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1.4m tourists arrive in eight months

NBS shows prices stable at 3.0pc, sugar at 19.2pc

In survey that notably marginally tracked sugar prices and its implications for retail prices in lower end catering industry for which millions of urban dwellers depend, in particular

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

HEADLINE inflation for February 2024 is considered to have stagnated at 3.0 percent as in January, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said at the weekend.

It showed in a statement stagnation of headline inflation indicates that the speed of price change for commodities during the year ended February 2024 was close to the price change speed for the year ended January, 2024.

The overall index went up from 111.28 recorded in February 2023 to 114.65 registered for February 2024, in survey that notably marginally tracked sugar prices and its implications for retail prices in lower end catering industry for which millions of urban dwellers depend, in particular.

Maize prices were seemingly missing from the overall summation, focusing on slower moving grains where import and export controls aren't substantive in relation to prices at the lower end consumer market.

While chroniclers say that the law imposing statistical monopoly on the bureau was amended in April 2021 it is hard for watchers to see rival surveys either on the market as a whole or portions of it, as various activist groups wait for civic and general election events to set up data collection bureaus.

NBS said that food and non-alcoholic beverages prices increased to 1.8 percent for February, from 1.5 percent headline inflation rate for year ending January 2024.

The annual inflation rate for basic consumer items excepting food and non-alcoholic beverages decreased to 3.5 percent in the year ending February from 3.6 percent for year ending January 2024.



DEAD END... All manner of emotions and expressions discernible even by just taking a quick look at these residents of Kibutuka ward in Liwale District gathered at the weekend at a hanging bridge linking the district to Nachingwea District - both in Lindi Region - but badly damaged by ongoing heavy rains and rendered impassable. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EAC awaits new secretary general

President Ruto posts Dr Peter Mathuki to Moscow

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

STAFF and various stakeholders at the headquarters of the East African Community (EAC) at the weekend awaited the appointment and swearing in of a new secretary general after incumbent Dr Peter Mathuki was last week appointed Kenyan ambassador to Russia.

The outgoing EAC top official had just served three out of the expected five years of his tenure at the secretariat before the changes, as the post is held by appointment from the respective country holding the post on a rotating basis.

Certain observers expressed the feeling that the EAC top diplomat had exited the post prematurely, while insiders affirmed that the new development comes a time when a series of complaints were being lodged against Dr Mathuki by various levels of staffing at EAC headquarters.

After President William Ruto picked Dr Mathuki to serve as Kenya's ambassador to Russia, a new appointment is expected to finish the remaining two years of his term, at which point the post is rotated to another member country.

Dr Mathuki came into the post in 2021, the sixth East African Community secretary general and the second one from Kenya, while his being replaced did not come as a surprise as he faced an impeachment debate at the regional legislature over alleged misappropriation of funds.

The matter came up during debate on the opening address by President Ruto on Wednesday, March 6 for the inaugural session for this year of the fifth East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in Nairobi.

Dennis Namara, an Ugandan EALA MP and chairman

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TANAPA intends to build the entire Golin - Naabi - Seronera road stretching 68 kilometers that lies 50 centimetres to make it higher than the ground level, so that water drips from the road to canals and ditches.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

A total of 1,451,176 tourists visited the country between July 2023 and February 2024, nearing the 1.5m benchmark with four months left to the end of financial year 2023/2024.

Chief government spokesman Mobhara Matinyi told journalists here yesterday that the targeted number of tourists for the year 2023/24 stood at 1,387,987 despite that industry watchers affirm that government was aiming to arrive at 1.5m tourist arrivals a year at

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Horticulture uplift lined up as WFP office opens

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

PREMISES of the international residual mechanism for criminal tribunal premises at Kisongo area to the west of the city centre here will now house offices of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Anthony Chamanga, the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) chief development manager said here at the weekend that the return of the WFP office to the heart of the horticultural industry is an opportunity for reinforced dynamism for the industry.

TAHA in collaboration with WFP have a youth support programme in Arusha and Manyara regions to elevate participation in horticultural value chain, referring to a commercial agriculture, agribusiness push where youths learn good farming practices and seek out market opportunities, he said.

Irrigation outlays and market support channels will be put in place as the project focuses on horticultural crops like tomatoes, onions, garlic and pepper.

While in Arusha, WFP will be conducting other initiatives to improve agro-sector resilience, directed at Arusha and surrounding regions he said, noting that WFP will seek solutions for improving the quality of soils, biodiversity, landscape and forests.

Farmers and pastoral communities are targeted to make more effective adaptations to climate change, he said, citing

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SPORTS

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Gamondi calls for Yanga fans' support, vows to down Ihefu SC

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TPC Sugar determined to make the most of Kilimanjaro Marathon

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Horticulture uplift lined up as WFP office opens

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a spate of shocks and stress in the two neighbouring regions. WFP will be looking at disaster risk management by encouraging climate-smart practice, he specified.

Such skills will enable the general public to understand, analyse and anticipate shocks, providing relevant framework for cash distribution and long-term climate change adaptation, he elaborated.

Col. Wilson Sakullo, the Ngorongoro district commissioner, officiated at the opening, affirming that opening the WFP office was timely, uplifting chances for thousands of farmers and pastoralists.

He said the region has for many years been struggling with the effects of climate change like regular dry spells inhibiting agriculture and livestock keeping.

"Drought has also been taking its toll on wildlife," he said, citing visible effects in Monduli among districts, facing shortages of food, with rampant malnutrition among children.

After WFP halted its school feeding programme in pastoralist communities in the region in 2014, school performance declined, the DC noted, appealing to WFP to consider restoring the programme.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, the WFP country director, said that combined and accelerated efforts of the government, development partners, innovators and the WFP were crucial in realising Agenda 2030 for sustainable development goals and the government's forthcoming Vision 2025.

"None of us can do it alone," she emphasized, highlighting the need for investing in youth and women in particular as the country has one of the youngest populations globally.

The young people and women should be empowered and equipped with knowledge, skills and tools to help them meet market demands.

Once empowered, youth and women would become productive members of the society, significantly contributing to the country's economy, food security and nutrition in enhancing resilience of entire families and communities, she added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (L) is briefed at one of the pavilions at an exhibition held in Dodoma city at the weekend in tandem with a meeting organised by the Energy ministry, the focus being on the economic empowerment of women. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

EAC awaits new secretary general

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of the finance sub-committee, questioned the secretary general's conduct in observing the financial rules of the EAC Treaty and its Budget Act.

He said that that these statutes and EALA legislation in that regard provide that money coming into the EAC must

be appropriated, pointing out that over \$6m collected has been spent and has never gone through appropriation procedures.

The outgoing secretary general never brought the collected funds to the legislature for procedural appropriation, he declared, while in his subsequent remarks Dr Mathuki

downplayed the issue, choosing instead to focus on the opening speech by President Ruto.

Kenya had its first secretary general, Francis Muthaura who guided the EAC from its inception on 14 March 1996 to 24 April 2001, becoming interim secretary general and then holder of the post during his final months, July 2000 to

April 2001.

After Muthaura, Nuwe Amana Mushega from Uganda served the post from April 2001 to 2006, followed by Juma Mwapachu from Tanzania, heading the organisation from April 2006 to April 2011.

He was succeeded by Richard Sezibera from Rwanda, presiding over the secretariat

from April 2011 to March 2016, followed by Burundian diplomat

Libert Mfumukeko, presiding up to March 2021, followed by Dr Mathuki, who has for years led the East African Business Council (EABC) and picked on his familiarity with EAC interstate negotiations and business interactions.

Beware of social media bullying, CJ tells judges

By Enock Charles

CHIEF Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma has cautioned women judges and magistrates to be mindful of social media bullying that leads to frustrations and could affect their mental health and work performance.

Prof Juma made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when addressing women judges and magistrates who were marking this year's International Women Day.

Referring to a study conducted in the US some years ago about the stress and frustrations among American judges, Prof Juma said court decision making needs free-mindedness.

He said that according to research, there are 37 causes of stress for judges and magistrates which originate from social media.

"I once asked a female judge about how she feels about social media bullying. She said her decisions in courts sometimes lead to bullying by some peo-



Puma Tanzania managing director Fatma Abdallah (2nd-R, partly hidden) and colleague Davita Showe (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend presenting 6.5m/- worth of medical and related equipment and supplies, including wheelchairs, to Kigamboni District Hospital acting medical officer Dr Lucas Ngamtwa (C) for use in the facility's women's ward. With them are acting nursing officer Eva Sambaya (2nd-L) and Kibugumo Hospital acting medical officer Dr James Mhapili. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ple on social media" he said.

He said in other cases, the conduct of the evidence given is not satisfactory, but the judge is forced to give judgment based on the evidence presented, which leads to mental stress.

"Another reason that leads to stress for judges is the kind of cases they preside over. You may

find that members of the same family struggle with their family dispute, they bring it to court and they expect the judge to choose a side," he said.

Barke Sehel, Association of Tanzania's Women Judges and Magistrates (TAWJA) chairperson who is Judge of the Court of Appeal, said that there has

been an increase in the number of judges, magistrates and other female court officials since 1970 when retired Judge Eusebia Munuo first became the first female judge in the country.

Sehel said currently, in the Court of Appeal has 13 women judges out of 35 while in the high court there are 38 out of 105.

NBS shows prices stable at 3.0 pct, sugar at 19.2 pct

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NCPI shows relatively stable price movement from February 2023 to February 2024, within 1.0 percent, dried cowpeas by 0.7 percent, while sugar remained the elephant in the room with a 19.2 percent increase for the period.

Monthly consumer price index change for January to February 2024 stood at 0.5 percent, it said, elaborating that overall index increases arose from price increase for some food and non-food items.

Wheat grain prices rose at an average of 0.9 percent, rice by 1.3 percent, sorghum grains by 1.9 percent and finger millet grains by 1.6, it said, elaborating that sorghum flour prices rose by 1.9 percent, fresh meat by 0.9 percent, fresh sardines by 0.5 percent, dried sardines by 0.8 percent, sunflower oil by 0.9 percent and fruits by 2.8 percent.

Vegetables registered 2.4 per-

cent price increase on average, sweet potatoes by 2.8 percent and dried beans by 1.7 percent, while dried lentils prices rose by 1.0 percent, dried cowpeas by 0.7 percent, while sugar remained the elephant in the room with a 19.2 percent increase for the period.

Alcoholic beverages and tobacco prices rose by 0.2 percent, garments for men by 0.1 percent, garments for women by 0.2 percent, garments for children under two years prices rising by 0.2 percent, footwear for men by 0.4 percent, products and materials for the house maintenance by 0.3 percent, it stated.

Other non-food products price changes monitored are liquefied hydrocarbon (gas) by 0.2 percent, firewood by 1.0 percent, wood charcoal by 5.5 percent, health products and services by 0.4 percent, mobile telephone by 0.3 percent and education services by 0.5 percent, it added.

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1.4m tourists arrive in eight months

the time of the Covid-19 outbreak, and earlier planned to reach 5m tourists up to 2025.

The top government information official said the increase shows the impact of "The Royal Tour" documentary prominently featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

He said that the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) was at initial

stages to conduct extensive repairs on Serengeti National Park infrastructure, damaged by rains.

TANAPA intends to build the entire Golini - Naabi - Seronera road stretching 68 kilometers that lies 50 centimetres to make it higher than the ground level, so that water drips from he road to canals and ditches.

The gravel state of the road demands regular repairs so TANAPA is looking for alternative ways to maintain the roads by improving it to a concrete or asphalt all weather road.

Based on conservation principles, TANAPA and the ministry are preparing a technical document to

submit to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for auxiliary financing of infrastructure in national parks.

Four major roads in conservation areas were damaged during the rains, plying routes to neighboring regions of Mara, Arusha, Manyara,

Mwanza, Shinyanga and Simiyu.

The roads are used by 600 to 800 tourist vehicles per day and thus are frequently damaged even if the rains are normal or sub-optimal. The road covers 291 kilometers (9.0 percent) out of the 3,176 kilometers of road network in the entire national park, he stated.

The road links Golini - Naabi - Seronera (68 km), Seronera - Ndabaka Gate (121 km), Seronera - Ikoma Gate (30 km) Banagi (Seronera) - Lobo - Kleins Gate (72 km).

TANAPA expects that a durable alternative will be found on the main roads criss-crossing the Serengeti, easing travel for the rising number of tourists, he added.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority's Director of Economic Control, Daniel Malanga (6th-L), and other officials pose for a photo in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with some of the agency's members of staff to whom he had just presented awards for outstanding performance. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mobile phones transform access to internet - TCRA

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MOST internet users in Tanzania access the service through mobile phones and other communication devices, according to data from Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Semu Mwakyanjala, TCRA chief communications officer said this here at the weekend when speaking on the sidelines of the just-concluded 108th training conference for government information officers organized by the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC).

He said that the presence of smartphones in the country's mobile phone market has enabled many Tanzanians to access internet services through their mobile phones.

"You will recall that a few years ago before the advent of smart phones, many internet users relied more on desktop computers in internet cafés, but now many Tanzanians own smartphones as prices have dropped and some mobile network operators now enable subscribers to obtain phones easily, including through loans," he said.

He said that the total number of internet users in the country as of December 2023 was 35,885,592 users, representing an increase of 4.1 percent compared to the 34,812,739 users the previous year.

Regarding the increase in internet service use per year, he stated that there has been an average increase of 9.78 percent per year over the past five years.

"Additionally, internet users have been steadily increasing per annum. For instance, in 2019, we had only 25,794,560 users, but today we are talking about an increase in internet users reaching 35.8 million," he said.

Speaking about how the internet has facilitated various economic activities, Mohamed Janja Choum, communications officer with State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), said that the use of internet has been beneficial to many citizens, enabling an increase in users as recorded by TCRA.

"The internet has been a reason for connecting communities. I believe this is why users have been increasing as everyone wants to be part of a community connected through the network via phones," he said.

NCAA gets patrol vehicle to boost conservation

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) has donated a vehicle to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCAA) in support of the ongoing efforts to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Tanzania's Northern circuit.

The three-door Suzuki Jimny was handed to the NCAA at the weekend through GardaWorld Tanzania, a private security company which is among the partner institutions working with EPI.

Donatus Gidaye, senior conservation officer who received the vehicle on behalf of the NCAA com-

missioner of conservation said that the vehicle will reinforce patrols around the protected areas and ensure rapid response whenever the situation calls for the same.

"Being an all-terrain vehicle which can carry four persons at a time, it will take rangers anywhere in the conservation area to

respond to any situation," he said.

Tommy Bright, director of GardaWorld Tanzania, said the firm has a long track record in supporting conservation efforts and reducing human-wildlife conflicts through provision of modern and technological interventions.

The Ngorongoro Conservation

Area is a multiple land use area amongst the UNESCO world heritage sites teaming with wildlife, Maasai pastoralists and human evolution sites.

EPI is an African response to the elephant conservation crisis initiative. It is a continental platform which amplifies local perspectives

on elephant conservation, human-elephant conflict and biodiversity protection.

This Pan-African natural resources alliance is led by the heads of state and ministers from its 24 member countries which are supported by national focal points working with its secretariat



13.5%

Tanga Water Green Bond

WEKEZA KWA MAENDELEO YA JAMII NZIMA

Hati fungani ya kwanza ya Mamlaka ya Maji inayokupa faida ya **13.5%** huku ukichangia maboresho ya miundombinu Tanga.

Tembelea tawi lolote la Benki ya NBC au mawakala wa soko la hisa la Dar es Salaam





Prof James Mdoe (L), Education, Science and Technology ministry's deputy permanent secretary, has a quick word with China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, at the China-Africa Think Tank Forum held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

IMF for tour to assess impact of drought on Zambia's economy

LUSAKA

THE International Monetary Fund said at the weekend that it will visit Zambia, tentatively mid-April, to assess the adverse impact of the ongoing drought on growth and the country's budget.

Zambia is experiencing drought conditions in 84 of its 116 districts. The rainy season that usually runs from October to March, ended in late January.

"The preliminary assessment is that crop losses do appear to be significant, and it also appears that there will be a need to increase imports of energy," said IMF director of communications, Julie Kozak in a media briefing.

Last week, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema declared the drought a national disaster and emergency, saying it had devastated food production and electricity supply.

The country relies heavily on hydropower which accounts for at least 80 percent of its electricity generation.

This year's maize, a staple food crop which requires consistent rainfall, was unable to mature and has left a large portion of small-scale farmers with nothing to harvest.

"I have eight hectares of maize

and three hectares of groundnuts. But because we don't have rain, so both have died," said Edner Soko, a subsistence farmer.

Jacob Soko, a farmer, said it was good that the president had declared a national disaster as it really was one.

"We don't have food, especially in the southern, eastern and western parts, we have totally nothing. We hear from the news that the northern part of Zambia at least has some rains," he said.

Farmers are concerned that they may not generate enough income to cover their basic needs. And nearly 70 percent of Zambians rely on food grown by small-scale farmers.

But Yotam Mkandawire, the executive secretary for the Grain Traders Association of Zambia said that the country was food secure for the moment.

"Where we may have a challenge, is going forward after the next harvest. This is where probably we should be able to expect maybe the country really responding to the situation that we are in now," he said.

Aid organisation, Oxfam, however, has warned that six million people face acute food shortages in Zambia until the next growing season.

China becomes Dar's biggest trading partner for 8th year

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TRADE volume between Tanzania and China for the year 2023 hit \$8.78 billion, up by 5.7 percent annually hence making China Tanzania's largest trading partner and source of investment for eight consecutive years.

Chen Mingjian, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, gave the figures in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the 13th China-Africa Think Tank Forum.

She said China-Tanzania coop-

eration has long been leading when it comes to China-Africa cooperation, with China achieving fruitful results from the investment in Tanzania as it has always been a participant, enabler and beneficiary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

"As China-Africa relations continue to flourish, I see enormous opportunity and great prospects for collaboration between Chinese and African think tanks. We hope and believe that this forum will be a continuing success."

The envoy said during the visit to Tanzania in 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith for China's Africa policy and solemnly announced that China and Africa always stand together as a community with a shared future.

Since then, the two countries' cooperation is still in a good status especially after President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to China in 2022 where she met President Xi and the two leaders agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a comprehensive

strategic partnership.

In August last year, President Samia met President Xi on the sidelines of the Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) Summit in Johannesburg where they shared their readiness to take the opportunity of jointly celebrating the 60th anniversary to continuously work with Tanzania in supporting each other's core interests and major concerns and deepening strategic cooperation.

Prof James Mdoe, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of

Education, Science and Technology who opened the one-day event, said more than 200 Tanzanians benefit from Chinese scholarships granted yearly.

He said the scholarship and vocational training in the country is the fulfilment of what President Xi underscored during the opening ceremony of the eighth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC in November 2021 on how his government will implement 'Future of Africa' - a project for China-Africa cooperation for vocational education and

encourage Chinese companies in Africa to create at least 800,000 jobs.

"The scholarships and vocational training opportunities are offered through the Confucius Institute, Luban Workshop and technical assistance. China has also helped build two China-Africa friendship primary schools in Tanzania, a vocational training centre in Kagera Region and a modern library at the University of Dar es Salaam which is one of the largest and best-equipped in Africa," he said.

VP appeals to more entities to support clean cooking drive

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has appealed to public and private companies to support government efforts towards transition to clean cooking solutions.

He made the call at the weekend when opening a women empowerment workshop that went together with distribution of free gas cylinders and stoves from Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited.

He said public and private institutions are likely to help the government in areas of research, investment and innovations. He said it is through research that clean cooking solutions can be discovered and save women from the use of dirty energy sources. "I call upon private companies to support poor rural communities to access clean cooking energy. This can be done through your Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies," he said.

He added that private companies may join hand with some charity organisations to reach more women across the country. He commented the energy firm for championing the transition to clean cooking solutions whereas thousands of gas cylinders have been given to different groups.

Benoit Araman, OGTL managing director said the transition to clean cooking solutions is crucial considering that thousands of people are reported to die every year from inhalation of smoke and particles coming from charcoal and firewood.

"Cooking with gas prevents women from the difficult task of spending hours collecting wood from the bush. Using gas prevents women from being exposed to dangers in the forests, including wildlife and bandits," he said.

For the last 15 years, clean cooking solution access has been discussed and planned, but now it has become the topic of highest importance that attracts attention of top government leaders, he said.

He said the company is empowering women to ensure quick and efficient cooking solutions to give women more time for other activities such as studying, working, community work and personal development.



PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS/SERVICES TO M&P EXPLORATION PRODUCTION TANZANIA LIMITED (Ref. No. MPEP/2024/TM/001)

- M&P Exploration Production Tanzania Ltd. (MPEP), an upstream producer of natural gas from the Mnazi Bay gas field in Mtwara region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest and provide information for the supply of the following:

Goods & Services for Drilling of Gas Exploration Wells

The work shall include but shall not be limited to:

- Supply of Casing and Tubulars (OCTG's).
- Supply of Casing Accessories - floats, shoes, centralizers / stop collars.
- Supply of Drill Bits
- Provision of Casing and Tubular Running Services
- Provision of Cementing Services
- Provision of Fishing Services
- Provision of Directional Drilling Services
- Provision of MLWD Services
- Provision of Drilling Fluids Services
- Provision of Drilling Rig and associated Camp Services
- Provision of Mud Logging Services
- Provision of Formation Evaluation (Logging) Services
- Provision of Drilling Waste Management Services
- Provision of Well Completion Services
- Provision of Well Testing Services

- This call for Request for Information (RFI) marks an open, transparent, and objective tender process. Detailed scope of work will be issued to qualified bidders upon demand.

- Potential suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their capability and competency. This must include but not limited to the following:

- Proof of experience and technical capability in providing said services preferably in Oil & Gas industry.
- Proof of financial capability (with latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years) and current annual return.
- International companies with ability to team up with local entity in any form as per the Local Content Regulations, 2017.
- Proof of registration with the local authorities in Tanzania or Country of Origin. This shall include but not limited to a company profile, certificate of registration with BRELA, Tax Authority certificates for Tax Identification Number and Value Added Tax, Valid Business License, Proof of registration with ERB (Engineers Registration Board), Regulatory license and permits (if applicable), Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.

- All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be made in writing and communicated by e-mail to procurement@tanzaniamp.co.tz, not later than 25th March, 2024.

WE ARE HIRING

JOB VACANCY : SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER

We are looking for a dynamic and experienced leader, with a clear vision, to join our team at Shree Hindu Mandal Secondary School and take it to outstanding heights.

Requirements:

- Post-graduation qualification in Education.
- Evidence of continuous learning/ professional development.
- Minimum 5 years experience in school leadership position.
- Minimum 5 years teaching experience in Secondary school level.
- Proficiency in English, both written & spoken is a prerequisite.
- Lead the implementation of the Tanzanian curriculum with a focus on innovation and transformative practices.
- Champion the integration of ICT into teaching methodologies and learning processes.
- Provide visionary leadership to inspire and motivate teaching staff towards academic excellence.
- Foster a positive school culture that encourages creativity, collaboration, and technology-driven learning.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to enhance the school's reputation and community engagement.

Candidates should submit a handwritten letter of application, no longer than two pages, explaining your strengths as a candidate and why you are interested in this position.

Only those shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview

APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE AN UPDATED CV, COVER LETTER (AS SPECIFIED ABOVE), AND COPIES OF EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATES. TO: schools@edu.shm.or.tz

ALL APPLICATIONS TO BE SENT BEFORE 25TH MARCH 2024 AT 4:00 PM

Deal focused on unlocking seaweed farming potential

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

NMB Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with state-owned Zanzibar Seaweed Company (ZASCO) that seeks to unlock the potential of seaweed farming in Zanzibar.

Speaking during the signing ceremony held at the bank's head office in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, NMB chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi said the move aligns with the bank's ambitious strategy of supporting sustainable economic development in Zanzibar.

Mponzi said the bank has been at the forefront of supporting Zanzibar's blue economy agenda, adding that the signed MoU with ZASCO won't only help in value addition but also increase the isles' foreign exchange earnings.

"Our biggest role will be to increase the efficiency of smallholder seaweed farmers in Zanzibar by providing tailor-made banking products, financial literacy as well as technical training right at the grassroots level," he said.

Earlier, ZASCO director general Dr Masoud Rashid Mohammed said that the MoU came at an opportune

time as the company was embarking on its strategy to boost value addition in seaweed farming.

"We believe this MoU will be a game-changer. We will do everything possible to implement all the terms stipulated on time," he said.

Mohamed said his company has already commenced construction of seaweed processing plant worth 8bn/- in Zanzibar that will ensure that all the seaweed is processed before export so as to enable farmers to fetch better prices at the world market.

"This will be the biggest seaweed processing plant not only in Tanzania but Africa as a whole. Indeed this MoU has come at the right time because production capacity is still very low," he said.

Zanzibar Trade and Industrial Development Minister Omar Said Shabani expressed optimism that seaweed is poised to overtake cloves as Zanzibar's biggest foreign exchange earner within a few years to come.

"The price of seaweed is higher than that of cloves at the world market. With ample investment especially in seaweed value addition, Zanzibar will be in a position to earn more foreign currencies," he said. Shabani said Zanzibar produces 23,000 tonnes of seaweed per annum with 90 percent of the growers being women.



Zanzibar's Trade and Industrial Development minister, Omar Said Shaaban (C), looks on in Dar es Salaam at the weekend as NMB Bank's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi (2nd-R), and Zanzibar Seaweed Corporation general manager Dr Masoud Rashid Mohamed exchange documents on a cooperation MoU. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WIMA recognises outstanding female leaders at 5th gala

By Guardian Correspondent

WOMEN In Management Africa (WIMA) awards celebrated a significant milestone as it marked its 5th anniversary by recognizing 25 exceptional female leaders from across the continent.

The prestigious gala dinner event took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Presided over by Mwanaidi Ali Khamis, Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, the occasion was further dignified by the presence of Tri Yogo Jatmiko, the Ambassador of Indonesia to Tanzania, along with other esteemed stakeholders and luminaries from diverse sectors.

The deputy minister lauded the WIMA for its relentless efforts in nurturing networks that support women on their board and leadership journeys while celebrating their successes.

"WIMA has remained firm in its commitment to acknowledging and celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of female leaders who have significantly contributed to their respective fields and communities. Over the past five years, these awards have served as an inspirational beacon, fostering empowerment and advocating for gender diversity and inclusivity throughout Africa" she said.

Dr Naika Moshi, founder and CEO of WIMA, reiterated the organization's dedication to enhancing gender

balance and diversity on boards and in leadership roles, aligning with international benchmarks for sustainable business practices and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030), particularly Goals 5 and 10.

"Today, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of women leaders, particularly highlighting the groundbreaking presidency of President Samia Suluhu.

"President Samia's ascent to the presidency marked a historic milestone, as she became the first female president of Tanzania, inspiring countless individuals with her unwavering dedication to public service and advocacy for women's inclusion in decision-making processes. Her leadership underscores the immense potential of women in positions of power, serving as a powerful example for future generations. "We also recognize the enduring contributions of women throughout history and reaffirm our commitment to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment globally," said Dr Moshi.

"WIMA's impact knows no bounds. Its legacy of empowerment and recognition has transcended borders, inspiring women to aim for the highest achievements and break through glass ceilings. Among its success stories are luminaries such as Mwanahiba Mzee, Jokate Mwegelo, Irene Madeje and Ruth Zaipuna as well as many others who have attained pres-

tigious positions of influence, including presidential appointments and executive roles."

The 25 outstanding awardees honoured at this year's Women WIMA gala event include Anagha Bhattbhatt (Tanzania), Brenda Deborah Shuma (Tanzania), Carlotta Dal Lago (Kenya), Caroline Mohoni (Tanzania), Doreen Mangesho (Tanzania), Dr Tia Murry (US), Dr Aisa Muya (Tanzania) and Ebonie Mbeteni (Tanzania).

Others are Eng Fatuma Mwamba (Tanzania), Gloria Kahamba (Tanzania), Grace Gathuri (Tanzania), Ilona Felten (Tanzania), Jamila AL Nofly (Tanzania), Mamela Luthuli (South Africa), Naomi Serbantez (Tanzania), Penny Mkhize (South Africa), Prof Linda Mhando (USA), Rahma Abdulahatif Musoke (Tanzania), Reanne Olivier (USA), Rewa Udoji (Nigeria), Rita Moses Mbeba (Tanzania), Sarah Kabil (Egypt), Siza Mkoma (Tanzania), Stella Keshubi (Uganda) and Tumaini Kivuyo (Tanzania).

Dr Moshi said each recipient showcased exemplary leadership, innovation and unwavering dedication, serving as inspirations and catalysts for positive change within their respective spheres of influence.

"WIMA extends heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees for their outstanding achievements and steadfast commitment to excellence. Their contributions stand as a testament to the immense potential and talent of women leaders across Africa.



Mwanaidi Ali Khamis (C, in head-cloth), Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups deputy minister, and Women In Management Africa founder and CEO Dr Naika Moshi (to her left) pose for a souvenir photo during the Women In Management Africa Awards gala held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. The others include 25 outstanding female leaders from across the continent awarded at the event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 06 Mar 2024 (Wed)
 Invitation No.: KOICA-TZ-SM-1

1. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) Tanzania Office invites foreign and local eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park

Brief of Bidding

. Bid No.	KOICA-TZ-SM-1
. Bid Title	Procurement of Supply and Installation of Solar Power Equipment and Rehabilitation Work for 'Serengeti Media Center' in Serengeti National Park.
. Scope of Service	Solar power equipment supply, conveyance and installation Solar power system repair including electric works Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center
. Item	Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items) Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Procurement	Supply of required equipment with the same or higher specification listed in Requirements (Section 4.5), User manual in English or Swahili, Quality assurance are required
. Delivery	Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor) - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA. - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment. - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation. - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
. Inspection, installation and repair	Equipment inspection by KOICA Office, Construction Manager hired by KOICA office and TANAPA before and after installation. Solar power system repair including electric works
. Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation of the Serengeti Media center *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
. Defects Liability Security	Defects Liability Security 2 year after KOICA's Inspection on Installation, Rehabilitation and Repair
. Duration	total contract period : 6 months from the date of signing the contract Delivery of the solar power system items : within 4 months from the contract signing date Installation of the solar power system : within 1 month from the date of delivery_
. Project Budget	USD 152,545 (excluding value-added taxes and other fees)
. Projected Estimated Price	refer to (f) Estimated Price below

- Goods for procurement :**
 - Solar Power Equipment (20 types, 656 items)
 - Repair of roofing, windows, finishing, painting and decorations, plumbing, air condition and ventilation, fire alarm installation of the Serengeti Media center
 - *For the detailed information, refer to the separate attachment
- Delivery :** Delivery to the Serengeti Media center (The expense related to the delivery paid by the contractor)
 - Specific transportation schedules will be determined through coordination between the contracting entity and KOICA.
 - The contractor is responsible for bearing the transportation costs associated with the shipment.
 - The contractor is required to handle the transportation along the supply order and is accountable for any issues arising during transportation.
 - After completing the transportation, the contractor must notify KOICA and submit a final delivery confirmation document that can be verified by relevant country officials of TANAPA, stating that "all items were transported without any damage or issues."
- Bid Type :**
 - Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA)
 - Qualification and Cost Based Selection
- Selection of the Successful Bidders**
 - Selection by Two-Stage Bidding (Technical Proposal and Price Quotation)
- Bidder's qualification requirement :**
 - (a) Those who have submitted the application for the participation in this bid by the deadline.
 - (b) A legitimate and lawful entity legally established by the relevant laws and regulations of Tanzania
 - Must be a legally registered company;
 - Has no impediments to tax refunds and fulfill their tax obligations.
 - Bid applicant must possess the necessary documents, including the latest three years' tax payment certificates and social insurance payment confirmation.
 - Bidders with outstanding payment records will be disqualified
 - (c) Anyone with licenses to perform required services in designated places
 - ① Have a valid registration by Tanzania Government to perform procurement, installation and operation of equipment including solar power system in Tanzania at least for 5 years or more
 - ② Have a valid work permit, resident permit and any legal permit to perform procurement of equipment in Tanzania
 - (d) Anyone not sanctioned or penalized by international organizations or governments as ineligible entities.
 - Pledge (Such pledge shall contain the bidder's declaration that it has never been subject to any sanction prior to participating in this bid and it will not raise any objection against the termination and nullification of the contract if its declaration is found to be untrue)
 - (e) (In case of Korean firms) Anyone not sanctioned by the Korean government as ineligible (or such sanction is expired) in accordance with Article 27 of the National Contract Law (Law on Contracts to Which the State is a Party), Article 31 of the Local Government Contract Law or Article 39 of the Management of Public Institutions Law
 - (f) Anyone never been punished by any government on the charges of bribery.
 - ODA Project Anti-Corruption Pledge
 - (g) Direct or indirect provision of cash or entertainment in exchange for a favor in this procurement procedure is prohibited.
 - Anti-Corruption and Integrity Contract
 - (h) The Bidders will not offer or receive money, goods, entertainment, or any other benefit directly or indirectly in the course of making or accepting a bid or signing or performing a contract (and even after the completion of the relevant project or the delivery of goods).
 - Integrity Pledge
 - * Whenever required by the Employer, the Bidders shall be able to present their ligitlity in manners that are satisfactory to the Employer.
- Details of the work scope :** kindly refer to the Bid Data Sheet
- Bidding explanation :** None
 - In order to provide the same information to all bidders equally and fairly, KOICA Tanzania Office will not respond to telephone inquiries.
 - Email to : tzkoica@gmail.com
 - Inquiry deadline : 13 Mar (Wed)-15 Mar (Fri) 2024 11:00am
 - Response will be posted on KOICA Tanzania Office website on 18 Mar 2024 (Mon).
- Application for bidding**
 - Those who intend to participate in this bid shall submit the application via email tzkoica@gmail.com.
 - When the application is submitted, the title of email shall be the name of this bid.
 - Deadline : by 13 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm
 - Email address : tzkoica@gmail.com
 - Required documents : Application (in the prescribed form)
- Submission Place :**
 - Submission: Visit
 - Deadline (date) : by 20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm
 - Place (address) : KOICA Tanzania Office P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.06, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
 - Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
 - Contact details : +255 22-292-6581
- Time, date of closing**
 - Submission: Visit
 - Deadline : by 20 Mar 2024 (Wed) 15:00 pm
 - Place : KOICA Tanzania Office P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.06, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
 - Person in charge : Ms. Jade Jonathan Program officer
 - Contact details : +255 22-292-6581
- Time, date of opening :**
 - Time, date of opening : 21 Mar 2024 (Thu) 10:00
 - Place of Opening : KOICA Tanzania Office P.O.Box 31370, 8th floor, Alfa Plaza, Plot No.06, Chabruma Road, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam
 - * All bid participants are strongly recommended to attend such bid opening.
 - This may be attended by Bidders or their representatives.
 - * In accordance with Article 11.1. of the Regulations for Procurement and Contract in Grant Aid Projects, the bid limit is equals to the expected price.
- The available budget for this procurement assignment is 152,545 USD and Bidders' Proposals should not exceed this budget. Any bid exceeding the project budget may result in rejection of its bid.
- The Bidding Documents include the following documents: Documents for Submission (refer to the attached Section 3 Bidding Forms)
 - Bid Application Form
 - Bidder's information sheet
 - Form of Bid
 - Experiences Form
 - Financial Statement
 - Declaration of anti-Corruption in ODA Business participation
 - Integrity Pledge
 - Bid security
 - Eligibility Pledge that the Bidder is not on the Lists of Sanction and Penalty
 - Joint Venture Summary (if applicable)
 - Joint Venture Agreement (if applicable)
 - Letter of Certified Copy Confirmation (if applicable)
 - License & Registration : one set of documents evidencing the applicant's eligibility to participate in the Bid
 - written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder
 - Latest/valid Certificate of business Registration.
 - Copy of valid registration issued demonstrating bidder is eligible/authorized to provide works (procurement of solar power system equipment) in Tanzania
 - a certificate from the tax inspectorate on the absence of debt;
 - a certificate from the social fund on the absence of debt;
 - latest three years' tax payment certificates, social insurance payment confirmation
 - Power of Attorney : documents evidencing the authenticity of the applicant's signature or seal power of attorney (not required if representative submit the application)
 - Original Letter for Submission
 - Materials of Qualification Examination
 - List and value of contracts for the last five years of similar works plus client's contact details (name and email address) who may be contacted for further information on those contracts.
 - * The company should provide the performance certificate of similar projects in the past five years (2019-2023)
 - CV, certificate & proof of employment of the technical personnel has to be attached along with the bid document.
 - * CV of the technical personnel has to indicate the project area, scale and financier of each project
 - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria must be duly completed and signed and in accordance with Annex 1
 - Any other documents specified in the Bid Data Sheet.
 - Sealed bid price duly completed and signed
- Language of Proposal:** English
- KOICA Tanzania Office requires that bidders and contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA:
 - will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
 - will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by KOICA
- The KOICA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at KOICA Tanzania Office webpage, tzkoica@gmail.com for inquiry and issuance of bidding documents and cable/telex/facsimile numbers.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of five per cent (5%) or higher of Total Bid Price or stated fixed amount, and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or prior to the bid date until after 30 days or more of the bid opening date.
 - Types of bid security: Bank guarantee, irrevocable credit, cash, certified check, or equivalent.
 - * The bid security will be surrendered to KOICA if the bidder who has been awarded the contract fails to conclude and sign the contract within the set period of negotiation or withdraws from the bid after the notification of award.
- KOICA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES**



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of the Republic of Tanzania (GoT) have entered into a partnership agreement in order to improve the livelihoods of rural people through an intervention focused on smallholder dairy producers. The project goal is to contribute to the transformation of the dairy value chain to improve livelihoods, increase food safety, and to mitigate the impact of the dairy sector on climate change. The development objectives are to improve income, climate resilience and nutrition of smallholder dairy producers and their participation in a competitive and safe value chain.

The project aims to deliver on the following two interlinked development outcomes, backed with effective project management, monitoring and evaluation: (i) increased climate-smart production, productivity, and resilience of dairy smallholder production systems and; (ii) improved market access for smallholder farmers and reduced environmental footprint of the dairy value chain; Climate Smart Smallholder Dairy Transformation Project (C-SDTP) targeted geographical areas are Mbeya (Rungwe, Mbeya, Mbarali), Iringa (Mufundi, Kilolo, Iringa), Njombe (Njombe, Makete, Wanging'ombe), Tanga (Lushoto, Muheza, Korogwe, Pangani, Tanga), and Morogoro (Mvomero, Kilosa, Morogoro rural) and for Zanzibar, in Unguja (West A, West B, Central, NorthA, NorthB and South districts) and Pemba (Wete, Micheweni, Chakechake and Mkoani districts) and a total of 120,000 households representing 600,000 people, will directly benefit from the project, of which 40% of direct beneficiaries will be women and 30% are youth. The C-SDTP will be managed under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) aligned with ministries finance and planning, Vice President's Office (VPO) and President Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (TAMISEMI) for mainland; and First Vice President Office in Zanzibar (VPI), Ministry of Finance and Planning President's Office for Zanzibar, as well as representatives from the private sector and farmers' organizations.

The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Office wishes to recruit suitable candidates for the following positions in the project supported with the financial contribution from IFAD

1. Project Coordinator (PC) – DODOMA

Operating within the C-SDTP and reporting to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, he or she will be responsible for all matters pertaining to the effective implementation, management and coordination of activities for effective delivery on the project objectives. He/ she will also be responsible for technical support to the District teams. He/she will be based in the PCO headquarters, MLF in Dodoma with frequent visits to the regions of intervention (Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro, Njombe, Tanga) as well as Zanzibar (PCT).

This is a high-level professional position with a highly demanding mission to attain the desired outputs of C-SDTP. Seasoned professionals with strong organizational and managerial experience are required. A solid understanding of the project area and of the dairy sector is highly commendable.

Under the authority of the MLF, who simultaneously chairs the national steering committee of C-SDTP, the Project coordinator will:

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

- Provide orientations for the project strategy and methodology;
- Coordinating and managing the project team and creating team spirit with PCO project staff, including the PCT located in Zanzibar, implementing partners, MLF and district staff;
- Ensure project performance in accordance with the financing agreements and the various related procedures through results-based management;
- Ensure timely implementation of the project, including coherence with the Annual Workplan and Budget.
- During the first three months of the assignment, develop an expert understanding of IFAD's project performance indicators and ensure at least satisfactory rating of all indicators.
- Develop approaches to accelerate the achievement of results, anticipate implementation risks and develop mitigation measures;
- Ensure synergies between project components to maximize the project impact
- Manage the funds allocated to the project by the various donors as the final accountable officer of these funds vis-à-vis the Tanzanian government and the donors and report to the authorities mentioned in the financing agreements on the physical and financial progress of the project.

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:

- Holder of a Master's degree at least in one of the following fields: Animal Science and Production, Agriculture Extension, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture Economics and Agri-Business agro-economics, or related programs. A PhD in such fields will be an added advantage;
- At least ten (10) years of professional experience in the planning, coordination and management of agricultural or rural development projects, funded by multilateral or bilateral (international) donors;
- Professional experience in monitoring and evaluation and/or financial management will be an asset;
- Proven track record of staff management including setting of targets and performance monitoring;
- Demonstrated skills and abilities in business negotiation, communication and public relations, human resources management;
- Commitment to the principles of good governance and ethics;
- Perfect command of English and Kiswahili;
- Very good knowledge of the main office software (Office);

Duration:

- 5 years of yearly performance-based contract, and 6 months' probation period. The identification and hiring of the Project Coordinator will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff and/or external candidates.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Senior Officer – DODOMA

Under the direct supervision and authority of the Project Coordinator, the M&E Senior Officer will be in charge of all C-SDTP M&E activities carried out under the project at the beneficiary and district levels. S/he will also be responsible for compiling, validating and reporting M&E results and progress through collaboration with Government District Teams and Project Implementing Partners.

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

- Develop a Project-Specific M&E Plan that will clearly detail: (i) description of the C-SDTP M&E approach; (ii) C-SDTP processes and activities to be implemented; (iii) the tools to be used for data collection and processing (iii) the deliverables to be produced and; (iv) M&E responsibilities;
- Support MIS Developer in the development of the C-SDTP M&E Management Information to ensure that data collection, beneficiaries database and reporting templates are consistent with the project M&E plan;
- Support the PCO coordinator to develop pre-condition, operational and performance 'triggers' for funds disbursement for the first three to four years of the project;
- Coordinate district teams and implementation partners to collect and report data of project activities using the MIS as per the appropriate project data collection and tools that are outlined in the M&E Plan;
- Provide training and technical support to project, district staff and partners on M&E and MIS related issues, including data collection, analysis and reporting;
- Regularly update the Project Logframe, the Results Framework and the Physical execution of Annual Work Plans and Budgets, and submit to IFAD before every supervision mission;
- Ensure the quality of data collected and reported by conducting quality assurance checks (including field visits) and providing feedback to project staff and partners;
- Prepare ToRs and take part in the procurement process to contract consulting firms to carry out the Project's baseline, mid-line, and end-line surveys. Guide the service providers contracted to conduct COI survey by ensuring survey methodology and questionnaire adheres to the IFAD COIs;
- Ensure compliance with IFAD and Project requirements and ethical considerations related to data collection and use;
- Draft progress reports, semi-annual and annual reports;
- Respond to ad-hoc data requests from the Project Coordinator, the Government, and IFAD;
- Manage project information; particularly the beneficiary database, documentation and other project related information;
- Supervise and collaborate with the Knowledge and Management Officer by providing evidence-based data of the impact of project interventions to guide the development of KM products;
- Carry out any other assignment or relevant duties in the field of his/her competences as may be assigned by the Project Coordinator and the Authorities.

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:

Education: Holder of a Master's degree in statistics, demographics, public policy, international development, economics, or related field. Advanced certificate in M&E, statistics or economics preferred.

Experience

- At least seven (7) years of professional experience in an M&E position responsible for implementing M&E activities of international development projects.
- Experience in designing, implementing, and operating project M&E systems and plans from project initiation to closeout stages.
- Experience in designing and managing beneficiary monitoring and database systems.
- Experience in managing project level M&E Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Knowledge of the major evaluation methodologies (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, mixed-method, and impact) and data collection and analysis methodologies.
- Experience in developing and refining data collection tools.
- Experience with data quality assessments and oversight.
- Extensive knowledge of IFAD COI guidelines and policies is an advantage.

Ability to utilize digital technology in data collection and analysis, including proficiency in various online tools and platforms for data management and visualization, as well as experience with data analysis software and techniques. Language Requirements

- Fluency in written and spoken English and Kiswahili;

Duration:

The duration of the assignment will be for five (5) years based on yearly performance-based contracts, and a 6 months probation period. The identification and hiring of the M&E Officer will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff

and/or external candidates.

3. Financial Senior Officer– Dodoma

Reporting directly to the Project Coordinator with technical responsibility to Director of Finance/Chief Accountant MLF, the Finance Senior Officer is a key Project's personnel responsible for the overall financial management aspects, implementing financial policies, strategies in line with IFAD and Government of Tanzania requirements and international standards.

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

- contribute to the preparation and consolidation of the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWPB);
- implementation and maintenance of the off-the shelf accounting system ensuring that the chart of accounts and reporting system thereof provides information to link between project activities by category, component and funding source;
- timely input of budget data into the accounting system and production of monthly and quarterly reports regarding aspects of project financial monitoring bringing out variances and advising technical specialist as to the limits of expenditure;
- prepare Interim Financial Report (IFR) quarterly on actual status of funds utilization and cash forecast for next quarters project implementation;
- prepare yearly consolidated statements of project accounts as an integral part of the Management Information System to be submitted to the Project Steering Committee, and subsequently to IFAD;
- prepare financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) – Cash basis with the prerequisite disclosures for non-cash items and liaise with external auditors to audit the project accounts to meet the required submission dates by IFAD;
- oversee tax matters of the project, ensuring that tax exemptions and tax refunds for the procurement of goods and services for the project are secured at the appropriate time.
- provide training and guidance to project beneficiaries and implementing partners for AWPB activity preparation and submissions and participate in the development and implementation of plans, and procedures for budget request submission activities to ensure that project objectives are achieved in accordance with prevailing government practices which are acceptable to IFAD;
 - calculate the cost of services and associated analyses and propose actions to be taken to improve cost-efficiency of services, without affecting quality;
- process documentation and follow up on disbursements from the government and IFAD to ensure that releases are not delayed; ensure that funds for project implementation are disbursed in a timely manner to enable project interventions to be carried out on time;
- prepare and submit regular withdrawal applications (for fund withdrawal and expenditure justification) to IFAD based on IFAD IFR-based disbursement procedures including quarterly cash forecast to ensure adequate liquidity for project implementation;
- follow-up on all project funds released to implementing entities and technical partners for timely retirement and proper utilization;
- ensure that supporting documents to WA are carefully checked for eligibility with relevant financial agreements;
- maintain effective internal control environment for the project by ensuring that:
 - All project funds are used in accordance with the conditions of the financing agreements, with due attention to economy and efficiency, and only for the purposes for which the funds were provided;
 - counterpart funds have been provided and used in accordance with the conditions of the financing agreements, with due attention to economy and efficiency, and only for the purposes for which they were provided;
 - goods and services financed have been procured in accordance with the financing agreement and in accordance with government and IFAD's rules and procedures;
 - all necessary supporting documents, records and accounts are kept in respect of all project activities, with clear linkages between the books of account and the financial statements presented to the financiers;
- designated accounts are maintained in accordance with the provisions of the financing agreement and in accordance with the financier's rules and procedures;
- provide any support to the procurement unit to assist in procurement for the project in accordance with procedures laid down by Financing Agreements of IFAD and Co-financiers;
- ensure that fixed assets are well accounted for and annual verification is undertaken of the condition of assets and their location;
- ensure the effective and efficient operation of administrative aspects of the Project;
- carry out any other activities that are assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:

- Master's degree in Finance and Accounting, and registered with National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA);
- At least seven (7) years of experience in financial management of international development project
- strong managerial skills and demonstrated capacity to manage people and interact with a wide range of private sector partners and government representatives;
- strong organizational skills. Versatility, ability to multi task and meet deadlines;
- excellent organizational and analytical skills;
- excellent computer skills and well-versed in the use of Excel, Word and accounting software;
- good communication skills and ability to interact with a wide range of private sector partners and government representatives.
- Holder of NBAA professional courses at Certified Public Accountant (CPA) level; Required Work Experience
- At least eight years of relevant work experience, including at least four as a financial manager or accountant in government/donor projects or large institutions;
- knowledge of work planning, budgeting and reporting;
- preparing withdrawal applications for external funding agencies;
- audit management experience in donor funded program.

Duration:

The duration of the assignment will be for five (5) years of yearly performance-based contract, and 6 months' probation period.. The Finance Senior Officer identification and hiring will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff and/or external candidates.

4. Dairy Production and veterinary Specialist

The Dairy production and veterinary Specialist will support the field implementation of the activities of the C-SDTP in the domain of dairy animal production and health. He/she will support the coordinator in all aspects of implementation of the program, with a particular focus on production, productivity and value chain aspects.

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

- Lead implementation of technical activities with the implementation partners; supervise and ensure quality control of all activities implemented under the Components at district levels;
- Contribute to the preparation of the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWPB);
- Coordinate the mapping and analysis of existing dairy production systems and practices;
- Identify key problems pertaining to the existing practices with respect to animal health, nutrition, forage production, genetics, animal husbandry;
- Based on the analysis propose recommendations for improvement to enhance dairy farm production and productivity and increase incomes;
- Lead and coordinate the design of activities;
- Be directly responsible for planning and reporting of activities;
- Support Districts for planning and reporting of activities Implemented at District level;
- Prepare training materials and conduct (some of the) trainings;
- Develop terms of reference and concept note for studies and consultancies;
- Prepare and facilitate workshops;
- Ensure secretariat of the technical platforms and committees established at zonal level.

With regards to dairy value chain:

- Carry out a dairy enterprise training needs assessment for the target groups,
- including gender considerations, during the baseline survey;
- Identify opportunities for new business models for dairy input services offered by
- the milk MCCs, e.g. Dairy Hub and productive alliances model;
- Ensure that the concept of enterprise approach and market oriented smallholder
- dairy development and encourage demonstration of market oriented activities;
- Solicit, screen, advise and direct contract service providers to develop and
- administer training modules suited to the needs of smallholder dairy farmers,
- transporters, processors and distributors/retailers including women, youth and
- other target group;
- Identify key problems and offer interventions in the use of existing technologies
- and practices with respect to the hygiene standards, quality and safety control,
- equipment, packaging, branding and marketing of dairy products;
- Based on the analysis, propose recommendations (including new technologies,
- equipment, TA and training etc.) for improvement to enhance the value chain
- actors' capacity to add value and increase income;
- Assist the project's procurement officer in sourcing and procuring required new
- technologies, equipment, TA and training for participating enterprises throughout
- the dairy value chain.
- Assist the Director with dairy value chain Development program implementation
- and reporting at regional level;
- Prepare necessary reports as required by the Project Coordinator and IFAD.
- Support the implementation of gender activities related to women and youth
- participation in the dairy agribusiness

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:**Educational Background:**

- Minimum qualification: MSc in animal science or MSc in agribusiness or Animal Science/production (with a major in dairy science)

Experience:

- At least 10 years of experience in coordination of rural development activities in the field
- At least 5 years of experience in the dairy industry in the business of dairy-processing and marketing, with an understanding of technology management,
- packaging, and quality and safety control;

Qualifications and experiences:

- At least 10 years of experience in development of dairy production;
- Minimum 5 years practical working experience in project implementation;
- Computer literacy and proficiency (word processing, spreadsheets and data bases);
- Strong verbal and written communication skills;
- Ability to work efficiently under pressure and to meet deadlines;Willing to create and work in a team atmosphere with colleagues, and well-organised and well oriented to details.

Duration:

The duration of the assignment will be for five (5) years of yearly performance-based contract, and 6 months' probation period. The identification and hiring Dairy Production and veterinary Specialist will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff and/or external candidates.

5. Dairy Value Chain and Market Specialist (DVCMS)

The Dairy Value Chain and Market Specialist (DVCMS) will support the field implementation of the activities of the C-SDTP in the domain of dairy value chain. He/she will support the Dairy sector specialist in all aspects of implementation of the program, with a particular focus on value chain aspects.

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

- Carry out a dairy enterprise training needs assessment for the target groups, including gender considerations, during the baseline survey;
- Identify opportunities for new business models for dairy input services offered by the milk MCCs, e.g. Dairy Hub and productive alliances model;
- Contribute to the preparation of the Annual Work Plans & Budget (AWPBs);
- Ensure that the concept of an enterprise approach and market-oriented smallholder dairy development is integrated and mainstreamed in the dairy sector, and encourage the implementation and demonstration of market-oriented activities that support smallholder dairy farmers Solicit, screen, advise, and direct contract service providers to develop and administer training modules suited to the needs of smallholder dairy farmers, transporters, processors and distributors/retailers including women, youth and other target group;
- Identify key problems and offer interventions in the use of existing technologies and practices with respect to the hygiene standards, quality and safety control, equipment, packaging, branding and marketing of dairy products;
- Based on the analysis, propose recommendations (including new technologies, equipment, TA and training etc.) for improvement to enhance the value chain actors' capacity to add value and increase income;
- Assist the project's procurement officer in sourcing and procuring required new technologies, equipment, TA and training for participating enterprises throughout the dairy value chain;
- Assist the Director with dairy value chain Development program implementation and reporting at regional level;
- Prepare necessary reports as required by the Project Coordinator and IFAD;
- Ensure the implementation of gender activities related to women and youth participation in the dairy agribusiness.

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:**Educational Background:**

- Minimum qualification: MSc in Dairy Science; Dairy Technology; or Animal Science and Production; Agricultural Economics; Agribusiness Animal Science/production (with a major in Dairy Science).

Experience:

- At least 10 years of experience in coordination of rural development activities in the field
- At least 5 years of experience in the dairy industry in the business of dairy processing and marketing, with an understanding of technology management, packaging, and quality and safety control;
- At least 5 years of experience in development of dairy production;
- Minimum 3 years practical working experience in project implementation;
- Computer literacy and proficiency (word processing, spreadsheets, and data bases);
- Strong verbal and written communication skills;
- Ability to work efficiently under pressure and to meet deadlines;
- Willing to create and work in a team atmosphere with colleagues; and well-organised and well oriented to details.

Duration:

The duration of the assignment will be for five (5) years of yearly performance-based contract, and 6 months' probation period. The identification and hiring of the Dairy Value Chain and Market Specialist (DVCMS) will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff and/or external candidates.

6. Procurement Senior Officer - DODOMA

Under the direct supervision of the project coordinator, the procurement senior officer will be responsible to provide technical advice and manage all stages of the procurement processes for Goods, Works, Consultancy and Non-Consultancy Services undertaken by the Project and to maintain all procurement documentation in good order.

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

The Procurement Senior Officer will develop and implement a cost-effective procurement management system for the Project, including procurement plans in accordance with the IFAD and GoT procurement guidelines. The duties and functions will include, but not limited to:

- Establishment of appropriate procurement systems & procedures in all implementing entities for effective planning and monitoring of procurement under the Project;
- Communicate to all implementing entities and service providers their responsibilities and requirements with respect to procurement in keeping with IFAD requirements and the prevailing government practices that are acceptable to IFAD;
- Initiate preparation, consolidation and updating of Annual Procurement Plans in the IFAD Procurement End-to-End System (OPEN) in consultation with technical experts in the project and all implementing entities;
- Ensure consistency between Annual Procurement Plans and AWPBs
- Advise the project team at all stages of procurement process to ensure that goods, works and services financed by the Project have been procured in accordance with the grant/loan agreement, IFAD guidelines and Government procurement regulations;
- Coordinate preparation of ToRs for consultancy services and technical specifications for all procurement, in conjunction with relevant technical government personnel;
- Undertake local shopping for goods, works and services where this falls within the procurement guidelines;
- Prepare tender documents (bidding documents, request for proposals, request for quotations, and contract documents) in the required format and using the standard bidding documents;
- Preparation and issuance of the General Procurement Notice (GPN), requests for Expressions of Interest, advertisements of bid opportunities, issuing bid documents to the qualified (or pre-qualified) prospective bidders;
- Provide guidance on public bid opening sessions and providing clarifications;
- Convene and support bid evaluation committees to undertake technical evaluation of bids or proposals for supply of goods and services and ensure evaluation committees have people with appropriate expertise;
- Preparing evaluation reports (technical evaluation reports and combined evaluation reports) and recommendations for contract awards, including obtaining the necessary Government internal clearances and IFAD's No-Objection;
- Drafting minutes of contract negotiation and preparing contracts for necessary approval and signature;
- Ensure publication of award of contract in the IFAD and GoT websites and attend to procurement queries, disputes and complaints relating to the procurement process;
- Ensure appointment of contract manager and monitor implementation of contracts, report status and problems to the Project Coordinator, and intervene to address problem upon request by the Coordinator;
- Monitor progressive payments to suppliers, contractors and consultants against the agreed milestones or outputs and ensure the CMT data updated regularly;
- Maintain a register of approved suppliers for smaller items procured locally;
- Prepare quarterly and annual procurement reports on the progress of implementation of the Procurement Plan, and regularly inform the Project Coordinator of problems and make proposals to overcome bottlenecks;
- Maintain all procurement records in a form appropriate for regular auditing; and
- Carry out any other activities that are assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:

- A Master's degree in procurement and supply, management, economics, Business Administration, Engineering, Law or any other related field;
- Professional procurement certification, such as CPSP-Authorized, Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply certification (MCIPS) or other equivalent certification;
- At least 8 year of practical experience in procurement and contracting in government and projects funded by international financial institutions in the country;
- Working experience with IFAD or other Multilateral Development Bank funded projects is added advantage.
- Demonstrable understanding of the public procurement laws;
- Must be computer literate with working knowledge and skills of MS Office (word processor, spreadsheets, etc.) and any other applications used in procurement;

Other Required Skills and Competencies:

- Languages: Fluency in spoken and written English is required. Knowledge of other languages spoken in East Africa will be an asset.
- Technical proficiency: Good understanding of and experience in procurement management, especially in Multilateral Development Banks' projects. Proven ability in managing processes, people and coordination across implementing teams. Substantive

understanding and preferably, experience in all phases of international procurement operations and in contracting. Good working knowledge of procurement regulations/contract law and expertise in handling complex contract issues. Good negotiating skills to shape and influence agreements with vendors. Sound judgment in applying technical expertise to resolve a range of issues; and ability to train, transfer knowledge and develop the capacity.

- Communications: Very good communication skills (spoken and written), including the ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences on procurement-related matters, good negotiation skills and to prepare a variety of written documents, contracts, reports, etc. in a clear, concise style.
- Ethics and Integrity: Must be a person of proven honesty and integrity with no criminal record, and no situation of conflict of interest, result oriented and proactive.
- Technology Awareness: Good computer skills, including proficiency in procurement computer systems, spreadsheet, database management and Internet applications.

Teamwork: Very good interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Duration:

The duration of the assignment will be for five (5) years of yearly performance-based contract, and 6 months' probation period.. The identification and hiring of the Procurement Officer will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff and/or external candidates.

7. Climate and Environment Specialist

Under the direct supervision of the Coordinator, the Climate and Environment Specialist will be responsible for orienting and ensuring the climate resilient implementation of project's activities. The specific tasks to be performed by the Climate and Environment Specialist are the following:

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

- Supervise infrastructure assessments and develop a strategy/guidelines for necessary modifications to make them climate resilient;
- Supervise the development of building codes/standards to ensure that investments are climate resilient;
- Contribute to the preparation of the Annual Work Plans & Budget (AWPBs);
- Work with appropriate local partners to ensure that engineers and technicians can supervise the infrastructure according to the agreed building codes and standards;
- Provide guidance to Service Providers and project stakeholders on climate risk management in C-SDTP intervention areas;
- Identify potential in-country partners to support the climate and environmental needs and assess potential collaboration
- Assist in the development of agro-meteorological products and decision support systems designed for transmission to various Departments of the Ministry, relevant extension services, and the private sector/business partners;
- Provide specific recommendations including opportunities to optimize climate adaptation, environmental management and resource use with regard to the dairy value chain;
- Explore existing lessons and good practices with regard to dairy production and assess scale-up options;
- Ensure the sound integration of climate-resilient technologies in dairy value chain development;
- Mainstream climate resilient approaches and best practices (both climate change adaptation and mitigation) in C-SDTP interventions;
- Plan and implement a capacity building program for key stakeholders based on identified needs;
- Assist in the preparation and implementation of Learning Routes with regard to climate resilience;
- Ensure that all safeguards requirements as defined in SECAP are applied including the implementation of all studies/ assessments/ plans conducted during design;
- In collaboration with relevant national institutions, review and finalise the outline of the Pest Management Plan included in the PDR package; Carry out any other duties as assigned to him/her by his/her superior.

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:

Master's degree in the following areas: Climatology, or Environmental Sciences, Natural Resources Management or similar, with at least 5 years of working experience.

Key competences:

- Fluent in Kiswahili and English
- Computer literacy
- Good communication and results-oriented skills
- Experience in mainstreaming climate adaptation and mitigation issues within both public and private sector organizations
- Ability to work in an interdisciplinary team and meet crucial deadlines
- Working experience with IFAD funded project is an advantage

Duration:

The duration of the assignment will be for five (5) years of yearly performance-based contract, and 6 months' probation period. The identification and hiring of the Climate and Environment Specialist will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff and/or external candidates.

8. Social Inclusion Specialist

Under the general supervision of the National Project Coordinator, the Social Inclusion Specialist will perform project activities related to social inclusion – gender, youth and nutrition.

The main responsibilities of this position will be:

- Advice and support the project management, other members of the PCO and field officers at all levels in the effective mainstreaming of targeting, gender/youth/People with disabilities and social inclusion in project activities.
- In close collaboration with the NPCO, develop full targeting and gender strategies and fine-tune the project Social Inclusion Action Plan (SIAP) to be updated regularly.
- Contribute to the preparation of the Annual Work Plans & Budget (AWPBs);
- Work with each specialist in the NPCO in critically reviewing project to see how each component or subcomponent addresses gender/youth/People with disabilities and Nutrition issues and identify opportunities for strengthening implementation from an social inclusive perspective.
- Review basic project implementation processes to provide feedback and suggestions on how to achieve the best possible project outcomes with respect to targeting, youth/People with disabilities/gender equality and women's empowerment, and nutrition.
- Ensure that activities of the targeting, gender and nutrition strategies are reflected in the following:
- Preparation of the AWPB;
- Design and implementation of the project M&E system: ensure that baseline, mid-line and end-line have the IFAD Empowerment index surveys and nutrition surveys at baseline, MTR and completion; and regular annual monitoring reflects data and information on key social inclusion indicators (gender, youth, PWDs and nutrition);
- Together with M&E and knowledge management staff, establish an M&E system that captures and analyses disaggregated data by sex, youth, disability and ensure proper capturing and monitoring of the IFAD Empowerment Index as an additional impact indicator to measure change in women's empowerment;
- Participate in the development of detailed TORs and tender documents of service providers to various project components to ensure that target groups will be able to participate effectively in all components and meet the project's targets, including ensuring gender and women empowerment, nutrition are well reflected and supported.
- Undertake regular capacity assessment on gender, youth, People with disabilities and nutrition related issues and provide capacity-building for staff at the field level, PCO, implementing partners and service providers.
- Serve as a channel of communication between the project and others working on gender issues in government, implementing agencies, other development projects and IFAD.
- Be familiar with gender and nutrition policies of the institutions linked to the project, including national policies and those of ministries, implementing institutions and financing agencies, including IFAD.
- Establish linkages with other gender/youth/People with disabilities and nutrition programmes implemented by national, international and intergovernmental agencies.
- Present evidence-based information on good practices in gender/youth/EG/People with disabilities equality and women's empowerment in national forums
- Support introduction of GALS in the project:
- Prepare and organize workshops introducing GALS mainstreaming tools at national and district levels.
- Prepare and organize trainings for introduction of the GALS methodology to the L FFS facilitators and core team.
- Organize Participatory Gender review workshops.
- Support the project reports on targeting and social inclusion.

Academic qualifications, experience, skills, and attitudes:

- Master's degree in social sciences, gender or related discipline;
- At least five years' experience working in gender/youth/People with disabilities and social inclusion issues;
- Experience in agricultural and rural development projects;
- Experience in projects integrating targeting and gender considerations across components/activities and M&E;
- Experience in designing and delivering training modules
- Some knowledge of GALS methodology is an advantage;
- Working knowledge of spoken and written English;

Duration:

The duration of the assignment will be for five (5) years of yearly performance-based contract, and 6 months' probation period. The identification and hiring of the Social Inclusion Specialist will be based on competitive recruitment from seconded government staff and/or external candidates.

The deadline to receive applications is March 19, 2024. Qualified candidates should submit their application, including a letter of interest, complete curriculum Vitae and copies of Certified Academic Qualification to:

**Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries,
PO. Box 2870- Dodoma
OR
Email: barua@mifugo.go.tz**

MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024

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

UN Women can ring the bell of completion, 29 years later

CELEBRATING International Women's Day in Tanzania's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, and in the country as whole this time around had an aura of panache.

The explanation for this is that, for the seventh year running, the bell was ringing at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

The idea was to bring to the attention of the public the decisive role the private sector can play in advancing gender equality to achieve a socially sustainable economy. It was an idea mooted and executed jointly by the Tanzania office of the United Nations Women's agency (UN Women), DSE and various other stakeholders.

The clarion call that the UN agency was ready to support initiatives geared at empowering women was definitely not new, and it was with an effort that some genders watchers sought to scan for some new ideas - with varying degrees of success.

One such suggestion was that, by investing heavily in gender-based, the UN would be helping to unlock gender setbacks around the world. That has gradually been the case, at least since 1995 - when the gender dimension of development was being fully programmed.

From the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace held in Beijing from September 4 through 15 of that year to date, plenty has been done in that direction.

Numerous projects, measures, legal reforms, educational drives, economic empowerment initiatives, etc., have all seen the light of day.

The issue is whether there is as of now a gender aspect to social development as a whole, or women as part of wider society, thus being subjected to limitations arising from the prevailing state of

development.

The key stakeholders at the recent Dar es Salaam event brought together for ringing the bell are some of the stakeholders who, had they pursued a proper reform formula rather than adding gender initiatives to a global inclusion drive which could scarcely end poverty, things would have been different.

Agencies like DSE, UN Women, UNDP, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Tanzanian branch of the Global Compact Network which groups top CEOs making commitments to implementing universal sustainability principles are indeed a special assortment. Trouble is that they just focus on universal inclusion.

One wonders in what manner women and girls stand as game changers if they are supported, as they can greatly contribute to improvement of social welfare countrywide.

It is evident that what is at issue is individual and family welfare, whereas there is a wider problem of economic structures that generate poverty, where Africa has failed to make the gains that South Asia registered well over 30 years ago.

There isn't just a specific error arising on the women's issue but part of a graphic error stemming from the left-liberal leanings of the UN system and its agencies, with the world body's vast bureaucracy brought together by ideas of inclusion rather than reforms.

There was a time the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and IMF) sought to apply the matrix of classical reform in building a sustainable market economy.

They encountered a torrent of protests, as reforms enable big foreign companies to obtain chunks of local economies by absorbing debts.

Arts, entrainment investment tied with rising incomes, transferable properties

THERE is always someone who can make investments in one or other sphere of economy. However, the overall extent to which such investment can be expected or is likely to take place is part of a wider framework of issues.

Investment as such is the decision by a single individual, and proponents of statist economy believe that investment will rise by relaying that message to more and more investors.

Still, the reality is that outside a specific framework of property relations, investors most likely to be attracted are those with limited aims and not long-term ones.

It applies even with respect to those with limited aims, who generally fall under the slogan of moving to 'grab' opportunities. It smacks of sales deals sprouting somewhere and one is told over the phone of chances to make a few million dollars quickly.

One would then grab that opportunity, while long-term investors see a growing economy and its promise in ten years or longer before going on to make a proper decision.

Here the matter is less of a grab as it isn't sudden or rapidly earning but, rather, a decision to become part of what actually looks like a reassuring matrix of policies, potential and pointers.

Investment in arts and entertainment that public officials were lately asking Tanzanians living in India and elsewhere to take up is one of those things, as quick earnings are possible in various areas.

But when incomes are still low, the market tends to be saturated with the sort of produce internally based medium scale investors put

up. In addition, foreign investors that would come with members of the Diaspora will likely often need higher returns than local 'billionaires' in the respective sectors.

There is another dimension to ponder when seeking out the Diaspora - namely, whether we as a country are ready to take the sort of measures that allow members of the Diaspora to come up with ideas.

They would then obtain a venture capital base with one or more partners, or via bond financing, etc., and then obtain access to property for access to working capital from local banks.

It must be recalled that 'local banks' aren't just banks that are locally majority owned but would be conducting big operations here.

Meanwhile, the most important role those in the Diaspora can be expected to undertake is not projects meant merely to add competition to what is already available in the local market as 'grabbing opportunities' would evidently suggest.

One figures out that the future of those in the Diaspora is right where they are but, as they know the country or have a mental tendency to keep figuring out how its resources can be exploited and create jobs.

But actual Diaspora interest would be within the framework of collecting substantial capital to come to the scene, then setting up innovative projects whose produce is exported back to the country of origin.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

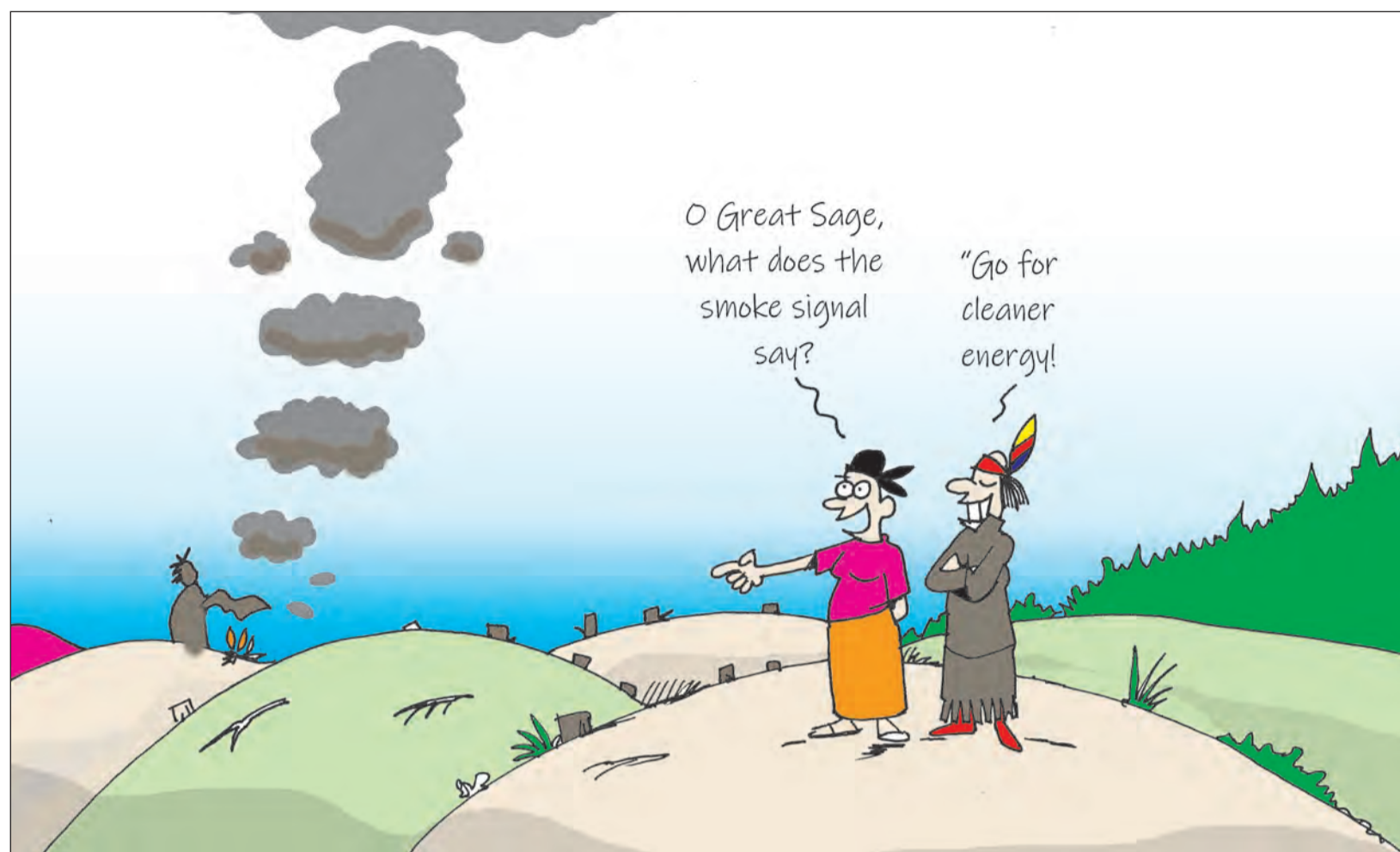
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Unveiling blind spots and critical insights to fight poverty effectively

By Olivier De Schutter and Luis Felipe López-Calva

POVERTY is multidimensional. If we think of classical thinkers, Adam Smith referred to the basis of self-respect and the importance of being able to "appear in public without shame," while John Rawls wrote about "primary goods," which included rights and liberties as well as income and wealth.

Amartya Sen, advancing in formalization, brought the notion of "functionings" as the "beings and doings" effectively available to people in their capability set, so they can "pursue the life plans they have reasons to value."

It is mainstream today to argue that poverty is multidimensional, moving beyond just access to goods and services. But exploring which dimensions are "appropriate" in each context has been a fundamental pursuit of development analysts and practitioners in recent decades.

It has been almost 30 years since Sabina Alkire devoted her work to the understanding, classification, and measurement of the many dimensions of poverty, particularly those that are "hidden" in our concepts and indicators.

Indeed, there are some dimensions associated with experiencing the condition of poverty that cannot be so easily observed and have not been properly measured yet are very important when it comes to policy effectiveness.

Those dimensions include aspects related to emotions that trigger behavioural responses: feelings of isolation, discrimination, effects on the sense of dignity and self-respect, and disempowerment. We have come a long way in our thinking about poverty, but our actions to tackle it and to understand the complex interactions between dimensions remains underdeveloped.

At the World Bank, the project on "Voices of the Poor," started almost 30 years ago, strove to think differently about poverty. It drew on the views of 60,000 people living in poverty across 60 countries to better understand the challenges they faced, helping expand our understanding of poverty to include not only income and consumption but also lack of access to education and health, powerlessness, voicelessness, vulnerability, and fear.

Later, in 2012, the Social Observatory project used a broader view of poverty dimensions to make anti-poverty projects more adaptive—and ultimately more effective. Since 2018, the World Bank's multidimensional poverty measure has gone beyond monetary deprivation to include other dimensions such as access to education, health, nutritional, and basic infrastructure services.

And in 2023, the World Bank began



publishing the multidimensional poverty index—an effort by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and the United Nations Development Programme—which is especially pertinent for low-income countries.

More recently, researchers from the University of Oxford and the global anti-poverty movement ATD Fourth World uncovered a set of "hidden dimensions of poverty" through a three-year participatory research project in six countries (Bangladesh, Bolivia, France, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, and the United States) that sought to further refine our understanding of poverty.

The teams identified nine dimensions of poverty that were common across all countries, despite the vastly different circumstances in each, using the "merging of knowledge" methodology. This approach brings together people in poverty (with their knowledge of the reality of poverty), academics (with their scientific knowledge), and practitioners (with their action-based knowledge).

The identified dimensions included a lack of decent work or income, of course, but also feelings of powerlessness, lacking control, and experiencing "povertyism" (negative attitudes and behaviours toward people living in poverty).

These lesser-recognized and lesser-visible dimensions of poverty are no less important for policies designed to combat poverty than a person's income or access to employment. Escaping poverty will be far more difficult if you don't also address the discrimination people in poverty face, the shame they ex-

perience, or the "aspirations gap" that results from being raised in a low-income household.

But until now, policy makers have lacked the practical tools they need to properly capture and combat these hidden, and thus largely ignored, dimensions of poverty.

The Inclusive and Deliberative Elaboration and Evaluation of Policies (IDEEP) tool, which was presented at the ATD Fourth World, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank conference on Addressing the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty in Knowledge and Policies, is the first of its kind to help policy makers transform the findings of this research into action.

Created in partnership between the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and ATD Fourth World, the IDEEP tool supports policy makers in designing, implementing, and evaluating anti-poverty policies in direct partnership with people in poverty, ensuring all its dimensions, including those that are "hidden," are taken into account.

This is crucial, given that policies that do not account for the views and lived experiences of people in poverty tend to be riddled with blind spots, particularly around these hidden dimensions.

The IDEEP tool identified social isolation among disadvantaged communities as an unintended result of a housing project in Mauritius, for example, and institutional maltreatment resulting in fewer people accessing social protection benefits in France.

The right to participation is a human right. Only by upholding it will we achieve better informed, more effective, and more imaginative policy making. Yet the record of par-

ticipatory processes in anti-poverty policy making is mixed, with policy makers often simply "informing" or "consulting" people in poverty, rather than recognizing them as the real experts about the obstacles they face.

To combat this, we need to go one step further in our efforts to fulfil the right to participation by introducing the idea of "deliberation," which is defined in the IDEEP tool as bringing together different groups, including people in poverty, who meet, present arguments based on their unique insights, weigh them up, and propose actionable solutions.

The IDEEP tool offers a new, deliberative approach to anti-poverty policy making, one that recognizes the power imbalances inherent in traditional participatory processes and brings together different groups as equals to debate potential solutions before arriving at a consensus. This is a true merging of knowledge.

This approach is especially urgent as we rapidly head towards 2030, the target year for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the goal of eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere (SDG1). If we continue on a path of business as usual, we will not achieve this ambitious goal.

We need to widen our perspective and rethink how we can jumpstart a process of inclusive and sustainable growth for all; this includes engaging with those with lived experiences in poverty in the search for meaningful, holistic policy solutions. Without embracing this, efforts to combat poverty—and its hidden dimensions—will fall flat.

MWAZARO BEACH

N EARLY two kilometers into the Indian Ocean from the Mwazaro beach coastline in Lunga Lunga Sub-County, Kwale County, women can be spotted seated in the shallow ocean waters or tying strings to erected poles parallel to the waves. It is a captivating sight to see rows of seaweed farms in the Indian Ocean.

Seaweeds are a group of algae found in seawater and come in green, red, and brown species. The seaweed farms are a predominantly female-dominated form of aquaculture and their owners can only be spotted during low tide, especially in the morning. Once the tide comes in, the women will begin their journey back to the shores as the waters slowly rise.

Saumu Hamadi tells IPS that in 2016, residents of Mwambao village along the Mwazaro beach coastline started a community-led, community-driven initiative to conserve mangroves, protect the environment, and restore their fisheries, which had been destroyed by significant mangrove forest degradation.

"We realized that the more our mangroves disappeared, the fish ran away and so did the fishermen. We rely on fish for food and money. Men sell the big fish, such as the kingfish, shark, and rayfish, to the beach hotels, and women sell crabs and prawns by the roadside or in small village markets. The situation was threatening our daily bread and we decided to volunteer as a community to restore and protect our mangroves," Hamadi explains.

"There were too many people cutting down mangrove trees, destroying the places that the fish we depend on call home. There was also a lot of soil erosion and the water flowing along the River Hamisi that pours into the Indian Ocean within this village's coastline carried the soil into the ocean, polluting it. We formed two community groups: Mwambao Mkuuyuni Youth and Bati Beach Mwambao. Women make up 80 percent of the members in both groups."

Abdalla Bidii Lewa, a community coordinator on mangrove restoration in Pongwe Kikoneni ward where Mwambao village is located and chair of Bati Seaweed Farmers, tells IPS, "Mangroves have protected our villages and surrounding areas from extreme weather and disasters such as those that affected large parts of the coastal region during the heavy floods in November and early December 2023. Where houses were swept away and farmlands destroyed, we were safe from the disaster."

Research shows mangroves significantly prevent the progression of climate change while also playing a major role in limiting its impact. This is critical as temperatures rise dangerously, sea level shoots to alarming levels, and coastal climate-induced disasters become frequent, intense, and severe, with catastrophic results.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 2024

Inside women-dominated seaweed farms in Kenya's Indian Ocean waters



Women at work at the seaweed farm. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

To avert coastal climate hazards and secure mangrove-related benefits for present and future generations, the community undertook mangrove conservation and restoration activities in earnest.

Then, in 2017, a scientist conducting research into seaweed farming using the off-bottom seaweed farming method—tying algal flocs or seaweed seeds to ropes attached between wooden pegs driven into the ocean sediment—approached women in the community.

"Of the two seaweed strains that grow on Kenya's south coast, cottonii and spinosum, the scientist recommended that we plant spinosum and gave us the seeds. Seaweeds do not need something to grow on. We erect sticks into the ground inside the ocean water during low tides and plant seaweed seeds by tying them to strings fastened on these sticks. We harvest every 45 days. We have to tie the strings and place the sticks properly so that they are not swept away during high tides,"

says Rehema Abdalla, a seaweed farmer in Mwambao village.

On concerns that aquaculture could form the entry point for mangrove degradation, Hamadi says, "It is not the case with seaweed. The mangroves are important to the survival of our seaweeds by ensuring that we have normal, safe tides and waves. When seaweeds are swept away, they stay trapped within the roots of the mangroves and we collect them from there. It is rare, but once in a while, the tides can be very strong."

Lewa says seaweed farming is emerging as a new and sustainable climate change mitigation strategy while offering communities adjacent to mangroves and coastlines an alternative livelihood, reducing dependency on fishing and natural resources inside mangrove forests and the oceans. Seaweeds are superfoods, highly nutritious, can be used in sushi, soups, salads, and smoothies, and are an asset in the feed industry, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals.

"The amount of seaweed harvested depends on the amount planted and every 45 days, you will get a harvest. At the moment, one kilogram of seaweed goes for USD 0.22 (Ksh 35). I am currently targeting making USD 467 (Ksh 75,000) every 45 days from seaweed. We also sell seaweed seeds to other women doing mangrove conservation, such as Imani Gazi and the Gazi Women Mangrove Restoration Group, from within

Kwale County," Hamadi says.

Seaweeds compliment mangroves by absorbing nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous, and carbon dioxide. They do not require soil, fertilizer, freshwater, or pesticides, and they significantly improve the environment in which they grow. Seaweeds efficiently absorb carbon dioxide, using it to grow and even when harvested, the carbon remains in the ocean.

Research shows that seaweed can pull more greenhouse gases from the water compared to seagrass, salt marshes, and mangroves based on biomass. Mwazaro's beach community is on track to add seaweed as part of their blue carbon sink, setting the pace for other coastal communities.

All the same, the women are facing challenges such as a lack of mortar boats to help transport their harvest to the shore. Currently, they use a tedious process whereby they tie sacks of seaweed on their waste and wait for the onset of high tide in the early afternoon to push them from the seaweed farms to the shore. They are also struggling to access a larger market, currently relying on one major large-scale buyer and small buyers within the village and other mangrove conservation groups from neighboring villages.

IPS

Stepping up investment in Latin American women an imperative

LIMA

TIME is running out to achieve gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030. The autonomy of women and girls in the region is threatened by hunger, poverty and violence, and countries must urgently step on the gas.

For Mar. 8, International Women's Day, United Nations agencies have focused on progress made towards the gender targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda approved in 2015.

"In our region, only 25 percent of the targets for which information is available in the SDG monitoring indicators allow us to foresee their fulfillment by 2030," said Ana Güzmes, chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

From ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile she told IPS that 48 percent of the goals have seen progress, albeit insufficient, in the right direction, while there has been backsliding on 27 percent.

The slogan set by the United Nations for this Mar. 8 is "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress", calling for greater spending by governments to achieve SDG 5, which has a global deficit of 360 billion dollars per year.

In the region, there are both progress and concerns regarding SDG 5, which refers to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Güzmes said the region is moving ahead in terms of strengthening policies and laws, but that the challenge is to accelerate the implementation and enforcement of government measures in order to increase the rate of progress towards substantive equality.

She said improvement has been slow towards other SDG 5 targets, such as the elimination of violence against women and girls, the eradication of child marriage, and the recognition and valuation of unpaid domestic and care work. And she added that the region continues to lag behind in technology for the empowerment of women.

Güzmes, a physician by profession, and an advocate for women's human rights, a care society and gender equality, has held senior positions in the region at UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) over the past 30 years.

Greater inequality among poor, indigenous and rural populations

Latin America and the Caribbean, which in 2022 was home to 334.627 million girls and women, 50.8 percent of the regional population according to the World Bank, are facing several crises.

The region was one of the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and for the last 10 years has averaged a meager 0.8 percent annual economic growth rate, affecting its population, which is suffering from poverty, food insecurity and lack of employment, all of which hit girls and women harder.

On Feb. 28, ECLAC, in partnership with UN Women, presented a study on the state of progress towards gender equality in the region, which highlighted the gaps that hinder the rights of women, girls and adolescents.

Three out of 10 girls and women live in poverty and one out of 10 in extreme poverty, with higher rates among indig-



Women's demonstrations to demand respect for their rights are held in Latin American cities on Mar. 8, International Women's Day, calling on governments in the region to invest in promoting gender equality. The photo shows a march in Lima on Mar. 8, 2023. Photo: IPS

enous, black and rural women. Likewise, four out of 10 women suffer some level of food insecurity and hunger.

Of those over 15 years of age, 25 percent have no income of their own, a proportion that rises to 40 percent among those in the lowest socioeconomic quintile.

Nayda Quispe, from the Peruvian department of Cuzco, is one of the 3.4 million rural women in the Andean country. She has dedicated her life to agriculture and, at 62 years of age, is well aware of the harsh reality of rural life for women.

"We constantly experience inequality here. Women work all day, but are not paid or recognized for their efforts, continue to be pushed to the back burner, and because of economic dependence stay in violent relationships," she told IPS during a meeting ahead of Mar. 8 in Cuzco, the capital of the southern Andean department.

Quispe is one of the few women in her rural environment who managed to continue her studies, graduating as a biologist and working for a few years in her profession without losing her link with agroecology, to which she is now fully dedicated.

She criticized governments for building cement works instead of investing in education and training for women that would allow them to have decent jobs and earn their own money. "As long as this does not change, we will continue to be the forgotten ones as always," she complained.

The ECLAC study shows that in Guatemala and Honduras, more than 50 percent and 43 percent of women, respectively, have no income of their own - among the highest levels in the region.

Güzmes stressed the impact this has on women's eco-

nomical independence, a necessary condition for physical autonomy and a life free of violence.

"Gender-based violence against women and girls occurs systematically and persistently in the region, in both the domestic and public spheres," she said.

She highlighted the problem of early and forced child marriages and unions, which affect one out of every five girls in the region. Suriname, Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, the Dominican Republic and Guyana lead with percentages above 30 percent. Only four countries have percentages below 20 percent: Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru and Jamaica.

In addition, the ECLAC study reports that in this region, considered to have the highest levels of gender-based violence, an average of 338 women per month and 11 per day are victims of gender-based homicide, or femicide. In 2022 at least 4050 women fell victim to this crime, 70 percent of whom were of reproductive age between 15 and 44 years.

Achievements at risk

The weakening of democracies in the region has had a direct impact on women's rights. Achievements in gender institutionalization in Argentina, for example, are in marked decline, including the right to abortion, under the government of far-right President Javier Milei, thus affecting progress towards the SDGs.

"Under Milei, women and minorities are heavily harassed. The era of rights is over; the right wing has arrived to cut back on the advances we had made in sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights," María Eugenia Sarrias, president of Lxs Safinas, a lesbian feminist organiza-

tion based in the Argentine city of Rosario, told IPS.

She added from that city that the setbacks in social policies have caused shortages in soup kitchens and school lunches. "They're trying to pay the debt with the hunger of the people. The freedom they talk about is only for those who hold power and have money. We, women and minorities, are facing a very big risk," she warned.

In El Salvador, President Nayib Bukele announced this month, as his first measure after his landslide reelection, the elimination of all vestiges of the gender perspective in public education, shortly after participating in a gathering of far-right leaders with former U.S. president and candidate Donald Trump.

There is also great concern in Ecuador, where emergency measures are in place to deal with organized crime.

"There are many more women who are impoverished, migrants and victims of violence not only from their partners but also from groups linked to crime," Clara Merino, coordinator of the Luna Creciente National Movement of Women from Popular Sectors, told IPS.

She argued from Quito that if things continue the way they are going, it will not be possible to achieve gender equality by 2030. "The budget for education, health, human rights and women has been cut. It is impossible for government action to reach the territories where indigenous and black women live, where hunger, child malnutrition and migration of young people are on the rise," she stressed.

Investing in care

Güzmes said that "in the context of low and volatile economic growth in the region, it is necessary to invest in women, because there is a historical debt to their rights and because this kind of spending has the potential to accelerate sustainable development."

She gave as an example investment in the care system to break the vicious circle of exclusion and transform it into a virtuous one with multiple positive social and economic effects such as generating employment, higher income and well-being.

"We are the only region in the last 45 years that has promoted an ambitious and comprehensive Regional Gender Agenda that, through the Buenos Aires Commitment, says care should be seen as a right, a need and a job. Addressing it in these three dimensions is essential to achieve the profound change that our societies need," she underlined.

UNITED NATIONS

Alarming increase in journalists killed in conflict zones last year, says UNESCO

THE Paris-based UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), whose mandate includes promoting the safety of journalists and ensuring press freedom worldwide, has pointed out that 2023 has been a particularly deadly year for journalists who work in conflict zones.

Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, said at least 38 journalists and media workers were killed in the line of work in countries in conflict in 2023, compared to 28 in 2022 and 20 in 2021.

The ongoing hostilities in the Middle East were responsible for a large majority of conflict-related killings, with UNESCO having so far reported 19 killings in Palestine, 3 in Lebanon and 2 in Israel since 7 October.

The killings of journalists also took place in conflict zones and civil wars in Afghanistan, Cameroon, Syria and Ukraine.

"This is a dramatic toll. Never in a recent conflict has the profession had to pay such a heavy price in such a short space of time".

"I call on regional and international actors to take immediate action to ensure that international law is respected. Journalists should never, under any circumstances, be targeted. And it is the responsibility of all actors to ensure that they can continue to exercise their profession safely and independently," she said.

Jodie Ginsberg, CEO of Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), told IPS "the near-record high number of journalist killings in 2023 clearly indicates that we must work collectively to ensure that journalist killers are brought to justice, that a culture of safety prevails in newsrooms, and that the public's right to be informed is protected from those whose power is threatened by the scrutiny of reporting."

UNESCO said the figures do not include deaths of journalists and media workers in circumstances unrelated to their profession, which have also been reported in significant numbers in 2023.

And these tragedies are only the tip of the iceberg, with widespread damage and destruction of media infrastructure and offices and many other kinds of threats such as physical attack, detention, the confiscation of equipment or denial of access to reporting sites. Large numbers of journalists have also fled or stopped working.



Such a climate contributes to what UNESCO is describing as "zones of silence" opening up in many conflict zones, with severe consequences for access to information, both for local populations and the world at large.

This global trend can be explained by a significant decline in killings outside of conflict zones, which have reached their lowest total for at least fifteen years - especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, where 15 killings were reported, compared with 43 in 2022, according to UNESCO.

In a March 7 report, CPJ provided its most recent and preliminary account of journalist deaths in the war. "Our database will not include all of these casualties until we have completed further investigations into the circumstances surrounding them."

"The Israel-Gaza war has taken a severe toll on journalists since

Hamas launched its unprecedented attack against Israel on October 7 and Israel declared war on the militant Palestinian group, launching strikes on the blockaded Gaza Strip".

CPJ said it is investigating all reports of journalists and media workers killed, injured, or missing in the war, which has led to the deadliest period for journalists since CPJ began gathering data in 1992.

As of March 7, CPJ's preliminary investigations showed at least 95 journalists and media workers - higher than the UNESCO figures - were among the more than 31,000 killed since the war began on October 7 - with more than 30,000 Palestinian deaths in Gaza and the West Bank and 1,200 deaths in Israel.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) told Reuters and Agence France Press news agencies last October that it could not guarantee the safety of their journalists operating in the Gaza Strip, after they had

sought assurances that their journalists would not be targeted by Israeli strikes, according to a Reuters report.

Journalists in Gaza face particularly high risks as they try to cover the conflict during the Israeli ground assault, including devastating Israeli airstrikes, disrupted communications, supply shortages, and extensive power outages.

CPJ said reporting from the front lines of a conflict is one of the most challenging assignments a journalist can undertake.

"It is important that journalists prepare before an assignment to understand the environment they are entering - and the deadly threats they may face".

Striking a more personal note, the CPJ said it is deeply saddened by the killing of Al-Jazeera Arabic camera operator Samer Abu Daqqa and the injuries suffered by his colleague, Al-Jazeera Gaza bureau chief Wael Dahdoh who was injured in what was believed to be an Israeli drone strike in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza, on December 15.

The CPJ called on international authorities to conduct an independent investigation into the attack to hold the perpetrators to account.

The wife, son, daughter and grandson of Wael Dahdoh, were also killed in an Israeli air raid.

IPS

Gaza war fuels Jerusalem fears as Ramadhan month set to begin

By Yolande Knell

THERE are renewed fears of violence spreading, particularly to Jerusalem, during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, as a truce remains elusive.

Hamas has reiterated a call for Palestinians to step up visits to al-Aqsa Mosque.

Israel has accused Hamas of "striving to ignite the region during Ramadan", which is due to begin in the next few days.

The third holiest shrine in Islam is a place of worship for local Muslims.

But the site - also the holiest place in Judaism, known as Temple Mount - is often a flashpoint during flare-ups in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Ramadan is due to begin on 10 or 11 March depending on sighting of the new moon.

This week, the courtyards of al-Aqsa were calm as I visited, but Palestinian worshippers' minds were on the war.

"People don't feel like celebrating and enjoying the regular Ramadan traditions," said one woman, Ayat, sadly. "This year, they won't go ahead because of what's happening in Gaza."

Hopes that a 40-day ceasefire could take effect by the start of Ramadan have faded although Egyptian sources say mediators will again meet

a Hamas delegation on Sunday to try to reach an agreement with Israel.

Israel said on Saturday that its spy chief had met with his US counterpart as it continued efforts to try to release dozens of hostages.

Afterwards the Israeli prime minister's office released a statement saying Hamas was "holding to its position," as if it was "uninterested in a deal."

A framework plan being discussed would see some of the Israeli hostages snatched by Hamas in its deadly 7 October attacks released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and an increase in aid, amid UN warnings of famine.

"This Ramadan will be difficult. How will we break our daily fast and eat when we think of our compatriots in Gaza," commented Abu Nader, who had been following the news, as he crossed al-Aqsa in his mobility scooter.

"We pray to God for better times."

Israeli police are always visibly dotted around the vast al-Aqsa mosque complex and have officers present at every gate, controlling access.

Since Israel captured East Jerusalem, including this part of the Old City, from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East War and occupied and annexed it, the site has become a prominent symbol of the wider Palestinian struggle.



The site is often a flashpoint during flare-ups in the Israel-Palestinian conflict

In 2000, the visit of then Israeli opposition leader, Ariel Sharon to the sacred hilltop was seen as a key trigger for the Second Palestinian Uprising, which Palestinians refer to as the "al-Aqsa Intifada".

There are often clashes here between Israeli security forces and Palestinian worshippers, particularly during Ramadan. Tensions also run high whenever there are Israeli nationalist marches in the Old City, and in response to calls from Israel's far-right to change the long-established, highly sensitive religious status quo rules at the site, which permit Jewish visitors but not Jewish prayer.

In May 2021, heightened tensions in Jerusalem erupted in violence at al-Aqsa. Hamas then fired rockets at Jerusalem, leading to a short war in Gaza and widespread unrest between Jewish and Arab Israelis.

Last year, when Ramadan overlapped with the Jewish Passover holiday, reports circulated that Jewish extremists planned to carry out the ritual sacrifice of a goat on

Temple Mount. Not trusting Israeli police to prevent that, hundreds of Muslims barricaded themselves in al-Aqsa and stun grenades were used against them.

This year, Ramadan does not coincide with any major Jewish holiday. How this Ramadan plays out depends a lot on events in Gaza as well as the limitations imposed by Israel. The far-right Israeli National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, did call for tight restrictions on Muslim Israeli citizens' access to al-Aqsa, saying this was to stop Hamas "celebrating victory" while Israeli hostages remained captive in Gaza.

However, the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu has now rejected the plan. He said that worshippers would be permitted to enter the mosque during the first week of Ramadan, as they have in the past, with the security situation re-evaluated each week.

It is not yet clear what numbers will be allowed to reach the site.

During the Gaza war, Israel has largely blocked Palestinians from the West Bank from entering Jerusalem. Typically, tens of thousands would pass through Israeli military checkpoints to attend Friday prayers during this sacred month.

The Israeli government spokesman, Eylon Levy, insisted that the right decisions would be made to safeguard freedom of worship.

"Ramadan is often an occasion when extremist elements try to whip up and inflame violence. We are working to deter that," he told the BBC.

"We will continue to facilitate access to the Temple Mount for worship as in previous years, make clear that is our policy and will, of course, work against anyone determined to disturb the peace."

Next to the gold-gilded Dome of the Rock, I met Dr Imam Mustafa Abu Sway, a member of the Islamic Waqf council, which administers al-Aqsa Mosque or Haram al-Sharif, which the compound is also known as.

"A few years ago, Israel allowed practically everyone who wanted to, to come from the West Bank and there wasn't one single incident," the scholar said.

"People do come to worship. They don't come to disturb the peace. If the Israeli police and security forces leave them alone, everything will, hopefully, be ok."

This year, even more than usual, the world will be scrutinising what happens in Jerusalem, to see if that is the case.

Agencies

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	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	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	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	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI	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)
22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)		22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Create regional store to preserve genetic materials, forum urges EAC partner states

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

EAST African Community (EAC) Partner States and other stakeholders have been tasked to recognise that genetic diversity has largely been lost, thus the need for genetic materials to be kept safely for future generations through the creation of a regional genetic store.

The call was made over the weekend here at the just-concluded third EAC regional science, technology and innovation (STI) Conference.

The conference further resolved to address the misconceptions surrounding Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) technology and reiterated the need to create awareness of this technology for it to be embraced in order to meet the food and other needs of the region.

It was noted at the three-day conference that most of the discussions around the adoption of GMOs were based on misinformation and rumours and that Africa could lose out on the immense opportunities offered by GMOs to boost food security, increase agricultural exports, improve nutrition and eliminate hunger.

It was agreed that GMOs experts should unpack the technology in simple terms for decision makers and members of the public to facilitate open debate on the importance of adopting the technology.

The conference underscored the need for free trade and movement of food in the region with the observation that there are numerous instances where one Partner State has a food surplus while others faced hunger due to the presence of non-tariff barriers that hinder movement of food products across national borders.

The conference further called for the formulation and adoption of clear policies and strategies for promoting bioeconomy in the EAC region in tandem with international standards harmonised across the region but with each country independently develop-

ing its own roadmap for implementation.

On the nascent digital economy in East Africa, the forum urged Partner States with the support of the private sector and development partners, to formulate and enact appropriate regulations that encourage the population to engage in digital entrepreneurship.

The conference urged Partner State's governments to remove taxes and levies on new digital businesses for a pre-determined period for such businesses to stabilise.

Universities and other training institutions were also encouraged to develop and implement digital literacy programmes targeting both rural and urban populations.

On the need for quality postgraduate education, the forum called on universities and development partners to provide PhD scholarships for young graduates (less than 30 years old) in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas.

It was noted that the majority of PhD candidates in the region were in their 40s and 50s with only a small number of doctoral students being below 30 years.

On manufacturing, the forum pushed for the promotion of smart manufacturing through the integration of automation in manufacturing processes.

On artificial intelligence (AI), the meeting called for greater use of AI technologies in data analysis for purposes of data-driven decision making and predictive maintenance in addition to the need for implementation of blockchain and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology across the region.

The forum urged EAC Partner States to utilise science diplomacy to enhance human capital in the region by attracting highly skilled experts in STEM areas working in the diaspora to return to their home countries, and to also consider declaring a Decade of Diaspora Return specifically for that purpose.

On digitalisation of government services, the conference urged Partner States to adopt



greater use of E-Government initiatives through Implementation of digital platforms and e-commerce.

Also agreed on was the need to speed up skills development and education by encouraging stakeholders to adopt e-learning platforms and develop greater human capacity through appropriate training programmes.

The forum called on stakeholders to collaborate in their innovation efforts through Open innovation platforms and technology hubs.

The conference called for increased investment in digital infrastructure especially in broadband connectivity and cybersecurity to improve cross-border communication for purposes of growing trade and prosperity in the region.

It was further resolved that multi-disciplinary engagement be deployed to resolve problems across borders through the region.

The forum also called for the development of advanced Digital Financial Services in order to enhance access to funds and manage wealth in East Africa.

Speaking during the closing session of the conference, Uganda's Minister of State for EAC Affairs, James Magode Ikuya, pointed out that science, technology and innovation (STI) was the driving force behind development, adding that increased investment in STI will enable Africa to rediscover its true potential and be a key player in the global economy.

On the adoption of GMOs, Ikuya urged the experts to spearhead public debates

and discussion on the subject to facilitate decision making on the innovation, adding that the simplification of terms and unpacking of complex issues would be key to the adoption or non-adoption of GMOs in the region.

"There is an urgent need to build local capacity to communicate simply and clearly on GMOs and other technologies," said Ikuya.

Ikuya said that the creation of a genetic bank of local species was critical for the sake of future generations given the huge amount of biodiversity that is native to Africa but has now almost been lost. The Minister said that such a genome bank would be also be a key source of revenue for the region given the high cost of antique materials the world over.

Let's explore IWD to bolster LPG use at household level

By Angellah Bhoke

IT is usually marked with pomp and colour. This is the International Women's Day (IWD)—a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

Women from across the globe converge to honour and recognize the achievements of women besides advocating for gender equality.

But, beneath the beautiful faces of the women displaying smiles and dancing to the tunes of music, thousands among them are battling with respiratory diseases caused by the effects of continuous use of charcoal and firewood.

In Tanzania, only 19 per cent of women residing in the urban areas exclusively use Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), while only 0.4 per cent of the rural population use LPG. With

the current population standing at 62million people, more efforts are needed to support usage of LPG as a clean source of energy.

Stakeholders including the government need to make people understand that there are clear benefits to households that use LPG. For instance, use of LPG causes minimal household pollution and negative health impacts.

LPG is clean, sustainable, has low emissions and can control the number of deaths caused by exposure to smoke. Furthermore, LPG has the potential to substitute charcoal and wood fuels and contribute positively towards Tanzania's attainment of the SDGs including Energy, Climate change, Health and Gender equality.

Replacing biomass fuels with LPG will reduce pressure on forest reserves, which is a significant challenge in Tanzania which is said to lose an estimated 400 hectares annually to

deforestation. Using LPG saves time as opposed to using charcoal or firewood. This provides an opportunity for users to get time to attend to other duties. It is also important to note that LPG can be used anywhere even in areas where there is no electricity connection.

Implementing President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directives on the use of clean cooking energy by institutions will perhaps be one of the milestones that Tanzania will make towards ensuring success of the campaign. Institutions such as schools, hospitals, hotels and restaurants are among the biggest consumers of firewood.

In Tanzania, LPG companies have been strategically involved in developing programmes targeting women folk across the east African region. Among them is Taifa Gas Tanzania Limited, which is supporting women from various socio-economic backgrounds.

For instance, the company has enabled schools, prisons, Food vendors, VICOBAS, among other entities to be able to access gas, which otherwise would have been difficult for them to access. Last year, the company launched the 'Utunzaji wa Mazingira na Matumizi ya Nishati Safi' campaign, aimed at supporting to amplify President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts on the use of clean energy. Beneficiaries of this programme have been regions such as Morogoro, Coast and Dar es Salaam.

As the world moves towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, President Samia has also been leading the country's efforts and has shown commitment to fulfilling the sustainable Development Goal number 7 of providing affordable and clean energy that is reliable, sustainable, and modern for all Tanzanians by the year 2030. Stakeholders need to see these

positive efforts and come in numbers to support the President's efforts.

It is important for the general population to be informed that the use of cleaner fuels, such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) reduces the frequent use of firewood and charcoal and consequently the burden on the forest resources by up to 20 percent. The UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative launched the Global Liquefied Petroleum Gas Partnership (GLPGP) under the premise that Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) was the preferred cooking solution. LPG is a by-product of oil and natural gas refining and meets the World Health Organization's Tier 4 standards for thermal efficiency, carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, fine PM emissions, safety, and durability. LPG has also been shown to have a lower Global Climate Change Potential than

charcoal. Whereas there has been a slow but steady increase in the LPG market, that there is need for the government and the private sector LPG stakeholders to promote the sector as an alternative energy carrier of choice in meeting the challenges of energy security in Tanzania, while recognizing the LPG role in providing a quick and effective solution to household energy requirements. Given the strongly positive effects that increased uptake of LPG as an alternative to traditional biomass-based cooking and household energy use can have, and the important it would make towards achieving the SDGs, more attention needs to be given to the sector to enable citizens to get more information about this source of energy.

Only through joint efforts will the public know that LPG is one of the most safe, secure and affordable energy sources in the country.

Slaa calls for miners to adhere to the principle of local content

By Guardian Reporter

JERRY Slaa, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development has emphasized the importance of mining companies adhering to the principle of local content as stipulated in the changes to the mining law.

The minister Slaa made the remarks over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking during the just-ended International Women's Day (IWD).

He said: "This involves considering the participation of women in procurement-related issues."

Slaa explained that by involving Tanzanian nationals in the value chain, mining companies have the opportunity to involve women in various purchases. These purchases represent a larger budget than even the taxes paid to the government.

Slaa believes that women involved in the mining sector have made a great contribution to the development of the economy and the national income.

Simon Shayo, Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML)'s Vice President, Sustainability & Corporate Affairs (Africa) said that the development and implementation of policies and

guidelines which promote gender equality in the workplace is critical to increasing the number of women employed in the

According to him, globally, women's participation in the mining sector is estimated to be between 14% and 16%.

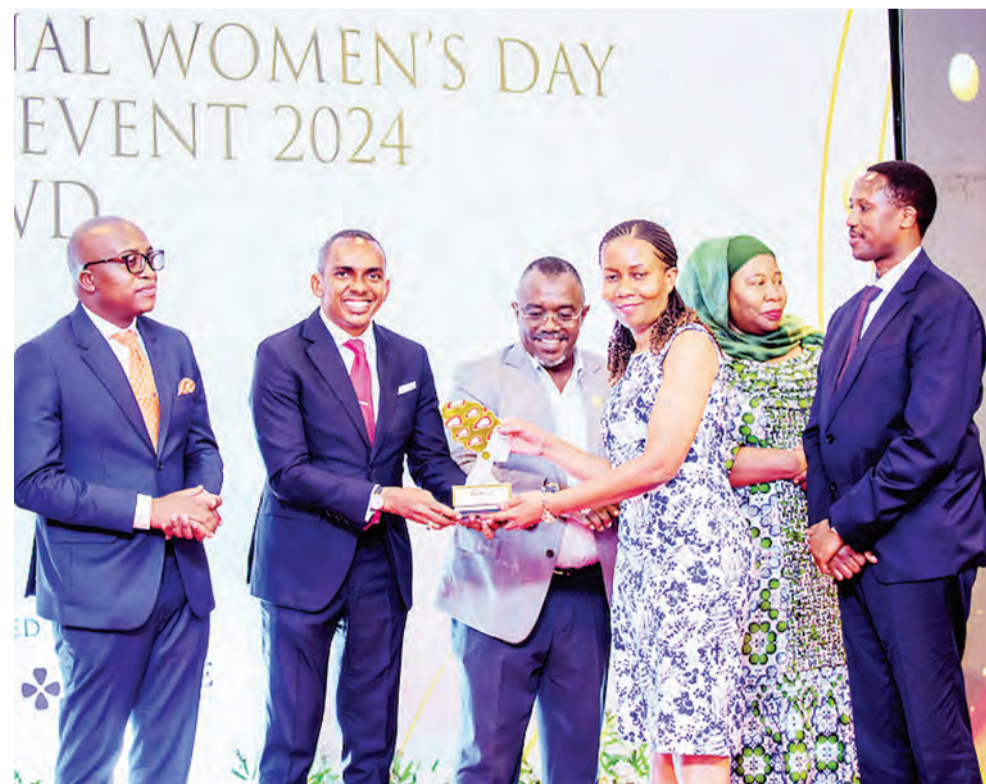
Shayo noted that GGML, a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, has a female workforce that is on par with the industry average.

He noted that 13 percent of GGML's workforce is currently female, but if you look at women's participation in the mining sector globally, statistics show that it is between 14 and 16 per cent.

"So we are not doing anything wrong. We have been operating the mine without the presence of women in high management positions, but now there are some who have crossed borders and become managers of the sector in various companies abroad," he said.

He said that GGML's policies and guidelines have not only increased the number of women involved in the mine's activities, but have also changed the characteristics of the men present in the company, who have realised the importance of women's presence in the mining sector.

Shayo proposed a recruitment procedure



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, Jerry Slaa (2nd L), presents an award to GGML resource evaluation manager Janeth Luponelo (3rd R), for the company's contribution to gender issues. Others are Minister for Minerals, Anthony Mavunde; Kagera regional commissioner, Fatma Mwassa; Morogoro regional commissioner Adam Malima and AngloGold Ashanti Sustainability & Corporate Affairs (Africa) Simon Shayo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

that prioritises women. 'If employment is split equally between men and women, women should be given priority in interviews,' he said.

He also mentioned that since the launch of the Female Future Programme in 2016, GGML has sponsored 23 women to complete

training and funds advanced leadership training for female employees through the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE).

Inside the mine, there is a code of conduct called 'Don't Cross the Line.' This code prohibits harassment and cruelty towards women. If any incidents occur, confidential phone numbers are available to report these incidents and take appropriate action.

Shayo stated that women in the mining industry should be prioritised and trained, and that they should possess courage, determination, and stability to succeed in the male-dominated sector. "This can be a challenge."



Slaa believes that women involved in the mining sector have made a great contribution to the development of the economy and the national income

Academicians suggest ways of spurring inclusive insurance

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ACADEMICIANS and financial stakeholders have challenged the insurance companies to embrace innovation and technology such as mobile phones to increase insurance uptake in the country.

Prof Kerstin Rosenow-Williams, from the University of Applied Sciences, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg in Germany, said that in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at the Applied Research and Teaching for Sustainable Development in Africa (ART4Dev) Policy Dialogue Workshop.

The workshop was organized by the Institute of finance management (IFM), in collaboration with Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS) of Germany.

Rosenow-Williams, professor of Social Sustainability, said that there is a need to increase access to insurance services adding that it can be achieved by educating people and making it affordable to the public.

"The government in collaboration with stakeholders must come up with policy that are friendlier and attractive to technology to be used by the public to increase uptake," she said.

Dr John Jingu, Head - Department of Banking and Finance Services at IFM underscored the need for friendly policy and the increased awareness to eliminate poor notions that insurance services are a curse.

He said policy makers must build business surroundings and come up with innovative ways to solve problems.

"Key stakeholders must play a role of increasing awareness to the public to eliminate bad notions and people's mindset that insurance is a curse," he

said.

Nellin Njovu, a researcher with the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT), said that likewise for mobile phone companies, the technology will enable people to register with insurance everywhere and anytime using their mobile phone.

Njovu said that there is a knowledge gap on the importance of insurance and pensions that need to be addressed and innovation and technology have a big role to solve.

She said currently, once customers need insurance services, he or she has to move to the respective offices while financial institutions use friendlier services such as mobile phones.

"Most people think that insurance and pensions are gambling. The cost of insurance services should be friendlier. Policy makers should come up with persuasive techniques," she said.

Head of Department, Social Protection at IFM, Zubeda Chande, said that there is a need to conduct research in order to come up with an inclusive awareness plan.

She said that the plan will help to give solutions to unanswered questions in the community about insurance.

Joseph Manirakiza, Funguo Programme Manager, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said that insurance companies must build innovative ways of solving problems.

He said the startups must come up with ideas to serve the public by introducing friendlier services.

"Our mobile technology is created and designed friendly for users. We can achieve our goal of increasing insurance uptake if we further embrace and priority mobile phone technology," he said.

By Guardian Reporter

The domestic debt has doubled to 30.5trn/- over the last 36 months ending in January 2024, from 15trn/- recorded in January 2021, the largest growth increase to be recorded over the last one decade.

Data by the ministry of finance and Bank of Tanzania shows during the previous three years, the size of domestic debt slightly increased to 14.6trn/- in January 2020, compared to 13.6trn/- recorded in January 2018.

The increase, according to BoT's monthly economic review for February, was due to the increase of treasury bonds floats for government budget financing, which are accounting for the largest share of the domestic debt stock.

The central bank report shows commercial banks and pension funds are the main creditor to the government as they account for 28.5 percent and 28.1 percent of total domestic debt respectively.

The commercial bank credits to the government amounted to 8.69trn/- at the end of January this year, an increase from 7.4trn/- recorded in January 2023, while the amount by pension funds was 8.56trn/- in January 2024, an increase from 5.8trn/- in January 2023.

Other creditors include the central bank, which accounts for 21 percent of total debt or 6.59trn/-, followed by other unspecified creditors which have 14.5 percent or 4.4trn/- and Insurance companies with 5.8 percent share or 1.76trn/-.

Since January 2023 to January 2024, the central bank collected a total of 3.89trn/- through 14 Treasury Bond auctions, with the largest amount being recorded in June 2023 (630bln/-), April 2023 with 596.2bln/- and December 2023, where the central bank took 425.2bln/-.

Reports by the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), shows

Domestic debt doubles in three years of expansion



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba

the outstanding government bonds also increased by 3trn/- over the last one year ending March 2024 to 20.67trn/- from 17.2trn/- recorded in March 2023.

However, in January this year, the

report shows debt service payments amounted to 508.2bln/-, comprising the principal of 313.9bln/- that was rolled over and the rest was interest payments.

The outstanding debt for selected

state-owned enterprises (SOEs) was 71.5bln/- at the end of January 2024, a monthly increase of 47.3bl/- following increased borrowing by DA-WASA.

New harvest season eases wholesale food prices

By Guardian Reporter

As new harvests continue entering into the markets, the wholesale prices of food commodities have continued to decline, giving the lease of life for consumers, who have suffered exorbitant retail prices spiral for months.

The situation is also slowly reflecting into retail prices, as the surveys carried in various markets in Dar es Salaam show increased hope for spenders.

The report by the ministry of industry and trade shows the wholesale prices for maize, the main staple, as well as rice, beans, sorghum and round potatoes have decreased on annual basis, with exception of wheat, which is being hit by ongoing war in Ukraine, the global major producer of the

commodity.

Data show the wholesale price of maize, the main staple consumed by both rural and urban areas declined to 84,274/- per 100 kilo in January this year, compared to 115,539/-, which was recorded 12 months ago.

This is being experienced while large quantity of maize are still in farms, specifically in central zone of Tanzania, as some farmers are expected to harvest by the end of this month.

Maize production in Tanzania will increase about 3 percent to 6.1 million tonnes in the 2023-24 marketing year as farmers respond to higher prices for the grain, but expensive fertilizer and armyworm outbreaks likely will keep it below historically average harvests, according to a Global Agricultural In-

formation Network report from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Area harvested is projected to increase from 4 million hectares to 4.2 million as more farmers make the move to maize. Poor yields are expected to hamper 2023-24 output, however.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for February shows the wholesale price of rice also decreased to 255,680/- in January this year, lower than 286,503/- recorded in January last year.

This has also reflected in the retail market as the price of rice has declined to an average price of 2,500/- per kilogramme, from 3,000/- recorded during the last quarter of last year.

Reports have shown rice pro-

duction is projected to increase to 2.4 million tonnes in 2023-24 from 2.2 million tonnes in 2022-23.

Farmers have joined new irrigation projects in the Southern Highlands and Northern Regions, placing harvested area at 1.1 million hectares, which is more in line with historic norms after dropping last year.

The price of beans, which is widely consumed in both urban and rural area also fell into similar trend after the wholesale price went down to 269,553/- at the end of January this year, compared to the price quoted by wholesalers of 299,240/- in January 2022.

The report shows the price of sorghum slightly decreased to 136,582/- compared to 137,511/- while that of round potatoes went down to 82,539/- com-



pared to 103,090/- respectively.

However, the report shows the price of wheat increased during the period to 199,027/- per 100 kilo, compared to 186,358/- due to concerns related to war in Ukraine, the major global supplier of the commodity.

Tanzania is expected to import more wheat, rising from 1.05 million tonnes in 2022-23 to 1.15 million tonnes in 2023-24. Farmers switching to maize in 2023-24 will drop wheat production 9 percent year-over-year to 68,000 tonnes, the FAS said.

On the food supply in the country, the stock of food held by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) has increased to 270,984 tonnes at the end of January this year, the highest over the period 2019-2023, following the purchase of 22,880.9 tonnes.

Bank staff donate blood, gifts to customers on women's day



Artiste Jaivah (L), ambassador of the 'NBC Buruda Time' campaign run by NBC Bank, joins the bank's employees in donating blood as part of the International Women's Day celebrations held at the weekend in Dar es Salaam. The event was organized by the NBC Women Network Forum. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

IN honor of International Women's Day, NBC Bank and its stakeholders, including artist Jaivah, one of the bank's ambassadors, joined forces with hundreds of residents of Dar es Salaam to donate blood and help save lives.

The blood donation event was held at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, organized by the NBC Women Network Forum. Additionally, the forum coordinated various activities involving the bank's employees in branches across the country.

Adhering to the theme of the celebrations, "Invest In Women: Accelerate Progress" NBC Bank distributed gifts to their customers as part of their ongoing 'NBC Buruda Time' campaign featur-

ing artist Jaivah. Alongside distributing the gifts, Jaivah also entertained the bank's employees.

Asha Mustafa and Johari Ntambwe, senior leaders of the bank's Women's Network Forum and representatives of the bank's employees, expressed gratitude on behalf of their colleagues. They praised the bank's management's efforts in supporting women, including employees and entrepreneurs, in their economic empowerment and overall well-being. Both emphasized the importance of investing in women and providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender.

"We are extremely pleased with the success of International Women's Day celebrations. It has provided an opportunity for NBC Bank employees and our partners, including customers,

to come together and contribute to the vital cause of blood donation. Through the NBC Women Network Forum, we are committed to using these celebrations to drive positive change in society and further the development of our nation, for which we are grateful," said Mustafa.

She called on the community to continue supporting and collaborating with one another for mutual development. Mustafa also thanked the bank's employees for their voluntary blood donations, which made the event a resounding success.

In addition to receiving gifts, representatives of the bank's female customers at the event were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the bank's services.

Maria Kapinga, one of the customers, shared her testimonial about how NBC Bank had

contributed to the growth of her business and her journey to becoming a successful entrepreneur.

Artist Jaivah emphasized the importance of continued blood donation, as it saves the lives of those in need. He urged everyone to donate blood regularly to ensure hospitals have an adequate supply and to save as many lives as possible.

"Through the 'NBC Buruda Time' campaign, we have been giving gifts and entertainment to our customers as a way of showing gratitude for their loyalty. This important day has allowed us to provide the most crucial gift of all, which is the gift of blood to those in need at various hospitals. We encourage our customers to continue enjoying the excellent banking services provided by NBC Bank," emphasized Jaivah.

Women given alternative way to lenders' denial

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

Women entrepreneurs facing hurdles to access credits for their businesses from banks and financial institutions due to lack of collaterals have been urged to form groups, or work in cooperative societies and other micro finance activities.

The call was made recently by the Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), Bengi Mazana Issa during women entrepreneurship exhibition, organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Dar es Salaam to celebrate Women's International Day.

Issa said the government has come up with a policy that would help to address women's access to capital, and lack of entrepreneurship skills.

NEEC has suggested to the Ministry of Education to include entrepreneurship as a subject in the curriculum.

She said, so far there are around 5 million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country, and 54 percent of these are women; most of their businesses are small and medium.

Issa has commended the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco for doing various interventions to support and empower women entrepreneurs, by strengthening their businesses and ensuring their businesses grow.

Meanwhile, Issa has called upon women entrepreneurs in the country to use technology to



NEEC executive secretary Bengi Mazana Issa speaks during the Tanzanian women entrepreneurship exhibition held in Dar es Salaam recently.

network their businesses.

"Networking is necessary key if you want to do big businesses. You need to create networks and partners; you need to use others to reach your targets."

She however, noted that networking and trust among most women entrepreneurs to form partnership and work together is still a major challenge.

For her part, Chairperson of the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC), Mercy Sila commended the Moroccan Embassy to Tanzania for organising the women's entrepreneurship exhibition.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to you and other supporters for your commitment to em-

power women, lead businesses and promote sustainable economic development."

She said this move by the embassy was advancing gender equality in the business sector.

Sila has also commended the women entrepreneur for their hard working, dedication and entrepreneurship spirit.

Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco to Tanzania and the Union of Comoros, Zakaria El Goumir said that the Women's International Day was very important for gender equality.

"Let us reaffirm our dedication to support women entrepreneurs and amplify their voices and create a conducive environ-

ment for their businesses." Ambassador of France to Tanzania, Nabil Hajlaoui said that gender equality was very crucial in development. "We cannot implement a single project without gender equality."

He applauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her initiative to support clean energy through which women will have enough time to engage in other economic businesses.

Marketing manager of Mamas Uyoga from Ifakara Kilombero Morogoro, Warid Kassim whose entrepreneurship grows oyster mushrooms, has mentioned some of the challenges faced are such as lack of markets for their products, hotness and fragile

transportation.

For her part, Director of Damari Investment, Vera Tinga, an entrepreneurship that deals with food, making batik and various liquid soaps said that the major obstacles faced in their businesses include lack of capital.

She said that banks and other financial institutions have been denying them loans because they don't have collateral and reliable markets for their products.

Other findings have mentioned challenges facing women entrepreneurs as: Limited financial literacy, discrimination, gender related problems, social and cultural commitments and access to networks.

Kigoma special economic zone spurs regional economy

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

The state owned company-Kigoma Special Economic Zone (KiSEZ) is gradually becoming a key contributor to the region's job creation and economic development thanks to efforts made to attract strategic industrial investors.

The KiSEZ was licenced by the Special Economic Zones Authority (EPZA) and is currently housing six industrial projects, whereby three are operating and the other are still different levels of construction.

The KiSEZ Managing Director Sangu Deogratius said here at the weekend that the government has continued to invest in key infrastructures in the 600,000 hectares KiSEZ area as to attract more investors.

"With the increased number of local and foreign investors into the KiSEZ, its contribution to the region's development and the national industrialisation agenda is also growing gradually," he said.

The KiSEZ was established over a decade ago to attract local and foreign investors into the industrial sector as well as boosting trade with neighbouring regions as well as the great Lakes countries.

With industrial investment, the region will benefit from jobs creation, technology and skills development, various fees and tax revenues to the government.

Ziman Mbena, Operations Manager, Thirdman Company Ltd, which was licenced by EPZA in Kigoma, said the factory has increased production from 40 tonnes annually in 2018 of processed honey when it started operations to 1,000 tonnes as of last year.

And this year the plan is to reach 1,800 tonnes of processed honey.

"Thirdman Company Limited which is the largest honey processor in the country is working with traditional beekeepers in very remote forest and game reserves in Western Tanzania we bring high quality organic honey to customers to our markets all over the world," he said.

He said the factory currently employing 60 people with direct jobs and has recruited over 1,400 beekeepers in Kigoma, Tabora and Singida regions.

He said to maintain the quality of honey in their markets; the factory has listed all beekeepers into its database and has been conducting training to equip them with skills on how to maintain quality honey production.

Mbena said the factory processes two types of honey namely organic from natural forests and conversional originating from areas with manmade activities like farming.

The main markets of the honey products from Thirdman Company Limited are namely South Africa, Sweden, Norway, USA and Australia.

Another mega projects at KiSEZ and licenced by EPZA is the NexGen Solawazi Limited that generates 5 megawatts of electricity using solar power.

The NexGen Solawazi Limited Assistant Supervisor Augustine Mabuga said the electricity generated is sold to Tanesco for distribution in various parts of the region.

"Kigoma Region is not connected to national grid and thus the electricity generated help Tanesco to cut down almost 6bn/- spent annually in generating power using diesel but significantly provide the region with reliable electricity," he said.

Bank spends 1bn/- in loans to government employees

By Guardian Reporter

LETSHEGO Faidika Bank has used a total of 1bn/- to lend to government employees as part of its plan to empower them economically.

Baraka Munisi, bank's chief executive officer (CEO) unveiled this over the weekend when speaking at the official of the bank's new branch in Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro Region.

Munisi said that the amount of money has been used after successfully lending various types of loans with favorable terms to over 1,000 government employees.

He said that the Letshego Faidika Bank was formed last year following the merger of Faidika Microfinance and Letshego Tanzania Bank, and they are currently enjoying the merger that has led them to success.

"We have decided to open a branch in the Kili-

manjaro region as one of our strategies to continue bringing modern banking services (digital) to Tanzanians and also to provide employment.

It is our expectation that the residents of the Kilimanjaro region will benefit from our services as in other regions and 11 other African countries where we provide banking services.

The headquarters of Letshego Faidika Bank are in Botswana and we also have branches in Kenya, Uganda, and other countries," said Munisi.

"In Tanzania, we are present in every region and in some districts we have more than 110 branches and offices nationwide. Apart from lending to government employees (public institutions), we also provide loans to employees of private companies, business loans, housing loans, as well as other banking services and insurance services in all re-

gions of Tanzania," he said.

He said that besides this modern branch, the bank has also improved its other offices in Mwanza, Same, Rombo, and Hai areas with the aim of reaching their customers more easily.

"Our bank recognizes the importance of this financial sector in the development of society, and that is why we are committed to bringing services closer to the community to facilitate their access and also to provide opportunities for members of various sectors of society to benefit from our services.

The opening of the Letshego branch in Moshi is to expand the scope of providing commercial



Letshego Faidika Bank CEO Baraka Munisi (2nd R), and Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Shaaban Mchomvu (R), listen to bank's head of sales department Asupya Nalingigwa (3rd L), during an inauguration ceremony of the new branch in the Kilimanjaro Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

loans to small and medium-sized businesses," he said.

He said they are proud to be part of the Moshi community and are committed to ensuring that they contribute to the development of the area, especially through their cooperation with the government and its in-

stitutions with the aim of providing quality and reliable services to their customers. "We assure our customers that Letshego Faidika Bank will do everything possible to ensure that it brings innovation, reliability, and dedication in serving our community," insisted Munisi.

Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Shaaban Mchomvu, praised the bank's decision to open a modern branch and be among the financial institutions providing excellent services in the region.

Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Shaaban Mchomvu, said that Letshego Faidika Bank is becoming the centre for entrepreneurs, farmers, large traders, and other citizens.

"I urge the Kilimanjaro region residents to take advantage of the opportunity provided by Letshego Faidika Bank to improve their lives," said Mchomvu.

Muhimbili Hospital's female wards supplied with microwaves

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

DIAMOND Trust Bank (DTB) in collaboration with Aga Khan Foundation has donated eight microwaves to female wards at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) along with the provision of scholarship opportunity to post graduates strategically to support the health sector in the country.

Maryvine Peter, Centre Branch Manager, DTB Bank made the remarks in Dar es Salaam over the weekend as they joined MNH female nurses and doctors to commemorate International Women's Day.

She said the donation and

scholarship opportunities aimed at recognizing nurses and doctors' efforts as they serve patients just like what this year's theme says, "Invest in women: Accelerate progress."

"As Diamond Trust Bank we have come to show our support by giving microwaves to female wards at Muhimbili National Hospital. Apart from that in collaboration with Aga Khan Foundation we are here to announce to the audience that we have postgraduate scholarships for nurses and doctors who wish to further their studies and we will be here to support whoever that will be interested," said Maryvine.

She added: "We are here



Georgina Alfred, Business Manager with Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania (L), hands over a microwave to Director of Surgical Services at MNH Dr Rachel Mhaviile (R), on behalf of Muhimbili National Hospital CEO Prof Mohammed Janabi. Left is Tegemea Ndemo, Country Human Resources and Administration Manager at Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

to support the theme that insists on women inclusion. As

women we are here to support our fellow women, specifically

nurses and women that have tried their best to make sure

that they have a very big contribution to whatever they do at Muhimbili."

Tegemea Ndemo, Country Human Resources and Administration Manager at Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania said the foundation which also joins in DTB normally have education scholarships that it privileges incapable women in different spheres of life.

"The postgraduate scholarships will officially be closed on March 31, this year. You still have time. For those interested in the opportunity see me later and I will give you fliers that will in one hand or the other reach the targeted women in need for them to make a step

ahead," she added.

Director of Surgical Services at MNH Dr Rachel Mhaviile, who received the microwaves on behalf of MNH Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Prof Mohammed Janabi, commended Aga Khan Foundation decision to support women wards and the scholarship opportunity aimed to support women who are incapable in different spheres of life.

Furthermore, she urged women to love and support each other as it increases productivity as in most times, they will have an opportunity to encourage each other on how to raise their income.

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Gov't, law enforcers urged to support entrepreneurs

By Sabato Kasika

MARA Regional Commissioner, Said Mtanda has called upon the police force, government officials, and related institutions to support and empower intrapreneurs by creating conducive environment that nurture their enterprises.

Mtanda expressed these sentiments while engaging with individuals who operate tricycles, motorcycles, and commuter buses - commonly known as 'bajaj,' 'bodaboda,' and daladala, respectively.

He stressed that these occupations are more than just jobs; they are legitimate professions deserving of genuine respect and support.

RC Mtanda highlighted the crucial need to establish a conducive atmosphere for these grassroots entrepreneurs to operate effectively, enabling them to generate income and contribute to the government's revenue through tax payments.

He noted that by fostering the growth of petty trading, regional development can be accelerated.

He highlighted that the government is committed to facilitating the efficient operation of mentioned groups, acknowledging the wealth of employment opportunities within both the public and private sectors.

"No government in the world can promise full employment for all individuals; therefore, it is crucial for the private sector to increase job opportunities. The government's respon-

sibility is to facilitate programs that empower young people to pursue self-employment," articulated Mtanda.

He shed further light on President Samia Suluhu Hassan's policy emphasis on establishing an enabling environment for youth employment, underscoring the importance of leaders not impeding progress.

By prioritizing employment opportunities, Mtanda underscored the government's vision for young individuals to catalyze economic growth, contribute taxes to bolster regional and national development initiatives, thereby promoting prosperity across the nation.

"District Commissioner, Regional Police Commander, and LATRA should not hinder self-employed individuals but rather offer support and assistance to enable them to carry out their work efficiently," he asserted.

Additionally, he commended Regional Traffic Commander (RTO) Salim Morcase, for actively addressing the challenges within the sector in his region and successfully implementing solutions.

"I also wish to commend the RTO for tackling the challenges encountered by young people in the region. It is crucial for traffic officers to go beyond just monitoring traffic flow and avoid viewing drivers as a means of revenue. What we require are traffic officers who acknowledge that drivers are essential stakeholders," he stressed.

RTO Morcase has underscored the significance of drivers complying with traffic laws voluntarily, without the need for coercive actions. He underlined that a major concern is drivers failing to abide by traffic regulations and neglecting to pay fines, even when provided with a seven-day grace period for payment.

Morcase stated, "Musoma is a small town, making it easy to track down those who try to evade responsibility. Therefore, let's refrain from engaging in behaviors that create tension between us and the drivers."

Chairman of the Babaj Riders, Godfrey Chimodoi, addressed the obstacles faced in the passenger transportation industry, identifying the issue of receiving immediate fines without the opportunity to provide an explanation as a significant challenge. Chimodoi further expressed concern over traffic officers pursuing bajajs, which has resulted in avoidable accidents.

He affirmed their commitment to voluntarily complying with the law and meeting all government tax responsibilities without the necessity of oversight or interference from government agencies and its officials.

"We have successfully registered around 300 commercial bajaj. Nevertheless, we are requesting permission to allow four passengers in a bajaj due to the increasing fuel costs, which have made conducting business more difficult," he added.

By Guardian Reporter

VISA has announced the appointment of Chad Pollock as the new General Manager for East Africa.

As a global leader in digital payments, the new boss is expected to drive Visa's strategic initiatives in East Africa.

With a diverse background and a proven track record of leadership, Pollock brings a wealth of experience and expertise in finance, technology, and energy industries to his new role.

Prior to his appointment, Pollock served as Vice President and head of Global Client Strategy and Operations at Visa, where he played a pivotal role in spearheading the development of business analytics and commercial operations for Visa's largest international clients.

Pollock's appointment comes as Visa continues to focus on accelerating the digitalisation of payments and promoting financial inclusion across the region. In his new role, Pollock will lead Visa's efforts to expand its presence in East Africa, working closely with local partners and stakeholders to deliver innovative payment solutions that meet the evolving needs of consumers and businesses alike.

Commenting on Pollock's appointment, Aida Diarra, Senior Vice President at Visa



Newly appointed Visa East Africa Vice President Chad Pollock is taken through the company's performance by a local staffer at the Nairobi office shortly after he was introduced. Photo: Correspondent

Visa appoints new general manager for East Africa

and Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, expressed her excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome Chad to his new role. His extensive experience and strategic vision will be instrumental in driving Visa's growth and success in East Africa."

Diarra further emphasised Visa's commitment to building a strong regional team by leveraging the unique strengths and talents of individuals like Pollock. She added, "Chad's appointment underscores our dedication to matching top talent with critical business opportunities, as we

continue to pave the way for digital innovation and financial inclusion across the region."

As Pollock takes on his new responsibilities, he looks forward to collaborating with Visa's partners, clients, and colleagues to advance the company's mission of enabling individuals, businesses, and economies to thrive in a digital world.

His appointment marks an exciting chapter in Visa's journey to revolutionize the way people pay and get paid, driving progress and prosperity in East Africa and beyond.



MOI chief executive Professor Makubi (R) receives the painting donation from Adam Kefa, head of marketing, Insignia Limited(L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Paints producer donates materials to renovate MOI

By Guardian Reporter,

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, Insignia Limited, producer of paints has donated painting materials worth 10mln/- to help the Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) to renovate its building infrastructures.

Speaking when receiving the donations, the MOI Chief Executive Officer Professor Abel Makubi, commended the company and called on other stakeholders to come forward and support the institution due to its significant needs.

"We serve a large group of citizens from various parts of the country," he said.

"We have people who suffer from various accidents, including motorcycle taxi riders and sometimes others come here for treatment, but they are poor as they also need to be helped."

Therefore, he explained, the contributions from stakeholders are also crucial in providing quality services to citizens.

"The government, on its part, is making efforts to develop MOI with medical equipment and various other costs," Professor Makubi added.

He further emphasized that patients treated in attractive buildings and pleasant environments find great comfort despite the pain they endure.

He praised the company for being a significant stakeholder and responding to the call whenever their assistance is needed.

"When I was the Head of Bugando Hospital in Mwanza, I requested assistance, and those buildings were very attractive because of their support," he said.

"So we ask other stakeholders to come forward in supporting the efforts of President Samia Suluhu Hassan to ensure our patients receive good services."

Professor Makubi received the donation from Adam Kefa, the Head of Marketing at the company, who stated that they have done so to support President Samia in improving the healthcare sector in the country.

"Our main job is to beautify buildings and improve the environment and living conditions of people," Kefa said.

"Thus, these quality paints will completely change the appearance of MOI and provide comfort to patients," he added.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 9 March	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
7:00 Habari	AI Jazeera
8:00 AI Jazeera	Watoto wetu
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	13:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	14:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00 Shambam za Pwani	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Jungu kuu
19:00 Jungu kuu	20:00 Habari
20:00 Habari	21:05 Shika Bamba
21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:20 Soap: Uzalo
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:10 ITV Top 10
22:10 ITV Top 10	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazeera
SUNDAY 10 March	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 Kumekucha	HABARI
7:00 Habari	AI Jazeera
8:00 AI Jazeera	Watoto wetu
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:30 Usafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	19:30 Mfaliko ya waki
19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazeera
MONDAY 11 March	
5:30 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:00 Kumekucha kishindo	9:30 Soap: Laws of love
10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love	11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	14:00 Shikajamba
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
TUESDAY 12 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
WEDNESDAY 13 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
THURSDAY 14 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
FRIDAY 15 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
SATURDAY 16 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
SUNDAY 17 March	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	AI Jazeera
8:00 AI Jazeera	Watoto wetu
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
MONDAY 18 March	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	AI Jazeera
8:00 AI Jazeera	Watoto wetu
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
TUESDAY 19 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
WEDNESDAY 20 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
THURSDAY 21 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
FRIDAY 22 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
SATURDAY 23 March	
5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha kishindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Soap: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira
SUNDAY 24 March	
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00 HABARI	6:00 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	AI Jazeera
8:00 AI Jazeera	Watoto wetu
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi
14:00 Kumekucha Michezo	14:25 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru
16:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapiishi	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Semu na Mahakama
19:30 Soap: Laws of love	20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	21:35 Kipindi Maalum: Nishati na Mazingira

9:30 Soap: Laws of love rpt	21:50 Chetu ni chetu	13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: BOT	20:00 Ripoti Maalum	14:30 Ingood Shape	11:30 Capchat
9:55 Habari za saa	22:30 Soap: Uzalo	13:30 Art and Lifestyle	20:30 Tomorrow Today	15:00 Shamba Lulu	12:30 Decor
10:00 Watoto wetu	23:00 Jiji letu	13:55 Habari za saa	21:00 Out n' About	15:30 Bundesliga Kick off	13:00 Telenovela I Plead Guilty rpt
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	23:30 Music: The Base	14:00 Shambam za pwani rpt	21:30 Capchat rpt	16:00 Culinari Delights Rpt	14:00 Culinari rpt
11:55 Habari za saa	00:30 AI Jazeera	14:55 Habari za saa	23:00 AI Jazeera	16:30 Capchat rpt	14:30 Ripoti Maalum
12:00 AI Jazeera		15:00 Meza Huru	01:00 AI Jazeera	17:00 Meza Huru	15:00 Dk 45 rpt
12:30 Jungu Kuu		16:30 Watoto wetu		16:00 Innovation	16:00 Dk News Africa rpt
12:55 Habari za saa		17:00 The Base		16:30 Out n' About	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi		18:00 Hapa na Pale		20:00 Decor Rpt	17:30 Meza Huru
13:40 Art and Lifestyle		18:15 Mapiishi		20:45 Telenovela I Plead Guilty	18:00 Rev
13:55 Habari za saa		18:30 Jagina		21:30 Capital Prime News	19:00 Out & About Rpt
14:00 Art and Lifestyle		18:30 HABARI		22:20	

WORLD

Ministry: Palestinian death toll in Gaza exceeds 31,000

GAZA

THE Palestinian death toll in the Gaza Strip from the ongoing Israeli attacks exceeded 31,000, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said in a press statement on Sunday.

During the past 24 hours, the Israeli army killed 85 Palestinians and wounded 130 others in various areas in the coastal enclave, bringing the total death toll to 31,045 and injuries to 72,654, according to the statement.

The statement noted that some victims remain under the rubble amid heavy bombardment and a lack of civil defense and ambulance crews.

Dozens of Palestinians, the major-

ity of whom are children and women, were killed and others injured in a series of Israeli airstrikes that targeted multiple areas across the Gaza Strip since Friday night, Palestine's official news agency WAFA reported.

The report said at least 23 people were killed in intense airstrikes that targeted a number of houses in the southern Gaza Strip cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah.

At least 13 Palestinians, including children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting a house in the Nusseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, Palestinian medical sources and eyewitnesses said Saturday.

Eyewitnesses told Xinhua that Is-



A Palestinian youth walks away with some items salvaged from the rubble of a residential building hit in an overnight Israeli air strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday, amid continuing battles between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. AFP

raeli aircraft targeted a house with two missiles, destroying the house and causing damage to neighboring homes. The Israeli airstrike killed 13 people, including children, and several others were injured to varying degrees and were all transported to hospitals, medical sources said.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates accused Israel of "involving the entire population of Gaza in a whirlwind of imminent death".

It also criticized that Israel consistently ignores all international decisions and requests regarding the protection and basic needs of civilians.

Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 taken hostage.

Russia requests UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine for March 22, says envoy

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA has requested a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine for March 22, Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyansky said.

"It would have been nice if NATO's representatives in the [UN] Security Council explained to us the alliance's devious logic," Polyansky said speaking at the UN Security Council's session.

"Its leaders initially told us that NATO should expand into Ukraine because Russia would never attack a NATO member state. However, we hear today that Russia cannot be allowed to win in Ukraine, because after that it will move further and attack NATO."

"Is there any common sense in your statements, any consistency? However, it is expressively displayed in the way you are making the image of Russia as of an enemy and aggressor, avoiding the facts that your aggression against Russia with Ukraine's involvement started at least ten years ago," he continued.

"We will discuss in detail all these moments, which are unpleasant for our Western colleagues, at the requested by us separate meeting of the [UN] Security Council on March 22," Polyansky added.

The Russian diplomat pointed out that French Permanent Representative to the UN Nicolas de Riviere did not say anything during his speech at the session about the initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron to send troops of Western countries to Ukraine.

Polyansky added that Robert Wood, deputy US envoy to the United Nations, was "modest and said nothing" about the network of secret bases that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) set up on Ukrainian territory over the past eight years.

"It is also a pity that we do not hear the usually very active German envoy among those, who requested to address today's meeting," the Russian diplomat noted. "It would have been interesting to hear commentaries from him regarding the conversation leaked to the media by senior German military officials, who discussed how to help the Ukrainians destroy the Crimean Bridge and deliver more strikes deeper into the territory of Russia."

On March 1, RT TV editor-in-chief Margarita Simonyan said that on the day when German Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed that NATO was not and would not be involved in the Ukrainian conflict, high-ranking German army officers were discussing the possibility of attacking the Crimean bridge without repercussions for the German authorities.

Simonyan referred to the existence of an authentic audio recording and later published a transcript of the conversation. The officers discussed the extent to which Taurus missiles could destroy the Crimean Bridge and also the details of preparations for such an attack.

The German Defense Ministry confirmed later that the conversation among top-ranking Bundeswehr (armed forces) officers had been intercepted. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledged to sort things out promptly.

On March 4, the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned German Ambassador to Moscow Alexander Lambsdorff to deliver a formal demarche and demand clarifications over the leaked conversation.

Nigeria eyes possibility of joining BRICS – foreign minister

HARARE

NIGERIA is viewing the possibility of joining BRICS, Foreign Minister Yusuf Tuggar said.

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar (pictured) says Nigeria is exploring the possibility of joining BRICS," the state-run radio station Radio Nigeria reported citing the statement signed by Al-Kasim Abdulkadir, the Foreign Minister's special assistant.

"Tuggar also reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to strengthening diplomatic and economic relations with Russia," the radio station said.

According to the minister, Nigeria is ready to finalize preparations for inking all bilateral agreements drafted by the bilateral commission on the economic, cultural and political ties. The statement pointed out that during his visit to Russia on March 5-7, Tuggar appreciated Russia's support for the efforts of Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's administration to develop the country, especially its willingness to facilitate the completion of construction of the Ajaokuta steel plant as well as the restart of Rusal's aluminum smelting plant in Nigeria. **Agencies**



'India to attract more foreign investment from EFTA'

NEW DELHI

AFTER a landmark trade agreement was signed between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin said New Delhi will attract more foreign investment from the EFTA, which will lead to an increase in good jobs.

India signed the Trade and Economic Participation Agreement (TEPA) with the four-nation European Free Trade Association yesterday.

The Swiss Embassy highlighted that the landmark agreement between India and EFTA is set to bring significant economic benefits.

The benefits included, "better integrated and more resilient supply chains, new opportunities for businesses and individuals on both sides leading to increased trade and investment flows, job creation, and economic growth."

"Our companies strive to diversify their supply chains while rendering them more resilient. India, in return, will attract more foreign investment from EFTA, which will ultimately translate into an increase in good jobs," the embassy said.

The agreement was signed by Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Swiss Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research Guy Parmelin; Bjarni Benediktsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iceland; Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Liechtenstein; and Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Trade and Industry, Norway.

At the signing ceremony, Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, speaking on behalf of the EFTA Member States, emphasised, "EFTA countries gain market access to a major growth market."

Moreover, the agreement enhanced market access and simplified customs procedures, making it easier for Indian and EFTA businesses to expand their operations in the respective markets, the statement by the Swiss embassy noted.

"The agreement further aims to facilitate and promote investment opportunities between the parties," it added.

The agreement marks a significant milestone in the relationships between the EFTA States and India.

"It reflects the culmination of dedicated efforts to foster a deeper economic partnership, underscoring the importance of dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding," the statement read.

Moreover, the Swiss embassy also released a fact sheet, stating that the TEPA pact is critical for the realization of Make in India, and adding that Switzerland is India's seventh most important

investor, according to the IMF, with an annual investment growth of 9 per cent.

The agreement "brings Swiss investments and innovation to India, and can potentially turn India into an innovation hub for the world. Switzerland has been



India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal (C), India's Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar (right), and India's Minister for State and Skill Development Rajeesh Chandrasekhar (left), address the media during a press conference on the EU-India Trade and Technology Council at EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, May 16, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

ranked number one in the Global Innovation Index for 13 consecutive years," it added.

The TEPA pact also facilitates India's access to Swiss world-leading technologies.

Notably, innovative and state-of-the-art products such as precision machinery will strengthen India's manufacturing potential and thus support 'Make in India'.

The agreement will also foster cross-border investments.

"Swiss companies, mostly SMEs, strive to diversify their supply chains by manufacturing in India," the embassy stated.

It will further increase the attractiveness of India, promoting the creation of joint ventures and partnerships in India, and consequently increasing FDI into production, development and research.

The Swiss Embassy emphasised that the agreement will also help in creating jobs for India's young workforce, adding that Swiss investments always come

with the training of the labour force (technical and vocational training).

"It will promote the mobility of Indian talents. Many large and midsize companies rely on services provided by Indian companies deploying Indian talents for specific projects," the statement read.

The agreement also offers unprecedented access to Indian suppliers in numerous service sectors.

For the first time, Switzerland will provide access to independent professionals and include commitments for spouses and dependents, as per the statement.

"India will therefore have a comparative advantage in some service sectors compared to other free trade partners of Switzerland," it added.

The agreement will spur Swiss investments in India through in-depth exchanges between Swiss and Indian board directors and

CEOs, supported by ambitious investment roadmaps and concrete action plans.

The agreement will "turn India into a global health and life sciences hub. Increased legal certainty and a stable and efficient intellectual property framework bring further investment from innovative Swiss companies to India. Combined with India's strong knowledge base in pharmaceutical manufacturing and its leading role in IT, it moves India up the value chain towards an innovation hub at a global level," the statement noted.

It will also offer better access to cutting-edge Swiss technology for Indian companies, coupled with the transfer of know-how and training of qualified personnel for on-site manufacturing and servicing, enabling local employment.

The statement further highlighted that the agreement supports sustainability, in line with India's ESG ambitions.

ANI

US, UK should stop interfering in Hong Kong's Article 23 legislation

RECENTLY, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government's public consultation on the legislation of Article 23 of the HKSAR Basic Law successfully concluded. Out of over 13,000 public opinions, more than 98 percent expressed support or positive views, fully reflecting the strong consensus among the Hong Kong public to expedite the completion of Article 23 legislation. However, the US and the UK have turned a blind eye to this and continue to attack and smear Article 23 legislation.

The US and the UK's interference in Article 23 legisla-

tion obviously violates the basic norms governing international relations. Hong Kong is part of China, and Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs. No foreign country has the right to interfere in Hong Kong affairs.

The US and the UK should respect China's sovereignty, abide by the principles of international law and the basic norms governing international relations, and immediately stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs which are China's internal affairs.

It is worth pointing out that the UK's attempt to interfere in Article 23 legislation

by invoking the Sino-British Joint Declaration has no basis in international law.

The Sino-British Joint Declaration by no means puts the UK in a position or gives it any right to interfere in Hong Kong affairs.

The US and the UK's sensationalist view that Article 23 legislation will weaken the rights and freedoms of the Hong Kong people is completely inconsistent with the facts.

One of the principles of Article 23 legislation is to protect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents in accordance with the Basic Law of the HKSAR and

the provisions of relevant international covenants as applied to Hong Kong.

There is a clear line drawn between acts that constitute an offense that endangers national security, and normal commercial exchanges and activities in the fields of economy, culture, and science and technology.

The normal activities of foreign institutions and personnel in Hong Kong will be protected in accordance with the law. Article 23 legislation is considered a necessary step to effectively prevent activities that compromise national security and protect the safety of life and property of

the Hong Kong public. It will also improve Hong Kong's business environment, and better attract businesses and investors to Hong Kong.

The US and the UK have enacted numerous laws to safeguard national security, yet they hypocritically criticize and label Article 23 legislation, which is blatant political manipulation and double standards.

The extraterritorial effect of Article 23 is in strict compliance with international law and the common practices of all countries and regions.

The definitions of "state secrets" and "external inter-

ference" have been fully considered based on the actual situation in the HKSAR and common practices in various countries, and are reasonable, legal, and beyond reproach.

"Ensuring security and development" and "speeding up legislation and boosting the economy" are the most prominent demands of Hong Kong society.

The HKSAR government and legislature will surely meet the expectations of society and push forward Article 23 legislation in an orderly manner and as soon as possible. Attempts by any country to obstruct Article

23 legislation will only end in vain.

People's Daily



The Sino-British Joint Declaration by no means puts the UK in a position or gives it any right to interfere in Hong Kong affairs

70 years on, success story of people's congresses continues in China

BEIJING

NING Fenfang, a 34-year-old farmer, had spent a lot of time visiting fellow villagers in central China's Hunan Province to gather their opinions and requests ahead of her trip to Beijing for this year's legislative session that opened earlier this week.

Such efforts were among her duties as a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature. Her role has also seen her devote considerable time to checking the construction of agricultural infrastructure and visiting relevant government departments to inquire about agriculture policies.

Ning has registered a cooperative specializing in large-scale planting, creating about 200 jobs for villagers. At this year's NPC session, she submitted a suggestion on allowing agricultural insurance to cover greenhouses in southern China.

There are nearly 3,000 NPC deputies like Ning in the country. Working in a part-time capacity, they come from various backgrounds and cover a diverse cross-section of society.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the NPC. Sitting at the pinnacle of the people's congress system, a great creation of the Chinese people in the history of political systems, the NPC is the supreme organ of state power in China.

Since Sept. 15, 1954, when about 1,200 deputies gathered in Beijing to attend the first session of the first NPC, the people's congress system has provided an important institutional guarantee that has allowed the Communist Party of China to lead the people in creating miracles of rapid economic development and long-term social stability.

The people's congress system is the fundamental political system in China, serving as an important institutional vehicle for realizing whole-process people's democracy in China. The Constitution passed at the inaugural session of the NPC in 1954 states that all power in the People's Republic of China belongs

to the people, and that the NPC and the local people's congresses at various levels are the organs through which the people exercise state power.

Over the past 70 years, the people's congress system has seen constant improvements, including the establishment of a commission on work related to NPC deputies under the NPC Standing Committee to improve the quality of deputies' work, and setting up and expanding primary-level legislative outreach offices nationwide to make it more convenient for the public to reach lawmakers.

LAW-BASED GOVERNANCE

As an important constituent of China's governance system, the people's congress system bears great significance in pushing forward the rule of law and modernizing China's system and capacity for governance. China's legislation has made considerable advances over the years.

On July 1, 1979, seven laws were adopted at the second session of the fifth NPC, including the criminal law and the law on Chinese-foreign equity joint ventures, signifying that China's legislation had been put back on the right track in the new period of reform, opening up and socialist modernization.

In 2023, the NPC Standing Committee, a permanent body of the NPC, formulated or revised a raft of laws, including the law on ecological conservation of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau and the law on building a barrier-free environment.

Currently, the country has 300 laws in effect. An important principle of the people's congress system and a basic requirement of its institutional design is that the power of all state organs and their staff are subject to oversight and checks.

According to the Constitution, all administrative, supervisory, adjudicatory and procuratorial organs of the state shall be created by the people's congresses and shall be responsible to them and subject to their oversight.

On Oct. 22, 2023, a special "examina-



This photo taken on March 8, 2024 shows the Great Hall of the People ahead of the second plenary meeting of the second session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, capital of China.

tion" took place at the Great Hall of the People. For the first time, a session of the NPC Standing Committee made special inquiries regarding three reports on the same topic from the State Council, the Supreme People's Court (SPC) and the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP).

At the meeting, the leading officials of the State Council, the SPC and the SPP answered multiple questions on law enforcement and judicial work in the fields of environmental protection and resource conservation.

Last year, the 14th NPC and its Standing Committee also launched law enforcement inspections on the implementation of five laws, including the workplace safety law, the wetland conservation law and the seed law. With these efforts, they facilitated improvements in production activities, environmental protection and building up the country's strength in agriculture.

POOLING WISDOM

One day in late 2023, residents of Zhongxinwang residential community, along with local cadres and law experts, met to discuss a range of legal topics of common concern.

Among the questions raised were "Are females entitled to the same kind of inheritance rights as males?" and "What should females do when confronted with sexual harassment in the workplace?" Zhongxinwan is one of the residential communities under the jurisdiction of Shapingba District of Chongqing Municipality.

As a primary-level legislative outreach office, the local people's congress standing committee of Shapingba had contributed more than 1,000 pieces of suggestions on law drafts, with 86 items incorporated into a total of eight national laws as of November 2023.

This was in the same vein as the broad-based drafting process of the 1954 Constitution seven decades ago. In the course of around three months, approximately 150 million people across the country participated in the discussion of the draft, bringing nearly 1.2 million suggestions to the drafting committee.

Ever since then, releasing draft laws to the public to solicit their opinions has become an important avenue for the NPC Standing Committee to boost people's participation in law-making and the quality of legislation.

Xinhua

Pope believes Kiev should start negotiations without considering it disgraceful

THE VATICAN

POPE Francis believes that Ukraine should enter into peace talks, thus showing courage and not considering it a disgrace.

"He who cares about the people, who has the courage to raise the white flag and start negotiations is really strong," the Pope said in an interview with the Swiss broadcaster RSI, when asked whether it could be considered a show of courage on the part of Ukraine to "raise the white flag" or if it would be "legitimization of the stronger one."

At the same time, the Pope added that when someone is aware of one's defeat, that something has gone wrong, it is essential to display courage and agree to negotiate.

"One may feel ashamed, but otherwise how many more deaths will there be before it's all over?" Francis continued.

He believes that negotiations could be facilitated by international mediators: there are many of them, when it comes to the war in Ukraine.

"Turkey, for example, and also others. One should not be ashamed of negotiations, which will prevent the worst from happening," the Pope said. He is certain that negotiations are never a surrender.

"It takes real courage not to drive the country to suicide," he stressed.



China sees increasing demand for sports among senior citizens

DESPITE the chilly weather in early spring, swimming enthusiasts have already started jumping into the Yimin River in Hulun Buir, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region. Among them, there are many elderly people.

According to a survey conducted by the Hulun Buir elderly sports association, over 70 percent of the citizens in the city aged 60 and above participate in sports activities on a regular basis. There are over 600 indoor sports venues suitable for the elderly, and nearly 1,000 outdoor fitness locations available in the city.

In recent years, there has been an increasing awareness for health and a growing demand for sports products and services among the elderly population in China. At the same time, there has been a rise in the development of fitness facilities and equipment that are tailored for the elderly and incorporate smart technology. This has created new opportunities, generated new prospects, and unleashed new potential.

Liu Guifang, 71, lives in Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei province. He often plays tennis with his friends and has a passion for sports photography. He has even purchased professional equipment such as computers and single-lens reflex cameras to take photos of some sporting events.

Last year, after photographing the Cup of China ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating which took place in Chongqing municipality, Liu took the opportunity to embark on a 20-plus-day trip in Chongqing and Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province.

"Through engaging in sports, watching games, and going on deep travels, my life after retirement is



Senior citizens attend a dancing class offered by an "elderly college" in Shangtang township, Fengcheng, east China's Jiangxi province. (People's Daily Online/Zhou Liang)

truly fulfilling," Liu said.

As sports and fitness become increasingly popular among the elderly, the sports consumer market has shown significant growth. According to data from Tmall, an online shopping platform under Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, in the fourth quarter of 2023, the transaction volume of skiers in their fifties increased by 65 percent compared to the previous year, while that of skiers in their sixties increased by 131 percent.

In recent years, outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and cycling have flourished, and some products that combine sports and cultural tourism have become popular among elderly consumers.

Ctrip, a Chinese online tourism service provider, has launched a travel product that combines mountain climbing and golf specifically designed for the elderly on its platform, and over 1,000 people have inquired and signed up since its launch.

"Nowadays, the elderly no longer settle for tourist attractions, and the inclusion of sports activities provides them with a richer experience," said Fang Zexi, an industry analyst with Ctrip.

Meanwhile, sports events for the elderly are becoming increasingly diverse. According to Wen Wen, vice chairman of the Chinese Veterans' Sports Association, many regions have seized the opportunity to launch high-quality tourism routes and products related to sports events, which have been well received by the elderly.

On Jan. 24 this year, an outdoor intelligent fitness center for the elderly, covering an area of about 500 square meters, was established in Zhongshan Park, Wuhan, central China's Hubei province. In less than a week, it attracted thousands of users to come and experience it.

With the voice guidance of the intelligent devices, a senior citizen surnamed Zhang completed a physical fitness test and received a report. She said, "It suggested that when my heart rate exceeds 130, I should pay attention to my running speed. It even reminded me during the test."

Zhang Jiahua, Chairman of Good Family, the developer of the equipment in the park, said that one important function of the elderly fitness products is to customize exercise programs for the elderly.

"Many elderly people find it difficult to control the intensity of their exercise. Digital and intelligent fitness equipment can provide timely advice and reminders. The long-term accumulation of exercise data helps users manage their health," Zhang noted.

In addition to common elderly fitness activities such as walking, practicing Tai Chi, and square dancing, more and more elderly people are becoming interested in indoor fitness. Since 2021, the Shanghai Administration of Sports and the Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau have jointly launched an elderly sports program that has now built 120 sports centers for the elderly in 16 districts of Shanghai.

Wang Hailong, chairman of the company

executing the program, said that all fitness equipment has been adjusted to cater to the physical characteristics of the elderly. They also provide exercise interventions for chronic diseases and rehabilitation training.

"Recently, we have also developed and introduced elderly yoga courses, and the elderly have shown great enthusiasm for them," Wang added.

In the sports industry, the renovation of fitness facilities for the elderly, the integration of sports and health-care, and the organization of sports events for the elderly have become hot topics.

"The demand for sports among the elderly has always existed, and sports consumption is showing a trend towards diversification and specialization," Wang told People's Daily. With China entering an aging society, developing the "silver hair economy" and meeting the sports needs of the elderly will help them enjoy healthy and happy twilight years.

People's Daily

UN envoy urges unified govt to lead Libya to elections

TRIPOLI

ABDOULAYE Bathily, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Libya, emphasized the urgent need for electoral law implementation and forming a unified government to pave the way for elections in the country.

During a meeting with four High Council of State (HCS) members, Bathily addressed Libya's political deadlock and the necessity of finding a resolution, according to a statement posted by Bathily on social media.

"I encouraged them to continue seeking consensus within the HCS, the House of Representatives, and the broader Libyan political spectrum, including key actors, on implementing electoral laws

and forming a unified government to lead Libya towards elections," Bathily added.

During a phone conversation with Aguila Saleh, speaker of the House of Representatives, on Wednesday, Bathily also emphasized the need for prompt efforts to reach a political compromise in Libya.

Libya failed to hold general elections in December 2021 as previously scheduled, due to disagreements among the Libyan parties over election laws.

Ever since the fall of the late leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011, Libya has been struggling to make a democratic transition amid escalating violence and unrest.

Xinhua



Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya Abdulaye Bathily speaks in a press conference in Tripoli on March 11, 2023. (PHOTO / AFP)



Moshi Khalsa hockey squad's captain Varinderpal Singh Bhamra is pictured with the trophy upon the conclusion of the 2024 Mapinduzi hockey tournament that concluded at Lugalo hockey ground in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Moshi Khalsa now wins 2024 Mapinduzi hockey tourney top honour

By Guardian Correspondent

KILIMANJARO's Moshi Khalsa has defended its top honour in this season's Mapinduzi hockey tournament, beating Black Mambaz Blue 1-0 in the final which took place at Lugalo hockey ground in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The nail-biting final saw both teams display classic stick work, with Dar es Salaam-based Black Mambaz Blue turning out to be a favourite for the top honour.

The finalists had the spectators cheering throughout the encounter, and Moshi Khalsa's Temison Kisonga scored the goal which separated the two sides, and saw to it the Moshi side had the last laugh.

Kisonga netted the much-needed goal in the ninth minute of the first quarter and Moshi Khalsa battled to see to it the scoreboard was unchanged right up to the last minute of the game.

The prestigious event, which was organized by the Tanzania Hockey Association (THA), was sponsored by Reliance Insurance Company and NAS Tyre Services Ltd.

Nine men's teams and six women's teams battled it out in the just-concluded tournament, which started on February 29- with all ties being played at the Lugalo hockey ground.

Twende Ladies' team lifted the women's showdown top honour with victory over the TPDF Ladies' squad.

Acting India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Manoj Verma was the chief guest of honour for the exciting final.

Verma inspected the teams before the final, wished both teams the best of luck, and later presented silverware to the showdowns' winners and

best individual players.

The THA Chairman Kaushik Doshi thanked the chief guest for gracing the tournament's final and he also thanked the sponsors for backing the event and the TPDF management for the ground usage.

Majani ya Chai was presented with the category's Best Disciplined Team prize, and Satma Selemani who featured for Buza Secondary School's team received the Best Upcoming Player prize.

TPDF team's Judith Kasaba walked away with the Best Player of the Tournament prize for the women's category.

JMK Youth Park was presented with the Best Disciplined Team honour, and the team's player, Adam Said, won the Best Upcoming Player prize.

Black Mambaz Blue squad's Hafidh Mkuti received the men's category's Best Player of the Tournament honour.

The showdowns' men's category outfits were put in three pools, with Pool A constituting Moshi Khalsa, Ngome and JMK Youth Park.

Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) outfit, Tanga Stars, and Black Mambaz Blue made Pool B, and Pool C had Black Mambaz Red, Arusha Twigas, and Twende.

Mapinduzi hockey tournament, also regarded as the National Hockey Club Championship is held every year under the THA, with the winner garnering a chance to represent the country in regional and continental club tournaments.

It is one of the high-profile domestic hockey showdowns that seek to efficiently promote the sport in the country.

TPC Sugar determined to make the most of K'njaro Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

WHEN one talks about Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon, he/she can never miss mentioning TPC Sugar, currently one of the race's long-time sponsors.

The TPC Sugar firm's sponsorship of the showdown has run for 15 years and the firm has now pledged a permanent allegiance to the international event.

During this year's race which happened almost a fortnight ago, the giant sugar company fielded over 400 participants.

The TPC Sugar Sales and Marketing Manager, Allen Maro, noted their sponsorship for the Kilimanjaro Marathon is now permanent as this is an event that has motivated employees to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"We have been sponsoring this prestigious event for 15 years in a row now and it has been a great motivation to our staff and their families in general as the event continues to grow year after year," he disclosed.

On preparations for the Marathon, he pointed out they had been training



TPC Sugar Sales and Marketing Manager, Allen Maro.

since November 2023, adding a special trainer was deployed to conduct the training hence preparing the participants, especially those that took part in the corporate challenge, well.

He went on to say that the marathon has given them the motivation to organize their fun runs and rides throughout the year.

"TPC has started its own Fun Run and Fun Ride and this involves employees and residents of Kilimanjaro and Arusha who take part in 21km, 10km, and 5km, races and the Fun Ride. All these are used as preparations for the Kilimanjaro International Marathon," he disclosed.

He further pointed out that the 2024 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon

helped TPC showcase the firm's corporate and product brands.

During this year's event, Maro said TPC Sugar used the opportunity to introduce to the market new packs of 2kgs, 450g, and 200g in addition to the 1kg that many consumers are familiar with.

Still on this year's plans, he noted the company has plans to launch the construction of an ethanol plant by using molasses which will be used to produce spirits, alternative energy in homes, and also as fertilizer.

According to the Sales and Marketing Manager, the new plant will create more employment and ensure the government saves on the foreign currency that is used to import

ethanol into the country.

"We are looking forward to this project that will also greatly benefit area residents," he stated.

There is more good news as the official pointed out that TPC Sugar also produces its power through bagasse and the extra megawatts are sold to the national grid.

He congratulated all other sponsors led by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor) and Tigo -21km Half Marathon, Gee Soseji - 5 km Fun.

The official lauded the race's water table sponsors- Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, CRDB Bank, Simba Cement, and TPC Sugar.

The Sales and Marketing Manager moreover expressed his appreciation to Kilimanjaro Marathon's official partners including Garda World, CMC Automobiles, Sal Salinero Hotel, and suppliers - Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

Maro disclosed that it would not have been easy for the organizers to host the race without committed sponsors.

This year's event was held at the Moshi Cooperatives University ground on February 25 from 6.30 am and brought together over 11,000 participants from more than 55 countries

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon is organized by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Gamondi prepares Yanga for CAF Champions League quarterfinals

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YANGA's head coach Miguel Angel Gamondi is strategically planning for the upcoming quarterfinals of this season's CAF Champions League.

With so far three matches remaining before the crucial encounters, Gamondi believes his team will be adequately prepared for the challenge ahead.

Yanga will tomorrow afternoon eagerly anticipate learning their opponent for the quarterfinals as the continental showdown's draw takes place in Egypt at 9:00 pm East African time.

Petro de Luanda of Angola, Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, and ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast are the potential adversaries.

Meanwhile, Yanga's compatriots Simba SC face a similar array of formidable opponents, including Al Ahly of Egypt, Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), or Petro de Luanda of Angola.

As Gamondi's team gears up for NBC Premier League fixtures, the Argentine emphasized the

significance of these matches in honing his players' readiness for the continental showdown.

"We have returned to the league matches, we will use these fixtures to prepare for the quarterfinal matches," Gamondi remarked.

He underscored the importance of the top-flight encounters in fortifying the team's strength and readiness.

Speaking about the unique challenges posed by international games, Gamondi acknowledges the fixtures' heightened difficulty and tactical demands.

However, he reassured his commitment to ensuring his players are well-equipped to navigate the challenges successfully.

"The Group Stage matches were difficult and there was a lot of competition, but my players have fought at every step and managed to reach the quarterfinals, thereby exceeding our goals," he affirmed.

In light of the impending quarterfinals, Gamondi implored his players to approach the NBC

Premier League matches with the same intensity and focus the same way they would in the CAF Champions League.

He cautioned against underestimating any opponent, emphasizing the importance of securing points in every match.

"There is a tendency by some players to underrate some games, they don't work hard in the fixtures thinking they are not competitive, this is not right," Gamondi remarked.

The Argentine highlighted the need for consistency and determination across all competitions. Yanga's upcoming fixtures include a home match against Ifeju SC at the Azam Complex Stadium at Chamazi in Dar es Salaam today, followed by an away fixture against Geita Gold FC at the stadium on March 14.

Three days later, Yanga will face Azam FC at the same venue. Despite the challenging schedule, Gamondi remained focused on maximizing his team's performance in both domestic and continental competitions.

Following the conclusion

of their league commitments, Yanga will have a brief respite before intensifying their preparations for the CAF Champions League quarterfinal clashes.

The continental tournament's fixtures, scheduled to take place from March 29-31, represent a pivotal moment for the Jangwani Street club as they strive for continental glory.

Yanga has a reputation for making history in CAF inter-club tournaments, and this instance is no exception.

Their track record of garnering remarkable achievements continues to grow, showcasing their prowess on the continental stage. Once again, they have left their mark in CAF history.

In the lead-up to the crucial CAF Champions League clashes, Gamondi and his team are leaving no stone unturned in their quest for success.

With meticulous planning and unwavering dedication, they aim to overcome any obstacle and emerge victorious in their pursuit of CAF Champions League glory.

Singida Fountain Gate FC set to unveil new head coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



Singida Fountain Gate FC's Information and Communication Head, Hussein Massanza.

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC's officials say that they will introduce the squad's new technical bench tomorrow.

The side recently parted ways with head coach Thabo Senong and his coaching staff after having a series of awful results in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League.

Senong and his staff were on Wednesday informed by the club that their services were no longer required after failing to steer the side to win in the last eight matches, drawing five and conceding five losses.

The South African coach initially arrived at Singida Fountain Gate FC as an assistant to German coach Ernst Middendorp.

Middendorp then parted ways with

Singida Fountain Gate FC and moved to South Africa DStv Premiership outfit, Cape Town Spurs.

After the German mentor had a fallout with Singida Fountain Gate FC, Senong remained to work with Brazilian gaffer, Ricardo Ferreira, after the latter took over.

The now Mwanza-based club announced on Wednesday via various platforms that it had officially terminated the contract it had with Senong, also the former Bafana Bafana assistant coach.

"Singida Fountain Gate FC has reached a mutual agreement to part ways with head coach, Thabo Senong, along with his entire coaching staff with immediate effect," the club announced in the statement.

The side pointed out: "Both parties

have decided after a thorough evaluation and consultation by the agreement and the common good."

"Following this decision, the club will announce a new technical bench anytime soon."

The team is now under caretaker coach Ngawina Ngawina who will lead the team for one match against Simba SC scheduled for next week.

According to Singida Fountain Gate FC's Information and Communication Head, Hussein Massanza, the squad will appoint a head coach with a massive resume and experience in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

The squad disclosed: "We will reveal our new coach on March 12- a coach who has massive experience with the Mainland Tanzania Premier League, we aim to build back the trust of our fans

and form of our players by appointing a high caliber coach."

"He is a coach that has taught big teams in the country including Simba SC, with his tactical prowess we hope to retain our top positions in the league log," the outfit pointed out.

"We understand the last three coaches struggled in various areas, with the new coach we hope he will restore our sharpness."

It is understood that coach Juma Mgunda is slated to be introduced as the new Singida Fountain Gate FC head coach tomorrow.

Singida Fountain Gate FC, now placed 11th in the league log having amassed 21 points, is set to come up against Simba SC at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

'Dangerous' Bayern have found their 'spark', warns three-goal Kane

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich striker Harry Kane warned Saturday "we can be really dangerous" after scoring his fourth hat-trick of the season in a 8-1 demolition of Mainz.

After Tuesday's 3-0 win over Lazio which ensured progression to the Champions League quarter-finals, Bayern have now notched back-to-back wins for the first time in more than a month.

The run pales in comparison to their poor form in March, where Bayern won just one of five.

"If we play like we did in the past two matches, we can be really dangerous with the quality we have in this team. I hope we can use it as a spark and that's the aim now, to continue for the rest of our games."

Bayern, on a run of 11 straight German titles, sit seven points behind league leaders Bayer Leverkusen, although Xabi Alonso's unbeaten team have a game in hand at home to lowly Wolfsburg on Sunday.

"Obviously it's disappointing that we're not higher in the league, but you've got to give credit to Leverkusen... they're obviously having a special season."

Kane brought his goal tally to 30 from 25 league games this season, equalling the mark set by Uwe Seeler in 1963-64 for the most goals in a debut campaign with a German club.

The England captain admitted he had "mixed feelings" after yet another excellent personal season but one with dwindling hope of finally picking up his first team trophy.

"I came here to score goals and to help the team as much as possible. We all know we want to win trophies -- the Bundesliga, the Champions League."

"Things can turn around really quickly in football. You have highs and lows, but you just have to ride with it and try and have more highs."

The England forward now sits just 11 goals behind Robert Lewandowski's season record of 41 goals, set in 2020-21 for Bayern.

Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel, who will leave the club at the end of the season as a result of the club's poor run in March, backed his striker to break Lewandowski's record.

"I believe he can do everything. He's doing what he's always done - throughout his career. He's a role model, a great personality, a top player. It's a gift to be his coach. He's proving week in week out that it was the right decision to sign him."

AFP

Garnacho gives Man U cause for optimism in Everton win

LONDON

ERIK ten Hag hailed the "huge" contribution of Alejandro Garnacho after the 19-year-old won two penalties in Manchester United's 2-0 win over Everton on Saturday.

Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford converted from the spot to keep United's Champions League hopes for next season alive.

Victory takes Ten Hag's men to within eight points of fourth-placed Aston Villa and three off Tottenham in fifth.

Garnacho scored a goal of the season contender when the sides last met in November with a stunning overhead kick.

The Argentine was again the difference between the sides as it was his quick feet that twice provoked spot-kicks.

"Garnacho is progressing very well and we're very pleased. His contribution today again was huge," said Ten Hag. "When he keeps this attitude he will improve from game-to-game."

Garnacho has been one of few positives for United in a difficult second season for Ten Hag.

Back-to-back defeats to Fulham and Manchester City had dented a charge from the Red Devils towards the top four.

But with Villa and Tottenham facing off on Sunday, Ten Hag remained confident his side can still chase down a place in the Champions League next season.

"We had one bad result against Fulham in this calendar year," added Ten Hag. "We had to put this right and keep the pressure on the teams above us."

"There are many games to play. Now we are back. We will keep pressure on them and see what happens."

Defeat extended Everton's winless run in the Premier League to 11 games and leaves the Toffees still just five points above the relegation zone.

Scoring goals has been Everton's shortfall all season and it was a familiar tale for the Toffees, who had 23 shots on goal without finding the net.

"I've never been here, with all due respect to the squads I've had, and had that many chances and created that many opportunities," said Everton boss Sean Dyche.

"The most important stat, of course, is the final scoreline. We're getting into key areas and we need to work continuously to change it."

James Tarkowski was the first Everton defender lured into a mistimed challenge on Garnacho, 10 minutes in, and Fernandes rolled home his eighth goal of the season.

AFP

Havertz takes Arsenal top of Premier League, Manchester Utd beat Everton

LONDON

ARSENAL needed Kai Havertz's late winner to go top of the Premier League by beating Brentford 2-1 on Saturday as Manchester United kept alive their faint hopes of finishing in the top four with a 2-0 win over Everton.

Liverpool's blockbuster clash against Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday gave the Gunners the chance to edge ahead in the title race.

An eighth consecutive Premier League win took Mikel Arteta's men one point ahead of Liverpool and two clear of defending champions City.

But they had to overcome a glaring error from Aaron Ramsdale on his return to the Arsenal goal.

All seemed to be going to plan for the home side when Declan Rice continued his fine goalscoring form by heading in Ben White's cross on 19 minutes.

However, there was a sting in the tale in a moment Ramsdale will want to forget in first-half stoppage time.

The England international was making just his second Premier League start since September as the on-loan David Raya was ineligible to feature against his parent club.

Ramsdale's lack of match sharpness may have been a factor as he dallied on the ball as his attempted clearance ricocheted off Yoane Wissa into the net.

The Arsenal goalkeeper bounced back after the break to make vital saves from Ivan Toney's spectacular effort and Nathan Collins' header.

Havertz then bulletted home a header from another White cross four minutes from time.

"Massive win for us. These points were so important for us and you could see that in the second half," said Havertz. "We didn't play our best in the first half but it's even better to win it this way."

Garnacho spark for Man Utd - Everton were made to pay for conceding two first-half penalties as Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford scored from the spot.

Erik ten Hag's team are now eight points adrift of fourth-placed Aston Villa and three behind Tottenham in fifth, who face each other on Sunday, in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League.

"We need wins," said Ten Hag. "We're still in the hunt but it depends on them."

"We have to win our games but we know, in the Premier League, everyone is killing everyone."

Everton sit four points above the relegation zone as their winless league run extended to 11 games.

Alejandro Garnacho was the difference maker at Old Trafford as his quick feet twice provoked spot-kicks.

James Tarkowski was the first Everton defender lured into a mistimed challenge on Garnacho after 10 minutes and Fernandes rolled home his eighth goal of the season.

Garnacho danced through a series of challenges in the 36th minute before he was chopped down by Ben Godfrey.

Fernandes passed over penalty duties to Rashford and Jordan Pickford was unable to deny the forward, who fired home his fifth goal in nine league games.

Luton earn priceless point - Third bottom Luton rescued a priceless 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace thanks to Cauley Woodrow's last-gasp leveller.

Oliver Glasner's side struck in the 11th minute when Daniel Munoz teed up Jean-Philippe Mateta to flick home.

But Woodrow levelled from Andros Townsend's cross six minutes into stoppage-time to leave Luton three points from safety.

Sheffield United moved off the bottom of the table but blew a two-goal lead as Bournemouth hit back to rescue a 2-2 draw at the Vitality Stadium.

Bournemouth's Dominic Solanke missed a 14th minute penalty as the striker slipped in his run-up and ballooned the spot-kick over the bar.

Gustavo Hamer and Jack Robinson struck to put the Blades into a shock lead.

But Dango Ouattara got one back with a header from a 74th minute corner and Bournemouth equalised in stoppage-time when Enes Unal stabbed home to claim his first goal of the club.

Wolves improved their prospects of qualifying for Europe next season with a 2-1 win against Fulham at Molineux to climb up to eighth.

AFP



Aaron Ramsdale (right) was at fault for Brentford's equalizer. A agencies

Arsenal now find two unlikely heroes on dizzying night in Premier League title race

By Jamie Braidwood

Aaron Ramsdale was on his knees at one end. Kai Havertz was wheeling away at the other, as the Emirates erupted into bedlam and melted in the dizzying sense of a title race that is hurtling towards its end-of-season throes.

Arsenal found two unlikely heroes against Brentford, on the night and in their season, just as the pressure of the title race looked to have reached Mikel Arteta's side when they had the chance to go top.

Instead, after Havertz's late winner, it's eight Premier League wins in a row. Arteta had a face like thunder at half-time but, by the end, he was kissing his goalkeeper in the middle of the pitch.

On such moments do title races turn and Ramsdale ensured he provided his own with a remarkable second-half redemption arc.

Brought in from the cold with David Raya unable to face his parent club, Ramsdale looked to have cost Arsenal when he was caught by Yoane Wissa. But from calamity, Ramsdale rescued Arsenal with two excellent stops in a breathless, frantic second half, including a spectacular save to deny what would have been a stunning, improvised long-range strike from Ivan Toney.

For Ramsdale, it may have been his last appearance of the season, but if Arsenal go on to lift the title, he will know he has played his part.

"Errors are part of football, it's how you react from it," Arteta said.

Even Arteta did not expect such an impact, particularly after such an uncertain start. "If you told me in the first two, three months that the whole stadium was singing his name, I wouldn't believe it," Arteta said. But Havertz has shown his value. "It's impossible not to love him," Arteta added.

It was crucial that Havertz found that winner, his header planted past Mark Flekken from Ben White's cross. There was a sense of desperation creeping into Arsenal's play and it would have been

a waste had they failed to take the opportunity to put pressure on Liverpool and City ahead of their title rivals meeting at Anfield tomorrow.

The standards that both Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola have set in previous title races have made clear that you cannot afford to drop points in such fixtures.

The Emirates knew it and the positivity of their recent run would have vanished had Brentford managed to hang on to a point. Arsenal were chasing the game, each attacking wave becoming a bit more frantic and hurried. All the while, the frustration and whistles from the Arsenal fans grew at what they perceived to be time-wasting tactics from Thomas Frank's side.

But who could blame them? Someone had to try and slow Arsenal down. Brentford refused to be as allowing as Sheffield United, Burnley, West Ham and Newcastle, all swept aside by Arsenal with 21

goals scored. Brentford were without a first-choice defence but were minutes away from an unlikely result.

Frank let out a huge sigh. "It's so tough on the players," he began. "It was almost a defensive masterclass." He was further aggrieved after discovering that Havertz, already on a yellow card after catching Nathan Collins in the first half, had escaped another following a "clear, clear dive" - in Frank's words - midway through the second half. For Brentford, the threat of relegation won't go away and they are now winless in five.

They almost hung on. Although Gabriel's header was cleared off the line and Declan Rice hit the top of the upright with an almost perfect curling shot from 25 yards, Brentford prevented Arsenal from creating chances in the second half. The injured Gabriel Martinelli appeared to be a costly absence for Arsenal. So, it seemed, was Raya.

It was looking set to be a nightmare return for Ramsdale. Deposed by Raya, Ramsdale had not appeared in the Premier League since the return fixture at Brentford in November. With Arsenal out of the FA Cup, he had not played at all since they were knocked out in the third round by Liverpool two months ago.

The time he spent on the ball suggested he was not up to speed. Ramsdale took an age to clear and Wissa caught him, sliding in close to the goalline. It rebounded horribly for Ramsdale, back over his shoulder and in off the post, but wonderfully for Brentford, who had a lifeline and a way back into the game after Rice's excellent header opened the scoring.

But Ramsdale would then keep Arsenal in it, and wonderfully so. Toney was the scourge of Arsenal at the Emirates last season and, after being linked with a move to the Gunners in January, almost returned

to haunt them again. An inspired half-volley off his left foot, from all of 40 yards, looked to be looping in before Ramsdale scrambled back to claw it wide of the post. Ramsdale settled and produced another excellent save to deny a back-post header from Collins.

It steadied Arsenal, as Ramsdale grew in confidence and began to give some back to the Brentford fans behind his goal. As time ran out, captain Martin Odegaard continued to play with clarity, his touch a level above anyone else on the pitch, and he played in White. While Arteta had turned to Gabriel Jesus from the bench, he found his winner in Havertz, Arsenal's answer to their missing No 9. It sparked those celebrations at both ends, with Havertz and Ramsdale, yet Arsenal were united. Now for one night at least, they are leading the title race again.

THE INDEPENDENT

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Havertz takes Arsenal top of Premier League, Man Utd beat Everton

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kall Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Yanga coach lauds players' consistency in NBC PL title race

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach Miguel Gamondi has lauded his players' consistency as key to winning the NBC Premier League title after showcasing a stellar second-half performance in a 3-1 win against Namungo FC at Majaliwa Stadium, Ruangwa, Lindi.

The Jangwani Street club was without five key players ahead of the match- with changes in goal as Metacha Mnata started in place of Djigui Diarra. Midfielders Khalid Aucho and Pacome Zouzoua, fullback Joyce Lomalisa, and attacker Kennedy Musonda also missed the match.

Gamondi's side could not make the most of various opportunities in the first half as both teams went goalless in the first half before second-half goals propelled Yanga to the top of the Premier League.

The Argentine coach said he was not pleased with his side's lack of attitude in the first half but lauded the consistency and accuracy of his players in the second half as key to winning the league.

"I want to congratulate the boys. We came into this match without five good players, we didn't play well in the first half, we started on fire in the second half, we scored three goals... we could have scored more as we created many and enough chances."

"We are consistent- which is the most important aspect when you want to win the league and, with that, I am satisfied with the performance of my players," the Argentine noted.

Gamondi said: "Although I did not like the attitude in various areas and missed many chances, we need to win more second balls which is something that we corrected in the second half."

The former CR Belouizdad head coach stated that winning the NBC Premier League title is progress that needs to be adapted after every match while benefiting from other Simba SC and Azam FC results.

"Winning the Premier League title needs to be watched closely match by match especially in games like this, while we benefit from results that are negative from our opponents," Gamondi noted.

Yanga extended their lead in the NBC premier league log with 46 points from 17 games, 10 points ahead of city rivals Simba SC.

Namungo FC's assistant coach, Shadrack Nsajigwa said his side's failure to cope with Yanga's second-half quick attacks led to their team losing the match after conceding early in the second half.

The gaffer noted: "We had a very good game plan in the first half, we contained Yanga in all areas, what was missing was chances we missed in the first half, Yanga did not create many chances in the first half."

"Conceding early into the second half distorted our plans, we failed to return mentally to the game, leading to conceding many goals," Nsajigwa revealed.

Namungo FC is slated to honour the club's next game on March 15, locking horns with Singida Fountain Gate FC in Mwanza.

Gamondi calls for Yanga fans' support, vows to down Ihefu SC in PL tie



Yanga's head coach, Miguel Angel Gamondi.

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE anticipation is palpable as Young Africans SC gears up to take on Ihefu SC in a crucial NBC Premier League match in Dar es Salaam today.

Scheduled to kick off at 6:00 pm East African time, the game will take place at the Azam Complex Stadium, promising an intense showdown between the two teams.

Ahead of today's match, Young Africans SC head coach, Miguel Gamondi, expressed dissatisfaction with their previous performance.

The Argentine said: "I was not very happy with how we played against Ihefu SC. I also acknowledge the fans' discontent, so I urge them to turn out in large numbers today."

"The players understand the importance of their support; they are our 12th player. We aim to deliver an entertaining game and secure three crucial points," the gaffer noted.

The Argentinian coach emphasized the significance of

each match, asserting: "Every game holds importance for us, and we strive to win. We have put in the necessary work to bring joy to our supporters."

Addressing the upcoming opponent, Ihefu SC, as the only team to have secured a win against them this season, Gamondi conveyed determination.

The gaffer noted: "We recognize that Ihefu inflicted the only defeat on us this season. Today presents an opportunity for redemption. The players and the coaching staff are confident of securing three points."

Gamondi's words reflect the team's determination to rectify past mistakes and their unwavering belief in securing victory against Ihefu SC in the upcoming match.

For Young Africans SC, this match holds significant weight as they aim to erase the bitter memory of their previous encounter with Ihefu SC.

The last meeting between the two sides- which took place at the Highland Estates Stadium, Mbeya on October 4, 2023- ended in disappointment for Yanga,

marking their sole defeat in the league as Ihefu SC cruised to a 2-1 victory.

Despite this setback, Yanga has been on an impressive streak lately, showcasing formidable form in their recent performances.

The team has remained unbeaten in their last five games, demonstrating resilience and determination on the field.

Currently positioned at the top of the NBC Premier League table, Yanga has played a total of 17 games, amassing 46 points.

Their dominance is evident in their record, having secured victory in 15 matches, with one draw and only one loss, which came against Ihefu SC.

A key factor in Young Africans' success has been their potent attacking line, bolstered by their attacking midfielder Stephane Azi Ki.

With Ki netting an impressive 10 goals thus far, Yanga has managed to tally a total of 42 goals while conceding a mere nine, boasting the best defensive record in the league.

As the team takes to the pitch today, fans eagerly await to see if Yanga can maintain their winning momentum and secure a crucial victory over Ihefu SC, reaffirming their status as strong contenders for the NBC Premier League title.

In the realm of Ihefu SC, the situation appears relatively favorable. Over their past five matches, they

have garnered 10 points, boasting three wins, one draw, and a lone loss.

This recent form suggests a level of consistency and potential for success within the team.

Despite their commendable performances, Ihefu SC currently occupies the eighth position in the NBC Premier League standings.

With 23 points accumulated from 19 games, their season has been marked by six victories, five draws, and eight defeats.

While they have demonstrated moments of brilliance, there is still room for improvement to climb higher in the league table.

The team's aspirations remain focused on achieving a favorable outcome in their upcoming fixture.

Positioned just shy of the top four- with Coastal Union holding the fourth spot with 27 points- Ihefu SC trails closely behind with 23 points.

A mere four-point difference underscores the significance of securing a victory in the impending match.

For Ihefu SC, claiming three points in this crucial encounter holds the potential to drastically alter their league standing, edging them closer to their ambition of breaking into the better spot in the NBC Premier League.

The stakes are high, and the team is undoubtedly eager to seize this opportunity and propel themselves towards greater success.

Premier League Board suspends Jamhuri Stadium

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has announced the suspension of the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro for hosting NBC Premier League matches.

This decision comes after encountering persistent shortcomings in the stadium's infrastructure, particularly those related to facilities that support the broadcasting of television commercials.

The suspension stems from concerns raised by the league's main television sponsor, Azam Media Limited.

Despite ongoing efforts to improve the stadium's infrastructure, Azam Media has continued to face challenges in preparing and launching commercials for NBC Premier League games.

Simba SC, the club that previously used Jamhuri Stadium for its home games, actively participated in the discussions leading to this decision.

Consequently, the club will relocate its home matches to the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

However, the Jamhuri Stadium will continue to host games for other competitions under the Tanzania Football Federation, including the NBC Championship League and the First League, which are managed by the TPLB.

Meanwhile, Simba SC clinched a



Morogoro's Jamhuri Stadium. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM TV

hard-fought 2-1 victory over Coastal Union at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on Saturday evening.

This win propelled them to 39 points from 17 matches, trailing the league leaders, Young Africans, by seven points.

The scoring spectacle commenced with Ivorian striker Freddy Kouablan breaking the deadlock in the 11th minute, capitalizing on Clatous Chama's well-delivered corner.

Thirteen minutes later, the hosts retaliated emphatically, leveling the score with a remarkable dropping ball shot by Lucas Kikoti that found its way into the back of Simba SC's net.

With the game finely poised at 1-1, both teams intensified their efforts, but Simba SC ultimately seized the initiative in the 72nd minute through substitute Essomba Onana's well-taken goal.

This victory marks a positive rebound for the Msimbazi Street giants, who had suffered a disappointing 2-1 defeat against Tanzania Prisons in their previous encounter.

Despite the setback, the Tanga-based outfit remains fourth in the league standings, accumulating 27 points after 20 league fixtures.

The decision to suspend the use of Jamhuri Stadium has drawn attention to the broader issue of stadium infrastructure and its impact on broadcasting and the overall fan experience.

It underscores the importance of maintaining and upgrading sports facilities to meet the demands of modern broadcasting standards and to enhance the quality of the spectator experience.

In light of this, stakeholders, including club owners, sponsors, and governing bodies, must work together to

address infrastructure challenges and ensure that stadiums meet the necessary standards for hosting professional sports events.

This may involve investing in renovations, upgrades, or even the construction of new facilities to provide players, fans, and broadcasters with a first-class experience.

Furthermore, the relocation of Simba SC's home matches to the Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam presents opportunities for the club, since the move may offer improved facilities and amenities for players and fans.

Simba SC, as one of the leading clubs in Tanzania football, must navigate these challenges carefully and ensure that the transition to their new home venue is smooth and successful.

This may involve effective communication with fans, logistical planning for travel and accommodation, and ongoing efforts to maintain strong community ties.

Looking ahead, the TPLB and other stakeholders must continue to prioritize the development and maintenance of sports infrastructure to support the growth of football in the country.

This includes not only stadiums but also training facilities, youth academies, and grassroots programs to nurture the next generation of talent.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

SAND IS CALLED SAND BECAUSE...

IT IS BETWEEN THE SEA AND LAND

