



**National Pg 3**  
Govt to support more small-scale miners



**National Pg 4**  
Dodoma overtakes Dar in use of narcotic drugs



**National Pg 5**  
LDCs urged to update IP policies




Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (facing camera) chairs a meeting in Dodoma city yesterday with experts from the Tanzania Office of the European Union led by the Head of the EU Cooperation Section, Marc Stalmans. Issues under discussion included cooperation between the Government of Tanzania and the EU and an evaluation of the Neighbourhood Development International Cooperation Instrument and the Multi-annual Indicative Programme for 2021-2027, particularly implementation between 2021 and 2024. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Envoy unveils 'Nihao China' in key tourism liaison move

*Bilateral ties encompass technical cooperation, infrastructure development and trade, with China being Tanzania's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years having significant investments across various sectors*

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

'NIHAO China,' a tourism campaign designed to showcase the diverse landscapes, rich and cultural treasures poised to promote tourism for both countries was launched late Monday by the Chinese Embassy, in Dar es Salaam.

Chen Mingjian, the resident ambassador, launched the campaign at an event that

brought together government officials, tourism stakeholders and other stakeholders, where she said the campaign is aimed at increasing awareness of Tanzania and China as prime travel destinations.

In doing so, both countries can benefit from economic growth, strengthened cultural ties and improved bilateral relations through collaborative marketing efforts

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Simba bidding to maintain impressive form at expense of inconsistent KMC

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Why are Forest so good this season - and can it last?

## Ihefu basin invaders lined up for eviction

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbarali

HERDERS who have illegally taken livestock into the Ihefu Basin within the Ruaha National Park are soon to be evicted.

Godwell ole Meing'ataki, a senior assistant commissioner with the park, announced this intention early this week after a joint meeting between park officials and members of the Mbarali District defence and security committee, accompanied by traditional leaders like chiefs and other elders.

He said the move aims to protect the fragile ecosystem of the basin in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region, increasingly threatened by overgrazing and other human activities.

The meeting focused on strategies to remove the livestock and safeguard

**“If herders are provided with grazing land, it would help reduce the pressure on protected areas”**

the park's ecosystem, including critical sources of the Great Ruaha River, playing a vital role in electricity generation.

The conservator explained that the problem has worsened as herders from neighbouring regions have been moving livestock into the area usually under cover of darkness, with some herders driving cattle into the wetland zones of the Ihefu Basin.

These are areas that are difficult to monitor due to their inaccessibility by foot or vehicle, in which case the herds of livestock are often only detected through aerial patrols, he elaborated.

“We are here specifically to address this issue. Traditional leaders have a strong influence over communities, so I ask you to encourage herders to stop

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## EACOP project nears halfway Relocating graves takes 0.3m/- each

*“TPDC, in partnership with EACOP and local governments, is following up with the remaining 69 residents to finalize their compensation agreements and ensure they receive their entitlements”*

By Augusta Njoji, Dodoma

AN implementation level of nearly halfway has been reached at the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) has declared.

Asiadi Mrutu, Project Coordinator said at a training session for regional

journalists on the project's implementation that the government has collected 10.69bn/- in land rental fees for the project, with preparations being pursued for laying the pipeline underground.

The projected pipeline stretching from Hoima in northern Uganda to Chongoleani port facility in Tanga has reached 45.5percent of the works, with

7,584 individuals obtaining direct and part time jobs

“TPDC, in collaboration with EACOP, has been relocating graves in the project corridor,” he said, noting that so far 1,146 graves have been relocated, tied with a 300,000/- to families of each relocation.

“The relocation process was conducted in close consultation with families and adhered to traditional practices. In Igunga, for instance, we were unable to relocate three graves due to their cultural significance, and we had to reroute the pipeline. In Hanang, we also left one grave due to cultural considerations,” he

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### COP29: Tanzania lists crucial climate projects

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA expects to present proposals for major strategic projects at the 29th conference of the parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP29) to be held in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku starting next week.

Cyprian Luhemeja, permanent secretary in the Vice President's Office (VPO) said the conference takes place from November 11 to 22 to raise money for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In a media appearance in Dar es Salaam yesterday, he said that Vice President Dr Philip Mpango will stand in for President Samia Suluhu Hassan, expecting to participate in a discussion involving national leaders and experts to establish a common position on various environmental protection issues.

Projects being listed include rapid bus transit ex-

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## EACOP project nears halfway

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specified.

Any newly identified graves within the project area will be relocated in accordance with legal requirements, he said, affirming that as of September 30, 2024, a total of 9,858 out of 9,927 affected residents had signed compensation agreements, with 35.1bn/- (99.3 per cent of total) already disbursed.

"TPDC, in partnership with EACOP and local governments, is following up with the remaining 69 residents to finalize their compensation agreements and ensure they receive their entitlements," he said, with observers noticing that this group has remained on the margin of compensation for upwards of one year at the moment.

The government is expected to earn over 2trn/- from the project, with the pipeline traversing through eight regions, covering 225 villages, he said, recalling that the project has a length of 1,147 kilometers on the Tanzanian side and is expected to be completed by July 2026.

Marie Msellemu, the TPDC head of public relations, said that training journalists on the project's implementation is essential to better inform the public about opportunities linked to the project.

"Local communities have actively engaged with the project, seizing economic opportunities associated with it, which helps boost the national economy. Many women, in particular, have shown great enthusiasm in taking advantage of these opportunities," she added.

## Ihefu basin invaders lined up for eviction

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sending their livestock from the park. If we find livestock in the park, we will take action, including confiscation," he declared.

Engaging with traditional leaders was part of TANAPA's broader approach to resolving issues of this kind peacefully before resorting to forceful removal, he explained, while

Frank Sichalwe, the district administrative secretary (DAS), urged community leaders to take responsibility for preventing the entry of livestock into protected areas.

TANAPA rangers have to strictly enforce the law, in ensuring that herders within the park are promptly removed, he said, appealing to local herders to reduce the size of their herds by selling excess livestock and diversifying into other economic activities.

The district is currently home to more livestock than the designated grazing areas can support, contributing to tensions between livestock keepers and park managers, he said.

"The district has more livestock than it can sustain. If you have too many animals, consider reducing the number or exploring other ways to generate income. We must move towards more sustainable livestock-

keeping practices to avoid conflicts with farmers and the park," he emphasised.

Barick Julius, secretary for the Mbarali District Livestock Keepers' Association, highlighted the challenge posed by overgrazing, noting that the district has enough land for 60,000 livestock while the current cattle population exceeds 200,000.

He appealed to the government to help secure grazing areas for local herders by facilitating access to land currently held by the National Agricultural and Livestock Corporation (NARCO), which has been converted for farming.

"If herders are provided with grazing land, it would help reduce the pressure on protected areas," he said, while Julius Tisho, one of the participants, urged the government to take more decisive action, including using force if necessary, to evict herders who have entered the park.

He expressed concern that the presence of livestock in the park damages the area's environmental integrity and tarnishing its reputation.

"We need the government to act strongly. The herders are from our community, but they are harming the park and we cannot allow this to continue," he added.



These 47 medical experts, pictured in Shinyanga municipality yesterday, have been specifically sent by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to provide specialised medical services for six days across the region. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

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and cultural exchange programmes, she stated.

"The 'Nihao China' campaign is a significant initiative aimed at showcasing the incredible landscapes and rich cultural reserves of both Tanzania and China. We seek to enhance awareness and appreciation for our unique offerings," she further asserted.

She described the drive as a collaborative effort that will foster economic growth for both countries and reflect on a growing recognition of the importance of tourism, part of efforts to implement decisions reached when President Samia Suluhu Hassan met President Xi Jinping late 2022 in a state visit to China.

Dr Pindi Chana, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, said that a total of 54,444 Chinese tourists visited Tanzania from January to September this year, eclipsing visitations recorded for all of last

## Envoy unveils 'Nihao China' in key tourism liaison move

year.

Conversely, China has also welcomed an increasing number of Tanzanian tourists eager to explore its iconic landmarks, such as the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, as well as its rich museums and cultural sites, the envoy noted.

The reciprocal travel trend not only underscores the significance of cultural exchange but also serves to strengthen the bonds between the two nations, she said, while deputy minister Dunstan Kitandula urged members of the public to actively invest in the abundant opportunities available within the growing China-Tanzania tourism sector.

"Fostering partnerships with

Chinese stakeholders and enhancing tourism infrastructure would not only boost Tanzania's economy but also create employment opportunities, drive cultural exchange and position the country as a leading destination in Africa for Chinese tourists," he stated, insisting that this is not an opportunity to be lost.

Existing bilateral ties result from efforts of the founding fathers and visionary leaders of the two countries, notably the late Mwalimu Julius Kambage Nyerere and the late Chairman Mao Zedong, while Zanzibar revolutionary and academic Abdulrahman Mohamed Babu and diplomatic protégé Dr Salim Ahmed Salim had vital roles

as well, observers noted.

"Our two friendly countries have cemented unwavering support of each other on issues of common interest at the bilateral and international level. As this publication mirrors our 60-year journey of cooperation, our diplomatic relations have contributed to major achievements and I am delighted that it cherishes some of the remarkable gains from the cooperation," he remarked.

Bilateral ties encompass technical cooperation, infrastructure development and trade, with China being Tanzania's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years having significant investments across various sectors, he added.

## Stage set for operationalisation of national blue economy policy

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in partnership with development partners and the private sector has developed strategies to harness the potential of the blue economy to promote sustainable development.

Abdallah Hassan Mitawi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Union) made the statement on Monday in Arusha during the opening of a workshop aimed at preparing implementation of the National Blue Economy Policy.

Mitawi emphasized that the launch of the National Blue Economy Policy 2024, along with its Implementation Strategy for 2024-2034 earlier this year sets a clear roadmap for maximizing the value of the country's ocean and freshwater resources.

"This action plan is a vital tool for achieving the goals and objectives set out in the National Blue Economy Policy, especially for the 2024/25 to 2025/26 period," he said.

He highlighted the government's commitment to transforming the blue economy into a major driver of national development.

He added that development of detailed implementation plans for the next two years would ensure Tanzania achieves the policy's targets, contributing to national productivity and economic prosperity.

"Tanzania is endowed with vast water resources, including 64,000 square kilometres of national waters and 223,000 square kilometres within our exclusive economic zone. The resources offer immense potential for growth and sustainability across multiple sectors," he said.

Mitawi noted that the blue econo-

my in Tanzania spans a wide range of industries, including fisheries, energy, transport, tourism, natural resource management, water and irrigation, mining, environmental conservation, investment, manufacturing and trade.

He further highlighted the role of various policy and legal frameworks that have been established to manage and coordinate blue economy activities across sectors.

Among the achievements in 2023, Tanzania reported positive progress in blue economy initiatives, including production of 513,802.47 tonnes of fishery products, valued at 3.5trn/-.

The amount includes 479,976.62 tonnes from natural fishing (85 percent from freshwater and 15 percent from marine fishing) and 33,825.85 tonnes from aquaculture such as fish farming, seaweed cultivation and sea cucumber farming.

Other key developments are the discovery of 57.54 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, with 47.13 trillion cubic feet found in deep waters of the Indian Ocean.

Additionally, Tanzania saw growth in its tourism sector, with eight tourist vessels bringing in 965 international visitors.

The country also made major strides in improving rural water access, increasing coverage from 58 percent in 2018 to 77 percent in 2023.

Amon Manyanya, a representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), expressed continued support for Tanzania's blue economy initiatives.

He reiterated that UNDP will maintain its collaboration with the government and other stakeholders to ensure long-term success of the programmes.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with Gairo legislator Ahmed Shabiby (L) and the Mahonda one, Abdallah Ali Mwinyi (2nd-L), outside the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

## COP29: Tanzania lists crucial climate projects

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pansion in Dar es Salaam, clean cooking energy awareness and its technologies, as well as a project to withstand the effects of floods in vulnerable areas.

It is also floating an integrated waste management project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while another project is related to strengthening resource management and economic benefits from carbon trading in oceans and other water resources, he stated.

Tanzania will have an exhibition

pavilion where various activities taking place in the country in response to effects of climate change will be displayed, he specified, affirming that the fight against climate change needs joint efforts to ensure it is successful.

People should stop cutting down trees and instead plant and take care of them, he stated, highlighting the position that the government has invested in environment project and economic benefits that need wide public support. That is why it has come up with the agenda of clean energy for cooking, he stated.

"At the COP29 meeting, we want to show the world how our country encourages the use of clean energy for cooking and thus enable us to find stakeholders who will add strength to this agenda and thus we can get energy at a low cost for our citizens," he explained.

Clean energy is not only gas but various materials that do not involve cutting down trees, he said, asserting that clean energy for cooking is an important tool to deal with environmental damage.

It saves trees that would be cut down to get firewood and charcoal,

actions that push gradual desertification, he said, hinting that the global conference will be marked by the proposed national theme, "harnessing carbon trading opportunities through clean cooking and other alternative sources of energy."

"This theme aims to encourage the use of clean energy for cooking in order to protect the environment and build the ability to withstand the effects of climate change in promoting the national economy and stimulating sustainable development," he added.





Commuter buses parked at the Simu 2000 Station at Ubungu in Dar es Salaam yesterday amidst complaints by drivers and passengers about infrastructure there being far from user-friendly. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Govt promises to continue supporting artisanal miners

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has pledged to continue supporting small-scale miners across the country by creating a friendly environment to enable them to grow.

Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Dr Doto Biteko made the statement here yesterday during the launch of Tanzania Resource Platform.

The two-day event brought together stakeholders from both within and outside Tanzania.

Dr Biteko emphasized the vital role that small-scale miners play in Tanzania's economy, noting that they make significant contributions to national revenue and economic growth.

He described small-scale miners as key players in the country's economy, underscoring that the government will continue to support them. "Small-scale miners are crucial to our national economy; and their contributions should not be underestimated. They currently contribute more than 40 percent of our national revenue and we must support them in their efforts to grow," he said.

He added: "We need to be transparent with them and guide them to ensure their continued progress in the mining sector."

He further stressed that the country's resources belong to the miners and that they should directly benefit from them.

Dr Biteko urged HakiRasilimali, an advocacy group, to highlight the positive contributions of small-scale miners rather than focusing solely on their challenges which could discourage their efforts.

"This platform should celebrate the good work being done by small-scale miners. They make a positive impact in the sector and it's important we recognise and encourage them," he said.

Dr David Mathayo, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Energy and Minerals, called for the development of safer alternatives to mercury for gold processing.

He highlighted the health and environmental risks associated with mercury use, which remains a common practice among small-scale miners.

"The government should invest in safer and more efficient technologies for mineral extraction and processing. Providing capital support for small-scale miners is also essential to help them adopt better practices," he said.

HakiRasilimali Director Adam Antony called for alternative mining methods, particularly those that do not involve mercury.

Antony pointed out that mercury use has become a major issue for small-scale miners and urged the government to explore and develop technologies that would enable miners to extract and process minerals more safely and efficiently.

Minerals Minister Antony Mavunde, noted that small-scale miners make steady progress and that the government will continue to work closely with them to ensure their development.

He emphasized that the government's commitment to supporting small-scale miners remains strong and that collaboration with the mining sector would continue to foster growth.

## Two districts to benefit from climate adaptation support

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

RESIDENTS of Mpwapwa and Kondo districts in Dodoma Region are set to benefit from climate adaptation initiatives, thanks to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

According to the districts' leaders, the project is expected to be implemented separately in robust irrigation infrastructure with the aim of improving agricultural production.

Speaking to this reporter recently, Mpwapwa District Commissioner Sophia Kizigo said the two projects

will be implemented through the second phase of the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL).

The DC noted that during Phase II which kicked off last month, the UN agency is expected to pump a total of \$189,380 into the projects in Mpwapwa District.

"This is the second phase of the project following a successful implementation during the pilot phase. Therefore, we look forward to continuing to the next phase," she said.

Local facility is a standard internationally recognised mechanism that helps local

government authorities in developing and least developed countries access climate finance, capacity building and technical support they need to respond and adapt to climate change.

Last month, the UNCDF launched the second phase of the local facility in Tanzania with 33bn/- The phase is expected to enhance local governments' capacities in planning, implementing and monitoring climate adaptation strategies that are responsive to local contexts and gender considerations.

With support from the European Union (EU), Belgium, Ireland and

Norway, the second phase aims to deepen the efforts made in phase I by expanding its reach to an additional four districts and one municipality in the coastal regions of Tanzania, addressing challenges occasioned by climate change.

LoCAL was designed by UNCDF in 2011 to promote climate change resilient communities and local economies by establishing a standard, internationally recognised country-based mechanism to channel climate finance to local government authorities in developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries.

## New drive seeks to boost women's role in research

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

WHILE research programmes are the ultimate tools in solving various problems in Africa, it has been observed that women still lag behind in academia and scholarly undertakings on the continent.

To address this 'The More Women in Research Manifesto' was launched in Arusha yesterday at the official opening of the YouLead Africa 2024 summit, taking place at the Pan-African training Centre (MS-TCDC).

"The More Women in Research Manifesto' is a call to action aimed at addressing the significant underrepresentation of women in academia and research at all levels, particularly in Africa," said Prof Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza, Ugandan lawyer, academic and judge who also serves as Justice of the Supreme Court of Uganda.

"An increase of influential women researchers is extremely important in advancing the continent's development agenda," she said.

The More Women in Research Manifesto' according to organizers of YouLead conference, was initially drafted by 50 women researchers primarily from across the African continent during the previous Women in Research engagement seminars, co-organised by Danida Fellowship Centre, MS-TCDC and YouLead Africa.

"The manifesto acknowledges the vast scope and complexity of the issue while also offering key recommendations targeted at eight crucial stakeholder groups: women

in research, government bodies, higher education and research institutions, publishers, funding organisations, the private sector, civil society and the media," said Jamillah Mohammed, moderator who is a Kenyan journalist.

YouLead is Africa's largest and most diverse youth forum co-hosted by the East African Community and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation under patronage of former President Jakaya Kikwete.

"The YouLead forum of 2024 has attracted more than 300 participants," said Head of Programmes and Training at MS TCDC Dr Said Omari, adding that the event holds the prospects to bring together young people in the African continent.

Hope Kacheri, Tanzanian Youth Envoy at the East African Community, said participants have been using the YouLead forums to examine emerging issues related to socioeconomic development, evaluation of traditional practices and leveraging Pan-African knowledge to stimulate home-grown solutions.

The outcomes of the summit will serve as an invaluable resource for key actors as they consider the structure of Africa's curricula, development plans and major education concerns that affect the continent.

The issues include methodologies, motivation, literacy and professional development for the young population on the African continent.



Former president Jakaya Kikwete presents an award to Stanbic Bank Tanzania CEO Manzi Rwegasira in recognition of the 80m/- thwe bank has recently contributed towards the medical expenses of children with heart and vascular conditions in various parts of the country. This was at a fundraiser jointly organised by Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute and the Heart Team Africa Foundation. It was held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Experts from EAC, SADC to gather in Arusha to debate energy challenges

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 400 energy stakeholders from East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) are scheduled to convene in Tanzania next month to address the regions' pressing energy and environmental challenges.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Commissioner for Renewable Energy in Ministry of Energy Innocent Luoga said that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko

is expected to officially open the Regional Energy Efficiency Conference set to take place in Arusha from December 4th to 5th.

"The conference is a strategic platform that brings together stakeholders from Eastern and Southern Africa to coordinate efforts for energy security and environmental impact mitigation," Luoga said.

He said that the conference promises to foster meaningful dialogue, establish robust frameworks and empower communities towards a more

sustainable energy future for the region.

Luoga expressed gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union (EU) and the Embassy of Ireland for their support.

He emphasized the ministry's commitment to collaborating with regional energy stakeholders and development partners to make a lasting impact.

"Global warming is accelerating due to human activities that increase greenhouse gas emissions. Through energy-efficient practices

in homes and businesses, we can significantly advance climate action and support a sustainable future," he said.

He said the initiative also aligns with Tanzania's 1st Energy Efficiency Action Plan, a comprehensive programme to embed energy efficiency practices across the nation.

Abbas Kitogo, Head of Energy, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management at UNDP, reiterated dedication to supporting Tanzania's energy efficiency targets by 2030 and advancing the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs).

"By promoting energy-efficient practices, we can reduce energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions, leading to a healthier climate," he said.

Pedretti Massimiliano, Head of Natural Resources at the EU Delegation to Tanzania, expressed pride in the EU's support for Tanzania's energy efficiency efforts.

"The conference will open new avenues for collaboration between governments, the private sector, youth, women, and development partners, advancing Sustainable

Energy for All agenda," he said.

Mags Gaynor, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Ireland, emphasized the conference's dual focus on climate change and gender equality.

"The Embassy of Ireland is committed to supporting climate risk management and gender equality," she said. "We are delighted to support this regional conference and assist young women in participating and learning from their peers, empowering them to build their capacity and awareness on climate change."



# DCEA: Dodoma overtakes Dar in narcotic drugs use

By Guardian Reporter

DODOMA Region is leading the nation in drug use, especially heroin, followed closely by Dar es Salaam, the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has said.

However, in May, this year, then Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs) Jenista Mhagama presented a report showing that Dar es Salaam had the highest drug usage rates in the country, with 78 percent of users being young people.

Peter Patrick, DCEA Commissioner for treatment and rehabilitation, told this paper recently that other regions with high levels of drug use are Mwanza, Arusha, and Mbeya.

Patrick outlined that the most commonly abused drugs in Tanzania are marijuana, khat, heroin, cocaine and certain prescription drugs that are misused recreationally.

He noted a worrying rise in the use of methamphetamine.

"Methamphetamine has increasingly entered the country, especially since 2021. Last year alone, we confiscated more than two tonnes of the drugs," he said.

He also provided insights into the global heroin trade.

"Around 85 percent of heroin

consumed worldwide originates from Afghanistan. However, we anticipate a decrease in supply this year and next year as the Taliban has banned cultivation of opium poppy plants, the source of heroin," he said.

Patric explained trafficking routes, saying: "Heroin enters East and Southern Africa via the Indian Ocean, moving through Somalia, Mombasa, Tanga, Mtwara, Lindi, Mozambique and all the way to Cape Town in South Africa. When produced in Afghanistan, the drug is typically routed through Iran or Pakistan."

According to research, between 50 and 100 tonnes of heroin pass through the East and Central African corridor annually but less than 10 tonnes of this quantity is consumed in Tanzania.

He also shared alarming statistics about the health impact of drug use in the country. Research shows that 36 percent of people who inject drugs are living with HIV/Aids, with women being disproportionately affected.

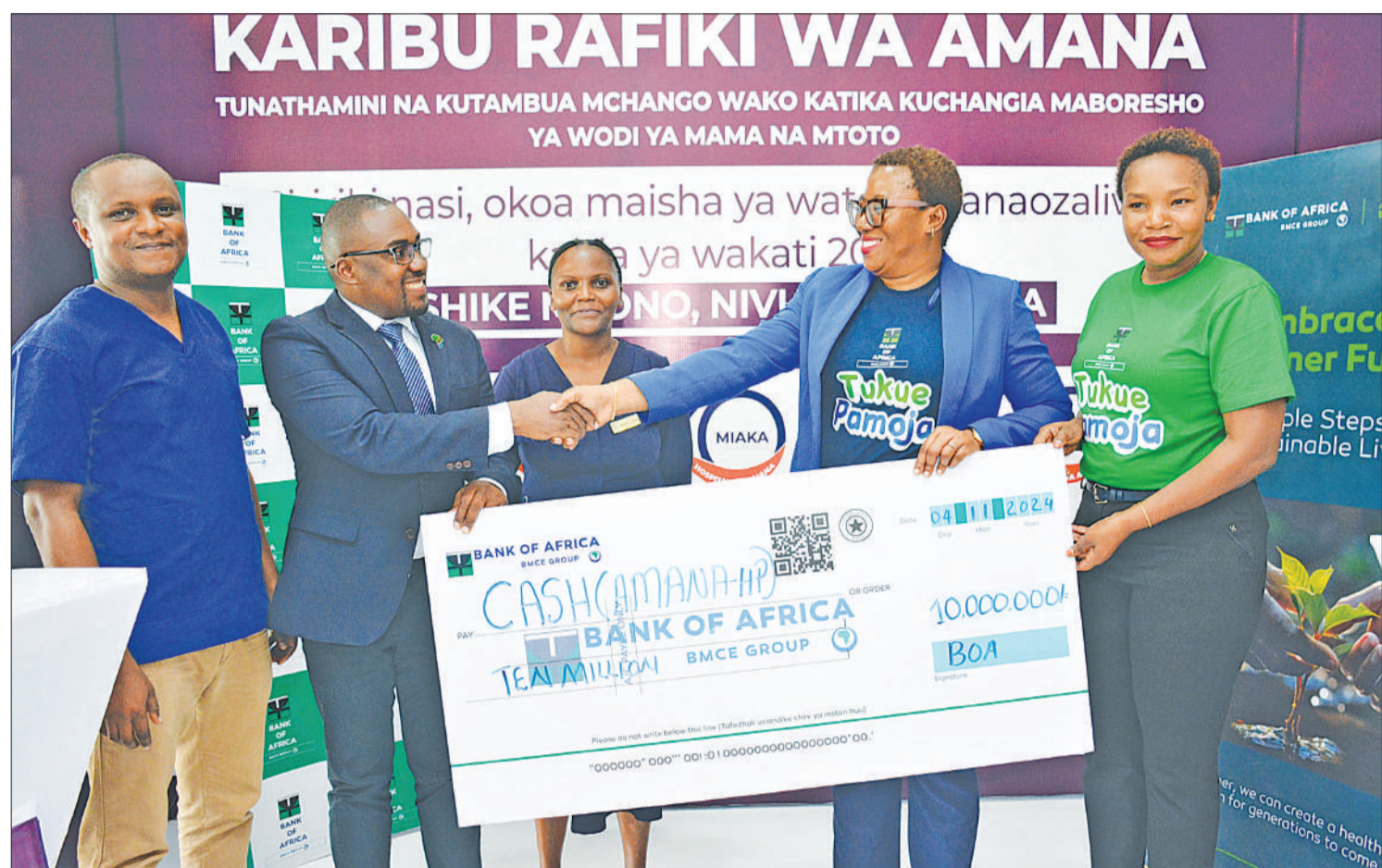
Studies reveal that among 100 people who inject drugs, at least 60 are HIV-positive. Moreover, 90 percent of female drug users are involved in sex work to fund their drug habits.

Despite the challenges, Patric emphasized the authority's commitment to reducing the import and distribution of drugs.

He said the authority has also focused on strategies aimed at eliminating the demand for drugs through public education about

the dangers of drug use, thereby preventing individuals from engaging in substance abuse.

"The strategies are designed to empower communities to actively participate in the fight against drug use in Tanzania," he said.



Nandi Mwiombella (2nd-R), Bank of Africa Tanzania's Head of Marketing and Communication, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a dummy of cheque for 10m/- to Dr Bryceson Kiwelu, Medical Officer In-charge of Dar es Salaam's Amana Referral Hospital. It was the bank's contribution to "Rafiki wa Amana Initiative", a drive meant to complement efforts to rehabilitate, extend and equip the hospital's mother and child wing. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa Tanzania has donated 10m/- to Amana Regional Referral Hospital in support of the Rafiki wa Amana initiative, an effort aimed at enhancing healthcare services. The handover took place yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

Nandi Mwiombella, the bank's head of marketing and communication stated: "Bank of Africa is committed to being part of the community. We will continue to support government efforts to improve health, education and the environment as part of our mission to foster social and economic development in the country."

"At the bank, we understand that a healthy community is the foundation of a prosperous society." "This aligns with our bank's sustainability agenda of promoting a better society in the regions where we operate. It is a privilege for us to support Amana Regional Referral Hospital and contribute to improving healthcare services for mothers

## Relief as Amana Hospital gets 10m/- to boost health services

and children."

Mwiombella highlighted the bank's dedication to supporting Tanzania's health sector, noting a longstanding relationship with Amana Regional Referral Hospital.

The Rafiki wa Amana initiative focuses on raising funds for the rehabilitation, expansion and equipping the hospital's mother and child wing, which serves as a vital healthcare facility in the region.

"These efforts are aligned with the government's goal to provide better health services for all Tanzanians. The bank is committed to collaborating with the health sector in campaigns and projects that improve citizens' wellbeing," she said.

"Our goal is to ensure that every Tanzanian receives the best health services, especially for mothers and children as they are the

foundation of the nation's future."

Dr. Bryceson Kiwelu, Medical Officer in charge of Amana Regional Referral Hospital, expressed gratitude for the bank's continued partnership and contributions. He shared that the hospital, established in 1954, has been serving the community for 70 years and currently has 32 specialists in fields such as ENT, ophthalmology, and orthopaedics.

"We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support from Bank of Africa Tanzania. Their generosity significantly aids our efforts to expand and equip our facilities, ensuring improved care for mothers and children in the country," Dr. Kiwelu said.

Despite infrastructure challenges, he mentioned that the government has equipped the hospital with modern facilities, including a CT scan and digital X-ray.

## Rivalries lead to formation of new 'church' within Anglican Church Mpwapwa Diocese

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TENSION is brewing within the Anglican Church of Tanzania's

Mpwapwa Diocese following factions that have seen formation of a rival church. At least seven factions within the

Diocese of Mpwapwa have moved to the newly found Episcopal Anglican Province of Tanzania, causing tensions among followers and clerics.

Addressing a press conference in Dodoma yesterday, Secretary General of the Anglican Church of Tanzania's Rev. Canon Bethuel Mlula said there is an emerging trend of new factions that have fragmented from ACT and use all the systems used by one of the oldest churches in the world.

He said the Anglican Church of Tanzania has asked the government through the Registrar of Organizations in the Ministry of Home Affairs to take appropriate measures to stop the use of names of churches that emulate those already registered.

Apart from the Episcopal Anglican Province of Tanzania, Canon Mlula named other 'churches' as the Free Anglican Church of Tanzania and the Evangelical Church of Anglican.

He said the government should prohibit religious denominations from using similar names, which not only creates confusion but is also deliberately done to lure followers.

He argued that given the recent experiences whereby some foreign-based churches attempted to deceive Tanzanians, the government ought to conduct a thorough review of the religious denomination and their owners before allowing them to perform their services in the country.

In addition, he said that in recognition of the constitutional right of every Tanzanian to worship without breaking the law, he urged the government to closely look at the matter and take appropriate action.

"The government should take appropriate steps against new 'churches' that are in line with the old ones to immediately change their names and comply with the laws and procedures," he said.

He also said as religious leaders, they urge the government to put in place effective mechanisms to coordinate the rights of religious communities in good faith to protect peace, unity and solidarity of Tanzanians.

*"The government should take appropriate steps against new 'churches' that are in line with the old ones to immediately change their names and comply with the laws and procedures"*

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

BANK OF TANZANIA

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that following acquisition of sixty five percent of shares of Access Microfinance Bank (Tanzania) Limited by Selcom Paytech Limited, the Bank of Tanzania granted approval to allow Access Microfinance Bank (Tanzania) Limited to change its name to Selcom Microfinance Bank Tanzania Limited. As a result, the Bank of Tanzania issued a new microfinance banking business licence to **Selcom Microfinance Bank Tanzania Limited** with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

GOVERNOR  
BANK OF TANZANIA  
5 November 2024

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

BANK OF TANZANIA

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This is to inform the general public that following acquisition of ninety six percent of shares of African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited by Access Bank (Nigeria) Plc, the Bank of Tanzania granted approval to allow African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited to change its name to Access Bank Tanzania Limited. As a result, the Bank of Tanzania issued a commercial banking business licence to **Access Bank Tanzania Limited** with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

GOVERNOR  
BANK OF TANZANIA

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BANK OF TANZANIA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that pursuant to section 30(1)(a) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006, the Bank of Tanzania authorized the merger of two community banks, namely Kilimanjaro Co-operative Bank Limited and Tandahimba Co-operative Bank Limited to form a commercial bank namely Co-operative Bank of Tanzania Limited. In addition, the Bank of Tanzania issued a commercial banking business licence to the new bank namely, **Co-operative Bank of Tanzania Limited** with effect from 4th October 2024. The license allows the bank to carry out banking business as a commercial bank operating in all regions within the United Republic of Tanzania. The bank's head office is located at Plot No. 21 Block 13, Kuu Street, Dodoma.

GOVERNOR  
BANK OF TANZANIA





Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Monday on the sidelines of a meeting between her Ministry and a visiting delegation of Chinese officials, the focus being on the consolidation of cooperation in the tourism and culture sectors. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Countries advised to update intellectual property policies to meet new standards

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

LEAST Developed Countries (LDCs) have been urged to update their Intellectual Property (IP) policies to keep pace with the rapidly evolving global landscape.

Prof William Anangisy, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) training-of-trainers programme aimed at establishing an IP hub for Eastern Africa.

He said as global markets become increasingly interconnected, LDCs need to ensure their IP frameworks align with international standards to compete effectively in the global economy and facilitate participation in trade.

Prof. Anangisy emphasized that effective IP management is crucial for the economic transformation of developing countries.

He noted that strong IP policies can drive economic growth by fostering innovation and attracting foreign investment, creating a more favorable environment for businesses and startups.

"Training programmes like this are essential. By investing in skilled trainers, we lay a foundation for a more knowledgeable and capable workforce that can advance IP systems across Africa and beyond," he said.

He highlighted that strong IP frameworks can foster local industry growth, support research and development, and facilitate commercialization of inventions, literary works and artistic creations.

"Countries with robust IP systems are better positioned to attract foreign investment, facilitate technology transfer and boost economic growth," he said.

However, Prof. Anangisy acknowledged the challenges many African countries, including Tanzania, face in strengthening their IP frameworks to fully realize the benefits. He stressed the importance of continuously updating IP policies to address complexities of IP law and rapid advancements in global trade, technology and innovation.

Godfrey Nyaisa, Chief Executive Officer of Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), noted that the agency collaborates with WIPO to train professionals who will further educate others about IP.

He pointed out that knowledge of IP remains limited in Tanzania, often leaving innovations unprotected or underdeveloped.

"There are innovations that lack quality while others need improvement to meet formal criteria. Some creators have viable innovations but don't know how to formalize their work. When properly formalized, creativity can generate substantial wealth," he said.

In response to the pressing need for greater IP awareness, BRELA and WIPO initiated the training programme which includes participants from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Botswana and Malawi.

"We included participants from other African countries because IP education is greatly needed across the continent. We expect this training to have a positive impact in Africa and beyond," he said.

By Special Correspondent

# More than 65 million people food insecure in Horn of Africa: report

OVER 65 million people are food insecure in the Horn of Africa, according to a joint report released yesterday by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) East African bloc.

This figure marks a slight decline from 66 million in August, attributed to improved rainfall over the past two seasons, particularly in the IGAD region, said the report.

Of the 65 million affected individuals, 36 million reside in IGAD member states, including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

"Extreme weather and climate change, now more severe and frequent, are the primary drivers of food insecurity," the report said,

adding that conflict is another key contributor to food insecurity.

The report highlighted that conflict has led to widespread destruction of infrastructure and essential sources of food and income, worsening the already critical food security situation.

Additionally, the Greater Horn of Africa is home to over 29 million

displaced individuals, primarily in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, due to both conflict and climate-related risks.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, about \$9.8 billion is needed for humanitarian assistance to alleviate the ongoing crisis in the Horn of Africa.



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## ADVERTISEMENT

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is an African organization specializing in aid for trade, founded in 2010. TMA aims to promote intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade while making trade more inclusive for vulnerable populations and more environmentally sustainable. By focusing on reducing the costs and time associated with cross-border trade through improved trade policies, enhanced trade infrastructure, standards that are conducive to business, increased use of digital innovations, and creating access to trade for vulnerable groups, TMA has significantly contributed to reducing cargo transit times by improving border efficiency and lowering trade barriers. TMA operates on a non-profit basis and is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Ireland, the MasterCard Foundation, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. TMA works closely with regional and continental intergovernmental organizations, national governments, the private sector, and civil society.

With the financial support of USAID, TMA is implementing the Economic Reform and Recovery Activity (ERRA) in East Africa. This Activity aims to address major and urgent economic challenges in select key sectors, enhancing their ability to recover effectively from the impacts of not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also the food crisis and the repercussions of conflict. TMA invites qualified and interested consulting firms to participate in the following call for proposals:

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT**

- ENHANCED RESILIENCE AND MARKET ACCESS FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH SMES AND CROSS BORDER TRADERS OF KASUMBALESA, LUFU, ANGO ANGO, RUZIZI I & II AND PETITE BARRIERE AND MAHAGI POST BORDERS (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO) - [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20240474]

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS - SELECTION OF CONSULTING FIRMS**

- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET FACILITATION FOR COFFEE AND COCOA VALUE CHAINS IN THE EASTERN CONGO PROVINCES (ITURI, NORTH KIVU, AND SOUTH KIVU) AND KONGO CENTRAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) - [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20240473]

The Terms of Reference and the Request for Proposal (RFP) documents are available for download at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>. Any inquiries, citing the title and number of the tender, should be sent by email to [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com). The deadline for submission is specified in the tender document (RFP).

Interested consulting firms should submit their proposals using the following email address: [procurement@trademarkafrica.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkafrica.com). The maximum size for each email, including attachments, must not exceed 5 MB.

TMA will not respond to any inquiries regarding this Call for Proposals within the seven days preceding the submission deadline.





## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**Eol Number GC-EOI-25-02**

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**From:** Global Communities, Inc

**To:** Prospective Suppliers/Contractors

**Special Instructions.** All Expressions of Interest must be submitted on company letterhead, must include the Supplier's legal address, must be stamped, and must be valid for no less than 90 calendar days. Eol Submission **Dates:** 6<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Monday to Friday only, and not later than 17:00hrs. Submit EOI to:  
Procurement Unit

**Email:** [procurement-tz@globalcommunities.org](mailto:procurement-tz@globalcommunities.org)

**Overview.** Global Communities is a non-governmental organization legally registered in Tanzania and compliant with I-NGO 00007806. Since 2011, GC has been implementing the Food for Education Project (FFE) in partnership with the Government of Tanzania through PO-RALG, the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Regional and District Administration, and Local Communities.

### A. Purpose of Expression of Interest

Global Communities is seeking expressions of interest from construction and drilling companies that are interested, capable, and eligible to undertake the construction of latrines, potable water systems, and borehole drilling in primary schools in the Dodoma region. Interested companies should demonstrate documented experience in constructing similar infrastructure in school settings. The following are the planned construction projects for 2025:

1. Construction of Boys and Girls Latrine Blocks for primary schools in Kondoa, Chemba, and Mpwapwa districts.
2. Construction of Potable Water Systems in primary schools, including rainwater harvesting systems, optimization of existing water sources (pumping from nearby courses or connecting via pipes), and construction of borehole water systems (hand-pumps and solar pumps).

### B. Submission of Expressions of Interest

Interested companies should submit their complete documentation (see list below) to the email indicated above before 17:00 hrs 19th November 2024. Responses will be evaluated based on the provided information and any necessary follow-up investigations to clarify the details.

Eligible companies must have recent successful experience in similar projects, be domiciled in Tanzania, comply with all government regulations, be regular taxpayers, and provide a copy of their operating license/certificate of registration valid for the financial year 2024.

### Documents to Include

1. Legal Business Name - Certificate of incorporation from BRELA
2. Registration certificates from the Contractors Registration Board
3. TRA TIN Certificate
4. TRA Tax Clearance Certificate (Clearance for 2024)
5. Valid Business Registration Certificate
6. Valid Drilling Permit (for drilling companies)
7. Completed, stamped, and signed Vendor Information Form
8. Company bank statement for the past 12 months
9. List of projects completed in government-run institutions, including total costs for finishing each project
10. Previous relevant experience: A list of at least three similar construction and service contracts completed successfully, with names, contact information of clients, and project locations
11. List of contractor-owned/hired equipment available for this project
12. List of key contractor staff who can be assigned to this project
13. Any other pertinent documents the company deems necessary to support their Eol

### C. Next Steps

Based on this initial expression of interest stage, Global Communities will identify a list of preferred construction company partners who will be eligible to bid on the construction projects. These preferred partners will be grouped into two categories: water systems and latrines. Selected companies will then be invited to submit formal quotations on both types of projects based on their demonstrated experience and expertise.

We look forward to your participation and contributions to improve educational infrastructure in the Dodoma region.

THE INSTITUTE OF FINANCE MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY RECTOR –ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY.



## 50<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONIES

All candidates who have successfully completed their studies, and qualify for the awards of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees, of the Institute of Finance Management in the **2023/2024** Academic Year, are hereby informed that the 50th graduation ceremonies for all **IFM** campuses are as follows:

1. Dar es Salaam Main Campus: To be held at The Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee Hall (Upanga) on **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024**, from **0900 hrs.**
2. Mwanza and Simiyu Campus: To be held at Rock City Hall, on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024**, from **0900 hrs.**
3. Simiyu Campus: Best Students Awards will be held at Simiyu Campus on **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**, from **0900 hrs.**
4. Dodoma Campus: To be held at St. Gaspar Conference Centre, on Saturday, **14<sup>th</sup> December 2024**, from **1300hrs.**

Those who wish to participate in the aforesaid ceremonies are hereby requested to observe the following:

1. Confirm the presence and correctness of their names in the Institute's website (**www.ifm.ac.tz**)
2. Confirm participation in the Graduation Ceremony through your Enterprise Management System (EMS) Account. Online confirmation will start on 12th November 2024 and will close/end on 16th November 2024.
3. Only those who will confirm their participation in their EMS Accounts will be considered for participation and hiring of graduation gowns.
4. By confirming your participation through EMS, automatically your caution money (TZS 50,000/-) will be used to cover costs for hiring the graduation gown.
5. A schedule of graduands for collection of gowns will be posted on the website on 17th November 2024. Please abide to your gown collection date to avoid unnecessary inconvenience.
6. Rehearsals
  - 6.1 Dar es Salaam Main Campus Rehearsal will be held at The Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee Hall on **29<sup>th</sup> November 2024**, from 1400 to 1600 hours.
  - 6.2 Mwanza Campus Rehearsal will be held at Rock City Hall on **6<sup>th</sup> December 2024**, from **1600 to 1800 hours**
  - 6.3 Dodoma Campus Rehearsal will be held at St. Gaspar Conference Centre on **13<sup>th</sup> December 2024**, from **1600 to 1800 hours.**
7. Those who will not participate in the rehearsals, will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony, and will graduate in absentia. No refund will be given for graduands who will graduate in absentia due to failure to attend the rehearsals.
8. Graduands are reminded that they are responsible for meeting all expenses for their travel, lodging, meals and other incidentals in all graduation events.

Issued by  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY RECTOR ACADEMIC,  
RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY**





Police officer Joseph Makiyao pictured in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis suburb on Sunday conducting one-week driving lessons for members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## UK envoy unveils report on opportunities for Africans in global battery value chain

LAGOS

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy has launched a landmark report at a growth and renewable energy reception in Lagos on opportunities for Africa in the global battery value chain.

The report titled 'From Minerals to Manufacturing: Africa's Competitiveness in Global Battery Supply Chains', was undertaken through UK's Manufacturing Africa programme in partnership with UK's flagship research organisation on batteries and energy storage, the Faraday Institution, and reveals cost-competitive investment opportunities in the battery supply chain in Africa.

Key findings indicate that, with the right investment and policy environment, refining locally extracted lithium, nickel, manganese and copper in Africa could be up to 40 percent more competitive than the rest of the world by 2030. With just one high-quality refinery for each of these minerals, Africa could generate an additional \$6.8 billion in annual revenues and create approximately 3,500 good quality jobs operating in the battery supply chain.

Beyond mineral refining, initial analysis suggests that countries like Tanzania and Morocco could produce batteries that are cost-competitive with Europe under certain conditions. For example, Morocco could achieve production costs of \$72/kWh and Tanzania at \$68/kWh, compared to \$68/kWh in Europe, where production benefits from subsidies.

The report also estimates battery demand, identifies additional opportunities in battery packs and in battery assembly and recycling, maps where companies are operating in battery value chains across Africa and provides recommendations for policymakers and investors on how to advance these initiatives. This report follows the Foreign Secretary's speech at Kew Gardens on 17th September 2024, where he announced his intention to work with partners to create a Global Clean Power Alliance.

The Foreign Secretary met with investors, development partners

and companies in the clean energy sector, including UK smart-meter firm SteamaCo, and UK e-waste firm Hinckley Recycling, with whom he assembled a second life battery. Both firms have invested in Nigeria.

Director for Economic Development and Partnerships at the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Helen King, said: "This report shows that investors should give serious consideration to Africa's potential as a future manufacturer of batteries, not just a buyer. The UK Government has a clear mission to support global growth that is inclusive of people and planet, and this sector presents real opportunity for African growth and jobs. We look forward to engaging with policy makers and investors on taking forward the outcomes of this report and doing the hard work to realise the opportunity it represents."

Managing Director of Nigeria's Sovereign Investment Authority, Aminu Umar-Saqid, said:

"With Nigeria's growing demand for electricity, bridging the gap between the traditional energy infrastructure and renewable energy solutions, enhanced by energy storage, is as vital as localising the supply chain. The NSIA, through its subsidiary - RIPLE - is piloting the development of an integrated battery manufacturing facility to bolster Nigeria's industrial base and support the nation's Energy Transition Plan. This report, sponsored by the FCDO under its Manufacturing Africa Programme has been instrumental in calibrating our strategy thus providing a solid base for the development of our initiative."

CEO for the Faraday Institution, Professor Martin Freer, said: "Given the abundance of critical natural minerals in Africa, African nations could play a significant role in the global battery supply chain if they could overcome investment, infrastructure and workforce challenges. The report contains a wealth of information and analysis on the subject that will be valuable to a variety of stakeholders including potential investors in projects in other parts of the battery value chain beyond mining."

### ASAMANKESE

## Farmers in Ghana hoard cocoa in anticipation of higher prices

COCOA farmers in the world's No.2 producer Ghana have begun hoarding beans in anticipation of higher prices, industry sources told Reuters, potentially squeezing supplies to global market looking to recover from last season's disastrous harvests.

While the scale of the up-country bean stocking was not clear, a dozen farmers, buyers and officials from state regulator Cocobod confirmed the practice, with some blaming it for a slowing of bean purchases.

"I have more than 300 bags, but I won't sell," said a cocoa farmer in south-central Ghana, who asked not to be named. "I will only sell after Christmas. We want to see if they will increase the price as they said."

The sources all said that farmers were reacting to comments by Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia, who told supporters of the ruling New Patriotic Party four weeks ago that the

government would raise prices for farmers.

Bawumia, who is running for president in December 7 elections, was speaking in Sefwi Wiaso in southwestern Ghana, one of the country's biggest cocoa growing towns. He has since said his comments had been misunderstood.

Ghana lost more than a third of its 2023/24 cocoa output to smuggling, according to Cocobod officials, adding to woes that brought production to a more than two-decade low and helped send global cocoa prices to record highs.

In a bid to boost farmer incomes and deter smuggling, Ghana raised the fixed farmgate price by nearly 45 percent to 48,000 cedis, or just under \$3,000, per metric tonne for

the 2024/25 season, which opened in September.

However, Ivory Coast - Ghana's neighbour and the world's biggest cocoa grower - raised its price to 1,800 CFA francs (\$3.00) per kilogramme, just slightly above Ghana's.

Bawumia also said that the government would bring the farmers' price on par with Ivory Coast's, stating that there would only be a price adjustment in the case of a "significant difference" between the two countries' prices. "As it is, there is no significant difference, so we are not adjusting prices," he said.

Still, many farmers believe a price hike is on the way.

A district manager for one of the top five licensed cocoa buyers in Ghana told Reuters in the southeastern

town of Suhum that purchases had slowed in October, citing farmers as saying they were keeping their beans because they heard prices would be increased.

Another senior buyer said some farmers, after hearing prices might be increased, had even asked that beans they'd already sold be returned.

Cocobod CEO Joseph Aidoo noted that the farmgate price will be raised if the Ghanaian cedi currency depreciates, eroding farmers' income.

However, Samuel Adimado, president of Ghana's cocoa buyers' association said the current price was optimal for farmers and would help Cocobod clear its debts. "The question is, how long can you hoard? Once it's not smuggled out, they (farmers) will eventually release it," he said.



WWF for a living planet

### JOB VACANCY SENIOR PROJECT LEAD MACP4

#### JOB SUMMARY

WWF Tanzania is seeking to hire a highly experienced, competent and motivated Senior Project Lead for coastal and marine project under the support of WWF US and MACP Foundation. The candidate will be overseeing the coordination and implementation of MACP project in the programme area and contribute to WWF TCO Conservation Strategic Plan and WWF US strategy to the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) agenda are achieved.

#### MAIN FUNCTIONS

- Lead the implementation of the project to accomplish the objectives and project outputs/ results
- Oversee the management of the project budget and work plans and ensuring funds are spent and accounted for in an efficient, transparent and scrupulous manner
- Manage and monitor implementation of contracts with 3rd party service providers with support from Seascope Programme Lead
- Promote work of small-scale fisheries by advancing Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) and advancing the development of User Rights Management systems
- Maintain good relationship with project partners and relevant stakeholders outside WWF network (government agencies, private sector and coastal communities) and within the WWF network
- Lead in production of project reports: monthly technical snap shorts, semi-annual and annual technical reports and any other reports as required by your seniors
- Work closely with Programme Monitoring and Evaluation officer in development of tools for data and information gathering, report writing, preparation of project results framework and indicators

#### DESIRED SKILLS

- Advanced degree in Natural Resources management, Project management, marine and coastal management; Aquatic science and Fisheries Technology, master's degree is an added advantage
- At least **five years'** relevant professional technical experience in habitat and coastal resources management, grant management, sustainable coastal livelihoods, micro-finance, community capacity-building & awareness, marine protected area management, marine species conservation, Environmental Social Safeguards (ESSF) and relevant monitoring and research undertakings skills.
- Experience in project leadership including budget oversight; with skills in team building, project planning and coordination, monitoring and evaluation, developing partner relations and staff management.
- Understanding of, and sensitivity towards, the culture and livelihoods context of rural coastal communities and technical savvy in working with government and other partners.

Interested applicants may get the details of Job Description through the website [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/consultancies\\_and\\_tenders/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/) Application must include a cover letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture: [hresource@wwftz.org](mailto:hresource@wwftz.org) by 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are encouraged to apply. WWF is an equal opportunity employer and committed to having a diverse workforce. WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, report by sending an email to [fcci@wwftz.org](mailto:fcci@wwftz.org)



WWF for a living planet

### JOB VACANCY PROJECT COMMUNICATION OFFICER (EU)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Conservation-NGO with the mission to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The goal of the WWF Tanzania strategic plan is to ensure that by 2030, Tanzania's outstanding and globally significant natural wealth and biodiversity are sustained and support equitable and gender-sensitive local livelihoods and national economic development for present and future generations. WWF Tanzania through Energy and Climate Change Program has received grants from EU to support implementation of **"Integrated Approach for Transformation of Tanzania Fuel Wood Value Chain Project-TFWVC"**. The project is being implemented in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tabora, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions.

WWF is seeking a **project Communication** and Outreach officer to provide support in project communication and outreach programs. She/he will have the responsibility to ensure the quality and timely delivery of results related to communications and outreach programs under the project. These include effectively communicating the objectives, project public awareness and communication programs, and achievements of the project to a range of stakeholders as well as facilitating knowledge management regarding project lessons and best experience.

The Communication Officer, will be part of the project implementation team and will support and contribute to day-to-day project operation and implementation. Under the supervision of Head of Communication, He/ she will work closely with the Energy and Climate Change Practice Coordinator and the Project implementation team.

**How to apply:** Interested applicants may get the detailed Job Description (JD) through the following websites: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/jobs/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/) Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: [hresource@wwftz.org](mailto:hresource@wwftz.org) by **Friday, 29th November 2024 at 11:59 PM**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are encouraged to apply.

**WWF is an equal-opportunity employer and is committed to having a diverse workforce**

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



## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

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

## Newsdesk

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

## Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
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## Posts Corp. public ownership helping its freight agency role

REPORTS say that international postal items handled by the Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) are rapidly increasing, after a sharp decline in mail volumes from 2019 to 2021.

The respective regulatory agency, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), says that the sector performance report for July to September 2024 shows a 74 per cent increase in items posted internationally by the postal firm mid-2021 to 2023.

The issue is whether this is a general rise in business activity or it reflects the consolidation of a specific clientele.

An overall view of the latest communications sector status report didn't link this rapid rise in freighting international postal items to such activity rising generally but rather the postal agency doing better than before.

In other words, it would have replaced other service providers or been adopted by practically all new clients in world freight activity relating to Tanzania.

The latter projection is hard to visualise, but it is more likely that government and other public agencies generally have greater affinity with the state service provider.

The national postal operator processed 979,625 international items in 2023, compared to 564,528 in 2021, while in the pre-pandemic period its business appeared to be sliding.

But despite the noticeable growth in international freight, TPC holds a modest 39 per cent market share of domestic postal services, the regulator affirmed, which leads back to projecting the source of this market behaviour.

One reason is just plain recovery, with international freight having plummeted from 2.8 million in 2019

to 500,000 items recorded in 2021. In that case a 75 per cent increase is but a clawing back of its market share, by and large.

What is important though is that one doesn't claw back market share as a matter of right but noticeable client impression and thus gaining trust in that sphere of activity, where the regulator's explanation might have been insufficient.

The rise was attributed to what is described as the recent upswing in information and communications technology (ICT) advancements, which is spread out in most sectors and definitely most service providers in that sphere as well.

TPC is unlikely to have an edge and less a monopoly in that direction.

Thus, the shift in technology that has enabled real-time message delivery and improved operational efficiency may have helped the postal sector as a whole, the postal agency and private operators.

The Covid-19 pandemic is uniquely said to have accelerated the pace of adopting digital solutions in postal services and may have pushed a rise in using postal freight as such, if a freight client has worries about itinerant service providers.

The supervisory agency, in the form of postal service being state operated, can thus stand as a reassurance.

It is therefore well and proper that the national agency is a resilient postal operator like others, leveraging technologies to diversify business activity and probably taking up a variety of consumer demands.

But there is still an impression that wherever a problem of agency occurs, where a go-between may have acted in breach of faith to a client, switching to a state-owned operator is plausible as there is someone watching above them.

No reference to pricing is included here, as the state operator may have some leverage as well.

## Expediting issuing quality logos, barcodes for local traders need not be compromised

QUALITY controllers at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO) are being asked to expedite the provision of quality logos and barcodes for local traders.

In issuing this appeal, the cabinet minister for the sector basically mentioned the benefits of doing so, that it will enable more Tanzanian products to penetrate international markets.

There is a wide variety of markets that local industrialists are seeking to penetrate, and they sort of need help.

Strictly speaking, they appear to feel that there is bureaucracy in issuing such trade logos or goods identifiers, which hinders them from fast accession to markets in the East African Community (EAC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

There are indeed other markets in the near region but those are the most pronounced at the local level, which sounds appropriate but there was a marked tone of speed that technical observers could figure with skepticism.

The occasion was fair enough, as the minister was inaugurating a trade fair focusing on tailoring business opportunities, thus it was relevant.

There is a catch to the demand for speed, that issuance of such logos is a mark of support in creating a favourable environment to attract local and foreign investment.

This is essential for industrial development in Lindi Region, where that event was held, as indeed everywhere else.

It is one among implicit aspects in

what the government understands by an industrial development or industrialisation drive, for instance highlighting the presence of various raw materials in the region.

To the predominant mindset, raw materials are the key factor in drawing investments and largely underlines its industrial programme for the 2025-2030 period.

It is hard to say how much the southern region can use an online market facility, which the regional authorities were being asked to ensure that the market operates monthly.

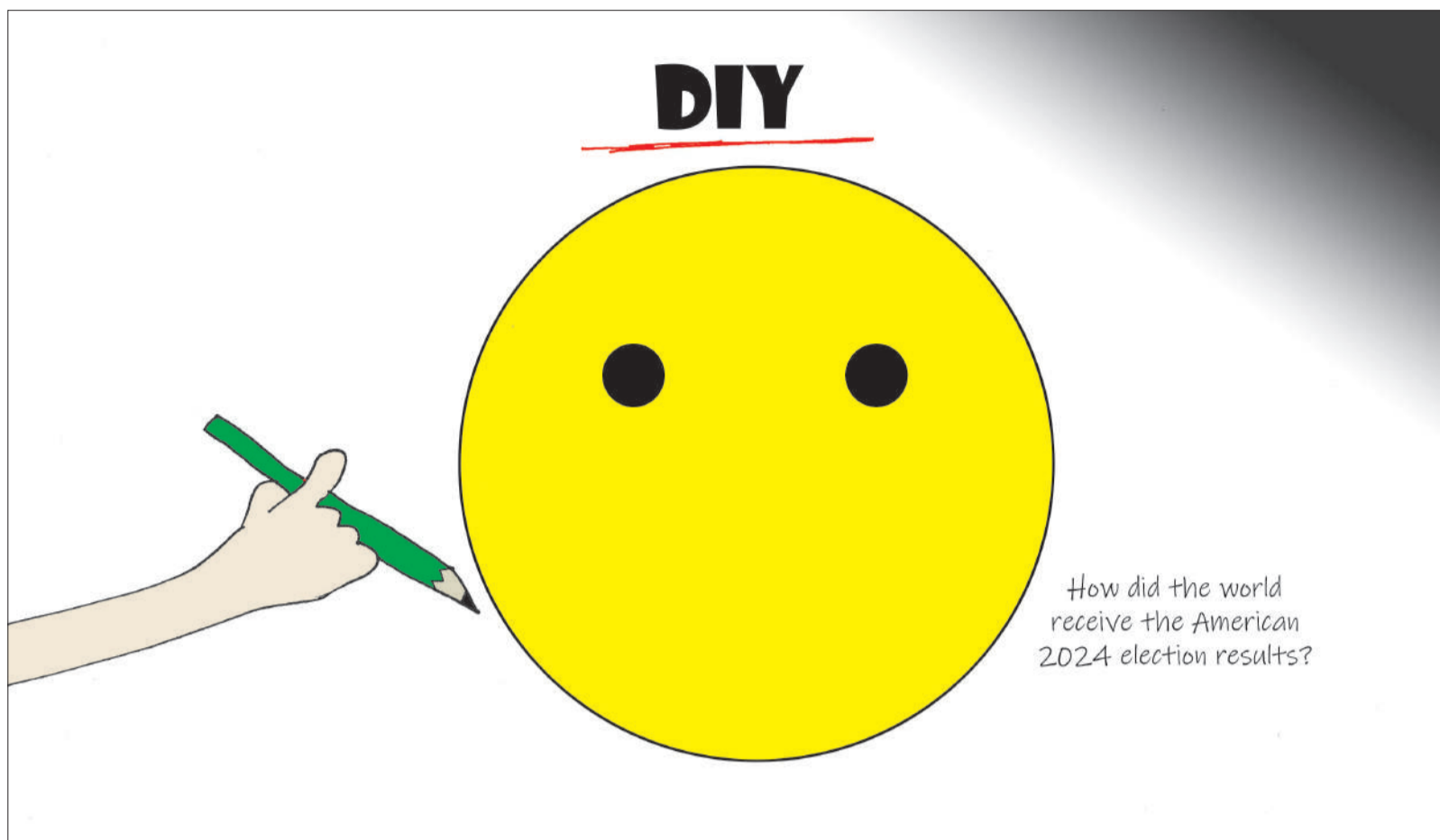
Were both these aspects anchored in the private sector, that is, come up as private initiatives and then seek to obtain registration and licenses, there would be no need to encourage efforts to publicise the market to attract traders and facilitate the buying and selling of various products.

That is what took place, really as an occasional novelty, instead of a shop frame.

More of the mindset behind the remark about fast issuance of quality logos and barcodes could be gleaned when the minister "urged Tanzanians to prioritise locally made goods to support their fellow citizens".

That isn't the way people conduct shopping, so those out to set up industries will likely be aware that they have to be factually competitive, which implicitly means obtaining quality logos, barcodes tied to tested quality.

Trying to help manufacturers either in certification or in marketing of goods would likely prove of little consequence if it involves foul play. It would merely compromise local goods in the regional market and take time to wear off losses.



## Drive for 'uncensoring' of Africa wins investigative journo prestigious award

By David Maas

IN East Africa, Kenya has stood out for its relative peace and prosperity. For over three decades, it has enjoyed multi-party democracy and largely avoided conflict and war.

This doesn't mean that 2024 ICFJ Knight International Journalism Award winner John-Allan Namu rests easy, however - far from it. The acclaimed Kenyan investigative journalist and co-founder and CEO of Africa Uncensored has dedicated his nearly 20-year career to exposing corruption among the most powerful, human rights abuses, and more in his native country.

"Being the one-eyed man in the kingdom of the blind, it doesn't necessarily say that you are doing well," said Namu, adding: "And that's all really just carried on and gotten worse with every successive government that has failed to really take these issues into account."

Namu started his reporting career in 2005 as a broadcast journalist at Kenya Television Network (KTN). During the country's tumultuous 2007 elections, which saw 1,000 Kenyans killed and another 500,000 internally displaced in its aftermath, he became alarmed by how Kenyan media had allowed politically driven narratives to seep into their coverage.

Namu's disillusionment grew in subsequent years. He says that he and his colleagues felt that they couldn't carry out the truly independent, critical investigations they wished to without being heavily editorialised.

"When you start to see the ugly underbelly of this profession that you've fallen in love with, you start to have a different perspective of what your role is and how long you can survive before you become similar to some of the worst expressions or the worst excesses in your newsroom," he said.

He added: "It felt like it wouldn't be long before there wouldn't have been much space for us to do really anything, or some of the things, that we wanted to do and true to form."

### Investigating and exposing power

Namu resolved to take charge of the stories he tells, and in 2015 he co-founded Africa Uncensored with two of his KTN colleagues.

He says that as the outlet was launched by broadcast journalists, in-depth investigative documentaries are "in the DNA" of Africa Uncensored. From inception, its mission has been to "investigate,

expose and empower", with the goal of reporting stories that bring accountability to Kenya.

In 2016, their young newsroom's reporting on the extortion of street vendors in Nairobi put Africa Uncensored on the map, and two years later it won its first global award for uncovering wartime corruption in South Sudan and the laundering of profits of war into various capitals in East Africa.

Namu's 2021 investigation as part of the Pandora Papers probed former President Uhuru Kenyatta and his family's ownership of companies in offshore tax havens.

Namu says the report, Africa Uncensored's most widely watched to date with nearly 700,000 views on YouTube, set in motion follow-up reporting from other news outlets on Kenya's political class, their sources of revenue, and how they manage their money.

"We really went in deeply and produced this body of work that directly discussed the wealth of a sitting president and the use of secrecy jurisdictions by him and his family," he explained.

He added: "You kind of see people waking up to the fact that Kenya's political class is really very invested in tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions, which is obviously not good for the country."

### Facing intimidation and threats

Namu's investigations have drawn the eye - and ire - of powerful actors. Ahead of publishing the Kenyatta investigation, for instance, he and his coworkers were met with intimidation.

Fearing reprisal, Namu took his wife and children and went into hiding for a month - something he has had to do twice before in his career.

He elaborated: "When we sent out our right of response letters to the president and his family through various channels, people reached out to us. ... These were fairly credible people. They said myself and someone else who I was working with on the story needed to disappear."

"It was a very stark reminder that even in a place like Kenya, which has a far better reputation than various other countries, can be a very dangerous place for a journalist."

In just the past year, Namu and his team have been subjected to surveillance and DDoS attacks, and targeted with disinformation.

The online attacks sought to cast Africa Uncensored as "puppets of the West" in response to their investigation into Kenya's economic woes, which the outlet published

prior to nationwide anti-tax protests that broke out in the summer.

[DDoS Attack means 'Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) Attack' and it is a cybercrime in which the attacker floods a server with internet traffic to prevent users from accessing connected online services and sites.]

"What we noticed is that those networks attacking us are very well coordinated, and have very singular messaging," said Namu.

He elaborated: "They are increasingly being used by people who have got money. And it's not just people in politics. Those determined to shift narratives or manipulate or manufacture such narratives have become very adept at using these microbloggers and microblogging organisations, some being actual companies but others just troll farms."

Meanwhile, strategic lawsuits against public participation have emerged as an especially effective tactic employed by adversaries to drain Africa Uncensored of its resources and stifle its reporting.

Also known as SLAPP suits or intimidation lawsuits, or strategic litigation against public participation, these are lawsuits intended to censor, intimidate and silence critics by burdening them with the cost of a legal defence until they abandon their criticism or opposition.

"For a small organisation, legal costs upwards of US\$10,000 a pop can be quite serious for your bottom line and your survival," says Namu.

He adds: "If this continues to become a strategy, then we really have to sit down and think very hard about how we would be able to support our work - and still keep on doing brave work and groundbreaking work - and fight on these two fronts."

### Hints for investigative reporters

Namu recognizes that the challenges he faces as an investigative journalist are, unfortunately, not uncommon. His advice for fellow reporters: Don't stop, for starters.

He adds: "Many times a silent majority of people who won't comment on your work, who you will never see, you will never meet - those are the biggest beneficiaries of your work."

Recognize, too, that passion alone isn't enough to fuel your work - you'll risk getting burnt out. Seek out "oases of joy", he urged, adding: "You can't pour out of an empty cup. If disconnecting is your thing to recharge, do that. Or if doing happy

stories is your thing, you need to do that."

"Even if it's just zoning out and going on Netflix or going on walks - anything that really helps you replenish yourself," he added.

Namu urged on: "Constantly find small ways to improve. The profession is always at the cutting edge of technology and new trends and new fads. Being able to ride on that crest is a good thing. Become a better storyteller, become a better journalist, one day after another."

### Maintaining authenticity

Namu says receiving this year's Knight International Journalism Award reminds him of "how far I have come, with the support of others".

He says he hope that his team at Africa Uncensored sees a bit of themselves in the recognition: "They were a very big part, especially for the past almost ten years, a very big part of why I think ICFJ agreed to give me this award."

The honour also highlights for Namu how much more he wants to do. Ultimately, he envisions an African Uncensored that outgrows him and his co-founders.

He acknowledged that the reputation his outlet has built means that people in Kenya, across Africa and globally count on him and his team to continue publishing impactful investigations that resonate.

Fundamental to realizing this goal is authenticity - that is, staying true to being Kenyan - and African.

"I want for people across the continent to know that there is a team of people that really care about very good, honest, world-class reporting, and that they are African and that that's who we are," said Namu.

He added: "It's super important to me that as an African that I'm being true to myself and true to my country and the part of the world that I'm from... The work that we do is only important if it stays authentic to who we are."

• A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. David Maas is the senior editorial director at IJNet, ICFJ's website that delivers the latest on global media innovation, news apps and tools, and professional opportunities in eight languages. He manages a team of editors, community managers, writers and translators based around the world.



By Telesphor Magobe

# WHO: Snakebite envenoming as neglected tropical disease

**W**ORLD Health Organisation (WHO) Snakebite Envenoming: A strategy for prevention and control (2024) regards snakebite envenoming as a neglected tropical disease (NTD) responsible for enormous suffering, disability and premature death in various parts of the world. WHO estimates that “7,400 people are bitten by snakes every day, and 220-380 men, women and children die as a result, adding up to about 2.7 million cases of envenoming and 81,000-138,000 deaths a year.”

Snakebite envenoming is now a new category of NTDs. WHO says it has developed a strategy to reduce mortality and disability from snakebite envenoming by 50 per cent by 2030. It suggests that for people to be successfully treated and recover from snakebite envenoming they require access to good quality antivenoms, and all of the other aspects of medical treatment that may be necessary.

So, when a person steps on snake or approaches an area where a snake is hidden as it hunts a prey, he or she is likely to be beaten by it and if it is a venomous snake, if the person does not access a good quality antivenom he or she is likely to die from snakebite.

It is not an easy experience to interact with snakes because of the dangerous stories told from childhood. As a result, many people fear snakes and once they see any snake the immediate reaction is to look for an object to hit it with so that it runs away or kill it altogether so that it doesn't attack any person or domestic animals.

Yet, expert snake catchers treat snakes as friends. At a wild animals channel programme on TV expert snake catchers are called to go and catch a snake which has entered a house or is hidden in a compound and once caught and if it is found injured, it is first taken to a rehabilitation centre for treatment after which it is released back to its natural environment.

Melle Ekane Maurice, Mbole Veronique, Esong Lionel Ebong, Ngome Laura Mesame, Chokeh Irene Chutame (2018) suggest that there are more than



3,000 species of snakes in the world which live in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and are predatory carnivores with various prey species. They say that snakes do not ordinarily prey on humans and most will not attack humans unless they feel threatened, trodden or injured, or provoked.

“With the exception of large constrictors, non-venomous snakes

are not a threat to humans. Of the roughly 725 species of venomous snakes worldwide, only 250 are able to kill a human on bite. In East Africa, there are over 200 species of snakes known, and only 41 are dangerous,” the authors say in their paper titled “The Assessment of Human-Snake Interaction and its Outcome in the City of Kumba”.

Data from the UN Public Health

of the Department of Operational Support (2024) suggests that 4.5-5.4 million people get bitten by snakes annually. Out of that number, 1.8-2.7 million develop clinical illness, and 81,000-138,000 people die from snakebite complications. “Most of these occur in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In Asia, up to 2 million people are envenomed by snakes each year, while in Africa there are

estimated 435,000-580,000 snakebites annually that need treatment.”

There are ways to repel snakes from our compounds and remain safe because if we leave a door or window open a snake can easily creep in and hide in a food store, in a corner, under a couch (sofa), pillow, cupboard, under a refrigerator or in a bookshelf and endanger our lives.

The odour of some plants can repel snakes and, therefore, they can be grown around the house, in a garden or compound and there is no need for hunting snakes to kill or chase them from the garden or compound. These plants include marigolds that release a phototoxin (a substance which becomes toxic when exposed to light) that repels snakes, garlic and lemongrass.

The latter is not only used for repelling insects, but also snakes. “Due to its dense, sharp edged leaves, snakes avoid gliding through lemongrass to prevent cuts,” say Evelyn Asante-Kwatia, Abraham Yeboah Mensah and Eunice Adomakowah Fobi in their paper titled “An Ethnobotanical Study on Medicinal Plants Used as Antidote for Snakebite and as Snake Repellent in the Ejisu-Juabeng District of Ghana” published in Research Journal of Pharmacognosy in 2021. Other plants that repel snakes are holly, sansevieria (‘snake plant’), onion, pink agapanthus, cacti plants, basil and sage.

They say some communities and individuals have been using some plants with snake-repelling properties as an alternative way to reduce the number of human-snake encounters. Moringa oleifera (also called mlonge tree or miracle tree), a common plant in many parts of Dar es Salaam, is also one of the plants used to repel snakes.

According to the US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), cinnamon oil, clove oil, and eugenol aerosol sprays are effective snake repellents. So, there are natural ways to repel snakes and keep our homes safe for us, our children and domestic animals.

By Telesphor Magobe

# Corporal punishment inconsistent with children’s best interests

‘SPARE the rod and spoil the child’ is a common axiom in children’s upbringing. It is used by preachers, politicians, teachers and parents in relation to disciplining children.

Although section 66 of the Law of Marriage Act (R.E. 2019) states that “no person has any right to inflict corporal punishment on his or her spouse” in some families spousal beating is a common practice. So, corporal punishment is not confined to children only it is also common in married life.

Many African children grow up in an environment in which corporal punishment is the rule of the day. A child can be hit even if it is not his or her fault, but just because a parent, relative or caretaker thinks that the child has to be disciplined so that he or she behaves well. Even if it is not their fault, children may be punished just to keep them aware that they are being watched, so they must behave well all the time.

In this way, children tolerate many things and because they easily forget it hurts them a short while and life goes on. But the negative experiences they go through in their childhood don’t go away completely, they are stored in the subconscious (part of the mind containing all of stored information a person experiences in life) which surfaces in adulthood.

Some countries across the world have passed a law which prohibits corporal punishment after finding out that it doesn’t contribute to the child’s positive upbringing. Hakielimu in its survey titled “The State of Violence Against School Children in Mainland Tanzania: An Exploratory Study” conducted in 2020 suggests that at least 87.9 per cent of interviewed schoolchildren said they had experienced physical violence, and canning constituted 90 per cent of physical violence. Furthermore, it says at least 89 per cent of them experienced physical violence in a school setting, 10 per cent at home and 12 per cent on their way to or from school.

It can be said that children experience physical violence almost daily or weekly during their upbringing and only the lucky ones may experience it occasionally. Citing UNICEF (2017) and WHO (2020), Ashley Stewart-Tufescu (2023) in her article “Corporal Punishment: The Global Picture” says globally about one billion children are subjected



to corporal punishment (punitive violence) in the sense that they are hit, slapped, spanked, pinched, or otherwise physically punished regularly by their parents, caregivers, teachers, or other trusted adults responsible for nurturing, protecting, and educating them.

The author says UNICEF’s multiple indicator cluster survey from 2013 to 2021 found that in over 80 countries across the world two-thirds of children aged between 1 and 14 years had been subjected to corporal punishment at home in the month before the survey. Citing Hillis, Mercy, Amobi & Kress (2016) she says a recent systematic review of 112 population-based surveys in 96 countries found that 75 per cent of children aged between 2 and 17 years had experienced

‘moderate physical violence’ (which includes spanking, slapping, hitting, or shaking) in the previous year. She says although corporal punishment is common in children’s upbringing and at school “there is no study which has ever found corporal punishment to promote children or adults’ health and well-being.”

She says instead studies show the effects of corporal punishment on brain development, contributing to further explanation of how experiences of corporal punishment are reflected in behaviour. “Adults exposed to harsh corporal punishment (being hit with objects) during childhood had a 15-19 per cent reduction in grey matter volume in the prefrontal context compared to adults who were

never hit as children,” she says. Expounding on this she says it may be the case that “the reduction of cortical grey matter in the prefrontal cortex is reflected in the slower cognitive development found among children who have been physically punished.”

In her findings, she says as of June 2023, 65 countries worldwide had prohibited corporal punishment of children in all settings. She says considering robust and ever-mounting scientific evidence demonstrating harm associated with corporal punishment, inactivity on this issue perpetuates harm not only in childhood, but also throughout adulthood and across generations. “Evidence from other countries shows rapid and dramatic declines in punitive

violence following law reform.”

Elizabeth Gershoff (2017) in her article “School corporal punishment in global perspective: prevalence, outcomes, and efforts at intervention” says corporal punishment is legally prohibited in schools in 128 countries and allowed in 69 countries (35 per cent). She says it is banned in all of Europe and most of South America and East Asia.

“Three industrialised countries are outliers that continue to allow school corporal punishment: Australia, the Republic of South Korea, and the United States. In Australia, school corporal punishment is banned in 5 of its 8 states and territories, while in the United States it is banned from public schools in 31 of 50 states.”

She adds that if an adult were to be hit with an object such as schoolchildren are, it would be considered assault in any of these countries. “The 69 countries that legally permit school corporal punishment, to say nothing of the 149 countries that allow corporal punishment in homes, are not providing children with equal protection under the law, despite their more vulnerable status.”

She lists 69 countries in which school corporal punishment is legally permitted as of 2016 and Tanzania is one of them. To date, corporal punishment in schools is legal in Tanzania, but at a cost because in some cases it results in deaths or bodily injury.

The author says if school corporal punishment were

effective in moulding responsible behaviour, it would be expected to predict better learning achievement among schoolchildren. Yet, she says, there is no evidence that it enhances or promotes children’s learning in class. Based on some studies the author says corporal punishment is linked with more mental health problems and problematic behaviour.

In a paper titled “Towards ending corporal punishment in African countries: Experiences from Tanzania” authors John Kalolo and Orestes Kapinga (2023), citing Hecker and colleagues (2016) and Gershoff and Grogan-Kaylor (2016), say that “it is a common practice in most African communities to equate punishment with disciplining, although mounting evidence suggests that it affects children’s learning and development. They say some studies suggest that corporal punishment is associated with poor educational outcomes, higher levels of aggression, impaired brain development, and mental health issues, including anxiety and depression.” They say corporal punishment violates children’s rights and its effects manifest in violent behaviour in adulthood.

It suffices to say that corporal punishment is a form of violence against children and is detrimental to the best interests of the child. Children who often undergo corporal punishment are likely to manifest violent behaviour when they become adults. There is no research-based evidence to substantiate that it contributes to positive upbringing and responsible behaviour. So, Tanzania should prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.



# COP16 delivers on indigenous peoples, digital sequencing, but fails on finance

CALI, Colombia

The curtains fell on the 16th Conference of the Parties of UN Biodiversity (COP16) on Sunday without any formal closing. In a voice message, David Ainsworth, the Communications Director of the UN CBD, confirmed that the COP was suspended due to a lack of quorum in the plenary and would be resumed sometime later. However, before being suspended, the parties managed to adopt a historic decision to open the door for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) to influence the global plan to halt the destruction of biodiversity.

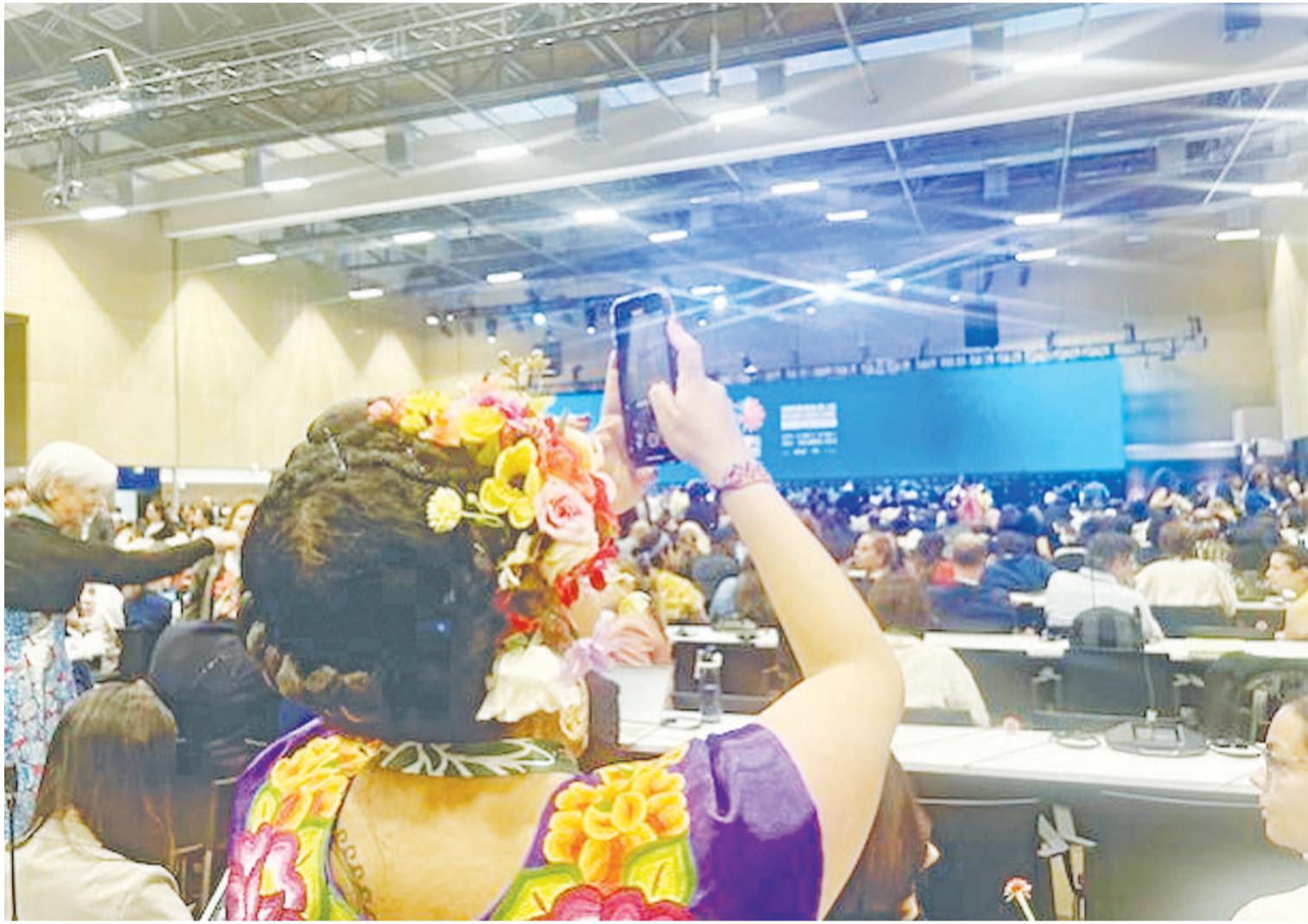
## A Watershed Moment for IPLC

On Saturday night, after hours of last-minute negotiations at several closed-door meetings among parties, COP negotiators agreed to create a permanent subsidiary body under Article 8j of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) that would allow indigenous and local communities (IPLCs) direct participation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. As reported by IPS previously, article 8j had been the subject of one of the most intense negotiations in the COP, with thousands of indigenous activists demanding it while also drawing opposition from a few countries, including Indonesia and Russia.

However, after several rounds of meetings facilitated by the COP16 host Colombia, the warring countries were finally brought to a consensus and the proposal to establish a permanent subsidiary body in the CBP on IPLCs was finally adopted unanimously. Also, for the first time in the history of the CBD COP, indigenous peoples of African descent in Colombia had been recognized for their role in biodiversity conservation, paving the way for them to participate in all processes related to IPLCs under COP and KMGBF.

"This is a watershed moment in the history of multilateral environmental agreements," said Jennifer Corpuz, leader of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), an umbrella organization of Indigenous Peoples and local communities from 7 global regions organized around the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to coordinate indigenous strategies on biodiversity.

Corpuz, who had spearheaded the IIFB negotiations on 8j all through the COP, further said that establishment of the Permanent Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) would not only enable strong partnerships between governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and funders but also provide a high-level platform to further highlight the contributions of IPs and LCs to protection of the planet and share learnings.



An image of an indigenous woman at the Plenary in session at COP16 which took a historic decision on the indigenous peoples and local communities. Credit: Stella Paul/IPS

Currently, the IPLC-related discussions are held under an open-ended Working Group. The decisions of this group are not binding and there is no mandate on how often this group should meet. However, after the subsidiary body's creation, this working group is no longer needed and can be disbanded. Corpuz revealed that Colombia is most likely to be the host of the first subsidiary body meeting, expected to take place in about a year from now—around October or November 2025.

## Hopes Raised by a New DSI Fund

Agreement on a new, multilateral framework on Digital Sequencing Information (DSI) was also reached at COP16 on Saturday.

The framework—to be known as the CaliFund—will channel funding and address how the benefits derived from the use of genetic data, particularly in pharmaceutical, biotechnology and agricultural companies, should be shared with the countries, indigenous communities and stakeholders that provide these resources. The adopted text on this includes strong language such as companies should pay rather than being encouraged to and specifies that 50 percent of the money coming to the DSI fund will be directly going to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

However, no decisions were taken on the exact percentage of the profits that the companies will have to pay and who would be the other stakeholders

eligible to access the fund.

## National Biodiversity Action Plans

In a pre-COP interview to IPS, Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the UN CBD, said that all parties were expected to submit their revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) at COP16. However, on the final day of the COP, only 44 countries had submitted their NBSAPs. The long list of countries that did not submit includes the UK and Brazil.

At the launch event of their NBSAP, Indian Minister of State for Environment, Kirti Vardhan Singh, said that India was ready to help others, especially the neighboring countries, to develop and submit their own NBSAPs.

"We do believe in neighbors first policy and the policy of 'one earth, one family' and are always ready to share our expertise with the neighbors; however, the request must come from their side," Singh told IPS.

## Gender: A Free Tool to Measure Progress

Gender mainstreaming—the focus of KMGBF's Article 23 was not on the main agenda of COP16, and parties did not have a mandate to discuss their plans on implementing it.

However, Women4Biodiversity—the group that represents all NGOs working on biodiversity and women—announced on October 31 that they had co-developed with UNEP-WCMC an indicator for the countries to adopt

and use to implement target 23 of the KMGBF.

Explaining further, Mrinalini Rai, head of Women4Biodiversity, said that the indicator includes a questionnaire with multiple choice answers. Questions are organized under the three expected outcomes from the Gender Plan of Action and the wording closely corresponds to the indicative actions in the Gender Plan of Action. Each answer falls under a category representing the level of progress. Answers are then aggregated and summarized as a quantitative measure (index) to provide a measure of progress over time

All countries that signed the KMGBF have to report on the progress of its implementation in 2026, when the Biodiversity Global Stocktake will take place. The indicator could especially help Parties to prepare for that reporting since it is developed to track and report on their actions towards ensuring the gender-responsive implementation of the KMGBF.

"We have taken a long time and invested a lot of efforts to co-develop this methodology. We also have held extensive consultations with several countries and 19 of them held a test run of the indicator. They then shared their feedback, and we revised the indicator based on that. So, it's a tried and tested tool that any country can use," Rai said.

## Finance and Monitoring and a Suspended COP

While a couple of new financial con-

tributions were pledged to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund during the COP, USD 51.7 million by private donors and USD 163 million by 12 donor countries, the target of raising USD 20 billion by a year remained a goal as distant as ever.

On Saturday night, there was a clear divide between the developing and the developed countries, mainly the European Union. The developing countries demanded that the COP adopt a plan for meeting the USD 20 billion by 2025 and hold donors to account. They argued that this was crucial for them, as the majority of the countries in the global south could not start implementing their biodiversity action plans without money. However, this was vehemently opposed by EU delegates who did not want the official document to include any language related to accountability.

The north-south divide also became prominent when African countries complained that their concerns and voices were being sidelined on the crucial issue of the monitoring framework.

Speaking on behalf of the African Union, the delegate from Namibia alleged that the COP had failed to consult African parties in developing indicators for implementation of the KMGBF: "We would like to put it on record that throughout the contact groups and beyond, we have signaled our willingness to engage in discussions and find convergence; however, Africa was not informed nor invited to the discussion on a compromise that was presented in the CG but that never considered the African group's position with its 55 countries."

As both groups refused to move from their positions and some parties also spoke without following the procedure of the UN process, the COP presidency finally announced that the conference was being suspended for now.

Melissa Wright, of Bloomberg Philanthropies, which had previously pledged to donate USD 20 million to conserve marine biodiversity, said the deadlock was "deeply concerning."

"It is deeply concerning that consensus was not reached on key issues, including finance. The clock is ticking."

However, Susana Muhamad, the president of COP16, called the conference a success.

"COP16 has been a transformative event," said Muhamad while admitting that disagreements on the financial strategy and the monitoring framework remained a future challenge.

This leaves some challenges for the Convention, and it is time to start addressing them, but the discussion there was always very polarized and continued to be so," she said.

# 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



# Enhancing inclusivity and participation of small producers in agricultural value chain

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

WHILE civil society organisations advocate for land rights and secure tenure of small producers, it has come to light that in order to increase benefits from their activities they must fully participate in the entire value chain of the agriculture system. It is not enough for these producers to make a marked prominence only at some points of the value chain as this denies them opportunity to exploit benefits that come with land ownership and secure tenure. Advocacy groups should thus speak for small producers' land rights and secure tenure as well as their opportunity to contribute adequately to the agricultural value chain.

"The value chain should begin with land ownership that is protected by secure tenure. Small producers must own land and participate in deciding how land is used. Their ownership rights must be protected and they must be involved in all other matters relating to land," said Honest Mseri the Executive Director of Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSFA). "Small producers who rent land to produce crops do not use extension services. They take minimum measures to sustain fertility and don't really care about sustainable land quality because they don't own the land and so they don't place their future on it. This excludes them from benefiting from the agricultural value chain," he added. He was speaking at the National Land Forum 2024 and 30th Anniversary of HakiArdhi that was conducted in Bagamoyo recently.

Currently some villages have started issuing land to youth group offering between 5 and 15 hectares depending on the type of crops they want to grow. Yet it is important that certification of land for the youth must be undertaken in order to provide evidence of ownership and security of tenure and enable the youth to participate fully in the entire agricultural value chain.

Small producers must take part in activities that add value to their products, which means they should take actions that improve a product and reach out to processors and markets. It is not just about production but the flow of products, knowledge and information, finance and the social capital needed to organize producers and communities are what make a value chain.

"We are talking about productivity and quality and variety of crops produced. We are talking about markets for



products and that producers should link to markets directly instead of using middlemen or argents," explained Richard Msandika from Muungano wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Arusha (MVIWAARUSHA).

Participation of small producers in the agricultural value chain should be catalyzed by reliable access to markets since strong value chains boost productivity, increase incomes and strengthen food security. In the long run small producers could expand their profits from multiple potential markets.

However there are obstacles that must be removed before farmers can exploit available market potential. They include poor seeds and varieties that may not be appropriate for various uses. There is also poor quality of products during harvesting depicted by inconsistent size and colour, among other things. There is also inadequate threshing techniques, postharvest drying and storage as well as grading which reduce quantity and market quality. The huddles also include insufficient communication with markets regarding varieties and quality. Small producers also have insufficient training in accessing finance for post-harvest management. All these have an impact on the participation of small producers in the agricultural value chain.

But small producers must also have adequate knowledge of the country's

land laws and policies so that they may be able to suggest amendment or review where they find such laws and policies deny them participation in the value chain. "When we talk about training small producers, we should also think of raising their awareness and understanding of various legislation and policies as these give direction of their participation. Additionally they should be trained in production of specific crops like rice, maize coffee or horticulture. This will go a long way towards raising quantity and quality of such crops," said Alex Urjo, a representative from Muungano wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Kilimanjaro (MVIWAKI). He added that small producers must have access to appropriate value addition technology for their crops. "If the crops pass through a quality process of value addition, then it is most likely that the products will fetch a good price in the market and thus raise incomes for small producers".

However, there was concern that while Tanzania's land laws and policies are good and could cater for inclusive participation of small producers in the value chain, there is weak implementation such that the same deny small producers opportunities to benefit from the value chain. "Implementation of land laws and policies is not government priority as it does not allocate adequate funding for the purpose. Most of the implementa-

tion is undertaken as projects which are funded by donors and development partners and such projects lack sustainability and provide little room for participation of small producers," explained Godfrey Massay, Landesa Country Director. He also questioned the tedious process of accessing land by the youth noting that the system only serves to discourage them from acquiring land and participating in the agricultural value chain. "They youth are required to form groups in order to be given land. The groups must draw a constitution then the group must be registered and then begin the process to look for funding. This long process does not attract the participation of youth, it frustrates them. Their ambitions to own land and participate in the value chain are thwarted," he said.

The Forum also discussed the issue of maintaining soil fertility and raising production and productivity for food security as well as income generation for small producers and called for scaling up of extension services so as to reach many small producers. When it comes to maintaining soil fertility small producers should be encouraged to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers. These affect soil quality and subsequently, the quality of products. They should instead turn to organic fertilizers or manure that is readily available in their locations. Extension services should train produc-

ers in agro-ecology which maintains soil fertility and where these services are offered by non-state actors (NGOs) these must be coordinated in order to reduce wastage of resources, overlapping activities and raise impact on the beneficiaries.

Climate change has led to uncertainty in agricultural production. Small producers are often not sure of the quantity or the quality of the crops they will produce. Severe drought, flash floods and unpredictable seasons have all impacted production. Producers must be trained to undertake adaptation measures and practice climate smart agriculture if they are to benefit from their participation in the agricultural value chain.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) says that strong value chains and better access to markets allow small producers to reliably sell more quality produce at higher prices. However, small producers are often involved in informal value chains, which can limit them to low-quality products, low prices, and low returns. To help small producers, it's important to integrate them into more modern value chains.

When farmers get a good price for their produce, they are encouraged to invest in their businesses and increase the quantity, quality and diversity of their produce. This helps them earn more, ensuring their families' food security and building their economic resilience to withstand setbacks. "By participating in rural value chains, young people can look forward to better livelihoods for themselves and their communities," says IFAD in one of its publications.

There are many reasons why small-scale farmers do not or cannot participate in more lucrative value chains. They may be far from a market and transport costs may be high. Some may have limited business skills or are not part of an organization to pool their resources. "Improving agricultural value chains can really make a difference for small-holder farmers and thus also for global food security," says IFAD.

KAMPALA, Uganda / NEW JERSEY, USA

Africa has had a terrible record dealing with extreme poverty. The late Adebayo Adedeji, the legendary head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), campaigned vigorously but unsuccessfully in the 1980s against the IMF and World Bank-imposed structural adjustment programmes, contending that these contributed to poverty's increase.

The continent's economic growth plummeted rapidly in that decade by an average of 2.5 per cent annually, hitting the already poor the hardest. Hard as it is to believe, things have gotten much worse since then for the poor.

In 1990, Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 15 percent of the world's extremely poor. By 2022 that figure had soared to 60 percent, while every other world region reduced poverty levels. The magnitude of the dramatic downward spiral has been felt by the extremely poor, with about 450 million scrambling every day to try to provide life's basics for their families, not always successfully.

This extraordinary emergency mainly went unnoticed by the richer countries. The Carnegie Africa programme noted in its Fall Bulletin published last month that one of the notable global financial trends of 2024 seems to be a reduction by several of the richest in bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The African Union (AU) is determined to change this sorry tale by appointing as the next Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission a visionary leader capable of setting in motion the "transformative change" promised in the Commission's historic "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want."

That Agenda has the unprecedented goal of achieving a "dignified standard of living" for all the continent's people by its centenary year, or of course earlier. That goal would require, among other things, prioritizing the drastic reduction of the continent's gaping inequality, which of course goes against the world's prevailing market and ideological trends.

A simultaneous but more immediate goal is the Agenda's flagship project, "Silencing The Guns in Africa," which

## Africa's most important election is underway



The African Union is committed to electing a visionary leader capable of transformative change including dramatically reducing extreme poverty and ending Africa's own "forever" wars.

pledges to bring an end to the continent's own forever wars and conflicts that have taken a toll of millions and continue to rage with no prospect of end in sight.

Somalia is the poster child of this crisis: there seems to be no effort under way to bring about peace, except the continuing use of force that has utterly failed to end the killing.

Africa's heads of states have been emboldened in their commitment to a transformative campaign by some astonishing turn of economic and political events. Last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast that in 2024, the world's seven fastest growing economies, and 12 of the top 15, would be African.

This is a result of many factors, but primarily because the continent's vast natural and mineral resources have emerged as an indispensable engine of growth for the increasingly hi-tech orientation of indus-

trialized economies.

The magazine Foreign Affairs captured these developments in a succinct headline: "The Global Economy's Future Depends on Africa: As Others Slow, a Youthful Continent Can Drive Growth." But on its own, such remarkable progress will not automatically make a major dent in extreme poverty.

Some of this new attention was in prominent evidence at the United Nations General Assembly's high level "presidential" session which concluded in October. The United States announced it would push for two new permanent non-veto-wielding seats for Africa. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres emphasized that Africa should have veto power as well.

Africa's youngest and newest leader, the dynamic prisoner turned president Diomaye Faye of Senegal, who is enjoying intense international attention, asserted that a New World Order is essential for global stability, and the UN Security Council needed to give Africa veto power, reflecting the radically changed global demographics.

Africa is also being paid high level political attention in other forums. A year ago, the Group of 20 (G20), the premier grouping of the Global South and industrialized countries, made the African Union a permanent regional member at its New Delhi Summit.

These are exceptional

achievements for the AU Commission and have given Africa a seat at the table for the highest-level discussions where fateful decisions vital to Africa's, and the world's, future are made. The breakthroughs have also begun re-shaping the continent's despairing image internally and internationally.

None of this, however, should in any way diminish the magnitude of the challenge ahead. Only a minuscule number of economically impoverished countries in our lifetime has managed to achieve exceptional growth as well as massive reductions in poverty and inequality. To strive for such an outcome for an entire continent, with 55 countries and 1.5 billion people at radically different levels of economic and social development, will be a daunting task.

That task will take on new life with the February 25 election at the AU summit of a new Commission chairperson. With this new transformative mandate, the Chairperson will become, or will need to become, a pivotal African and continental figure, the global face of the African Union and of the African people.

A loose comparison would be the UN Secretary General, who is the face of the United Nations as well as of all humanity. In that regard, with his well-known African and global profile, Mr Odinga will hit the ground running.

We two have worked at

senior levels internationally, including at the United Nations under Secretary General Kofi Annan, on many of the goals that are also at the heart of Agenda 2063. We have also had the honour to work closely with Raila, as he is known universally by presidents and peasants and workers alike.

We have seen how effortlessly he moves from the highest levels of African and international leaderships, to spending time with street traders, women farmers and passionate young entrepreneurs and protesters.

This particular skill is one of his strongest suits for the Commission Chairmanship. In our view, one of the AU's principal weaknesses is that it is not very well known in the grassroots and heartlands of the continent. That must change. The African Union should be seen as a beacon of hope and protection for the tens of millions caught up in strife, oppression or dislocation but feel forgotten by the rest of the continent.

Sometimes they think the outside world cares more. Raila Odinga is the kind of person who will travel to ravaged areas to talk to the afflicted and do whatever possible to try to ease and understand their pain and launch efforts for their immediate relief.

In addition, we believe Mr Odinga is uniquely qualified to serve as the new AU Commission Chair, given his long history as an instinctively transformative figure with

the political and practical skills to translate visionary goals into successful policy.

Prime Minister of Kenya for five years as well as the enduring leader of the opposition for two decades till this year, Mr Odinga was also twice a Senior Envoy for the African Union on critical assignments.

One of these was his five years as AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development, an area he presciently promoted from the 1990s onwards as the crucible of economic growth and industrialization of African countries.

Raila Odinga has presented Africa's leaders his ambitious, carefully thought-through agenda for this moment of historic transformation and transition. To achieve this agenda, it will require a leader who can mobilize and work seamlessly with the African leaders. It will require great political stature and moral authority to mobilize the global community and to form important strategic partnerships globally and within Africa.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man. Mr. Odinga is the man for this season—a man forged in the national and continental political cauldron for a time such as this. Africa would be very fortunate to have him at the helm of the African Union Commission at such a historic and an exciting moment.

Olara A. Otunnu has served as President of the UN Security Council, Chairman of the UN Commission on Human Rights, and UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

Salim Lone, a widely published writer, was Spokesman for Mr Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of Kenya and opposition leader, 2005-2013, and a Director of Communications and Spokesman at the United Nations, 1997-2003.



# Mexican cooperative promotes energy transition on indigenous lands

MEXICO CITY

What began as a search for fair prices for indigenous handicrafts in 1985 has evolved into a women's organisation in Mexico that promotes climate justice while advocating for land and environmental rights.

"We set ourselves the very broad goal of achieving access for women to a more dignified life, and we did that through various activities," Rufina Villa, an indigenous Nahua woman, told IPS.

"We thought we were only going to make handicrafts, but with the meetings we saw that it was important to do other things," said the founder of the Masehual Siuamej Mosenyolchicauani (indigenous women who support each other, in the Náhuatl language) cooperative.

These initiatives include women's literacy, human rights training, product quality improvement, economic autonomy and environmental protection in Cuetzalan del Progreso, in the central state of Puebla, some 297 kilometres south of Mexico City.

Nestled among mountains in the region known as the Sierra Norte, Cuetzalan is a rural municipality, called a 'magical town' because of its location, with cloud forests, waterfalls and caves, among other scenic beauties, and a majority indigenous population.

Founded by 25 women, in its first stage the cooperative focused on protecting the environment by separating waste, making compost for their crops and farming with agro-ecological practices. It has also always protected the springs that supply water to Cuetzalan and encouraged energy transition to less polluting alternatives.

"We were pioneers in supporting community tourism to protect the territory. We are constantly training to improve our services. We began to learn about the problems of pollution in our environment, to see places with deforestation, damage caused by mass tourism," continued the 69-year-old activist and mother of four daughters and four sons.

Although the cooperative does not explicitly link its activities to the search for climate justice, they aim to solve, at least in their community, the environmental and climate problems that other climate justice revolves around economic equity, security and gender equality and seeks solutions to the inequalities created by the causes and consequences of the climate crisis among individuals and groups of people.

After building a hotel in 1997, whose



Members of the Masehual Siuamej Mosenyolchicauani women's cooperative, who teach weaving and other crafts of the Nahua people, in Cuetzalan del Progreso, central Mexico. Credit: Courtesy of Taselotzin

caretaker is Villa's husband, the organisation invested some USD 20,000 in 2022 in the installation of solar panels, an amount already recouped, in a push for energy transition in an area where hydroelectric and fossil plants supply most of the electricity.

To cut gas and electricity costs, they also installed solar water heaters the following year.

The Taselotzin (Náhuatl for 'offshoot') Hotel, set in a nurturing environment, offers private rooms, cabins and dormitories, as well as ecotourism services, highlighting the value of the forest and water sources. On the premises, members of the cooperative also teach how to make and appreciate Nahua weavings and other handicrafts.

It belongs to the Huiziki Tijit (Náhuatl for 'hummingbird's path') Tourism Network, which operates in five Puebla municipi-

ties with a majority Nahua population and great ecological value, among them Cuetzalan. **Growing risks**

Like other regions of Mexico, a country vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis, Cuetzalan, with some 50,000 people in 2020, is suffering from climate impacts.

Between March and June this year, the municipality experienced severe, extreme and exceptional droughts, which had not happened so far this century, according to the governmental National Meteorological System's Drought Monitor. In addition, it lost 1,000 hectares of tree cover from 2001 to 2023, equivalent to a 12 percent decrease since 2000, according to data from the international platform Global Forest Watch. In 2023, it lost 86 hectares, the highest figure since 2019 (108).

"The land is bountiful. We have been through a lot and we

are still standing," said Doña Rufi, as she is affectionately known in the area, which cultivates milpa, an ancestral system that combines the planting of corn, beans, squash and chili peppers, as well as coffee, bananas and medicinal plants.

This century, the communities of Cuetzalan have faced threats to water, such as mass tourism, mining and hydroelectric initiatives, as well as electricity and oil projects of the state-owned Petróleos Mexicanos and Federal Electricity Commission.

The Cuetzalan Ecological Territorial Planning Program, created in 2010, regulates land use in the municipality.

Most of Cuetzalan's water supply relies on springs. More than 80

community water committees operate and are responsible for water transfer infrastructure and maintenance, but the drought is affecting these sources.

"The drought has been hard, although now it is raining. We protect the springs and that is why we have opposed projects of death", as the Nahua villagers call works that destroy the environment, said Villa.

The cooperative is made up of 100 Nahua women from six of the municipality's communities. It is one of some 100 women's cooperatives, out of a total of 8,000 operating in the country.

**Absent** Mexico's public policies lack a climate justice per-

spective, which is reflected in the territory.

The latest update of Mexico's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the set of voluntary climate policies that each country adopts as part of the Paris Agreement, mentions climate justice only once and does not link any of the measures to it.

The same is true of Puebla's 2021-2030 State Climate Change Strategy.

Hilda Salazar, founder of the non-governmental organisation Mujer y Ambiente, believes the 'powerful' concept of climate justice has permeated little in Mexico's municipalities and communities.

"There has been no vision of climate justice. In recent years, because of the severe impacts, they have begun to introduce the concept, but without much clarity about what we are talking about," she told IPS in an interview in Mexico City.

"The state and municipal governments have a great lack of knowledge. When it comes to implementation, it is seen as an environmental issue, not as development, and it is divorced from the climate agenda", she adds.

In Mexico, the courts have received at least 23 lawsuits related to climate issues, a far cry from Brazil's 89 cases. Few have been successful and fewer still were linked to climate justice.

In this scenario, processes such as those of the Cuetzalan cooperative could motivate more local communities to un-

dertake their own. Villa appreciated several lessons learned from the cooperative's long-standing work.

"We know how to organize, which one person cannot achieve alone—to continue establishing networks, to know what is happening in other regions, it is important to take care of our environment and our culture, defend our collective rights, our autonomy as women, as people, as indigenous people," she stressed.

And she believes it is important to pass this on to younger women. "Women used to work at home, but now they go out to sell their products, such as coffee, cinnamon, honey, or work in tourism," she said.

According to Salazar, who is also a member of the non-governmental Gender and Environment Network, there is a lack of legislation, programmes and land policies.

"It is a structural problem. It does not reach the dimension it should have because of the impacts, and policies divorce economic, technological, social and cultural aspects. There are disadvantages (for women) from access to information to participation and implementation," she said.

In her opinion, the gender approach has the virtue, in environmental and climate issues, of putting asymmetries and inequalities at the centre. "It strikes at the heart," she said.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Cuetzalan del Progreso, in the central state of Puebla. Credit: Secretary of Tourism

**THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 00 206 00 -**

**Across:**

- death, destruction
- the third longest river in Africa
- every day
- superior People in the society
- having little importance
- lower and raise one's head
- Reply
- gradually destroy the surface
- submit for inspection
- a piece of work

**Down:**

- Capital of Tanzania
- edible bulbs
- once more
- intense and selfish desire for wealth
- Father of Nation in Tanzania
- things serving to represent facts
- situated inside
- to be under obligation to repay
- dishonest act

**Yesterday's Solutions**

1	L	S	E	S	T	E
2	R	V	O	N	A	N
3	N	S	A	S	H	A
4	C	H	E	G	O	N
5	A	R	E	N	R	O
6	Z	A	N	Z	I	B
7	A	N	Z	I	B	A
8	F	A	T	H	E	R
9	A	N	Z	I	B	A
10	A	N	Z	I	B	A
11	A	N	Z	I	B	A
12	A	N	Z	I	B	A
13	A	N	Z	I	B	A
14	A	N	Z	I	B	A
15	A	N	Z	I	B	A
16	A	N	Z	I	B	A
17	A	N	Z	I	B	A

**Core Solutions**

1	C	O	R	E	S	T
2	A	W	A	I	T	R
3	A	N	O	D	I	Z
4	T	C	E	P	E	N
5	T	R	E	A	D	I
6	N	E	T	I	N	E
7	G	R	I	N	D	E
8	A	G	E	S	A	Y

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.

STRANGE	SEA MILE
BAMBARA	MTERA
ORE	UNDA
NBA	UREAS
ASIA	MOMBASA
AVERAGE	MUSEUMS
NTT : BA	MEANDER

tel: 0789437309 / telximagezi@gmail

**RADIO One**

**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
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# SMEs urged to be innovative for global competitiveness

By Guardian Correspondent, Juba

Entrepreneurs from East African Community (EAC) member states have been urged to boost their innovation and skills to produce quality products with global market potential.

This call was made yesterday by Zuhura Yunus, Deputy Permanent Secretary, the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment, and the Disabled) (pictured), while officiating Tanzania Day at the ongoing 24th EAC Small and Medium (SM) Entrepreneurs Exhibition, popularly known as Jua Kali.

Yunus highlighted that EAC countries are rich in natural resources that can be converted into valuable products. "You need to tap into your creativity to develop marketable products from your local resources," she encouraged.

She also urged the EAC Secretariat to continue supporting the exhibition, emphasizing its role in fostering innovation and expanding markets for SMEs within the EAC.

Annette Mutaawe, the Deputy Secretary General in Charge of Customs Trade and Monetary Affairs at the EAC Secretariat, noted that the exhibition enables entrepreneurs to expand their commercial reach across the region.

Participating Tanzanian entrepreneurs expressed gratitude to



President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government for facilitating their involvement, noting it has provided them with a valuable platform to showcase Tanzanian products.

Held under the theme "Promoting Unique Innovation and Skill Development Among Small and Medium Entrepreneurs of East Africa," the 24th EAC Entrepreneurs Exhibition brings together around 1,700 entrepreneurs from all EAC countries, including 299 from Tanzania. This marks the first time South Sudan, which joined the EAC in 2016, is hosting the event.

Small and Medium Enterprises

(SMEs) in East Africa are crucial to the region's economic growth, job creation, and innovation. In Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda, SMEs account for the vast majority of businesses and employ a significant portion of the population.

SMEs account for a large percentage of total employment in East Africa. In many countries, they are estimated to employ over 80 percent of the workforce, especially in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

In Kenya, for instance, SMEs contribute about 30 percent of the GDP and employ over 80 per-

cent of the workforce. In Tanzania and Uganda, SMEs also play a significant role in both urban and rural economic settings.

In Rwanda, SMEs play a vital role in the country's economic development, accounting for over 90 percent of all businesses and contributing to approximately 50 percent of the country's GDP.

They are crucial for job creation, providing around 80 percent of total employment in the private sector.

Access to finance remains one of the biggest challenges, as the large share of SMEs in the EAC region are unregistered or operate informally, making it hard to access credit from traditional banks.

However, the rise of fintech and microfinance institutions has improved access, offering alternative financing solutions like mobile lending and peer-to-peer platforms.

Governments in East Africa are working to create a more favorable regulatory environment for SMEs. Initiatives include business registration simplification, tax incentives, and creating SME-friendly policies.

However, bureaucratic red tape and complex regulations still pose obstacles, especially for small-scale operators.

Despite the challenges, East African SMEs is bolstered by technological advancements, market opportunities, and the potential for strategic partnerships.



## Tanzanians to buy, sell shares through their mobile phones

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzanians can now buy or sell or manage stocks and other securities directly via mobile phones, after the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) has partnered with a mobile telecom network to revolutionize digital access to Tanzania's capital markets.

Peter Nalitoela, Chief Executive Officer of DSE (pictured), stated, "This partnership with the telecommunication company underscores both institutions' dedication to financial inclusion."

He added that the DSE aims to leverage the DSE Mini App on the M-Pesa platform to reach more Tanzanian investors, providing convenient access to the stock exchange from the comfort of their homes as they work toward building a secure future for themselves and their families.

Nalitoela explained that the partnership not only enhances access to Tanzania's capital markets but also raises awareness and engagement with the stock exchange. The DSE Mini App simplifies the investment process, equipping users with tools to make informed decisions.

"The launch of the DSE Mini App on the M-Pesa Super App offers an innovative and accessible avenue for Tanzanians to participate in the financial markets, further advancing financial inclusion and empowerment," he said.

Through this new app, users can open investor accounts, trade shares directly on the DSE, access real-time market insights, and receive advisory services

from brokers. The collaboration marks a significant step forward in the digital transformation of Tanzania's capital markets.

"This partnership illustrates how technology can bridge gaps, making financial markets more inclusive, transparent, and accessible to all Tanzanians," Nalitoela added.

Epimack Mbeteni, M-Pesa Director at Vodacom Tanzania, commented, "By integrating the DSE Mini App into the M-Pesa Super App, we are making the capital markets more accessible to all Tanzanians. This partnership aligns with our goal of expanding financial inclusion through innovative digital solutions that enable our customers to invest, save, and grow their wealth with ease. Accessing the stock market via mobile is a game-changer for millions who may have previously been excluded from this sector."

Tanzania's capital markets are a key component of the country's financial sector, supporting economic growth by mobilizing long-term funds and encouraging investment.

Established in 1996, the DSE is Tanzania's primary stock exchange, offering equities, government bonds, and corporate bonds.

The exchange lists a range of companies, including those in the banking, investments, telecommunications, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors. The DSE has also partnered with regional markets, allowing cross-listing and trade across East Africa.

## Oil prices rise sharply after OPEC+ postpone production cut increase

By Irina Slav

Crude oil prices started the week with a gain of over \$1 per barrel following reports that OPEC+ had decided to postpone a planned partial rollback of its production cuts.

The group was supposed to bring back some 180,000 barrels daily in supply from December but it had conditioned that move on the price environment. If oil prices were right, they would bring back the supply. If prices remained depressed, as they have, the rollback would be pushed back.

While the OPEC+ decision was anything but surprising, its impact on oil prices was immediate, with Brent crude trading at \$74.37 per barrel at the time of writing, and West Texas Intermediate changing hands at \$70.75 per barrel.

"While the delay until January does not change fundamentals significantly, it does potentially leave the market having to rethink the strategy of OPEC+," ING's Warren Patterson and Ewa Manthey said in a note following the OPEC+ announcement.



Citing recent reports about Saudi Arabia's unhappiness with lost market share as a result of the cuts and its displeasure with production cut laggards, the ING analysts noted they may have underestimated Saudi Arabia's—and OPEC's—desire to boost prices. ING and other forecasters had assumed the Saudis and OPEC would rather risk even lower prices with additional supply in order to regain market share. This clearly wasn't the case.

Therefore, "this delayed supply increase means that maybe the group are more willing to sup-

port prices than many believe," Patterson and Manthey wrote, adding "However, our balance continues to show that the market will be in surplus through 2025 unless OPEC+ continues with cuts through next year."

Along the same lines, IG analyst Yeap Jun Rong told Reuters it was doubtful whether the price spike following the OPEC+ decision would last long. According to him, prices would encounter resistance around \$78 per barrel.

As of November 2024, crude oil prices are projected to fluctuate within a range of approximately

\$59.36 to \$74.99 per barrel, with an average expected price around \$67.37. The forecast indicates a decline from the beginning price of about \$70.40 to an estimated end price of \$64.71 by the end of the month.

The overall trend for oil prices remains influenced by a relatively balanced global supply and demand. Forecasts suggest Brent crude prices will average around \$82 per barrel for the year, reflecting a stable outlook despite potential volatility due to geopolitical tensions and production disruptions.

## 'Zambia mining stake increase plan won't involve existing projects'

LUSAKA

Zambia's plans to take bigger stakes in some mining projects won't impact existing operations in the country, including exploration activities, according to a senior government official.

The mines ministry in August unveiled a new strategy that would see a state-owned company control at least 30 percent of future critical-minerals mines.

That initiative will apply only to permits - more than 40 of them - reserved for the government, which intends to bring in investment partners, said Jito Kayumba, President Hakainde Hichilema's special assistant for finance and investment.

"No entity that currently operates in Zambia today, that currently has a license, will be subjected to any appropriation from the state," Kayumba said by phone. "There will be

no demand for them to restructure the shareholding so that either the government or a Zambian company comes in and takes 30 percent."

Africa's second-largest copper producer is pursuing an ambitious plan to more than quadruple output of the metal by early next decade. To have any chance of success, investors will need to spend billions of dollars to turn early-stage projects into operating mines.

Subsidiaries of First Quantum Minerals and Barrick Gold Corp accounted for about two-thirds of Zambia's copper production last year. Those firms are already working on increasing production in the years ahead. Units of Abu Dhabi's International Resources Holding, Vedanta Resources and China Nonferrous Mining Corp also operate mines in the country, while Bill Gates-backed KoBold Metals is undertaking a major exploration program.



Zambia is one of the world's largest copper producers

The several dozen permits set aside for the government will be transferred to a state firm, which will then negotiate agreements with

partners. The company will hold significant minority but non-operational stakes in the projects, according to Kayumba. It's currently discussing a potential joint venture for some of the licenses with Barrick, the world's No. 2 gold producer, he said.

For other new licenses to be issued, "we are encouraging - and this is not mandatory - more joint ventures with Zambians," Kayumba said. "That's not necessarily state participation but it could be local communities, it could be Zambian entrepreneurs."

Zambia's mining sector is a critical part of its economy, contributing around 10-15 percent of the country's GDP and about 70 percent of its export earnings.

The industry is primarily focused on copper mining, as Zambia is one of the world's largest copper producers, along with smaller quantities of cobalt, gold, and gemstones.

The nation's rich mineral resources have historically attracted significant foreign investment, with companies from countries such as Canada, China, and the United States having substantial stakes in Zambian mines.

The mining sector often suffers from inadequate infrastructure, especially in energy supply. Electricity shortages are common, largely due to the reliance on hydropower, which is affected by seasonal rainfall patterns. This has pushed the industry to seek alternative energy sources, although these are often costlier.

The Zambian government has implemented local content policies to ensure that mining companies source services and goods from Zambian firms and provide job opportunities for locals. These requirements are part of broader efforts to retain more economic value within the country.



# Farmer's economy in dilemma as elephants wipe out extensive farm

By Guardian Reporter, Simanjoro

In the quiet village of Orkirung'ring in Simanjoro district, Mathayo Olenyoke's ambitious plans for economic growth have met a sudden and crushing halt.

Olenyoke, a dedicated farmer, invested over 25m/- into creating a model farm to grow beans, cowpeas and green grams seeds for sale to Beula Company.

This project, designed to uplift his livelihood, was meant to be a game-changer for Olenyoke and his family.

But on the morning of October 27, Olenyoke awoke to a grim scene: elephants had invaded his farm overnight, trampling and consuming nearly everything in sight. What was once a flourishing field was now a barren ruined landscape.

Olenyoke estimates that 95 percent of his crops have been destroyed, a devastating loss considering the painstaking efforts he took to establish infrastructure to protect and irrigate his fields.

"The elephants ruined everything," Olenyoke shared. "We took photos, and I reported it to the authorities, but the damage is severe. The only thing left standing is the water tank."

This year was meant to be Olenyoke's breakthrough.

With the first harvest of beans just completed "If it weren't for the elephants, I would have already replanted," he added, looking out over his ravaged land.

"Half an acre had green grams and cowpeas, but now I haven't been able to harvest anything except about two kilograms of green grams."

Olenyoke is pleading with the government for assistance, emphasizing that his efforts to secure his farm against livestock and to provide irrigation have been in vain due to the elephants.

He points out that the government officials, including the Regional Commissioner, have visited his farm before, seeing firsthand the healthy crops before the destruction.

On a recent Sunday night, he said, elephants returned at 3 a.m., and despite being outside, he was powerless to stop them.

"My plea to the government is for support. I've reached out to every authority I can think of, but so far, no help has arrived," he added with a heavy heart.

Beatus Maganya, spokesperson for the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), clarified the process for such incidents.

"When someone's property or crops are damaged by wild animals, an assessment is conducted to evaluate the extent of the damage, and compensation



Elephants account for 80 percent of human-wildlife conflict cases. AI generated image

is then paid by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism," he explained.

Maganya noted that such compensation involves a small payment called "kifuta jasho" (a token relief), provided following an evaluation

conducted by district game officers.

He also explained that TAWA is addressing the human-wildlife conflict by educating communities and creating "crop protector" groups—community teams

tasked with responding to wild animal intrusions.

These groups use non-lethal methods to deter wildlife and reduce the need for government intervention, thereby empowering communities to manage local conflicts di-

rectly.

"Mitigating human-wildlife conflict isn't just a government task; it's a collaborative effort involving citizens, NGOs, and private individuals. Government staff alone can't cover every area," he added. In cases like Olenyoke's, where the village is close to Manyara National Park, TANAPA (Tanzania National Parks) would also respond.

When asked about Olenyoke's case, the Simanjoro district wildlife officer in charge declined to comment, stating that the district council's director would be the one authorized to speak on the matter.

Olenyoke remains hopeful that, one day, his efforts and losses won't go unnoticed. Until then, he waits, hoping the assistance he's been promised will eventually come.

According to the ministry of tourism and natural resources, Tanzania's approach to mitigating human-wildlife conflict involves a multi-faceted strategy that addresses the root causes of conflicts between local communities and wildlife, especially in regions close to national parks and conservation areas.

To address this, Tanzania is implementing the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy (2020-2024).

This strategy aims to improve coexistence by focusing

on community-based solutions, including the construction of barriers like fences, promoting coexistence education, and utilizing technology for wildlife monitoring.

Now in its final year, the HWC strategy is being implemented by TAWA, the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), the Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, local government authorities, and other key stakeholders.

Elephants account for 80 percent of human-wildlife conflict cases, highlighting the need for targeted interventions.

Government data indicates that human-wildlife conflicts have surged from 833 incidents in 2016/2017 to 3,499 in 2023/2024, representing an average annual increase of 28.8 percent.

In 2023/2024, 221 animals, including crocodiles, elephants, lions, and baboons, were killed due to conflicts with humans.

Human-wildlife conflicts result not only in the loss of lives but also in the deterioration of coexistence between humans and wildlife.

According to Isaac Chamba, a Conservation expert, various factors contribute to the rise in human-wildlife conflicts, including blocked wildlife corridors, inadequate land-use planning, livestock intrusions into protected areas, climate change, and false beliefs in some communities.

While the government authorities have taken significant strides in managing human-wildlife conflict, challenges remain, including funding constraints, the scale of human settlement growth, and climate impacts.

Future efforts will likely focus on scaling up successful models, increasing compensation funding, expanding conservation education, and improving cross-border coordination for wildlife that migrates beyond Tanzanian borders.



TARI's Director General, Dr. Thomas Bwana

## Researchers seek to boost cassava, potato production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Researchers from the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) are attending a four-day training in Mwanza aimed at improving the production and availability of cassava and sweet potatoes.

This workshop is part of a collaboration among TARI, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and the German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (DSMZ), focused on increasing yields of these staple crops.

Salum Kasele, a senior cassava re-

searcher from TARI Ukiriguru, noted that Tanzania's cassava yield averages 8.6 tons per hectare, significantly below the recommended 30 tons. He highlighted that the process of researching, registering, and commercializing improved crop varieties currently takes up to 10 years. "This training is exploring ways to reduce this timeline to five years, ensuring farmers receive enhanced cassava and sweet potato seed varieties faster," he said.

Dr. Hadija Ally, head of TARI Ukiriguru's sweet potato program, reported a substantial gap in the Lake Region's sweet potato seed demand. In

2022/2023, demand reached 23 million pieces, but farmers used fewer than 5 million. She also warned of the threat from sweet potato virus disease, which can completely devastate crops if not controlled.

"Our research aims to equip farmers with better seed varieties and effective pest management techniques to combat this virus," Dr. Hadija assured, emphasizing that improved sweet potato production will also contribute to food security.

The training included researchers from TARI Ukiriguru, TARI Naliende, TARI Kibaha, and TARI Maruku centers.

## Nigeria's per capita income drops to \$877

LAGOS

Nigeria, known for its industrious and resilient population, is currently grappling with a troubling decline in productivity, as reflected in its plummeting income per capita.

According to the October 2024 World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Nigeria's per capita income

has fallen drastically, from \$3,223 in 2014 to a mere \$877.07, as the country faces an uphill battle in translating its demographic strength into sustainable economic growth.

This dramatic decline raises significant concerns about the structural health of Africa's largest economy, suggesting an urgent need for reforms in policy, human capital development,

and infrastructure.

With a population exceeding 220 million, Economist and CEO of CFC Advisory, Tilewa Adebajo, in a telephone conversation with Nigerian Tribune pointed out that the economy is experiencing a sluggish growth rate of just 3 percent, combined with declining productivity and soaring unemployment.

He highlighted the alarm-

ing figure of 135 million Nigerians trapped in poverty, with a 40 percent unemployment rate, which underscores the scarcity of job creation and industrial productivity.

Adebajo attributed this low productivity partly to insecurity, particularly in the northern and southeastern regions, which has prevented many farmers from accessing their land.

## Farmers urged to adopt climate-resilient farming

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Farmers have been urged to adopt climate-resilient agriculture that is environmentally friendly, protects forests, and follows best agricultural practices to mitigate deforestation in the country.

Ewald Emil, the monitoring, research and communication Officer at the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), made these remarks recently while speaking to journalists and staff from the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) during their visit to Mnkonde village.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the impact of the Integrated Forest Biomass Energy Solutions for Tanzania (IFBEST) project.

In many areas of the country, people are engaging in agricultural practices that are neither environmentally resilient nor aligned with agricultural best practices.

Shifting agriculture is prevalent, with individuals cutting down trees indiscriminately and moving to new areas every two years in search of fertile land.

As a result, forests are disappearing due to unsustainable land-use practices, including agricultural activities that lead to deforestation, alongside charcoal production and firewood harvesting conducted without sustainable methods.

The demand for land is increasing annually due to the growing population. As the population rises, more land will be required for agricultural activities, livestock keeping, and settlements.

Tanzania has 48 million hectares of forest, and every year approximately 469,000 hectares are cleared for farming activities, timber harvesting, charcoal production, bush fires, cattle grazing, tobacco curing, and other uses.

In an effort to reduce deforestation, Emil stated, "We, as forest conservation stakeholders, are assisting villages across various regions to establish the best systems for forest management, ensuring sustainability for future generations."

With funding from the IFBEST projects, they have empowered villagers to create land-use plans for their communities, designating areas for agricultural activities, livestock keeping, water sources, residential use, grazing areas, and setting aside village land as forest reserves for community-based forest management, supported by the European Union through the Ministry of Finance.

"In the village land forest reserve, 10 percent is allocated for sustainable timber and charcoal harvesting, while 80 percent remains untouched," he noted.

He warned that if the government and other stakeholders involved in forest conservation do not take serious measures to educate communities about forest conservation and sustainable harvesting practices, forests will diminish, leading to severe consequences such as climate change, water scarcity, and the transformation of many regions into deserts.

"If communities adhere to what we have taught them, our forests will be safe by 2034," he asserted.

Furthermore, as the transition to clean energy progresses, it is vital to encourage sustainable forest harvesting practices.

"As TFCG and MJUMITA, we are visiting various villages nationwide to educate communities on community-based forest management, enabling them to harvest forests sustainably and reduce deforestation, thanks to funding from the European Union," he stated.

He commended the EU for its financial support, which has ena-

bled communities in Handeni, Kilindi, and Pangani to establish village land forest reserves for community-based management and sustainable charcoal harvesting.

With EU funding, these villages have developed land-use plans, forest management plans, and by-laws to support community-based forest management and harvesting strategies.

This initiative will allow them to benefit from local forest resources and generate income to fund village development projects.

Napoleon Mlowe, the Natural Resource Officer for Handeni District Council, remarked, "As the management of Handeni District Council, we are very pleased with the achievements in our district through the IFBEST project."

The IFBEST project has transformed lives, as people now engage in sustainable charcoal harvesting, while others have formed Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to secure capital and establish small businesses.

Communities now understand the importance of conserving local forests and the benefits they provide.

They have also received training on good governance, forest conservation, and how to benefit from forest resources and products.

"This project will transform our communities economically and socially, enabling villages to generate income to implement development projects and allowing the district and its residents to participate in carbon trading through forest conservation," he added.

In a bid to prevent deforestation, Handeni District Council has allocated a total of 15m/- for forest conservation within village land forest reserves.



# Global brands pump new products into Chinese market

## SHANGHAI

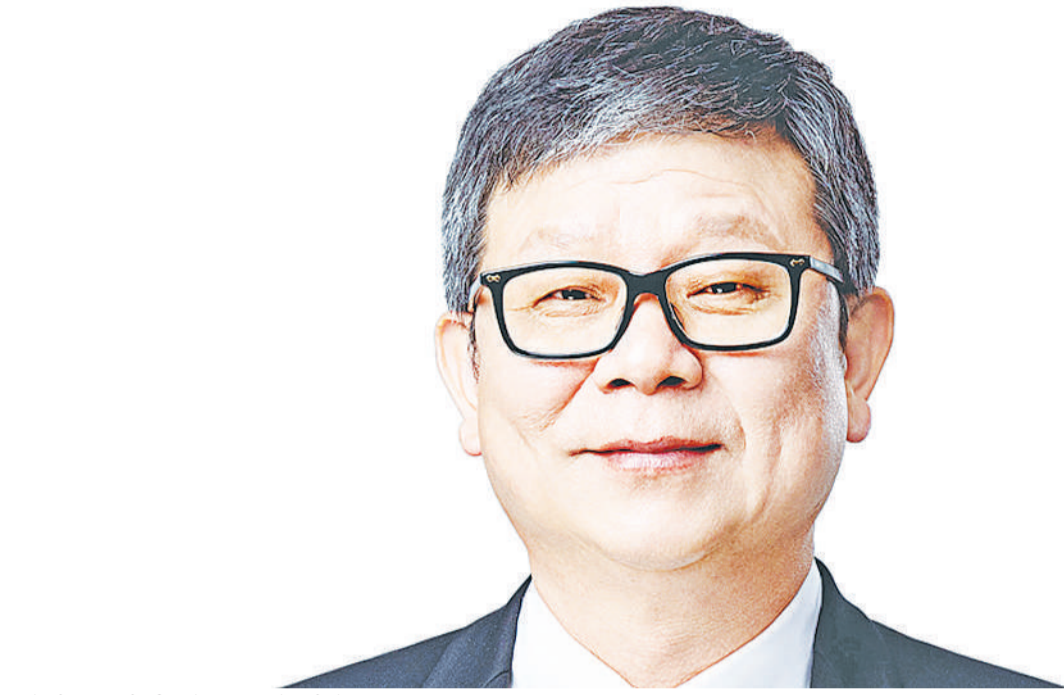
From Honeywell and BMW to L'Oréal and Lindt & Sprungli, many renowned global brands have launched new innovative products to entice Chinese consumers, exposing themselves in the spotlight at a high-profile trade promotion event.

The seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE), the world's first import-themed national-level expo, being held in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to 10, has become a major launchpad for new products, technologies and services, demonstrating global companies' great interest in exploring the lucrative Chinese market.

Political and business leaders from 152 countries, regions and international organizations attended the opening ceremony. Around 3,800 Chinese and foreign journalists from more than 400 media outlets are participating in the coverage of this event.

At the booth of Lindt & Sprungli, a 4-meter tall "waterfall wall" made of eight different flavors of the brand's bestselling LINDOR chocolate is catching the eyes of many. Founded in 1845, the Swiss chocolate brand is participating at the expo for the first time.

The company has recognized the significant potential of the Chinese market since its entry in 2012. It aims to strengthen its connections with Chinese consumers, explore the market more thoroughly, and create a wider range of high-quality chocolate



Eric Chung, CEO, Nippon Paint China

products through participation in the CIIE, said a booth staff.

At the expo, the company is showcasing dozens of chocolate varieties, including some new products, and will conduct tasting activities throughout the expo. One of the five Lindt Swiss master chocolatiers, Thomas Schnetzler, will be present to share chocolate-making expertise and engage participants in the process of creating chocolates via a master class.

Nippon Paint, a popular choice for many Chinese for home furnishing, is a

first-time exhibitor at the CIIE, and has debuted a suite of new products, with a focus on smart road construction and urban air purification.

"We hope to comprehensively show our extensive business and global strength via the CIIE. We will continue to increase investment in China and firmly believe that investing in China is investing in the future," Eric Chung, CEO of Nippon Paint China, stated in a written interview with Xinhua.

The BMW, a beloved brand among China's middle-income group, is also

participating in the CIIE for a seventh consecutive year. At its booth, six models from the BMW M series are on display. The exhibited vehicles include gasoline cars, plug-in hybrid models and pure electric vehicles.

Sean Green, President and CEO of BMW Group Region China, said the company firmly believes in open innovation. It is willing to collaborate with China's top research forces in cutting-edge technology fields to create products that meet the needs of Chinese consumers, thereby providing users

with a more personalized and intelligent travel experience.

L'Oréal, another company to participate in the CIIE for seven successive years, is amplifying its presence in 2024, unveiling over 220 exhibits across 21 brands. In its exhibition area, a revolutionary hairdryer made its debut, attracting many expo attendees who stopped by to give it a try.

Jointly developed by L'Oréal and a Chinese startup, the Air-Light Pro hairdryer, which combines infrared light technology with high-speed airflow, is said to be more friendly to both the health of hair and the environment.

"CIIE is the only event like this in the world, where L'Oréal is so involved, where we introduce new brands and innovations," remarked Jean-Paul Agon, L'Oréal Group Chairman. "We are very excited to be part of it, and we have a great belief in the opportunities in the Chinese market."

L'Oréal has already inked a deal to participate in the eighth CIIE, underscoring its commitment to this platform.

At the Honeywell exhibition booth, the company debuted a brand new type of gas detector which is able to detect more than 35 types of gases in the field of semiconductor processing and manufacturing, aiming to help enterprises reduce operating costs required for gas detec-

tion.

It is the seventh time Honeywell is participating in this expo. Over the past six years, the company's exhibition space has expanded tenfold, from some 50 square meters during its first attendance to the current 500 square meters, with more than 160 innovative technologies, products and solutions showcased during this period.

This year the company is exhibiting a record 100 technologies covering areas such as aviation, smart buildings, energy transition and smart manufacturing, according to a company employee at the booth.

Over the years, the CIIE has become an important platform for global companies seeking to make big profits in the Chinese market. The previous six editions of the expo saw nearly 2,500 new products, technologies and services make their debuts -- with combined intended turnover reaching over 420 billion US dollars.

The 7th CIIE has attracted about 3,500 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions, and achieved a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attending the event. More than 400 new products, new technologies and new services are set to be unveiled during the 2024 expo.

## Egypt's non-oil economy in decline

### CAIRO

Rising costs, coupled with an uptick in selling prices, affected growth in Egypt's non-oil sector, causing a dampening effect on new order volumes, according to October's S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

The decline in business activity was marginally offset by mild expansions in firms' stock levels and employment during October. The rate of input cost inflation also eased back from September's six-month high, resulting in the PMI rising fractionally to 49.0 from September's 48.8.

However, the recorded PMI was still below the 50.0 threshold for the second month running, signalling a deterioration in overall conditions.

Sales declined due to weakening market conditions, with sector data also suggestive of a widespread downturn, with the most pronounced cuts in activity and sales seen among construction firms.

A "sharp uptick" in the cost of inputs such as raw materials and utilities, triggered the rise in selling prices, according to survey data, impacted by a strong US dollar value on import

prices.

Non-oil businesses also expanded staffing levels for the fourth consecutive month, with the pace of job creation picking up to the fastest since May. Firms also started to build inventories to hold items in reserve amid cost concerns.

Total input purchases also fell for the first time in three months, which helped ease some pressure on supply, survey data revealed.

David Owen, Senior Economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said that price pressures continued to restrain the sector from returning to growth territory.

"That said, with the PMI at 49.0 in October, Egypt's non-oil economy is not too far from growing again, and a lessening of cost pressures in the latest month provides some hope that economic headwinds could ease," he added.

Non-oil companies projected business activity to rise in the coming 12 months, although, the degree of confidence was particularly weak as the respective index dropped to one of its lowest readings in the survey's history.

## SA projected to cut interest rate

### CAPE TOWN

On Thursday, 21 November 2024, the Monetary Policy Committee will deliver its decision regarding the interest rate. With South Africa's inflation easing and global central banks cautiously beginning rate cuts, the overall sentiment is that there is likely to be a further cut of around 0.25 percent.

A further cut would be most welcomed, but consumers are cautioned not to expect interest rates to drop dramatically lower within the near future. As promising as the inflation numbers look now, the long-term outlook remains

uncertain and the repo rate is largely predicted to stay above pre-pandemic levels of around 6-7 percent through 2025.

Adrian Goslett, regional director and chief executive officer of Re/Max of Southern Africa, says that while we cannot be certain how far interest rates will drop, homeowners and buyers should remain cautious but optimistic.

"A further rate decrease will undoubtedly offer greater temporary relief, but the property market's recovery is likely to be slow and will depend on broader economic conditions and consumer confidence.



### ITV PGM SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAY 2 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba 5  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu  
21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### SUNDAY 3 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### MONDAY 4 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu  
21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### TUESDAY 5 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu  
21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### WEDNESDAY 6 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
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15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
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19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### THURSDAY 7 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
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19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### FRIDAY 8 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### SATURDAY 9 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
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19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### SUNDAY 10 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
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19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### MONDAY 11 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### TUESDAY 12 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
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17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
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19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### WEDNESDAY 13 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
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21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### THURSDAY 14 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
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18:00 Hapa na Pale  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### FRIDAY 15 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
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21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
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23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### SATURDAY 16 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
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00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### SUNDAY 17 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
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23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### MONDAY 18 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma  
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
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21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### TUESDAY 19 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
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21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### WEDNESDAY 20 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15:45 Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative  
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17:00 Shamsam za Pwani  
18:00 Hapa na Pale  
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt  
19:00 Jungu kuu  
19:30 Shika Bamba  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Tatu  
21:15 Igizo: Haikufuma  
21:45 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo  
23:00 Supa Min Jackpot  
23:30 Music: The Base  
00:30 Art and Lifestyle  
02:00 ITV Top 10  
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt  
00:30 Al Jazeera

#### THURSDAY 21 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 KumeKucha  
6:40 Habari  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
9:00 Watoto wetu  
10:05 Shika Bamba  
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi  
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo  
12:50 Art and Lifestyle  
13:20 Shamba lulu  
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love  
15



## WORLD

## Amid fears of violence, US election day begins with first ballots cast

## DIXVILLE NOTCH

VOTERS in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, went to the polls early Tuesday morning, marking the official start of Election Day voting for the 2024 US presidential election.

Six registered voters of the tiny town in northeastern United States cast their ballots at midnight, following a tradition that dates back decades ago. Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump are tied in the town in a 3-3 vote.

Amid heightened security for fears of violence and chaos, the vast majority of polling stations across the country open on Tuesday morning and will remain open until the evening.

Local officials are taking elaborate measures to fortify election-related sites, including plans for snipers on a rooftop to protect a key vote-counting headquarters, panic buttons for election workers and surveillance drones buzzing overhead, The Washington Post reported.

Tens of millions of voters across the country have already cast their ballots early, either by voting in person at polling stations or by mail. According to data from the University of Florida's Election Lab, as of Monday night, more than 82 million voters had already cast their ballots.

This election is widely regarded as one of the most divisive in American history. Harris and Trump have repeatedly warned against potentially catastrophic consequences inflicted on the country if the other is elected. Voters hold vastly different views on key issues such as the economy, immigration, and abortion rights.

According to an annual survey conducted by the American Psychological Association, 77 percent of US adults said the future of the nation was a significant source of stress in their lives. Additionally, 74 percent said they were worried that the election results could lead to violence.

"I would hope that whoever wins the

presidential election will handle it gracefully, and whoever doesn't win, likewise, will handle it gracefully," Annmarie Pinal, one of the just six voters registered to vote in Dixville Notch, told Xinhua.

"We need unity. We need to come together on the common ground, and, be willing to set aside our differences," said Scott Maxwell, another voter in the small town.

Opinion polls in the campaign's final days have shown the candidates running neck and neck in each of the seven states likely to determine the winner: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Reuters/Ipsos polling shows a significant gender gap, with Harris leading among women by 12 percentage points and Trump winning among men by 7 percentage points.

Control of both chambers of Congress is also up for grabs. Republicans have an easier path in the US Senate, where Democrats are defending several seats in Republican-leaning states, while the House of Representatives looks like a toss-up.

The candidates spent the final weekend barnstorming the swing states in search of every available vote. Trump staged his final rally on Monday evening in Grand Rapids, Michigan, while Harris held twin rallies in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

## Dark rhetoric

During the campaign, Trump hammered first Biden and then Harris for their handling of the economy, which polls show is at the top of voters' concerns despite low unemployment and cooling inflation. But he showed a characteristic inability to stay on message, at one point questioning Harris' Black identity and vowing to protect women "whether they like it or not."

His unbridled approach seemed designed to fire up his supporters, rather than expand his appeal. Even more than in 2016 and 2020, Trump has demonized immigrants who crossed the border illegally, falsely accusing them of fomenting a vio-



Town Moderator Tom Tillotson (L), accepts the first ballot from Les Otten during the midnight vote on Election Day, yesterday, in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire. / AP

lent crime wave, and he has vowed to use the government to prosecute his political rivals.

Polls show he has made some gains among Black and Latino voters, despite the historic nature of Harris' candidacy. Trump has often warned that migrants are taking jobs away from those constituencies.

By contrast, Harris has tried to piece together a broader but challenging coalition of liberal Democrats, independents and disaffected moderate Republicans, describing Trump as too dangerous to elect.

She campaigned on protecting reproductive rights, an issue that has galvanized women since the US Supreme Court in 2022 eliminated a nationwide right to abortion.

Harris has faced anger from many pro-Palestinian voters over the Biden administration's military and financial support for Israel's war in Gaza. While she has not previewed a shift in US policy, she has said she will do everything possible to end the conflict.

After Biden, 81, withdrew amid concerns about his age, Harris sought to turn the tables on Trump, pointing to his rambling rallies as evidence he is unfit. Her campaign's embrace of viral memes and a parade of celebrity endorsements gained her traction with young voters seen as a critical voting bloc.

Trump countered the likes of Harris supporters Taylor Swift and Beyonce with Elon Musk, the world's richest man, who played an increasingly visible role as a surrogate and a top donor to Trump's

cause. Tuesday's vote follows one of the most turbulent half-years in modern American politics.

In May, a New York jury found Trump guilty of falsifying business records to hide hush money payments to a porn star. Four weeks later, Trump and Biden met for their only debate, where the incumbent president delivered a disastrous performance that supercharged voters' existing concerns about his mental acuity.

In July, Trump narrowly escaped a would-be assassin's bullet at a Pennsylvania rally, just before the Republican National Convention. Barely a week later, Biden exited the race, bowing to pressure from Democratic leaders.

Harris' entry into the race reenergized her party, and she raised more than \$1 billion in less than three months while erasing Trump's lead over Biden in public polls.



**Reuters/Ipsos polling shows a significant gender gap, with Harris leading among women by 12 percentage points and Trump winning among men by 7 percentage**

## 'What happened in Canada is a serious matter of concern'

## CHENNAI

CPI leader D Raja yesterday condemned the attack on a Hindu temple in Canada, calling the incident "a serious matter" and said violence against any group must be condemned.

Speaking to ANI, CPI leader D Raja said, "What happened in Canada is a serious matter of concern. Violence against any section of the people should be condemned."

He added that it is the responsibility of the Government of Canada to ensure protection and security for all minorities.

"It is the responsibility of the government of Canada to provide protection and security to all minorities. It applies to every other country also. Minorities need to be protected and safeguarded. It is the responsibility of every government. Already the relationship between India and Canada is getting strained and this should not further complicate the relationship between India and Canada," CPI leader Raja told ANI.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Mrutyunjay Tiwari criticised the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre over the attack on a Hindu temple in Canada and said that it was a failure of the Central government and its foreign policies that has led to such a situation in other countries.

Speaking to ANI, RJD leader Tiwari said, "Central government should put pressure, why is such situation happening in other countries? This could be seen as a failure of the Central government, their foreign policies... PM should talk about what action are they taking against this..."

All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) MLA and Party General Secretary Rafiqul Islam had also earlier condemned the attack on the Hindu temple in Canada and demanded that the Canadian government impose severe punishments on the culprits to deter future attacks on religious institutions.

Speaking to ANI, AIUDF MLA Islam said, "It is unfortunate. We condemn this. As an Indian, we demand that the Canadian government bring the culprits to justice and impose the harshest punishments to deter future attacks on religious temples. Anyone who attacks any religious place is a criminal."

He urged the Central Government to talk to the Canadian government to prevent such incidents from happening in future.

"It is the responsibility of our government. The Government of India should talk to the Government of Canada or those who are with them and discuss all these things so that such things do not happen again," he told ANI.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sidharth Nath Singh also condemned the attack on a Hindu temple in Canada and accused the Justin Trudeau government of supporting Khalistanis for "vote bank politics."

Speaking to ANI, Singh said, "The Canadian government is supporting Khalistanis because of the vote bank, I condemn the attack on Hindus and Hindu temples. The government of India will give them a proper reply and will take appropriate action."

Earlier today, BJP hit out at the Congress party over its 'silence' on the recent attacks on Hindu temples in Canada, saying the party leaders only prioritise vote bank politics over their principles and prefer to remain silent on such important issues.

BJP spokesperson Shelzad Poonawala said that while Congress and its allies speak for Gaza, they have gone "completely silent" for Hindus in Canada and Bangladesh.

Speaking to ANI, Poonawala said, "You find that the INDI Alliance, especially Priyanka Vadra, Rahul Gandhi and others who cry for Muslims in Gaza, whose alliance tweets and speaks up for Hezbollah and Hamas have gone completely silent when it comes to Hindus in Canada and Bangladesh."

"It shows that for the sake of vote bank politics, these people will put their principles aside and perhaps they consider these radical elements who are attacking Hindus, as their essential vote bank and therefore they will not open their mouths. They will only question Indian Govt, they will remain silent on questioning these fundamentalist elements," he added.

On Sunday, an Indian consular camp at the Hindu Sabha Temple witnessed a "violent disruption" in Brampton, near Toronto. The rise in attacks against Hindu temples has raised deep concerns among the Hindu-Canadian community.

ANI

## (CIIE) 7th China International Import Expo opens in Shanghai

## SHANGHAI

THE newest edition of the China International Import Expo (CIIE), the world's first national-level exposition dedicated to imports, opened on Tuesday in Shanghai.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 7th CIIE and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum.

China has continued to walk the talk in expanding opening up, said Li, adding that China's overall tariff level has been reduced to 7.3 percent, overshooting its target of 9.8 percent.

Li said the country has fully implemented all the opening-up measures announced at the previous six CIIEs, including scrapping all items in the manufacturing industry on the na-

tional negative list for foreign investment.

Li said that China is willing to open up its enormous market further and will continue to expand market access to sectors in an orderly fashion, including telecommunications, the internet, education, culture and healthcare.

The sound fundamentals of the Chinese economy remain unchanged, and the country

is capable of promoting sound and steady economic growth, Li said, adding that China is confident in achieving this year's economic and social development goals and the future development of its economy.

Running from Nov. 5 to 10, the 7th CIIE has attracted about 3,500 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. It also sets a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and in-

dustry leaders attending the event.

More than 400 new products, new technologies and new services are set to be unveiled during the expo, which experts believe is a strong indication of global companies' confidence in the Chinese market and their commitment to further development in China despite a sluggish global economic recovery. *Xinhua*

## Senior CPC official pledges to advance China-Kenya cooperation

## NAIROBI

LI Xi, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on Tuesday concluded an official goodwill visit to Kenya, where he expressed commitment to fostering an even closer China-Kenya community with a shared future in the new era.

During the three-day visit, Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, met with Kenyan President and United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Leader William Ruto and held discussions with UDA Secretary General Hassan Omar.

During his meeting with the Kenyan president, Li said that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Ruto have met for two consecutive years, charting the course for developing bilateral relations. China is willing to work

with Kenya, under the guidance of the important consensus between the two heads of state, to remain reliable friends and partners and firmly support each other on core interests and issues of major concern, so as to build an even closer China-Kenya community with a shared future in the new era.

Li said the practical cooperation between China and Kenya has yielded fruitful results, noting that the Chinese president announced 10 partnership actions for modernization to deepen China-Africa cooperation at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit in Beijing.

China is willing to align the outcomes of this summit with Kenya's Vision 2030 to support Kenya's economic development, Li said.

China appreciates and welcomes Kenya's participation in the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative proposed by the Chinese presi-

dent, Li said, adding that China also looks forward to strengthening communication and coordination with Kenya on issues like reform of international multilateral institutions, jointly safeguarding the common interests of the Global South.

For his part, Ruto said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kenya and China more than 60 years ago, the two countries have always worked side by side and sincerely cooperated in their respective national development processes.

Noting that Kenya-China relations are exemplary, Ruto said China's support in major projects like the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway has played a vital role in the development of Kenya and East Africa.

Ruto extended his congratulations on the successful FOCAC summit and expressed full support for the 10 partnership actions for modernization, pledging to work with China to accel-

erate the implementation of the summit's outcomes.

Kenya remains committed to the one-China principle and appreciates China's contributions to peace and security in Africa, Ruto said.

Kenya looks forward to deepening communication and cooperation with China at the international level to strengthen unity and collaboration in the Global South, Ruto said, while voicing anticipation for China's increased involvement in African affairs and support for the African Union to foster peace, stability, and development across the continent.

In his talks with Omar, Li said that the CPC and the UDA, as governing parties, share the historical mission of strengthening the party and nation to benefit the people.

The CPC values its relationship with the UDA and is willing to strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen strategic communication, and enhance po-

litical mutual trust between the two countries, Li said.

Li said the CPC is ready to enhance the exchange of governance experiences and improve the capacity and level of governance with the UDA, promote local and cultural exchanges to consolidate public support for friendship between the two countries and strengthen solidarity and cooperation to jointly uphold international fairness and justice to contribute to building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Omar said that under the leadership of the CPC, China has made remarkable development achievements, setting an example for African political parties in governance and development.

The UDA is eager to learn from the CPC's governance experience, further enhance exchanges and cooperation, and strengthen mutual understanding and trust to provide a solid politi-

cal foundation for the development of relations between the two countries, Omar said.

During the visit, Li introduced the guiding principles of the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, along with the CPC's efforts in full and rigorous Party self-governance and anti-corruption.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping has drawn profound lessons from the extensive practices and important theoretical achievements in exercising full and rigorous Party self-governance in the new era, developing important ideas of the Party's self-reform, which provide fundamental guidance for advancing full and rigorous Party self-governance, improving Party conduct, fostering a clean government, and advancing the fight against corruption, Li said.

Xinhua



## US State Department says 10,000 North Korean soldiers deployed to Russia's Kursk Region

WASHINGTON

THE US State Department said that 10,000 North Korean servicemen are deployed in Russia's Kursk Region.

"We now assess that as many as 10,000 have made their way to Kursk and could enter combat in the coming days," Matthew Miller, a State Department spokesman told a news conference.

He was commenting on Western speculation that there are North Korean soldiers in Russia. The spokesman said he was aware of news reports that the soldiers are already fighting in the Kursk Region, but was unable to confirm them.

"As we have said, we expected that it was likely that they would enter into combat against Ukrainian forces," he said. "And if they did, they would be legitimate military targets."

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently commented on the satellite images published by Seoul, which allegedly indicate the presence of North Korean military personnel in Russia, by calling them "a serious matter."

However, said NATO troops have long

been directly involved in the Ukrainian conflict. Putin pointed out that the Strategic Partnership Agreement between Moscow and Pyongyang has a clause on joint defense.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on October 30 that there is nothing special or unusual about

Moscow and Pyongyang's strategic alliance, despite attempts by the West to demonize it. She stated that those who are committed to peaceful cooperation with Moscow have nothing to worry about.

Ukrainian forces started a major attack on the Kursk Region on August 6. The government declared a federal-level emergency there and started to evacuate people living near the border to safer areas. According to the Russian Defense Minister

ry, Ukraine has lost more than 29,600 servicemen and 184 tanks since the start of fighting in the Kursk area. The operation to destroy Ukrainian formations is ongoing

## Donald Trump 'very narrow favourite; both Presidents will favour close ties with India

WASHINGTON

AS the race for the White House remains extremely tight even hours before the start of the vote, prominent American political scientist Ian Bremmer has said that no result would surprise him in this close contest, though he views Trump as the "very narrow favourite."

He further highlighted that some polls have shown Trump "surprisingly weak" in Republican-leaning states, adding that the minds of undecided voters and turnout operations by the two parties might eventually play the deciding role in the results.

Ian Bremmer is the president and founder of Eurasia Group, a geopolitical risk advisory firm, and GZERO Media, a company providing intelligent and engaging coverage of international affairs

In an email interview with ANI, Bremmer said, "We view Trump as the very narrow favorite in this race, but this is a low-conviction view, reflecting the closeness of polling and polls over the weekend that showed him surprisingly weak in Republican-leaning states."

"No outcome would surprise me. Deciding factors will be: how undecided voters break in the final days and which party has the more effective turnout operation," he added.

In a major prediction, Bremmer said that the winner of the Electoral College might not win the popular vote, while highlighting how Trump defeated former First Lady Hillary Clinton in 2016 in the Electoral College, despite lagging behind by around 28 lakh votes.

"If Trump wins the Electoral College, there is a roughly 50 per cent chance (potentially higher) that he loses the popular vote. Trump lost the popular vote while winning the 2016 election and nearly did the same in 2020. If Trump wins the popular vote, he will very likely win the Electoral College," he said.

In the 2016 elections, Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton by 304 electoral votes to 227, despite lagging behind the former First Lady in popular votes by over 2 percentage points and 28 lakh votes.

But in 2020, Trump was defeated by Joe Biden, 306 to 232, and he lagged behind by over 7 lakh votes.

Trump continues to deny the election results to date. His allegations sparked widespread protests by his supporters eventually leading to the January 6 Capitol Riots.

Further, being asked how much impact the foreign policy issues and domestic issues play in the poll outcomes, the political scientist said the election is about the economy and domestic issues, adding that the two conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza matter only to a "marginal portion" of the US electorate.

"He (Trump) has claimed that he would be able to bring them to a more rapid conclusion, and claimed that they would not have occurred under his watch, but they are by no means the center of his campaign message-the economy is," Bremmer said.

He added, "This election is about the economy, and about domestic issues, far more than it is about foreign policy. The war in Ukraine and the crisis in

Gaza matter to a marginal portion of the US electorate, and neither is likely to be the deciding factor in this race."

The Eurasia Group president further said that both Trump and Harris are expected to favour "increasingly close ties" to India given New Delhi's global position today, though the former president has a "better personal relationship" with the Indian leadership.

"Both candidates are likely to favor increasingly close ties to India given its crucial position as a regional counterweight to China and potential host for manufacturing, and as a crucial defense partner for the US in the coming decades. Trump has a better personal relationship with Indian leadership, but under either Harris or Trump the relationship is set to deepen," he said.

Referring to the Indian-American community, Bremmer said, "The Indian-American community has not appeared to shift its political alignment in the run up to this race, making direct appeals a less pressing issue for each party. Harris has highlighted her diverse background in an effort to appeal to a wide range of voters."

The political scientist also termed immigration and abortion as important poll issues. He stated that the voters disapprove of the Biden administration's handling of the illegal immigration issue and most female voters support Harris, especially due to her stand on abortion.

"Immigration has been a very significant issue in this election, as has abortion. Immigration has been a headwind for the Harris campaign, with voters disapproving of the Biden campaign's handling of the issue over the last several years. Abortion is a headwind for Trump, as most voters favor Harris and female voters especially are motivated to support her in response to court rulings limiting abortion access," Bremmer further said.

Being asked if the multiple criminal cases against the former president and the two assassination attempts against him, will have an impact on the elections, the political scientist said that both events had "very limited impact".

Vice President Kamala Harris is the candidate of the incumbent Democrats, and she is aiming to create history becoming the first woman of the US. If elected, she will also be the first Indian-origin President of the United States.

Republican candidate is former President Donald Trump, who is eyeing a historic comeback to the White House after a bitter exit in 2020. Notably, if Trump wins, it will be the first instance in over 100 years of a president serving two non-consecutive terms in the White House. **ANI**

**He (Trump) has claimed that he would be able to bring them to a more rapid conclusion, and claimed that they would not have occurred under his watch, but they are by no means the center of his campaign**

## Kenya's macadamia farmers overcome market hurdles, embrace export growth

NAIROBI

FOR James Kariuki, a macadamia farmer in central Kenya since 1997, cultivating macadamia nuts has been a double-edged sword. While the crop promises high yields and potential income, the journey from harvest to market is fraught with challenges.

Kariuki, like many of his peers, remembers how middlemen often dictated prices, exploiting unregulated markets to take advantage of small-scale producers. "Middlemen would wait until the last minute when I was desperate to sell, and then offer prices far below market value," he told Xinhua during a recent interview at his farm.

"They know when you have no choice," he added. This narrative is all too familiar among smallholder macadamia farmers who have struggled for years against fluctuating prices, limited access to quality markets, and a lack of regulatory support.

Unlike traditional crops, macadamia nuts require specialized care, and the timing of the harvest is critical for maintaining quality. In recent years, the Kenyan government has stepped in, implementing regulations on macadamia harvest timing to ensure quality and prevent the export of immature produce.

These policies have helped farmers secure better prices and have begun to level the playing field by curbing early-harvest practices that previously flooded the market and depressed prices.

However, this new regulatory environment has also introduced complexities, as farmers now strive to align their harvest schedules with government guidelines while aiming to earn a fair income.

Despite these hurdles, some farmers are thriving and finding renewed hope. John Kague, another macadamia farmer, has experienced positive changes over the past six years.

"The difference has been remarkable," Kague said, attributing part of this transformation to a market access program that directly connects farmers with larger processors. These direct market access programs provide farmers with reliable channels to sell their produce while also offering training on how to comply with export standards.

Given that macadamia is a delicate crop, quality is paramount, especially for export to markets in Europe and Asia. Programs aimed at empowering farmers through certification, training and quality assurance are opening doors that were previously inaccessible. Kague said that with this new model, he is "no longer selling macadamia just to get by but is actually able to invest back into my farm."

Mary Karanja, who joined a market access program by One Acre Fund two years ago, described her transition as transformative. "I had always thought my produce was not good



A worker sorts out shelled macadamia nuts in Sagana, Kirinyaga County, Kenya, Oct. 25, 2022. (Photo by Chrispinus Omar/Xinhua)

enough for export," Karanja said.

"But now, with training and certification, I see my macadamia leaving Kenya and reaching markets overseas."

Like many farmers, Karanja once struggled with market access and quality assurance but has gained the confidence to produce macadamia that meets international standards.

However, meeting these quality standards is not solely a local affair; they must align with global certifications, which impose high expectations for food safety and quality. "Meeting these certifications is not just about getting a piece of paper; it is about building trust in the global market," said Paul Kanyi, a market access manager at One Acre Fund, a partner in these farmer-focused market initiatives.

"For farmers, this means that their produce reaches a level that is competitive internationally, which is why we have seen such a positive impact on the market," Kanyi said.

These standards have led to higher prices for farmers, as exporters can now sell high-quality Kenyan macadamia at a premium. Yet, achieving and maintaining certification requires substantial investment, which not all farmers can afford.

To mitigate this, Kanyi said that the market access program covers certification costs, allowing farmers to concentrate on improving production rather than worrying about financial barriers. While private partnerships have helped create a more sustainable market for Kenyan macadamia, government policies play a crucial role as well.

Through the Agriculture and Food Authority, the Kenyan government has estab-

lished strict guidelines for harvesting and exporting macadamia, aiming to curb early harvesting and ensure that only mature produce enters the market.

This protects farmers from unscrupulous practices and prevents the devaluation of Kenyan macadamia in the global market.

Among Kenya's agricultural exports to international markets, including macadamia nuts, tea and other produce, exports to China have seen notable growth and have significantly contributed to the nation's earnings.

According to Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, a government regulatory agency, China presents a lucrative market for locally grown avocados, with the government planning to provide incentives to smallholder farmers, including quality seeds, training on value addition, and proper packaging.

The growth in trade has been transformative for Kenyan farmers, granting them access to China's vast consumer market, thereby increasing their earnings potential and diversifying their export destinations beyond the traditionally dominant European Union.

Looking ahead, the Kenyan macadamia sector holds great promise. The rising global demand for macadamia, driven by its popularity as a healthy snack, means that Kenyan farmers have significant opportunities to increase their incomes.

Export rates have steadily risen over recent years, and with plans to establish a large-scale processing plant in Sagana, central Kenya, even more farmers are expected to gain access to export markets, Kanyi said.

Xinhua

## Immigrants -- scapegoats in US governance dilemma

BEIJING

THE United States, a country built by waves of immigrants, is now grappling with a dilemma of illegal immigration, which has become both a flashpoint and a partisan weapon in American politics.

As Republicans and Democrats turn to immigration as a defining issue in the presidential election campaign, genuine solutions appear increasingly out of reach. Instead, immigration has become a high-stakes game, with each side focusing more on how to exploit the issue than addressing its complex underlying causes.

CARD FOR POLITICS

In recent months, immigration has soared to the top of voters' concerns. A recent survey by the Pew Research Center revealed that about 60 percent of Americans now view immigration as important to their vote, up significantly from previous years.

While Republican and Democrat politicians have both responded with intensified rhetoric, they have done little to bridge their divide on how to handle the issue. Instead, state and federal authorities are caught in conflicts that reflect the country's deepening partisan split.

Last year, Republican-led states including Texas and Florida transported undocumented immigrants to Democratic strongholds like New York, Washington, D.C. and Chicago. Early this year, in order to deter migrant crossing, Texas deployed National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border, laid concertina wire border barriers and prevented federal agents from monitoring the border, highlighting the lack of a coordinated national approach.

As the presidential election looms, Democrats and Republicans are doubling down on immigration as a means to rally their bases.

Democrats continue to advocate for policies that portray them as champions of immigrant rights, emphasizing humane treatment and protections.

While the Democratic stance resonates with their core supporters, it also serves an electoral strategy: immigrants and their descendants represent a growing and potentially reliable base for the party. However, with an increasing number of voters in favor of stronger immigration control, Democrats have started to shift their position.

In June, President Joe Biden issued an executive order restricting asylum claims, limiting legal pathways at the U.S.-Mexico border in a rare departure from the party's traditional stance.

Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris has echoed this shift, advocating for both legalization pathways and stronger border enforcement. Republicans, meanwhile, have adopted an increasingly hardline stance, framing immigration as a national security threat and opposing any form of legalization for undocumented immigrants.

The Trump camp has ramped up its rhetoric, promising to conduct mass deportation if elected and blaming undocumented immigrants for issues like housing shortages and inflation, aiming to weaken support for Democrats among minority and union voters.

However, despite both parties' claims to prioritize voter interests, neither side has developed practical, actionable solutions. Democrats and Republicans alike focus on ex-

ploiting immigration as a wedge issue, stirring up partisan animosity without tackling the root causes of the problem.

DEEP FLAWS IN GOVERNANCE

The immigration issue has exposed structural weaknesses in American governance. Historically, U.S. immigration policies were skewed in favor of Europeans, while those from Asia and Latin America faced heavy restrictions, pushing many into illegal pathways.

Undocumented immigrants have been an indispensable element in the U.S. society for decades. They have filled the need for essential yet low-paying and high-risk jobs that citizens largely passed up, promoted consumption, and brought benefits to the U.S. economy.

However, the group remains marginalized and vulnerable. A recent Pew Research Center survey revealed that three-quarters of U.S. voters believe undocumented immigrants primarily take jobs that Americans don't want to do, with 90 percent of Harris supporters and 59 percent of Trump supporters sharing that view respectively.

Despite this wide acknowledgment of immigrants' contributions, both legal and undocumented immigration have emerged as charged topics in the Nov. 5 election.

At the forefront of the debate is a growing call for control, with some even pushing for large-scale deportations.

Why, after years of dependency on immigrant labor, has immigration become such a heated political issue in the United States?

The answer lies, in part, in a shifting economic landscape that has seen newcomers painted as scape-

goats.

In a time of economic uncertainties, critics argue that recent waves of undocumented immigrants now compete with low-skilled American workers, intensifying existing domestic job pressures.

The decline in social mobility, as class divisions harden, compounds these anxieties. The United States has seen the biggest gap between the rich and the poor since the Great Depression in 1929.

As noted by Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz during the 2022 James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Lecture in Economic Inequality, hosted by the Institute of Politics, the United States has "more inequality than other countries and remarkably less equality of opportunity than almost any other country."

Locked into this tense economic environment, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle face mounting public pressure. Once willing to negotiate and collaborate on nuanced immigration reform, Republicans and Democrats now find themselves at an impasse.

And miserably, immigrants have fallen victim to deepening political polarization. Neither side can afford to alienate wealthy donors or find palatable solutions to create enough jobs, increase incomes and narrow the gap between the wealthy and the poor to alleviate voters' frustrations.

As a result, rather than seeking a bipartisan approach to address immigration constructively, they have taken to using undocumented immigrants, who cannot vote in the elections, as convenient scapegoats in the political battle.

Xinhua



## Quincy Jones, music titan who worked with everyone from Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson, dies at 91



Quincy Jones cradles his Grammy awards including the album of the year award, for his eclectic album "Back on the Block" during the 33rd annual Grammy Awards, at New York's Radio City Music Hall night of Feb. 20, 1991. (AP Photo)

By HILLEL ITALIE

QUINCY Jones, the multitalented music titan whose vast legacy ranged from producing Michael Jackson's historic "Thriller" album to writing prize-winning film and television scores and collaborating with Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles and hundreds of other recording artists, has died at 91.

Jones' publicist, Arnold Robinson, says he died Sunday night at his home in the Bel Air section of Los Angeles, surrounded by his family. Jones was to have received an honorary Academy Award later this month.

"Tonight, with full but broken hearts, we must share the news of our father and brother Quincy Jones' passing," the family said in a statement. "And although this is an incredible loss for our family, we celebrate the great life that he lived and know there will never be another like him."

Jones rose from running with gangs on the South Side of Chicago to the very heights of show business, becoming one of the first Black executives to thrive in Hollywood and amassing an extraordinary musical catalog that includes some of the richest moments of American rhythm and song.

For years, it was unlikely to find a music lover who did not own at least one record with his name on it, or a leader in the entertainment industry and beyond who did not have some connection to him.

Jones kept company with presidents and foreign leaders, movie stars and musicians, philanthropists and business leaders. He toured with Count Basie and Lionel Hampton, arranged records for Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, composed the soundtracks for "Roots" and "In the Heat of the Night," organized President Bill Clinton's first inaugural celebration and oversaw the all-star recording of "We Are the World," the 1985 charity record for famine relief in Africa.

Lionel Richie, who co-wrote "We Are the World" and was among the featured singers, would call Jones "the master orchestrator."

In a career which began when records were still played on platters turning at 78 rpm, top honors likely go to his productions with Jackson: "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad" were albums near-universal in their style and appeal. Jones' versatility and imagination helped set off the explosive talents of Jackson as he transformed from child star to the "King of Pop."

On such classic tracks as "Billie Jean" and "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough," Jones and Jackson fashioned a global soundscape out of disco, funk, rock,

pop, R&B and jazz and African chants.

For "Thriller," some of the most memorable touches originated with Jones, who recruited Eddie Van Halen for a guitar solo on the genre-fusing "Beat It" and brought in Vincent Price for a ghoulish voiceover on the title track.

"Thriller" sold more than 20 million copies in 1983 alone and has contended with the Eagles' "Greatest Hits 1971-1975" among others as the best-selling album of all time.

"If an album doesn't do well, everyone says 'it was the producers fault'; so if it does well, it should be your 'fault,' too," Jones said in an interview with the Library of Congress in 2016.

"The tracks don't just all of a sudden appear. The producer has to have the skill, experience and ability to guide the vision to completion."

The list of his honors and awards fills 18 pages in his 2001 autobiography "Q," including 27 Grammys at the time (now 28), an honorary Academy Award (now two) and an Emmy for "Roots."

He also received France's Legion d'Honneur, the Rudolph Valentino Award from the Republic of Italy and a Kennedy Center tribute for his contributions to American culture.

He was the subject of a 1990 documentary, "Listen Up: The Lives of Quincy Jones," and a 2018 film by daughter Rashida Jones. His memoir made him a best-selling author.

Born in Chicago in 1933, Jones would cite the hymns his mother sang around the house as the first music he could remember.

But he looked back sadly on his childhood, once telling Oprah Winfrey that "There are two kinds of people: those who have nurturing parents or caretakers, and those who don't.

Nothing's in between." Jones' mother suffered from emotional problems and was eventually institutionalized, a loss that made the world seem "senseless" for Quincy. He spent much of his time in Chicago on the streets, with gangs, stealing and fighting.

"They nailed my hand to a fence with a switchblade, man," he told the AP in 2018, showing a scar from his childhood.

Music saved him. As a boy, he learned that a Chicago neighbor owned a piano and he soon played it constantly himself. His father moved to Washington state when Quincy was 10 and his world changed at a neighborhood recreation center.

Jones and some friends had broken into the kitchen and helped themselves to lemon meringue pie when Jones noticed a small room nearby with a stage. On the stage was a piano.

"I went up there, paused, stared, and then tinkled on it for a moment," he wrote in his autobiography. "That's where I began to find peace. I was 11. I knew this was it for me. Forever."

Within a few years he was playing trumpet and befriending a young blind musician named Ray Charles, who became a lifelong friend. He was gifted enough to win a scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, but dropped out when Hampton invited him to tour with his band. Jones went on to work as a freelance composer, conductor, arranger and producer.

As a teen, he backed Billie Holiday. By his mid-20s, he was touring with his own band.

"We had the best jazz band on the planet, and yet we were literally starving," Jones later told Musician magazine.

"That's when I discovered that there was music, and there was the music business. If I were to survive, I would have to learn the difference between the two."

AP

## Kibwana Shomari: A talent in waiting, but for how long?

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

YOUNG Africans have long been known for their fierce competition for starting spots, particularly in defense.

When the club signed Ivorian right-back Attohoula Yao last season, it was clear that Kibwana Shomari, Young Africans seasoned right-back, would have his work cut out for him.

Yao's early performances immediately set a high standard, showcasing skill, agility, and an unwavering commitment that earned him a quick entry into the first team.

Shomari (pictured), once a regular fixture in Young Africans' lineup, now finds himself on the sidelines, watching as his position becomes increasingly uncertain.

The pressure on Shomari hasn't just been a result of Yao's impressive performances. Head coach Miguel Gamondi, who took the reins after Nasreddine Nabi, has introduced a tactical system that favours versatility in his squad.

Even with Yao unavailable due to injuries, Gamondi has often opted for other players, further complicating Shomari's path back to the starting XI.

In a recent game against Singida Black Stars, with Yao out of action, Gamondi chose Denis Nkane, a winger by trade, to fill the right-back position.

Despite being out of his usual position, Nkane impressed, contributing to a 1-0 victory and demonstrating the kind of adaptability Gamondi values in his players.

Under the previous coach Nabi, Shomari enjoyed more consistent playing time despite strong competition from other quality full-backs, such as Djuma Shaban and Joyce Lomalisa.

Shomari even played as a left-back on occasion, stepping in whenever Lomalisa was not available.

His contributions were crucial to Young Africans' success, especially during



the 2022/23 season when he helped the club reach the final of the CAF Confederation Cup and clinch the Premier League title.

During this period, Shomari's form also earned him a call-up to the Tanzanian national team, a testament to his skill and influence on the field.

But since Gamondi's arrival, things have taken a different turn for Shomari. He has become a fixture on the bench, unable to secure regular playing time.

In football, the impact of sitting on the bench is often a double-edged sword. While observing from the sidelines may provide tactical insight, it rarely sharpens a player's form.

For Shomari, a player whose

career has been defined by tenacity and consistency, the lack of match action could dull his edge and affect his standing at Young Africans and with the national team.

In a competitive team like Young Africans, standing out is essential, and the current lineup of defenders, especially Dickson Job and Yao, presents a formidable challenge for Shomari.

Gamondi's preference for a flexible defensive approach, favouring players who can slot into multiple roles, appears to have made Shomari's specialized right-back position less relevant.

The uncertainty surrounding his role in the team suggests he may not fit into Gamondi's sys-

tem, which relies on adaptable players who can quickly shift between roles based on the team's needs.

For Shomari, there are two clear paths forward. First, he could focus on winning back Gamondi's trust by excelling in training and proving that he deserves to start over his competition.

Consistently demonstrating his value on the practice field may persuade the coach to reconsider his role in the team's lineup.

Alternatively, if securing a starting spot at Young Africans proves to be a steep hill, Shomari might consider finding another team where his talents will be valued, and he can consistently play in his preferred position.

His contract with Young Africans runs until 2026, so Shomari has time to weigh his options carefully.

However, waiting too long could limit his opportunities, especially as his visibility declines with each match he sits out.

The qualities he possesses make him a valuable asset, and with regular playtime, he could command a higher value in his next contract negotiation, either with Young Africans or elsewhere.

For now, though, his challenge lies in navigating the competitive environment at Young Africans and finding a way to reclaim his place on the field.

Despite the hurdles, Shomari is a player with a proven track record, and his resilience has served him well in the past.

The competition for the right-back position, combined with Gamondi's tactical preferences, has put him in a difficult spot. Still, his potential remains undeniable.

If he can manage to earn more minutes, he may once again rise to become one of Young Africans' key players, a role he is more than capable of fulfilling.

Until then, Shomari will need to decide whether his future lies in fighting for his place at Young Africans or seeking new pastures where he can showcase his talents to the fullest.

## Morogoro to host international chess tournament with FIDE-rated matches

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Jordan University Chess Open Tournament, now in its fourth edition, is set to take place next

month in Tanzania's Morogoro Region, as organizers announced.

The event, scheduled for December 14-15, will bring together both local and international players in a Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) rated competition, offering participants the chance to earn FIDE ratings.

Dr. Konrad Czernichowski, one of the tournament's organizers, shared details about the event, which is hosted by Jordan University College in Morogoro.

"We are excited to host the 4th Jordan University Chess Open Tournament as a FIDE-rated event. We welcome both local and foreign players to register, giving them a valuable opportunity to gain official FIDE ratings," he said.

In a related event, Shedrack Lusako Mwakajila, who represented Tanzania at the recent Chess Olympiad in Budapest,



Konrad Czernichowski (seated left), chess coach and lecturer at Jordan University in Morogoro, alongside Shedrack Lusako Mwakajila (standing right), Tanzania's representative at the recent Chess Olympiad in Hungary. Mwakajila visited Jordan University over the weekend to inspire and engage with students. (Photo: Courtesy of Jordan University)

Hungary, made an inspiring vis-

it to the Jordan Chess Club last

Saturday.

During his visit, Mwakajila engaged with club members in a simultaneous exhibition (simul), where he competed against multiple players at once.

Only two players managed to defeat him: student Innocent Agustino Herman and Dr. Czernichowski, who also serves as the club's coach and lecturer at Jordan University College in Morogoro as well as at the University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska (UMCS) in Poland.

Czernichowski praised Mwakajila, noting: "Mwakajila is a fantastic role model for aspiring chess players in Tanzania. His success and dedication are admirable. It's been less than two months since he represented Tanzania at the Budapest Chess Olympiad, and his visit to our club was a source of inspiration."

Mwakajila also spent time at the Mgolole orphanage, where he conducted a chess training session for children.

His visit aimed to promote chess across the country and inspire the next generation of players.





## How Kylian Mbappe's addition is affecting performance of three key players at Real Madrid

Madrid Universal

REAL Madrid are currently facing a challenging situation with the recent signing of Kylian Mbappe, as several key players find themselves struggling to adapt within the team's structure.

In that regard, manager Carlo Ancelotti is struggling with the task of fitting his star players into a cohesive system.

Ancelotti typically designs his tactics around the strengths of his players, like he did with Jude Bellingham last season. He usually creates an environment where they can thrive.

However, with Mbappe's arrival, the situation has become more complicated, and it appears that some players are suffering as a result.

\*Four players suffering, including Mbappe  
Among those most affected are Eduardo Camavinga and Kylian Mbappe himself, while Rodrygo and Jude Bellingham also experience the repercussions of this tactical reshuffle.

Bellingham, in particular, is facing difficulties in this new setup. Under Ancelotti, he finds himself in a less favourable position, as Mbappe's presence in the attacking line has restricted the spaces where he usually excels.

Last season, he often made incisive runs from the back, contributing significantly to the team's attacking play. However, with Mbappe occupying central areas, those opportunities have diminished, leading to a noticeable drop in his scoring chances.

\*Mbappe is out of position too

Mbappe's predicament is arguably the most significant. He has been placed in a role that does not align with his strengths.

Traditionally, Mbappe thrives as a left winger, where he can utilize his remarkable speed and agility to cut inside and take shots with his right foot.

However, in his current position as a centre-forward, he is often required to play with his back to the goal, which limits his ability to impact the game effectively.

This tactical misalignment raises questions about Ancelotti's strategy, especially given that he previously experimented with positioning Vinicius Jr. as a centre-forward to create more space for Rodrygo on the left.

Such rotations seem to have fallen by the wayside since Mbappe joined the squad.

\*Then there is Rodrygo

Furthermore, it must be noted that Rodrygo has also become a casualty of this shift. He has been somewhat sidelined in Ancelotti's attacking plans, despite having a successful partnership with Vinicius last season.

Their chemistry allowed them to pose a significant threat to opposing defences but with the integration of Mbappe, Rodrygo's role has diminished.

This reduction in influence is concerning, especially as Rodrygo is known for his ability to create space and opportunities for others, a skill that has been stifled in the current formation.

\*No place for Camavinga

Another player caught in this tactical puzzle is Camavinga. The young French midfielder has not been able to find his ideal position in the team.

Ancelotti typically deploys Aurelien Tchouameni as the main midfielder, which limits Camavinga's opportunities to showcase his talents. Additionally, Federico Valverde's versatility complicates matters further.

Valverde often plays as a right midfielder, covering defensive duties but limiting Camavinga's chances to thrive in a more central role.

The youngster's strengths lie in his ability to control the midfield and contribute to both defence and attack, yet he struggles to find his rhythm when positioned on the left.

In summary, the arrival of Kylian Mbappe has led to a challenging period for Ancelotti. The current tactical setup has resulted in four key players - Mbappe, Bellingham, Rodrygo, and Camavinga - finding themselves in roles that do not fully utilize their talents.

Ancelotti's insistence on placing these players in unfamiliar positions has diluted their impact on the game, making it essential for the coach to reconsider his strategies.

# Why are Forest so good this season - and can it last?

By Nick Mashiter

ARE Nottingham Forest showing signs of 'doing a Leicester 2016'? Hang on, hear us out first...

\*The broad picture is this:

- Forest are third in the Premier League - their highest position since 1998 - after winning three on the bounce in the top flight for the first time since 1999. Forest are flying.
- Their opening 10 games mirror Leicester's 2015-16 start when the Foxes stunned the Premier League at odds of 5,000-1.
- Forest's five wins, four draws and one defeat is identical to Leicester's record, although they have three more clean sheets than Claudio Ranieri's side did nine years ago and a better goal difference by seven.
- Striker Chris Wood - a different player but just as talismanic as Jamie Vardy - has eight goals and they have the second-best defence in the division, having only avoided relegation by four points last season.

### \*Wonderful Wood and marvellous Milenkovic

Forest's search for a new striker to support and challenge Wood ultimately failed as Eddie Nketiah joined Crystal Palace from Arsenal and PSV striker Santiago Gimenez remained at the Philips Stadium.

"In the transfer window we were looking for many options that could help us. The main thing was we looked for someone who could improve us and someone who wanted to be with us. These two things are very important," said Nuno, tellingly, in September.

It looked they would be short up front but Wood's electric start has neutralised any fears.

- The 32-year-old New Zealand international has scored over half of Forest's 14 goals this season and has 22 goals in 30 Premier League starts since making his move from Newcastle permanent in June 2023
  - Nineteen of those league goals have come under Nuno since the Portuguese boss arrived last December.
  - Only Manchester City's Erling Haaland has scored more non-penalty goals than Wood's 18 since 23 December 2023.
  - Wood also has the fourth best conversion rate (32.76%) in the Premier League since Nuno arrived and is over-performing his expected goals figure (14.04) by almost five goals.
- Nuno has refused to



Forest have courted controversy since they returned to the Premier League in 2022-23 with owner Evangelos Marinakis a high-profile figure [Getty Images]

tread softly with Wood, especially after international duty, saying the striker is a "competitor" and will always be ready.

While Wood has scored the goals, the management will always highlight that their foundations start in defence and Matz Sels - having become the undisputed number one - has kept the joint-most clean sheets, with Andre Onana, in the Premier League this season.

The arrival of Nikola Milenkovic from Fiorentina - for a little less than the reported £12m - has already looked a bargain and he has formed an impressive partnership with Brazilian Murillo at the back.

- Last season Forest conceded 23 of their 68 goals from set-pieces, four more than relegated Luton and Sheffield United, but this season they have let in just one.
- Last season's figure was almost double their expected set-piece goals against of 12.25, highlighting Forest's fragility from corners and free-kicks last term.
- In a stark transformation, this season Forest have the best XG against figure from set pieces - just 1.23 - in the league.

It is too simplistic to say the big man at the back and the big man at the front have Forest ticking - but it is definitely working.

\*Squad turnover from summer 2022

While it looks like Forest have evolved quickly from the side which finished 17th last season, following a four-point deduction, seven of the players from Saturday's 3-0 win over West Ham started the final day victory at Burnley last term.

Boss Nuno Espirito Santo had the luxury of a pre-season this year, and while the club added just six senior signings in the summer, defender Milenkovic and midfielder Elliot Anderson instantly upped the first-team quality.

Indeed, that relatively calm window was a change from the summer of 2022 when Forest signed a then-record 22 players following promotion.

It has been evolution, not revolution, at the City Ground but while

there have been tweaks in the last 11 months since Nuno replaced Steve Cooper, they have moved on quickly from two years ago.

In Forest's 1-0 win over Crystal Palace last month, with Morgan Gibbs-White suspended, just one player signed during that 2022 spending spree started - and that was goalkeeper Dean Henderson, who was playing for the opposition.

There was an agreement at the start of the season the club needed a campaign of anonymity, a mid-table finish to avoid the spotlight following two seasons of struggle, controversy and chaos.

A points deduction in March, following a profit and sustainability breach, came before a controversial social media post about VAR Stuart Attwell a month later which ultimately saw the club fined £750,000 this season.

With owner Evangelos Marinakis currently midway through a five-game for spitting towards officials - he lost his appeal on Monday - Forest have snubbed the quiet life again. But it is on the pitch where they are making the most noise this season.

Nuno's Premier League resurgence

Nuno returned to the Premier League after a spell in Saudi Ara-

bia and there were a few doubters when he replaced Steve Cooper in December last year.

He had won the Saudi Pro League and the Super Cup with Al-Ittihad but after a short and difficult time at Tottenham, Forest fans would have been forgiven for being underwhelmed at his appointment.

His four-year spell at Wolves ended as things went stale at Molineux and the squad was unable to maintain their spectacular rise from the Championship to the Europa League quarter-finals.

But before the decline, he built a squad - with the help of agent Jorge Mendes - which included young talent like Ruben Neves combined with the experience of Joao Moutinho.

He is slowly doing the same at the City Ground with the arrival of six senior players, including defender Milenkovic who has helped Forest tighten up at the back and concede just seven goals so far. Only Liverpool - six - have shipped less.

Those who have covered Nuno at either Wolves, Spurs or now Forest know he is not the most expressive in news conferences.

He is a meticulous planner of what happens on the pitch which, over the course of a year, has steadily improved prospects at the City Ground, although he has still benefited from the foun-

datations predecessor Cooper laid.

Cooper's influence and relationship was crucial to signing Gibbs-White - who he won the Under-17 World Cup with while England manager - while the now-Leicester boss brought Wood to the club and kept them in the Premier League.

Nuno has built on that success, although he has let his emotions get the better of him on the touchline - despite promising to rein in the criticism of officials - and in August he was fined £40,000 and given a one-game suspended ban after his comments following the 2-0 defeat at Everton last season.

That suspension was activated when he was dismissed for contesting Gibbs-White's red card in the draw at Brighton in September, meaning he has watched Forest's last three games from the stands.

\*Can Forest's form last?

Despite Nuno and owner Marinakis' disciplinary issues, Forest are on a three-game winning run which has propelled them to third.

Trips to Arsenal, Manchester City and Manchester United come swiftly after the international break, which starts after Sunday's league visit of Newcastle, while they also host Aston Villa and Tottenham before the end of the year.

Those who are sceptical of their chances will point to the fact that five of their 10 games so far have come against the bottom seven, while their last three games have been against Crystal Palace, Leicester and West Ham, none of whom have started the season well.

But Forest have gone to Anfield to inflict leaders Liverpool's only defeat this season and have also claimed draws at Chelsea and Brighton.

Opta's expected points model has Forest in fifth and suggests they are over-performing their game statistics by 2.23 points.

Compared to last season, Forest have turned an away defeat by Liverpool into a win and losses to Bournemouth (h) and Brighton (a) into draws.

Forest have had the fourth-easiest opening 10 fixtures but they now face the fourth-most difficult fixtures for their next 10 outings.

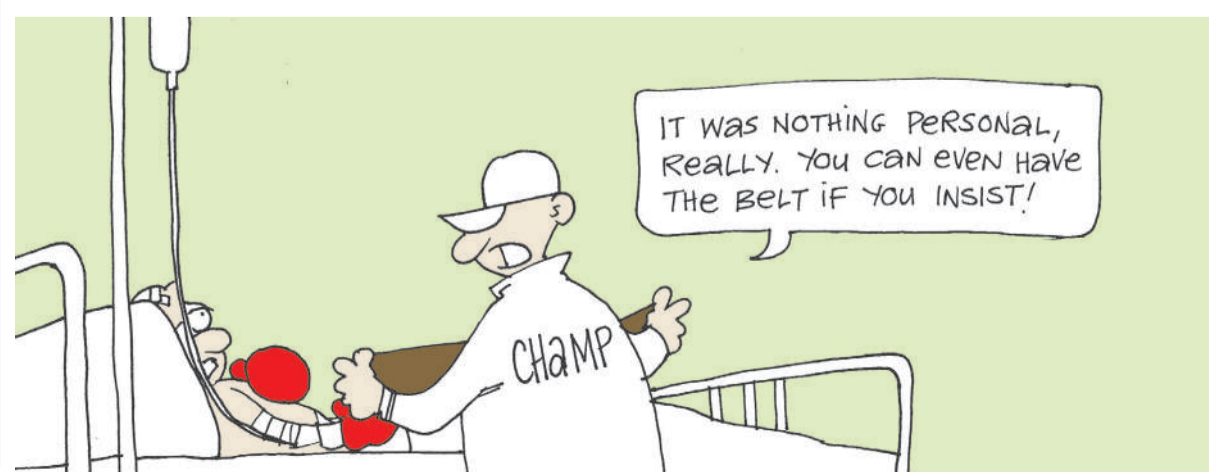
Sunday's visit of Newcastle - who won at the City Ground in the Carabao Cup in August - starts a spell which will test Forest's staying power and by Christmas it will be clear whether they can sustain their form.

BBC



Chris Wood has 23 Premier league goals for Forest since joining, initially on loan, in 2022-23. That is more than Stan Collymore's Premier League 22 goals for the club and one short of Bryan Roy's long-standing record of 24. [Getty Images]

## Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Why are Forest so good this season – and can it last?

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## Patrick Aussems now utilizes FIFA break to prep squad for pivotal stretch of games

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SINGIDA Black Stars head coach Patrick Aussems is taking full advantage of the two-week FIFA international break to fine-tune his squad as they brace for a grueling sequence of matches.

Sitting second in the Tanzanian Premier League with 23 points, just one point shy of leaders Young Africans (Yanga), Singida Black Stars are entering a high-stakes stretch in their bid for the title.

The Belgian tactician faces a formidable lineup post-break: two back-to-back away games against Tabora United on November 24 and Azam FC on November 27, followed by a home clash against Simba SC at Singida's Liti Stadium on December 4.

Aussems emphasized the importance of using this FIFA break to prepare for this demanding stretch.

"This break is a key opportunity for us to strengthen our squad and be ready for the intense period ahead," Aussems said. "We need to ensure we are well-prepared and resilient to handle the tight schedule."

Expressing confidence in his players' progress this season, Aussems also acknowledged the need for heightened focus and discipline, given the tough fixtures awaiting them.

"We've built a solid foundation, but the next few games will require complete focus and readiness from every player," he stated.

As Singida Black Stars push to maintain their top-tier league status, Aussems believes his players are equipped to meet the challenge.

"These matches will test our squad's depth and resilience. I have full faith in my players' ability to rise to the occasion and deliver the performances we need," he said.

Key player Marouf Tchakei, an influential attacking midfielder, has contributed three goals this season, just one shy of his tally from last year. Confident in the team's potential, Tchakei expressed optimism about qualifying for an international tournament next season.

"This year, we've started much stronger compared to last season," he noted. "The hunger for success is driving us, and I'm confident we can secure a spot in international competitions next year."

As Singida Black Stars set their sights on league success and possible international qualification, Tchakei emphasized the team's unified focus on each match.

"Our goal is to play with dedication, treat every game as a final, and push for success," he added. "I'm aiming to beat my goal record from last season, but ultimately, I want to contribute to our team's goals above all."

With Aussems at the helm, Singida Black Stars are preparing for a crucial stage in their season. The team's confidence and ambition remain high as they ready themselves for the upcoming league challenges against Tabora United, Azam FC, and Simba SC. These fixtures will be instrumental in determining their standing and chances for international competition next year.

Aussems is committed to using the break wisely, honing the squad's strengths and addressing key areas for improvement.

As they enter this defining phase of the season, Singida Black Stars are focused on staying among Tanzania's elite, striving to represent the nation on an international stage next season.

## Simba bidding to maintain impressive form at expense of inconsistent KMC FC

plex.

Fadlu Davids' men enter this clash with eyes set firmly on victory. The Msimbazi Reds have shown excellent form this season, despite recent hiccups like their unexpected draw against Coastal Union and the loss to arch-rivals Young Africans.

Each point is critical in their race for the title, especially as Young Africans face Tabora United tomorrow.

With Young Africans leading the league by two points, Simba will aim not just for three points but for a boost in their title charge, banking on potential slips from their competitors.

Ahead of the tie coach Davids (pictured) highlighted the need for Simba

to be keen in how to approach the game against an opponent he labelled as a well-coached side and highly adaptable.

"Our preparations have gone well. After a very tough match away from home, we are happy to be back at KMC Complex but we expect a tough game against a well-coached side.

"Every match is different. Every match has different challenges. We face a very good side and have huge respect for their coach. They have got clear structure in and out of possession and also adapt to teams.

"They play one way for example against a team like Yanga and then dominate in other matches so we know they are coming with a clear plan," he said.

It would not be unfair to say that KMC under Abdihamid Moallin have experienced an inconsistent start, as they have recorded four wins, two draws and four losses in the league.

As a result, the Kinondoni-based side find themselves sixth in the table – six points behind fourth-placed Azam and five points above Namungo occupying the last relegation zone spot.

KMC clinched a dramatic hard fought 1-0 victory over Namungo last time out, with Rashim Chambo scoring the only goal of the game.

It was their first back-to-back win of the season following 2-1 victory over Tanzania Prisons in the previous match.

They have now won

three of their previous four Premier League matches, with a 1-0 victory over Kagera Sugar preceding a 3-1 defeat to Fountain Gate.

Their ambition to extend their recent solid run makes this encounter all the more compelling.

While KMC's recent form is good, their history against Simba reflects a David vs Goliath narrative.

In 12 league encounters, KMC have yet to secure a win against Simba, with the Msimbazi Reds claiming 10 victories and the remaining two fixtures ending in draws.

However, KMC's 2-2 hard fought draw in last season's meeting with Simba suggests they're capable of causing problems on their day.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA fans are eager for their team to regain the NBC Premier League's top spot with a decisive win over KMC this afternoon. The Simba vs KMC fixture is set to kick off at 4 pm at KMC Mwenge Com-



## Davids analyzes KMC tactics as Simba eye top of Premier League

By Correspondents Seth Mapoli & Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Sports Club will face Kinondoni Municipal Council Football Club (KMC FC) today in a rescheduled NBC Premier League clash at the KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam, kicking off at 4:00 pm.

Initially set for yesterday, the match was pushed back by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) to allow additional preparation time for both teams.

Simba have announced ticket prices for the highly anticipated match, with VIP

seats at Tsh 20,000 and regular seats at Tsh 10,000.

Simba's head coach, Fadlu Davids, spoke confidently about his team's preparation and acknowledged KMC FC's structured, adaptable style under their coach's guidance.

Davids explained that Simba have devised a tactical approach to counter KMC's strategic play, focusing on exploiting specific spaces on the field and managing KMC's offense effectively.

"KMC brings a clear game plan. We need to be specific about where we want to control play,

which spaces to use in our attacks, and anticipate where they might press us to force turnovers.

"Our pressing game and team structure will be essential, as KMC builds from the back and can be dangerous if allowed to do so successfully," Davids commented.

He added that Simba's defensive strategy might shift during the game, depending on its flow. "We may opt to press deeper, adjusting our approach as the game unfolds. Quick adaptation and identifying the right pressing triggers are key to limit-

ing KMC's play," he explained.

Davids emphasized Simba's need for patience and precision when facing KMC's resilient defense.

"KMC's tactical coach isn't afraid to play attacking football, so we need to be ready to counter their aggression.

"Breaking down their defense, whether through our attackers, midfielders, or a combination of both, will require us to take our chances carefully and remain patient," he added.

On the injury front, Davids updated fans

on key player Joshua Mutale, who sustained a minor injury.

"Fortunately, there are no fractures, but he still feels some pain. We'll assess him before the match. Meanwhile, Yusuph Kagoma, Valentin Mashaka, and Abdulrazack Hamza remain out, with Hamza returning to training but not yet match-fit. Apart from these, the rest of the squad is ready," he confirmed.

Simba enter the game with a strong record against KMC, remaining unbeaten in their last five league meetings, with three wins

and two draws.

A victory today would propel Simba back to the top of the league standings. Currently third with 22 points from nine games, Simba are closely followed by Singida Black Stars with 23 points in second place.

Young Africans lead the standings with 24 points from nine games, just one point ahead of Simba.

With both teams prepared and in good form, fans anticipate a thrilling and competitive match that could alter the league standings.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

