



National Pg 3



Six held over damage to SGR infrastructure

National Pg 4



EU lauded for supporting budgetary initiatives

National Pg 6



1,800 youth venture into horticulture sector

Atomic agency lands in Z'bar, for cancer units

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

CANCER screening and treatment centres using nuclear technology are in the process of being set up with a budget of €59m (169bn/-), the government has declared.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, standing in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan, unveiled this plan yesterday when inaugurating the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) office and laboratory in Dunga Zuzeo in the Central District, Unguja South Region.

The plan is intended to enhance capabilities of existing centres like Ocean Road Hospital in Dar es Salaam and Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, while also establishing four new centres at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Moshi, the Mnazi Mmoja referral hospital in Zanzibar and the Mbeya zonal referral hospital, he said.

Once fully implemented, the initiative will expand cancer treatment services using nuclear technology, he said, noting that the TAEC unit in Zanzibar is a significant step towards building a nu-

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Dutch envoy, firms inspect Z'bar logistics, port project



They also toured the Dar es Salaam Corridor Group (DCG) and Steinweg, two Dutch companies leading cargo handling operations at the port

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Netherlands is interested in Zanzibar's conducive investment climate as it results from the islands' improved peace and democratic stability, the resident ambassador, Wiebe de Boer, has declared.

He made the remarks at a weekend meeting with a delegation of 13 Dutch companies in transportation and port services.

The mission, facilitated by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Tanzania, aimed to share expertise, explore opportunities and foster synergies between the two nations in the ports and logistics sectors.

He urged Dutch investors to explore opportunities in Zanzibar's telecommunications and port infrastructure sectors, where Akif Ali Khamis, the Zanzibar Ports



The Netherlands is pleased with the collaborative approach that involves the private sector, contributing significantly to the country's development

Corporation (ZPC) director general, acknowledged the Netherlands' vital role in Zanzibar development efforts, financing construction of Mpigaduri port.

The visit was also relevant in increasing the involvement of Dutch companies in ports and logistics modernisation efforts, facing challenges such as infrastructure limitations, technical inefficiencies and knowledge gaps.

These drawbacks hinder cargo volume growth and increase operational costs, where the Infrastructure, Communications and Transport ministry in Zanzibar and the port authorities seek to work with Dutch firms.

The envoy underlined work done in the past four years in strengthening maritime transport and port sectors via private sector involvement, where the col-

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Former deputy minister and regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri, "ambassador" of the cotton crop in Tanzania, pictured late last week demonstrating to Kishapu District Council agricultural extension officers proper pesticide spraying in cotton farming. The idea was to have the officers more skilfully pass on the knowledge to farmers across the district. **Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu**

UDSM to head inter-varsity climate change consortium

By Henry Mwangonde

A CONSORTIUM of five universities signed agreements yesterday to collaborate on education, research and agricultural extension, with a focus on addressing the challenges posed by climate change through comprehensive environmental research and academic exchange initiatives.

Prof. Daniel Mushi, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology deputy permanent secretary, presided at an event where the agreements were formalized in Dar es Salaam, at an inaugural water and population health conference.



We are committed to ensuring this consortium is promoted and grows to become a key driver in addressing the critical issues of water, climate and health

In the first joint event of the five-university consortium, the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), the Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Canada and the Aga Khan University (AKU) a global network of higher learning institutions, agreed to work together.

This collaboration aims to combine their expertise to tackle climate change, with a focus on sustainable agricultural practices, water management and public health, he said, noting

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Digital TV at 58pc coverage, as satellite mode tops 100pc

By Guardian Reporter

DIGITAL terrestrial television (DTT) signals currently cover 58 percent of the potential television audience, on the basis of the latest update by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Dr Jabiri Bakari, the TCRA director general, said in a statement detailing July to September quarter for 2024 that DTT coverage has expanded to

33 percent of the country, inching up from 32 percent in June.

An online entry explains that direct satellite broadcasting (DTH) which the report says has now reached 100 percent of the potential audience as it covers the entire country, depends entirely on satellite emissions to feed broadcast channels.

DTT by contrast needs a network of towers to broadcast signals across a country, requiring land-based (terres-

trial) digital transmitters to distribute signals, whereas DDT needs terrestrial facilities for broadcasting in a digital format.

The report said that the DTT system has been operational in Tanzania since 2014, in the wake of the switch to digital television broadcasting, which includes FM radio broadcasting that now reaches 78 percent of the population by September data, up from 75.52

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SPORTS



YANGA DISMISS RUMOURS OF HEAD COACH MIGUEL GAMONDI'S DEPARTURE AMID RECENT CHALLENGES

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Dutch envoy, firms inspect Z'bar logistics, port project

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laborative efforts have enhanced service delivery and increased government revenue.

"The Netherlands is pleased with the collaborative approach that involves the private sector, contributing significantly to the country's development," he stated, while Yahya Vuai Lada, the ZIPA acting director, explained that substantial reforms have transformed the corporate entity, with a view to become an investment hub in the near region.

ZIPA operates as a "one-stop centre" streamlining investment procedures, eliminating bureaucratic hurdles after significant reforms, enhancing its investment destination image in the region.

Changes have enabled investors to efficiently register their projects, he said, while the ports director affirmed that ZPC has opened up opportunities for private sector participation in port management.

This particularly relates to major renovations at Unguja and Pemba ports, where renovation of Wesha and Shumba ports in Pemba is progressing, and a feasibility study for Wete port is nearing completion, he said.

Makame Machano Haji, the deputy permanent secretary for the ministry, said that the Zanzibar government seeks to set up the islands as a major regional hub for maritime transport and port services in the region.

This involves strengthening tele-

communications and port services, he said, while John Mike Jager, an economic adviser at the embassy, acknowledged Tanzania's significant development partnership with the Netherlands, in the transport, energy and port sectors.

In Zanzibar, the delegation engaged the ZPC, ZIPA and the Zanzibar Public-Private Partnership (ZPPP) unit to deepen trade and investment relations. They also toured the Malindi and Mangapwani port facilities to view the new sites for expanding maritime operations.

The delegation also visited the Mpigaduri passenger ferry terminal, a key infrastructure project developed by the Dutch-Zanzibari consortium ZF Devco, to improve passenger transport and tourism by enhancing connections with Mainland ports.

On the final day of the mission, the embassy and ZIPA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalise strategic partnerships aimed at boosting trade relations.

The delegation also visited Dar es Salaam port, handling upwards of 95 percent of Tanzania's international trade and serves as a gateway for Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, the DRC, Zambia and Malawi.

They also toured the Dar es Salaam Corridor Group (DCG) and Steinweg, two Dutch companies leading cargo handling operations at the port, officials noted.

Digital TV at 58pc coverage, as satellite mode tops 100pc

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percent in June.

FM signals now cover 56.5 percent of the country, from 49.94 percent earlier, with TCRA issued 15 new content broadcasting licences during the quarter, including one regional radio licence, five district-level radio licences, and two community radio licences.

Three national subscription-based television licences were granted during the quarter, as well as one licence for internet radio, one for online content creators and processors, and two for news and events blogs, the statement indicated.

As of September 2024, TCRA had issued content service licences for 246 radio outlets, 33 for free-to-air television, 63 for cable television, 29 for 'pay' television, 210 for internet television, 10 for internet radio, 66 for news and events blogs, and 146 for postal and parcel delivery ser-

vices, it said.

Fluctuations in cable television subscriptions were noticed as the number of subscribers had increased from 14,350 in 2020 to 19,739 in 2021 and to 22,295 in 2022, then seeing a decline in 2023, the report affirms.

The number of subscribers dropped to 16,223, a shift attributed to customers migrating to other television broadcasting platforms, it said, noting that in June 2024, 18,820 customers were connected to cable television, and by September this figure had risen by 2.0 percent to 19,153.

Cable television adoption is highest in Lake Zone regions, where Shinyanga leads with 4,845 subscribers, followed by Tabora with 2,118, Mwanza with 2,075 and Dar es Salaam with 1,169. Areas with much fewer cable television subscribers include Mbeya (64), Manyara (91) and Tanga (230), it added.

UDSM to head inter-varsity climate change consortium

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that the partnership will help address pressing challenges affecting Tanzania and in the broader African environment.

"When universities come together, they can share knowledge and expertise in areas where some may lack sufficient competence or capacity," he said, commending UDSM in particular for its efforts in fostering local and international collaborations.

Such partnerships are vital in a country like Tanzania where a large proportion of the population relies on agriculture, he said, noting that collaborations are crucial in tackling challenges of food security, climate change and public health.

They are increasingly affecting farmers and communities, he stated, while Prof. William Anangisye, the UDSM vice chancellor, remarked on the multifaceted character of the collaboration.

It will include joint research, institutional development and capacity building, seeking to promote joint research focused on climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessments, he stated.

They will be specifically designed to benefit local communities, he stated, highlighting that the partnership aligns with the UDSM Vision 2061, which includes a strong

commitment to internationalization.

"Our vision is to make the University of Dar es Salaam a hub for research, teaching, innovation and knowledge exchange on issues that are critical to the development of our country and region," he explained.

Zakir Mahmood, the Aga Khan University board chairman, said that the project was conceived last year in Arusha where the institutions first agreed to work together to address the challenges faced by the participating countries.

"We decided to form a consortium to pool funding and expertise to tackle these pressing challenges—water scarcity, climate change and health issues—affecting our countries," he said.

"We are committed to ensuring this consortium is promoted and grows to become a key driver in addressing the critical issues of water, climate and health," he added.



When universities come together, they can share knowledge and expertise in areas where some may lack sufficient competence or capacity



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (R) consult in Dodoma city yesterday moments after a working meeting for ministers and deputy ministers on the use of the electronic Cabinet system (e-CABINET). Photo: PMO

Atomic agency lands in Z'bar, for cancer units

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clear equipment repository.

The facility will support cancer testing and treatment centres billed for the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital and KCMC.

Nuclear technology could also be harnessed for generating clean energy, providing a sustainable solution to mitigate climate change, particularly in urban centres with noticeably high electricity demand or limited access to alternative energy sources, he said.

Advanced nuclear energy technology is among alternatives for the transition to a carbon-free energy system, he stated, hinting that Tanzania is fortunate to have significant

uranium resources, the key raw material

Experts at the Education, Science and Technology ministry need to collaborate with their Energy counterparts and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy for Tanzania to fully benefit from nuclear energy, he said.

The new offices will enable the agency to improve oversight and facilitate the safe use of nuclear technology, as TAEC offices and infrastructure will strengthen the safe application of nuclear technology.

The facility will similarly promote research and innovation, and foster the use of nuclear science in various sectors of national development, he stated, hailing the Union govern-

ment for setting up the office.

The relevant authorities in Zanzibar worked to ensure the provision of land and essential infrastructure like road link as well as electricity and water connection, he said, pointing at the health sector as the sphere of the primary use of nuclear technology in the country.

Key centres of Ocean Road, Aga Khan, Bugando, Besta Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital already conduct nuclear-based cancer treatment, he said, praising TAEC for completing the second phase of the large laboratory project (integrated nuclear science and technology laboratory) in Arusha, expected to be the largest of its kind in East Africa and the wider region.

Omar Kipanga, the Education, Science and Technology deputy minister, said that investing in nuclear technology infrastructure and equipment is meant to ensure its effective management and sustainable exploitation.

Ahmed Nassor Mazrui, the Health minister for Zanzibar, remarked that the newly built facility aligns with the Zanzibar authorities' vision for the Binguni and Mnazi Mmoja referral hospitals.

It is intended that they start using radiation technology for MRI, X-ray and CT scan medical interventions, he said, assuring the public that TAEC was working closely with the relevant departments to achieve key health sector objectives.



Dennis Londo (L), Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister overseeing the East African Affairs docket, is welcomed by Russian Foreign Affairs deputy minister Bogdanov Mikhail Leonidovich on arrival in Russian resort city Sochi for talks held on the sidelines of the November 9-10 First Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers from African countries and Russia. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG

South African companies lands trade opportunities at 7th CIIE

MANY of the South African companies taking part in the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) have secured some trade and investment opportunities, the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) said Monday.

The seventh CIIE took place in Shanghai, China, from Nov. 5 to 10. The DTIC sponsored 35 companies to take part in the expo and showcase their products.

In a statement issued on Monday, the department said the South African enterprises are confident that the trade leads will soon result in concrete deals.

The CIIE is a platform created to provide an opportunity for companies from all over the world to show-

case their production capabilities at the event, but most importantly to potential buyers of goods and services. On display at the South African stands were a variety of products, including wines, jewellery, agricultural and agro-processed products, bags and other services such as engineering, among others, according to the statement.

Siphamandla Kumkani, director of export promotion and marketing at the DTIC who led the South African business delegation to the CIIE, said he is pleased with the results.

"The companies have performed

exceedingly well. One of the key features of the CIIE is that one gets an opportunity to meet companies from different regional blocks. Many of our companies have received bankable trade and investment leads," said Kumkani. "It is our view that the event is getting bigger every year and provides huge business for not only small and medium companies but also emerging exporters," he added.

Abednico Mkhari, founder and director of NTGR Engineering, an award-winning multidisciplinary engineering company in South Africa, said his company signed a memo-

randum of understanding for a joint venture with a major Chinese company for the construction of a road in Tanzania. "We are now finalizing finer details of our agreement," he said. "We are obviously very happy that our participation in the CIIE has enabled our company this significant opportunity."

Garron Arendse, international commercial manager at Rhodes Food Group of South Africa, said participating in the CIIE has allowed his company to find new opportunities for potential expansion into the Chinese markets.



Tanzania Media Foundation executive director Dastan Kamanzi (standing) demonstrates to The Guardian Ltd deputy general manager Jackson Paul at the newspaper publishing firm's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday how an Investigative and Public Interest Journalism Desk to be established soon at TGL with TMF support will operate. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Police arrest six people in Dodoma over damage to SGR infrastructure

By Augusta Njoji, Dodoma

POLICE in Dodoma Region have arrested six people for allegedly damaging and stealing copper wires from the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) infrastructure in Mpwapwa and Bahi districts, Dodoma Region. Speaking to journalists yesterday here, Dodoma Regional Police Commander (RPC) George Katabazi confirmed the arrests, detailing the incidents.

In Mpwapwa District, two suspects, Said Sempinga (39) and Michael Robert (44), both from Kilosa, were caught for damaging SGR infrastructure. The incident occurred on October 3, 2024, around 5 p.m. in Msagali Village, where the suspects allegedly cut and stole copper wires from three railway bridges. "Following the incident, the police received reports and initiated an immediate investigation, working closely with the community," Katabazi said.

He added: "This led to the timely arrest of the suspects, who were found in possession of the stolen wires. The investigation is still ongoing and legal action will follow." In another incident on October 8, this year, four additional suspects were arrested in Bahi District for attempting to sabotage SGR infrastructure. The suspects, identified as Said Kapambwe (38), Petro Yassi (22), Michael Leyaseki (27) and Issa Misami (42), were arrested at different

times in Bahi market. Commander Katabazi called on the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with the police by providing information on criminal activities, especially those targeting critical infrastructure. "These acts of sabotage are causing major financial losses to the country," he said. The investigation into the stolen copper wires and sabotage attempts is ongoing, and authorities are committed to bringing those responsible to justice.

PM: e-Cabinet to boost efficiency in public service

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has emphasised that the introduction of the Cabinet electronic system (e-Cabinet) will help enhance performance and greatly improve efficiency in serving the public. He explained that the improvements in the e-Cabinet system will greatly reduce paper usage in government meetings, particularly in Cabinet sessions. Majaliwa made the remarks yesterday during the closing session of a working meeting for ministers and deputy ministers on the use of the e-Cabinet in Dodoma. He said the shift is expected to address challenges such as delays in information flow, high printing costs and the risk of losing important documents.

The Prime Minister further stated that this initiative aligns with the goals of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who has consistently emphasised the importance of embracing technological innovations to streamline government operations.

"The 2023 results of the benchmarking for the Government Technical Maturity Index revealed that Tanzania ranks third among African nations. We congratulate President Samia for her leadership and wish her continued success in driving innovations that benefit our country," Majaliwa said.

He noted that the adoption of the e-Cabinet system is part of the government's broader efforts to equip Ministers and public servants with modern skills needed to manage government activities and services effectively.

He also highlighted that the introduction of the e-Cabinet system is in line with Articles 102 and 103 of

the CCM 2020 Election Manifesto, which directs the government to fully leverage science, technology, and innovation in driving economic growth.

This, he said, is crucial to achieving a competitive, inclusive, and industrial-led middle-income economy.

Dr Doto Biteko, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, praised the experts from the E-government Agency (EGA) for their role in successfully delivering the training.

"We believe this training has provided us with a comprehensive understanding of the system," he said.

George Simbachawene, Minister of State in the President's Office-Public Service Management and Good Governance, also underscored the importance of the training, noting that it is part of the government's ongoing plan to adopt the electronic Cabinet system.

He also credited EGA for their continued expertise and leadership in the initiative.

“...We congratulate President Samia for her leadership and wish her continued success in driving innovations that benefit our country”

ATCL applauded for innovative drive to reduce operating costs

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Parliamentary Committee on Infrastructure has praised Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) for its innovative approach to reducing operating costs by improving its workshop. Seleman Kakoso, committee chairperson, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when his team visited the ATCL's workshop at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam. Kakoso expressed satisfaction

with the measures ATCL has implemented to control operating expenses, highlighting that the completion of the aircraft ownership transfer from the Tanzania Government Aircraft Agency (TGFA) to ATCL will enhance efficiency and help eliminate the significant debt reflected in ATCL's accounts. "With the ownership transfer process underway, the committee urges the government to complete the transaction to reduce ATCL's debt. This will allow for a clearer picture

of the company's true income and expenditures," said Kakoso. He also commended the government for its continued support of ATCL, including adding more aircraft to expand its flight network. Oran Njeza, Budget Committee chairperson noted that the committee had observed ATCL's major projects, including the construction of new workshops and strategic efforts to improve its operational structure to meet business demands. David Kihenzile, Transport Dep-

uty Minister thanked both committees and promised to address their concerns in collaboration with the committee to overcome the challenges ATCL is facing. Eng. Ladislaus Matindi, ATCL executive director, expressed gratitude to the government for enabling ATCL to enhance its workshops, allowing the airline to perform major aircraft maintenance. Matindi explained that previously, ATCL could not even change a tire when it needed maintenance, as it

had to send the tire to Nairobi for repairs. He emphasized that the approval from aircraft manufacturers to carry out major repairs in Tanzania is proof that ATCL has met the necessary criteria and possesses the expertise to handle such tasks. Regarding ATCL's expansion plans, Matindi announced that the airline has begun selling tickets for flights to Johannesburg, with the first trip scheduled for November 30, 2024.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

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Public-Private Partnership Centre executive director David Kafulila briefs members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Regional Administration and Local Governments in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on plans for the 84 projects the centre has lined up for implementation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Relocation of Bank Head Office - Selcom Microfinance Bank Tanzania Limited

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We are pleased to inform you that, effective from 12th November 2024, the Head Office of Selcom Microfinance Bank Tanzania Limited (formerly Access Microfinance Bank Tanzania Limited) has moved from Derm House, Kijitonyama, Makumbusho, Dar Es Salaam to a new location at:

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Management - Selcom Microfinance Bank Tanzania Limited

Organisation crusading for organic farming, environment conservation

By Getrude Mbago

THE Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) has reaffirmed commitment to continue expanding its operations to reach more farmers across the country in order to transform agriculture, fight poverty and improve livelihoods.

The non-profit organisation, which currently works with over 200,000 farmers in 16 regions, focuses on promoting organic farming and modern livestock practices.

Janet Maro, executive director of Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) made the remarks over the weekend in Morogoro during the 2024 Agro-ecological Forum, Seed Fair, and Organic Food Festival held in Morogoro.

She said as part of its expansion, SAT welcomes new farmers into its fold, with over 70,000 new members joining various farming groups this year.

"The organisation continues to play a pivotal role in transforming agricultural practices and improving the livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists through education, skills training, and providing tools necessary to shift mindsets towards more sustainable farming practices," she said.

She commended the government for its continued support, which has made it easier for the organisation to reach more farmers and pastoralists with vital resources.

"The support we receive from the government has been instrumental in our work. It enables us to deliver the knowledge, skills, and tools required to transform farming practices and enhance livelihoods," she said.

One of SAT's key projects, Mkulima Mbunifu Magazine, has been instrumental in spreading awareness and education on organic farming to a large number of farmers across the country.

In addition to educational initiatives, SAT is planning to construct a maize and sunflower processing factory in Dodoma, which will serve as a crucial step in adding value to locally produced crops.

The new venture is part of SAT's broader mission to promote agroecological practices, improve food quality, and contribute to a healthy society and environment.

"Our major aim is to instil knowledge and skills in organic farming, enabling Tanzanians to embrace agro-ecological practices that produce high-quality organic food and products," she said.

She added: "We are committed to advocating for change in how farming is viewed and practiced, ensuring that farmers are equipped to face the challenges of the modern

agricultural landscape."

Maro said currently SAT implements 26 projects in 16 regions, all of which aim to promote organic farming and ecological practices, including tree planting initiatives to restore nature and protect the environment.

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

To date, SAT has successfully grown over one million tree seedlings in various regions of Tanzania.

Additionally, SAT has been working on promoting the use of traditional seeds, stressing the need for more education to help the public embrace sustainable farming methods.

Morogoro regional agriculture specialist, Evance Gambishi commended SAT for the initiatives which backs the government's efforts to transform the agriculture sector and fight poverty.

He also commended the organisation for the forum which has brought together farmers, livestock keepers and stakeholders from various parts to further strengthen collaboration in the fight against climate change by promoting agroecological practices. He said authorities in the region were working hard to promote and support sustainable farming that prioritizes environmental conservation.

He noted that organic farming protects soil and land, cost effective and promotes a healthy society.

Gambishi encouraged farmers in the country to embrace agro-ecological practices in order to produce enough and tasty foods while also protecting the environment.

He noted that last year, the government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, launched a national strategy to promote ecological farming, which complements the work that SAT is doing on the ground.

Julia Samson Laton, a farmer from Mangae Village in Mvomero District thanked SAT for its support in lifting farmers out of "knowledge darkness."

"SAT has been an incredible help to us. Many of us were living deprived lives, but this organisation came to our aid, transforming our farming practices and improving our livelihoods," she said.

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



Cyprian Luhemeja (seated, R), Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office, has a quick word with another delegate shortly after the opening of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the Climate Change Convention in Baku, Azerbaijan, yesterday. Left is Dr Kanizio Manyika, Assistant Director of Climate Change and Assessment at the Vice President's Office. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania praises EU for supporting budgetary initiatives, crucial sectors

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has commended the European Union (EU) for its continued role as one of the country's major strategic development partners, particularly in supporting budgetary initiatives and key sectors.

Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the opening of a Budget Support Dialogue meeting for the Finance for Growth Programme. The session brought together experts from Tanzania and the EU.

Dr Mwamba acknowledged the EU's significant contributions to Tanzania's development, highlighting that for the previous

financial year (2023/24), the EU provided €40.819 million to support key sectors, including energy, the blue economy, digitalization, gender equality, and the Green and Smart Cities project.

"We have witnessed remarkable progress under this program, from policy development to tangible achievements, including monitoring the implementation of Phase Four of the Public Financial Management Reform Programme, the Corporate Plan-6, and the Financial Sector Development Master Plan," Dr Mwamba said.

She further emphasized that the EU's support has been instrumental in areas such as completing the National Green Bonds Framework, establishing the National Venture Capital Fund, reducing the tax

estimate ratio, increasing taxpayer registration, and boosting the percentage of loans to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) relative to the total loans provided by banks and microfinance institutions.

Marc Stalmans, Head of the EU Cooperation Office in Tanzania, expressed gratitude for Tanzania's continued role as a strong and reliable EU partner, effectively managing initiatives that benefit its citizens.

"Tanzania is a very close partner of the EU in the economic sector, and we highly value our partnership," Stalmans said. "Our cooperation will only strengthen in the future."

He also praised Tanzania's economic performance, noting

that the country has managed to maintain its debt level below 40 percent, a favourable position compared to other East African nations. He further highlighted the growing opportunities in Tanzania's private sector, which is playing a key role in driving economic growth.

The meeting was attended by several key officials, including Sauda Msemo, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Tanzania; James Msina, Assistant Commissioner of External Finance; Dionisia Mjema, Assistant Commissioner of the Financial Sector Development Department at the Ministry of Finance; Benjamin Magai, Chief Internal Auditor of the Government (IAG); Jonathan Mpuya, Head of Cooperation between Tanzania and the EU, and other experts.



Visibly distraught residents of Genge in Muheza District look on in disbelief yesterday at the debris of a house belonging to one of their fellow villagers which was razed by fire. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

KIGALI

RWANDA is pushing for a new global goal for climate finance that includes support for loss and damage, alongside mitigation and adaptation efforts, the Ministry of Environment said Monday.

"This call is critical for ensuring that countries most affected by climate impacts receive consistent support to recover and build stronger communities. At COP29, loss and damage is a priority for Rwanda, highlighting the need for sustained funding to assist communities facing the devastating effects of climate disasters," the ministry said in a statement as the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP29, kicked off in Baku,

Rwanda urges new climate finance goal as COP29 opens

Azerbaijan.

The ministry called for investment in long-term solutions that empower vulnerable nations to adapt and build resilience against a changing climate.

"Rwanda's delegation will also champion the value of transparency in climate commitments, advocating for clear and accurate information on the support exchanged between nations to build trust and accountability," it said.

The two-week COP29 meeting brings together delegates from about 200 countries from governments, civil society, and the

private sector to accelerate global efforts in addressing the climate crisis.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has recently called for more funding from wealthy nations to tackle climate change, noting that the terms must be favourable, without pushing developing countries into more debt.

This year's climate conference is aimed at seeking a new climate change funding goal to replace the existing collective target of mobilizing and providing \$100 billion annually by developed countries in support of developing countries.

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Dr Jafo: Dar issues 131 permits for supplies sold under AfCFTA

By Guardian Correspondent, Addis Ababa

A TOTAL of 131 certificates have been issued for Tanzanian products sold under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA), Industry and Trade Minister Dr Selemani Jafo has unveiled.

Dr Jafo unveiled over the weekend when speaking during the opening of the 15th meeting of the cabinet ministers of countries implementing the AfCFTA agreement.

He said that trade between African countries using the procedures and parameters of the agreement has started to increase and he congratulated all the countries that have been doing business under the AfCFTA Agreement.

"It is my hope that, if we succeed in completing the discussions on the remaining issues, we will be able to do more business within Africa under the AfCFTA Agreement and finally be able to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves," he said.

"I ask that we use the opportunity of this meeting, to ensure that those areas find agreement so that we can leave the discussion and

focus on the implementation of the Free Trade Zone of the African continent," he added.

He said the implementation of the plan to help member countries do business under the Agreement, has had several challenges including transportation, infrastructure, poor production, energy, and communication costs.

"It is the right time for Africa to increase trade cooperation, reduce trade barriers, and strengthen the infrastructure system and transport of goods and services," said Jafo and added.

He said Tanzania was completing the Mwalimu Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) which will produce 2,115 Megawatt which enable Tanzania to have reliable and stable electricity for industrial, home, and commercial use.

He said that Tanzania is continuing with the construction of airports in parallel with strengthening Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) so that it can reach as many African countries as possible.

Tanzania continues to strengthen the road infrastructure by connecting the entire country with paved roads and improving the ports of Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Mtwara.

Minister said the government also continue to strengthen digital systems in the registration of businesses and the registration of investment projects.

"We have reviewed our business policy of 2003 and thus become a new version of 2023 where it has increased the opportunity to participate in business for the private sector as well as various funds for entrepreneurs including women and youth," he said and added.

"I have no doubts at all that such efforts continue to be made in various countries within our continent and thus continue to reduce the existing challenges with the aim of achieving the Africa we want as stated in Agenda 2063," said the Minister.

He said African countries should continue to set strong strategies to reach a prosperous Africa in economic and social matters and emphasized that the Free Trade Zone in Africa is a solid foundation for the development of the continent Economically, Politically and Culturally.

He said AfCFTA will enable African countries to be independent, to have decisions and a strong collective voice.



Form Four students at Muheza District's Muheza Muslim Secondary School take a break in between papers during this year's edition of the National Form Four Examination, which began yesterday. The district has registered 2,288 candidates (1,213 girls and 1,075 boys) from 29 schools - five of them private. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

MUHAS launches initiative to equip girls in Dar schools with digital skills

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

THE Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) has launched an initiative aimed at empowering female students in various secondary schools across Dar es Salaam by equipping them with skills in digital tools and innovations for the health sector.

This initiative was developed in response to the underrepresentation of women and girls in the application of technology and innovation within healthcare.

Prof. Emmanuel Balandya, MUHAS Deputy Vice Chancellor, stated that the university has made it a priority to address the digital gap and increase female participation in the field.

Speaking during the closing session of the 4th MUHAS Digital Health and Innovation Week in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Prof. Balandya highlighted that research conducted by MUHAS had revealed a significant gender disparity in the use of technology within the healthcare sector.

"The Digital Health and Innovation Week started in 2021, and this year marks its fourth edition. The event plays a crucial role in enhancing digital systems across various sectors," he said.

He explained that the limited use of digital tools in healthcare is a major concern, and to achieve meaningful progress, it is essential to build expertise from the grassroots level.

His focus is particularly on young girls, who are often underrepresented in science education.

"By investing in these girls, we aim to increase the number of future experts who will contribute to the development of the country's healthcare systems," he explained.

Prof. Balandya also emphasized that MUHAS aims to create fully integrated digital systems across all sectors, which would streamline service delivery and enhance collaboration with key governmental bodies, including the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Health.

"In the healthcare sector, we are still lagging behind in managing and sharing essential information, such as patient data and medical records. We need to address this by adopting digital systems for information management, replacing outdated paper-based processes," he said.

He reaffirmed MUHAS's commitment to training experts who will assist in implementing integrated digital systems across all social service sectors, in line with government guidelines.

Dr Mwijuma Lingwanda, Assistant Director of Vocational Education at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, emphasized the importance of increasing female participation in digital healthcare.

She noted that this effort would help close the current gender gap in the sector.

"The aim of this conference is clear: to bridge the gap and bring more women and girls into the digital sphere. No one should be left behind in the digital transformation we are experiencing. Women and

girls, who represent the majority of the population, must be included in this movement. However, this is a much broader issue—it's not just about technology; it's about equality, empowerment, and human development," Dr Mwijuma said.

She added, "As we work to integrate women and girls into the digital future, we must also address the significant barriers they face in accessing digital tools and health information."

The official stressed that overcoming these challenges requires listening to the voices of women and girls, understanding their unique needs, and identifying the opportunities available.

She called on MUHAS researchers to provide the necessary support to help women and girls thrive in the digital health transformation.

"The Ministry is fully committed to achieving these goals. We will continue to promote STEM education for girls, expand access to digital resources, and create platforms that encourage innovation and leadership among women," Dr Mwijuma concluded.

Debora Enock, a student from Mbezi Inn Secondary School, expressed her enthusiasm for the training, noting that it would help her and her peers learn how to use digital tools to access critical health information.

Kalyne Mseki, a Form Six student at Jangwani Secondary School, emphasized the importance of government investment in digital infrastructure for schools.

"This will provide students with practical learning experiences and inspire them to use this knowledge even after graduation," Kalyne said.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PREQUALIFICATION OF CONSULTANTS FOR THE MINE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT.

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of pre-qualifying consultants for the Mine Environmental Compliance Audit and is, therefore, inviting eligible and interested applicants to submit expressions of interest as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST IN THIS SERVICE. SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE ANGGOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of Service:

REFERENCE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
GGME01941	MINE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
COMMERCIAL
Company Profile and updated Organogram
Company Code of Conduct and Ethics
Copy of Current Business License
Copy of Certificate of Incorporation, the most recent BRELA search, and the latest BRELA application of annual return.
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), TIN Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association
Compliance with Mining Act-Approved Local Content Plan (Approval letter)
FINANCIAL POSITION AND TERMS OF TRADE
Applicants Audited Financial Statements for the latest three years (2021, 2022, 2023)
Bank Statements of the Applicants active bank accounts for the past 6 months.
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
OSHA Compliance Certificate
Environmental Compliance Certificate
Workers' Compensation fund Certificate
Safety and Environmental policy
OTHER POLICIES
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment
Grievance Procedure
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme
PAST EXPERIENCE
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01941)
Applicants shall provide proof of Technical Capability by demonstrating relevant qualifications, certifications, and specialized knowledge in environmental auditing and management. Mandatory required proof includes CVs, proof of registration with NEMC (Firm and Team Members), and portfolios of past work.
Applicants to provide evidence of experience with environmental audit projects, particularly in the mining, industrial, and energy sectors. This should include a list of past clients or projects where environmental audits have been successfully executed.
Applicants must provide the proposed compliance audit methodology, a list of tools, and compliance to standards (EIA and Audit regulations). Mandatory required proof includes the methodology proposal and a list of tools to be used.

III. Interested companies must submit their Expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting **(GGME01941 - MINE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT)** on the subject of the email. Applicants must also submit supporting information to the Company, which states the full name, address, telephone, and e-mail address of the Company, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative.

IV. All LOIs and supporting documentation (in PDF format) must be submitted to the Company via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com without copying any individual from the Company. Submission should not be later than **8.30 AM on 22nd November 2024**. (the "EOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions must not exceed 150MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 150MB, applicants must split the submissions into multiple emails.

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

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Over 1,800 youth in Morogoro to venture into horticulture sector

By Correspondent Christina Haule, Mvomero

A TOTAL of 1,820 youth are set to be empowered with essential skills and support on commercial horticulture production under a project being implemented in Lubungo Village, Mvomero District in Morogoro Region.

Revocatus Kimario, Director of the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO), announced the launch of the 1.134bn/- project yesterday, noting that it is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation under the Beyond Farming Collective (BFC) initiative.

The project, which will run from 2024 to 2027, aims to empower young people by engaging them in agriculture.

Kimario explained that the project will involve six young people per hectare, starting with 250 youth managing the farm.

The initiative aligns with the government's broader aim to boost youth participation in agriculture, as part of the Ministry of Agriculture's Building a Better Tomorrow: Youth Initiative for Agribusiness (BTF-YIA) programme, which supports the goal of creating 8 million youth employment opportunities in the sector.

Kimario said the project will be carried out on a 125-hectare site, where crops such as sweet watermelons, cucumbers (both sweet and bitter varieties) and onions will be cultivated.

The crops have been selected based on research showing they have strong domestic and international market potential, helping to ensure that the youth involved in the project will have access to viable market opportunities.

Irrigation for the project will be sourced from large reservoirs and wells on-site, with the aim of boosting agricultural productivity in the area.

"We don't have a market issue; it's a production issue," Kimario said.

He added: "For example, we received an order for 200 containers of sweet watermelons to Dubai from October to February, but we haven't been able to fulfil it yet because we're still building the necessary infrastructure. We have also explored the Comoros market,

where the monthly demand for onions is 60,000 tonnes. We have a reliable market there, so we are strategically positioning ourselves to contribute to the African Food Contract."

Morogoro Regional Commissioner (RC) Adam Malima, urged young people to seize the investment opportunities in agriculture, highlighting the potential benefits of farming.

He directed Mvomero District Council to organise local farmers into groups, register them and prioritise them for 10 percent council loans, aiming to maximise the impact of the funds on youth in the region.

Malima also instructed SUGECO to allocate 100 hectares of the project site to assist external farmers in cultivating similar crops using scientific methods, while also providing space for livestock keepers to grow fodder professionally, helping to reduce conflicts arising from grazing on farms.

Damaris Augustino, a farmer from Lubungo Village, expressed her gratitude to SUGECO for bringing the project to the community.

Augustino said the villagers are eager to seize the opportunity for commercial farming and are hopeful it will significantly boost their income.

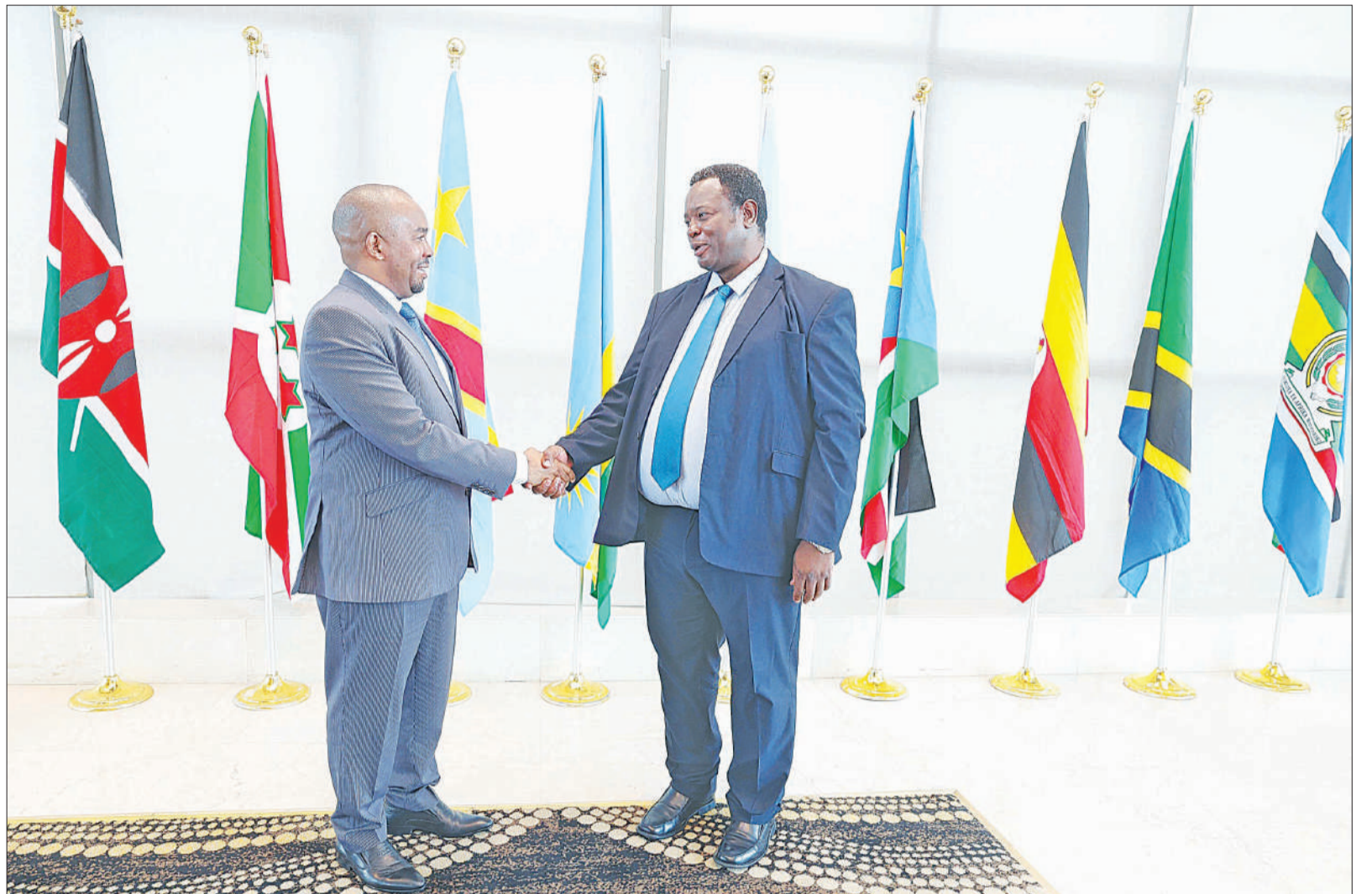
Dr Rosalia Rwegasira, Morogoro assistant Regional Administrative Secretary - economy and agriculture, encouraged the people of Lubungo Village to embrace the project, as it will provide valuable training on profitable farming practices through SUGECO's expert guidance.

Grace Mhina, BFC manager, expressed the organisation's commitment to strengthening agriculture in Tanzania, Nigeria, and Ethiopia through 11 partner organisations, including SUGECO.

She explained that these partnerships bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, particularly youth, from small-scale producers to buyers, thereby effectively reaching the targeted agricultural communities.



We don't have a market issue; it's a production issue



Baraka Leonard (L), Clerk of Tanzania's National Assembly, exchanges greetings in Nairobi yesterday with the Deputy Clerk of the Kenyan legislative body, Jeremiah Ndombi, shortly after handing over to Kenya the revolving chairmanship of the East African Community Parliamentary Clerks Conference. This was at the ongoing Conference of Parliamentary Clerks in the Kenyan capital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Beatrice Philemon

RESIDENTS at Gendagenda Village in Mgambo Ward, Handeni District, Tanga Region have urged the government to urgently address the persistent water crisis that has severely affected their daily activities.

Hamis Mwang'ona, Mgambo Ward Councillor said the village, which has a growing population, faces major challenges due to the lack of a reliable and clean water source, forcing many to walk long distances in search of water that is often unsafe for consumption.

He highlighted this recently during an interview with journalists and staff from the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), who visited the village to assess the impact of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project.

Bakari Athuman, Chairman of the Mjumikwekige network in Mgambo

Villagers in need of clean, safe water in Handeni DC

Ward, emphasised the urgent need for government intervention, pointing out that Gendagenda Village currently has only one water well, which is insufficient for its growing population.

"With 4,500 residents and ten hamlets in Gendagenda alone, and over 14,000 people in Mgambo Ward as a whole, the demand for water is high. Women and girls from neighbouring hamlets often walk long distances to the well," he said.

Athuman described the situation as dire, noting that it affects not only villagers but also students, who face uncertainty about when they will have access to safe drinking water again.

He shared that the community had recently met with the

Handeni District Commissioner in Gendagenda to discuss potential solutions. They also called on the Minister for Water to visit the village to witness first-hand the suffering of residents, particularly women, students, and children.

Athuman expressed gratitude to TFCG and MJUMITA for initiating the IFBEST project, which has allowed the community to engage in sustainable forest management and charcoal harvesting within the Gendagenda Village Land Forest Reserve.

He noted that a reliable water supply, along with improved roads, would further support the community by enhancing access to markets and helping reduce poverty.

"During the rainy season, farmers

and traders suffer significant losses due to the difficulty in transporting their produce to market," Athuman said.

In response to the water crisis, Handeni District Commissioner Albert Msando acknowledged the challenges faced by Gendagenda Village and surrounding areas.

"The government is aware of the water shortage and has plans to extend water services to 26 villages across Handeni District, including Gendagenda, to ensure safe drinking water for both domestic and business use," he said.

He added: "I recently met with Gendagenda residents to resolve a boundary dispute and assured them that the government is committed to addressing their water shortages."

Africa facing acute mpox outbreaks as cases surpass 50,000: Africa CDC

By Guardian Reporter

THE African continent is still in the acute phase of the mpox outbreak as the number of cases reported so far this year surpassed the 50,000 mark, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has warned.

During an online media briefing, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said 19 African countries have reported 50,840 mpox cases, with 10,741 confirmed and 1,083 deaths since the start of this year. During last week alone, the continent reported 2,532 new cases, including 345 confirmed cases and 32 new deaths.

Data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency show that the number of confirmed mpox cases in Africa has surged by over 545 percent this year compared to the total of last year. It said the Central Africa region is the most affected by the outbreak, accounting for 85.8 percent of all reported cases and 99.4 percent of deaths.

"We are still in the acute phase of the outbreak and that is pushing us to redouble our efforts to control the mpox outbreak in Africa," Kaseya said.

He said the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi, the two worst hit countries by the outbreak, accounted for 86.7 percent of all new confirmed cases reported during the past week.

Expressing concern over the recent increase in mpox cases in Uganda as the country continued to record weekly increase of confirmed cases, the Africa CDC

chief said 14 African countries have active transmission of the mpox virus.

He said four African countries, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, and South Africa, have not reported any confirmed cases in the past six weeks. He underscored that while some countries have not reported cases for consecutive weeks, they remain at risk due to cross-border transmission.

Kaseya also expressed concern over the impact of comorbidity, the simultaneous presence of two or more diseases or medical conditions in a patient, as mpox mortality is closely associated with HIV, especially in cases where HIV is poorly managed and recently diagnosed.

"Comorbidity is playing a key role as we saw deaths in Uganda and Kenya recently, and also the two deaths we had in South Africa are linked to HIV. That is why we are promoting double testing of mpox and HIV," he said.

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

In mid-August, the Africa CDC declared the ongoing mpox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of continental security. Soon after, the World Health Organization also declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, activating its highest level of global alert for mpox for the second time in two years.



Fried sea fish on sale yesterday at Dar es Salaam's Ferry International Fish Market, the going retail price per piece ranging between 3,000/- and 6,000/- - mainly depending on type and size. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

COP29 in Baku: High stakes, \$1trn question for climate finance

BAKU

THE 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) is taking place from November 11 to 22 in Baku, Azerbaijan, bringing global attention to urgent issues surrounding climate finance.

With trillions needed to support poorer nations in adapting to and mitigating climate change, the

stakes couldn't be higher.

Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare stresses: "The fate of the planet depends very much on what we're able to pull off in the next five or ten years in this space (COP29) and nationally. So the stakes couldn't be higher. From the economic damages point of view, the investment costs of trillions are outweighed - to get onto a clean pathway - are outweighed

by the multiple trillions that it will cost in damages if we don't."

A major challenge is finding funding for poorer nations, as the current \$100 billion in annual support falls short. Many experts now argue for at least \$trillion annually. However, political instability in donor countries like the US and Germany complicates long-term commitments, raising

doubts about financing pledges and progress at COP29.

With fewer high-profile leaders present and the absence of major carbon emitters like the US and China, the path forward remains uncertain. Yet the numbers are clear: without substantial financial commitments, addressing the global climate crisis will only grow costlier in the years to come.

BII to unveil deals and initiatives at COP29 to unlock private capital

LONDON

BRITISH International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, will unveil new investments and partnerships at COP29 to mobilise private capital into climate finance.

Investments and initiatives to mobilise private capital to be announced this week include a groundbreaking investment in India's renewable power sector by DFIs alongside a major private investor and a significant milestone in a landmark mobilisation initiative for Asia, created by DFIs and private investors.

The launch of a blended finance facility in West Africa aimed at mobilising local currency financing from private investors for renewable projects such as mini-grids.

The announcements come in the wake of BII unveiling a number of innovative new initiatives to encourage private investors to commit capital to those countries that are most vulnerable to the climate emergency. These include a new concessionary capital facility designed to de-risk institutional capital in funds and new social or green bond issuances.

Between 2021 and 2023, BII has been responsible for mobilising \$1.12 billion of private capital into climate finance projects.

Private investors, which collectively manage trillions of dollars in assets, have been reluctant to commit capital to climate finance in emerging economies because of the perceived level of risk that such investments entail. Macro factors such as local currency volatility, political instability and regulatory restraints are often cited as embedded reasons for not investing in countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate emergency.

But these fears might be obscuring the opportunities that exist. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) recently unveiled new credit risk data from the IFC's Global Emerging Markets Risk Database spanning more than 30 years and 15,000 private-sector loans worth more than \$500 billion to companies in developing economies. It showed that default rates in emerging markets are much lower than commonly perceived.

DFIs, such as BII, are mandated to provide long term capital for

developing countries and can take on more risk than commercial investors because they do not need to make as high a level of financial return. They also have unparalleled insights into the emerging economies in which they invest, a deep-rooted understanding of risk and a track record of producing solid, long-term returns in markets that private investors have typically shunned. This means they are perfectly positioned to partner with private investors to mobilise capital.

Leslie Maasdorp, BII Chief Executive Designate said: "BII and other DFIs are innovating to generate opportunities for private institutions; to de-risk investments so that capital is allocated to where it is needed most.

"Private investors: Our doors are open. Speak to us. Explore the opportunities that DFIs can bring to your door. Interrogate the risks that we can help to mitigate. And then by COP30 we will have significant progress to report."

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development estimates that developing economies need between \$3.3 trillion and \$4.5 trillion in annual investment to meet their Sustainable Development Goals. But at current financing levels, it says there is an annual financing gap of some \$2.5 trillion.

Of the up to \$600 billion per year of private capital that is needed to finance the green transition, more than half needs to be supported or "catalysed" by MDBs, DFIs and other bilateral financial institutions.



Private investors: Our doors are open. Speak to us. Explore the opportunities that DFIs can bring to your door. Interrogate the risks that we can help to mitigate. And then by COP30 we will have significant progress to report



Holger Tausch (2nd-L), Director of International Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania, pictured in Morogoro municipality at the weekend presenting teaching materials worth 200m/- to the Education, Science and Technology ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, Prof Daniel Mushi, for use in 54 community development colleges. Looking on are Swisscontact director Sabine Roth (L) and Dr Erick Mgaya, an assistant director in the ministry overseeing the Technical and Vocational Education and Training docket. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

WFP raises alarm over food security, nutrition situation in Eastern Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE World Food Program (WFP) has voiced concern over the food security and nutrition situation in Eastern Africa which it said "continues to be alarming."

The WFP estimated that as of October, about 63.5 million people faced food insecurity in Eastern Africa, recording a slight increase from last quarter.

According to the WFP, as the conflict intensifies, more than three million people have fled Sudan over the past 18 months, seeking refuge

in neighboring countries, while almost 11 million people are internally displaced.

In addition, the heavy seasonal rains from June to September caused flooding that impacted more than 2 million people across the region.

"Those affected include 1.4 million in South Sudan, 681,248 in Sudan, 120,000 in Ethiopia, and 286,762 in Uganda. With the seasonal rains having ended in the north of the region, floodwaters have receded or expected to recede in some areas but will persist in parts

of South Sudan," the United Nations agency said. It said the floods also disrupted agricultural crop production in localized areas of South Sudan, which impacted the delivery of humanitarian assistance and is expected to worsen food insecurity due to insufficient food supplies after the harvest.

The WFP warned the number of people in the most food-insecure state in Somalia is projected to rise to 4.4 million, or 23 percent of the population.

According to the UN agency, food prices showed mixed trends across

the Eastern Africa region, with an average inflation rate of 16.7 percent by September. It said South Sudan recorded the highest food inflation of 96.4 percent followed by Burundi and Ethiopia at 19.7 and 19.6 percent respectively.

The high food inflation across the region is attributed to several factors, including the spillover effects of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which has impacted the business environment in South Sudan, and high production and transportation costs driving up food prices in Burundi.

African youth summit calls for sustainable job opportunities

KIGALI

OFFICIALS have emphasized the urgent need to create sustainable employment opportunities for Africa's young people during the opening of a forum for African youth in Kigali, Rwanda.

The forum, known as the Youth Connect Africa Summit, is a pan-African initiative connecting young people for social and economic transformation. This year's summit, under the theme "Jobs for Youth Through Innovative Skilling," drew more than 3,000 young people from across Africa to discuss ways of addressing critical development challenges the continent is facing.

"In this ever-changing world, it is crucial that we empower our youth with relevant and adaptive skills," said Rwandan Minister of Youth and Arts Abdallah Utumatwishima during the opening ceremony.

Ahunna Eziakonwa, assistant administrator of the Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme, said "Without empowering our youth, Africa risks losing its own resources by failing to build a generation that understands how to leverage what it has."

"We must focus on building their character, confidence, and competence, so they can effectively lead their own destinies," she added.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame highlighted the need for political

stability and more investment in the continent's various systems that the young people grow through, including education and health.

Mumbi Ndung'u, co-founder and executive director of Power Learn Project, a pan-African tech talent development organization in Kenya, noted that the rapidly evolving job market demands innovative solutions to equip young people with the skills needed to tackle future challenges.

Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Rwanda Belen Calvo Uyarra reaffirmed the EU's commitment to empowering young leaders and job creators through its Youth Action Plan, making them strategic partners in its Global Gateway strategy.

"This summit is a testament to Africa and Rwanda's dynamic, innovative youth. They hold the key to Africa's future, making them pivotal in shaping it," she said.



In this ever-changing world, it is crucial that we empower our youth with relevant and adaptive skills



Wilson Nyamanga (3rd-L), a representative of the Energy ministry permanent secretary, pictured in Dar es Salaam on Friday presenting a certificate to one of 25 students who have landed Master's degree scholarships in Sustainable Energy Engineering (Energy Efficiency). The students will study at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology with funding from UNDP, the European Union and the Embassy of Ireland. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

African nations urge enhanced ties on mineral value addition

JUBA

REPRESENTATIVES from member countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) have called for close cooperation on technology, infrastructure, energy raw materials, and skills to move beyond the export of mineral raw materials.

The three-day ICGLR meeting concluded on Friday, under the theme "A Harmonised Regional Approach for Mineral Value Addition and Cross-Border Trade for the Maximisation of Benefits from Mineral Resources and Promotion of Peace and Stability."

ICGLR Executive Secretary Joao Samuel Caholo said that the mineral markets in the region are primarily volatile and fraught with environmental and social governance issues, while the solution to enhance market competition is through collaborative efforts.

"Mineral exploitation without

value addition does not adequately contribute to employment creation, poverty reduction, and sustainable economic development," Caholo said in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

He noted that collaboration will help reduce raw material exports and maximize the benefits of minerals by building robust local markets and increasing profits for citizens and tax revenues for governments.

"We need to enhance collaboration with academia, private sector, and research institutions to promote innovations and centers of excellence, which can help to promote bankable projects for our youth," he said.

Moses Michael Engadu, secretary-general of the Africa Minerals Strategy Group, called on member states to increase budgetary allocation to the mining and mineral development sector.

"This is often not reflected in our national budgets, but without

minerals you cannot have food security because you need fertilizers, without cement you cannot build houses, so I could go on and say that without minerals you cannot power industrialization," Engadu said.

He emphasized the need for comprehensive and integrated systematic explorations, as they are essential in realizing mineral value addition across the continent. "When we have bankable data, we can understand what our mineral wealth is, and we can be able to sit in negotiating tables with a better position," Engadu said.

South Sudan's Minister for Mining Martin Gama Abucha urged governments to prioritize formalizing the business of artisanal miners.

"Today in South Sudan, we have over 100,000 artisanal miners in the gold sector. We produce over 30 tonnes of gold per year from artisanal and small-scale miners, so we should think about how we can support the member states to organize

and formalize these artisanal miners," he said.

Timo Oikkonen, head of the European Union delegation in South Sudan, said ICGLR has proven to be a forum for peace and prosperity for all the 12 Great Lakes countries.

"In today's multipolar world characterized by unseen levels of conflict and intense global demand for critical raw materials, there is ever bigger momentum for regional partnerships governed by common interest and mutual trust that allow pursuing ambitious objectives, such as the development of regionally integrated mineral value chains for economic growth," he said.

ICGLR is an inter-governmental organization of 12 member states including Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, the Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Tourism stakeholders would do better in diversifying, branding of attractions

LATEST reports say that tourism stakeholders and environmental activists, with the participation of the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry, are organising what is said to be a ground-breaking tourism policy reform summit.

Some clear ideas are being floated but they are hardly deep enough as the event takes the public sector as it is, basically represented by the ministry and the tourism board, to talk about taxes, regulations and compliance.

Thus, describing kind of convivial discussion as reform where it is wished that the government relaxes its controls as reform may be too optimistic.

The key organisers are the Tourism Confederation of Tanzania (TCT) working with an activist group known as Environment Now, linked up with the ministry to organise an event under the theme: 'Blue and green: Making the most of Tanzania's coast and hinterland ecosystems'.

What doesn't appear to have been realised by the organisers to put that idea in the stakeholder summit is diversifying the product on the basis not just of natural endowments as at present but in the offer, and targeted market. That would have to require specialised investor-managements, not uniform state entities.

The focus on the part of organisers was noticeably different and rather thin on explicit preliminary vision of what needs to be done, when stakeholders meet in Dar es Salaam on Thursday and Friday.

There is no doubt that the limited suggestions on sustainable tourism are largely aligning with the envisaged development goals of the national Vision 2050, but the more substantial issue is competitive tourism.

Tanzania boasts more than 20 national parks as well as a plethora of game reserves and wildlife controlled areas, while there are countries with

a slice of what we offer but they get many more tourists than we do.

The key issue is that we offer more of the same from one part of the country's attractions to the other, and many of the differences there may be arise more from natural events and landscapes like the Serengeti wildebeest migration vs the tree climbing lions of the Manyara, etc.

There are hunting paradise areas like the Selous Game Reserve which was sliced out to create a new national park in the past decade, and to many people it was but a mere change in status rather than in business prospects.

It is hard to figure out what is gained by routine palavers where public and private sector institutions and various entities get a platform for discussing strategies to enhance tourism as an industry.

They are merely reminded that they need to ensure that sustainability, environmental protection and socio-economic growth are at the heart of the discussion instead of looking at the various interests.

New ideas best arise from actual reform where wide-ranging investment opportunities arise, while stakeholders appear to be poised to hold a tax and regulations summit.

A rallying formulation provides a glimpse into the mindset - that, with the country's rich natural landscapes like the coastal areas and hinterlands, the event will focus on exploring sustainable approaches to the development of tourism.

The idea is that such ways or methods preserve the environment and drive economic growth - a placid formulation, as the tourism industry is just recovering from pre-pandemic growth rates, not doing more.

It is part of the wider atmosphere where local decision-makers and their international colleagues are fully anchored into predominance of the public sector as a basic perspective, just seeking to tidy up a few regulations.

Wider biotech debate on agro-sector challenges can strike usable balance

SCIENTISTS at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) have expressed commitment to research efforts on biotechnology to better understand the benefits and risks of technology at the local level, asserting that biotechnology is a versatile field.

This involves using biological systems to create products and solve problems, a rather stringent definition as it appears to leverage products from nature to tackle threats often arising from nature, like pests.

Biotechnology uses organic products, not all of what is available in technology, and this outlook appears to be gaining popularity.

There was a weekend panel discussion at an annual meeting of the Crop Science Association of Tanzania (CROSAT) in our commercial capital, where the discussion had biotechnology researchers from Tanzania, Belgium and Kenya.

These were examining organic technology openings in crop improvement and the wider perspectives on these methods.

Commercially, this is a rich field as many markets abroad are averse first to pesticides and then to genetic modification, both excluded at the panel event. SUA aspires to be a centre of excellence for biotechnology research, opening large flows of research funds into vast areas where it is applicable, but this perspective loses focus on the urgency of certain issues.

Biotechnology is vital for export markets as they receive crops from farms whose technology methods they approve. An example relates to horticulture, where pesticide use is more or less out of the question. But if one comes to address challenges like stunting and malnutrition, issues are

altered.

There is a clear policy imbalance leading to a skewed scenario in professional and ultimately public perception on the issues. It is that those seeking research funds know what sort of ideas will get that backing - and they have a strong export lobby to back them up.

However, those who could alter the protein or vitamin content of crops in a rapid manner are seen as businesspeople, selling 'genetic seeds' to dominate the market. Environment lobbies work to preserve local seeds, and hence local stunting?

This situation reflects the typical pyramidal structure of public sector dominance and the dependency mentality, where most public entities take the cue from state inclinations - which has to do with aid groups and their prerogatives.

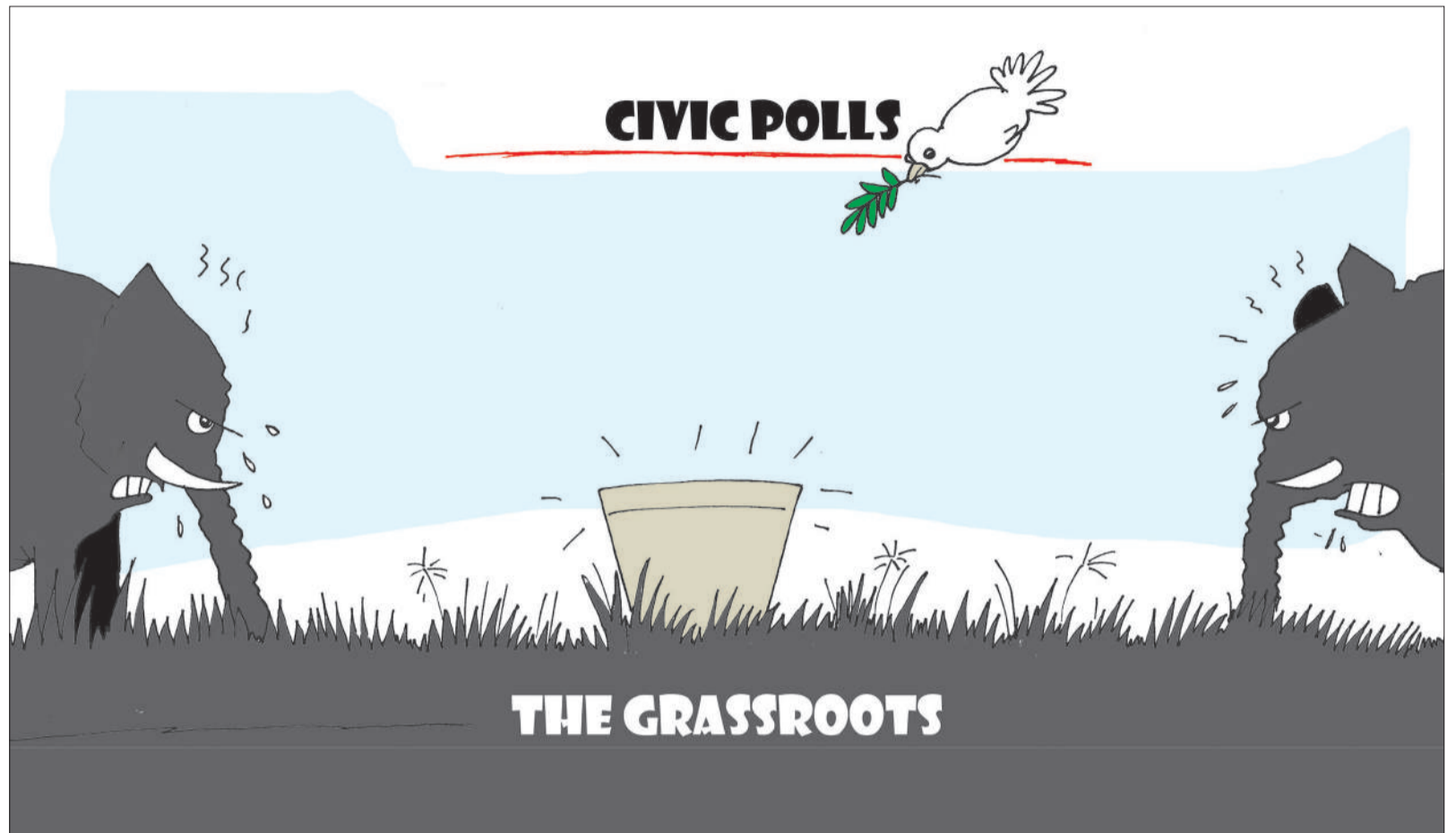
So, there is no explicit policy to address stunting as it needs improved seeds where the lack of animal protein on a routine basis will not do as much harm. In this funding mindset, public agencies educate people on balanced diets while literally banning modified seeds.

An academic administrator at the panel asserted that the rather slow adoption of biotechnology in Tanzania and many other African countries stemmed from perennial misunderstandings of technology.

The academic authority pleaded for the scrapping of draconian controls restricting local researchers from fully participating in biotechnology research and development.

There was a lot of truism in the remark, but it sort of mixed up genetic modification with the harmless organic research they are pursuing - which can boost exports in ten years but just can't end stunting.

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UN Biodiversity COP16 (Oct 21 - Nov 1) in perspective

By Special Correspondents

THE African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has commended the significant advancements made at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 1 under the theme "Peace with Nature".

It has noted that the conference highlighted a strengthened global resolve to promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable conservation efforts. However, the lack of closure in negotiations and the suspension of the meeting sends a clear message that more work needs to be done to reach a common agreement on substantive issues related to reversing biodiversity loss globally.

The conference was intended as a critical status check on the world's progress towards protecting biodiversity, while all indicators are now flashing red.

Participating countries were urged to submit either national targets or revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the conference.

Curiously, only 115 countries out of a possible 196 submitted national targets and 36 presented national biodiversity strategies and action plans aligned to the Global Biodiversity Framework. This specifies the agreed set of targets and strategies adopted at (the December 7 - 19, 2022) COP15 in Montreal, Canada.

One of AWF's major concerns is that countries are not on track to meet the target of protecting 30 per cent of the world's land and water by 2030 - a vital goal to curb biodiversity loss and prevent the degradation of ecosystems essential to planetary health.

"This is below target and without substantial progress in conserving critical ecosystems, the cascading consequences for all countries will be severe, affecting food security, climate resilience and global stability," noted Frederick Kwame Kumah, AWF's Global Leadership and Policy lead.

Finance remains the primary sticking point, with a notable disconnect between pledges and the level of funding necessary to meet the targets.

The AWF official said that despite expectations that US\$20 billion would be committed to conserving the planet's biodiversity by 2025, contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) have only reached a paltry US\$370 million.

Additionally, there has been almost no advancement in shifting harmful subsidies that drive deforestation, pollution and other forms of environmental destruction.

"While 46 African countries have submitted national targets, with Uganda among the first globally to submit an updated national biodiversity strategy action plan, the suspension of COP16 without a decision on resource

mobilisation signals a pause at a critical juncture, underscoring the need for greater cooperation and funding to turn commitments into actionable change," emphasized Simangele Msweli, AWF's senior manager for youth programmes.

Despite the disappointing end to negotiations in Cali, AWF noted certain steps forward, one being the creation of the Subsidiary Board for Full and Effective Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

AWF described this as a landmark achievement that recognized the critical role IPLCs play in safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity.

It said the body would be a fundamental means of ensuring that IPLCs have a formal platform to contribute their deep-rooted knowledge and experience, which have been vital for effective conservation practices.

It also saw this step as aligning with AWF's own mission of elevating IPLCs in conservation governance, fostering culturally respectful and ecologically sound policies.

The establishment of the Cali Fund for benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequencing Information (DSI) meanwhile underscores a commitment to creating fairness in the utilisation of natural assets and their components.

AWF says it supports efforts that empower local and Indigenous communities to access the economic benefits derived from their biodiversity resources, ensuring that these resources are utilised sustainably and ethically.

This outcome promotes a conservation model that preserves natural habitats and contributes to economic resilience and long-term community development.

The elevation of the need to recognize and support the essential role played by Afro-descendant communities in conservation is a testament to their historical and ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

AWF has openly acknowledged this as a step towards correcting long-standing inequities and ensuring that these communities have a voice in shaping conservation strategies impacting their lands and livelihoods.

By championing their contributions, COP16 is seen paving the way for more inclusive partnerships and the integration of diverse perspectives that enrich conservation efforts.

The adoption of the first-ever Global Plan for Biodiversity and Health acknowledges the intricate link between ecosystem health and human wellbeing.

This outcome underscores that conserving biodiversity is an environmental imperative and a public health priority.

As the world navigates post-pandemic recovery, AWF has expressed support for the protection and restoration of natural habitats to

strengthen resilience against future health crises.

It has appealed to its global partners to integrate health considerations into conservation strategies, fostering partnerships between public health, environmental sectors and local communities to promote a holistic, nature-based approach to global health security.

Just ahead of the November 11 - 22 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, AWF has commended the biodiversity conference negotiators for reaffirming the critical connection between biodiversity conservation and climate action, emphasizing the importance of cooperation between biodiversity and climate conventions.

AWF chief executive officer Kaddu Sebunya has affirmed: "Addressing the intertwined biodiversity and climate crises is essential for achieving lasting, impactful solutions. AWF champions cohesive policies and collaborative strategies, emphasizing the importance of forging stronger partnerships and ensuring robust commitments to climate and conservation finance to co-design initiatives that build resilience, particularly in regions like Africa, where the dual impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss are most severe."

"Committed to equity, effectiveness and the urgency of collective action, we stand ready to work hand in hand with global partners to drive meaningful progress that aligns with the aspirations of all committed to this vital mission."

With the suspension of convenings after two weeks of intense negotiations at the UN's CBD-COP16 in Cali, Colombia, Linda Krueger - The Nature Conservancy's Head of Delegation and Global Director of Biodiversity/Infrastructure Policy - summarised key outcomes.

She said: "After the momentous agreement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at CBD-COP15, this was supposed to be the time where the world moved from agreement to action and made Peace with Nature. However, despite round-the-clock negotiations, Parties have failed on the first hurdle to show that they have the ambition and will to fully put the vital plans of the GBF into effect."

"There had been traction on key areas including the creation of the Cali Fund - an innovative mechanism that will stimulate private finance for nature by sharing the benefits generated through commercial use of Digital Sequencing Information of genetic resources."

"There has also been growing corporate commitment to biodiversity, and burgeoning momentum behind mainstreaming - the embedding of GBF thinking across economic sectors - as part of wider efforts to galvanise resource mobilisation."

"Elsewhere, agreement on the process for identifying potential marine protected areas bodes well for the 30x30 target of conserving 30 per cent

of Earth's ecosystems by 2030, while recognition is also clearly growing of the need to align climate and biodiversity policies more closely.

"Additionally, the agreement to establish a subsidiary body to include Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in future biodiversity talks is a welcome move for recognising traditional knowledge as vital for the protection of global and national biodiversity."

"But with the COP suspended without the adoption of a resource mobilisation strategy to scale up finance for biodiversity - and mainstream biodiversity in the financial planning of governments, the financial sector and businesses - little traction can be made on any of the agreements at all. It is our hope Parties can reconvene the COP as soon as possible, and fast-track the action the world desperately needs to move the GBF forward."

"Ringfencing sufficient funding for nature remains an overwhelming priority - the fresh wave of financial commitments made in Cali, though welcome, were insufficient to bridge the 'nature gap' we highlighted pre-COP15, and resource mobilisation remains a key item yet to be adopted. Simply put: we need more finance ministers to start showing up to CBD-COPs!"

"The irreversible effects of biodiversity loss will not pause while Parties figure out a process for approving the budget. Urgent action to finalise these negotiations must be the priority of all Parties."

"The number of countries yet to submit national biodiversity roadmaps (NBSAPs) to the UN also speaks to a collective capacity crunch at policymaking level."

"That said, by the time of the COP's suspension, 119 countries had submitted some level of GBF-aligned national targets - indicating that even in turbulent times, governments are still treating nature loss with increasing seriousness. It is this spirit of pragmatic environmental momentum at global level that we need to carry forward to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan."

"The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organisation dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, it creates innovative, on-the-ground solutions to the world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together."

The agency fights to tackle climate change, conserve lands, waters and oceans at an unprecedented scale, provide food and water sustainably and help make cities more sustainable.

It works in 81 countries and territories through a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector and other partners.

Headquartered in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, AWF is meanwhile a registered organisation in the United States and a registered charity in the UK and Canada.

Campaign against malnutrition: Need for enhanced knowledge on properties and intake of healthy diet

By Telesphor Magobe

TANZANIA'S campaign against malnutrition in some parts of the country, particularly southern highlands, is under way.

A report titled "Mainland Tanzania Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for a Healthy Population: Technical Recommendations" (FBDGs) published last year by the Ministry of Health says malnutrition in form of stunting stands at 34 per cent, underweight at 14.6 per cent of children aged below 5 years and 7 per cent of women.

It also says overweight and obesity stand at 32 per cent of women and there is a high incidence of micronutrient deficiencies affecting all age groups.

"Stunting affects one in every three children and while wasting remains at 5 per cent, there is an increase in overweight and obesity among all age groups." The report seeks to improve the nutrition and health status of Tanzanians and strengthen a link between agriculture, nutrition and health.

Another report titled "Guidance for monitoring healthy diets globally" published this year by WHO, FAO and UNICEF defines malnutrition as "deficiencies or excesses in nutrient intake, imbalance of essential nutrients or impaired nutrient utilisation."

It says malnutrition covers two broad groups of conditions. One is under nutrition, which includes stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), underweight (low weight for age) and micronutrient deficiencies or insufficiencies (lack of important vitamins and minerals).

The other includes overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer.

It says healthy diets are essential for good nutrition and health because they help protect against all forms of malnutrition and many NCDs. Therefore, the report stresses, "access to a healthy diet is a fundamental human right."

It suggests that unhealthy diet intake is responsible for morbidity and mortality globally and many countries, particularly low and middle-income



countries, face nutrition and health issues caused by the co-existence of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity.

"In 2017, one in five deaths globally, equivalent to 11 million deaths, were associated with poor diets, and diet-related chronic diseases." Referring to WHO data, it says the total annual number of deaths attributable to NCDs will increase from 36 million in 2008 to 55 million by 2030

if effective preventive measures are not taken.

Thus, the report identifies four properties, which best reflect healthy diets for the purposes of monitoring, namely 1) nutrient adequacy, 2) macronutrient balance, 3) diversity and 4) moderation. In relation to nutrient adequacy, it stresses sufficient quantity and quality of nutrient (micronutrients, macronutrients, energy) intake to cover nutrient requirements, without excess.

In relation to macronutrient balance, it stresses making a balance of energy-yielding macronutrients: carbohydrates, proteins and fats. In relation to diversity, it says diets are composed of diverse foodstuffs derived from distinct healthy food groups and the dietary diversity between and within the food groups reflects a greater probability of meeting nutrient requirements.

In relation to moderation, it stresses limited intake of

foodstuffs and nutrients associated with the risks of NCDs such as processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, salt, trans-fats - that is trans-fatty acids - a type of unsaturated fat that can be harmful to health, according to an open educational resource (OER).

"Trans-fats are found in many processed foodstuffs, including baked products, fried foods, shortening, margarine, and some vegetable oils as well as meat and dairy products from ru-

minant animals, such as cows, sheep, and goats."

Health risks associated with excessive intake of trans-fats include heart disease, certain cancers and other health problems.

The guidance for monitoring healthy diets globally report says monitoring priority properties provides information on the nutritional value of diets relevant to all forms of malnutrition: 1) stunting, wasting and underweight; 2) micronutrient deficiencies; 3) overweight, obesity and 4) other diet-related NCDs.

Moreover, it says two additional properties of healthy diets - food safety and nutrient density - were considered, but not selected as a priority because they are usually properties of foodstuffs rather than diets.

In relation to food safety, it says it is critical to ensure food is safe for human consumption, meaning it is free of microbial pathogens, food-borne macroparasites, toxins and harmful residues and chemical contaminants. In relation to nutrient density, it says this is a property of individual foodstuffs.

"Although nutrient density can be measured in a composite diet, the process of measuring this property across a diet can be difficult. Additionally, greater nutrient density is not always desirable (e.g. sugar, salt, trans-fats). Finally, nutrient adequacy and nutrient density, although distinct properties, are closely related."

According to FBDGs, a healthy diet comprises of these six groups of food 1) cereals, starchy roots, tubers, plantains and green bananas, 2) vegetables, 3) fruits, 4) pulses, nuts and oil seeds, 5) animal-source foods, and 6) healthy fats and oils.

The guidelines suggest that the groups are based on the key nutrients (carbohydrates, protein, fats/oils, vitamins and minerals) they supply to the diet and their contribution to a healthy life.

It suffices to say that knowledge and intake of a healthy diet matters a lot because it is how a person can be sure of healthy living and wellbeing.

By Telesphor Magobe

SDGs: Implementation of free, compulsory quality pre-primary education in Tanzania

SUSTAINABLE development goal (SDG) 4 calls for world governments to ensure they provide inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all children.

Target 4.2 in particular states that "By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education."

Tanzania welcomed this global call for one-year free and compulsory quality pre-primary education programme for five-year-old children in 2016. The 2023 Curriculum for Pre-primary Education was prepared following the 2014 Education and Training Policy from 2021-2022.

It embodies learning areas and anticipated competencies which aim at grooming schoolchildren and equipping them with knowledge, skills and positive attitudes that contribute to equality, justice and lifelong education to bring about sustainable national and international development.

Through a learner-centred, individualised, and play-based pedagogy approach schoolchildren develop intended skills and competencies needed in the 21st century and in the global digital economy (Daphina Libent-Mabagala and Richard Shukia, 2019). With this teaching pedagogy considered internationally as 'best practice' schoolchildren get skills and competencies needed in the rapidly evolving world.

In Tanzania's pre-primary education, schoolchildren are taught the skills of relationship, reading, writing, arts, creativity, sports and early numeracy skills, science, and the application of information communication technology (ICT). They also learn to appreciate their cultures, faith, national values, health and the care of nature.

Bethany Wilinski, Cuong Huy Nguyen



and Jessica Landgraf (from Michigan State University) in their paper published in 2016 suggest that the Tanzanian government has introduced a new diploma training programme for pre-primary education (PPE) teachers to build capacity and address a shortage of qualified PPE teachers. This adds value to PPE and this should go together with motivating them through better pay.

UNESCO and UNICEF (2024) suggest that out of 194 countries worldwide, only 46 countries

have adopted at least one year of both free and compulsory pre-primary education. They suggest that the right to pre-primary education can support significant improvements in schoolchildren's learning opportunities which ultimately contribute greatly to the country's welfare.

Based on research-based evidence they say access and exposure to quality learning opportunities early in life "supports the stimulation and development of foundational skills needed for

school readiness and success in primary school."

According to their study, early years are important for building foundational numeracy skills and teachers can influence children's attitudes to maths learning, which arises from complex interactions between emerging cognitive skills and the social-cultural context. "Educators can help build positive attitudes and improve children's learning by creating a supportive environment that encourages numeracy

activities and diminishes anxiety around maths or even science."

UNESCO and UNICEF (2024) say lack of pedagogical training impacts the quality of PPE. This is because the global average of pre-primary teachers who have received minimum required pedagogical training is 85 per cent, but just 57 per cent in low-income countries. "For the last decade, the proportion of trained teachers has been steadily decreasing by 0.4 percentage points annually," their report shows.

They say the global pupil-trained teacher ratio in PPE is 17:1, reaching 54:1 in sub-Saharan Africa and 60:1 in low-income countries. From their findings they say globally, the pupil-trained teacher ratio has decreased by 1.5 percentage points annually between 2010 and 2012 to 2022, indicating that over time, teachers are teaching smaller groups of children, except in low-income countries where the ratio increased by 0.8 percentage points.

To meet global demand, they say at least 6 million more teachers must be recruited to reach universal enrolment for one year of pre-primary education by 2030. "A new simulation exercise showed that to reach a pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 20:1 globally before 2030,

at least 6.2 million additional teachers are needed. This figure would amount to 7.4 million teachers if the PTR benchmark was set to 15:1, and 11.1 million teachers based on a 10:1 PTR benchmark."

The report says sub-Saharan Africa needs at least 2 million more teachers to reach a PTR of 20:1 and new teaching positions are needed more than replacements due to attrition, especially in Central Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (2024) suggests despite the multiple benefits of education, 482 million poor people live in households where one or more children are out of school. It says the MPI value is highest in sub-Saharan Africa (0.254), where the indicators contributing most to poverty are years of schooling, school attendance and nutrition, which together account for nearly half of the MPI value in roughly equal proportions.

As seen above, in 2016 Tanzania welcomed the global call to implement one-year free and compulsory PPE, which involves training of teachers as facilitators of this learner-centred education. Quality PPE goes hand-in-hand with adequate spending without which no anticipated foundational and lifelong learning will take place. So, adequate investment in quality PPE must be ongoing to meet anticipated learning achievement.

Polio vaccination campaign in Gaza misses thousands of children

UNITED NATIONS

On November 6, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the second round of polio vaccinations in the Gaza Strip has been completed. A total of 556,744 children under ten years of age received the mOPV2 vaccine along with a dose of vitamin A to ensure immunization. However, due to rampant hostilities from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), the campaign has not been entirely successful, leading to humanitarian organizations fearing that herd immunity has not been achieved.

During a United Nations (UN) press briefing, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric informed reporters that despite the numerous access challenges faced by aid personnel, the campaign has been relatively successful. Approximately 103 percent of children in central Gaza were immunized, meaning that more children in this region were reached than expected. 91 percent of the children in southern Gaza received the vaccines.

However, northern Gaza has been of great concern for humanitarian groups due to frequent access challenges and hostilities since September. Preliminary data from the UN suggests that only 88 percent of children in this region received the vaccine.

Figures from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) show that there are an estimated 7,000-10,000 children that remain unvaccinated in the Jabalia, Beit Lahiyah and Beit Hanoun regions.

According to a press release from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, at least 90 percent vaccination coverage during each round of the campaign is necessary in order to effectively stop the outbreak in Gaza and prevent the international re-emergence of polio. Due to Gaza's compromised healthcare, water, and sanitation systems, civilians are particularly vulnerable to the spread of disease.

Escalated hostilities in the Gaza Strip in the days preceding the completion of the second round of vaccinations had significantly hampered immunization efforts. Despite the campaigns in central and southern Gaza having run relatively smoothly, hostilities in northern Gaza in the days preceding the completion of the second round of vaccinations had significantly hampered immunization efforts.

On the impact of a polio vaccination campaign in the context of Gaza, Dr. Annie Sparrow, an Associate Professor of Global Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, told IPS: "In situations like Gaza with widespread malnutrition and poor health due to Israel's forced displacement and starvation strategy, vaccination is much less effective, meaning more rounds are needed. Moreover, to effectively curb polio, vaccination must be supplemented by chlorinated water, but Israel has destroyed Gaza's sanitation system and for more than a year has prevented the import of chlorine which is essential for purifying water, and it even withholds aqua tabs for household use."



A child receiving his second dose of the polio vaccine at a health clinic in Gaza City. Credit: UNICEF/Eyad El Baba

On November 2, the IDF issued an airstrike on a health-care center in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City. WHO reported that this attack led to six civilians being injured, including four children.

"This attack, during humanitarian pause, jeopardizes the sanctity of health protection for children and may deter parents from bringing their children for vaccination. These vital humanitarian-area-specific pauses must be absolutely respected," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, in a statement issued to X (formerly known as Twitter).

Attacks in the Gaza Strip have continued after the humanitarian pause designated for the vaccination campaign was lifted. The recent bills passed by the Knesset exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) can no

longer play their pivotal role in providing aid. Israel's ongoing aerial campaign in Gaza has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, decimated entire neighborhoods, and made areas in the northern region, such as Jabalia, Beit Lahiyah, and Beit Hanoun almost uninhabitable. In a press release from WHO, the situation in northern Gaza has been described as "apocalyptic". It added that dozens of school-turned-shelters have been targeted by the IDF or evacuated. Tents have been burned and refugees have been shot at. Injured civilians are taken to almost non-functioning healthcare centers, in which life-saving services have been disrupted and essential supplies and equipment have been destroyed.

Additionally, millions have been displaced from their homes, with Gaza being one of the biggest displacement crises in the world. On October 5, IDF Brigadier-General Itzik Cohen informed reporters that civilians from northern Gaza would not be allowed to return to their homes. Cohen cited that troops entered certain areas twice, such as the Jabalia camp, and therefore, allowing Gazans to return there would complicate security efforts. He added that routine humanitarian aid deliveries would be allowed in the southern and central regions of Gaza, but not the north, since, as he claimed, "there are no more civilians left."

UNRWA's absence in the Gaza Strip is expected to be severely felt by the approximately 2 million people struggling to stay alive.

"The decision (Israel's bills banning UNRWA) will further undermine the ability of the international community to provide sufficient humanitarian aid and to save lives in any safe, independent and impartial way. Israel has bombed Palestinians to death, maimed them, starved them, and is now ridding them of their biggest lifeline of aid. Piece by piece, Israel is systematically dismantling Gaza as a land that is autonomous and liveable for Palestinians," says Sally Abi Khalil, Oxfam Regional Director in the Middle East and North Africa.

On November 6, UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini addressed the UN General Assembly, urging the UN to prevent the implementation of Israel's two most recent bills.

"Without intervention by member states, UNRWA will collapse, plunging millions of Palestinians into chaos," Lazzarini said. "First, I ask that Member States act to prevent the implementation of the legislation against UNRWA. Second, I ask that Member States ensure that any plan for a political transition delineates UNRWA's role. Finally, I ask that Member States maintain funding to UNRWA, and do not withhold or divert funds on the assumption that the Agency can no longer operate."

Lazzarini reminded the General Assembly of the toll that UNRWA and its staff has taken through the duration of the crisis. 239 UNRWA personnel has been killed, and more than two thirds of UNRWA's facilities had been damaged or destroyed. Lazzarini urged that these violations of international humanitarian law be investigated. It is estimated that the costs of providing funding to UNRWA in this transitional period will be immense. However, dismantling UNRWA will be particularly costly as well. Through its flash appeal, the UN is seeking over 1.2 billion dollars in funding to assist over 1.7 million people who are facing extreme conditions. Due to the recent banning of UNRWA, these costs are estimated to be much higher. It is crucial for donor contributions to continue as humanitarian aid is still being blocked in northern Gaza. Conditions are expected to further deteriorate as the harsh winter season approaches.

IPS UN Bureau Report

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

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

Resolving land conflicts through inclusive participation of rural community members

MANY rural communities in Tanzania currently know their land rights and how to access them whether through legal or customary laws. Through education and awareness campaigns conducted by district councils, village governments and civil society organisations, community members understand the value of land and this does not only increase the pressure on land owners to protect their land but also ignites the urge in some individuals to acquire more land by whatever means. The situation has often led to conflicts between individuals as well as communities.

Land grabbing is not the only cause of conflict in rural areas, there is also trespass of land users when an individual or a group conducts activities on land that belongs to other people without the latter's consent, like when pastoralists graze herds of cattle in farms.

Cases of human rights violations where for example a village is relocated to give way for huge investments are also known to cause conflicts. Families that are relocated may not only lose habitat but also reliable and sustainable sources of livelihoods. This may result in a conflict between authorities and the aggrieved community.

Bad governance and corruption, when administrators do not abide by laid down procedures, rules and regulations in dealing with land issues or where such administrators circumvent existing legislation to further their personal interests, is another cause of conflicts. The situation could be worse in cases where there is no proper demarcation of land and land use plans do not exist. The increase in human and livestock population has often led to insecurity of land tenure and ultimately to conflicts, some of which have turned violent.

"A lot of conflicts have been resolved in the village in the past two years because most of the villagers have had their pieces of land surveyed and mapped. Some have already made land use plans as they wait to be issued with Customary Certificates of Right of Occupancy (CCRO)," explains Evarist Botha, Village Executive Officer (VEO) for Viwanja Sitini Village in Mlimba District Council. He says that it has been possible to reduce land conflicts because of cooperation between the village government, Mlimba District Council and an NGO, Tanzania Grass Roots Oriented Development (TAGRODE). The three



Community members must participate fully in resolving land conflicts

parties teamed up to educate villagers on the importance of having their pieces of land mapped as a means of protecting ownership and secure tenure. "No one was left out in this process because we wanted to ensure that every villager knows the boundary of their land. There would be limited chance encroachment into someone else's property. There are still a few villagers who are reluctant to have their land surveyed for their own reasons but we insist that land which has been surveyed has more value than a piece that has not been mapped. They stand to lose," explained Botha.

According to the VEO, the major conflict that TAGRODE has managed to resolve through implementation of its Enhancing land rights and land security of Rural Communities in Iringa and Morogoro Regions project is the conflict between Mpanga and Viwanja Sitini Villages which had lasted for about 20 years. The conflict had prohibited people from both sides to use the contested area for farming and

other activities. The safety of families in the area was at stake as violence sometimes erupted whenever people from either village would cultivate the land or graze their herds.

"It all started in 1999 when the government established a new settlement of Viwanja Sitini in an area that was deemed open land. The village was started in preparation for elections that would be held the following year. However, Mpanga village government protested that part of the land taken by the new village was theirs and no one should settle on it," said Botha.

Over the years the situation has remained volatile as efforts to resolve the conflict have been unsuccessful, mainly because community members from Mpanga and Viwanja Sitini were not given enough space to participate in reaching a decision that would be acceptable to all.

"When TAGRODE started its project in Viwanja Sitini last year it could not make any headway due to the conflict. Negotiations started to resolve

it. Village government officials from both villages together with village land councils met for negotiations. Representatives from Mlimba District Council and staff from TAGRODE also participated in the negotiations and decisions from negotiating parties were presented to both village assemblies which approved them. A new boundary between the two villages was thus drawn" explained Botha, adding that the conflict caused significant delay in starting the project.

Simon Nduye is the chairman of the land use planning committee for Viwanja Sitini Village. He says that most of land conflicts in villages are a result of irresponsible and corrupt leaders because they work for their interests and not that of the public.

"Take the conflict between the Mpanga and Viwanja Sitini Villages, for example. On several occasions decisions were reached but when it came to implementation, leaders grew cold feet because they had taken bribes. That conflict shouldn't have lasted two

decades. Even small conflicts between farmers and pastoralists have persisted in the villages because village government leaders take bribes which makes them reluctant to enforce decisions made during village assemblies," explains Nduye.

Commenting on Mpanga - Viwanja Sitini conflict, acting District Land Development Officer Hiyasinti Libandama says that the conflict should not have taken so long to resolve but village government leaders from both sides lacked integrity. "It was a big conflict that shouldn't have been left to grow so big. In the course of resolving, it came to light that government leaders failed to enforce decisions made by village assemblies because they were corrupt and as such could not work for public interest," he explains. He says that when all parties were given opportunity to participate fully in decision making, implementation of the decision to set a new boundary followed immediately thanks to TAGRODE. "Now the villagers live in peace and engage in agriculture activities to improve their food security and their economy," adds Libandama.

Corruption in land governance has high social costs affecting food security, social justice and environmental protection. It can reinforce social norms that exclude women from benefiting from economic opportunities provided by land tenure. The impact of land corruption is especially significant because of the large number of small-scale landholders whose livelihoods depend on their access to land. When conflicts erupt their sources of livelihoods are threatened.

"Corruption in land governance can increase levels of poverty and hunger because it reduces access to land and damages the livelihoods of small producers, landless rural populations, and the urban poor. Studies show that the poor are more vulnerable to bribery and this exposure to bribery, besides reducing an already poor household's income, could discourage poor people from regulating their own land, which might compromise their future land entitlement and livelihood," reads part of a USAID brief.

As forests felled, wood shortage hits villagers in Zimbabwe

By Jeffrey Moyo, Chimanimani

LINET Makwera (28) has a baby strapped on her back as she totters barefoot, picking tiny pieces of wood on both sides of a dusty and narrow road, peering fearfully at people passing by along the road in Chimanimani's Mutambara area in Gonzoma village located in Zimbabwe's Manicaland Province, east of the country.

Her fears, Makwera says, are the patrolling plain clothes police officers, who often target people, cutting down the few available trees in search of firewood.

In the midst of firewood shortages nationwide, more than 300,000 trees were destroyed between 2000 and 2010, according to Zimbabwe's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

In fact, in 2011, the Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe found out that the country was losing about 330,000 hectares of forests per year. According to Global Forest Watch in 2010, Zimbabwe had 1.01 Mha of natural forest, extending over 2.7 percent of its land area. In 2023, it lost 4.67 kha of natural forest, equivalent to 3.27 Mt of CO emissions.

A slight drop from the previous one, currently, Zimbabwe's annual deforestation rate is estimated to be at 262,348.98 hectares per annum, the Forestry Commission says.

According to UNDP in 2022, the use of local forests for fuel wood has also been one of the many drivers of deforestation in the country.

UNDP has been on record, saying presently, fuel wood accounts for over 60 percent of the total energy supply in the country and almost 98 percent of rural people rely on fuel wood for cooking and heating.

The Forestry Commission says up to 11 million tons of firewood are needed for domestic cooking, heating and tobacco curing every year in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is ranked top of the United Nations-ranked Least Developed Coun-



Cart laden with firewood in Gonzoma, Zimbabwe.

tries (LDCs) that have battled the highest rate of deforestation in the world, as many rural dwellers here depend on firewood for cooking.

Yet still, even as the felling of trees for firewood gets worse and worse in Zimbabwe, it is a crime for anybody to be found cutting trees for any purpose without the authorities' blessing.

If caught on the wrong side of the law, a wood poacher can be fined \$200 to \$5,000

Like many villagers domiciled in her remote area, Makwera has to battle with firewood deficits as the for-

ests disappear under massive deforestation.

But the laws prohibiting people from cutting down trees have also meant hard times for many, like Makwera.

Yet despite her struggles to find firewood often in order to cook food for her family, she (Makwera) has had to soldier on, just like many other villagers in her area.

With even the hills and mountains now running out of firewood in Makwera's village, life has never been the same for the villagers, as they do not have electricity, which, even though it might

have been there, would not have saved any purpose amid daily power cuts gripping the Southern African nation.

"Finding firewood is now a huge challenge. Yes, we buy. We have no choice. We suffer to find the firewood. In the hills and mountains where we used to find firewood, there is now nothing," said Makwera.

Named using vernacular Shona, a tsotso stove typically is a tin with holes pricked into it, with a few tiny sticks stashed inside the home-made stove to produce some fire heat needed for cooking.

Stung by the growing fire-

wood deficits, Zimbabwean villagers are even resorting to buying firewood from wood-poachers moving around in scotch carts touting for customers.

Such are many, like 33-year-old Tigere Mhike, also a resident of Gonzoma village, who said he has been for a long time earning his living through selling firewood to the desperate villagers.

He does this illegally, and in order to escape the wrath of law enforcers, Mhike said he and his assistant often operate under the cover of darkness in their search for the wooden gold.

"Where we live here, there are now too many people who are crowded. Some pieces of land that had plenty of firewood are now occupied by more and more people. We now have to travel very long distances, waking up very early in the mornings sometimes at 2am to go and search for firewood so that we deliver to the villagers wanting the firewood. We sell one scotch-cart full of firewood at 25 (US) dollars," said Mhike.

Amid incessant droughts actuated by climate change that have also led to the gradual disappearance of Zimbabwe's forests, with the use of tsotso stoves requiring fewer wood sticks to produce the cooking heat, villagers here have said they are gradually adapting to the crisis.

Even to environmental experts like Batanai Mutasa, part of the panacea to surmount firewood deficits has turned out to be the now popular

tsotso stoves in the face of Zimbabwe's laws forbidding the cutting down of trees.

Mutasa is also the spokesman for the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), a non-governmental organization comprising of legal minds fighting for this country's environment.

As the trees disappear amid firewood poaching in Zimbabwe's villages like Gonzoma in Manicaland Province, Mutasa has a piece of advice.

"My advice to people struggling to find firewood in remote areas is that they should work together to find other means that protect our trees from being damaged, things like using biogas or stoves that don't require much firewood like tsotso stoves," he said.

In worst case scenarios, said Mutasa, to preserve forests as they search for firewood, people should resort to just plucking off branches from the surviving trees to use these to make fire, leaving the trees alive.

Mutasa said: "Mainly, people should make it their habit to plant and replant trees. People can team up with authorities in their villages to fight off woodpoachers in their areas."

Another Gonzoma villager, Mzilikazi Rusawo, in his early sixties, said faced with desperate times in their search for firewood as the few forests are jealously guarded by law enforcers, they now have to seek permission from authorities before they cut selected trees for firewood.

When the truth becomes a lie: What Trump's election means for the world as we know it

NEW YORK

On the day following the US election, UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres issued a brief statement commending the people of the United States for their active participation in the democratic process. He wisely omitted mention that the election of Donald J. Trump - who attempted to overturn the people's mandate by inciting an insurrection in 2021 - is a major setback for the UN's worldwide quest to advance human rights and the rule of law. Trump is a self-avowed admirer of authoritarian strongmen like Russia's Vladimir Putin and Hungary's Viktor Orban who disdain international norms that the UN seeks to uphold.

Unsurprisingly, questions posed to the UN Secretary General's spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, in a press conference on November 6, ranged from what will be Trump's response to the war in Ukraine to potential funding cuts that might come with the new US administration to whether the UN has contingency plans ready for when Trump takes office.

The US plays an outsized role in global affairs. Therefore, any changes in policy in Washington impact the whole world. As someone who bears responsibility for stewarding a global civil society alliance, it worries me what a second Trump presidency will unleash.

Even without Trump in power we are living in a world where wars are being conducted with complete disregard for the rules; corrupt billionaires are dictating public policy for their benefit; and greed induced environmental degradation is putting us on a path to climate catastrophe. Hard fought gains on gender justice are in danger of being rolled back.



Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, addresses the General Debate of the General Assembly's 75th session September 2020. Credit: UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

The first Trump administration showed disdain for the UN Human Rights Council and pulled the US out of vital global commitments such as the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. It restricted support for civil society groups

around the world and targeted those that sought to promote sexual and reproductive rights of women. Promotion of democracy and human rights are key pillars of US foreign policy.

It's deeply concerning that when disinformation and misinformation have assumed pandemic level proportions, the majority of the US electorate have cast their vote in favour of a candidate who ran his campaign on divisive dog whistles, half-truths and outright lies. These tactics have deepened fissures in an already polarized United States.

Families countrywide were left devastated by Trump's negligence and COVID denialism as president which resulted in tens of thousands of Americans dying of avoidable infections. His administration's immigration detention and deportation policies instilled fear in minority communities. This time Trump has vowed to deport millions of people.

Trump's stances on abortion rights have caused women immeasurable suffering in several US states that have introduced laws to ban the procedure. He has promised to accelerate harmful fossil fuel extraction and undoubtedly views gender justice advocates, environmental defenders and migrant rights activists as a threat to his power.

Given the stated predilections of Trump and his advisors, opposition politicians, activists and journalists exposing corruption and rights violations are likely to be at risk of enhanced surveillance, intimidation and persecution by the new administration. At the international level, Trump's election casts a pall over efforts to ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocidal actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Sudan and Ukraine due to his tacit support for authoritarian leaders in Israel, Russia and the United Arab Emirates, all of whom are fueling conflicts and causing havoc abroad. A future Trump administration could try to starve the UN of funding to erode the rules based international order, emboldening autocrats.

Even if things appear bleak today, it's important to remember that there are hundreds and thousands of civil society activists and organisations around the world who remain steadfast in their resolve to celebrate diversity and promote justice and equality. To imagine the future we sometimes have to take heart from the past. India's freedom struggle, South Africa's struggle against apartheid and the civil rights movement in the United States weren't won by authoritarian leaders but by brave and determined individuals united in solidarity and determined to resist oppression for as long as it takes.

There is a lesson here for civil society in the US that higher American ideals are worth standing up for and will outlive any sitting president. Mandep S. Tiwana is Interim Co-Secretary General of CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance. He also serves as CIVICUS representative to the United Nations.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 207 00 -

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Across:

1 hit or strike heavily
 5 not previously known
 6 a member of a pastoral people
 7 private property taken from an enemy in war
 9 the religion of the Muslims
 12 gross
 13 anaemia
 15 Afternoon in kiswahili
 16 a thick oil substance
 17 supernatural power wielded by gods and demons in Hinduism

Down:

1 Lusaka is her mother city
 2 lie in a sheltered position
 3 an evil spirit
 4 the whole of a person's upper trunk
 5 relating to films
 8 very tiny, small
 10 trap for catching small animals
 11 Chief city of Jordan
 14 used to attract attention

Yesterday's Solutions

D	O	O	M	A	G	M	U	S	E	U	M	S			
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R	E	N	D	E	R	N	S	A	V	E	R	A	G	E	

Word Fit: RYE, HOWEVER, ARK, SHOPPER, HOME, ASK, SHALE, MEETS, PESACH, OTU, OMEGA, AWESOME, LEGATE.

Clue: 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.

Contact: Felix: 0789437309 / felixmagezi@gmail.

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

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Extreme weather costs \$2tn globally over past decade

By Ajit Niranjan

Violent weather cost the world \$2tn over the past decade, a report has found, as diplomats descend on the Cop29 climate summit for a tense fight over finance.

The analysis of 4,000 climate-related extreme weather events, from flash floods that wash away homes in an instant to slow-burning droughts that ruin farms over years, found economic damages hit \$451bn across the past two years alone.

The figures reflect the full cost of extreme weather rather than the share scientists can attribute to climate breakdown.

They come as world leaders argue over how much rich countries should pay to help poor countries clean up their economies, adapt to a hotter world and deal with the damage done by increasingly violent weather.

"The data from the past decade shows definitively that climate change is not a future problem," said John Denton, secretary-general of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), which commissioned the report. "Major productivity losses from extreme weather events are being felt in the here and now by the real economy."

The report found a gradual upward trend in the cost of extreme weather events between 2014 and 2023, with a spike in 2017 when an active hurricane season battered North America.

The US suffered the greatest economic losses over the 10-year period, at \$935bn, followed by China at \$268bn and India at \$112bn. Germany, Australia, France and Brazil all made the top 10.

When measured a person, small islands such as Saint Martin and the Bahamas saw the greatest losses.

Fire, water, wind and heat have wiped more and more dollars off government balance sheets as the world has grown richer, people have settled in disaster-prone regions, and fossil fuel pollution has baked the planet.

But until recent years, scientists struggled to estimate the extent of the role that humans played by warping extreme weather events with planet-heating gas.

Climate breakdown was responsible for more than half of the 68,000 heat deaths during the scorching European summer of 2022, a study found last month, and doubled the chance of the extreme levels of rainfall that hammered central Europe this September, an early attribution study found. In some other cases, re-



By 2030, it is estimated that up to 118 million extremely poor people will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat in Africa.

searchers found only mild effects or did not observe a climate link at all.

Ilan Noy, a disaster economist at Victoria University of Wellington, who was not involved in the ICC study, said its numbers align with previous research he had done but cautioned that the underlying data did not capture the full picture. "The main caveat is that these numbers actually miss the impact where it truly matters, in poor communities

and in vulnerable countries."

A study Noy co-wrote last year estimated the costs of extreme weather attributable to climate breakdown at \$143bn a year, mostly due to loss of human life, but was limited by data gaps, particularly in Africa.

Extreme weather events pose an increased risk to nature, buildings, infrastructure, and human health. These events, expected to increase in frequency and intensity because

of climate change, are already causing substantial damage and loss.

Extreme climate-related events have telling impacts on agriculture and food security in Africa.

In North Africa, for example, cereal production in 2023 was about 10 percent below the five year average estimated at 33 million tons in 2023, similar to the previous year's already drought stricken harvest. Tunisia was the worst hit.

Africa bears an increasingly heavy burden from climate change and disproportionately high costs for essential climate adaptation, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

On average, African countries are losing 2-5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and many are diverting up to 9 percent of their budgets responding to climate extremes.

By 2030, it is estimated that up to 118 million extremely poor people (living on less than US\$ 1.90 per day) will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat in Africa, if adequate response measures are not put in place. This will place additional burdens on poverty alleviation efforts and significantly hamper growth, according to figures cited in the report.

The African continent has been warming at a slightly faster rate than the global average, at about +0.3 °C per decade between 1991 and 2023. The warming has been most rapid in North Africa, around +0.4 °C per decade between 1991 and 2023, compared to +0.2 °C/decade between 1961 and 1990. Southern Africa experienced the lowest warming trend compared to the other sub-regions, around +0.2 °C/decade between 1991 and 2023.

Bankers' association mourns the death of Lawrence Mafuru

By Guardian Reporter

The Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) has expressed deep sorrow following the passing of Lawrence Nyasebwa Mafuru (pictured), who was serving as the Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission.

TBA Chairman Theobald Sabi shared a heartfelt tribute to Mafuru, recounting their intertwined careers and the profound impact Mafuru had on the banking and finance sectors in Tanzania.

Sabi fondly recalled, "My brother Lawrence, our paths were intertwined in so many meaningful ways. We began our banking careers together at Standard Chartered, and later, you became the Managing Director at NBC, the very bank I am now privileged to lead. Afterward, you took on the role of Chairman of the Tanzania Bankers Association, a position I currently serve. It feels as if you were quietly paving the way for me, leaving behind a blueprint for me to follow."

He went on to highlight Mafuru's extraordinary contributions to transforming Tanzania's financial landscape. Mafuru served as the CEO of NBC Bank, Chairman of the TBA, Treasury Registrar, and later as Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance.

Through these roles, he played a critical part in developing a resilient and competitive banking sector that is thriving today.



"I hold every conversation and every moment we shared together as colleagues and friends very dearly. When you took on the vital role of Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission, we were all excited, knowing we could count on your expertise in both private and public leadership to craft and execute a national development plan that would provide direction for our economy. The trust and confidence everyone placed in you was extraordinary," Sabi said.

Sabi described Mafuru as a dedicated professional whose commitment to excellence and vision was evident in every position he held, both in the private and public sectors. Outside of work, Mafuru was recognized as a devoted family man, a committed Christian, and a passionate sports enthusiast. "It's funny how, despite all these accolades, you were also the loudest in the room when your beloved Yanga and Arsenal won matches. At times, you were loud and irritating, I must say," Sabi added with a smile.

The TBA chairman em-

phasized that Mafuru was one of the most authentic, knowledgeable, and esteemed colleagues he had the honor to know and work with. "Tanzania has truly lost a patriotic son, a thought leader, and a titan in both the corporate and public sectors," said Sabi.

As they bid farewell, the TBA extended its gratitude to the Almighty for the gift of Mafuru's life and legacy. "Thank you for your inspiration, for paving the way, and for your crucial role in shaping our national development vision for the next 25 years. We will continue to honor your memory and uphold your legacy."

Mafuru was a distinguished financial expert with over 20 years of experience in banking, investment, and government policy.

He was a Certified Chartered Banker from the Chartered Institute of Bankers London and a Certified Financial Markets Dealer certified by ACI Financial Markets.

The late Mafuru will be buried on Friday, November 15th at Kondo Cemetery, Tegeta in Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Reporter

Members of the parliamentary committee on local governments have called on the Public Private Partnership Centre (PPPC) to broaden its awareness campaigns on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to include local government authorities.

The appeal was made during a PPP awareness seminar held yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

Currently, there are 13 solicited PPP projects in various local government authorities, including Arusha City Council, and Kinondo, Ilala, and Temeke Municipal Councils, at different stages of implementation.

"There is a pressing need to enhance awareness and understanding of the PPP concept, particularly among district executive directors," said Mwita Waitara, MP for Tarime Constituency.

He emphasized the importance of allocating strategic areas suitable for public-private projects within local authorities.

Saasisha Mafuwe, MP for Hai and committee member, highlighted the need for an improved business environment to attract more private investment, suggesting that the government should streamline procedures to reduce bureaucratic delays.

"The PPPC should identify areas where red tape hampers project approvals," he said. Mafuwe also stressed the importance of prioritizing local investors and recognizing potential project sites within local government jurisdictions.

Salome Makamba, an MP-Special Seat, raised concerns about potential overlaps between the



David Kafulila, PPP Centre Executive Director

MPs now advocate an increase in PPP awareness among local governments

roles of the PPPC and the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), urging that the focus should remain on productivity.

She called on the PPPC to identify regulatory challenges for parliamentary intervention.

Makamba expressed concerns about prolonged delays in project approvals, citing the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project, which has awaited finalization for over a decade. She also proposed establishing a dedicated PPPC officer within the parliamentary building to facilitate communication be-

tween investors and MPs.

PPPC Executive Director David Kafulila acknowledged that some government authorities face difficulties in contract preparation, which affects the readiness to implement PPP projects.

Other challenges include limited understanding of the PPP model, a history of poorly executed projects, and issues related to tax incentives for investors. "The business environment reforms introduced by the government have helped stimulate investments," Kafulila noted.

He emphasized that PPPs are vital for attracting private capital, technology, and managerial expertise while allowing the government to fulfill its responsibilities without straining the national budget.

Kafulila pointed out that the implementation of the third phase of the National Development Plan requires mobilizing 40trn/-

Currently, there are 60 PPP projects at various stages of development.

PPPs in Tanzania have proven essential for economic growth and infrastructure development, aligning with the goals outlined in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

With a focus on economic diversification, opportunities for both local and foreign investors in various sectors are expanding.

PPPs leverage the technical expertise, innovative solutions, and operational efficiencies of the private sector, which can lead to better-designed and executed projects.

PPPs help mobilize private sector funds for public projects, reducing the financial burden on the government and freeing up public resources for other essential services.

Financial risks are shared between public and private partners, allowing the government to undertake large-scale projects without bearing all the financial risks.

Yuan loans expand amid policy support

BEIJING

China's yuan-denominated loans rose by 16.52 trillion yuan (about 2.3 trillion US dollars) in the first 10 months of 2024, central bank data showed on Monday.

China has adopted a series of pro-growth policies, which have not only stabilized social expectations, but also boosted market

confidence, accelerated capital flow, and improved market activity, experts said.

The M2, a broad measure of money supply that covers cash in circulation and all deposits, increased 7.5 percent year on year to 309.71 trillion yuan at the end of October 2024, according to the People's Bank of China.

The M2 growth rate continued

to pick up, demonstrating the country's greater efforts in maintaining stable economic growth, analysts said.

The M1, which covers cash in circulation plus demand deposits, stood at 63.34 trillion yuan at the end of October, down 6.1 percent year on year.

The M0, which indicates the amount of cash in circulation, rose by 12.8 percent from the pre-

vious year to a total of 12.24 trillion yuan at the end of last month, the data revealed.

Outstanding yuan loans reached 254.1 trillion yuan at the end of October, an increase of 8 percent year on year.

Data also showed that outstanding social financing stood at 403.45 trillion yuan at the end of October, up 7.8 percent year on year.

DIGITAL MARKETING: Making seasonal marketing a year-round business success



By Alley Mtatya

The process of adjusting your promotional activities at particular periods of the year in order to take advantage of seasonal events, trends, and consumer behaviour is known as seasonal market-

ing. Businesses can match their marketing messages to what their audience is most interested in at any given time by using this strategic approach.

Valentine's hearts appeared on social media just as the Christmas decorations were being put away. Before

you know it, it's back-to-school season, Eid, Saba-Saba, Nane-Nane, Christmas, New Years and then the cycle starts over.

That is how seasonal marketing works its charm. By using a dynamic approach to promotion, companies

may capitalize on consumer trends all year long, transforming possible downturns into lucrative opportunities.

There are seasonal marketing tactics that help companies thrive all year long and adjust to changing consumer preferences. According to Salesforce research, 68% of customers pay closer attention to business emails during the holidays, making it an ideal opportunity to capitalize on this attention and increase sales. Having said that, seasonal marketing encompasses a wide range of time-specific events and occasions that can influence consumer behaviour, contrary to the common misconception that it is only about the four seasons or major seasonal events like Christmas and Eid. Because they frequently entail gift-giving, festivities, and higher consumer spending, holidays are ideal times for seasonal marketing.

Numerous industries have "seasons" of their own that might not coincide with the year. These seasons can have a significant impact on consumer behaviour and offer special marketing opportunities. Cyber Monday for tech companies, back-to-school season for education-related products, tax season for financial

services and accounting software, wedding season for the bridal industry, and flu season for healthcare products are a few examples.

Significant marketing opportunities can arise from major cultural and athletic events, particularly if they are relevant to your target market or brand. Football World Cup, Euro Cup CAF, the Premier leagues, music festivals, music and film award seasons, or regional cultural festivals are a few examples. These occasions frequently create excitement and buzz, making them the ideal setting for special promotions or marketing campaigns with a theme.

Recognizing holidays or weather shifts is not enough for successful seasonal marketing. It requires strategic execution, inventiveness, and meticulous planning. You can maximize the effectiveness of your seasonal marketing by implementing these crucial tactics. In seasonal marketing, early planners get the customers. As they say, "the early bird catches the worm." Make a thorough year-round marketing calendar first. All significant holidays, events unique to your industry, and seasonal shifts that affect your company should be

covered. You can start creating campaigns and content well in advance with this calendar, so you're never caught off guard by a season or event that's coming up. Take into account the lead time needed for various marketing platforms.

Make use of past season data to guide your personalization approach. Examine previous buying patterns, interaction rates, and client testimonials to customize your offerings and messaging for various audience segments. Given that more people use their phones while on vacation in the summer, you may want to boost your social media advertising during this time. To draw in high-intent customers during the holiday shopping season, you may want to increase your search engine marketing budget. Digital marketing is all about content, and seasonal content can be especially interesting. Create content with a theme that speaks to the seasonal needs and interests of your audience.

to be continued.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is a digital marketing specialist based in Dar es Salaam.



The community received training on sustainable charcoal production, identifying suitable trees, and using GPS technology. File photo

Handeni Council launches forest conservation training program

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Handeni District Council in Tanga Region has introduced a comprehensive program to train forest conservation groups in entrepreneurship, good animal husbandry practices, tree planting, modern beekeeping techniques, and the construction of modern beehives.

This initiative aims to empower these groups to start businesses, reduce illegal logging for charcoal and timber, and curb unsustainable farming practices.

Napoleon Mlowe, the Natural Resource Officer for Handeni District Council, shared these details during a visit by journalists and staff from the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) to Gendagenda village.

The visit was part of an assessment of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project.

Currently, eight forest conservation groups have been established in Mkalamo and Gendagenda villages through the IFBEST project, and they will benefit from this training program.

Mlowe noted that the district plans to link these groups with the community development unit to facilitate interest-free loans for forest conservation activities and business ventures.

"The program will include training on forest conservation and management with TFCG's support," Mlowe said, urging TFCG and MJUMITA to expand the IFBEST project to other vil-

lages where demand for financial and technical assistance is high. The district has 15 additional villages that need such support.

Mlowe emphasized the need for more technical support to educate communities on how to manage and benefit from forest resources on village land.

Staff from the Handeni District, trained through IFBEST funding, have learned forest conservation practices, governance, and ways to benefit from forest resources and products. "We believe this project will transform lives socially and economically, helping villages generate income for local development projects," he added.

Ali Mikumi, chairman of the village natural resource committee, called on the Handeni District Council to help install beacons marking the forest reserve boundary.

He noted that villagers from Mtango, Kwakibuyu, and Mseko were illegally entering the reserve for charcoal production, claiming it was part of Pangani District.

"We need the Handeni and Pangani District Commissioners to come together and resolve this boundary dispute," Mikumi urged, emphasizing that clarity would allow the community to benefit from their conservation efforts without conflicts.

Thanks to EU funding for the IFBEST project, Gendagenda village has designated 4,799.5 hectares as a community forest reserve and developed a management plan, harvesting guidelines, and by-laws.

The community has also received training on sustainable charcoal production, identifying suitable trees, and using

GPS technology. Mikumi appealed for further support, including GPS devices, transport facilities, and training for forest patrols.

Hamis Mwangona, Mgambo Ward Councillor, highlighted that despite the positive impact of the IFBEST project in Mgambo Ward, ongoing charcoal and timber activities in the village forest and Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) areas pose threats to conservation.

He called on TFCG and MJUMITA to continue educating communities about forest conservation. "As Ward Councillor, I will ensure our forests are protected," he pledged, stressing the need for clear boundary markers to prevent conflicts between Gendagenda and neighboring villages.

The IFBEST project has raised awareness about forest conservation in Gendagenda village, leading to improved forest conditions and new opportunities, such as carbon trading.

Village chairman Musa Kihumbi shared that since the project began, illegal activities have decreased, and land use has been organized for various needs, including pastures (2,000 hectares), investment (2,800 hectares), agriculture (18,000 hectares), and reserved land (1,800 hectares).

"Before the training, our forest was in poor condition, with rampant tree cutting and livestock grazing," Kihumbi noted. "Now, we are focused on conservation and benefiting from sustainable charcoal production and carbon credits."

Established in 1977, Gendagenda village has a population of 4,500 across 10 hamlets.

How Africa is making resilient finance matter

By Yara Aziz

Integrating environmental, social and governance principles into its financial markets is an ambitious yet urgent mission for Africa. The paradox is stark: although Africa contributes only 5% of global emissions, the continent faces disproportionate impacts from climate change, including intensifying droughts and rising sea levels.

Yet, the 2024 Absa Africa Financial Markets Index highlights how African nations are advancing sustainable finance despite shallow market depth, high debt levels and data scarcity. Panellists at a recent OMFIF roundtable on sustainable investment emphasised the continent's specific hurdles as well as its steady progress. The discussion considered critical developments in the region, including those related to green bonds and climate stress testing as well as how to promote regional collaboration.

Strengthening ESG frameworks and initiatives

Regulatory advancements are effectively driving ESG growth across Africa. According to AFMI, 23 countries now integrate ESG measures into their financial market frameworks, a notable increase from previous years. Moreover, 15 countries offer incentives for issuing ESG assets, such as tax breaks, to encourage sustainable investments.

Countries like Mauritius and Cabo Verde are leading this regulatory push. Mauritius introduced sustainable bond guidelines and listed its first green bond in October 2023. Meanwhile, Cabo Verde launched the Blu-X platform and listed its first green bond in November 2023, building on its 2022 blue bond success in ocean conservation. These efforts highlight a growing trend, with 71 percent of AFMI countries listing ESG assets in 2024, up from 57 percent in 2021, reflecting an increased commitment to sustainable finance.

In a milestone for the continent, Rwanda issued Africa's first sustainability-linked bond in 2023, linking interest payments to key performance indicators on ESG compliance and gender equality. Kenya, in partnership with the World Bank, is also developing similar bonds targeting rural electrification and social goals. As highlighted during the roundtable, KPIs play a critical role in fostering transparency and ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed.

Addressing climate risks through stress testing

As climate risks intensify, African nations are adopting climate stress testing to bolster financial resilience. The 2024 AFMI report reveals that eight countries now have



climate stress testing guidelines, up from just one (South Africa) in 2021. Rwanda and Zambia are recent additions, with Rwanda introducing mandatory climate risk management guidelines in March 2024. Zambia's central bank conducted macroeconomic stress tests in May 2024, including an assessment of El Niño-induced drought impacts.

The Bank of Mauritius is advancing its climate stress testing framework, focusing on helping financial institutions address risks like floods and cyclones. However, panellists at the roundtable noted continuing data challenges, with the central bank relying on proxies and International Monetary Fund support to finalise its framework.

Other countries are in the early stages of integrating climate risks into stress testing, with support from international institutions. Cabo Verde is part of an IMF programme, while the World Bank is assisting Kenya through training. While these initiatives are critical for integrating climate risks, panellists emphasised that effective stress testing requires a sound financial infrastructure as a foundation for climate-specific analysis.

Unlocking potential of regional collaboration

Regional collaboration offers major potential to accelerate ESG adoption and strengthen Africa's financial markets. Panellists at the OMFIF roundtable even highlighted the need for a regional equivalent of the Bank for International Settlements to pool resources and standardise ESG frameworks. An entity similar to the BIS could facilitate knowledge-sharing, provide technical assistance and support smaller economies in building capacity and accessing capital. This ensures that ESG principles are embedded more

uniformly across Africa's diverse financial systems.

Meanwhile, the West African Economic and Monetary Union has published a taxonomy for green, social and sustainability bonds that applies to countries in the union including Benin, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. Kenya and Cabo Verde are also developing their own taxonomies to align with international ESG standards.

The South African Reserve Bank is also advancing ESG efforts both domestically and regionally. It has integrated ESG factors into its investment strategy, notably investing €150m in a green bond as part of its reserve management framework. As part of its efforts to promote the greening of financial sectors, the SARB is also collaborating with central banks within the Common Monetary Area and the Southern African Development Community by instructing banks to improve their ability to withstand climate risks.

Elsewhere, encouraging intra-African trade using stable regional currencies could further mitigate currency risks associated with ESG bonds. As one panellist noted, 'Collaborative frameworks will enhance market accessibility and investor confidence'.

With abundant natural resources and pressing climate risks, Africa is in a powerful position to not only adopt but shape global ESG standards. A panellist from the roundtable mentioned, 'Sustainability is not an option; it's the only way forward'. While challenges remain, Africa's ESG journey promises to reshape its financial markets and offer valuable lessons to the global sustainable finance movement.

Yara Aziz (pictured) is an economist with the Economic and Monetary Policy Institute, OMFIF.

Central bankers worrying about the inflation impact of Trump's policies

NEW DELHI

Will global inflation surge its ugly head again? That is the question on major central banks' minds. The reason is Trump's policy pledges during the run-up to the presidential race. Tax cuts would further strain the US budget, tariffs on US imports would disrupt global trade, and deportations might reduce the availability of cheap labour.

After Donald Trump's landslide win, global central bankers are preparing for their worst fears to materialise. Trump's campaign promises suggest inflationary risks will rise. The rising cost of living is what major central banks have been fighting since the pandemic-led surge in inflation.

Will global inflation surge its ugly head again? That is the question on major central banks' minds. The reason is Trump's policy pledges during the run-up to the presiden-



tial race. Tax cuts would further strain the US budget, tariffs on US imports would disrupt global trade, and deportations might reduce the availability of cheap labour.

The Federal Reserve may be less reluctant to cut interest rates in response to rising inflation. That is

the most significant concern posed by Trump's policies. As a result, the Dollar is likely to strengthen and weigh on developing countries.

South Korea's finance minister, Choi Sang-Mok, said, "If the policy stance that's been stressed by president-elect Trump becomes real-

ised, the impact on our economy is expected to be significant."

With the wars in West Asia and Europe already hurting disrupted supply chains, Trump's global tariffs come as a fresh threat. The risks are acute because inflation is already proving a challenge for many countries – even before any potential tariffs.

Over a third of major central banks are yet to bring inflation down to their targets. And just when everyone thought inflation risks were in the side-view mirror, Trump poses a new risk.

Alicia Garcia-Herrero, Chief Asia Pacific Economist at Natixis, said, "US markets may be cheering, but economies across Asia could be big losers." She added, "Trump's policies would mean less room to cut just as central banks need it the most."

In response to the tariff threat,

China's central bank fixed the Yuan at its lowest level since 2023 on Thursday. Even the FED is unclear about the economic impact. The risk now is that the shadow of tariffs complicates the central bank's efforts to tame inflation without hurting economic growth.

Separately, US labour costs surged more than expected in the September quarter. Those costs were also marked up for recent quarters, which risks fanning inflationary pressures. For now, bets on the lock-step global easing over the coming year are soon fading.

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to topple many of the Biden administration's economic policies. Trump campaigned on promises to impose huge tariffs on foreign goods, slash taxes on individuals and businesses and deport millions of undocumented

immigrants working in the United States.

With their votes, tens of millions of Americans expressed their confidence that Trump can restore the low prices and economic stability they recall from his first term – at least until the COVID-19 recession of 2020 paralyzed the economy and then a powerful recovery sent inflation soaring. Inflation has since plummeted and is nearly back to normal. Yet Americans are frustrated over still-high prices.

"His track record proved to be, on balance, positive, and people look back now and think: 'Oh, OK. Let's try that again,'" said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former White House economic adviser, director of the Congressional Budget Office and now president of the conservative American Action Forum think tank.

Since Election Day, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has skyrocketed more than 1,700 points, largely on expectations that tax cuts and a broad loosening of regulations will accelerate economic growth and swell corporate profits.

Africa needs investments to upgrade logistics network

MUMBAI

Geopolitical conflicts, including the war in Ukraine and attacks on commercial shipping vessels in the Red Sea, have caused detours and delays, impacting maritime trade to and from Africa.

During a panel discussion at African Energy Week (AEW) 2024: Invest in African Energies, sponsored by logistics and port operations company Africa Global Logistics (AGL), insights were shared on how to mitigate some of the impacts of supply chain disruptions and how to proactively navigate the evolving logistics landscape in Africa.

Ashutosh Singh, Head of Energy Transition, S&P Global Commodity Insights, set the tone of the discussion as the panel moderator.

Panelists included Thomas Bonnetain, Oil & Gas Director, AGL; Dennis Malkoc, Business Development Manager, Universal Africa Lines Netherlands; Leonid Shlyakhturov, Executive Director, FESCO Integrated Transport and Björn Larsson, Senior Project Manager, DOF Subsea.

Bonnetain noted a surge in the cost of international transport to bring material into Africa and much longer lead times to bring equipment to project sites.

"Disruption of the Suez Canal has led to the re-routing of vessels around the African continent, causing delays at African ports due to a rise in demand for port services. This results in increased project costs and causes project delays in Africa."

Bonnetain added that Africa is in desperate need for investment to modernise its logistics network and build capacity at ports, road and rail.

To assist the modernisation of Africa's logistics infrastructure, AGL has an over \$500 million investment plan each year, and is a primary player in public-private partnerships in Africa to help the continent's much needed transformation, Bonnetain said.

AGL has also invested in the Port of Lobito – the second largest port in Angola – to increase the attractiveness of the terminal and to contribute to the economic and social development of the region. "We are at the heart of African transformation," Bonnetain said.

Malkoc said that commercial ports owned and operated by local port authorities "are a big concern for us," citing delays and quay congestion resulting in higher cargo costs. This is due to a lack of investment and organisation at the port, he added. Offering a practical example of how Africa could reduce supply chain disruptions and make trade more efficient, Shlyakhturov used China and Russia's cross-continental collaboration as a model that Africa could adopt to improve both regional trade as well as cross-continental trade. He said trade between China and Moscow is supported by five diversified routes between the countries including road, sea, and rail trade routes. Larsson said the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks along shipping routes, specifically for the movement of equipment, personnel, oil and gas and energy products via sea, would go a long way.



Bitcoin price reaches \$82,000 for first time

By Jasper Jolly

The price of bitcoin has risen above \$82,000 for the first time as it benefited from traders' hopes that Donald Trump will favour cryptocurrencies when he returns to the White House.

Bitcoin reached a record high of \$82,413, before dropping back to about \$82,000, a gain of about 2.8 percent on Monday. The price has more than doubled from about \$37,000 12 months ago.

Trump has in the past called bitcoin a "scam against the dollar", but he changed his tune on cryptocurrency during the US presidential election campaign, courting the crypto community and appearing at industry events. That has created an expectation of a relaxation of rules to make it easier for retail savers to invest in bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies – although Trump has not specified any policies.

The Trump trade has spread

throughout the world's markets since his victory became clear, with the dollar gaining in value as investors await a high-spending US government.

In China investors are bracing for steep new tariffs. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped by 1.5% on Monday, which some investors said represented an underwhelming response to China's economic stimulus programme, announced last week.

While the debt swap programme,

aimed at shoring up local government finances, was worth about 10tn yuan (£1.1tn), economists at Deutsche Bank said that it "disappointed market expectations as it lacked direct fiscal stimulus and targeted measures to improve the housing market".

Prices have also risen since the election for other cryptocurrencies such as ethereum and dogecoin, a meme coin previously backed by Elon Musk, the chief executive of Tesla and owner of X who has become a vocal Trump supporter and whose wealth rose by \$26.5bn shortly after the election result was confirmed.

Trump even went as far as giving his backing in September to a cryptocurrency venture, World Liberty Financial, run by his family, a move that could leave him open to criticisms over potential conflicts of interest if he moves to deregulate digital assets. His son, Donald Trump Jr, has said cryptocurrency offers an alternative to a banking system that he alleges is tilted against conservatives.

Ronald Temple, the chief market strategist at Lazard, an investment bank, said Trump had promised to fire Gary Gensler, the chair of the Securities Exchange Commission, "on day one" of his presidency.

"Gensler has advocated more stringent regulation of cryptocurrencies through much of his term" at the head of the US's key financial regulator, Temple added.

The share prices of listed cryptocurrency companies also appear poised to benefit. The crypto exchange Coinbase has jumped by 40 percent since the election result, and its share price was up by another 16 percent in trading before the opening bell on Wall Street. Microstrategy, a software company whose founder led huge purchases of bitcoin, was up 12 percent in pre-market trading.

Overall, Bitcoin's future in 2024 appears promising, influenced by the halving event, broader financial trends, and a maturing regulatory environment. While many analysts and enthusiasts predict potential price gains, the market remains highly volatile, and significant swings are possible.

Russia seeking to merge its oil companies into a single entity

By Charles Kennedy

Russia may be considering the creation of a massive state oil company by combining current state assets Rosneft and Gazprom Neft, and private Lukoil, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing unnamed sources.

According to the report, the mechanism discussed is for Rosneft to absorb the two smaller companies, which would result in the world's second-largest oil company by output, right after Saudi Aramco.

Rosneft alone is currently pumping an average of some 3.5 million barrels daily, per Rystad data cited by the Wall Street Journal. Gazprom Neft produces close to 2 million bpd, and Lukoil pumps just over 2 million bpd.

The report cited a Rosneft official as dismissing the information from the sources as false, saying that the report "may be aimed at creating competitive market advantages in the interests of other market participants." A Lukoil spokesman told the Wall Street Journal that the company was not on merger negotiations "with any parties



as this would not be in the interest of the company."

The WSJ noted in its report that all three oil companies are subject to US sanctions and a hypothetical combination could boost their resilience to these sanctions, according to the unnamed sources.

Revenues from oil and gas sales still

make up a substantial part of Russia's budget income but the government is working to reduce that by stimulating other industries. A few years ago, oil and gas revenues made up 35-40 percent of Russia's budget revenues, Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said last month, adding that this share is set to drop to 27 percent next year

and to 23 percent in 2027.

In the latest sign of why such a reduction in the share of oil and gas revenues is important, Bloomberg estimates suggested that Russia's oil and gas export revenues had declined by 29 percent on the year in October. The decline was a result of lower market prices for crude oil.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Okonjo-Iweala unopposed in bid for second term

BY BLOOMBERG

WORLD Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala will run for a second term unopposed, the organization said, raising questions about whether she'll receive support from a new US administration under President-elect Donald Trump.

The month-long period for nominations closed on Friday with the incumbent, a former Nigerian finance minister and the first woman to hold the job, emerging as "the only candidate for the role," Ambassador Petter Ølberg of Norway, chair of the WTO's General Council, said in a statement on Saturday.

Okonjo-Iweala, 70, is seeking a second four-year term running the Geneva-based trade body when her current term expires on Aug 31. She took office in March 2021.

Her candidacy, announced months before the US election this week, sets up a potential showdown with the incoming Trump administration. The WTO's mission of fostering lower trade barriers is at odds with Trump's threats of universal tariffs and its lurch toward protectionism.

In the previous presidential election year of 2020, the first Trump administration supported a different candidate – then-South Korean Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee, to run the WTO, slowing the selection process. In early 2021, the White House of newly elected Joe Biden backed Okonjo-Iweala and she got the job.

'Last Resort'



This undated photo shows World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. (PHOTO / BLOOMBERG)

The appointment process is done by consensus among the WTO's 166 members, typically starting nine months before the expiration of the current leader's term.

According to the timetable for the selection process, Okonjo-Iweala will have until Feb 8 to lobby members for support. The final two-month period, ending April 8, "will be devoted to a process of consultations to allow the General Council ultimately to arrive at its choice for appointment."

US Inauguration Day is Jan 20.

According to the WTO's procedures for appointing a director-general, there may be a route

for her to secure a second term without Washington's blessing – though it would mark a major break from the organization's consensus-driven decisions.

Trump has threatened in the past to withdraw the US from the WTO, and both the Trump and Biden administrations paralyzed the organization's appellate body – its supreme arbiter for resolving trade disputes – by blocking all new appointments to the panel.

If a candidate fails to gain countries' support through consensus, "members should consider the possibility of recourse to a vote as a last resort," the procedures state. Such a step "shall be understood to be an exceptional departure from the customary practice."

Trump, Putin speak over phone – newspaper

WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump has already spoken over the phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin, / The Washington Post said, citing its sources.



However, neither Washington nor Moscow have officially confirmed this information.

According to The Washington Post, Trump and Putin (pictured) discussed the situation in Ukraine and "the goal of peace on the European continent and Trump expressed an interest in follow-up conversations to discuss 'the resolution of Ukraine's war soon,' several of the people said."

During his election campaign, Trump promised to immediately settle the Ukrainian conflict but did not say how he was planning to do this. According to the newspaper,

Trump said privately that he would support an agreement where Russia kept some of the liberated territories and during the phone call with Putin he had briefly touched upon the issue of territories.

Apart from that, the Ukrainian government was informed about the call and it did not object to it as the Kiev officials understood that Trump would discuss the matter with Putin, The Washington Post noted.

However, the newspaper noted, Trump's calls with world leaders are not backed by the Department of State and US administration interpreters, since Trump and his aides "are distrustful of career government officials following the leaked transcripts of presidential calls during his first term." "They are just calling [Trump] directly," it cited one of the people familiar with the calls.

Putin's press secretary Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that the Russian president is open to dialogue with Trump, however, in his words, nothing concrete could be said about it as of yet.

Speaking at Thursday's plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club, Putin congratulated Trump on winning the presidential election, adding that he saw nothing wrong with calling Trump. The latter, however, told NBC that he had not yet spoken with the Russian leader but believed such a call was highly likely. **Agencies**

Belt and Road cooperation between China, Peru benefits the world

LIMA

AN annual meeting on practical cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was held here in Peru's capital on Friday, focusing on new opportunities available within the framework.

The event was jointly organized by the China Economic Information Service of Xinhua News Agency, Peru's Andina News Agency and the China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd. Attendees had an in-depth discussion on bilateral cooperation under the BRI framework and future development.

Over the years, the BRI has promoted practical cooperation, and become an important driving force for the good of both countries, Latin America and the world at large.

Peru is one of the first Latin American countries to establish diplomatic relations and a comprehensive strategic partnership with the People's Republic of China. It is also the first Latin American country to sign a package of free trade agreements with China.

Since China and Peru signed the memorandum of understanding on BRI cooperation in 2019, bilateral cooperation has achieved fruitful results, with increasingly close collaboration in economy, trade, finance, culture and other fields.

Thanks to the cooperation, Peruvian alpaca dolls have enjoyed tremendous popularity in China, and Peruvian blueberries, grapes, avocados and other agricultural products are also widely welcomed by Chinese consumers.

China has been Peru's largest trading partner and largest export market for 10 consecutive years. The fruitful practical cooperation between the two countries embodies the common aspiration of the two peoples for joint development and shows bright prospects for future cooperation.

Both China and Peru have a rich history and a splendid civilization, and the people of the two countries, though thousands of miles apart, share a strong friendship and similar ideas.

Trump says Haley, Pompeo will not join second administration

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump said on Saturday that former Republican presidential contender Nikki Haley and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will not be asked to join his administration.

"I will not be inviting former Ambassador Nikki Haley, or former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to join the Trump Administration, which is currently in formation," Trump posted on social media. "I very much enjoyed and appreciated working with them previously, and would like to thank them for their service to our country."

Trump is meeting with potential candidates to serve in his administration before his Jan 20 inauguration as president. Reuters reported Friday that Trump met with prominent investor Scott Bessent, who is a potential US Treasury Secretary nominee.

ALSO READ: Republicans on brink of clinching US House control after taking Senate

Haley, a former South Carolina governor who served as US ambassador to the United Nations under

Trump, endorsed Trump for president despite having criticized him harshly when she ran against him in the party primaries.

"I was proud to work with President Trump defending America at the United Nations," Haley said on social media. "I wish him, and all who serve, great success in moving us forward to a stronger, safer America over the next four years."

Pompeo, who also served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency under Trump, has been mentioned in some media reports as a possible defense secretary and had been also seen as a potential Republican presidential candidate, before he announced in April 2023 he would not run.

Pompeo could not immediately be reached for comment Saturday.

During his first term as president, Trump made some key personnel announcements via social media posts.

Separately, Trump said the 2025 presidential inauguration will be co-chaired by real estate investor and campaign donor Steve Witkoff and former US senator Kelly Loeffler.



In this file photo dated Sept 24, 2018, then US Secretary Of State Mike Pompeo and then US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley brief the media during the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. AFP

Kenya seeks to enhance ties with China in tourism, cultural sectors

NAIROBI

KENYA has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening ties with China in the tourism and cultural sectors, building on the success of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September in Beijing, China's capital.

Benard Kahuthia, acting tourism secretary in Kenya's Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, highlighted the enduring partnership between Kenya and China, rooted in mutual respect and a shared vision for growth.

"As we come together to deepen our ties, we recognize the impact of tourism in building bridges between our countries, fostering mutual respect, and inspiring the exchange of ideas," Kahuthia said Friday during the China-Kenya Tourism Dialogue, dubbed "Ni hao! China," at the well-known Maasai Mara game reserve in southwest Kenya.



Lions rest in the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya, on Oct. 12, 2024. Xinhua

The event was also attended by visiting Lu Yingchuan, China's vice minister of culture and tourism, and local

officials from Narok County.

Tourism has long been a cornerstone of Kenya's economy, showcasing

the country's stunning landscapes, vibrant cultures, and diverse wildlife. The East African nation seeks to in-

crease Chinese tourist arrivals and further strengthen cultural interactions with China. "Over the years, China has become one of Kenya's source markets in tourism, a partner in infrastructure development and cultural exchange, contributing to the growth of our nations," Kahuthia said. "The collaborations we celebrate today offer us new perspectives, inspiring us to explore, appreciate, and connect with the unique offerings of our countries."

Kahuthia said Kenya welcomed 52,865 visitors from China in 2023 and aims to grow this number to foster economic gains and deepen cultural ties.

Lu emphasized the importance of cultural and tourism collaboration in advancing people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. He noted that the FOCAC Beijing Summit adopted the Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027), which stresses the importance of culture as a vital link between Afri-

can and Chinese people, while tourism serves as a bridge between civilizations and strengthens friendships.

He said the Chinese government attaches great importance to tourism exchanges and cooperation with African countries, and emphasized the immense potential and wide prospects for tourism cooperation between China and Kenya.

Lu said that the China-Kenya Tourism Dialogue is a concrete measure being taken to deliver on the outcomes of the FOCAC Beijing Summit. "Here with us, we have many representatives of tourism administrations, agencies and businesses from both our countries. You have already talked to each other and I believe through the sharing of resources and information, you will find more and better cooperation opportunities. Your work plays a significant role in promoting tourism exchanges and cooperation between our two countries." **Xinhua**

Russia signs documents on military cooperation with 33 African countries, says advisor

SIRIUS

RUSSIA is ready to provide security for African countries, it has already signed 33 agreements on military-technical cooperation, Russian presidential advisor and Organizing Committee Executive Secretary Anton Kobayakov said.

"For Russia, the role of a security provider for the countries of the African continent is a practical, vital necessity. To date, Russia has signed agreements on regular military-technical cooperation with 33 [states] of the African continent," he said.

Kobayakov (pictured) also noted that delegations from 54 countries and 45 African ministers are taking part in the first Russia-Africa ministerial conference.

"More than 1,500 people, including 54 official delegations and 45 foreign ministers of the African continent, are taking part in our conference, which is being held on the Sirius federal territory," he said.



According to him, such conferences will be held regularly between Russia-Africa summits.

The first ministerial conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum is taking place on November 9-10 at the Sirius federal territory. The event is attended by about 1,500 delegates, including more than 40 ministers from the African continent.

Rwanda, UNDP launch health-tech hub to advance African health innovations

KIGALI

RWANDA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in collaboration with the Timbuktoo Africa Innovation Foundation, launched the first cohort of 40 startups for the Timbuktoo HealthTech Hub's healthtech accelerator program on Saturday in Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

Hosted at the HealthTech Hub, the accelerator aims to empower entrepreneurs and startups developing cutting-edge health technologies to address Africa's most pressing healthcare challenges.

Speaking at the launch, UNDP Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Africa Ahunna Eziaonwa, praised the hub as a transformative step for Africa's healthcare innovation landscape.

"This hub is about building African solutions for global health challenges," she said. Eziaonwa underscored the potential of Africa's youth and tech entrepreneurs to drive healthcare advancements across the continent, highlighting the crucial role of partnerships in supporting young talent to create sustainable healthcare solutions.

The program targets sectors such as telemedicine, healthcare logistics, diagnostics, and mobile health, focusing on scalable, impactful solutions to address Africa's healthcare needs.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame also spoke at the event, lauding the

initiative and emphasizing Africa's resourcefulness and the potential of young innovators to drive meaningful change.

"The diversity on our continent is in itself a huge resource, and we are as capable, if not more so, than anyone else, anywhere," he said, adding that young people need guidance to refine and enhance their ideas.

The program provides early-stage startups with comprehensive support, including mentorship, funding, and state-of-the-art resources. It forms part of the broader Timbuktoo initiative, which aims to mobilize one billion U.S. dollars in catalytic and commercial capital over the next decade to ignite Africa's startup revolution.

The HealthTech Hub in Kigali, one of Timbuktoo's 10 thematic hubs, unites government agencies, private sector partners, and academic institutions to create a dynamic environment for innovation. The hub also fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the continent to ensure that health technology innovation drives sustainable and inclusive healthcare solutions for all Africans.

The initiative seeks technology-driven entrepreneurs and startup founders who are building or have already developed health-tech solutions that meet the application criteria. Targeted sectors include telemedicine, healthcare logistics, diagnostics, and mobile health.

Xinhua

South Sudan parties set to resume peace talks in Kenya

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's Transitional Government of National Unity and holdout opposition groups will resume peace talks in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Monday, chief mediator announced on Friday.

Lazaro Sumbeiywo, chief mediator for the high-level mediation process for South Sudan, said the Nairobi peace talks, dubbed "Tumaini" meaning hope in Swahili, will iron out the outstanding issues within the two weeks' time frame set by presidents from Kenya and South Sudan on Wednesday.

"Following the resolution on the way forward for the Tumaini Peace Initiative, the high-level mediation for South Sudan would like to inform the stakeholders that the talks will resume on Nov. 11, with a view to concluding within the proposed time frame of two weeks," Sumbeiywo said in an invitation to the parties issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The decision to resume the talks follows a meeting between Kenyan President William Ruto and his South Sudan counterpart Salva Kiir in Juba Wednesday when they directed the mediation team to reconvene and resolve any outstanding issues within two weeks before the final signature.

During the talks, the two leaders agreed to secure regional endorsement for the Tumaini Initiative and urged Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African bloc, to mobilize enough resources and garner international support to ensure full implementation of the initiative.

The two leaders also acknowledged the successful signing of nine protocols, which have now been signed, marking a significant step forward in their partnership.

The Kenya-led peace talks, Tumaini Initiative, which began on May 9, however, suffered a setback in July when some parties raised concerns over specific mechanisms proposed in the negotiations.

The resumption of the talks in Nairobi has been welcomed by South Sudanese civil society which called on the parties to seize the opportunity to reach a deal. Edmund Yakani, executive director for Community Empowerment for Progress Organization, said that the resumption of the talks is a strategic political process to gain stability in the country by including the holdout groups.

In December 2023, South Sudan President Kiir reportedly asked his Kenyan counterpart President Ruto to assume the lead in mediating peace talks, taking over from the Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome, Italy.

Kiir expressed concerns that the talks had lingered without resolution under Sant'Egidio mediation. The Rome-based community adjourned the peace talks in March 2023 due to disagreements between the parties regarding the agenda.

Following the resolution on the way forward for the Tumaini Peace Initiative, the high-level

Global companies join hands with China to invest in the future

SHANGHAI

THOUSANDS of companies from across the world have gathered at the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in the country's eastern metropolis of Shanghai, demonstrating their latest products and technologies while sharing their visions for investing in the future.

With a theme of "New Era, Shared Future," the six-day expo, which closed on Sunday, attracted some 3,500 global exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. It saw a total of 80.01 billion U.S. dollars' worth of tentative deals reached for one-year purchases of goods and services, an increase of 2 percent from that of last year.

This year's expo is both futuristic and future-oriented. From tires for lunar exploration vehicles to motor-powered shoes and machines that can remove odors and decompose bacteria in the air, a dazzling array of life-changing technologies and products have demonstrated the willingness of global companies to join efforts with China to create a better future for humanity.

"We firmly believe that investing in China is investing in the future," said Eric Chung, CEO of Nippon Paint China.

Statistics show that over 400 new products, technologies and services have been showcased, spanning sectors including artificial intelligence (AI), new materials, autonomous systems and energy transition technologies.

BUILDING ON THE PAST

The shared expectations for the future are based on a long history of cooperation. Many of the CIIE's exhibitors, having been in the Chinese market for decades and in some cases over a century, have highlighted their deep connection with China while reaffirming a strong willingness to further tap into the vast Chinese market.

During the expo, Siemens Energy exhibited a model of its power-generation unit for the Shilongba hydropower plant. China's first hydroelectric plant launched in 1912, which is still in operation.

The company also exhibited a wide range of green technologies, including hydrogen production and carbon capture technologies, and wind turbines.

The German energy transition giant is looking to explore market opportunities in China as the country has been accelerating the energy transition to meet the dual carbon goals of peaking carbon emissions by 2030 and attaining carbon neutrality by 2060.

China's dedication to building a modern energy system creates "extensive market opportunities" for global energy technology companies, said Christian Bruch, president and CEO of Siemens Energy AG.

At the booth of Toyota, a 1964 Toyota Crown model was showcased, symbolizing the



Visitors watch the high performance challenge demonstration of a control cabinet at the booth of ABB at the exhibition area of Intelligent Industry and Information Technology during the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 6, 2024. Xinhua

brand's first entry into the Chinese mainland market 60 years ago.

The Japanese carmaker mostly showcased green vehicles -- all-electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles and hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks -- as it caters to changes in consumer demand in the world's largest automotive market.

Toyota also put on show an eye-catching pure-electric robotaxi concept car, developed in partnership with Chinese autonomous driving startup Pony.ai.

Xu Yiming, brand communication department director of Toyota Motor (China) Investment Co., Ltd., said the CIIE is not only an event to showcase the latest technologies, but also a platform to exchange ideas.

German optical systems giant ZEISS Group, which has participated in the CIIE for seven consecutive years, has been in the Chinese market for 67 years.

"Since entering China 67 years ago, ZEISS has always had confidence in China's potential," said Maximilian Foerst, president and CEO of ZEISS Greater China.

"China is the largest single market for ZEISS globally since 2021, and we continue to deepen our localization strategy," said Foerst, citing the launch of its research and development (R&D) and manufacturing site in Suzhou and its quality excellence center in Dongguan earlier this year.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

For many, investing in China is investing in the future, because the country not only boasts huge and robust market, but is also experiencing a boom in the development of new technologies amid a high-quality development drive with an emphasis on innovation.

Many multinationals believe that their investments in future technologies and their

vision for the future are very much in line with China's strategy of industrial upgrading and developing new quality productive forces.

At the booth of Swiss engineering and automation giant ABB, robotic arms, with a path accuracy down to 0.6 mm in fast movement, wowed visitors with high-speed and accurate motion control involving fragile wine glasses.

With scores of digital and smart solutions for smart energy, smart manufacturing and smart cities on display, ABB said it is better positioned to support China's energy transition and industrial upgrade.

"We see opportunities in new markets opened up by AI. Robots can do things that they could not do before," said Marc Segura, global president of ABB Robotics Division.

Vertaxi, an electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft startup attending the expo, has signed a tentative deal with SPDB Financial Leasing for 100 MI electric aircraft worth over 1 billion yuan.

Yue Tingting, vice president of Vertaxi, is very bullish about China's low-altitude economy and even envisages a future where people will be able to board eVTOL aircraft for daily commuting, much like taking a taxi or bus.

According to Michael Bi, managing partner of EY Greater China Markets, the exhibition, forums and deals signed at the event will further encourage Chinese and foreign enterprises to carry out technological cooperation and exchanges in new quality productive forces.

Kazakhstan's National Qilseed Processors Association has set up an e-commerce live-streaming studio in the Kazakhstan national pavilion to promote the central Asian country's goods, including wines, edible oils and flour.

Princess Kate attends Remembrance Day event in return to public duties

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Princess Kate attended a Remembrance Day event in London on Saturday, in her latest public engagement after undergoing preventive treatment for cancer this year.

Kate arrived for the Festival of Remembrance at London's Royal Albert Hall wearing a black dress adorned with a red poppy, which has become a symbol of respect for those who have lost their lives in conflict.

She was accompanied by her husband William and other members of the royal family and was followed shortly afterwards by King Charles, whose wife Queen Camilla has cancelled engagements as she recovers from a chest infection.

The Princess of Wales said in September she had finished chemotherapy, but her path to full recovery would be long. At the time, the 42-year-old said she would be carrying out a handful of public engagements later in the year.

Her last public appearance was in October when she met the bereaved families of three young girls who were murdered at a dance class in Northwest England.

Kate is also expected to attend the main Remembrance Day ceremony on Sunday, Buckingham Palace said on Friday.

The ceremony at the Cen-



Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales and Britain's Prince William applaud as they attend the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London, Nov 9, 2024. (PHOTO / AP)

taph war memorial is held on the nearest Sunday to Nov 11 to mark the end of World War One, and pays tribute to those who lost their lives in conflict.

Camilla hopes to return to public duties early next week, the palace said. She pulled out of planned engagements this week after her doctors advised a period of rest. She would mark Remembrance Day privately at home, the palace added.

In South Africa, William told British media on Thursday that

the past year had probably been the "hardest" of his life after Kate and his father Charles were diagnosed with cancer.

William visited South Africa as part of a climate-focused trip planned around his multimillion dollar Earthshot Prize, created to encourage innovations to combat environmental problems.

As he prepared to leave South Africa, William said, in remarks published on Saturday by British media, he was trying to carry

out his public duties "differently" from previous generations.

"I'm doing it with maybe a smaller R in the royal," he told reporters. "It's more about impact philanthropy, collaboration, convening, and helping people."

"And I'm also going to throw empathy in there as well, because I really care about what I do. ... I think we could do with some more empathetic leadership around the world," William added.



Al Hilal captain Abdelrahman anticipates tough clash against Yanga in CAF Champions League

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

MOHAMED Abdelrahman, captain of Sudan's Al Hilal, has highlighted the challenges his team faces as they prepare to meet Tanzania's Young Africans (Yanga) in a highly anticipated CAF Champions League Group A encounter at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on November 26.

Abdelrahman (pictured) singled out Young Africans' attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki as a particularly dangerous player, setting the stage for an intense battle.

Al Hilal and Young Africans are both in Group A, alongside DR Congo's TP Mazembe, who boast five Champions League titles, and Algeria's MC Alger.

Abdelrahman noted the formidable nature of their group, predicting difficult fixtures ahead. He emphasized that Young Africans' recent form in the CAF Champions League has transformed the team into a stronger contender, making this season a tougher one for all sides involved.

"It will be a good and challenging match because both teams know each other well," Abdelrahman said, reflecting on their past encounters. "Yanga today is different from the team we faced previously. They've strengthened their squad and have a quality technical bench. We respect them a lot for that."

Abdelrahman added that, despite Al Hilal's familiarity with Tanzanian teams through various training camps held in the country, Young Africans' current lineup poses a significant threat. He pointed out that while Aziz Ki stands out, all Young Africans players command respect due to their skills and collective quality.

"The player I can truly describe is Stephane Aziz Ki, but they are all good. We respect them," he stated. Abdelrahman explained that while his current focus is on Sudan's national team and their bid to qualify for the African Nations Championship (CHAN), he remains mindful of the upcoming match against Young Africans.

This Champions League opener carries a personal weight for Young Africans, as they seek to avenge their narrow defeat to Al Hilal in the 2022/23 season.

During that campaign, Young Africans and Al Hilal clashed in the tournament's knockout rounds, with the first leg at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium ending in a 1-1 draw. In the return match in Omdurman on October 16, 2022, Al Hilal emerged victorious with a 1-0 win, eliminating Young Africans from the Champions League.

Young Africans later transitioned to the CAF Confederation Cup, making it all the way to the final but ultimately falling short of the title against Algeria's USM Alger.

In that final, Young Africans narrowly missed out on the trophy due to the away goals rule. After losing 2-1 at home on May 28, 2023, they managed a 1-0 victory in the return leg in Algiers on June 3, but it wasn't enough to se-

cure the championship.

Young Africans are now determined to rewrite their story and make a deep run in the Champions League, and their impressive form in qualifying rounds reflects that ambition.

Young Africans made an emphatic statement in their Champions League qualifying campaign, securing a spot in the group stage for the second consecutive season.

The Tanzanian champions defeated Burundi's Vital'O with an overwhelming 10-0 aggregate score and went on to eliminate Ethiopia's CBE SA with a 7-0 aggregate, a total of 17 goals scored across four matches without conceding a single goal.

Similarly, Al Hilal demonstrated their resilience in the early rounds of the Champions League, advancing through challenging circumstances.

Amid ongoing security concerns in Sudan, the team has been based in Mauritania for its domestic league matches.

Al Hilal began their Champions League journey by overcoming Al Ahly Benghazi of Libya with a 2-1 aggregate score. They followed up by defeating Ivory Coast's San Pedro in the first round, advancing with a narrow 3-2 aggregate.

Domestically, both Young Africans and Al Hilal have been in strong form, positioning them as among leading teams in their respective leagues.

Young Africans currently are second in the Tanzanian Premier League with 24 points, having won eight matches and lost two. Meanwhile, Al Hilal lead the Mauritania Premier League, where they are temporarily competing due to the security situation in Sudan. In five games, Al Hilal have recorded four wins and one draw, accumulating 13 points.

The upcoming clash between Al Hilal and Young Africans is a fixture with high stakes for both teams. Abdelrahman's comments underscore the mutual respect shared between the two sides, but also the determination to emerge victorious.

With Young Africans out for revenge and Al Hilal aiming to prove their mettle, the Group A showdown at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium promises to deliver an exhilarating display of African football at its finest.

The November 26 match will not only test Al Hilal's ability to counter Young Africans' transformed squad but will also showcase whether the Jangwani Street-based side's offseason preparations have paid off against seasoned African rivals.

As Abdelrahman noted, both sides will face challenges, but Young Africans resurgence under Miguel Gamondi and Al Hilal's resilience in the face of adversity make this match one of the most anticipated group stage encounters.

Fans across the continent are eagerly awaiting the outcome as Young Africans aim to continue their journey toward continental glory.

The race for the Premier League crown is beginning to heat up

By Lloyd Elipokea

DESPITE the age-old rivalry between fierce foes Young Africans and Simba on the local football landscape, few would dispute the fact that the Jangwani Street-based boys have held sway over local football in the past few seasons.

Understandably, it is highly likely that Simba started the current 2024/25 season with every intention of loosening defending league champions Young Africans' iron-like grip on the league trophy.

Worryingly, Young Africans have suffered uncharacteristic slip-ups in recent league games, which must have provided boundless glee to the vast assemblage of Simba supporters.

As for Simba, they are presently sitting prettily at the summit of the standings with 25 points.

However, in spite of their recent unforeseen setbacks, Young Africans are still very much in the tight race for the title as the Jangwani Street-based side are in second position with 24 points.

Unquestionably, one does not need to be a neurosurgeon to see that Simba are merely one point clear of Young Africans, which of course means that both teams are presently neck and neck in the enormous battle for the NBC Premier League trophy.

Indeed, at this stage in the season, it is still difficult to tell whether the race for the title, which is presently on a knife-edge, will go right



Simba Sports Club squad. They are presently sitting prettily at the summit of the standings with 25 points. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

down to the wire.

Whichever way the chips may fall, though, one hopes that the great battle for the title will continue to be absolutely gripping viewing for all keen football enthusiasts.

Let us now switch our focus to the incredibly competitive arena of global women's tennis. For the entire period of last week, the season-ending Women's Tennis Association (WTA) championship was being held in Saudi Arabia and it was doubtlessly a bona fide cracking competition.

Indeed, with smashing tennis players like Iga Swiatek, the teenage sensation Coco Gauff and Aryna Sabalenka, the season-ending WTA championship was always going to serve up some memorably tough tussles between women's ten-

nis' top-notch greats.

After disappointingly failing to secure a grand slam trophy this year, the African-American tennis prodigy Gauff came into the competition with a strong desire to end the season on a high.

This hunger for success was on full display during the group stage when Gauff sank Swiatek in an absorbing encounter to set up a semi-final showdown against the formidable Belarusian Sabalenka.

And, in that captivating semi-final, Gauff convincingly overcame Sabalenka in straight sets to progress to the finale of the whole competition.

In the final, the African-American tennis player extraordinaire Gauff came up against the season's surprise package, the Chinese star Qin-

wen Zheng, in what proved to be an extremely fascinating tennis contest.

Astonishingly, the unheralded Chinese star claimed the opening set 6-3 in what was an impressive display.

Nevertheless, Gauff bounced back strongly in the second set to triumph 6-4 and in a nail-biting third set tie-breaker, the American emerged victorious 7-6 to superbly claim the trophy.

Indisputably, Gauff's magnificent triumph will be felt far and wide across the globe especially here in Africa where countless young women look up to her.

Hats off then to Gauff, who is now soaring to greater heights in the tremendously competitive realm of global women's tennis.



Jovin Tongora (L), a music teacher from the Mbezi Luis Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Dar es Salaam, pictured recently leading a dynamic music lesson for church members. The lesson was part of a special program organized by the church to enhance and uplift its music ministry. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

KenGold now set for major squad overhaul after disappointing Premier League start

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENGOLD FC, in their debut NBC Premier League season, are preparing for a significant squad overhaul during the upcoming mini transfer window after a challenging start in the top division.

With only one victory in their first eleven matches, the club's management is set to make sweeping changes to improve team performance.

The decision to release over eleven players comes as KenGold face issues with quality and experience within the squad, which has contributed to their struggles on the field.

Management is eager to use the transfer window to

strengthen the team and push for better results in the remaining first-half games and the upcoming second half of the season.

Last month, head coach Fikiri Elias resigned following a narrow 1-0 defeat to KMC, amid reports suggesting the club's limited investment in quality players was a factor in his departure.

Omar Kapilima has since stepped in as his replacement, tasked with guiding KenGold to a more competitive level.

KenGold currently hold the worst defensive record in the league, conceding 20 goals, while scoring only seven, resulting in a goal difference of -13.

Their sole win of the season came on October 4, with a 1-0 victory against JKT Tanzania.

Since Kapilima's appointment, the team has recorded one win, two draws, and six losses.

Expressing disappointment in the team's performance, general secretary Benson Mkocha confirmed the club's intention to release over ten players and bring in eight new players with proven ability and experience.

"It's better to have a smaller squad of dedicated players than a large squad full of underperformers," Mkocha explained. "In the upcoming transfer window, we'll release more than 10 players and sign eight new

ones. "We will carefully select players with both ability and league experience, who can contribute immediately to improve our performance in the second half of the season."

During the FIFA break, coach Kapilima aims to address the team's defensive and offensive weaknesses.

This period will be used to train and prepare for KenGold's next match against Coastal Union on November 23.

With the anticipated changes, the club and its fans hope for a revitalized team, poised for a stronger showing in the second half of their Premier League campaign.

Ruud van Nistelrooy gives Ruben Amorim a tough act to follow at Manchester United

By Richard Jolly

IT may be the way all Manchester United managers imagine their reign ending. With Old Trafford chorusing his name, with a beloved figure standing in the centre circle, applauding all four stands in turn before going to the Stretford End to soak up their adulation.

Now and again, it actually happens. But only, of late, when they are caretaker managers, celebrated for their playing days, their brief tenures a chance to wallow in the past.

Ruud van Nistelrooy filled the gap between Erik ten Hag and Ruben Amorim with fine results. Yet reality tends to descend for the permanent managers.

Even though Van Nistelrooy has brought a restorative feel - to Bruno Fernandes and Casemiro as well as the results and the atmosphere - Amorim takes over a club 13th in the Premier League and 15th in the Europa League.

"What hasn't changed is that this club has to get back to where it belongs," said Fernandes. And United have rarely been further away in the modern era. Arguably no manager has taken over United at a lower ebb since Sir Alex Ferguson in 1986.

If the precedents are good, the job is hard. Perhaps it is made harder by the circumstances: David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho and Ten Hag all took charge in a summer, able to end a transfer window with some signings if not necessarily as many or all they wanted. Amorim has at least 11 games to navigate without arrivals and with a squad that doesn't seem to suit him (or, some might say, any other manager).

"I can't comment on that," said Van Nistelrooy when asked if the group of players fits Amorim's style; he persisted with a Ten Hag-esque 4-2-3-1 rather than attempting to introduce the Portuguese's preferred 3-4-3.

In particular, United seem to lack natural wing-backs - all the full-backs feel more equipped to feature in a back four - while Amorim's definition of an inside-forward will be instructive. He plays a shape without an orthodox No 10 and United's outstanding individual, Fernandes, is a No 10. Now, too, he is in form. "Bruno is back producing," said Van Nistelrooy.

That is part of his legacy. So, too, is the sight of Manuel Ugarte as a regular presence. The Uruguayan started every game for Van Nistelrooy, as many for the interim as he did for Ten Hag, who scarcely seemed to trust the summer signing. Amad Diallo has been another beneficiary of the Van Nistelrooy fortnight, too, but with Alejandro Garnacho feeling unable to celebrate his spectacular goal against Leicester because of criticism from fans, another youthful winger needs rejuvenating.

And individually, plenty of players require attention. Viktor Gyokeres scored 66 goals in 68 games for Amorim at Sporting whereas Joshua Zirkzee, with none in his last 16 for United, seems to have abandoned all interest in scoring and Rasmus Hojlund is playing himself out of form.

In defence, Diogo Dalot was excellent last season but troubled this. There may soon, finally, be scope to rest him. Both Luke Shaw and Leny Yoro are back in training, the latter a Ten Hag buy who never played for Ten Hag. So far, Noussair Mazraoui is the closest to a success of the five summer signings. The other price tags were hefty but United spent £200m in the summer and scarcely look like they have been injected with £200m of quality.

If there is something intriguing in what Amorim makes of his inheritance, it bears Ten Hag's imprint. Of the 22 players to appear for United in the Premier League this season, 12 joined under the Dutchman. One of those, Mason Mount, never suited a position in Ten Hag's tactics but at least flourished in a 3-4-3 formation for Thomas Tuchel at Chelsea.

Amorim begins in an international break and has more players to work with immediately because some, such as Casemiro, Antony, Mount and Marcus Rashford, have lost their places in their country's plans. That, too, reflects United's travails.

So his is an uphill task. Van Nistelrooy at least lent some clarity of thought and some wins. But he had four games, three of them relatively easy and all at home. Five of Amorim's first eight are away. Three of the next five league matches are against sides currently in the top five.

He is playing catch-up when presumably trying to implement a different system, with a group of players who routinely looked outcoached in Ten Hag's final 14 months, appearing disjointed against teams with a superior blueprint. Too often United have lacked tactical cohesion. There are questions if the squad has sufficient running power: to press, to play a high defensive line, to track back with the diligence a micro-manager can demand.

Van Nistelrooy has steadied the ship. Now comes a voyage into the unknown for Amorim. "This block of four games, it felt like a closure and the future is open," said Van Nistelrooy. He was talking about his own situation, but the same applies to United. And Amorim will have to excel if his last game at Old Trafford comes with the sort of reception afforded to Van Nistelrooy.

THE INDEPENDENT

Is Premier League title race already down to two teams?

By Emlyn Begley

HAS the Premier League title race been whittled down to two teams after just 11 games of the season?

Leaders Liverpool had the dream weekend after victory over Aston Villa coupled with defeat for Manchester City against Brighton - and Sunday's 1-1 draw between Arsenal and Chelsea.

They now lead City by five points - and the rest of the pack by nine points or more.

Opta's 'supercomputer' gives Mikel Arteta's Arsenal just a 3.5% chance of the title, with Chelsea down on 0.2% and anybody else on 0%.

"I would not write off anyone who is up there now, absolutely not," said MOTD2 pundit and former Arsenal forward Theo Walcott.

"Liverpool all at once are going to stumble and they will have injury problems like every other team."

However, speaking on MOTD2, former Premier League striker Troy Deeney warned: "Lose one more time and I think Arsenal are out of it."

They are going to have to beat Liverpool home and away and beat City as well."

***Are Arsenal out of the title race?**

Arsenal fans were hoping this was going to be their season after pushing Manchester City close in each of the past two campaigns.

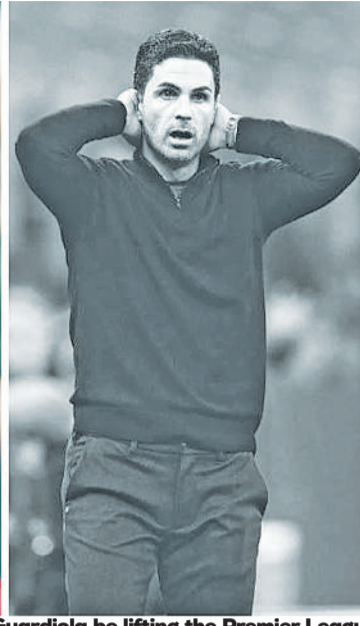
And with City faltering - on the back of four consecutive defeats in all competitions - this might have been their ideal chance.

But Liverpool are performing better than anyone could have imagined under new boss Arne Slot, with 28 points out of a possible 33.

And the Gunners trail the leaders by nine



Will Arne Slot, Mikel Arteta or Pep Guardiola be lifting the Premier League trophy at the end of the season? [Getty Images]



points at the end of a weekend for the first time since the final day of 2021-22, when they finished 24 points behind Manchester City.

They looked dejected as the final whistle went at Stamford Bridge.

Walcott said: "The difference with Arsenal at this moment in time is that they are lacking in goals, while they are not conceding many - but at this point of the season it's important to factor in who they have played."

"I would say that, so far, they have played tougher teams - they have played six of last season's top 10, and five of those games have been away from home."

"Plus, most of the time they have been without their main player, Martin Odegaard, and they are still where they are."

Captain Odegaard made his first Premier League appearance since August against Chelsea and set up Gabriel Martinelli's opening goal.

Walcott added: "People tend to forget all of that when they look into how Arsenal are not playing at the same level they were at last year, but for me it is one of the reasons not to write them off in the title race."

Gunners legend Paul

Merson, speaking on Sky Sports, said: "He [Arteta] has got to make sure it gets down to six points rather than go to 12."

"I think they'll do well to catch Liverpool now. It might stay at nine until the end of December. If it goes to 12 then it's finished."

Can Arsenal do it? Well, history is not on their side.

Excluding teams with games in hand, nobody has ever won the Premier League title after being nine (or more) points off top with 11 games gone.

Manchester City managed it in 2013-14 but leaders Arsenal had played 12 games by that stage.

Speaking about his title rivals, Arteta said his team need to "win, win, win, win and win, because these guys don't stop winning".

If they were to win every remaining game this season they would end on 100 points, with Liverpool's current form putting them on course for 97 points.

***Liverpool's title to lose?**

Liverpool are only the sixth team in Premier League history to be five points clear after 11 games.

The first five all won the title - including Liverpool in 2019-20, the last time a team were so far clear at this stage.

There were many doubts about how Liverpool would get on after the exit of legendary boss Jurgen Klopp last summer - but they are flying under Slot.

Reds midfielder Alexis Mac Allister said "before the season started I would not say we were candidates, but now it looks like [we are]" after their 2-0 win over Villa.

Opta give them a 58.3% chance of the title - up from 5.1% before the season.

Walcott said: "What Liverpool have got going for them is they have seemingly endless amounts of goals in their team. If you look at their goal difference compared to the teams chasing them, it is massive."

"So it doesn't really matter if they do start conceding goals, because they can outscore you."

"Liverpool are going to have injury problems like every other team, or hit a stage where all the games they have to play in the Premier League and Champions League will start to catch up with them."

"So this is just the start [of the title race] but Liverpool's firepower is the one thing in their favour."

Former Reds midfielder Jamie Redknapp, speaking on Sky Sports, said "Arne Slot is the big winner this weekend".

"They need to keep that momentum. Right now, the ascendancy is with Liverpool. Liverpool play Man City in a couple of weeks," he added.

That game is on Sunday, 1 December at Anfield.

***How about City's hopes?**

Pep Guardiola has lost four games in a row in all competitions for the first time (excluding penalty shootouts) in a trophy-laden career with Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City.

City are bidding to win a fifth Premier League title in a row - but Opta only give them a 38% chance of doing so. That figure was 82% before a ball was kicked

'It's still November' - Guardiola expects Man City upturn

BBC

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola says "we will recover our best" after his side slumped to four consecutive defeats, the first time that has happened in his managerial career.

Their 2-1 loss at Brighton came after defeats by Bournemouth in the Premier League, Tottenham in the Carabao Cup and Sporting in the Champions League.

Guardiola said City are not reaching their usual high standard, but are struggling with injuries to the likes of Ruben Dias, John Stones, Kevin De Bruyne and Jack Grealish.

"That's what it is always about - not being complacent when you win a lot," said Guardiola.

"We know how difficult it is and how nice it will be when we win again."

"Right now, we are not at our best, it's obvious. But it's still November - we'll recover our best."

Rodri and Oscar Bobb are other notable absentees for City, with

Guardiola handing a debut to 19-year-old central defender Jahmai Simpson-Pusey against Brighton.

Liverpool then took advantage of City's struggles to move five points clear at the top of the Premier League table by beating Aston Villa.

Guardiola added that his side are not immune to losing, despite their stellar run in recent years which included a 32-match unbeaten streak in the league before the defeat by Bournemouth at the beginning of November.

"I was a football player and many times I lost a lot of games - four, five, six in a row," he said.

"I never expect different, just because we won in the past or that we are special."

"People can believe that, but it's not true."

City had a lean spell in the autumn of 2023 which included one win in six, before recovering to secure the Premier League title again.

After the upcoming international break, City face a difficult run-up to Christmas with fixtures against Tottenham,

Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Crystal Palace, Manchester United and Aston Villa.

Meanwhile, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta says that injuries to England duo Bukayo Saka and Declan Rice "don't look good" after they were taken off injured during Sunday's 1-1 draw with Chelsea.

Rice, who was playing with a broken toe, was withdrawn in the 71st minute before Saka was taken off after receiving treatment on a leg injury 10 minutes later.

"It doesn't look good, because for two players of that importance to tell you they cannot continue in the game, it's not good news," said Arteta.

Arsenal have had to deal with a number of injuries to key players this season and Saka also missed two games after picking up an injury playing for England in the last international break.

Both Saka and Rice are in interim head coach Lee Carsley's England squad for next week's Nations League games.

England play away in Greece on Thursday, 14 November before hosting the Republic of Ireland three days later at Wembley.

But Arteta is unsure if the pair will be able to join up with the national side.

"I don't know whether to expect them to be fit because if not they don't come off," he said.

"What I'm praying for is that after the international break we have the team fully physically equipped, that they are available and

that they are fit, because it's been a nightmare for eight weeks."

Martin Odegaard started his first match for two months for Arsenal and played the whole match. Arteta said he will speak to his captain about a potential international call-up for Norway.

Arsenal go into the international break nine points off the top of the Premier League table and are without a win in five matches in all competitions.

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Is Premier League title race already down to two teams?

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Man United's wait is over as the Ruben Amorim era begins

By JAMES ROBSON

A NEW era begins at Manchester United as Ruben Amorim becomes the latest coach to take on the challenge of reviving the storied English club.

After more than a decade of on-field decline the 20-time English champion has turned to a 39-year-old Portuguese who has delivered trophies and a thrilling style of soccer to Sporting Lisbon, but takes over a club that has made a habit of wrecking even the biggest reputations.

High-caliber managers have come and gone, more than \$1 billion has been spent on player signings, yet United just can't seem to get it right.

"If anybody knew the answer (for that), we wouldn't have had the last 10, 11 years," Andy George, a 40-year-old United fan from Worcestershire, told The Associated Press. "I always back the manager ... but it needs to work now."

George said he had been a supporter for 30 years and traveled around 100 miles (160 kilometers) for last week's 2-0 win against PAOK in the Europa League.

*Proven winner

Amorim – a former Portugal international – was Lisbon coach from 2020 and ended its 19-year wait for the Portuguese title in 2021. He won it again in 2024 and his achievements led to links with jobs at Liverpool, Manchester City and Barcelona before he was hired to replace Erik ten Hag at the start of the month.

"I'm not naive, I know that it's going to be very different, very tough," Amorim said Sunday after his final game with Sporting. "But I feel that I'm ready. I'm at peace now, I can focus on my new job."

He is United's sixth permanent coach since club great Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 after winning his 13th Premier League title. Ferguson won 28 major trophies, including two Champions Leagues, and his record has cast a shadow over all of his successors.

David Moyes was the first to try to step into his shoes, lasted eight months and began what has been a cycle of hiring, firing and reboots in an attempt to return the club to its past glories.

Since then United has gone through Champions League winners (Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho), an iconic former player (Ole Gunnar Solskjaer) and one of Europe's emerging coaching talents (Ten Hag), but has not been able to stop City from dominating English soccer, while Liverpool, Chelsea and even Leicester have lifted the title in that time.

*High expectations

United hopes Amorim will be the man to finally break the cycle.

"We cannot ignore how he has changed Sporting," United midfielder Casemiro said Sunday. "We know that Sporting won many titles, changed the club with titles, with trophies. He has already proved that he is a coach that has won a lot."

Amorim made a spectacular statement even before officially taking up his new role when, while serving out his notice at Lisbon, his team routed City 4-1 in the Champions League last week.

"I was like, 'Oh, my gosh!' I lost my mind," said Joshua Hanley, a United fan from Kansas City who had flown to England to watch the PAOK game. "We were changing airplanes and I'm sitting there kind of watching the score on my phone."

"It was a fantastic start."

Amorim joked that he would be considered the new Ferguson if he beat City.

Hanley's expectations are more modest to begin with.

"If we can make top six, it would be a fantastic end of the season," he said, adding that he wants Amorim to "make football exciting again".

*New structure

Amorim is the first head coach hired since British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe became a minority owner of United in February, assumed control of soccer operations and installed a new leadership team as part of his overhaul.

Chief executive Omar Berrada was lured from City and sporting director Dan Ashworth came from Newcastle. Dave Brailsford, who helped Britain become a global force in cycling, is a director on United's soccer board.

AP

Yanga dismiss rumours of head coach Miguel Gamondi's departure following recent challenges



By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YOUNG Africans Football Club (Yanga) have dismissed rumours suggesting that head coach Miguel Gamondi might be on his way out following recent challenges in results.

Club officials confirmed there are no plans to part ways with the Argentine coach (pictured), despite a series of mixed performances that have sparked speculation.

The rumours emerged after two consecutive defeats in the

NBC Premier League, with Young Africans falling 1-0 to Azam FC and 3-1 to Tabora United.

These losses have impacted their league stand-

ing, pushing them to second place behind Simba SC. The club's attacking struggles are evident, with top scorer Maxi Nzungeli having only three goals this

season.

Gamondi faces the challenge of revitalizing the team's form and motivation to stay competitive in both the league and the CAF Champions League.

Defensive weaknesses, exposed in recent matches, are raising concerns as Young Africans prepare for their Champions League group stage opener against Sudan's Al Hilal on November 26 in Dar es Salaam.

The two sides previously met in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League qualifiers, where Al Hilal advanced with a 2-1 aggregate.

Responding to rumours of Gamondi's potential exit, the club's media and information manager Ali Kamwe reaffirmed the coach's position.

"Despite recent rumours, Gamondi remains our head coach. He will lead the

team in the upcoming CAF Champions League group stage," Kamwe stated.

Gamondi's contract with Young Africans remains active for one year, and he is currently focused on the team's preparations for the group stage.

With many players currently on international duty, Gamondi is working with a reduced squad. He previously noted that managing players returning from international matches poses challenges due to fatigue, often impacting match readiness.

Young Africans will aim to regain momentum as they continue their domestic campaign and embark on their CAF Champions League journey, hoping to replicate last season's success, where they reached the quarterfinals before being eliminated by Mamelodi Sundowns on penalties.



Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park youth soccer players pictured yesterday during a training session at the centre's grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Mtibwa Sugar regain top spot, Geita Gold suffer first defeat

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FOLLOWING the latest round of 2024/25 NBC Championship action, Mtibwa Sugar regained top spot following their victory over Stand United, while Geita Gold recorded their first loss of the campaign.

Mtibwa Sugar concluded the latest gameweek with a 2-0 home win against Stand United at the Manungu on Friday.

Goals from Raizin Hafidh and Omary Marungu completed the job and helped them to their sixth win of the

season. The former two-time Tanzanian winners have now moved back to the top of the log by two points after accumulating 19 points from eight matches played, while Stand United slipped down to the seventh spot.

Geita Gold, who headed into their latest league assignment in pole position, suffered a 2-0 loss against Mbeya Kwanza at Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium on Friday afternoon.

The loss ended their seven-match unbeaten streak as they dropped down to second on the table, two points behind leaders Mtibwa Sugar.

For the hosts Mbeya Kwanza, the results extended their unbeaten run to six games in the NBC Championship.

Elsewhere, Mbuni won 3-0 at home to Cosmopolitan thanks to a brace from Naku James Kazimoto and another goal by Danford Kaswa to rise to ninth on the table.

On Sunday afternoon, Mussa Said scored the only goal of the game as Mbeya City put in a brilliant performance to beat Kiluvya United at Mabati Stadium, Mlandizi.

The victory meant that Mbeya City moved up to 5th spot on the log, with

12 points earned after eight games played.

TMA returned to winning ways with a stylish win over Green Warriors. The Arusha-based side completely dominated at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium.

The result helped TMA Stars climb up to third in the table with 15 points collected in eight games.

The NBC Championship will continue with another full round of matches next weekend, 15-17 November, headlined by Mtibwa Sugar visiting Biashara United and Geita Gold entertaining Big Man.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

