, who said she worked closely with Mama Lina, including leading the women's national golf team in various competitions within and outside Africa.

"We will truly remember and honour Mama Lina, especially for her contribution that led to the growth of our golf," said Sophia.

Other people who honoured Lina Nkya were Isiaka Daudi, Enosh Wanyeché, Ally Isanzu, and Karim Ismail, who led in amateur golf, while Nuru Mollel, Isack Wanyeché, George Sembi, and Athumani Chiund performed well in professional golf.

In the fourth round of the tournament, the winner was professional golfer Nuru Mollel, who won TZS 6.8 million, while the second-place winner was Fadhil Nkya, another professional golfer, who earned TZS 4.3 million

## Samatta recalled to Taifa Stars squad for crucial DR Congo showdown



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

STRIKER Mbwana Samatta, who plies his trade with PAOK in the Greek top flight, has been recalled to the Taifa Stars squad after seven months in limbo.

Interim Head Coach Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman announced a 23-man squad yesterday that will begin preparations for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) qualifiers, including a crucial double-header against DR Congo.

Tanzania will face DR Congo away on October 10 before the return leg at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar five days later in crucial Group H matches of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

DR Congo lead the group with six points, while Tanzania

are second with from the opening two games having drawn 0-0 at home against Ethiopia and a 2-1 win away to Guinea last month.

Samatta (pictured), who earned the last of his 69 caps in January, was included in the squad despite struggling for game time at PAOK this season amidst speculation of a move to Cyprus and Saudi Arabia.

England-based defender Haji Mnoga, Simba striker Dennis Kibu, and centre-back Abdulrazack Hamza have also been recalled.

Aboutwalb Mshery, Nathaniel Chilambo, Nickson Kibabage, Abdulmalik Zakaria, Hussein Semfuko, Wazir Junior and Edwin Balua, who were part of the last squad, have been dropped this time.

KMC rising full back Abdallah Said 'Lanso' and Singida Black Stars promising midfielder Habib Khalid have earned their first senior call ups while

Simon Msuva remains absent.

Goalkeepers: Ally Salim (Simba SC), Zuberi Foba, (Azam) and Yona Amos (Pamba SC).

Defenders: Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC), Dickson Job (Young Africans), Pascal Msindo (Azam FC), Ibrahim Hamad (Young Africans), Bakari Nondo (Young Africans), Haji Mnoga (Salford, England), and Abdulrazack Hamza (Simba SC)

Midfielders: Adolf Mtasingwa (Azam FC), Himid Mao (Talaal El Geish, Egypt), Mudathiri Yahya (Young Africans), (Abdullah Said (KMC FC) Feisal Salum (Azam FC) and Habib Khalid (Singida Black Stars)

Forwards: Mbwana Samatta (PAOK, Greece), Dennis Kibu (Simba), Cyprian Kachwele (Vancouver Whitecaps, Canada) Clement Mzize (Young Africans), Nassoro Saadun (Azam) and Suleiman Mwalimu (Fountain Gate)

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

