



CSOS LAUD GOVT FOR SUPPORTING NGOS PAGE 3



DPW STARTS OPERATIONS AT DAR PORT PAGE 4



MZRH STAGES FOUR-DAY FREE SCREENING, TREATMENT PAGE 6

Hundreds left homeless after seven-hour rain drubs Arumeru

He said other goods that were destroyed included a load of iron bars, iron nails and other construction materials apart from refrigerators and shelves

By Guardian Reporters, Arusha

HEAVY rains that pounded for seven hours in Arumeru District, Arusha Region have caused floods that rendered hundreds of people homeless.

During the rains, a one-year old infant was thrown on the rooftop to rescue him.

Apart from destruction of houses, some residents also had their properties such as vehicles, mattresses, home utensils and farms washed by the floods.

Marko Ng'umbi, the acting Arumeru district commissioner, said a total of 175 households were washed away or severely damaged by the floods.

Businesses in the area were brought to a standstill with many shops remaining closed while some traders lost their goods, crops or farm inputs in various shops and stores.

Some bridges in Kisongo area in Mateves

ward were flooded with stones rolling off the nearby Mt Meru, with cars parked on roads being washed away in the flooding

The DC demanded that the national roads agency (Tanroads) commence the repair of roads and bridges plus cleaning up culverts blocked by dirt, despite that it is possible many such areas are overseen by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Authority (TARURA)

Ojung'u Salekwa, the district council chairman, said that the floods which carried a lot of logs and stones arose from heavy rains starting mid-afternoon on Wednesday, noting that the rescued child was rushed to hospital and his situation remained critical.

The severity of the floods had to do with building houses on the path of rainwater or seasonal streams, while households habitually throw wastes in ditches, he said.

Many people have been running to buy land

TURN TO PAGE 2

RAIN-INDUCED DEVASTATION



An aerial view of a site at Kisongo captured only hours after the small town in Arumeru District was pounded by a downpour last night, with raging floodwaters wreaking havoc on buildings and various other structures as well as motor vehicles and motorcycles (insets). Photos: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

SPORTS Page 20



Gamondi praises Yanga's performance against Dodoma Jiji FC

Page 19



Barcelona beat PSG in thriller to seize edge in Champions League tie

HYENA ATTACK: Three children dead, their parents injured

“But it has been hard to evict four people who are still living near the dangerous areas claiming that is their inherited land”

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FOUR people including three family members died and several others injured in separate incidents of wildlife attacks in Chunya and Mbarali districts in Mbeya Region.

SACP Abdi Issango, the regional police commander, said in a briefing that the deaths arose from incidents involving attacks by a hyena, lion and elephant. In the first incident at Kambikatoto village in Chunya District, a hyena rammed into the house attacking family members where

three children died and their parents injured.

The hyena, storming out of Rungwa Game Reserve, raided the house that lacked locked door, killing Samweli (5), Kasunzu (3) and Ngasa (1), while their father Shigela Ngasa (45) and mother Limi Masanja (38) were injured battling the hyena to rescue the children.

The two parents were admitted at St. Gaspar referral hospital in nearby Manyoni District, Singida Region where they were rushed after being rescued.

“It was easy for the hyena to enter into the house as it was open and is located near the Rungwa Game Reserve,” the RPC noted, elaborating that the following day, the hyena was on its way to the village when it was spotted and shot dead by wildlife officers.

In another incident, a 14-year child died

TURN TO PAGE 2

‘Kili ecosystem is safe for elephants’

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Hunting Operators Association (TAHOA) yesterday dismissed claims by a Kenyan governor that Kenyan elephants were being hunted in northern Tanzania.

TAHOA chairman Michel Mantheakis said conservation efforts by the government in collaboration with stakeholders, including TAHOA members, have resulted in the increased population of elephants and more intermingling of elephant herds in the Kilimanjaro-Amboseli ecosystem.

Joseph ole Lenku, the Kajiado county governor, said in a viral statement last week that Tanzania needs to restrict trophy hunters not to go into national park heartlands, as this will also protect Kenyan elephants, after three of them were

reportedly shot across the border in recent months.

He said that it is not right to license trophy hunting near the border with Kenya, whereas the TAHOA chairman said he finds it disappointing that the country governor did not inquire on the issue, and instead passed criticism on the policy of a neighbouring country.

The governor ought to have first tried to understand the situation in Tanzania and demonstrate some sympathy for members of neighbouring communities who often suffer losses of life and property owing to a rising elephant population, he said.

He similarly underlined that the elephant habitat in Amboseli National Park on the other side of the border has been depleted, due to increased elephant numbers beyond its carrying capacity.

Thus the starving elephants cross over to the Kilimanjaro National Park and surrounding hunting concessions, he stated, asserting that this causes further stress on the environment.

There is frequent loss of life in the local communities, he reiterated, telling the governor that Kenya should have done a better job to avoid spill over owing to shortage of habitat.

It either manages the population of elephants or provides adequate habitat for the elephants not to overshoot the carrying capacity and compelling movement into neighbouring rangelands, he said.

“It’s unacceptable that Amboseli National Park in Kenya is dependent on habitats this side of the border for anti-poaching efforts,” he stated, noting that local communities suffer loss of life and

TURN TO PAGE 2

UK ups EA flowers in export tariffs lift

By Guardian Reporter

BRITAIN has temporarily removed export tariffs for cut flowers to streamline trade relationships between East Africa and the UK.

John Humphrey, the UK trade commissioner for Africa, said in a statement yesterday that the suspension of eight per cent duty for cut flowers will be a big win for major flower-growing regions in Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, while it also applies across the world.

Growers can now export an unlimited quantity of flowers at a zero tariff even if the produce is transited via a third country, from April 11 to June 30, 2026.

“The UK’s relationship with East Africa is rooted in mutually beneficial trade. This additional flower power will allow trade to bloom. We go far when we go together... or in this case, we grow far when we grow together, further reinforcing the UK’s commitment to the expansion of trade in East Africa,” he stated.

In 2023, the value of trade in cut flowers to the UK from Ethiopia was valued at £12.6m, Rwanda at £727,000 while Tanzania exported £839,000 worth of flowers to the UK, along with £1.1m exports from Uganda.

Ethiopia is the second largest cut flower producer in Africa, making up 23 per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa exports.

In 2022 Kenya was ranked fourth biggest exporter of cut-flowers in the world, with a six per cent share of global cut-flower exports, the statement added.



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Hundreds left homeless after seven-hour rain drubs Arumeru

FROM PAGE 1

in dangerous or flood prone areas as they are cheap, but they forget that doing so blocks a number of important infrastructure such as occasional streams when it rains, he said, hinting that the council will now start to encourage residents to move from the areas voluntarily.

Godson Loning'o, the Kisongo ward councillor, said the floods have left a huge loss at the area with countless properties destroyed, while Engorora village chairman, Justine Joel noted that the floods have swept away his Toyota IST before his eyes.

At that time he was driving, and the car suddenly stopped running, the doors failing to open, so those inside used windows to get out.

Wilson Pelo, a businessman, had just off loaded two trucks carrying cement but rushing water charged into his two warehouses and de-

stroyed 700 bags of cement worth more than 10m/-.

He said other goods that were destroyed included a load of iron bars, iron nails and other construction materials apart from refrigerators and shelves.

Lydia Molle, a resident of Ngorbob, explained how she and her one and half year-old child were saved by a Good Samaritan who helped her climb a wall and threw the child at the rooftop and the infant stayed there until the rain stopped.

Four days ago, two people from the same family, residents of Ilkirevi village, Olturoto ward in Arumeru district lost their lives as their house collapsed at midnight due to heavy rains.

The deceased are Loriv Noah and his daughter Glory, with the child's mother surviving after a wall collapsed on her.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko has an audience with CCM cadre and one-time regional commissioner Stephen Mashishanga (R), whom he paid a courtesy call at his residence in Morogoro municipality yesterday. Photo: DPMO

Restriction of liquor import unconstitutional, High Court rules

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar High Court has ruled that Liquor Act No. 9 of 2020 which restricts importation of alcohol to only three companies is against the isles' constitution of 1984.

In a judgement of a constitutional case filed by Quality Meats and Beverage (QMB) supplies Ltd in 2023, Judge George Kazi ruled recently that section 33(l) of the Liquor Act is against the constitution of Zanzibar.

The law which restricts more than three companies to import alcohol in Zanzibar was also referred to by the court as against the Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and the Fair Competition Act which gives freedom to conduct business as enacted by the House of Representatives.

The ruling which was given on April 4 said the section violates article 12, 13, 21 and 22 of the Zanzibar Constitution of 1984.

"The court hereby rules that the decision to deny importation licenses to the complaining company was illegal," judge Kazi said in his ruling.

The court also directed the registrar of the High Court to hand over to the plaintiff authorisation for sale of the containers brought to the court area by the court auction unit, and all the containers that had not been sold and that were being held be returned.

In addition, the court told the appellant to pay a license fee to the Liquor Board for the importation of alcohol for the year 2022 when the consignment was imported.

This was based on the plaintiff (Quality Meats and Beverage-QMB supplies LTD) filing a complaint in the High Court against the attorney general of Zanzibar (the first defendant) and the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (the second defendant) after being denied a license to do business of importing and distributing alcohol in Zanzibar.

In that case, the company asked the court to hear and make a declaration that: some articles in the liquor law are against the Constitution of Zanzibar and hindered commercial competition and protection of consumers.

The plaintiff also asked the High Court of Zanzibar to be instructed that those affected and suffering

losses from the implementation of the liquor law, should be free to do their business pending the revision of the liquor law so that it is friendly and does not create any obstacle in the equal competition of the business.

The plaintiff (Quality Meats and Beverage-supplies LTD (QMB), presented 13 reasons to oppose the liquor law of 2020 and some of its elements and that it is against the constitution of Zanzibar which is given freedom to do business.

Speaking about the ruling, former Kikwajuni legislator Parmuk Singh Hoogan, said that the decisions of the court should be respected by government authorities to protect the constitution of Zanzibar.

"The court's decision will help increase the scope of tax collection and set a level playing field as the law to protect the consumer emphasizes. The government should do its work of tax collection," said Singh.

The government of Zanzibar through the liquor board amended the liquor law in 2020 and stipulated that only three companies are allowed to import alcohol in Zanzibar.

When the law started to be implemented, the complainant had already imported alcohol which was seized at the port in Zanzibar and some of it auctioned after failing to produce a license.

The move by Zanzibar liquor board to deny other companies licenses to import drinks caused a shortage of liquor in Zanzibar since January this year and affected the tourism sector.

The companies that were denied licenses despite having more than 30 years of experience in the business are One Stop Center, Scoch and ZMMI Company. These were the biggest importers of alcohol in Zanzibar and paid monthly taxes of 3.3bn/-.



The court hereby rules that the decision to deny importation licenses to the complaining company was illegal

FROM PAGE 1

after being attacked by an elephant in Mbarali District, with Col. Denis Mwila, the district commissioner, saying that in recent weeks, elephants and lions have attacked Igava and Mwanavala wards Settlements set up near wildlife cor-

ridors were more affected, as an elephant from the Ruaha National Park trampled the young boy to death.

Some people have started to invade wildlife corridors used by elephants for years as passageways to water or vegetation, touching off wildlife attack incidents.

People have invaded such areas and engage in farming, attracting elephants who spot the farms and the crops, he stated, explaining that district authorities were removing such invaders.

"But it has been hard to evict four people who are still living near the dangerous areas claim-

ing that is their inherited land," he stated.

Efforts to ensure that people vacated wildlife corridors are ongoing, with the help of a state advocate from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism sent to help district authorities in eviction procedures, he added.



Tanenco's manager for Mlele District in Katavi Region, Zebron Malima (L), has an on-site word yesterday with Geophrey Pinda, who doubles as Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister and legislator for Kavuu constituency (also in Katavi Region). The latter was on an inspection tour of progress in the installation of concrete electricity poles for use in the implementation of the Inyonga-to-Majimoto project in Mpimbe Council, Mlele District. Photo: Lands ministry

'Kili ecosystem is safe for elephants'

FROM PAGE 1

property without sharing accrued financial benefits.

In that case the governor had nowhere to stand to make demands on the need to impose restrictions on Tanzania's trophy hunting situation, he emphasised.

"The bulk of wildlife resources in Tanzania are found outside national parks and conservation of these resources is dependent on sustainable utilization and rev-

enue generated through our regulated and legal tourist hunting industry," he explained.

"If Kenya wants to claim these are their elephants we are hunting then they need to do a better job providing adequate habitat and managing the population of elephants better, or build a fence and stop them from crossing," he elaborated.

Instead of raising complaints over social media, the Kenyan official should have raised his

concerns with the government through official channels, he asserted, pointing out that the government had not responded to the claims because they were not submitted to relevant authorities.

Raising serious issues on social media platforms was inappropriate, he said, affirming that licensed hunting of elephants in northern Tanzania has greatly reduced community rage.

"It has discouraged villagers from taking the law into their own

hands and performing revenge killing of elephants as is so commonly done in Kenya but not in Tanzania, despite elephants raiding local crops on a daily basis.

They have killed 13 people in a small part of Longido district in the last six years and numerous incidents go unreported, he said, while efforts to seek comments from the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) conservation commissioner proved futile yesterday.



Muheza district commissioner Zainabu Abdallah (C) pictured in Makole ward yesterday planting a seedling to launch a tree planting campaign involving Potwe and Kwabastola secondary schools. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

NGOs in Dodoma laud sustainability strategy

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SOME Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Dodoma Region have commended the government for formulating the National Strategy for NGOs Sustainability (NSNS).

They say that the recently introduced document is likely to help NGOs in the country to find different ways of funding and not just rely on single source, namely donors.

The NSNS 2022/2023 - 2026/2027 attempts to put in place an enabling environment for NGOs to attain improved institutional capacity for their effective operations and strong and diversified financial base for lasting impact.

Speaking during a capacity building training organized by the Non-Governmental Organization Network in Dodoma (NGONEDO) in collaboration with the Foundation for Civil Society Organizations (FCS), leaders of the organizations said it is important to understand the government's guidelines.

NGONEDO coordinator Edward Mbogo urged fellow leaders to try and go through the document and understand the government's intention to empower NGOs in the country.

He said some leaders of NGOs do not understand the requirements and compliance on different areas like taxes and others.

Speaking about the meeting, Mbogo said representatives of over 50 NGOs attended the capacity building meeting for empowerment on various issues.

"This is one of the meetings in series aimed at helping regional NGOs understand various issues regarding their activities" he said, adding that they also use the platform to share experiences.

Jaquiline Mmari from Tanzania Mentors Action said that the five-year strategic plan is important in setting direction for the

development of NGOs in Tanzania. She thanked the organizers of the training for enabling them to go through the guidelines for more understanding on how to lead their organizations.

Charles Komba, senior monitoring and evaluation officer in the registration of NGOs office who took participants through some of the topics, said the document recognizes the broader aspects of NGOs sustainability.

"As in many other parts of the world, the survival of NGOs in Tanzania is becoming a challenge because of the changes in the external funding environment as well as the local operating environment and the capacity of NGOs, especially the small resource-constrained NGOs to adequately respond to these changes," he said.

"Most NGOs in Tanzania remain heavily dependent on external financial resources and any change of priority on the part of funding entities or an external shock presents a big challenge to the sustainability of the local NGOs."



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Adesina, Samia to co-chair Africa summit on clean cooking

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina is next month expected to co-chair the upcoming Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa alongside President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre of Norway and International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol.

An estimated four in five Africans cook their meals over open fires and traditional stoves, using wood, charcoal, animal dung and other polluting fuels. The practice has devastating impacts

on health, gender equality, and the environment, with 600,000 Africans, mainly women and children, dying annually from indoor pollution.

Dr Adesina said: "Access to clean cooking isn't merely an energy issue. It is a fundamental human right, and a promise for a healthier, and more sustainable future. The African Development Bank is committed to tackling this challenge head-on, and I am therefore pleased to co-chair the Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa alongside distinguished global leaders."

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Prime Minister Støre and I are

delighted to welcome President Adesina as a co-chair for the Summit," said Dr Birol.

"The African Development Bank has been involved in early preparations and has been a critical partner for the IEA on the issue of clean cooking. Its support will be an invaluable addition to this major Summit, which aims to deliver strong policy recommendations and additional financial commitments, while cementing clean cooking as a global priority for years to come."

Last year, the IEA and the African Development Bank co-authored a major report on clean cooking, A

Vision for Clean Cooking Access for All. Alongside the African Union and Clean Cooking Alliance, they also launched the Africa Clean Cooking Consortium at the COP28 climate change conference in Dubai.

The IEA estimates that achieving universal clean cooking access around the world by 2030 will improve health and prevent 2.5 million premature deaths annually.

Globally, it will also avoid 1.5 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, create 1.5 million jobs and preserve 225 million hectares of forest each year, an area equivalent to the size of Ireland.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TradeMark Africa (TMA) is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organization that was established in 2010. TMA aims to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations, and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times through improved border efficiency and reduced trade barriers.

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- Consultancy Services on AfCFTA Assessment and Capacity Building and Development of Export Strategy for Seaweed in Zanzibar [PRQ20231180]
- Consultancy Services on Reviewing the National Transport Policy [PRQ20231211]

Tender documents can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkafrica.com/procurement/>.

All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkafrica.com. The closing date for submission is indicated in the respective tender documents.

Interested, qualified, and eligible bidders should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

TMA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.



WAJIBU - INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

JOB VACANCY

Date: 12th APRIL 2024

Introduction:

Wajibu - Institute of Public Accountability was founded in 2015 to foster an environment that supports transparency, accountability and good governance in the management of public funds in the country. Wajibu is a Non-Governmental Organization (with Registration Number 00NGO/R2/00056) registered under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act No.24 of 2002 (as amended in 2019). Wajibu is looking for a competent Resource Mobilization & Communications Manager to head its Resource Mobilization & Communications Department. For more information on how to apply, visit our website www.wajibu.or.tz and find the posted job advert for the position.

KEY INFORMATION:

TITLE:	Resource Mobilization & Communications Manager (1 position)
PROGRAM / DEPARTMENT:	Resource Mobilization & Communications Department
REPORTS TO (Title Only):	Executive Director
SUPERVISES	Public Relations Officer and Partnership & Advisory Officer
DUTY STATION	Dar es Salaam

CONTACT: 0736 666916

Tasaf, PSSN disburse 2.5bn/- to over 50000 households in Arusha

By Guardian correspondent, Arusha

THE government through Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme implemented by Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) spent a total of 2.5bn/- to 59,904 beneficiary households in Arusha Region last year.

The amount has been distributed to households that are in the programme in 577 villages and Mtaas of all seven councils in the region and the amount was transferred in two months of November and December in 2023.

Richard Nkini, TASAF coordinator in Arusha Region disclosed this here yesterday when speaking to journalists on the fund's performance.

"Money allocations are based on the households in the programme for each council." He said.

Nkini said that a total of 551.6m/- was allocated to 13,795 households in Arusha District Council, 174.6m/- to 4,385 households in Arusha City Council and 328.9m/- to 7,761 households in Karatu District Council.

He also said 318m/- was for 7,177 households in Monduli DISTRICT Council, 447.1m/- for 10,111 households

in Ngorongoro District Council, 301.6m/ for 7,769 households in Meru District Council and 388.9m/- distributed to 8,905 households in Longido District Council.

Nkini said that the government's goal is to transfer money to empower needy households socially and economically through various projects implemented by TASAF and a savings project through depository groups, investment groups and credit groups.

"TASAF is a government initiative set to aid poor households in the country through direct money transfer to uplift households living in a dangerous environment and ensure such households properly use the money in accordance with the outlined subsidies on education and health," he said.

"The initiative is part of the government's effort to alleviate poverty and boost social development through a programme to provide funds to beneficiaries to bolster availability of essential services like health and education and improve a household's capacity to sustain itself economically."



Shinyanga regional commissioner Anamringi Macha addresses pupils of Kishapu District's Kiloleli Primary School on Wednesday shortly after CRDB Bank Plc presented to the school 20 desks and a newly built classroom. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu



Canara Bank (Tanzania) Ltd.

(Together we can build a better life)

PUBLICATION OF INTEREST RATES, FEES AND CHARGES

PURSUANT TO REGULATION 11 OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DISCLOSURE REGULATION, 2014 AND REGULATION 40(3)(a) OF THE FINANCIAL CONSUMER

S/N	DESCRIPTION	FEES AND CHARGES	TZS	USD	S/N	DESCRIPTION	FEES AND CHARGES	TZS	USD
1	Monthly Maintenance	SA	2,000.00	2	17	Loan/Advances Related Charges			
		CA	6,000.00	4	i	Processing Charges	Upto 5 Mio -	21,200.00	
2	Non Maintenance of Minimum Balance	SA	1,500.00	2			5Mio to 10 Mio -	169,500.00	
		CA	4,000.00	4			10 Mio to 25mio -	339,000.00	
3	Account Statement Charges	SA-Monthly	-	0			25 mn to 500 mio -	1.28%	
		SA-Interim	1,500.00	1.5			>500mio--* (*minimum 7.5mio)	1.06%	
		CA-Monthly	Free	Free			Upto 5,000 -	\$85.00	
		CA-Interim	1,500.00	1.5			5000 to 10,000 -	\$170.00	
			Free	Free			Upto 20,000 -	\$255.00	
4	Cash withdrawal	SA-Up 25M	Free	Free			20,000 to 500,000 -	1.28%	
		SA-Over 25M	0.26%	0.60%			>500,000--*	1.06%	
		SA-Up to \$2K	Free	0.60%		ii	Documentation Charges	Upto 100 MILLION	FREE
		SA-\$2K-\$5K	0.60%	0.60%			>100 Mio (-Min 300,000)	0.26%	FREE
		SA-Over \$5k	0.60%	0.60%			Upto 50,000	FREE	0.26%
		CA-Up to 25 M	Free	0.26%			>50,000 - (Min 150)	0.26%	0.26%
		CA-Above 25M	0.26%	0.60%		iii	Upfront fee on Term Loan	Upto 5Mio -	21,200.00
		CA-Up to USD 5K	Free	0.60%			5 Mio to 10 Mio -	169,500.00	
		CA-\$ 5K-\$10K	0.60%	0.60%			10Mio 25mio -	381,400.00	
		CA-Above \$ 10K	0.60%	0.60%			25 mn to 500 mio -	1.53%	
5	Cash Deposit Charges	SA-Up to 25M	Free	0.22%			>500mio--* (*minimum 9mio)	1.28%	
		SA-Over 25M	0.22%	0.60%			Upto 20,000 -	\$255.00	
		SA-Up \$5K	Free	0.50%			20,000 to 500,000 -	1.53%	
		SA-Over \$5K	0.50%	10.00%			>500,000--* (*minimum 9000)	1.28%	
		SA-small currency (\$1 to \$20)	Minimum charge \$1	10.00%			iv	Inspection Charges	Upto 100 Mio -
		CA-Up to 50M	Free	0.22%				>100 mio -	21,200.00
		CA-Over 50M	0.22%	0.60%				Upto 50,000	42,400.00
		CA-Up to \$10K	Free	0.50%				>50,000	\$22.00
		CA-Over \$10K	0.50%	10.00%				v	Credit Reference
		CA-small currency (\$1 to \$20)	Minimum charge \$1	10.00%					101,700.00
								vi	Pre-payment penalty
									Calculated as %age pre-paid amount in the case of takeover of liability by other bank/lenders
6	Balance Confirmation Certificate	SA	12,800.00	10		18	Guarantees (Local & International)		
		CA	21,200.00	13			i	Bonds & Guarantees	per quarter (Min TZS 75,000)
		SA	20,000.00	20					1.02%
		CA	50,000.00	50			ii	Bonds & Guarantees with 100 % Cash Margin	per quarter (Min TZS 75,000)
									0.43%
7	Account Closure Charges	SA	Free	Free		19	Letter of Credit		
		CA	Free	Free			19.1	Import Letter of Credit (per qtr of Part thereof)	
8	Activation of Dormant Account	SA	Free	Free			i	Opening commission	commission Min \$ 200
		CA	Free	Free			ii	LC amendment	Commission Min \$50 max 350
9	Stop Payment Charges	SA	Free	Free			iii	Swift charge for LC opening	NA
		CA	35,000.00	28			iv	Swift charge for other message/amendment	NA
10	Cheque Return Charges/Dishonoured Cheque	CA-Inward	50,000.00	50			v	Extensions - Commissions	commission Min \$ 200
		CA-Outward	50,000.00	50			vi	LC cancellation charges	commission Min \$ 200
11	Cheque Clearing Charges	CA-Inward	1,300.00	1			vii	Non payment of Bills on due date	Till Payment
		CA-Outward	Free	Free					NA
12	Ledger folio charges per folio (40lines per	SA	Free	Free			19.2	Export Letters of Credit (per quarter or part thereof)	
	CA	6,000.00	4.00				i	Advising commission	NA
13	Cheque book Charges	CA-50 Leaves	42,000.00	27			ii	Confirmation Commission	Commission Min \$150
							iii	Negotiating bills under LC	Commission Min \$75+courier+interest
14	Mobile Banking						iv	Reimbursement claim paid	Commission Min \$75
							v	Extensions - Collection of Export LC	Commission Min \$200
							vi	LC	Commission Min \$75+courier+interest
							vii	Amendments	NA
							20	Other disclosures	NA
								i	Base or Prime Lending Rate
								ii	Maximum spread
								iii	Penal Interest
								a.	For non compliance on Terms of Saction
									Rate per year over regular rate of interest
								b.	For Overdrawing/Excess drawing due to non payment of interest/installmentcharges
									Rate per year over regular rate of interest
								vi	Deposit Rates
								a.	Current account
								b.	Savings bank deposit
								c.	Fixed Deposits Rates
									Up to TZS 50 M(up to USD 50,000)
									30 -90days
									3.50%
									1.50%
									91-180days
									4.50%
									2.25%
									181-364 days
									5.50%
									3.00%
									1 year and above
									8.00%
									3.75%
									2 Years and Above
									8.00%
									4.00%
									TZS 50 M-100M (USD 50,000 -USD 100,000)
									30 -90days
									4.50%
									2.25%
									91-180days
									5.50%
									2.50%
									181-364 days
									7.00%
									3.50%
									1 year and above
									8.25%
									4.25%
									2 Years and Above
									9.00%
									4.75%
									Above 100 M(Above USD 100,000)
									30 -90days
									5.50%
									2.50%
									91-180days
									6.50%
									3.25%
									181-364 days
									7.50%
									4.00%
									1 year and above
									8.50%
									4.75%
									2 Years and Above
									9.50%
									5.00%

Two people dead, six injured in road crash involving truck, bus

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TWO people died yesterday morning and six others injured after a mini-bus they were travelling in hit a lorry which was parked on a roadside after a breakdown along Dodoma-Singida highway.

The incident took place at Kantinku area in Manyoni District, Singida Region, according to Regional Medical Officer Dr Furaha Mwakafwila.

The bus from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza hit the lorry, property of Glenrich Transportation Limited.

He said the incident took place at around 10am whereby one passenger whose name could not be identified died on the spot and another injured passenger died on the way to hospital due to serious injuries sustained in the accident.

Dr Mwakafwila said the six injured passengers were taken to Kantinku health centre and were discharged after their health recovered.

This comes a day after seven people died and 12 others seriously injured after a bus they were travelling in from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza hit a lorry which was parked on the roadside after a breakdown.

The accident took place at around 430am at Malendi village, Mgongo ward in the district involving a bus christened Luginga express which was travelling from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza.

Iramba district commissioner Suleiman Mwenda told this paper that those who lost their lives include six men and one woman whose bodies were preserved at Igunga District Hospital in Tabora Region.

Dar es Salaam Port gets feel of Dubai-based firm

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dubai-based multinational logistics company DP World has officially started operations at the Port of Dar es Salaam.

In a statement issued yesterday, Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) director general Plasduce Mbossa advised customers of the port on various issues including how to make payments to the company.

"TPA wishes to notify all its esteemed customers about the important details for DP World to be used for settling port charges, portal services and contacts for key officials and location for customer service office, please observe details shared for easy port operations through DP World," the statement reads in part.

The advisory also directs customers and other users of the port about the banks that will be used by the company for various payments for their cargo.

Likewise, the statement informs customers about various communication channels to be used by the company as well as the offices to be used by DP World officials.

TPA workers were recently given the option to choose to work with the authority or move to DP World once it commences operations.

TPA asked them to choose either to remain with TPA employment terms or to terminate the contract and join DP World.

On March 20 this year, TPA director general issued a statement saying that on October 22 2023, the authority entered into an agreement with DP World of the United Arab Emirates regarding the operations of docks number zero to seven of the Port of Dar es Salaam for a period of 30 years.



PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023 (Amounts in millions of shillings)

Report of condition of bank published pursuant to provision of section 32(3) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006.

A	ASSETS	2023	2022
1	Cash	12,803	13,063
2	Balances with Bank of Tanzania	17,855	11,080
3	Investment in Government securities	37,576	39,601
4	Balances with other banks	3,667	1,287
5	Cheque and items for clearing	(4)	(69)
6	Interbranch float items	27	27
7	Bills negotiated	0	0
8	Customers liabilities for acceptances	0	0
9	Interbank Loans receivable	0	0
10	Investment in other securities	0	0
11	Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowance for probable losses)	106,652	96,560
12	Other Assets	12,269	11,892
13	Equity investments	39	39
14	Underwriting accounts	-	0
15	Property, Plant and Equipment	14,712	13,865
	TOTAL ASSETS	205,595	187,346
B	LIABILITIES		
17	Deposit from other banks and financial institutions	10,790	2,038
18	Customer deposits	139,395	125,950
19	Cash letters of credit	0	0
20	Special deposits	448	8
21	Payment orders /transfers payable	0	0
22	Bankers cheques and drafts issued	1	1
23	Accrued taxes and expenses payable	3,290	2,787
24	Acceptances outstanding	0	0
25	Interbranch float items	0	0
26	Unearned income and other deferred charges	8,044	8,044
27	Other liabilities	9,784	9,674
28	Borrowings	8,350	17,000
29	TOTAL LIABILITIES	180,102	165,502
30	NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	25,493	21,844
C	SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
31	Paid up Share capital	27,797	27,797
32	Capital reserves	0	0
33	Retained earnings	(19,215)	(15,276)
34	Profit (Loss) account	0	0
35	Other capital accounts	16,910	9,322
36	Minority interest	0	0
37	TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	25,493	21,844
38	Contingent liabilities	1,111	1,335
39	Non performing loans and advances	8,131	8,239
40	Allowance for probable losses	2,869	5,360
41	Other non performing assets	60	75
D	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i)	Shareholders funds to total assets	12.4%	11.7%
(ii)	Non performing loans to total gross loans	7.4%	8.1%
(iii)	Gross loans and advances to total deposits	71.7%	78.9%
(iv)	Loans and Advances to total assets	51.9%	54.5%
(v)	Earning assets to Total assets	70.2%	72.7%
(vi)	Deposit growth	17.8%	3.8%
(vii)	Asset growth	9.7%	4.7%

AUDITED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023 (Amounts in millions of shillings)

	2023	2022	
1	Interest Income	28,403	25,393
2	Interest Expense	(8,232)	(6,870)
3	Net Interest Income	20,171	18,523
4	Bad debts written - off	0	0
5	Imparement losses on Loans and Advances	1,213	(4,394)
6	Non Interest Income:	5,346	5,655
6.1	Foreign exchange income	500	384
6.2	Fees and Commission	4,747	4,818
6.3	Dividend income	0	0
6.4	Other operating income	98	452
7	Non Interest Expense:	(28,270)	(24,790)
7.1	Salaries and benefits	(15,617)	(14,164)
7.2	Fees and commission	0	0
7.3	Other operating expenses	(12,654)	(10,627)
8	Operating Income/ (Loss)	(1,540)	(5,007)
9	Income Tax provision	(473)	(2,023)
10	Net Income / (Loss) after Income Tax	(2,013)	(7,030)
11	Other Comprehensive Income	0	0
12	Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) For the Year	(2,013)	(7,030)
13	Number of employees	335	384
14	Basic Earnings per share	(72)	(253)
15	Number of branches	17	18
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			
i)	Return on Average Total Assets	-1.0%	-3.8%
ii)	Return on Average Shareholders' funds	-7.9%	-32.2%
iii)	Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	111.0%	99.0%
iv)	Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	14.1%	13.5%

AUDITED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023 (Amounts in million shillings)

	2023	2022
I. Cash flow from operating activities:		
Net income/ (loss)	(2,013)	(7,030)
Adjustment for :		
-Impairment /amortization	715	7,194
-Net change in loans and advances	(7,965)	(18,851)
-Gain/(loss) on sale of assets	(139)	(0)
-Net change in deposits	22,637	5,201
- Net change in short term negotiable securities	5,393	8,535
- Net change in other liabilities	760	335
- Net change in other assets	(11,466)	10,942
- Tax paid	473	203
- Others (Interest Income, Interest Expense, Finance Expense, Exchange Gain)	-	1,476
Net cash provided/ (used) by operating activities	8,394	8,004
II. Cash flow from investing activities:		
Dividends received	0	0
Purchase of fixed assets	(2,659)	(822)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	165	0
Purchase of non-dealing securities	(2,947)	(7,471)
Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	0	0
Others	0	0
Net cash provided/ (used) by investing activities	(5,442)	(8,292)
III. Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayment of long-term debt	0	0
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	0	0
Proceeds from issuance of share capital	5,663	0
Payment of cash dividends	0	0
Net change in other borrowings	0	0
Others (Lease Payment)	(940)	(841)
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	4,723	(841)
IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
Net increase /(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	7,675	(1,129)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	19,266	20,395
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26,942	19,266

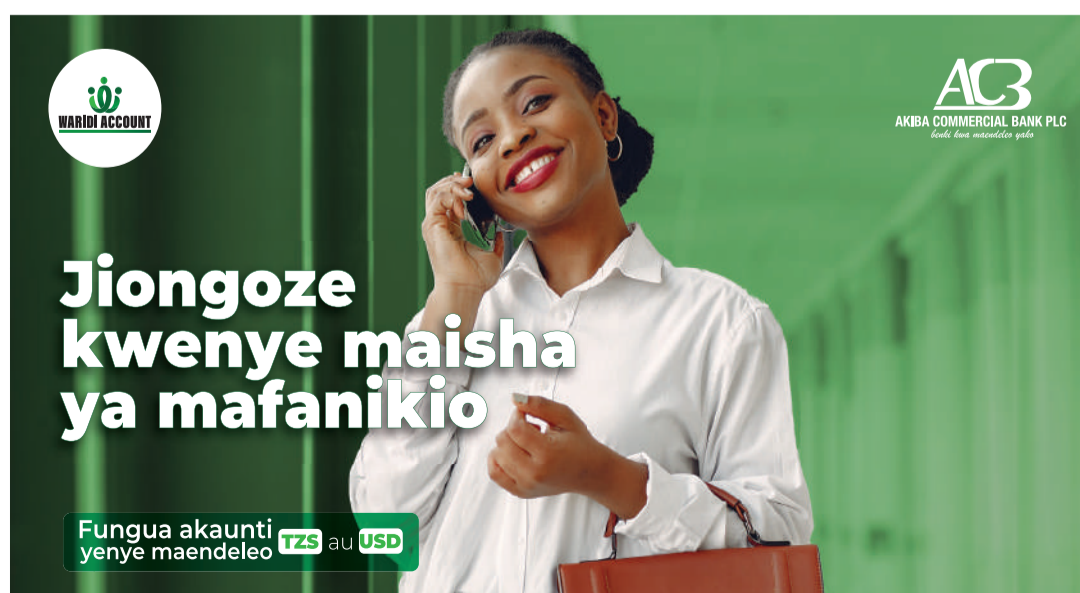
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Share Capital	Preference Shares	Share Premium	Retained Earning	Regulatory Reserve	Others (Advance towards share capital)	Total
Current Year							
Balance as at 01st January 2023	27,797	5,960	2,432	(15,276)	930	0	21,844
Profit for the year	0	0	0	(2,013)	0	0	(2,013)
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transactions with Owners	0	5,663	0	0	0	0	5,663
Regulatory Reserve	0	0	0	(1,926)	1,926	0	0
Others (Advance towards share Capital)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance as at the end of 31st December 2023	27,797	11,623	2,432	(19,215)	2,856	-	25,493
Previous Year							
Balance as at 01st January 2022	27,797	0	2,432	(12,101)	4,857	5,888	28,874
Profit for the year	0	0	0	(7,030)	0	0	(7,030)
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transactions with owners	0	5,960	0	(72)	0	(5,888)	0
Regulatory Reserve	0	0	0	3,927	(3,927)	0	0
Others (Advance towards share Capital)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance as at the end of 31st December 2022	27,797	5,960	2,432	(15,276)	930	0	21,844

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

The above extracts are from the financial statements of the bank for the year ended December 31, 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and Companies Act, CAP 212 Act NO. 12 of 2002. The financial statements were audited by KPMG and received a clean report. The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Signed By	Signature	Date
1. Chairman Catherine Kimaryo	_____	_____
2. Director Prof. Josephat Lotto	_____	_____



Jiongoze kwenye maisha ya mafanikio

Fungua akaunti yenye maendeleo TZS au USD

Joy: Mbeya hospital stages 4 days of free screening, treatment

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Zonal Referral Hospital (MZRH) has staged a special camp for treatment of patients with neurological, brain, and cancer diseases.

The four-day camp involves expert doctors from Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) and is also meant to transfer skills to doctors at the MZRH.

The camp is organized in collaboration with the ruling CCM in Mbeya Region

Dr Godlove Mwanji, MZRH executive director, said the camp that started on April 8 ended yesterday where patients were examined for free and underwent surgery.

He added that after the end of the camp, experts continue with treatment to ensure that all patients who turned up are examined for free and undergo surgery.

"We are collaborating with an association of neurologists and brain specialists from Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute to advise patients who have health issues," he

said.

CCM regional publicity and ideology secretary Christopher Uhagile said the aim of organising the camp was to reduce travel costs and medical treatment charges for people who were supposed to go to Dar es Salaam for treatment.

MZRH is a public hospital and training center in Mbeya which attends to about 17 percent of Tanzanian population, mostly residing in the southern highlands. It has 600 beds, 730 clinical staff, 80 administrative staff and 200 support staff.



We are collaborating with an association of neurologists and brain specialists from Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute to advise patients who have health issues



Mobhare Matinyi (L), who doubles as Director of Information Services in the Information, Communications and Information Technology ministry and Chief Government Spokesman, pictured in Dar es Salaam earlier this week presenting an award to Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute head of communications Anna Nkinda for her outstanding performance in sensitising and educating the public on heart diseases. It was at an event organised by the Public Relations Society of Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 TZS'000'	2022 TZS'000'
Insurance service revenue	17,586,813	15,139,882
Insurance service expenses	(9,712,223)	(19,793,230)
Net Income / (expenses) from reinsurance contracts	(6,833,336)	4,366,528
Insurance service result	1,041,255	(284,820)
Investment income from financial assets not measured at FVTPL	2,615,730	609,369
Net impairment loss of financial assets	(45,387)	20,288
Net investment results	2,570,343	629,657
Other Income	532,135	14,723
Other operating expenses	(408,325)	(369,470)
Profit / (Loss) before tax	3,735,408	(9,830)
Income tax expense	(1,144,347)	(286,913)
Profit / (Loss) for the year	2,591,061	(286,843)
Total comprehensive profit/ (Loss) for the year	2,591,061	(286,843)
Earning per share		
Basic, (Loss)/profit for the year attributable to ordinary equity holders (Tzs)	864	(99)
Diluted, (loss)/profit for the year attributable to ordinary equity shareholders (Tzs)	864	(99)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 TZS'000'	2022 TZS'000'
Operating activities	3,735,408	934,675
(Loss)/Profit before tax	3,735,408	934,675
Non-cash adjustment to reconcile profit before tax to net cash flows	-	-
Depreciation of property and equipment	70,844	77,037
Depreciation on Right to use assets	-	31,330
Interest on Lease Liability	-	1,535
Dividend received	(59,004)	(72,727)
Accrued investment income	(260,406)	(194,225)
Fair value loss / (gain) on investments	(1,836,467)	(9,991)
Foreign exchange gains	(532,135)	(14,723)
	1,018,240	752,910
Working capital adjustments:		
Increase / (Decrease) in other payables	2,368,449	(1,768,204)
Decrease due to the group	6,448	1,782
Increase / (Decrease) in insurance contract liabilities	(3,783,737)	(12,755,192)
Decrease / (Increase) in reinsurance contract assets	1,420,558	215,015
Increase in loans, receivables and prepayments	770,743	(19,349)
Cash from operating activities	1,800,699	(13,574,058)
Income tax paid	(346,760)	(283,388)
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities	1,453,939	(13,857,446)
Investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(45,514)	(67,620)
Investment in Financial assets	-	(99)
Investment in fixed deposit with banks	(2,337,244)	1,378,261
Investment in government securities	13,103	2,923
Dividend received	33,685	72,727
Net cash (used in)/received from investing activities	(2,335,971)	1,386,191
Financing activities		
Lease Liability	-	683
Bank Over draft	(773,783)	1,286,867
Dividend paid	-	(225,000)
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities	(773,763)	1,062,550
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(1,655,795)	(11,408,696)
Movement in cash and cash equivalents		
At start of year	2,896,526	789,948
(Decrease)/increase	(1,655,795)	2,091,855
Effects of foreign exchange differences	532,135	14,723
At end of year	1,772,867	2,896,526

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 TZS'000'	2022 TZS'000'
ASSETS		
Property and equipment	214,523	233,336
Intangible Assets	15,213	21,731
Reinsurance contract assets	21,040,544	22,461,101
Other receivables	262,385	770,585
Government Securities	1,136,947	1,150,051
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3,245,006	1,283,120
Investment in subsidiary	-	99
Loans and receivables	88,347	90,484
Deposits with Financial Institutions	8,562,881	6,225,637
Bank and cash at hand balances	1,772,867	2,896,526
Income tax recoverable	399,214	481,306
TOTAL ASSETS	36,737,928	35,613,975
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		
Equity attributable to equity holder of the Company		
Issued Share Capital	3,000,000	3,000,000
Retained earnings	3,618,553	519,143
Contingency reserves	2,563,000	2,354,000
Shareholder's fund	9,181,553	5,873,143
Insurance contract liabilities	22,057,187	26,672,146
Due to the parent company	45,158	38,713
Other payables	3,567,750	1,199,301
Current Bank Overdrafts	622,201	1,395,964
Deferred tax liabilities	1,013,771	119,731
Income tax payable	250,307	314,977
Total liabilities	27,556,375	29,740,833
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	36,737,928	35,613,975

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Share capital TZS'000'	Retained earnings TZS'000'	Contingency reserve TZS'000'	Total TZS'000'
Year ended 31 December 2023				
At start of year	3,000,000	519,143	2,354,000	5,873,143
Profit for the year	-	2,591,061	-	2,591,061
Total profit for the year	-	3,110,204	-	8,464,204
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	(209,000)	209,000	-
Prior year Adjustment	-	(113,874)	-	(113,874)
Impact of IFRS 17 FY2022	-	831,223	-	831,223
At end of year	3,000,000	3,618,553	2,563,000	9,181,553
Year ended 31 December 2022				
At start of year	3,000,000	1,113,604	2,168,000	6,281,604
Profit for the year	-	647,762	-	647,762
Total profit for the year	-	1,761,366	-	6,929,366
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	(186,000)	186,000	-
Impact of IFRS 17 FY2022	-	(831,223)	-	(831,223)
Issue of dividend	-	(225,000)	-	(225,000)
At end of year	3,000,000	519,143	2,354,000	5,873,143

The above extracts are from financial statements of Tanzania Assurance Company Limited for the year ended 31st December 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the Tanzania Companies Act, Cap 212 of 2002. The financial statements were audited by Baker Tilly DGP & Co. Certified Public Accountants and received a clean audit report.

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 22nd March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr. Yogesh Meshram
CHAIRMAN

Mr. Cypryan Fimbo
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

AI is big not threat but big opportunity for youth - experts

By Carlos Banda

INFORMATION and communication technology experts have called the need to embrace artificial intelligence (AI) as an opportunity for development and job creation rather than view it as a threat to employment security.

In separate interviews yesterday, the experts called on youth to tap opportunities in AI as a tool to nurture skills, saying that there is a need for smart regulations that allow users to move fast and break down things within a structured, supportive environment.

"Supporting local AI startups is like nurturing the seeds of future technological forests. By fostering an environment conducive to innovation, we invest in the growth of home-grown solutions and enterprises," said Princely Glorious, co-founding director of OnaStories Group - Ona Kesho, OnaStories and the Creator Network.

Glorious explained that for AI to bring out the needed results, it is important to start with education as means to cultivate an AI-savvy workforce where individuals have the tools necessary for innovation and adaptation to set-up a strong foundation for growth.

He emphasized that it is important to tailor AI to local needs by deploying it in sectors where it can have the most impact, such as healthcare, education and agriculture, promising not just technological advancement but meaningful societal improvement and investment in infrastructure.

"Thoughtful, strategic investment in AI infrastructure and projects lays the groundwork for sustained growth and ensures that AI becomes a cornerstone of future development," he said.

Prudence Zoe, communications advisor and chief executive officer of PZG Public Relations, said AI is now an integral part of development as it plays a major role in enhancing efficiency and performance through automation where she insisted that embracing such technology should not make the youth become lazy.

"The rise of AI has brought forth essential tools like Chat GPT which make work easier when it comes to enhancing productivity and assisting with repetitive tasks," she said.

"However, it is important for people to keep honing their thinking and creative abilities and not to side-line the cerebrally tasking skills like reading, fact checking, verification and writing which come with thinking clearly around your subject matter and research. AI should be used as a means to compliment and support skills and expertise to make people, especially youth, become more competitive in the job market and make them ever relevant to employers."

According to 2023 KPMG East Africa CEO Outlook, 72 percent of CEOs in East Africa ranked investment in generative AI as a top investment priority for their organizations, adding that adoption of the technology is crucial for businesses to navigate through challenging markets.

"CEOs agree that advancing digitization and connectivity of all the functional areas in the organization will be the top operational priority to achieve growth objectives over the next three years. Businesses want to manage initiatives intentionally to get the highest returns possible. This means looking at how to bring people and technology together more closely. In East Africa, CEOs place their capital investments both in technology at 36 percent and in developing their workforce skills and capabilities at 64 percent," the report reads in part.



Akili Platform Tanzania director Roghat Robert (R) pictured in Tabora municipality yesterday taking youths through the basics of writing quality official letters, resumés and CVs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Demolition of over 2,000 houses in Msimbazi Valley begins today

By Guardian Reporter

DEMOLITION of 2,155 houses in Dar es Salaam's Msimbazi Valley is scheduled to start today after a total of 52.61bn/- has been spent to compensate residents.

The bulldozing of houses is meant to pave the way for implementation of the Msimbazi Valley Development Project.

Humphrey Manyenye, coordinator of the project implemented by the World Bank and Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) said in Dar es Salaam recently that 2155 residents out of 2329 had been compensated.

He said that the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transport Terminal is also to be relocated to Ubungo Maziwa, adding that the largest city park will be built in the park.

Kanyenye said the objective of developing the valley is to control the occurrence of floods.

He said the demolition is implemented by the project coordination office in collaboration

with the office of the director of the city of Dar es Salaam and Kinondoni Municipal Council.

The project is to cost \$260 million and involves the construction of a bridge; development of the river valley; reallocation of the DART bus terminal and construction of a city park.



...the demolition is implemented by the project coordination office in collaboration with the office of the director of the city of Dar es Salaam and Kinondoni Municipal Council

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

Mastercard and bank teaming up to ease cross-border transfer of money

MASTERCARD and Equity Bank have announced a strategic collaboration that will enable the bank's customers to send money safely and securely to 30 countries. This collaboration marks a significant milestone for cross-border financial transactions in Kenya.

Remittances are a key economic driver in Sub-Saharan Africa with a reported \$53 billion flowing into the region in 2022. The Central Bank of Kenya reported \$5.77 billion worth of foreign currency inflows in 2022. Cross border remittances unlock financial inclusion by empowering individuals to access formal financial services, ultimately fostering economic growth and stability in the region.

Through Mastercard Cross-Border Services, Equity Bank customers will be able to send funds through any Equity Branch Location in Kenya. This platform offers a suite of benefits including faster transaction times,

enhanced security measures, and competitive pricing, making cross-border transactions accessible to consumers across Equity Bank's expansive market network.

"Providing innovative solutions that deliver the choice, security, and flexibility that customers transacting from Kenya need and expect is a factor we take pride in. Mastercard is delighted to collaborate with Equity Bank to make this level of payment ingenuity a reality for Equity Bank customers, giving Mastercard an opportunity to bring millions of people from underserved communities into the financial and digital economy," said Mark Elliott, President for Africa at Mastercard.

This collaboration also ensures full value for recipients as there are no landing fees. The charges linked to this innovative service are significantly lower than

traditional international payments, making it a more affordable and accessible option for customers. This development aligns with the evolving payments landscape, catering to customer demands for cost-effective and efficient international transactions.

Dr James Mwangi, CBS Group Managing Director and CEO of Equity Group Holdings when speaking about the strategic alliance said: "We are excited to launch this initiative with Mastercard, which stands as a beacon of progress in financial services. This facilitates money transfers and more importantly connects lives and empowers our customers. This collaboration underscores our commitment to providing accessible financial solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers and solidifies our role in fostering inclusive growth across

the region."

This initiative is poised to have a profound impact on various stakeholders, including hardworking senders who will benefit from reduced costs and the opportunity to shift remittances from informal, less regulated channels to a secure and formal platform. By leveraging Mastercard's global brand and delivery network, this strategic alliance ensures the safety and security of remittances, contributing to financial inclusion and the overall well-being of migrants and beneficiaries.

This collaboration forms part of a decade-long alliance between Equity Bank and Mastercard, aimed at elevating the payment experience for consumers across the region, setting a precedent for innovation and customer satisfaction in the world of financial services.

China sets sights on digital, green economic cooperation with Africa

BEIJING

CHINA'S Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Thursday that the government encourages Chinese companies to explore new investment potential in Africa in such areas as digital economy and green development and innovate investment-construction-operation model.

Responding to a media enquiry on China's investment in Africa, MOC spokesperson He Yadong said at a press conference that the government encourages Chinese firms to expand economic and trade cooperation in Africa in accordance with commercial and market rules.

"In recent years, China's

investment and cooperation with Africa have developed steadily and healthily," he said, adding that in 2023, China's direct investment in Africa maintained a growing trend, with projects covering diversified sectors such as building materials, automobiles, home appliances and agricultural product processing.

He said that China's infrastructure cooperation in Africa in fields such as transportation, energy, electricity and housing has promoted local economic development and improved people's livelihoods.

China-Africa economic and trade cooperation has achieved fruitful results, and there is broad space for continued cooperation in the future, he said.

STANBIC BANK TANZANIA



PUBLICATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		(Amounts in million shillings)	
	Current Year 31-Dec-23	Previous Year 31-Dec-22	
A. ASSETS			
1 Cash	28,599	21,089	
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	176,139	300,326	
3 Investments in Government securities	338,439	321,786	
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	88,889	55,520	
5 Cheques and items for clearing	-	-	
6 Inter-branch float items	-	-	
7 Bills negotiated	-	-	
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	67,048	47,320	
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	397,283	199,910	
10 Investments in other securities	0	0	
11 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	1,397,420	1,081,111	
12 Other assets	77,520	64,154	
13 Equity Investments	-	-	
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-	
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	46,594	55,213	
16 TOTAL ASSETS	2,617,932	2,146,429	
B. LIABILITIES			
17 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	259,526	171,119	
18 Customer deposits	1,700,799	1,426,569	
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-	
20 Special deposits	94,283	78,968	
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	1,347	1,783	
22 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	26	26	
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	31,714	24,680	
24 Acceptances outstanding	82,722	43,370	
25 Inter-branch float items	-	-	
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	7,385	5,253	
27 Other liabilities	41,760	48,098	
28 Borrowings	-	0	
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,199,563	1,799,866	
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)/(16 minus 29)	418,368	346,563	
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			
31 Paid up share capital	8,400	8,400	
32 Capital reserves	112,396	112,396	
33 Retained earnings	211,207	197,913	
34 Profit (Loss) account	88,536	26,587	
35 Other capital accounts	-2,171	1,267	
36 Minority Interest	-	-	
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	418,368	346,563	
38 Contingent liabilities	1,116,379	825,581	
39 Non performing loans & advances	52,493	61,637	
40 Allowances for probable losses	41,914	53,509	
41 Other non performing assets	-	-	
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS			
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets	16.0%	16.1%	
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans	3.6%	5.4%	
(iii) Gross loans and advances to total deposits	77.9%	73.6%	
(iv) Loans and Advances to total assets	57.5%	55.1%	
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	84.0%	76.9%	
(vi) Deposits Growth	19.2%	-0.3%	
(vii) Assets growth	22.0%	-0.8%	

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023		(Amounts in million shillings)	
	Current Year 31-DEC-23	Previous Year 31-DEC-22	
DETAILS			
1 Interest Income	185,928	121,581	
2 Interest Expense	32,969	20,488	
3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)	152,959	101,093	
4 Bad Debts Written-Off	-	-	
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	9,074	12,835	
Net interest income after loan impairment	143,885	88,457	
6 Non Interest Income:	113,716	68,677	
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	78,355	41,212	
6.2 Fees and Commissions	35,357	27,003	
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	
6.4 Other Operating Income	4	463	
7 Non Interest Expenses:	125,505	104,029	
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	74,329	65,382	
7.2 Fees and Commission	3,308	2,248	
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	47,868	36,399	
8 Operating Income/(Loss)	132,096	53,105	
9 Income Tax Provision	43,560	26,519	
10 Net Income/(Loss) After Income Tax	88,536	26,587	
11 Other Comprehensive Income (Itemize)			
(i) Change in fair value of debt instruments measured at FVOCI	5,047	685	
(ii) Deferred income tax related to debt instruments measured at FVOCI	1,610	208	
12 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	85,099	26,109	
13 Number of Employees	594	543	
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	10.5	3.2	
15 Number of Branches	14	14	
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS			
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	3.6%	1.3%	
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Fund	23.2%	7.8%	
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	47.1%	61.3%	
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	7.5%	5.9%	

"Average figures shall be computed by summing up the end balances for respective months in the period divided by number of months in the period."

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023		
The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended December 31, 2023. The Financial Statements were audited by KPMG and received a clean report. The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:		
Name	Signature	Date
1. Patrick Rutabanzibwa (Board Chairman)		22-March-24
2. Manzi Rwegasira (Chief Executive Officer)		22-March-24

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE QUARTER/ YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023		(Amounts in million shillings)	
	Current Year Cumulative 31-DEC-23	Comparative Year (Previous Year) Cumulative 31-DEC-22	
I: Cash flow from operating activities:			
Net income/(loss)	88,536	26,587	
Adjustments for:			
- Impairment/Amortization	11,788	11,945	
- Net change in Loans and Advances	336,037	150,458	
- Gain/Loss on Sale of Assets	4	432	
- Net change in Deposits	397,304	40,541	
- Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	20,091	72,002	
- Net change in Other Liabilities	2,393	20,837	
- Net change in Other Assets	29,392	4,674	
- Tax Paid	51,007	19,926	
- Others	5,534	17,684	
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	116,748	236,135	
II: Cash flow from investing activities:			
Dividend Received	-	-	
Purchase of Fixed Assets	3,735	4,789	
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	118	370	
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	-	-	
Proceeds from Sale of Non-Dealing Securities	-	-	
Others (specify)	-	-	
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	3,617	4,419	
III: Cash flow from financing activities:			
Repayment of Long-term Debt	-	-	
Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	-	-	
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	-	
Payment of Cash Dividends	13,293	5,700	
Net Change in Other Borrowings	-	18,478	
Others (specify)	-	0	
Net Cash Provided (used) by Financing Activities	13,293	24,178	
IV: Cash and Cash Equivalents:			
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	99,838	264,733	
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter/Year	495,586	760,319	
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter/Year	595,424	495,586	

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023							(Amounts in million shillings)	
	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others AFS & Share Scheme	Total	
1 Current Year								
Balance as at the beginning of the year	8,400	112,396	224,500	-	0	1,267	346,563	
Profit for the year	-	-	88,536	-	-	-	88,536	
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	(3,438)	- 3,438	
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dividends Paid	-	-	(13,293)	-	-	-	- 13,293	
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Balance as at the end of the current period	8,400	112,396	299,743	-	0	2,171	418,368	
2 Previous Year								
Balance as at the beginning of the year	8,400	112,396	203,613	-	0	1,744	326,153	
Profit for the year	-	-	26,587	-	-	-	26,587	
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	477	477	
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dividends Paid	-	-	(5,700)	-	-	-	- 5,700	
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Others (Prior year Adjustment)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Balance as at the end of the previous period	8,400	112,396	224,500	-	0	1,267	346,563	

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Cabinet efforts on Rufiji welcome, even as prevention better than cure

FLOODING in Coast Region's Rufiji and Kibiti districts has lately touched off some uproar, but not between the government and stakeholders in civil society as has often happened.

This time the government has been battling a widespread impression that it was the mega-dam at the Julius Nyerere hydropower plant that has led to disaster.

This is despite the fact that some officials have repeatedly declared that floods have always been there and that the last three years or so have seen them checked by the presence of the dam.

In other words, it is argued, it is neither that it is the dam as such that induced, precipitated or aggravated the ongoing disaster nor is the dam the solution to flooding that it was believed to be during the past few years.

The proper question to ask is whether the dam's water management mechanism was failing to hold back floods, with the floodwaters instead emptying into floodplains.

Basically, the idea that this is a flood just like there have always been is what the district authorities, and to an extent power monopoly Tanesco and a welter of top government officials may be subscribing to.

What is now being sacrificed on the altar of routine character of flooding is that, contrary to what was widely thought previously, the dam is neither a hindrance to flooding nor insurance against it.

Those are some of the issues that the cabinet team from the Prime Minister's Office, especially its disaster preparedness unit, in collaboration with the Water, Agriculture and Lands ministries will be dealing with.

District authorities and project managers or engineers have been

battling the idea that opening the dam's water-holding gates opened the way to the floodwaters, this for the simple reason that there was possibly no easier or better way out.

So, one might take relief in the fact that for several years people in the area were sheltered from routine floods.

Another issue tied up with this preliminary affirmation or proposition is whether the design of the dam was sufficient to hold all the water that the hydropower plant would need when in full operation.

If it was designed to hold extra water, was the precaution squarely designed - as it was overpowered both within the control rooms and in the wider capacity to hold the water?

It follows that the flooding projection may have had its share of deficiencies in the design, or it presumed that the capacity for offloading water was limitless, or not risky to the valley dwellers.

Trying to sort out the issues in terms of design and assurance against flooding has a choice in what to privilege - that it took outlying areas for granted, that when the water was full it would be discharged as usual, etc.

That would mean that the land would be free or already purchased by the project's operators to avoid flowing in case there was a lot more water than the plant would need.

What would require prior purchase of land on the broad ecological area of the project and provide a lifeline out of smallholder agriculture was clearly of paramount importance.

That was the key factor in the event of disaster: considering how best to use potentially water-logged land for human settlement and agriculture land so close to a mega-dam. What we are currently witnessing has a slew of lessons, some cruel indeed.

Humanitarian crises in Africa are sharp reminders to those fomenting civil wars

THERE is nothing as denigrating to the African conscience as the standard picture of emaciated children surrounded by flies in a torrid refugee camp or just seen in the open in some conflict-ravaged country.

Yet these are but the sort of images that we are now seeing in the Sudanese conflict, with grim statistics of deaths, the malnourished and the vast amounts of aid needed.

The usual appeal is to an international community already too largely preoccupied with a few especially destabilising crises to lay equal stress to what is happening in Sudan. With the conflict in Sudan nearing the one-year mark, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) has warned that over 25 million people face a humanitarian crisis with no end in sight.

While global powers have been making both humanitarian and ceasefire efforts in all stages of the war in Gaza, and in an exceptionally strong manner, couple of countries teamed up on a frantic diplomatic mission targeting Sudan. They brought the warring parties to the table but, too bad, fell short of pushing them into a deal.

To a range of Africa watchers, what should follow is that Sudan has a larger number of people at the mercy of famine and should receive greater humanitarian aid efforts especially from UN agencies.

Unfortunately, that isn't how strategic relations work, as governments usually rush to dispatch support to what touches their own national bases.

That is precisely why there is a massive Palestinian lobby in Europe and North America while Africa's preferred platform, the United Nations, is in a sense powerless to

make things move; they receive donations for specific needs.

Ahead of the anniversary of the conflict on April 15, UNHCR has declared that Sudan and neighbour countries are experiencing one of the largest and most challenging humanitarian and displacement crises in history.

Imagine how thousands of refugees cross borders daily fleeing horsemen brandishing rifles and torching villages along the way.

South Sudan has received the largest number of refugees, while hundreds of thousands of its own people were refugees in the Sudan until its war started.

There is still hope that the world can do something for and in Sudan with the number of displaced people having already surpassed the 8.5 million mark - and 1.8 million still crossing borders.

Sudan's is a massive crisis of internal displacement and an equally profound border crisis of more than a million refugees.

A UNHCR representative in South Sudan is on the record as having been making graphic comparisons just to lay the case for urgent humanitarian assistance in the strife-torn country.

The representative reports that the 635,000 displaced people fleeing to South Sudan will be representing over five per cent of South Sudan's population. It's tragic.

While the world might not be indifferent to the crisis in Sudan and neighbouring countries, there is a sharp limit to the donations it can mobilise on the required scale at short notice.

In the circumstances, the African Union ought to feel obliged to make it clear that Africa must put to an end all civil wars for its own dignity as an integral part of the international community.



US lawmakers fight over privacy - on two very different fronts

By Mathew Ingram

YOU see a news story talking about the need for a national privacy law and how (the United States) Congress is working on one - or, at least, should be.

What year is it? Tricky question: it could be almost any year in the past two decades, including now - 2024.

Last week, the Washington Post reported that the leaders of two key congressional committees were "nearing an agreement on a national framework aimed at protecting Americans' personal data online". The news was first reported by Punchbowl News, a political newsletter.

As the Washington Post noted, this would mean that Congress is close to passing legislation that has "eluded them for decades".

Cathy McMorris Rodgers, a Republican representative from Washington State who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Maria Cantwell, a Democratic senator from the same state and chairperson of the Senate Commerce Committee, are expected to announce the deal next week.

According to The Hill, the two members of Congress decided that the time was right to push for a national privacy law in part because of recent fears that social platforms are harming children (a debate that I wrote about last week in this newsletter), but also due to concerns about the impact of artificial intelligence (AI).

In a statement, Cantwell said that a federal data privacy law must "make privacy a consumer right, and it must give consumers the ability to enforce that right", adding that the bill is the protection "Americans deserve in the Information Age".

Under the draft law, companies would face limits as to what data they can collect and use, and individuals would be allowed to sue "bad actors" for violating their privacy.

New data security standards would also hold companies accountable if data are hacked or stolen. And the (US) Federal Trade Commission (FTC) would form a new bureau in order to enforce the law.

To say that such a law has been a long time in the making would be an epic understatement. Writing for the Brookings Institution in 2021, Jessica Rich, a former attorney

with the FTC who at one point was in charge of its privacy arm, noted that the idea of a federal privacy law goes back to at least 2000, when the FTC called on Congress to pass one, echoing similar appeals from leading privacy groups.

Congress failed to act for a variety of political reasons, however, and nothing was passed for the next two decades - this despite exhaustive debate and dozens of bills and hearings.

Rich notes that the internet was still in its infancy as a public medium when the FTC made its request in 2000, while Facebook would not exist for another four years and the iPhone for another seven years.

But she argues that the need for a national privacy law was obvious even before such social networks and smartphone apps "started tracking our behaviour, location, and consumption habits".

FTC surveys had already shown that, despite collecting large amounts of private personal information, "very few companies disclosed anything about how they collected and used the data". Fewer still promised even the most basic protections for the data.

So why has a (US) federal law taken so long? Although most members of the House of Representatives and the Senate seem to agree that privacy needs to be protected, there have been some key differences in the application of those protections in the past, along with some partisan squabbling. (Surprise!)

As Politico noted in 2022 while discussing a new proposal for a bipartisan privacy bill, a previous attempt at such a law in 2019 was supported by the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee.

However, the move fell apart because of a clause that would have permitted anyone whose data were misused to sue the company or companies involved in a private action. Among other critics, the US Chamber of Commerce said that it strongly opposed such a provision.

In the absence of a federal law, a number of states have implemented their own privacy legislation. The first to do so was California, in 2018.

According to a recent estimate from the International Association of Privacy Professionals, fifteen other states now have comprehensive privacy laws.

Political analysts say that these state laws, particularly California's,

have been a sticking point when it comes to crafting a national law.

According to the Washington Post, Cantwell and McMorris Rodgers's proposed legislation would pre-empt state laws. They have promised that the new law will set a stronger standard than in any state.

But, per the Washington Post, this claim is "likely to provoke opposition, especially from California", which believes that its law is better.

And analysts say that there are a number of other potential roadblocks to the bill. One is the ticking clock: the US presidential election is in November, and unless a bill moves forward and gets to a vote before then, the clock will likely have to be reset. And McMorris Rodgers isn't running for reelection.

Meanwhile, Congress is in the midst of another battle over privacy, but from a very different perspective - namely, how much privacy and transparency should Americans expect when it comes to surveillance by their own government?

A bipartisan coalition of lawmakers is trying to reauthorize Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which expires next week.

FISA is a controversial law originally designed to allow the US government to capture the phone calls, emails and online activity of non-Americans - but that also lets it snoop on citizens whose data get caught in those nets.

Congressional critics of the latter practice argue that intelligence agencies should have to apply for a warrant in such cases. Currently, they don't have to do so.

As CNN noted, the debate over the law has created "some strange bedfellows" in Congress. Some Republicans have found common cause with Democrats who want to reform the law to provide more transparency.

Meanwhile, however, more security-focused Republicans have joined with like-minded Democrats to oppose new restrictions on intelligence agencies. They argue that it would make it harder for them to do their jobs.

According to CNN, the Biden administration has been "publicly and privately lobbying Congress on the importance of Section 702 and pushing for as few changes as possible", including any kind of warrant requirement.

A procedural motion to consider the extension of Section 702 has meanwhile just failed on the House floor after Republican rebels voted to tank it.

According to Noah Chauvin, a counsel in the Liberty and National Security Programme at New York University, Congress has directed intelligence agencies to minimise the retention and use of Americans' information.

Despite this, he writes in The Dispatch, officials from the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and NSA (National Security Agency) perform "more than 200,000 warrantless backdoor searches every year" involving the private phone calls, text messages and emails of American citizens. Many of these searches, Chauvin says, involve "alarming abuses".

He says that the government has searched the communications of journalists and members of Congress, while the FBI has improperly searched the communications of a US senator and a judge who reported civil rights violations by a police chief.

All told, Americans could wind up being protected by law from having their private information taken and sold by social platforms and apps, while remaining unprotected if the government wants to keep their phone calls and electronic communications under surveillance. Or those two outcomes could be reversed.

What seems more likely is that citizens of the US will remain unprotected in either eventuality, just as they have been for the past two decades or so - that is, unless something dramatic happens, and the repetitive headlines finally stop.

Meanwhile, Adam Schiff, a Democratic congressman from California (and likely next senator for the state), earlier this week introduced a bill that would require AI companies to disclose any copyrighted material they have used to train their models.

This would weigh into a copyright fight between AI firms and media companies, including in the news business.

In other news at the intersection of AI and politics, the Associated Press spoke with Don Beyer, a Democratic congressman from Virginia, who enrolled for a master's degree in machine learning so that he might better understand the technology and how to regulate it.

* CJR

Remembering Sokoine: A towering legacy of economic resilience and social justice

By Adonis Byemelwa

IN the four decades since the passing of former Prime Minister Edward Sokoine, Tanzania's reflection on his towering legacy only grows more profound. Sokoine, an indomitable force in Tanzanian politics, continues to cast a long shadow, his bold leadership and unwavering commitment to confronting economic challenges resonating with a nation still navigating its path forward.

Sokoine's leadership emerged amidst profound economic turmoil fueled by the global oil market downturn. His emphasis on agriculture, encapsulated in the slogan 'subsistence farming,' aimed to bolster domestic production and alleviate the hardships faced by Tanzanian citizens. His tenure was characterized by relentless efforts to confront economic sabotage and smuggling, which threatened to undermine the nation's stability.

Anne Makinda, former Speaker of the National Assembly and a close associate of Sokoine, vividly recalls the challenging circumstances they faced. "There were no fuel, no rain and nothing you could count on," she reminisces. Sokoine's resolve to tackle smuggling rings led to decisive actions, demonstrating his commitment to safeguarding Tanzania's economic interests.

Judge Joseph Warioba, who served alongside Sokoine, reminisces about his principled leadership. Sokoine's humility and dedication to public service stood out, as evidenced by his reluctance to cling to power beyond necessity. He refused to succumb to political pressures, opting for a dignified exit when he believed it was time to pass the baton.

Prof Issa Shivji, a respected scholar, highlights Sokoine's visionary approach to development. Sokoine's emphasis on self-reliance and the pro-



Edward Sokoine (Right) with Tanzania's first President Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

tection of the domestic market resonates profoundly in today's economic discourse. His foresight in advocating for policies to nurture local industries and shield them from unfair competition remains pertinent.

However, a Shinyanga resident, Shijja Biseko, offers a nuanced perspective on Sokoine's stance towards capitalism and foreign investment. He distinguishes between honest capitalism, which fosters economic growth, and cheat capitalism, which exploits loopholes for personal gain. Biseko emphasizes the current administration's commitment to fostering an environment conducive to both domestic and foreign investors, underlining President Samia Suluhu Hassan's inclusive approach to economic development.

Biseko's remarks reflect a pragmatic outlook that acknowledges the importance of harnessing both domestic and foreign investments to drive economic growth. President Sa-

mia's initiatives to engage with the private sector and promote local entrepreneurship signal a forward-looking approach aimed at harnessing Tanzania's economic potential.

Prof Shivji reiterates Sokoine's enduring legacy, emphasizing the continued relevance of his vision in shaping Tanzania's economic trajectory. Sokoine's advocacy for self-reliance and prudent economic policies reverberates through contemporary policy discussions, serving as a guiding beacon for national development efforts.

Edward Moringe Sokoine, born on August 1, 1938, in the Monduli District of Tanzania, rose to become one of Tanzania's most revered leaders. His journey from humble beginnings to political prominence is a testament to his dedication, intellect, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of his people.

Sokoine's early life was marked by hardship and struggle. Growing up in a rural community, he experienced firsthand the challenges faced by ordinary Tanzanians, particularly in accessing education and necessities. However, his resolve to uplift his community never wavered. After completing his primary education, Sokoine pursued further studies, eventually earning a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of East Africa in 1962.

It was during his time at university that Sokoine became actively involved in politics, joining the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), the leading political party in the struggle for independence. His sharp

intellect and strong leadership skills quickly caught the attention of senior party members, propelling him into positions of increasing responsibility within the government.

Sokoine's political career saw him serve in various ministerial roles, including Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Defense. However, it was his tenure as Prime Minister from 1977 until his untimely death in 1984 that solidified his reputation as a visionary leader.

One of Sokoine's defining characteristics was his unyielding commitment to economic empowerment and social justice. He recognized that true independence could only be achieved through self-reliance and equitable distribution of resources. To this end, he implemented various policies aimed at improving agricultural productivity, expanding access to education and healthcare, and promoting grassroots development initiatives.

However, Sokoine's bold initiatives also made him a target for powerful vested interests opposed to his vision of a more equitable society. In particular, his crackdown on economic sabotage and corruption drew the ire of those who profited from the status quo. Despite facing threats and intimidation, Sokoine remained steadfast in his determination to root out corruption and ensure that Tanzania's resources were used for the benefit of all its citizens.

The tragic end to Edward Sokoine's life on April 12, 1984, cast a shadow over Tanzania, leaving both a personal and national void. Speculations sur-

rounding his untimely demise suggest political sabotage, underscoring the profound impact of his leadership and the threats it posed to vested interests.

The passing of Edward Sokoine sent shockwaves throughout Tanzania and beyond. His death was not only a personal loss to his family and friends but also a profound blow to the nation. However, his legacy endured, serving as a guiding light for future generations of Tanzanians.

Nevertheless, despite the loss, Sokoine's legacy endures as a beacon of integrity and vision. As Tanzania approaches the 40th anniversary of his passing, reflections on his unwavering commitment to economic empowerment, social justice, and national unity resound throughout the nation.

In an exclusive interview with one of the English daily newspaper columnist Ikunda Erick, Mama Tatu Ntimizi, a seasoned prosecutor, provides insight into Sokoine's remarkable tenure. Ntimizi's vivid recollection of working under Sokoine's leadership highlights his dedication to combating corruption and economic sabotage, even amidst the tumultuous economic landscape of the 1970s and 1980s.

Ntimizi's firsthand experiences prosecuting

high-profile cases, including a challenging treason case in 1983, underscore the pressures and complexities faced under Sokoine's administration. Despite threats to her safety, Ntimizi's commitment to justice prevailed, with Sokoine's leadership providing crucial support and guidance during these trying times.

One poignant moment stands out in Ntimizi's narrative - an unexpected commendation from Prime Minister Sokoine himself. His acknowledgment of her exemplary work in prosecuting economic crimes served as validation for Ntimizi's dedication to upholding the rule of law.

Moreover, Ntimizi emphasizes the enduring impact of Sokoine's legacy on Tanzania's judicial system. His steadfast commitment to accountability and justice continues to inspire legal professionals and citizens alike, shaping the nation's path toward a more just and equitable society.

As Tanzania honors Sokoine's memory, his principles and ideals remain as relevant today as they were four decades ago. In celebrating his legacy, Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to building a brighter future, ensuring that the spirit of Sokoine lives on in the hearts and minds of all who cherish freedom and democracy.

FIRST HOUSING FINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED PUBLICATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

(Amounts in thousand shillings)	Current Year	Previous Year
	31st Dec. 2023	31st Dec. 2022
A. ASSETS		
1. Cash	149	1,532
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	-	-
3. Investments in Government Securities	3,600,562	3,601,363
4. Balances with Other Banks and Financial Institutions	3,986,264	6,695,407
5. Cheques and Items for Clearing	-	-
6. Inter-branch Float Items	-	-
7. Bills Negotiated	-	-
8. Customers' Liabilities for Acceptances	-	-
9. Interbank Loans Receivables	-	-
10. Investments in Other Securities	-	-
11. Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Expected Losses)	27,439,967	19,561,504
12. Other Assets	843,009	706,753
13. Equity Investments	1,622,000	1,622,000
14. Underwriting Accounts	-	-
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	230,990	323,876
16. TOTAL ASSETS	37,722,941	32,512,435
B. LIABILITIES		
17. Deposits from Other Banks and Financial Institutions	-	-
18. Customer Deposits	1,880,605	911,787
19. Cash Letters of Credit	-	-
20. Special Deposits	-	-
21. Payment Orders/ Transfers Payable	-	-
22. Bankers' Cheques and Drafts Issued	-	-
23. Accrued Taxes and Expenses Payable	557,439	793,444
24. Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25. Inter-branch Float Items	-	-
26. Unearned Income, Other Deferred Charges & Taxes	41,070	41,070
27. Other Liabilities (Lease liabilities)	181,852	261,198
28. Borrowings	16,208,723	12,003,729
29. TOTAL LIABILITIES	18,869,689	14,011,228
30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)	18,853,252	18,501,207
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
31. Paid up Share Capital	21,800,000	21,800,000
32. Share premium	-	-
33. Capital Reserve	-	-
34. Retained Earnings	(3,394,624)	(3,678,678)
35. Profit/(Loss) Account	352,045	284,054
36. Fair Value Reserve	95,831	95,831
37. Minority Interest	-	-
38. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	18,853,252	18,501,207
39. Contingent Liabilities	-	-
40. Non-Performing Loans & Advances	846,650	561,178
41. Allowance for Expected Losses	248,747	135,812
42. Other Non-Performing Assets	-	-
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS		
(i). Shareholders' Funds to Total Assets	49.98%	56.91%
(ii). Non-Performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	3.06%	2.85%
(iii). Gross Loans & Advances to Total Deposits	1472.33%	2160.30%
(iv). Loans & Advances to Total Assets	72.74%	60.17%
(v). Earning Assets to Total Assets	95.18%	91.84%
(vi). Deposits Growth	106.25%	86.81%
(vii). Assets Growth	16.03%	56.57%

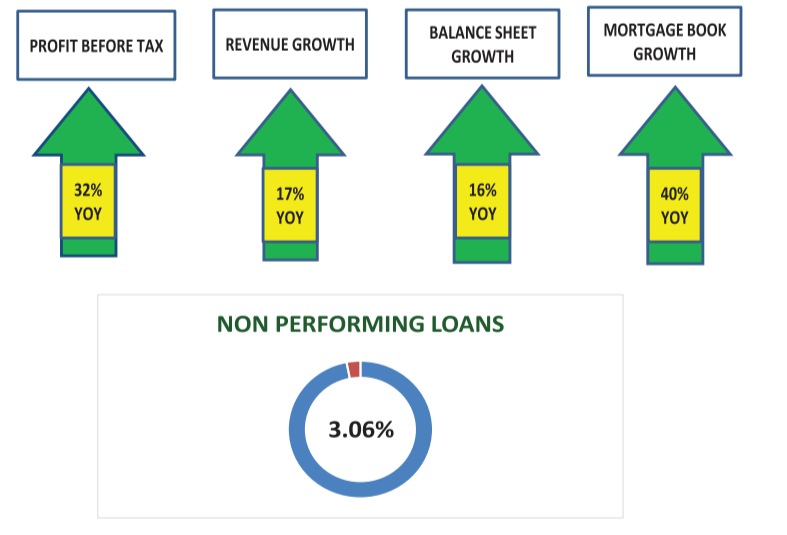
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Current Year	Previous Year
	31st Dec. 2023	31st Dec. 2022
1. Interest Income	4,833,462	3,855,309
2. Interest Expense	(1,487,940)	(1,000,506)
3. Net Interest Income	3,345,522	2,854,803
4. Bad Debts Written-Off	-	-
5. Impairment Reversal / (Losses)	(106,888)	(96,711)
6. Non Interest Income :	205,398	167,890
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/ (Loss)	(1,237)	(1,480)
6.2 Fees and Commissions	152,147	93,770
6.3 Dividend Income	36,900	27,590
6.4 Other Operating Income	17,588	48,010
7. Non Interest Expenses :	(3,040,590)	(2,619,191)
7.1 Salaries and Benefit	(1,774,369)	(1,568,574)
7.2 Fees and Commissions	-	-
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(1,266,221)	(1,050,617)
8. Operating Income/ (Loss)	403,442	306,791
9. Income Tax Provision	(51,397)	(22,737)
10. Net Income/ (Loss) after Income Tax	352,045	284,054
11. Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
12. Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)	352,045	284,054
13. Number of Employees	27	23
14. Basic Earnings Per Share	1.61	1.30
15. Number of Branches	1	1
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i). Return on Average Total Assets	1.00%	1.07%
(ii). Return on Average Shareholder's Fund	1.88%	1.55%
(iii). Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	85.63%	86.85%
(iv). Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	10.17%	11.84%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Share Capital	Share premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others (Fair Value Reserve)	Total
	Current Year (2023)						
Balance as at the beginning of the year	21,800,000	-	(3,456,952)	62,328	-	95,831	18,501,207
Profit/(Loss) for the year	-	-	352,045	-	-	-	352,045
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(214,812)	214,812	-	-	-
General Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the year	21,800,000	-	(3,319,719)	277,140	-	95,831	18,853,252
Previous Year (2022)							
Balance as at the beginning of the Year	21,800,000	-	(3,703,030)	24,348	-	95,831	18,317,149
Profit/(Loss) for the year	-	-	284,054	-	-	-	284,054
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(37,380)	37,380	-	-	-
General Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the year	21,800,000	-	(3,456,952)	62,328	-	95,831	18,501,207

KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Current Year	Previous Year
	31st Dec. 2023	31st Dec. 2022
I. Cash Flow from Operating Activities:		
Net Income/ (Loss) before tax	403,442	306,791
Adjustments for		
- Impairment/ Amortization/ Depreciation & Non-cash items	230,222	297,712
- Net Change in Loans and Advances	(7,991,398)	(6,075,097)
- Gain/Loss from Sale of Assets	-	-
- Net Change in Deposits	968,818	423,700
- Net Change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	-	-
- Net Change in Other Liabilities	(236,005)	119,974
- Net Change in Other Assets	(119,805)	(150,770)
- Tax Paid	(61,397)	(44,803)
- Other	29,808	219,473
Net Cash (Used)/ Provided by Operating Activities	(6,776,315)	(4,903,020)
II. Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
- Matured deposits with banks	2,247,141	(5,495,357)
- Purchase of Fixed Assets	(25,282)	(30,904)
- Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-
- Purchase of TMRC Securities	-	-
- Investment in Govt Securities	-	-
- Purchase of Intangibles	(11,637)	(2,348)
Net Cash (Used) by Investing Activities	2,210,242	(5,528,609)
III. Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
- Repayment of Long-Term Debt	(2,800,000)	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	-	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	-
- Payment of Cash Dividends	-	(99,297)
- Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(103,333)	(99,297)
- Others (New Loan from TMRC & NBC Bank (T) Ltd)	7,000,000	10,800,000
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities	4,096,667	10,700,703
IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash equivalents	(469,406)	269,074
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the period	1,214,860	945,786
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the period	745,454	1,214,860

The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the Financial Institution for the year ended 31st December 2022, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Financial Statements were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers - Certified Public Accountants and received an unqualified audit report.

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name and Title :	Signature	Date
Sasa M. Chonza (Chief Executive Officer)	(Signed)	09.04.2024
Amulike E. Kamwela (Chief Financial Officer)	(Signed)	09.04.2024
Isambo Binde (Internal Audit Manager)	(Signed)	09.04.2024

Name :	Signature	Date
Charles Mugila (Chairman)	(Signed)	09.04.2024
Margaret Ikongo (Director)	(Signed)	09.04.2024



World Central Kitchen has delivered hundreds of thousands of meals in Gaza since the conflict began last year.

Delivery of food in a war zone: The story behind World Central Kitchen

By Bernd Debusmann

THE killing of seven members of World Central Kitchen (WCK) in Gaza has starkly highlighted the food charity's often dangerous work around the globe.

For 14 years, the non-profit founded by chef Jose Andres has provided millions of meals in places ravaged by natural disasters and violent conflicts.

It had been bringing food to civilians in the Israel-Hamas war since October.

After the airstrike on its aid convoy, it suspended that work, sparking fears that a vital lifeline will be cut.

Those killed were traveling from a warehouse in central Gaza, when the convoy was struck by Israeli aircraft. They represented the organization's international reach, coming from as far away as Australia.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has acknowledged the airstrike and vowed to investigate.

The group is no stranger to conflict. It has also operated in Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion, where it has also lost seven people.

What role has WCK taken in Gaza?

WCK has been operating in Gaza - as well as in Israel and Lebanon - since the outbreak of hostilities in early October last year.

By 29 March, the organisation had dispatched more than 1,700 trucks with food and cooking equipment through the Rafah crossing from Egypt, and was working through 68 "community kitchens".

Additionally, it has delivered 230,000 meals from Jordan, both overland and via airdrops, and sent 435,000 meals by sea.

It recently said that two more ships are loaded with 1.2 million meals ready to be sent to northern Gaza.

Mick Mulroy, a former deputy assistant secretary of defence for the Middle East, said that the risks for WCK in Gaza are "as high or higher" than in other conflict areas, largely due to the "condensed" nature of the warzone.

"There should be an investigation to determine why a clearly marked vehicle whose movement was coordinated was struck in the daytime by what appears to be a precision weapon," he said. "That should not happen."

What impact will the WCK strike have on aid to Gaza?

The announcement that WCK and another charity, the American Near East Refugee Aid, have suspended operations raised immediate concerns about a disruption of aid to Gaza. The UAE - WCK's primary funder in Gaza - has also paused its Gaza aid route.

"Children are dying of hunger," Juliette Touma, the communications director for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said. "Any organisation which delivers assistance to people in Gaza is key."

"Any disruption will have severe consequences on a population which is already going through quite a lot."

Dr Mona Jebiril, a Palestinian researcher at Cambridge who lived in Gaza for more than 22 years, said that the impact of the airstrike is "much more than just catastrophic".

"We're talking about a population that has basically 100% been declared as being on the brink of famine," she said. "The population is being left to die...This is very dangerous."

How has WCK gained such prominence?

There are two major reasons WCK has become so instrumental in Gaza: its ability to distribute food and problems with UNRWA.

While large swaths of Gaza's population have relied on humanitarian assistance for decades, WCK quickly gained prominence largely as a result of opening its maritime corridor and its distribution network.

Meanwhile, UNRWA, the biggest UN agency operating in Gaza, has been pulled into a diplomatic storm, hampering its operations.

Israel has accused some of its employees of taking part in the 7 October attack and has said there was a Hamas tunnel under its local headquarters. The US and 15 other countries announced they would temporarily pause funding for UNRWA during an investigation, although Sweden and Canada have recently resumed payments.

WCK has been "helping to fill the void" left by UNRWA, said Khaled Elgindy, the director of the programme on Palestine and Palestinian-Israeli affairs at the Washington DC-based Middle East Institute.

"There's no real substitute for UNRWA at the moment," Elgindy said. "But World Central Kitchen has become much more prominent in its absence."

"Now, there's literally almost nobody to distribute the little amount of aid that actually gets in," he added.

Who is José Andrés, WCK's founder?

A native of Spain, Mr Andrés moved to New York at the age of 21, later recounting that he arrived with \$50 (£40) in his pocket. Less than two years later, he moved to Washington DC and quickly rose through the ranks of the city's burgeoning culinary scene.

Since then, he has opened nearly 40 restaurants, and has become a best-selling author, TV host, and, in 2019, a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Internationally, Mr Andrés is best-known for his work with WCK, which he founded in 2010 after a devastating earthquake in Haiti that killed more than 200,000 people.

In a January interview, Andrés recounted that in Haiti "we saw the devastation in an already very poor country".

"And I said, 'let me go not so much to help, let me go to start learning,'" he said. "And slowly I began learning that it doesn't require more than just the willingness to make it happen."

To date, WCK has served more than 350 million meals, partnering with on-the-ground groups and networks of local restaurants, food trucks and emergency kitchens.

Where else has WCK operated? WCK has provided disaster relief in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia.

In Puerto Rico, for example, it quickly began distributing food in the wake of 2017's Hurricane Maria. In 2023, its teams were operating within hours of a 6.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Morocco, ultimately delivering 2.1 million meals.

Perhaps its most prominent deployment, however, was to Ukraine, where the group has served more than 260 million meals since Russia invaded in February 2022.

WCK says that two Russian missile strikes on community centres in 2022 and 2023 killed six of its members, and another volunteer was killed when his apartment building was attacked.

Ensuring responsibility as leaders under a new international landscape

By Ida Jeng Christensen

THE global leadership landscape has fundamentally changed in the past two decades - and these new challenges mean our leaders need to adopt a host of new skills and new approaches to lead responsibly.

Twenty years ago, when the Forum of Young Global Leaders was established, leaders were grappling with challenges posed by globalization, economic uncertainty and the rise of digital technologies. The Forum's mission was to create a community of next-generation leaders capable of addressing these dynamic global challenges head-on.

Fast forward to today, as the World Economic Forum announces the latest cohort of Young Global Leaders for 2024, the world confronts a new array of challenges and opportunities that demand responsible and decisive leadership.

The changing face of leadership
Today's leaders face a complex web of interconnected crises, from climate change to technological disruption, social inequality to geopolitical tensions.

The World Economic Forum's Global Cooperation Barometer 2024 underscores the specific challenges in fostering global collaboration and argues that revitalizing cooperation is necessary for advancing resilience, growth and security.

As a result, leaders across sectors are called upon to exhibit new skills, heightened resilience and visionary leadership to navigate the intricacies of our times.

The Forum of Young Global Leaders brings together exceptional leaders who embody the qualities necessary for the future: adaptability, resilience and a steadfast commitment to driving positive change. Through our programme, we facilitate connections across geographies and sectors, provide leadership development opportunities and enable impact initiatives - all with the goal of improving the state of the world.

As we launch our new cohort of more than 80 Young Global Leaders today, it is clear that nurturing these qualities will be essential for them to effectively navigate the complex challenges of our time.

Hailing from diverse corners of the globe, these leaders are already making significant strides in addressing the pressing issues of our time in their own right. Together, they tackle a broad spectrum of challenges, ranging from water scarcity to gender disparity.

Key approaches to responsible leadership

With these imperatives in mind, there are three key approaches leaders should take to confront the issues of the 21st century.

Champion multi-stakeholder approaches

By embracing multi-stakeholder approaches, today's leaders have the potential to drive transformative impact and shape a more inclusive, sustainable future. Leaders must acknowledge that addressing complex challenges requires

collaboration and alignment among diverse stakeholders. By actively engaging all relevant parties, leaders can tap into a wealth of perspectives and resources to drive impactful change.

Within the YGL community, countless examples abound of leaders from varied backgrounds coming together to deliver real impact. For instance, YGLs Jessica Jackson and Jared Genser united their expertise in criminal justice reform and legal advocacy to advance efforts to end mass incarceration. By mobilizing international support and championing human rights, they exemplify the power of multistakeholder collaboration in effecting systemic change.

Apply systems thinking

In our interconnected world, leaders must adopt a holistic approach to problem-solving. By understanding the interrelation of issues and potential consequences, leaders can prioritize solutions that benefit entire systems. For example, YGL Lady Marième Jamme founded iamtheCODE, a global movement seeking to get 1 million girls coding by 2030, with the aim of addressing the systemic failure of gender inequality in technology.

Jamme, with support from multinationals and universities, has trained and mentored thousands of girls each year in under-served areas in Africa, South America and the Middle East. Similarly, YGL Diane Binder, Chief Executive Officer of Regenopolis, joined forces with the World Economic Forum's It.org programme to launch the Alliance for the Great Green Wall.

This ambitious project is being implemented across 22 African countries to restore 100 million hectares of currently degraded land, sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon and create 10 million green jobs by 2030. Through transformative projects like these, leaders demonstrate the potential of systems thinking to drive sustainable and equitable solutions.

Bridge divides
In an era blighted by polarization and division, leaders must strive to build bridges and foster unity. The YGL community embodies this ethos, with members actively working to promote inclusivity and belonging.

For instance, since joining the community, YGL Luana Genot, the Executive Director of Instituto Identidades do Brasil, has been organizing a series of hackathons that bring together YGLs and Global Shapers to share their perspectives on these crucial issues, exploring their realities, tools and ongoing efforts to promote equity.

Similarly, YGLs Lisa Witter, Robyn Scott and Daniel Sachs co-founded the Apolitical Foundation to update political leadership for the 21st century through a worldwide nonpartisan movement. To date, they have helped accelerate 17 Political Leadership Incubators in 36 countries. In a world of rising public mistrust, the Apolitical Foundation's efforts to facilitate dialogue, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building are crucial.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

30 years on, genocide survivors embark on tough task of building a resilient future

By Aimable Twahirwa, Kigali

A MINUTE of silence was observed on April 7 across Rwanda as the country held a memorial ceremony to mourn more than one million people, overwhelmingly Tutsis, who were systematically killed in the 100 days of atrocities between April and July 1994.

The Rwandan government's commemoration marking the 30th anniversary of the 1994 Rwandan genocide against Tutsi raised the curtain on a three-month remembrance period. The event was attended by current and former heads of state and government, including former US President Bill Clinton, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and other visiting guests who also laid wreaths at the memorial earlier Sunday, April 7.

The genocide claimed the lives of 1,074,017 people, mainly ethnic Tutsis. The killing spree began immediately after a plane carrying former Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundian counterpart, Cyprien Ntaryamira, was shot down over Rwanda's capital, Kigali, on April 6, 1994.

The annual commemoration is to be held every year from April 7 to July 4, in line with the period of the genocide.

The commemoration, named Kwibuka (meaning 'remember'), started with the laying of wreaths at the Kigali Genocide Memorial, the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the genocide, followed by a commemoration ceremony.

Marie Louise Ayinkamiye, a genocide survivor who was 11 years old during the genocide and lived in Nyange village in western Rwanda. She said that the impact of genocide continues long after the killing has ended. Survivors are now tapping into their inner resilience and facing life's challenges with courage and determination.

"My oldest son is the same age as I was during the genocide... I was born and grew up experiencing discrimination because of my ethnicity. Now 30 years on, life in Rwanda looks very different," the mother of five told the mourners at Kigali Arena.

As Rwanda marks the 30th anniversary of the Genocide, authorities emphasize the need to provide survivors with strategies to help them navigate their healing



Dignitaries, including several heads of state and leaders of international organizations, joined Rwanda for the 30th commemoration of the Genocide Against the Tutsi, also known as Kwibuka 30.

journey, build resilience, and recreate a better future for the children and generations to come.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame told hundreds of people, including senior officials and senior delegations from several countries who turned out to observe the ceremony, that only a new generation of young people has the ability to renew and redeem a nation after a genocide.

"Our job was to provide the space and the tools for them to break the cycle (...) and they have," Kagame said.

Official estimates show that about 78 percent of Rwandans are below 35 years of age. The majority either have no memory of the genocide or were not yet born.

"Our youth are the guardians of our future and the foundation of our unity, with a mind-set that is totally different from the generation before," Kagame

said.

The latest Rwanda Reconciliation Barometer, published by the government, shows that the status of reconciliation in Rwanda moved from 82.3 percent in 2010 to 92.5 percent in 2015 and to 94.7 percent in 2020.

Another factor the reconciliation barometers presented as hindering reconciliation was the fact that some Rwandans still viewed themselves and others through ethnic lenses.

Rwandans, according to the official report, feel attached to their national identity, which would make reconciliation highly possible, as it would mean that they have overcome tendencies to associate themselves and others with ethnic-specific identities.

However, many respondents to the survey confessed that if people were not careful, the genocide ideology could continue to be disseminated

among the youth and create an environment for a genocide to happen again.

According to the latest findings by the former government's National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, some of these people with "genocide ideology" know the government does not support such divisive practices; they hide their feelings but still live a divided life, which is why all actors have to continue engaging more with unity and reconciliation.

The Rwandan president observed that it was all Rwandans who had conquered fear.

"Nothing can be worse than what we have already experienced. This is a nation of 14 million people who are ready to confront any attempt to take us backwards," the Rwandan leader said.

The latest estimates by Never Again

Rwanda, one of the local non-governmental organizations working to build trust and promote trauma healing and genocide prevention, show that social mistrust, suspicion, and fears stemming from wounds directly and indirectly related to the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda remain.

The organization notes that though Rwanda has achieved significant development gains and stability since the genocide, efforts towards long-term sustainable peace must be sensitive to the presence of trauma within Rwandan society and seek to redress it.

The 2018 Rwanda's comprehensive mental-health survey, conducted by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) shows that about 28% of genocide survivors reported post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, compared with 3.6% of the general population.

NAKURU

WITH palpable joy, Pauline Mogambi cast an admiring gaze at the indigenous vegetables blooming on her farm in the northwestern Kenyan county of Nakuru, about 180 kilometers from the capital, Nairobi.

The mother of two is an early adopter of conservation agriculture, which promotes soil health through minimal tillage alongside organic methods of controlling crop pests and diseases to boost yield. Ever since she started practicing zero tillage, intercropping and application of compost manure, her one-acre farm has produced enough to feed her family and sell surplus at local markets.

"I have been a farmer for two decades and used to grapple with depressed harvests, but when I embraced conservation agriculture and organic weed and pest control methods, total crop yield shot up," Mogambi said on Monday.

Smallholder farmers in Nakuru County, one of Kenya's breadbaskets, have not been spared the challenges posed by a warming planet, including voracious pests, diseases, market volatility and shrinking arable land. The Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), through its Initiative on Diversification in East and Southern Africa, has nevertheless assisted these farmers in deploying technologies and innovations that enhance climate resilience, promoting food and nutritional security.

In Kenya, the initiative dubbed "Ukama Ustawi," which translates to "partnership and progress," is being implemented in Nakuru and Kenya's eastern counties of Embu and Makuani.

Mogambi's farm has served as a demonstration site for various innovative practices, including zero tillage, striping, intercropping, crop rotation, mulching and agroforestry. Since adopting these climate-smart farming techniques, Mogambi has reported a three-

From survival to thriving: Kenyan smallholder farmers embrace climate-smart innovations



Traders weighing bell peppers at Makutano market in Kirinyaga County, Kenya.

fold increase in maize, legume, kale, tuber and fruit harvests, improving both her family's nutrition and income.

"Currently, I am able to harvest 36 bags of maize and 20 tonnes of silage, and before embracing

conservation agriculture; I used to harvest a maximum of seven bags of maize. Now I am proud to say farming is my full-time employer," Mogambi said.

Boaz Waswa, a soil scientist with the Alliance of Bioversity Interna-

tional and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), a member of CGIAR, said that indigenous knowledge and innovation are key to boosting the resilience of local smallholder farmers.

According to Waswa, these farm-

ers should be empowered to increase crop diversification, zero tillage and the use of organic manure and drip irrigation to boost crop yield and combat hunger, poverty and malnutrition. "When we diversify crops, households will have more nutritious food and better incomes. We also need to apply agroecological solutions that improve soil health."

He said that the deployment of these climate-smart innovations has also been gender-inclusive, ensuring that women and youth farmers are empowered to cope with climatic shocks.

The "Ukama Ustawi" initiative, which is being implemented in 12 African countries, including Kenya, has enhanced yield stability at the smallholder level, boosting the fight against rural hunger and poverty, Waswa added.

On the southern edge of Nakuru County, where Serah Ndongu's two-acre farm is located, a variety of crops, including maize, beans, kales, potatoes and avocado trees, create a green foliage that grabs the attention of passers-by. The middle-aged farmer is a champion of sustainable practices, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture, intercropping and mulching, that have guaranteed her bumper harvests in any given season.

Ndongu said that smallholder farmers are keen to transition from conventional methods of growing crops that have proved unsustainable. Skills gained through the initiative have enabled her to leverage climate-resilient innovations to boost the production of cereals, legumes, tubers and vegetables.

"Sometimes it can turn very dry in my locality, but through mulching, drip irrigation, and minimum tillage, I am able to retain soil moisture on my farm and grow different crop varieties to maturity," Ndongu said.

Thirty years after apartheid: South Africa's failed housing promise

By Crystal Orderson

IN the backyard of a small house in Cape Town's Mitchells Plain stands a one-room corrugated iron structure.

Inside, Cheryl-Ann Smith, her husband and three grandsons have made a home. They are among thousands of so-called "backyard dwellers" in this impoverished area locals call Lost City.

Here, residents often sublet part of their small plots to others who are even less well-off than they are, creating invisible households without access to basic services like electricity and sanitation.

In the Smiths' single-room dwelling, there is barely enough space for their two beds, a makeshift cupboard with a two-plate stove, and a round bucket for doing dishes. The one tap they use is situated at the front of the property, and they have to use buckets as a toilet.

Smith, 54, has lived in this limbo for most of her life, waiting for a house from the government for the last 30 years - since before the ruling African National Congress (ANC) won the first democratic elections after apartheid.

"I applied in June 1993 for a council house and imagine it's 2024 and I am still waiting!" the part-time domestic worker stated.

When the ANC came to power in 1994, providing houses for all was a key government policy. The country went a step further in its 1996 constitution, stating that all levels of government should address the "legacy of spatial apartheid" and that mechanisms in the law would allow for the release of land for affordable housing.

On paper, there is a commitment to provide housing for all. However, in reality, the pace of delivery has not kept up with the growing demand, resulting in an enormous backlog.

The decades of unfulfilled prom-



In Cape Town's Mitchells Plain, many people who are left without houses build shacks or informal dwellings in the backyards of other homes.

ises have also left voters disgruntled with both the ANC national government and the leading opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) party that runs Cape Town and the Western Cape province.

As the country heads to a crucial general election in May - which analysts say will be the toughest one yet for the ANC - some polls suggest the DA's majority in the Cape is also slipping, in a sign of an electorate ready to hold their leaders to account.

'A nightmare'
From 1994 to February 2022, the state housed about five million people in need, according to data from the Department of Human Settlements. However, nationally some 2.3 million households and individuals are still waiting for a home.

In the Western Cape, official waiting lists say more than 600,000 people are in line for a council house, with over 350,000 of those in Cape Town alone.

And housing activists say those on the official lists are only a fraction of the people in need.

In Mitchells Plain, where Smith lives, the local residents' association said there are more than 15,000 people from the area waiting for homes, but no political will from the authorities to help house everyone who needs it.

"The housing waiting lists are a nightmare and there seems to be no coherence when someone like Cheryl-Ann and others have been on the list for 20 to 30 years," said Michael Jacobs, the deputy head of the Mitchells Plain United Residents Association.

As a civic organisation, Jacobs said they have tried to engage with the city, provincial and national government to release parcels of land to build houses, but no one is listening.

"The list is a joke; people will die and their children will be adults and they will never ever have

a house at the rate we are moving."

The DA has governed the Western Cape for more than 16 years, while the other eight of the country's nine provinces are run by the ANC.

DA leaders have consistently painted their territory as an oasis in a country plagued by inefficiency, with party leader John Steenhuisen telling voters in Cape Town this month: "While the eight ANC-led provinces crumble, there is one place left in this country where the hope that we all shared for a better future shines ever more brightly. That place of hope is this DA-led Western Cape province. The Western Cape of Good Hope."

But for the majority of poor, non-white residents, this rhetoric does not reflect their lived reality.

Cape Town is a geographically segregated city, with the scars of apartheid often hidden away from the pristine beaches and multimillion-dollar properties that

make it a global tourist hub.

Mitchells Plain - which sits on a flat, sandy stretch of land some 30km (19 miles) away from the city centre known as the Cape Flats - was set up in the 1970s as a place for the apartheid government to house people of colour following racist forced removals.

It was designed to be separate and segregated from then-whites-only areas, but also from economic opportunities and services. And that unjust spatial legacy remains.

Today, Mitchells Plain is home to close to half a million low-to-middle-income people living in about eight neighbourhoods of varying socioeconomic status.

The area also recorded one of the highest numbers of attempted murders nationally during the first quarter of the year, according to crime statistics - and repeatedly makes it into the country's top 30 areas with the highest crime rates.

Smith and her family have not been spared. Living in Lost City, one of the poorest areas in Mitchells Plain, she has lost three children, two to gang violence, she said, wondering aloud if they would still be alive if she had a real home to keep them safe.

"Lost City is so far from everything," Smith said. "People say the name is from the fact that we are lost here; no one listens to us or helps us as the backyard dwellers waiting for a house."

'Out of touch' politicians

With the elections less than two months away, housing is not at the top of the agenda for the leading political parties in the province.

The ANC only has two lines in its manifesto related to the issue, where it states it will continue building subsidised housing for vulnerable groups and invest in people partly by ensuring everyone has decent housing and basic services.

In its manifesto, the DA makes no mention of housing at all. But an earlier housing policy from the party says it believes in "adequate shelter" and supports the section of the constitution that requires this right to be "progressively realised".

Nick Budlender, an urban policy researcher at

the housing activist group Ndifuna Ukwazi (NU), sees political parties' lack of focus on housing as "both interesting and disheartening".

"Land and housing were key issues in previous elections and, for many, political parties have drifted away and the struggle for housing has less capital. It slipped down the list for politicians," he said.

Last month, Cape Town's Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, a member of the DA, unveiled what the city calls its "pro-poor budget" for 2024-2025, telling a council meeting that the mission going forward was to invest in infrastructure "on an unprecedented scale".

"With boldness of vision and firmness of belief, we know that Cape Town can show that it is possible to roll back poverty that we can overcome the long shadows of our past," he said.

However, Budlender said: "We have a housing and segregation crisis that is extreme here - but we don't see enough government action to match this crisis," adding that the leadership was "failing to use public land to serve the public".

"This is an example of inequality and segregation in our city," he said.

Jacobs from the Mitchells Plain United Residents Association said he would also like to see "a rapid release of land from the national government", which the city could then use to build homes for people who need it.

But "the city is not geared up for the delivery of houses", he admitted, adding that Mayor Hill-Lewis was "out of touch" with the realities on the ground.

'They forget about us'
In Lost City, Smith sat with her family outside their single-room dwelling, still hoping that change would come.

Her husband, Russel, 61, lost his right leg years ago and is unable to work. He gets a small disability pension that helps them pay rent to the owner of the plot they stay on, but Smith does domestic work twice a week to earn a bit more money.

A big chunk of what she makes goes into public transport to visit the city council to follow up on her housing application - and sometimes that isn't

enough.

"I usually have to borrow taxi fare to go to the city's housing office to find out if there is any news on getting a council house, I am so tired and frustrated," she said, telling Al Jazeera that different officials usually send her from one office to the next.

"In January, they told me I have to wait longer because of some issues, and the houses were not going to be built, so I have to wait another three to four years. This is so depressing."

Budlender from the NU, whose non-profit group of lawyers and community organisers works to tackle spatial injustice in the city, said: "Sadly, we see cases like Cheryl-Ann and her family all the time."

"This idea is that the housing waiting list is a rational list, meaning those who are on the earliest will get homes first - but that is not how it functions at all and it's a lot more random."

For Smith that has meant going to the housing office almost every day to follow up on her application. But so far, it has yielded no results.

Budlender said though millions have benefited from the state's housing policy since 1994, for many more, there is no help at all.

"We know of hundreds of thousands of people that live in backyard housing and that number continues to grow," he said, adding that it is a section of the population the government seems to want to ignore.

"So far there has been no real policy response to backyard housing," he said. "It's like they put their heads in the sand."

As the elections approach, the politicians campaign around rolling back poverty. But to the Smiths and their neighbours, talk means little when the reality of poverty is all they have.

"They only come here when they need us to vote for them and then they forget about us," Smith said, putting little faith in their party promises.

"I dream of the day I have a house where there is a running tap that I can simply open and wash my grandchild in a bath instead of a bucket," she said, "and have a toilet I can flush."

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 96 -

14. a large tuna in Hawaii
15. a man
17. put alcohol into someone's drink without their consent
18. a person's sense of self-esteem
20. cat with shaggy mane
22. a Hindu Queen
23. attitude
24. Irish Gaelic language

DOWN:
1. Current President of Tanzania
2. covered with water
3. a body of troops stationed in a fortress to defend it
4. a reddish-brown form of the jaguarundi (cat)
5. Mercenaries in Kiswahili
6. deploy as a means of achieving something
7. lacking the necessities of life
10. magistrates in ancient Rome
13. a Fool
16. listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from boredom
18. before in time
19. freshwater fish of USA
21. Witness

ACROSS:
1. wise, judicious
5. feel deep sorrow for the death of
8. to or at a distance
9. a coarse grass of coastal sand dunes
11. First woman to be created
12. Country attacked by Hamas recently

A									
V									
O									
W									

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

OTTAWA	SALOON	LAN : EG :
ROSEBUD	MALINGER	OW : SWIPE
OVEN	LESIONS	BETEL
MORSEL	INEPT	WARN
AVOW	ENDOW	AGO

Yesterday's solution

M	O	N	D	A	C	A	C	A	T	D	U	M	B			
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RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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By Correspondent Julieth Mkiri, KIBITI

LAND ENCROACHMENT VISIBLY THREATENS FORESTS IN KIBITI

AMIDST the bustling rise in land and plot sales in Kibiti district, in the Coast Region, a disturbing trend emerges as certain individuals dare to encroach upon the lush greenery of forested areas.

In response, the government has issued a stern warning, demanding an immediate stop to these actions, regardless of the forests' legal status. It is essential for district leaders, councils, and the country's forestry agency (TFS) to protect protected forests from harmful activities.

The resolute mandates were declared by Kibiti District Commissioner, Colonel Joseph Kolombo, acting on behalf of the Regional Commissioner, Abubakar Kunenge, during a momentous regional tree planting ceremony yesterday.

Echoing these imperative directives, Kolombo emphasized the crucial necessity for unwavering regulations and diligent enforcement to be implemented saying: "Let us unite in our dedication to enhancing environmental stewardship and fostering sustainable practices for the betterment of our community and future generations."

Colonel Kalombo further said: "By implementing rigorous regulations and robust enforcement, we have the power to confront and quell the destructive human activities of charcoal burning, livestock invasion, sand mining, stone quarrying, farming, and settlement."

Adding: "In doing so, we are safeguarding our irreplace-



Unauthorized occupation of land poses a threat to the forest. File Photo

able natural treasures for the prosperity of generations to come. Let us unite in our unwavering commitment to conservation and sustainability."

The DC emphasized that the surge in population growth, coupled with the scarcity of energy resources, has fueled a heightened need for forest products like wood, charcoal, and residential spaces.

"This heightened demand has, in turn, driven up rates of logging and deforestation, posing a grave threat to our precious natural habitats. It

is imperative that we address these pressing issues with urgency and thoughtfulness to safeguard our forests for current and future generations," he affirmed.

He stressed the vital importance of village governments, districts, councils, and other institutions fully complying with such directives, underlining the potential for enhancing the protection and sustainable management of forests within their respective jurisdictions.

"By wholeheartedly embracing these guidelines, they can play a pivotal role in safeguarding these precious natural resources for both present and future generations," he noted.

Further directives have been issued, notably including a requirement for each council within the region to submit a comprehensive report on the progress of tree planting initiatives carried out during the 2022/2023 period.

The report should also detail the number of trees that have perished, shedding light

on both the successes and challenges encountered in the conservation efforts.

Colonel Kolombo highlighted the significant achievements made within the region, with an impressive 8,876,640 trees planted during the specified period.

Looking forward, the 2023/2024 season sees a promising 10,436,494 seedlings already developed and poised for planting across various sites within the region.

Such initiatives reflect a concerted commitment to sus-

tainability and environmental stewardship in the pursuit of a greener, healthier future.

With an authoritative voice, Colonel Kolombo announced the directives on behalf of the RC, emphasizing the crucial mission for each council to achieve the government's ambitious goal of planting 1.5 million trees. "This mandate signifies our collective responsibility to address environmental challenges and advance the vision of a greener, more sustainable future. Let us unite in this endeavor and take meaningful action to make a positive impact on our planet," he instructed.

In advocating for the preservation of forests and encouraging community engagement, TFS Chief Conservator, Shabani Kiula, emphasized the critical role his organization plays in safeguarding our natural resources.

Kiula, acting on behalf of TFS's Conservation Commissioner, Professor Dos Santos Silayo, underscored the commitment of the agency to providing free seedlings for Tanzanians to plant, underscoring the importance of collective action in ensuring the sustained conservation of the country's forests.

Moreover, Forest Officer Pierre Ntiyamagwa, highlighted the multifaceted approach being taken to address the pressing issue of forest degra-

ation. Beyond tree planting initiatives, Ntiyamagwa emphasized the comprehensive strategy in place to combat the destruction of forest resources and promote environmental conservation efforts.

Notably, collaborative efforts between the Forestry Services Agency (TFS) and district councils in the Eastern Zone have yielded tangible results.

Through increased patrols and awareness campaigns, significant strides have been made in raising consciousness about the importance of establishing nurseries and planting trees in various governmental and non-governmental organizations. These concerted efforts signify a unified commitment to sustainable forest management and ecological preservation.

Furthermore, he underscored the pressing challenges confronting forest resources, notably the burgeoning population of Dar es Salaam.

According to him, such demographic surge has fueled a relentless demand for wood for construction and charcoal production, fueling a destructive cycle of rampant logging and deforestation in the Coast Region's forests and reserves.

"Such unchecked exploitation jeopardizes the delicate ecological balance and imperils the future sustainability of our natural habitats," he said.

Australian firm finally wins bid to own Nyanzaga gold project

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

AN Australian company Persus Mining has finally won the bid to secure the acquisition of Tanzania's based Nyanzaga gold project, which was formally controlled by Orecorp, following months of rivalry with Canadian Silvercorp Metals.

The Nyanzaga gold project is an advanced development project in the Archaean Greenstones of the Lake Victoria Goldfields of northwest Tanzania.

The project, which the government of Tanzania holds a 16 percent free-carried interest in Sotta Mining Corporation Limited, comprises the Special Mining Licence (SML), covering 23.4km² and encompasses the Nyanzaga and Kilimani deposits and other exploration prospects.

Reports have it that the Canada's Silvercorp Metals officially stepped aside from the race to control Africa-focused gold explorer Orecorp, after agreeing to sell its 15 percent stake in the company to rival Persus Mining.

Persus Metals said in a statement issued on Wednesday that Silvercorp's acceptance was for a total of 73,889,007 Orecorp Shares (representing 15.61 percent of Orecorp Shares on issue).

"As at 9 April 2024, Persus has a relevant interest in 354,982,123 Orecorp Shares, which is representing 74.98 percent of Orecorp Shares on issue," the statement.

"Persus wants to reiterate that the offer is unconditional; and best and final in the absence of a competing proposal".

However, the statement noted that the Persus offer is open until 19th April 2024 (unless extended).

Silvercorp and Persus have been vying for months to acquire the Orecorp, which saw Persus raise its cash offer in March to A\$0.575 a share.

The figure, representing 4.5 percent increase over its previous bid of A\$0.55, had been originally turned down by Orecorp earlier this year. Formally, Orecorp gave Silvercorp five days to increase its bid, but the period expired on March 26, resulting in the company encouraging shareholders to accept Persus' proposal.

In a statement, Orecorp said on Wednesday this week that it is already actively working with Persus Mining Limited to transition its board and management team in respect of the takeover.

Yesterday, Orecorp Limited announced the changes to its board and management, which have been made following Persus Mining Limited declaring its off-market takeover bid unconditional last week.

Messrs Matthew Yates (Executive Chairman), Henk Diedrichs (CEO & Managing Director), Alastair Morrison (Non-Executive Director) and Michael Davis (Non-Executive Director) have therefore resigned from their positions on the board.

Yates and Diedrichs have agreed to remain available to provide consultancy services to the company for a transitional period.

Persus says it appreciates the collaborative relationship it has developed with Orecorp and intends to appoint representatives to the Orecorp board and management team including Chairperson Jeff Quartermaine and CEO and MD Lee-Anne de Bruin.

The statement said Quartermaine and de Bruin will not be remunerated by the company for their respective roles in addition to their remuneration received from Persus.

"We are pleased with the positive response from Orecorp shareholders and to be able to declare the offer unconditional and best and final. The offer

provides compelling benefits and value to Orecorp shareholders, as well as the opportunity for Orecorp shareholders to realise certain and expedited value for their Orecorp shareholdings," Persus new chairperson and CEO Jeff Quartermaine was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

He said senior executives from Persus are scheduled to visit Tanzania in the very near future to continue the process of building relationships in-country with key government and industry stakeholders as well as existing employees and associates of Orecorp, and to prepare the way for the commencement of the development of the Nyanzaga gold project.

A definitive feasibility study conducted in 2022, gave Nyanzaga an after-tax net present value of \$618 million at a 5 percent discount rate and an internal rate of return of 25 percent.

Persus had been looking for additional gold assets in Africa to grow its portfolio. This prompted it to throw its hat in the ring, approaching Orecorp with an off-market offer.

Currently, Persus operates three gold mines in Africa: Edikan in Ghana, and Sissingu and Yaour in Côte d'Ivoire.

Hybrid mass timber high-rise just as cost-effective as concrete tower

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

CONSTRUCTING a hybrid mass timber high-rise is now nearly as cost-effective as constructing a comparable concrete tower, states a study co-authored by PCL Construction, DCI Engineers, and Weber Thompson.

The dubbed: "Hybrid Tall Timber: Mass Timber Residential High-Rise Study," showcases the potential of mass timber construction in expanding residential space in densely populated urban areas.

The research indicates that mass timber construction could lead to the development of more buildings in the intermediate tower height range. This range is often not fully utilized due to cost and code constraints.

According to the study, mass timber, a renewable material made from fast-growing lumber, could prove to be more economical under specific conditions.

This innovative construction method involves prefabricating components in a dedicated facility and then assembling them on-site, resulting in shortened project timelines and improved material efficiency.

When factoring in the cost savings achieved through accelerated schedules and the optimized material supply chain associated with prefabricated mass timber, an 18-story residential highrise constructed using a combination of mass timber and concrete could be as cost-effective as \$74.45 per square foot.

The study also mentioned that while this cost may be slightly higher than the \$71.09 per square



In the search for more sustainable solutions in construction, mass timber continues to take hold. Photo: Courtesy of LEVER Architecture

foot of a concrete building of the same size, it still represents a competitive price point that could prompt developers to reconsider their material choices, particularly in a fiercely competitive leasing market.

Additionally, the study highlighted that incorporating mass timber and concrete could result in significant reductions in embodied carbon, potentially allowing an 18-story hybrid building to sequester up to 3,350 metric tonnes of CO₂e throughout its lifespan.

This becomes especially relevant as the construction sector grapples with new carbon-related levies and regulations aimed at endorsing low-carbon construction practices. The research findings also underscore the biophilic advantages of mass timber, emphasizing its positive effects on urban density and affordability.

Moreover, recent news of PCL

Construction entering into a partnership with Document Crunch, an AI-driven contract intelligence platform tailored for the construction industry, further demonstrates the sector's commitment to adopting cutting-edge technologies.

Through this collaboration, the construction firm seeks to leverage Crunch's AI capabilities to enhance its project teams' ability to effectively manage compliance risks associated with contracts.

On the other hand, experts from Layton, a construction firm, believe that the primary advantage driving interest in mass timber lies in its reduced carbon footprint. Trees actively sequester carbon, and as a result, a mass timber structure significantly reduces emissions compared to traditional concrete and steel structures. In contrast, the latter materials emit carbon during both the manufacturing and installation processes.

TANZANIA-INDIA TRADE VALUE HITS \$5.7BN IN 9 MONTHS

By Correspondent Mwanahamisi Mussa

THE trade performance between Tanzania and India reached US\$5.76 billion in nine months from April to December 2023.

In the financial year 2022/23, India-Tanzanian total trade was amounting to US\$6.48 billion, while as of December 2023, India's investment to Tanzania reached US\$3.93 billion and Tanzanian investment to India was US\$3.58 million.

This was revealed during Holi Festival at Indian Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam recently by the Indian high commission senior Officer Manoj Verma, who said India and Tanzania share brotherly relationship as well as robust economic, commercial and business ties.

India is the second largest trading partner of Tanzania by 2023 indicators, he said, and is the fifth biggest investor in Tanzania.

It was stated during the festival that India's major exports to Tanzania include; petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, motor vehicles, motorcycles (two wheelers and three wheelers), electrical goods, articles of iron and steel, sugar and machinery.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

India's major imports from Tanzania are gold, dried leguminous vegetables (pluses), cashew nuts, soya beans, unwrought lead, timber, cotton, cloves, coffee, metal scrap, precious stones and oilcake.

"We thank the government of Tanzania especially the Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs Dr. Pindi Chana for joining us today in these celebration of Holi festival, as the representative of Indian High Commission and the people of Indian diaspora, on the occasion of this Holi as the festival of color we wish to everyone and long live to Tanzania-Indian friendship," said Manoj.

However the Minister of Constitution and Legal Affairs Dr. Pindi Chana said in the last year the president Samia Suluhu made a state visit to India, now the trade between Tanzania and India is improving, there are health issues, medicine, water, schools and industries are getting stronger.

"Within three years of Dr. Samia Suluhu, we see that diplomatic issues are getting stronger and in terms of culture, we as a country have to learn unity, co-operation, peace because India also has

more than 100 tribes, but we see that these Holi festival bring them together regardless of race, age, gender or ethnicity, they are all become one," said Dr. Chana. In her official visit to India in October last year, President Samia urged Indian investors to come to Tanzania, promising a business-friendly environment and progressive economic reforms.

She said Tanzania has streamlined its business regulations, making it easy for investors to comply and provides robust incentive packages to investors.

"We have moved from registering \$2 billion of FDI in 2020 to \$5 billion in the year ending June 2023. We target to reach \$15 billion per year by the end of 2025," she said.

President Samia said investment promotion agencies in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar target to attract at least \$3 billion of foreign direct investments (FDI) from India per year by 2025.

During the meeting with President Samia, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India and Tanzania are important partners for mutual trade and investment and both sides are working on an agreement to increase trade in local currencies.

Agriculturalists seek ways to reduce soil acidity

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

LOCAL agriculturalists are working on a major project that will enable to reduce the effects of soil acidity to boost agricultural production.

It has been learnt that about 32.7 million hectares of land in Tanzania are acidic, the situation which is thwarting the needed metamorphosis in the country's crops production and productivity.

Effects of soil acidity to crop production include a sharp decrease availability of essential nutrients to crops, increased concentration of toxic elements (aluminium) in soils thus damaging crop roots, decrease crop production, and affect essential soil biological functions such as nitrogen fixation.

The initiative will be executed through the Guiding Acid Soil Management Investments in Africa (GAIA) project focuses on impart the farmers who are cultivating in soil acidity zones with agronomic knowledge of using limes in treating the soil.

Financed by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the research-based project is being executed jointly in the country by several agricultural institutions, led by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI).

As part of the project, special study trials were conducted in Geita and Mbozi districts, by using agricultural limes to treat soil acidity.

A series of 43 trials conducted in each of the two districts on maize and beans.

Earlier this week, TARI organized a special agro-technical meeting in Dodoma, attracted high-profile agricultural researchers from diverse institutions from within and outside the country that are part and parcel of the project to deliberate and set a crucial road map to use the findings from the project's trials studies to venture onto implementation.

The institutions include the Southern Agriculture Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAG-COT), Alliance for Green Revolution in Agriculture (AGRA), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization



Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute Director General Dr Thomas Bwana

(KALRO), to mention but a few.

Director for Crops Development for the Ministry of Agriculture, Nyasebwa Chimagu said during the official opening of the workshop that increasing crops production and productivity was among the currently priorities by the ministry.

He said to attain the vision; knowledge on soil health management among the local farmers was of paramount importance.

"The project has surfaced at a proper period as the government is striving to push the sector's annual growth to the tune of 10 percent by 2030, and thus, limiting effects of soil acidity is vital to enable the sector to grow to that effect," he said.

Chimagu urged members of the meeting to find a proper approach to which the project will apply to have the farmers under soil acidity adopting proper use of ag-limes.

"Majority of the farmers are not aware of the use of ag-lime as they have for years been sensitized to only use fertilizer, so the project must come up with a useful and simple approach to empower them," he suggested.

He noted that the project must sensitize the lime producing factories to expand production to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability to the intended farmers in the needed areas.

The TARI Director General Dr Thomas Bwana observed that soil acidity is diluting efforts by the country's agriculture system to attain the needed crops production and productivity.

He said the trials conducted in two Mbozi and Geita have proved that use of ag-limes can help to double maize yields in acidic soil areas.

"Currently, we're continuing carrying out more research to determine all areas of the country where farmers must use agricultural limes, as well as the actual extent that the farmers are supposed to use limes to get good results in their plantations," he unveiled.

He explained that TARI will introduce to the farmers key knowledge to help solve the various challenges that deny the farmers' bumper yields.

Jordan Chamberlin, the Senior Economist Research Land, Inclusive Rural Transformation Sustainable Agrifood Systems Program (SAP) at the In-

ternational Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), expressed that several governments in East Africa, including Tanzania, have initiated discussion on substantial investments in the rehabilitation of acid soils.

"The project's primary target includes Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda Eastern & Southern Africa and West Africa," he expounded, added.

In his presentation, entitled 'Guiding Acid Soil Management in Tanzania', Dr Sibaway Mwango, the National Coordinator Agricultural Natural Resources Management from TARI, detailed that although agriculture plays a vital role to the livelihood of Tanzanians, the sector is however facing many challenges which impede crop productivity and production.

The challenges, according to him incorporate low knowledge of soil health, inappropriate use of fertilizers, depleted soil fertility, inappropriate agronomic practices, and low knowledge on land suitability (where to grow what).

"There are two types of soil acidity, active and exchangeable soil acidity, whereby active soil acidity is easy to measure and can easily be corrected by liming, but it is difficult to measure exchangeable acidity as you are required to measure aluminium and hydrogen concentrations," he observed.

At present, he said, aluminium cannot be measured by neither soil scanners nor pH meters, as its correction may require huge amounts of lime and many cycles of re-application.

Explaining on the soil acidity in Tanzania, Dr Mwango said about 53 percent to 71 percent of applied fertilizers are lost, which means for every 100/- invested in fertilizers between 53/- and 71/- are not beneficial to the crop.

He said combining ag-lime and mineral fertilizers in appropriate rates can possibly increase yield three times for bean, and two times for maize, respectively in Geita district.

"The trials proved that maize increased from 5bags/acre to 15bags/acre, and beans increased from 1.0bag/acre to 3.3bags/acre," he said.

The same treatment increased yield 1.8 times and 1.7 times for maize and beans, respectively in Mbozi district, in which maize increased from 10bags/acre to 18bags/acre, and beans increased from 2.0 bags/acre to 3.4bags/acre.



Truong My Lan, center, attends a trial in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Thursday, April 11, 2024. Photo: Thanh Tung/AP

What to know about the real estate tycoon sentenced to death in Vietnam's largest fraud case

By Michael Bertolone
 HANOI

A Vietnamese real estate tycoon was sentenced to death Thursday in the country's biggest ever financial fraud case, a shocking development in an intensifying anti-corruption drive in the southeast Asian nation.

Truong My Lan, a high-profile businesswoman who chaired a sprawling company that developed luxury apartments, hotels, offices and shopping malls, was arrested in 2022. The 67-year-old was formally charged of fraud amounting to \$12.5 billion -- nearly 3 percent of the country's 2022 GDP.

Death sentences are not uncommon in Vietnam, but it is rare in financial crime cases and for someone this well known.

Here is a look at the key details of the case.

WHO IS TRUONG MY LAN?

Lan was born in 1956 and started out helping sell cosmetics with her mother, a Chinese businesswoman, in Ho Chi Minh city's oldest market, according to state media Tien Phong.

She and her family established the Van Thinh Phat company in 1992, when Vietnam shed its state-run economy in favor of a more market-oriented one that was open to foreigners. Over

the years VTP grew to become one of Vietnam's richest real estate firms.

Today the company is linked to some of Ho Chi Minh's most valuable downtown properties including the glittering 39-story Times Square Saigon, the five-star Windsor Plaza Hotel, the 37-story Capital Place office building and the five-star Sherwood Residence hotel where Lan lived until her arrest.

Lan met her husband, Hong Kong investor Eric Chu Nap-kee, in 1992. They have two daughters.

WHAT IS SHE ACCUSED OF?

Lan was involved in the 2011 merger of the beleaguered Saigon Joint Commercial Bank, or SCB, with two others in a plan coordinated by Vietnam's central bank.

She is accused of using the bank as her cash cow, illegally controlling it between 2012 to 2022, and using thousands of "ghost companies" in Vietnam and abroad to give loans to herself and her allies, according to government documents.

The loans resulted in losses of \$27 billion, state media VN Express reported Thursday.

She was accused of paying bribes to government officials -- including a former central official who has been sentenced to life in prison for taking \$5.2 million in bribes -- and violating banking regulations,

government documents said.

The court sentenced her to death, saying her actions "not only violate the property management rights of individuals but also pushed SCB into a state of special control, eroding people's trust in the leadership of the (Communist) party and state."

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?

Lan's arrest in October 2022 is among the most high-profile in an ongoing anti-corruption drive in Vietnam that has ramped up since 2022.

Weeks after her trial started in early March, former President Vo Van Thuong resigned after being implicated in the so-called "Blazing Furnace" campaign that has been the hallmark of Communist Party general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, the country's most powerful politician.

While Lan's arrest and the scale of the scam shocked the nation, the case also raised questions about whether other banks or businesses had similarly erred, dampening Vietnam's economic outlook and making foreign investors jittery.

This is happening as Vietnam tries to argue its case for being the ideal home for businesses trying to move away from neighboring China. AP

CONSTRUCTION

CONCRETE AND BETTER HOMES FOR THE FUTURE

By Greg Rankin

A home insurance crisis is forcing builders to rethink designs. This has some looking at concrete where a trend is breaking ground and alleviating some drawbacks of wood-framed homes.

Homeowners across the US are running out of options when it comes to protecting their homes. The problem is that climate change has increased the risk of catastrophic damage due to windstorms, flooding, and wildfires. With the cost of rebuilding after a disaster rapidly increasing, insurance agencies are passing the burden to homeowners, with no end in sight. In fact, according to a report from First Street Foundation - a nonprofit research group - almost 1/3rd of all homeowners in the lower 48 states are already struggling to find affordable insurance. Without cost-effective coverage, the housing market's future is in peril.

While governments and the insurance industry grapple with viable solutions, there is growing discussion as to the future of residential construction and the pursuit of a more durable alternative to wood-framed, single-family homes. This is of particular importance to those living in areas where natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires devastate thousands of wooden structures every year in the US.

While looking for an advanced technology for the future, some home builders are looking to improve upon a design that has been used in other parts of the world throughout history; namely concrete. There are several advantages to utilizing concrete over wood. Most notable, of course, is its durability which greatly outperforms wood-framed homes. Additionally, unlike wood, concrete is not vulnerable to external factors like insects, moisture, mold, fire, or wind, which can result in structural damage and pose safety risks.

Yet, even with the advantages of utilizing concrete, there are some significant reasons for the lack of widespread adoption.



A concrete structure. Photo: Daniel Mac Adden

Chief among them is the high cost of construction. Other factors include concrete's poor insulation, less appealing finishes and designs, and the added time required for construction.

However, recent innovations, are not only eliminating these obstacles but promise a huge reduction in initial cost, making them comparable to wood-framed structures. In fact, when lifetime upkeep, insurance, and other expenses are factored in, concrete homes are expected to greatly reduce the total cost of ownership.

Driving Down Construction Costs

"What we are seeing in the concrete industry today is incredible. The things we thought would be horribly expensive just five years ago, we're doing every day now," says Mark Sinicrope, Precast Specialist at Master Builders - a chemical solutions provider for concrete construction.

Sinicrope has more than 40 years of experience working with precast and prestressed concrete products in applications ranging from bridge beams to parking garages. While most of the advancements and cost-cutting to date have been on the commercial side, Sinicrope is starting to

see those innovations flow into residential concrete home construction. For example, Sinicrope recently helped Texas-based Nonquit Homes with a concrete mix design used to develop tilt-up, prestressed concrete panels for residential construction.

"What they are doing is pretty much the same thing we are seeing for large-scale commercial buildings," explains Sinicrope. "In fact, the new Tesla plant in Austin has a very similar sandwich panel design, and they go up like a big Erector Set."

However, the residential concept from Nonquit Homes is also aiming to eliminate some of the traditional shortcomings of commercial concrete construction. To begin with, the prestressed sandwich panels can be poured onsite, thus eliminating the need to be transported in from a precast manufacturer - which reduces both cost and time.

Time
"In construction, it is all about how fast you can go," adds Sinicrope. "Let's say I wanted to put up a parking garage today. We could have it up in two or three weeks, but it might take a year or more because we have to wait for someone to actually produce all

those concrete panels and then ship them to the jobsite."

Costs are further trimmed by reducing the size of the panels so there is no need to bring in expensive cranes to move large panels around the jobsite. Instead, the panels can be maneuvered by forklifts - which also cuts down on labor.

"I can see an entire house going up with just 3 or 4 people onsite to tilt up the panels and set them in place," says Terrell Wiggins from Nonquit Homes, who along with engineer Alonso Forcado, designed and built the first residential home outside of Atlanta using this style of construction. "Plus, you're not sitting there waiting on the framer or struggling to schedule all the different trades required to build the actual house. For a builder, that is huge."

Depending on the size, a typical wood-framed home can take 6 months to a year to complete. However, once a builder gets going and perfects this new concrete building process, they could greatly reduce that build time.

Durability
While the insurance crisis is illuminating the need for more durable housing, climate change

will only increase the urgency. According to data from NOAA, there were 60 weather and climate-related disasters in the US from 2020 to 2022, with losses exceeding \$1 billion per year. For comparison, between 1980 and 2019 the average per year was eight.

Concrete homes can even withstand the extremely high winds associated with large hurricanes and tornados. "Today, precast can hold up to a 200-mile-an-hour wind load, depending on how it's designed," explains Sinicrope.

However, it is often not just the straight-line wind that causes significant damage during a wind event. Shrapnel from other structures is also a major concern. As part of that, the Precast Concrete Institute (PCI) wanted to test the durability of concrete panels by pitting them against both a concrete block wall and a wooden house with brick veneer.

"They fired the two-by-fours out of an air cannon at 150 MPH at the concrete sandwich panel and the lumber shattered into toothpicks, without any damage to the panels" adds Wiggins. "However, it blew a massive hole straight through the exterior of both the brick and cinderblock wall."

Energy Efficiency

Another area of concern being addressed by new concrete home designs is energy efficiency. While concrete is very dense and therefore airtight, it is not considered a good insulator. By incorporating a thick layer of insulation into the concrete panels, however, the energy efficiency of the home can exceed that of a traditional wood-framed home.

In addition, adding insulation into the casting process further reduces construction time and costs by eliminating the need for insulation and sheetrock along the exterior walls.

Design
Traditional concrete homes typically offered limited architectural design options. However, the concrete industry has come a long way and design choices are now almost endless with colored, patterned, and textured concrete. An example of an interior de-

sign would include the bathroom and kitchen tile trend of utilizing a single marble panel that runs from floor to ceiling. These extra-large marble slabs can cost thousands to tens of thousands of dollars to install. However, the same high-gloss, heavy-veining look is also now possible with concrete at a fraction of the cost.

Additionally, contractors can also utilize traditional materials for exteriors such as stone, brick, or stucco to add to the coveted curb appeal.

Further Savings

While builders can see their construction costs greatly reduced by utilizing these new methods for building concrete homes, homeowners also stand to benefit. Not only does it promise a much safer option, with lower energy consumption and fewer repairs, but there are several government and banking incentives to buying concrete as well.

For instance, concrete homeowners may qualify for Energy Efficient Mortgages allowing borrowers to qualify for a larger loan amount due to the ongoing energy savings that result in much lower energy bills.

Some of the biggest savings, however, are likely to be seen in the dramatic drop in monthly insurance premiums. Many insurance companies already offer lower rates for concrete homes because they produce far fewer claims arising from fire, wind and water damage, or pests.

As insurance costs surge, the challenges associated with wood-framed homes may provide the crux for a major shift in residential home building. Especially if the right design can make sense for a home builder's bottom line.

"Like with anything else, it just takes one person to figure out a way to make it profitable and everybody will jump in," concludes Sinicrope. "When it comes to residential concrete homes, I think we've finally reached that point."

Greg Rankin is a Houston-based freelance writer with more than 20 years of experience writing about construction, engineering, and the concrete industry.

Combating construction waste with technology

Kevin Sturm

CONSTRUCTION waste is a massive problem; it accounts for up to 30 percent of all waste generated worldwide, and is expected to reach 2.2 billion tons globally by 2025. With as much as 30 percent of building materials delivered to construction sites ending up in landfills, we need to be paying attention.

Why should construction professionals care about reducing waste? The obvious reason is environmental. Producing less waste reduces depletion of our planet's natural resources, minimizes waste going to landfills, lowers the risk of pollutants, and reduces emissions resulting from creating and transporting that waste.

But aside from environmental benefits, reducing waste can save an immense amount of money on projects by using building materials more effectively. This cost savings is especially important now when the cost of materials is up nearly 20 percent driven by inflation, supply chain constraints, and operating constraints. This is a win-win for everyone - leading to better savings for the client, and in turn, repeat business for the contractor.

Defining Waste Reduction

To begin, it may be helpful to define what construction waste, and waste reduction,



Many technologies exist to help combat construction waste. File Photo

really mean. Construction waste is defined as anything that is generated as a result of construction, and then abandoned, regardless of whether it has been processed or stockpiled.

Waste reduction involves minimizing waste generated during construction and over the building's life, while maximizing materials that can be reused or recycled. It's one of the key principles in sustainable construction - alongside water conservation, energy efficiency, and indoor air quality, among others.

For instance, to reduce waste on a project, one might consider mitigating mistakes that lead to over-ordering materials, ordering incorrect materials, choosing building materials that can be recycled more easily, or reusing materials (such as drywall scraps)

in other parts of the project.

In sustainability, we've all heard the phrase: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." Reduce is listed first for a reason; it's the most effective way to a more sustainable future, and should be the first tactic that comes to mind when building.

Key Technologies Driving Construction Waste Reduction

Many technologies exist to help combat the massive (and growing) issue of construction waste. The two that I'd like to focus on are Building Information Management (BIM) and Virtual Design and Construction (VDC).

BIM is a building design technology that creates intelligent, 3D models to provide a digital representation (i.e. "digital twin") of a built structure. This kind of represen-

tation allows for increased insight into the building's planning, design, construction, and management.

Similarly, VDC allows construction professionals to combine advanced digital models across building disciplines with traditional project planning and management techniques to ultimately build a project digitally before it is built physically.

These two technologies go hand-in-hand - ultimately, enabling value engineering by visualizing material details in a way that can be experienced in 3D.

Through these types of advanced 3D modeling, professionals can attain to-the-inch accurate measurements on a structure (often more accurate than measuring by hand; and much faster), and order building materials accordingly. And when the ordering process is precise, waste is minimized.

While these cutting-edge 3D modeling technologies are already quite advanced in commercial and industrial construction, they have not been widely available to the contractor that specializes in residential building due to cost and time. But that is now changing, as these solutions become more affordable and available to residential builders. And I predict that AI will push the envelope even further and have even more

profound impacts on waste reduction and value engineering in residential building.

The Client's Role in Waste Reduction

It's clear that construction professionals play a large role in reducing the amount of waste produced on a project. However, the client's decision-making can also be a factor. For example, in residential construction, homeowners might change their mind after something is installed because they don't like how it looks.

To minimize the chances of this happening, it's important to engage clients in the decision-making process when building new builds and/or renovating. With closer engagement, they'll be more confident in the building decisions and, in turn, less likely to change their mind after the fact.

Modeling technologies help drive this level of engagement. By showing a client an exact visual representation of the project before the physical building process begins, their level of confidence in decisions is increased, and so is their overall satisfaction with the end result.

Kevin Sturm is head of product and customer marketing at HOVER, he can be reached via kevin.sturm@hover.to



File Photo

Property of the week

Amidst the bustling cityscape of Dar es Salaam stands a testament to visionary collaboration and opulence—the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (MNF) Square. Crafted by the skilled hands of China Railway Construction Engineering Group (CRCEG), this 30-story architectural marvel was unveiled to the world on a historic Friday, September 6th, 2019.

With a harmonious blend of elegance and utility, the MNF Square represents the shared efforts of CRCEG, MNF, and the esteemed International Finance Corporation, channeling a total investment of US\$150m into its creation.

Encompassing a sprawling 63,000 square meters, this iconic structure hosts a lavish five-star hotel offering 256 luxuriously appointed bedrooms and suites, alongside 7,000 square meters of premium office space and 2,000 square meters of upscale retail areas.

Complemented by essential amenities such as state-of-the-art conference facilities and ample parking space, this architectural gem redefines the urban landscape of Dar es Salaam with its grandeur and functionality

WORLD

UN climate chief says two years to save the planet

LONDON/BRUSSELS

GOVERNMENTS, business leaders and development banks have two years to take action to avert far worse climate change, the UN's climate chief said on Wednesday, in a speech that warned global warming is slipping down politicians' agendas.

Scientists say halving climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 is crucial to stop a rise in temperatures of more than 1.5 Celsius that would unleash more extreme weather and heat.

Yet last year, the world's energy-related CO2 emissions increased to a record high. Current commitments to fight climate change would barely cut global emissions at all by 2030.

Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change said the next two years are "essential in saving our planet".

"We still have a chance to make greenhouse gas emissions tumble, with a new generation of national climate plans. But we need these stronger plans, now," he said.

Speaking at an event at the Chatham House think-tank in London, Stiell said the Group of 20 leading economic powers - together, responsible for 80 percent of global emissions - urgently needed to step up.

The main task for this year's UN climate negotiations in Baku, Azerbaijan, is for countries to agree a new target for climate finance to support developing countries struggling to invest in shifting away from fossil fuels and fighting climate change.

UN climate summits have swelled in size in recent years, with thousands of lobbyists and business representatives attending alongside the government delegations directly involved in the negotiations.



United Nations Climate Chief Simon Stiell speaks during a plenary session at the COP28 UN Climate Summit, Dec 1, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. AP

Nearly 84,000 people attended last year's COP28 summit in Dubai, drawing criticism from campaigners after more than 2,000 fossil fuel lobbyists registered to attend.

Stiell said he would like to see future COP meetings reduced in size, while prioritizing strong negotiation outcomes. He said he was in talks with Azerbaijan and Brazil - host of the next two UN climate summits - about this.

He called for more climate finance to be raised through debt relief, cheaper financing for poorer countries, new sources of international finance such as a tax on shipping emissions, and reforms at the World Bank and International

Monetary Fund.

"Every day finance ministers, CEOs, investors, and climate bankers and development bankers, direct trillions of dollars. It's time to shift those dollars," Stiell said.

In a bumper year for elections around the world - with voters going to the polls from India, to South Africa and the United States - Stiell warned too often climate action was "slipping down cabinet agendas".

Politicians from Republican frontrunner Donald Trump in the United States, to far-right parties seeking gains in the EU's upcoming election, have pushed back on climate policies as they court voters.

Xi Jinping meets Ma Ying-jeou in Beijing

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with Ma Ying-jeou in Beijing on Wednesday.

Compatriots from both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to the same Chinese nation, Xi said. The over-5,000-year history of the Chinese nation saw successive generations of ancestors move and settle down in Taiwan and people from across the Strait fight side by side to recover the island from foreign invaders, he said.

People on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are all Chinese, Xi said. "There are no knots that cannot be untied, no issues that cannot be discussed, and no force that can separate us," he said.

The distance of the Strait cannot sever the bond of kinship between compatriots from across the Strait, Xi said.

He said that the difference in systems does not alter the reality that both sides of the Strait belong to one China, and external interference cannot hold back the historical trend of national reunification.

Calling youth "the hope of the country and the future of the nation," Xi encouraged young people from both sides of the Strait to aspire to become more proud, confident, and assured in their identity as Chinese people, work together for the long-term prosperity of the Chinese nation, and continue to create new glory of the nation.

People on both sides of the Strait share the same bloodline, culture and history as well as the same responsibility for the nation and the same aspiration for the future, Xi said. He stressed grasping the cross-Strait situation from the perspective of the overall interests and long-term development of the Chinese nation.

Xi underscored the importance of guarding the common home of the Chinese nation resolutely.

Compatriots on both sides of the Strait should resolutely oppose separatist activities aimed at "Taiwan independence" and foreign interference, Xi said, calling for jointly pursuing the bright future of peaceful reunification.

It is a shared aspiration of compatriots across the Strait for a peaceful home and a harmonious family. Therefore, it is imperative to promote the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations, said Xi.

He underlined the crucial importance of upholding the 1992 Consensus, which embodies the one-China principle, and having the common understanding that both sides of the Strait belong to one country and one nation.

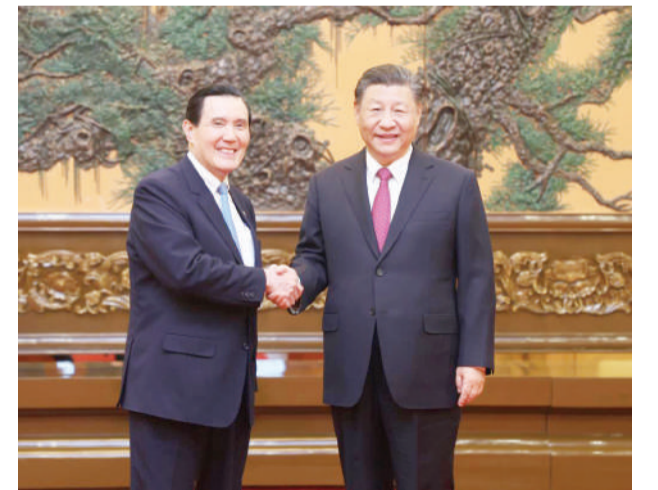
Xi also stressed the need to work together for the long-term well-being of the Chinese nation.

Describing this goal as grand yet simple, Xi said it is to enable compatriots on both sides of the Strait to realize their aspirations for a good life, ensure a better life for all Chinese people, including Taiwan compatriots, and jointly realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

"We always bear in mind the well-being of Taiwan compatriots," he said, noting that the mainland has made solid efforts to ensure that Taiwan compatriots enjoy more interests, improve their well-being and have a better future.

Xi highlighted the effort to foster a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation, stressing that compatriots across the Strait have always been members of one family who are supposed to interact frequently and therefore develop closer relationship. He vowed more robust measures to promote cross-Strait exchanges, interaction and integration.

Xi called on compatriots on both sides of the Strait to strengthen their confidence in Chinese culture, consciously become its guardians, inheritors, and promoters, and enhance the sense of belonging, identity, and honor of the Chinese nation. **Xinhua**



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, meets with Ma Ying-jeou in Beijing on Wednesday. Xinhua

US hampers reform of international financial system in favor of BRICS - Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE United States seeks to slow down reforms of international monetary and financial institutions in order to maintain its dominance, although in terms of objective macroeconomic indicators it has long lost its primacy to the BRICS countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a meeting with representatives of the relevant parliamentary committees on international affairs of the BRICS countries.

"At the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the United States is trying in every possible way to slow down reforms, slow down the revision of quotas and votes and maintain its share, which



allows it to single-handedly block most decisions," he noted.

"Of course, this is unfair and undemocratic, and simply dishonest. Therefore, we will work on these areas with particular enthusiasm. This is important for our practical

actions," he said.

The Russian top diplomat drew attention to the fact that "the aspects of reform of the international monetary and financial system are becoming more and more acute, they have long been overdue."

"If we are guided by objective macroeconomic financial indicators, then the share of the BRICS five, the original five members, in the capital and in the votes of international monetary and financial institutions should already be greater than it is now, and the US share should be reduced. Let me stress it: based on objective economic indicators," he explained.

Touching upon banking cooperation, the minister mentioned the New BRICS Development Bank. According to him, this bank "has its own specifics: not only members of the association can be its shareholders, but also countries that are not members of BRICS."

"In the last couple of years,

there have been attempts by Western representatives to influence the activities of the New Development Bank, to subordinate these activities to tasks that are not enshrined in the charter of this bank, but now, as I understand it, everyone is aware of the need to prevent such attempts and strictly rely on established statutory goals," he stated.

"We will contribute to increasing the role of BRICS participants in the international monetary and financial system, deepening interbank cooperation, transforming the system of international payments and expanding the use of our national currencies in mutual trade," Lavrov stressed. **Agencies**

Now is time to be ready for war, says North Korea leader Kim Jong Un

SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un, yesterday, said that unstable geopolitical situations surrounding his country mean now is the time to be more thoroughly prepared for a war than ever. Yonhap News Agency reported citing KCNA.

During his inspection of the country's primary military university, Kim Jong-il University of Military and Politics which was named after Kim's late father, a military training school for core commanding officers, Kim Jong un underscored the urgency of readiness in light of prevailing circumstances.

According to Yonhap News Agency, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, North Korea has stepped up weapons development in recent years and has forged closer military and political ties with Russia, allegedly aiding Moscow in its war with Ukraine in return for help with strategic military projects.

Further, the North Korean leader has vowed to mobilize all means to deal a



"death blow" to the country's enemy without hesitation should it opt for military confrontation with the North, state media said Thursday.

"He said that now is the time to be more thoroughly prepared for a war than ever before and that the DPRK should be more firmly and perfectly prepared for a war, which should be won without fail, not just for a possible war," the KCNA said, referring to the North by its formal name, as per Yonhap News Agency.

DPRK is short for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

Kim was also quoted as instructing

the university to nurture new military talents loyal to the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and capable of overwhelming the enemy with "ideological, militant, moral and tactical superiority," it added.

Kim inspected lecture rooms, dormitories, and the mess hall, committing to enhancing the living conditions for students.

Photos released by the state media outlet showed Kim speaking to officials in a room filled with blurred maps and a topographic model that appeared to map major roads in South Korea and central Seoul.

The Yonhap News Agency reported citing KCNA on how Kim inspected the living conditions of students and brought "various dishes" for them, an official at South Korea's Unification Ministry said the visit was likely aimed at shoring up unity of military officials.

"It appears that the focus of the visit is to encourage the military and thus induce loyalty and unity as observed in the March 24 visit to the Ryu Kyong

Su Guards 105th Tank Division," the official said.

During the visit to the tank unit credited for being first to enter Seoul during the 1950-53 Korean War, Kim inspected its facilities such as the unit's cafeteria as soldiers had their meal.

North Korea has been dialing up tensions on the Korean Peninsula with weapons tests and harshly worded rhetoric this year after Kim defined inter-Korean ties as relations between "two states hostile to each other" in a year-end meeting.

In January, the North's leader called for revising the country's constitution to define South Korea as its "primary foe" and codify a commitment to subjugate the South Korean territory in the event of war.

Last week, it claimed to have successfully test-fired a new intermediate-range ballistic missile tipped with a hypersonic warhead, saying that all missiles the country has developed are solid-fuel, nuclear-capable with warhead control capability. **ANI**

China works to promote energy conservation, carbon reduction in construction industry

AT the construction site of a futuristic village demonstration project in Huangpu district, Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province, prefabricated components of house structures were hoisted into place, and soon, more than 200 green, low-carbon and livable residence buildings would rise from the ground.

In a prototype room, Fan Zesen, deputy general manager of China Construction Science and Technology Group Co., Ltd., the contractor of the project, shared with People's Daily the secret to the project's outstanding energy-saving capability.

On one hand, the design of these residence buildings fully utilizes natural lighting and energy-efficient struc-

tures. The north- and south-facing windows adopt energy-saving glazing with high light transmittance and low heat transfer coefficients. Reasonably designed overhanging eaves and shading curtains can effectively reduce solar radiation. The combination of a sloped roof and a flat roof, coupled with a thickened indoor insulation layer, can effectively reduce indoor heat loss.

On the other hand, a PEDF (photovoltaic, energy storage, direct current, flexibility) solution is adopted, where solar energy generated on the rooftops is stored and can be flexibly utilized. "With the PEDF system, a 300-square-meter five-bedroom house can generate an average of

870 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, achieving self-sufficiency when there is sufficient sunlight," said Fan.

According to him, the project employs intelligent construction technologies, with 80 percent of the work completed in smart factories, thereby improving construction efficiency while reducing the environmental impact of on-site construction activities.

The construction sector is one of the major energy consumers and carbon emitters. In recent years, China has been continuously improving the energy efficiency and carbon reduction levels of new buildings, promoting energy efficiency and carbon

reduction in the construction sector from the source.

As for existing buildings, efforts have been made to promote energy-saving and carbon reduction through renovation and upgrades. In recent years, China has renovated and upgraded a cumulative area of over 2.4 billion square meters.

Currently, the main sources of heating for buildings in China include combined heat and power plants, and regional coal-fired or gas-fired boiler rooms, which generate a significant amount of carbon dioxide emissions. To address this, China plans to further increase the utilization of photovoltaic systems, residual heat, and geothermal energy, to optimize

the energy mix for buildings.

"I have 59 photovoltaic panels on the roof, which not only provide insulation and warmth but also earn me extra income through power generation," said Xu, a resident in Kefang village, Tongchuan, northwest China's Shaanxi province.

In 2023, LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd., a leading enterprise in the solar photovoltaic industry in China, started building Kefang village into a "zero-carbon" village powered by solar energy.

The project aims to build a distributed photovoltaic power system with a capacity of 6 megawatts, which generates around 7.91 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. The

green energy produced will offset the village's daily carbon emissions.

Efforts to promote low-carbon energy transformation for rural construction and facilities are actively underway across various regions in China.

In Dezhou, east China's Shandong province, there is a 505-mu (around 33.67 hectares) glass greenhouse that utilizes a medium-deep geothermal heating system, ensuring a warm and pleasant environment throughout the year. In Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang province, a rural biomass centralized heating project efficiently utilizes straw to provide heating for residents. **People's Daily**

Looking forward to meeting with PM Modi : Tesla CEO Elon Musk

NEW DELHI

CONFIRMING his upcoming maiden visit to India, Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Wednesday said he was looking forward to meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Taking to his official handle on Wednesday, Musk posted, "Looking forward to meeting with Prime Minister @ NarendraModi in India!"

According to sources, Musk, on his maiden India visit, might make the much-anticipated announcement of Tesla's maiden plant in the country.

Musk will likely meet Prime Minister Modi on April 22 in the national capital, according to Reuters.

Apart from announcing Tesla's maiden foray in India, Musk is also expected to disclose details of the automobile major's plans for the country, going forward.

However, the final agenda for Musk's trip to India is yet to be confirmed.

It was reported earlier that Tesla officials were exploring potential sites in India for a manufacturing plant, which is anticipated to necessitate an investment of approximately USD 2 billion.

Tesla's interest in expanding its presence in the Indian market has intensified, with the company actively searching for a suitable location to establish a cutting-edge manufacturing facility.

According to sources, both the state governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat have reportedly extended attractive land offers to Tesla for this purpose, signalling significant progress in India's electric mobility landscape.

The proposed manufacturing plant, with estimated investments ranging from USD 2 billion to USD 3 billion,



aims to cater to both domestic and international demand for Tesla's electric vehicles.

This move aligns with India's new EV policy, which seeks to promote sustainable transportation and reduce carbon emissions.

Under the government's EV scheme, which aims to position India as a preferred manufacturing destination for EVs equipped with advanced technology, several key objectives have been outlined.

These include attracting investments from global EV manufacturers, promoting the adoption of advanced EV technology among Indian consumers, and bolstering the country's Make in India initiative.

Moreover, Tesla's entry into the Indian market holds immense promise for the country's economy and environment.

The establishment of a manufacturing plant and increased procurement of auto parts from India are expected to create jobs, foster economic growth, and strengthen the domestic manufacturing ecosystem. **ANI**

Apple warns users in 91 countries, including India, of Pegasus-like 'mercenary spyware' attacks

NEW DELHI

IPHONE maker Apple has issued a series of fresh notifications to users in 91 other countries, including India, cautioning them of 'mercenary spyware' including Pegasus malware that has stirred up significant controversy in recent times.

These new alerts, also received by users in India, are part of cautionary measures warning owners about potential risks to their privacy and data security.

In October 2023, Apple had sent a similar notification to political leaders across various parties in the country, including Congress's Shashi Tharoor, Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha, and Trinamool Congress' Mahua Moitra. The alert warned of a "potential state-sponsored spyware attack" targeting their iPhones.

In 2021, the Supreme Court had formed a committee of technical experts to look into allegations of unauthorised surveillance using the Pegasus software developed by Israeli firm NSO Group.

In August 2022, the Supreme Court-appointed committee concluded that the spyware was not found in the 29 mobile phones examined by it, but malware was found in five mobile phones.

Apple noted that according to public reporting and research by civil society organisations, technology firms and journalists, individually targeted attacks of such exceptional cost and complexity have historically been associated with state actors, including private companies developing mercenary spyware on their behalf, such as Pegasus from the NSO Group.

It said, though deployed against a very small number of individuals - often journalists, activists, politicians and diplomats - mercenary spyware attacks are ongoing and global.

Since 2021, Apple said that it has sent out threat notifications multiple times a year as it has detected these attacks, and to date the company has notified users in over 150 countries in total.

"The extreme cost, sophistication and worldwide nature of mercenary spyware attacks makes them some of the most advanced digital threats in existence today. As a result, Apple does not attribute the attacks or resulting threat notifications to any specific attackers or geographical regions," it said.

The phone maker in its notification provides additional steps that users can take to help protect their devices, including enabling Lockdown Mode.

Apple advised its users to update their devices with the latest security patches and exercise caution while interacting with suspicious links or messages. **ANI**

World Travel Market Africa 2024 opens in South Africa's Cape Town

CAPE TOWN

WORLD Travel Market (WTM) Africa 2024 kicked off on Wednesday in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa, bringing together prominent global figures in the travel and tourism industry for pioneering discussions and business opportunities in the tourism sector.

The 10th edition of the leading travel and tourism exposition in Africa, which is being held from Wednesday to Friday at the Cape Town International Conference Center, highlights the region's tourism offerings through a series of shows, conferences, and awards ceremonies. With more than 9,500 pre-scheduled meetings and exceeding 7,000 delegates from over 100 countries,

WTM Africa gathers tourism industry professionals, including exhibitors, buyers, and media, for three days of trade, networking, and deal-making. As part of the Africa Travel Week 2024, running from April 7 to 12 in Cape

Town, the event has a content program designed to promote industry knowledge, foster connections, and promote business growth, according to the organizers. It also provides airlines, cruise companies, hotels, and travel agents with an opportunity to showcase their high-end offerings to a global audience.

Megan De Jager, portfolio director for travel, tourism and marketing at RX Africa, which is one of the event's organizers, said WTM Africa also stands as a platform where attendees can generate sales leads, launch new products, and raise brand awareness.

"WTM Africa is the place where the B2B tourism companies' journey takes them into markets to conduct industry research and size up their competition while forging new relationships and maintaining current ones," De Jager said. Since 2014, WTM Africa has hosted more than 18,000 exhibitors and created over 17,000 jobs, according to the official website of the City of Cape Town.

Upcoming Canton Fair to feature record number of trade promotion events

WITH over five million students graduating in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) each year, China has become the world's leading producer of STEM graduates.

According to global think tanks, approximately 50 percent of the world's leading artificial intelligence (AI) researchers are trained in Chinese universities, making China the top provider of elite AI talents globally.

The 135th session of the China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, will be hosted in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province, from April 15 to May 5. The online platform of the fair will continue to be operational throughout the year.

The information was released at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office recently.

Wang Shouwen, vice commerce minister and China international trade representative at the Ministry of Commerce, told the press conference that the exhibition area of this session will be 1.55 million square meters, with about 28,600 firms participating in the export section, including more than 4,300 new exhibitors. In addition, 680 companies will attend the import section.

According to Wang, some 93,000 purchasers from 215 countries and regions have completed pre-registration, and more than 220 large multinationals and business institutions have confirmed that they will organize delegations to attend the event. "All these figures have exceeded the scale of previous sessions for the same period," said Wang.

Over 5,500 national-level high-tech enterprises, individual champion enterprises in the manufacturing sector, and specialized and sophisticated SMEs that produce novel and unique products will participate in this session, up 20 percent from the previous one.

More than 1 million new products are expected to be exhibited, including over 450,000 green products and over 250,000 products with independent intellectual property. Among the exhibitors, over 4,000 have won international awards for their innovative de-



Officials of Guangzhou customs inspect the initial exhibits arriving for the 135th session of the Canton Fair on March 17. (Photo/Han Jianquan)

signs, and more than 10,000 have invested over 10 percent of their total revenue in R&D.

The upcoming Canton Fair will further enrich the exhibition topics of digital technology and intelligent manufacturing. Over 50 percent of the participating companies actively apply digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data analysis to upgrade their production and operations.

Since its inception, the Canton Fair has attracted over 9.3 million overseas merchants, with 195 partners vigorously promoting trade between China and other countries.

To facilitate overseas buyers, this year's Canton Fair provides a "green channel" for visa applications. The visa processing and issuance time for those attending the event in 90 percent of Chinese embassies and consulates abroad has been shortened to just four working days. Besides, by streamlining the processing of exhibition certificates, waiting time during peak periods will be reduced from 1.5 hours to 30 minutes.

Moreover, foreign currency exchange machines and mobile POS machines will be installed to meet the needs of both exhibitors and buyers, including currency exchange, digital payments, card payments, mobile payments, and cash payments.

Recently, China has introduced a new version of the visa application forms, with 34 percent of the items simplified and optimized, significantly reducing the time required for filling out the form.

The requirements for visa invitation letters have also been simplified. Foreign businesspeople can now apply for a visa at any Chinese embassy or consulate abroad with only the electronic invitation letter from the Canton Fair.

Yan Fang, an official with the People's Bank of China, told People's Daily that foreign travelers can make QR code payments in China with Alipay, WeChat Pay and other platforms after binding overseas bank cards. Travelers from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, and Mongolia can directly use their e-

wallets.

In January and February, over 900,000 inbound travelers used mobile payments in China, completing more than 20 million transactions worth over 3 billion yuan (\$444.72 million). All major banks in China now support cash withdrawals using overseas bank cards at their ATMs. Over 60,000 bank branches and nearly 2,300 foreign exchange facilities across the country offer foreign currency exchange services. In some major cities, key areas, and large commercial districts, overseas cards can also be used for payments.

"To ensure smooth travel, Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport has increased its flight options for popular domestic and international destinations, with an average weekly flight volume rising to 10,597 and a 71.6 percent increase in international flights. The airport now operates passenger flights to 217 destinations," said Tan Ping, vice mayor of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government.

She added that consultation counters will be set up at the airport to provide around-the-clock services for overseas travelers to enable electronic payment.

"The number of pre-registrations from overseas buyers, applications for Canton Fair invitation letters, and hotel bookings in Guangzhou have all shown significant increases compared to the previous session," said Chu Shijia, director general of the China Foreign Trade Center.

At the same time, there has been a notable rise in the participation of Top 250 Global Retailers and major businesses from different countries and regions. A total of 129 leading enterprises have confirmed their group attendance, an 87 percent increase compared to the previous session.

Ninety-eight overseas organizations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United States of America-China Chamber of Commerce, and the 48 Group Club, will join the session in groups, representing a 25.6 percent increase from the previous session. **People's Daily**

New York appeals court rejects Donald Trump's request to delay hush-money trial

NEW YORK

FOR the third time in three days, a New York appellate judge has rejected former US President Donald Trump's attempt to delay his hush money trial, CNN reported.

The judge's decision comes after Trump requested the New York appeals court for emergency relief to stop the criminal trial scheduled to begin on Monday from going ahead so he could appeal a lower court's ruling on presidential immunity and have the judge recused from the case.

Associate Justice Ellen Gesmer announced the decision just minutes after hearing arguments to reject the interim motion to stay the trial. Trump's petition in court on Wednesday is the latest in what has been a series of actions by the former US President at the appeals court this week to try to stop the trial before its scheduled start.

Trump could still appeal the denied motions to New York state's highest court, the Court of Appeals. That court, however, does not have to accept the motion, CNN reported.

During the hearing on



Wednesday, Trump's attorney Emil Bove said that his client was seeking a stay due to three issues that go to the "core, fundamental fairness" of the trial: recusal, restriction on filing defence motions, and presidential immunity.

Bove said, "This can only be done once, and it must be done right because of the impact it will have on this election." He further said, "There are questions about the judge. There are questions about our ability to file motions."

In response, the Manhattan district attorney's office requested the court to reject the latest attempt to delay the trial. Manhattan District Attorney's Office Chief of Appeals Steven Wu said, "There is a powerful public interest to ensure this trial moves forward on the scheduled date."

Earlier this week, Trump's lawyers urged the appeals court to delay the trial so he could challenge a gag or-

der preventing the former US president from making statements regarding witnesses, family members of the judge and prosecutors, and jurors. They also said that the trial could not take place in Manhattan due to pretrial publicity.

Both times, the requests to take measures to delay the trial were rejected. The court's decision on Wednesday came on a day when the appeals court's afternoon calendar was packed with previously scheduled arguments that occupied the main storied courtroom.

In order to accommodate the emergency action, the basement of the courthouse was transformed into a makeshift courtroom. During the hearing, Bove said that Trump's attorneys objected to the restrictions on filing motions, according to CNN report.

He stated that if Trump has the motion to preclude testimony by Michael Cohen and he is scheduled to begin testifying the next day, they can't file the motion in time. Bove said, "That 72 hours in the middle of the trial eliminates our ability to file that motion from one day to the next," and stressed that it's not consistent with Trump's constitutional right to defend himself.

At the hearing, Bove on presidential immunity said, "This is a situation where the judge has exceeded his authority under circumstances with very, very serious implications." In response, Steven Wu stated that the former US President was not following proper procedure to challenge the rulings of judge.

Wu said, "Even when a trial court may have erred in adopting a procedural order the solution is to wait until final judgment and handle on direct appeal." He also rejected claims that Judge Juan Merchan would need to recuse himself from the case, according to CNN report.

Lisa Evans, a lawyer arguing on behalf of the court, opposed Trump's recusal petition and said, "There's absolutely no evidence to show that Judge Merchan stands to benefit from the outcome of this trial. There's no proof."

Earlier in March, a New York judge scheduled Trump's hush money trial to begin on April 15, enabling his first criminal trial to begin this spring following a last-minute delay, as reported by The Hill. **ANI**



Serengeti Breweries Ltd (SBL) Senior Brand Manager Ester Raphael (L), is pictured with Tanzanian artist Nassib Abdul 'Diamond Platinumz' during a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar artist announces partnership with Serengeti Breweries

By Guardian Correspondent

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) in partnership with a popular Tanzanian new genre artist Nassib Abdul has announced the biggest music and cultural festival to be held at Posta grounds, Kijitonyama in Dar es Salaam from April 26-27.

Headlined by the iconic musician, alongside a stellar lineup of top artists including Billnass, Darassa, Rosa Ree, Whozu, and Casper Nyovest from South Africa the two-day event will be an unmatched blend of Tanzania music and culture.

The partnership reflects SBL's continued commitment to illuminating the best of Tanzania through music and experiences for its consumers.

Esther Raphael, SBL's Senior Brand Manager, revealed: "Teaming up with the musician shows SBL's pride in our people and their talent. The musician represents our country's spirit, making him the perfect fit to headline this event."

Rhona Namanya, SBL's Marketing Manager, added Serengeti Breweries Limited and the performer embodies the essence of Tanzanian identity.

The official disclosed SBL's partnership with the artist celebrates the country's unity and showcases what makes it unique- akin to the way Serengeti beer captures the nation's flavour.

Expressing his excitement, the performer said he had been thrilled to be part of the historic festival, a celebration of our rich culture and music.

According to the artist, the event will bring the best of Tanzania's musicians, art, and culture.

Tickets for the highly anticipated festival, according to SBL, will be given away free at over 300 leading bars across Dar es Salaam to reward patrons and supporters of the firm's brands.

All they ought to do is order Serengeti beer at any of the consumer's bars for a free ticket.

Simba SC official urges players, technical bench to evaluate performance

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, has challenged the club's technical bench and players to improve the results and restore trust among the fans.

Ally revealed after Simba SC's exit from CRDB Federation Cup, having lost 6-5 to Mashujaa FC in the Round of 16 clash which took place in Kigoma on Tuesday.

Simba SC has for that matter been eliminated in two competitions in the space of one week and failed to meet the outfit's goals before the beginning of this season.

The team crashed out of the CAF Champions League knockout phase, losing to Egypt's Al Ahly in the re-match in Egypt last weekend.

On Tuesday, Simba SC bowed out of the CRDB Federation Cup, suffering the loss to 10-man Mashujaa FC in the Round of 16 duel at Lake Tanganyika Stadium. The match had ended in a 1-1 draw after the regular 90 minutes, forcing penalties that went in favour of Kigoma-based Mashujaa FC which won 6-5.

Ally pointed out that giving fans encouraging words during this run of tough losses is hardly enough, adding it is now time for the players and technical bench to take measures to achieve good results.

"It is tough for one to be a Simba SC fan at the moment, exiting two tournaments in one week is devastating. I can't have words for our fans to understand us, it is time our technical bench and players evaluated themselves and (seek to) turn our fortunes

around," he disclosed.

"We have failed to fulfill many of our goals this season, we wanted (to sail through to) the semi-finals of the CAF Champions League and got eliminated in the quarterfinals, we wanted to win the CRDB Federation Cup and we faced elimination," he added.

"We only have the NBC Premier League to fight for now, which means almost 60 percent of our goals have not been achieved, we need everyone to evaluate his duties," the official pointed out.

"There's something we have failed to achieve either as a group or individually and we all have to fix it so we can achieve our goals next season, (we should focus on) the remaining competition, which is the league," Ally noted. Ally also called everyone at the club to boost morale and keep their heads up ahead of the remaining league games, giving hopes for lifting the Premier League trophy are still there and all they need is winning ties.

The official stated: "Where there's a will there is always a way, we need to use the minimal chances we have to our advantage, our next match is the one against Ifeju SC, we have to win that match and gain momentum for our derby against Young." Ally further spoke about his team's fatigue after playing two intense knockout games against Al Ahly, travelling back to Tanzania, and playing two days after arriving.

The official stated such a situation made it tough for the players to recover and prepare for the CRDB Federation Cup's Round of 16 phase game.

Kilimanjaro Girls lift 2024 TCA U-17 Women's Easter Series silverware

By Guardian Correspondent

KILIMANJARO Girls triumphed in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) U-17 Women's Easter Series which concluded at Leaders Club venue in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The tournament, which brought together 70 aspiring young female cricketers from various TCA centers across the nation, witnessed them showcasing remarkable talent despite playing in adverse weather conditions.

Kilimanjaro Girls topped the rest of the competitors in the four-team showdown, having posted the 0.5091 net run rate from three victories and defeat in one clash.

The triumphant cricketers posted a total of 339 runs and gave away 283 runs in six ties of the showdown which took place in a round-robin format.

Ngorongoro Girls settled for the runners-up position with the 0.6026 net run rate from six outings, recording 201 runs and giving away 200 runs.

Serengeti Girls (-0.2869 net run rate) and Usambara Girls (-0.8247 net run rate) ended third and fourth respectively.

TCA's Media and Communications Officer Atif Salim pointed out that the showpiece, also termed as national U-17 women's cricket tournament, concluded amidst



Cricketers making Kilimanjaro Girls outfit pose for a photo after triumphing in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) U-17 Women's Easter Series which came to an end in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

rain-induced challenges, with no games taking place at Leaders Club ground on the final day. The closing ceremony, he disclosed, witnessed the presence of eminent officials from the TCA and key stakeholders in the cricket community.

They were, among others, TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar, vice-chairman Ashish Nagewadia, Chief Executive Officer Hamisi Abdallah, as well as the association's

board members. Individual brilliance was also celebrated, with Agnes Qwele from Arusha earning the prestigious Player of the Series award.

Other standout performers included Jenipher Gabriel from Tanga, recognized as the Best Batter, and Farida Amiri from Arusha, honoured as the Best Bowler.

Zulfa Hussain from Morogoro was voted the Best Fielder, while Sylvia Jackson from

Mwanza showcased her prowess behind the stumps to emerge as the Best Wicket Keeper.

Nzela Daniel from Kilindi, Tanga, was moreover acknowledged as the Best Upcoming Player, highlighting the promising talent pool present in the tournament.

Salim also disclosed despite the weather-related hurdles, the tournament was hailed as a success, underscoring the resilience and determination of the young participants.

The official noted that it served as a platform for TCA to unearth and nurture budding talent within the women's cricket fraternity, setting a positive precedent for the future of the sport in Tanzania.

According to Salim, congratulations poured in for all winners, reaffirming the collective effort invested in fostering cricket development at the grassroots level.



MultiChoice Tanzania's Chairman Ami Mpungwe (L), accompanied by Deputy Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Hamisi Mwinjuma (2nd R), Tanzania Film Board's Executive Secretary Kiagho Kilanzo (R), and MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing Ronald Shelukindo, are pictured arriving at a hotel in Dar es Salaam recently for the MultiChoice Tanzania Local Content Showcase event held in the city. MultiChoice is among the leading investors in local film production with two dedicated channels on DStv for local content. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

COSOTA urged to clamp down on content piracy

By Guardian Correspondent

DEPUTY Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Hamisi Mwinjuma has urged the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) to intensify its fight against content piracy which is increasingly affecting the broadcasting industry in the country.

Mwinjuma appealed during the MultiChoice Tanzania Local Content Showcase event held in Dar es Salaam recently.

The Deputy Minister said the government is out to intensify its campaign against content piracy and all other copyright infringements and that is why it is in the process of improving COSOTA's capacity by providing the needed human capital as well as modern facilities.

He admitted that copyright in-

fringement- especially content piracy- adversely impacts the broadcasting industry and consequently the content producers including artists.

He said content piracy is a global phenomenon and the advancement in technology has fueled the problem as cyber content piracy becomes aggressive, hence, the efforts to combat it become more complex.

The Deputy Minister said the government is taking the matter seriously and that is why it has ratified several conventions on copyright and frequent reviews of law and regulations to make sure that COSOTA has the required mandate and ability to deal with copyright infringement.

He further commended MultiChoice Tanzania for its immense

investment in local content production- saying that such an investment has played a significant role in transforming the local content production industry, especially film production.

"MultiChoice is doing a great job by investing intensively in local content production. This is evident as you have even introduced two dedicated channels for local content," the minister noted.

Mwinjuma revealed the contribution of the film industry to job creation and the national economy has increased significantly.

MultiChoice Tanzania Board Chairman, Ami Mpungwe, revealed the firm is continuing its huge investment in local content production by acquiring more local content from local produc-

ers. The official said: "Our aim is not just acquiring more local content, we aim at more content with better quality. To achieve this, we have introduced a training program for filmmakers in a special MultiChoice Talent Factory Academy."

"This academy trains young filmmakers and the impact of the training is evident in our market as our local films are now scooping international awards!"

The chairman said MultiChoice will continue cooperating with the government to ensure the growth of the local content production industry, hence, creating more jobs and increasing film industry contribution to the national economy.

Xavi hails 'great victory' as Barcelona grab advantage against PSG

PARIS

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez hailed his side's 3-2 win away to Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Wednesday, insisting it showed the Catalans could once again compete with the very best teams in Europe.

"We had time to prepare for this game and everything turned out very well, in defence and in attack. We are proud of the team. Paris played very well, but we kept their threat to a minimum," Xavi said after substitute Andreas Christensen's 77th-minute header gave Barca the victory at the Parc des Princes.

Raphinha had given the visitors the lead at half-time, only for PSG to turn the game on its head with goals by Ousmane Dembele and Vitinha in the first six minutes after the restart.

However, Raphinha volleyed in a Pedri pass to equalise before Christensen's winner.

"It is a great victory against one of the best teams in the world. It is very difficult to defend against this team because of how they press you, but we did it very well," added Xavi, whose side are unbeaten in 12 games since he announced he would depart at the season's end.

"We are only halfway there though, and it will be very difficult in Barcelona."

The Catalans are appearing in the last eight of the Champions League for the first time since 2020, when they lost 8-2 to Bayern Munich in Lisbon, and since Lionel Messi left the club.

It is their first away win in the knockout phase of the competition since 2019.

"The players believe in themselves," said Xavi as he looked ahead to next Tuesday's return at Montjuic. "They have this opportunity, and if they play in the same way they will get chances. Nothing is done but we can be proud. This match shows that Barca are very much alive."

It was a disappointing night for PSG, with Kylian Mbappe for once failing to deliver on a big occasion.

He scored a hat-trick on the French club's last visit to Barcelona in the competition in 2021, though, and their coach Luis Enrique is optimistic that they can still progress.

"Congratulations to Barca for the victory. I think we could have got a different result but we accept the scoreline tonight and are focused on turning it around," he said after PSG suffered their first defeat since losing 2-1 away to AC Milan in the group stage in early November.

"I have no doubt that we can turn it around and that we will. That is my objective."

"We have not lost away from home in the league this season. We have six days until this game. Away goals no longer count and that helps us in this case."

AFP

Atletico will have to suffer at Dortmund, says Griezmann

MADRID

ANTOINE Griezmann said Atletico Madrid will have to "suffer" at Borussia Dortmund to reach the Champions League semi-finals.

Diego Simeone's side beat their German visitors 2-1 in the quarter-final first leg on Wednesday but after dominating the first half their advantage could have been bigger.

Rodrigo De Paul and Samuel Lino netted in the first half but Sebastien Haller hit back in the 81st minute.

Dortmund hit the woodwork twice in the final stages as Atletico clung on for victory.

"In the second half they had the ball and pegged us back, we suffered quite a lot," Griezmann told Movistar.

"We will have to suffer there -- we've got to go for the game and win it, we've got the quality to get to the semi-finals and beyond."

Griezmann spoke to media with an ice pack strapped to his ankle but said he thought he would be fine after some treatment and rest, after coach Simeone said he had been playing through a niggle.

"We've got the best physios in Europe to recover well, I'm doing very well, trying to help the team," he said.

Griezmann said he was expecting strong support from Atletico fans for the return in Dortmund next Tuesday.

"Atletico supporters travel, they prefer to travel for the team than to buy things they need for their homes, I'm so proud to be at this club," he added.

"Maybe it didn't look great (in the end) but it's a win in the quarter-finals and it's very important to win."

Simeone, who recorded his 50th win in the Champions League as a coach, agreed with Griezmann about the second leg.

"I view (the second leg) as very tough, difficult, it's huge," said the Argentine.

"We have to be prepared for what awaits us."

AFP

Barcelona beat PSG in thriller to seize edge in Champions League tie

PARIS

ANDREAS Christensen came off the bench to head in the winning goal as Barcelona won 3-2 away to Paris Saint-Germain in a remarkable first leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie on Wednesday.

Raphinha had earlier scored twice for the Catalans at the Parc des Princes, slotting in the opener late in the first half and then volleying in an equaliser to make it 2-2 just after the hour mark.

In between, PSG had turned the game around as they awoke from a poor first-half display by starting in electrifying fashion after the restart with two goals in six minutes, neither coming from Kylian Mbappe.

Ousmane Dembele struck against his old club, and Vitinha briefly put the French giants in front, only for Barcelona to recover in stunning fashion to take control of the tie.

Christensen's goal, which came just after he had been introduced as a substitute on his 28th birthday, ended PSG's 27-game unbeaten run and gives Barca a lead to defend at home in the return next Tuesday.

"I am very proud. It is a great victory against one of the best teams in the world, but we are only halfway there," said Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez.



Barcelona's Danish defender #15 Andreas Christensen (3rdL) scores his side's third goal during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final first-leg football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and FC Barcelona at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on April 10, 2024. AFP

"PSG still have every chance on Tuesday, but we have a one-goal advantage and we will be playing at home."

That second leg will be played at Montjuic, the Catalan club's temporary home, rather than the Camp Nou, the scene of Barcelona's incredible 6-1 win over PSG in 2017 and of a lethal Mbappe hat-trick in a 2021 meeting of the teams.

"We could have won this game," insisted PSG coach Luis Enrique.

"I am not saying the result is unfair but it came down to little details and we will work to ensure that in the return the little details go our way."

The story of this game ended up partly being about Luis Enrique's selection decisions -- he was missing the

banned Achraf Hakimi but also omitted teenage prodigy Warren Zaire-Emery and gave Marco Asensio a surprise start.

The importance of the occasion for PSG, back in the quarter-finals having been eliminated in the last 16 in five of the previous seven seasons, was clear with Ronaldinho -- a former star for both clubs -- doing a lap of honour ahead of the game and home fans putting on a Star Wars display as the teams came out.

But Paris struggled to live up to it, with Mbappe for once unable to deliver in a big game.

Appearing in the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time in four years and since the departure of Lionel Messi, Barcelona grew into

this game and almost went ahead on 20 minutes.

Home goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma came to try to punch away a corner but Robert Lewandowski got there first, only for his header to be cleared off the line by Nuno Mendes.

- Donnarumma in spotlight - That was the first wobble from Donnarumma, who did not cover himself in glory as Barcelona went ahead in the 37th minute.

The Italian came out to meet a low ball in from the right by Lamine Yamal but only succeeded in helping it into the path of Raphinha, who gratefully fired into an unguarded net for his first ever goal in the competition.

PSG sent on Bradley Barcola at the break for Asensio,

with the substitute going to the right wing and Dembele moving across to an inside-left role close to Mbappe.

The tactical change paid off at once, as PSG drew level three minutes after the restart when Ronald Araujo failed to properly clear Mbappe's cutback from the byline, the ball dropping to Dembele who rifled a shot high into the net while slipping.

It was just his second PSG goal since moving to the French capital from Barcelona last August.

The home side went ahead in the 51st minute, Barcola and Lee Kang-in combining on the right before Fabian Ruiz supplied Vitinha, who controlled and prodded in.

Xavi responded with a double change just past the hour mark, as Pedri and Joao Felix entered and Yamal and Sergi Roberto came off, with Raphinha now on the right.

Pedri's first contribution saw him float a ball forward for Raphinha, who arrived in the middle to meet it first-time on the volley, his shot beating Donnarumma to make it 2-2.

It was breathless stuff, and Dembele almost scored again, sending a shot off the far post just before Barcelona won it.

Donnarumma stayed rooted to his line as Ilkay Gundogan delivered a corner and Christensen headed in.

AFP

Atletico hold on to keep narrow advantage on 'nervous' Dortmund

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid earned a 2-1 Champions League quarter-final first leg victory over Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday, surviving a late onslaught from the visitors.

Rodrigo De Paul and Samuel Lino's first half goals gave Diego Simeone's side a commanding lead but Sebastien Haller pulled one back to give the German side a foothold in the tie ahead of next week's return in Dortmund.

Edin Terzic said his side, fifth in the Bundesliga, were "very nervous" in the first half but they improved and hit the woodwork twice in the final stages of a match which saw security measures reinforced after the Islamic State (IS) group made threats against stadiums used for last-eight ties.

Atletico Madrid had flown out of the traps, keen to grasp a golden opportunity to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2017.

"We took a little first step, we wanted to win at home," De Paul told Movistar.

"Here we are strong, the fans give us a boost, these nights are incredible -- you never know if they will be repeated, the truth is I am very happy."

"When you win, I always think it's positive because if not, you never enjoy anything."

Despite not forcing an equaliser, Dortmund captain Emre Can said his team were content with the result.

"On such a night, one can also go under... there



Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann, right, heads the ball during the Champions League quarterfinal soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund at the Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, April 10, 2024. (AP Photo)

were phases where they completely overpowered us in the duels," Can told DAZN.

"So, we'll take the 2-1 and everything is open for next week."

Dortmund could not cope with the Rojiblanco's high press in the opening stages and De Paul fired the hosts ahead in the fifth minute after Ian Maatsen gave the ball away.

Goalkeeper Gregor Kobel passed the ball to the on-loan Chelsea defender, who panicked under pressure and played a slack pass which De Paul gleefully intercepted before tucking home.

Atletico have not lost any of their home Champions League knock-out games during Simeone's 12 years at the helm and continued to flood forward confidently at the baying Metropolitano.

Kobel clawed away a brilliant backheel flick by former Dortmund midfielder Axel Witsel, a key part of Atletico's back-line after his move

in 2022. The only negative note from a fine Atletico first half was a booking Lino earned, ruling him out for the second leg.

A few minutes later the Brazilian doubled his team's lead after another Dortmund defensive mix-up.

Mats Hummels, on his 500th appearance for Dortmund, badly directed a header into Alvaro Morata's path and he

and Antoine Griezmann combined to feed Lino, who slid a low effort past Kobel.

Terzic brought on Julian Brandt for Felix Nmecha at half-time in search of more attacking spark.

- 'Leaves door open' -

Missing sick top goalscorer Donyell Malen the Bundesliga side struggled to find a way past Oblak, who saved from Niclas Fu-

ellkrug early in a far tighter second half.

On-loan Manchester United winger Jadon Sancho began to get move involved for Dortmund, who pulled one back in the 81st minute, although not before Kobel made a stunning save to deny Lino his second.

Nahuel Molina miskicked a clearance and the ball fell to towering striker Haller who drove it beyond Oblak.

Despite the visitors finding a foothold, Atletico held on by the skin of their teeth and Dortmund fell to their first away defeat in four months.

English winger Jamie Bynoe-Gittens's long-range drive deflected off Cesar Azpilicueta's head and hit the crossbar, while Brandt nodded off the woodwork in a frantic finale. Someone was able to celebrate his 50th Champions League victory as a coach, becoming the ninth man to achieve the feat.

Simeone and Atletico have yet to conquer the Champions League, but this win is a shaky step towards the semi-finals.

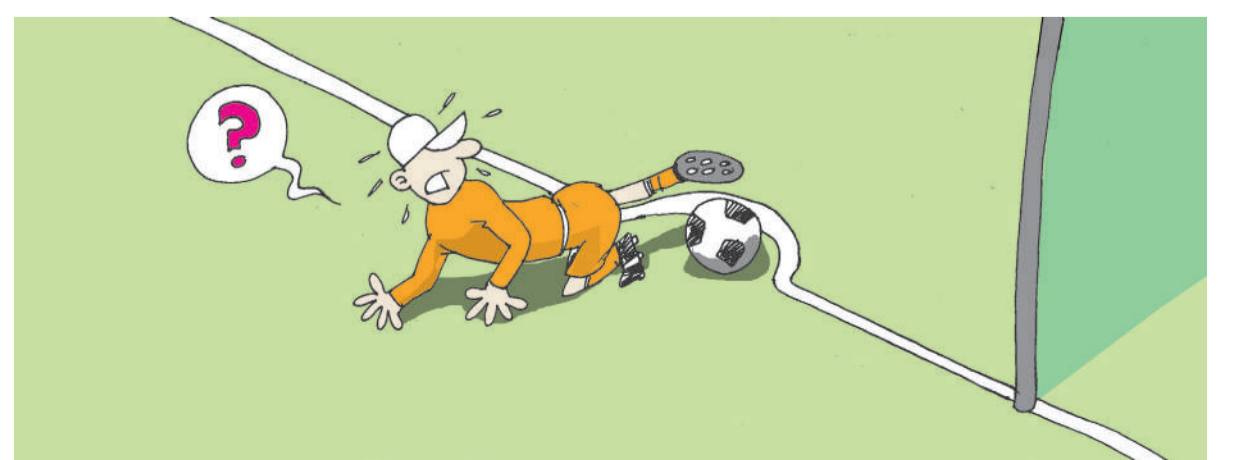
Dortmund showed it will not be a walk in the park, however, with their second half display.

"We were very nervous and conceded two easy goals, (then) we managed to correct the situation," said Terzic.

"I told them to calm down -- we didn't draw but now we have a result that leaves the door open."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Madrid and Man City draw six-goal Champions League thriller

PAGE 19

Relegation-threatened Mashujaa FC takes on Coastal Union in PL tie

By Guardian Correspondent

In a crucial NBC Premier League encounter scheduled for this afternoon, Mashujaa FC hosts Coastal Union in Kigoma in a matchup that holds significant implications for both teams.

Mashujaa FC, teetering on the edge of relegation, seeks to secure vital points to maintain their top-flight status, while Coastal Union eyes a victory to bolster their bid for African football next season.

Under the stewardship of Abdallah Mohammed 'Baresi', hosts Mashujaa FC appear to have stabilized their performances since the start of the calendar year despite suffering a 2-0 defeat in their last league outing.

Baresi's men avoided defeat in each of their last six NBC Premier League games before losing to Simba SC.

The unbeaten streak helped them move from second bottom to twelfth place on the log to ease their relegation fears.

Statistics also show the army side has won their last three games in front of their rejuvenated and hopeful crowd in Kigoma including a confident boosting penalty shootout victory over Simba SC in Tuesday's CRDB Federation Cup last 16 match.

Against Simba SC, Baresi's men managed to keep Simba SC at bay, despite playing the entirety of the second half with 10 men following defender Juma Makapu's red card during added time before the breather.

Baresi will hope his boys replicate the same commendable performance against Coastal Union, nicknamed 'Wagosi wa Kaya'. Victory could potentially see the Kigoma club rise as high as sixth, just six points shy of Coastal Union at fourth place.

Coastal Union, meanwhile, finds themselves at a crucial juncture. The Tanga-based side is aiming to fortify their aspirations for a top-four finish. The club's recent journey, marked by a hard-fought victory against a star-studded Ihefu SC which following a defeat to Simba SC that was preceded by a draw with Azam FC, has been nothing short of a rollercoaster.

Despite the mixed results, the inconsistency of the other top four candidates has kept high hopes of securing a CAF Confederation spot for David Ouma's men.

The 'Wagosi wa Kaya' are coming into the match having been held to a 0-0 draw at home by JKT Tanzania in the Federation Cup last week.

Despite dominating proceedings in the 90 minutes, Coastal Union failed to find the back of the net and was forced to settle for a penalty shootout victory to advance to the Federation Cup quarterfinal.

Although 'Wagosi wa Kaya' footballers have improved since Ouma took over from Mwinyi Zahera, they have remained wildly unpredictable, especially on their travels. Indeed, Coastal Union has recorded two wins, four draws, and four losses in the squad's 10 away league outings, underlining their struggles on the road.

In head-to-head stats, Mashujaa FC and Coastal Union have met only once in the top flight. Coastal Union made the most of the home advantage at Mkwakwani Stadium to win 2-0 in the side's first-ever league encounter played in October last year.

Miguel Gamondi praises Yanga's performance in 2023/24 CRDB Federation Cup tie



Yanga's head coach Miguel Ángel Gamondi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans SC put the outfit's disappointing CAF Champions League exit behind by reaching the CRDB Federation Cup quarterfinals.

Miguel Gamondi's men secured a comfortable 2-0 win over hosts Dodoma Jiji FC at Jamhuri Stadium in a CRDB Federation Cup Round of 16 phase game played on Wednesday evening.

An own goal from Emmanuel Joseph Martin in the first half and another one from Clement Mzize ultimately did the damage for Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

The visitors were more than good value for the lead and never looked at the risk of

coming out of this one with anything other than a win.

Gamondi was delighted with his side's performance, saying they deserved to win against their tough hosts.

"I am satisfied with the performance of the team. Cup games are always tough, we tried to play football on this pitch where it is difficult, it is not in the right condition to play football at the high level but we try to do our best," the tactician pointed out.

"I think we deserve to win the game. We managed the game, we managed some players as well because don't forget we came from two tough games and we have another one on Sunday. I am happy with the win," the gaffer revealed.

The Argentine showered praise on his adversary, Francis Baraza, for building a strong team and urged for the Kenyan coach to be given more time to complete the good job he is doing

with Dodoma Jiji FC.

"I respect all teams. Dodoma is a tough team, they play well in defense and they use the flanks. I congratulated the coach because it is a very good team," the coach added.

The Argentine said: "Maybe he is not happy with the pitch as well. Sometimes he needs to play long balls because of that but it is not easy to win against Dodoma here."

He added in his post-match press conference: "I think they should give him time to continue working and building the team. In the future, it will be more difficult to win against this team."

The result leaves the CRDB Federation Cup holders, Yanga, on the road to potentially winning another domestic double.

They are right in the NBC Premier League title race, leading the table with a five-point gap over second-placed Azam FC.

Dodoma Jiji FC gifted Yanga easy goals, concedes Francis Baraza

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

DODOMA Jiji FC's head coach Francis Baraza says his charges gave away easy goals in the CRDB Federation Cup's 2-0 defeat to Young Africans SC in Dodoma on Wednesday.

An own goal by Emmanuel Martin opened the scoring for the visitors, alias Yanga, in the third minute of the tournament's Round of 16 fixture.

Iddi Kipagwile squandered an opportunity to level matters for Dodoma Jiji FC five minutes after the restart when he skied his penalty kick.

Forward Clement Mzize sealed the win for Yanga in the 66th minute to secure them a place in the CRDB Federation Cup quarterfinal.

Baraza believes that his side played well but was undone by the easy goals it conceded to a well-drilled and experienced opponent.

The Kenyan tactician pointed out: "I congratulate Yanga, they have played well, although maybe I can say that we gifted them both goals. If you look at the first goal, we conceded an own goal, that was due to concentration."

"I told my players when we possess the ball we can't concede. We lost the ball, Yanga got a foul and started quickly, and our boy scored an own goal," the gaffer revealed.

"The second goal, the boy



Dodoma Jiji FC's head coach Francis Baraza.

turned to pass back, he passed to Yanga. We conceded the second goal, but I will congratulate the boys because their effort has been seen, they have played good football but the result was on the side of the opponent," the tactician noted.

"It's something to work on because most of the players who played today like Adeyun have not had game time. Someone like Daniel Mgori is a young player who came in and played according to the instructions I had given them. It's all about trying to push them and be able

to see where the mistakes were committed and work on them."

"I said before that Yanga has many experienced players. And if you look at the way they organize themselves, the coach must be ready to push his players and direct and organize," the gaffer noted.

The coach pointed out: "If you look at my team, most of them are young and they are trying to show their abilities. Yanga has many experienced players, they will always change no matter how you try to pin them down."

Yanga midfielder signs two-year deal to end exit speculations

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

STEPHANE Aziz Ki has snubbed interest from South Africa's DStv Premiership giants Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns to remain with Tanzania's Yanga, after signing a new two-year deal.

Although the deal is yet to be revealed, it is reportedly an agreement between the two parties and the terms that the player has asked for have been reached.

Yanga has decided to tie the club's best player until the 2025/26 season to avoid losing the Ivorian born on a free transfer.

It is only a matter of time before the club announces that he has signed for two more years to serve the Jangwani Street giants.

Following his sterling displays against Sundowns in the two-legged CAF Champions League quarterfinals, Aziz Ki was linked with the Buccaneers and the Brazilians.

Sundowns' interest in the Burkina Faso star was further fuelled by pictures of him speaking to head coach Rhulani Mokwena in Dar es Salaam and at Loftus Stadium in South Africa.

The Burkinabe's contract with Yanga is set to expire in June, but it seems he is ready to sign a new contract.

It is understood that during the two parties' negotiations, Aziz Ki asked the Jangwani

Street side's leaders to sign a competent striker, a request that was assured to him by the club.

It is an announcement that will end the rumours about the midfielder's links to Mamelodi Sundowns, Orlando Pirates of South Africa, and Esperance Tunis.

It was expected that the 28-year-old midfielder would remain in Tanzania. Aziz Ki revealed: "I have no expectations of leaving Yanga at the moment because I have not achieved the goals that brought me here. This club, which I love with all my heart, still owes me, and even money cannot fill the love I have for this club."

The attacking midfielder also revealed his conversation with Mokwena fueled Sundowns links, along with Pirates who watched him closely during the game.

"Mokwena told me to improve my playing and I did it during the return leg held in South Africa, where he commended me for that, and we did not talk about that topic."

The 28-year-old has scored 13 goals and made seven assists for Yanga in the NBC Premier League so far.

He came close to scoring the winning goal for Yanga in the second leg against Sundowns, but his goal was disallowed by the VAR. Sundowns went on to win 3-2 on penalties and advanced to the semi-finals which will see them confront Esperance.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

