



Finance minister stresses on affordable loans, equip agriculture sector players

Finance Minister George Shamba has stressed the need to provide affordable loans to equip agriculture sector players, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to boost the sector's productivity and growth.

Speaking at a meeting with the Tanzania Agricultural Bank (TAB) board of directors in Dar es Salaam, Shamba said the government is committed to supporting the agricultural sector through various financial and technical interventions.

He noted that the government has established the Tanzania Agricultural Bank to provide specialized financial services to farmers and agribusinesses. Shamba urged the bank to focus on providing affordable loans and financial products that meet the needs of the agricultural sector.

Shamba also emphasized the importance of equipping agriculture sector players with modern technologies and skills to improve their productivity and competitiveness. He called for increased collaboration between the government, the private sector, and international partners to support the agricultural sector's development.

World Bank to support more social protections in Tanzania

The World Bank has announced a new initiative to support the Tanzanian government in strengthening its social protection systems. The initiative aims to provide financial assistance and technical support to improve the lives of vulnerable populations.

The World Bank's support will focus on expanding the coverage of social safety nets, such as cash transfers and food assistance, to reach more people in need. The bank will also provide technical assistance to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection programs.

The initiative is part of the World Bank's broader strategy to support Tanzania's economic growth and poverty reduction efforts. It will be implemented in partnership with the Tanzanian government and other development partners.

Buzwagi nine hands over modern beekeeping project in Kahama DC

Local government officials in Kahama District have handed over a modern beekeeping project to the community. The project, funded by the Buzwagi Local Government, aims to improve the livelihoods of local farmers and beekeepers.

The project includes the provision of modern beekeeping equipment, training, and technical support. It also involves the establishment of beekeeping cooperatives to facilitate access to markets and services.

The project is expected to generate income for the community and contribute to the district's economic development. It is a testament to the commitment of local government officials to support and improve the lives of their constituents.

Farmers call on govt to promote indigenous seeds

Farmers in Tanzania have called on the government to promote and support the use of indigenous seeds. They argue that indigenous seeds are better adapted to local conditions and are more resilient to pests and diseases.

The farmers also noted that the use of indigenous seeds can help to preserve biodiversity and improve food security. They called for government support in the form of research, training, and marketing assistance to promote the use of indigenous seeds.

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MNH sets up higher pressure pure oxygen skin therapy unit

Prof Mohamed Janabi, the MNH executive director said in the treatment modality, a carefully selected patient who meets the treatment criteria is wheeled into a chamber which is then compressed with pure oxygen at 2.5 atmospheres. This allows for more efficient oxygen perfusion on the tissues and thus enhances healing, the don explained.

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) yesterday received a hyperbaric medicine and wound care machine, a therapy which involves exposing the body to laboratory oxygen to fast track healing.

An online entry says that hyperbaric medicine is the medical use of oxygen at a higher pressure level than our atmosphere. Ordinarily, the air we breathe is made up of 21 percent oxygen while hyperbaric medicine uses 100 percent oxygenated air at an elevated ambient pressure to treat a variety of conditions, it says.

Delivering the machine is a result of institutional cooperation between MNH, the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied

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Bus with registration T 608 DMP run by Batico Co., travelling from Mwasubuya village in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region to Mwanza tumbled into Simiyu River as the steering wheel broke and the vehicle went into reverse gear. One person died and 25 others were injured. Photo: Vitus Audax

Eight children die in water filled pits

By Guardian Correspondent, Iramba

EIGHT children, six of whom were under seven years old, are said to have died in water related accidents over the past week in Iramba District, Singida Region.

Suleiman Mwenda, the Iramba district commissioner, made this affirmation on Tuesday when visiting the family of a sev-

en-month-old boy, Anson Jackson, who died after falling into a water well at their home in Kiomboi town.

By Tuesday the district authorities had received eight water related death reports within a week, he said, noting that falling into wells had claimed the lives of the children.

Falling into water wells occurred a

number of times while some children unknowingly fell into pits filled with water due to the on-going rains, he said.

One of the deceased, aged between 18 and 21 years and residing at Ndurumo village in Kidaru ward, died in an attempt to

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TPA meets transit trade stakeholders

Our competitors are looking at Uganda as a market; it is important that our services are provided at standards and quality to ensure that Uganda remains a TPA customer

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

OFFICIALS of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) were yesterday holding a series of meetings with lorry operators involved in transit trade, to seek solutions to challenges facing transporters trucking goods to six neighbouring countries.

Dr George Fasha, the TPA director of marketing and corporate relations, said at the opening of the meeting that some of the challenges that need to be resolved include security issues, cargo delays, plus road use challenges relating to inspections and tax issues.

The discussions will also focus on improving services provided by agents clearing cargo, especially for transit trade vehicles, he said, highlighting that improving services is vital as port competitors are doing the same.

"We need to find solutions to these challenges to improve service provision at our ports," he said in the direction of landlocked countries using the central corridor by up to 80 per cent of export and import cargo transit.

The port of Dar es Salaam handles upwards of 25m tonnes annually, while Mtwara port is cargo inflows are rising following major improvements, handling 3m tonnes of cargo at the moment, he said, noting that Tanga port handled 1m tonnes and after improvements it now handles 1.2m tonnes.

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Burundi SGR link: AfDB approves \$696.41m credit

By Guardian Reporter

PHASE II of the joint Tanzania-Burundi-DRC standard gauge railway (SGR) project is set to obtain \$696.41m loan financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

A statement issued by the lender yesterday said the loan is intended to enable the construction of 651kms as an extension of the central corridor

SGR line.

In the decision, the board of directors approved various financing components for Burundi and Tanzania, where the work involves building a single electrified standard gauge track.

The work is divided into three lots, from Tabora to

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa exchanges greetings with Ambassador Ahmed Okeish of Saudi Arabia at his office in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO



TPA meets transit trade stakeholders

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Dr Fasha noted that countries that are served through the central corridor including Burundi, DRC Congo, Rwanda and Uganda can opt to use other ports if serious measures are not taken to ensure improved services.

"Our competitors are looking at Uganda as a market; it is important that our services are provided at standards and quality to ensure that Uganda remains a TPA customer," he said.

Chuki Shabani, the chairman of the Association of Medium and Small Truck Owners of Tanzania (TAM-STOA), said that 80 per cent of the cargo coming from the port is transported by trucks.

He raised concern over delayed inspection of trucks insisting cargos destined for foreign countries have to be delivered on time, affirming that Tanzanian ports have comparatively fewer challenges than other countries.

Andrew Mlacha, the eastern zone license and registration officer at the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), said the training programme for truck drivers has helped to reduce the number of road accidents.



Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme speaks to Bulyanhulu Ushetu ward residents after visiting the emergency ward under construction at Bugarama health centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia.

Eight children die in water filled pits

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cross Ndurumo River, he said.

Other adults who died include two men and a woman at Ndago village, accompanied by four children aged three to seven years, who died as they attempted to cross a flooded river.

The DC urged residents to take precautions by ensuring they cover all the water wells during the rainy season.

"To reduce water related deaths; we must also ensure the cleanliness of our environments and stop dumping wastes in water drainage," he said.

Throwing solid wastes in drainage facilities blocks water passage, thus overflowing and likely to cause waterborne diseases, he added.

MNH sets up higher pressure pure oxygen skin therapy unit

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Sciences (MUHAS) and the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in the United States.

The launching ceremony went together with a simulation and a live patients' treatment session at a facility next to Kibasila annex and on the rear side of Mwaissela ward, be-

ing conducted from 10th to 16th December.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, the MNH executive director said in the treatment modality, a carefully selected patient who meets the treatment criteria is wheeled into a chamber which is then compressed with pure oxygen at 2.5 atmospheres. This allows for more efficient oxygen perfusion on the tissues and

thus enhances healing, the don explained.

MNH is the first hospital in the region to provide the service, he said, pointing out that hyperbaric treatment is recommended in patients with conditions such as air or gas embolism, carbon monoxide poisoning, clostridial myositis and others.

It is also applied in myonecrosis (gas gangrene), crush injury,

compartment syndrome and other acute traumatic ischemia, along with decompression sickness, he said.

The treatment is also given to people with complications such as arterial insufficiencies (such as central retinal artery occlusion, enhancement of healing in selected problem wounds (such as diabetic foot ulcers), severe anemia, intracranial abscess

and necrotizing soft tissue infections.

The machine, purchased at a cost of 250m/- can also treat osteomyelitis (refractory), delayed radiation injury (soft tissue and bony necrosis), compromised grafts and flaps, acute thermal burn injury and idiopathic sudden sensor neural hearing loss, he added.



Wateraid Tanzania residence director Anna Mzingo (R) hands over water tanks and sanitation equipment worth 54.87m/- to support mudflow victims in Hanang District Manyara Region. Hanang District Commissioner Janeth Mayanja (L) received the donation on behalf of the victims on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Burundi SGR link: AfDB approves \$696.41m credit

FROM PAGE 1

Kigoma (411 km), Uvinza - Malagarasi (156 km) both sections in Tanzania; and the Malagarasi -Musongati section (84 km) in Burundi, to ease the landlocked country access to the port of Dar es Salaam.

Upwards of 400 kilometers of standard gauge rail infrastructure is largely finished from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, while the Dodoma - Tabora is under construction.

The credit includes \$98.62m extended to Burundi as grant financings and \$597.79m to Tanzania as loans and guarantees, the statement indicated.

As the initial mandate lead arranger, AfDB Bank will structure and mobilize financing of up to \$3.2bn from commercial banks, development financial Institutions, export credit agencies and institutional investors, it said.

The total cost of the SGR section linking Tanzania and Burundi is billed at \$3.93bn, intended to serve as an efficient cost-effective long-haul bulk transport service.

The SGR is expected to incentivize large-scale mining and commercial agriculture, transform the central transport corridor to an economic hub by enhancing trade and manufacturing opportunities along the corridor influence zone.

It will similarly provide for a shift from road trucking transportation prone to accidents and high maintenance costs, unlock key economic processing zones, industrial parks, inland container depots and population centers along the central corridor, the statement affirms.

Enhancing accessibility and promoting economic activities, the project will contribute to building economic resilience as institutions to manage the new railway sector in Burundi come up.

It also pushes capacity building through skills, while the project is seen as a priority for the East African Community (EAC) railways master plan and the African Union in its program for infrastructure development.

It will facilitate economic and social transformation since the construction of the railway will allow Burundi to intensify exploitation of nickel, as the 10th largest deposit in the world in the Musongati mining fields, it said, noting that Burundi also has lithium and cobalt deposits, expected to generate substantial resources as the ore is exported via the rail link to the port of Dar es Salaam.

The port currently accounts for 80 per cent of the country's import and export trade, the statement noted.

AGENCIES

Ruto: Kenya to collaborate with Indian Ocean countries for blue economy success

BEIJING

PRESIDENT William Ruto has announced Kenya will work with other Indian Ocean countries to promote sustainable use of ocean resources as part of the country's bid to transform its blue economy resources.

The President said the new arrangement will be through investment in research and implementation of projects that promote equitable and

inclusive benefit sharing of ocean resources under the Oceans Decade of Action programme.

Speaking during the first China-Indian Ocean region forum on development cooperation in China, Dr Ruto pointed out that the cooperation provides an opportunity to elevate the Blue economy, a critical plank in facilitating trade among continents leading to sustained economic growth.

The Head of State explained that the new development is in line with Kenya's bottom-up economic transformation agenda which identifies the Blue economy as a huge underutilised opportunity with enormous transformative capacity to create wealth and reduce poverty.

Consequently, he said, collaborating with other nations resonates with the development agenda of boosting a sustainable blue economy

to build together a maritime community with a shared future.

He pointed out that climate change and pollution have begun to take a considerable toll on the oceans, with grave consequences for human health and the sustainability of the blue economy.

To reverse the trend, President Ruto said that a common approach to the agenda is important to keep the oceans safe and secure while

managing the use of marine resources sustainably for the benefit of all peoples and nations.

"As we deliberate in this year's Forum, let us begin by acknowledging that the oceans cannot be protected by a single country or a few countries or those that border them. Oceans are the natural sites for multilateral cooperation," said the President.

RC Makalla urges Mwanza traders to effectively use ATCL cargo flight

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MWANZA Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla, has urged traders in the country to use Air Tanzania Co. Ltd. cargo plane Boeing 767-300F to transport their goods to all corners of the country, saying this was the only reliable way to reach out to customers timely.

He made the plea yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a joint meeting with fish traders from the Mwanza region held at ATCL Headquarters.

He said the existence of the plane facilitates the transportation of products, especially fish fillets, being transported directly from the lake zone to various markets in the world.

He said that the plane enables fish fillet traders to reduce production costs and increase the value by using less time to reach the market.

In addition, Makalla assured the businessmen that they will continue to engage various stakeholders and experts in dealing with existing challenges including improving the infra-

structure of the Mwanza airport.

He said the government will improve the storage building and set up a window for the provision of services for all government authorities, through fees and procedures to reduce unnecessary costs and ensure that goods are transported through Mwanza Airport.

ATCL managing director Ladislaus Matindi said apart from doing business, ATCL is also involved in the empowerment of other sectors by providing the necessary services including protecting the value of Tanzanian products by bringing them to the world market on time.

Matindi added that the presence of a cargo plane capable of carrying cargo weighing more than 50 tons at once, is an opportunity for Tanzanians to promote their business in the world.

He also said in January next year they expect to receive another Boeing 737 MAX aircraft which will have the capacity to carry 189 passengers, saying this will be followed in March by another large Dreamliner 787-800 that will have the capacity to carry 260 passengers.



CRDB human resources director Godfrey Rutasingwa (2nd L) presents a vehicle plate number of brand new Toyota Crown to Rehema Cletus Lupapa (C) who is the winner of Simbanking promotion at the ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are CRDB Bank head of customer banking Stephen Adili (L), CRDB eastern zone manager Badru Idd (2nd R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WaterAid supports mudflow victims in Hanang

By Guardian Reporter

AN International Non-Governmental Organisation, WaterAid Tanzania dealing with issues related to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) has provided various items worth 55m/- to support victims of mudslide in Hanang District, Manyara Region.

Speaking after handing over the donation to authorities in Manyara Region on Tuesday, Anna Mzinga, country director, WaterAid Tanzania said the do-

nated items would help WASH services to the residents.

Mzinga added that the WASH facilities worth 39,875,000/- include three trench toilets that have been given to victims camping at Gendabi primary school, those residing at Ganana primary school have been provided with two trench toilets and two bathrooms while victims camping at Katesh secondary school received two toilets and two bathrooms.

Other donated items include 50 cartons of toilet cleaners, 100

cartons of hand washing soaps, brushes, six drinking water storage tanks with capacity of 2000 litres and 225 kilograms of water treatment tablets, six hand washing facilities, water buckets and sanitary pads.

The Country Director noted that along with the above mentioned support, WaterAid Tanzania has contributed 15,000,000/- that will be used by authorities in addressing other important needs to victims at the camps.

Mzinga said: "We have been

touched by the tragedy; our organization has for a long time been implementing a number of projects in Hanang District. We understand the urgent need for WASH facilities and we have responded to the call made by authorities in Hanang District."

Mzinga emphasized that the organization will continue to work closely with the government in finding funds that will support more interventions in the district, especially in ensuring proper WASH services to the affected communities.

"We will continue to work closely

with the government in finding funds that will help put a permanent solution to the challenges that people face including the repair of WASH services for the most affected communities. We will collaborate with stakeholders to increase the number of WASH facilities and other infrastructures in the district for purposes of ensure that each of the residents have access to proper water and personal hygiene services," she added

In June this year, WaterAid Tanzania celebrated 40 years of its operations in Tanzania while putting em-

phasis on complete human dignity that can be achieved by ensuring people have access to clean and safe water, presence of good toilets and personal hygiene.

The Organization believes that availability of the above mentioned personal hygiene services would ultimately save Tanzanians from waterborne diseases.

Building on 40 years of commitment, WaterAid Tanzania has developed a 5 years strategy (2023-2028) to end water, sanitation and hygiene crises.



EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS (EOI)

Providing safety and security solutions to different projects offices & private residences in Tanzania

GIZ is a federally owned enterprise operating worldwide, assisting the German Government in achieving its policy objectives in the field of international cooperation. It offers demand-driven, tailor-made and effective services for sustainable development worldwide. In Tanzania and across the region GIZ supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the EAC in attaining their development goals.

GIZ Tanzania is looking for a suitable and renowned company to provide guarding services and access control for GIZ offices and private residences of GIZ staff. The contract shall include the offices and private residences in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Lushoto, Arusha, Moshi, Mbeya, Dodoma, Lindi, Mtwara, Liwale, Tunduru, Namtumbo, Zanzibar (Unguja & Pemba), and Mwanza, with possibility to include other regions depending on expansion of activities across Tanzania.

Therefore, GIZ would like to request security companies to send their Expression of Interest (Eoi) as per below details:

SPECIFICATION OF THE SERVICE

Expected service:

- Security service for the office with day & night shift
- Security service for residence premises with day & night shift
- Security service with electronic devices solutions
- emergency rescue and support services in case of fire and road accidents
- Periodic Newsletters showcasing security related incidents occurring in Tanzania especially in the regions mentioned above

DETAILS OF YOUR TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

Your technical documents must show the following:

1. Company profile with a clear physical address and Contact address (Telephone number, email address, physical address).
2. Describe your process of guard placement to the new premises.
3. Business Registration Certificate/ Trade license in that field.
4. TIN / VAT Registration Certificate.
5. Valid latest tax clearance certificate from Revenue Authority.
6. At least five (5) references of similar service/Supply executed proven by certificates of good completion issued in last 12 months by international organizations
7. Address of your main office or branch offices located at least in each region
8. Quality of service related any other document.

After evaluation of Eoi, GIZ may contact the selected companies for further process.

Submission of Eoi
Please submit your Eoi documents to tz_quotation@giz.de latest by Monday the 15th January 2024.

"GIZ reserves all rights"



Scan the QR Code above or use the Link below to download the Eoi Document.

https://www.giz.de/en/downloads_els/EOI-Providing-Safety-and-Security-Solutions-in-Tanzania.pdf

TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC TANZANIA



INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. Trees for the future Tanzania has set aside the funds for the operations during the financial year 2023. TREES is intending that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payments under the contract for the Procurement of Personal protective Equipment, mobile phones & Laptop.
2. TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC TANZANIA now invites sealed bids from reputable company/suppliers to supply goods as shown below:

LOT	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	UNITY	QUANTITY
1.	PPE/005/THQ/2023/G/NC/03	PROCUREMENT OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	Pair	52
		-Riding gloves.	Pair	63
		-Rain suit.	Each	52
		-Riding Jackets.	Pair	63
		-Gum boots.	Pair	63
		-Safety boots.	Each	52
		-Helmet.	Each	52
		-Chest protector.	Pair	52
		-Elbow, knee & sheen guard		
		2.	PMP/005/THQ/2023/G/NC/04	PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE PHONES.
-Redmi Note 12 Pro				
-8GB RAM -256 GB ROM				
3.	PLT/005/THQ/2023/G/NC/05	PROCUREMENT OF LAPTOP	Each	6
		-HP Pavilion 15 Laptop		
		-11 th Gen Intel Core i7-1165G7 Processor		
		-16 GB RAM, 512GB SSD Storage		
		-Backlight Keyboard		
		-Numeric Keypad		
		-Fingerprint Reader		
		-Memory card slot		
		-Window 11 Pro		

Bidders are allowed to bids for all Lot (1,2 & 3) or One Lot or Two Lots and in each case, Bidder must quote for all quantities specified in Lot No.1,2 & 3. Trees for the future Tanzania will evaluate the bids and award the contract to the most competitive bidder.

3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office, Trees for the future Tanzania. P.O BOX 1624 N.H.C. Singidani Complex Building, 2nd Floor SINGIDA or via email pendo.magagura@trees.org Mondays to Fridays except Public holidays.
4. A complete set of the bidding Documents and additional sets will be offered free by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 3.
5. 3 copies of bids 1 original and 2 copies, properly filled in enclosed in plain envelopes must be properly addressed to the Trees for the future Tanzania, N.H.C Singidani Complex Building, Second Floor, P.O BOX 1624 SINGIDA. All bids must be delivered by hand to the Trees for the future Tanzania before the deadline for submission of bids.
6. The deadline for the submission of bids is 22nd December, 2023 at 10: 00am. Bids will be opened in public and in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend in the conference room of the Trees for the future Tanzania, N.H.C Singidani Complex Building, second floor at 10:00 a.m, 22nd December 2023. The outer cover must be clearly marked.

HERI RASHID
COUNTRY DIRECTOR
TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC





Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (3rd L) launches TADB north zone office in Arusha Region yesterday. The office will serve Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tanga regions. Others are Arusha MP Mrisho Gambo (L) and TADB board chairman Ishmael Kasekwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chadema wants CAG queries be dealt with

By Carlos Banda

THE main opposition party, Chadema has issued several recommendations on issues raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), including the Tanzania Revenue Authority to seek new ways of collecting taxes.

The recommendations were given yesterday by the Member of the Executive Committee and Financial, Economic and Budget Advisor of CHADEMA, Ahobikile Mwaitenda, during a press briefing with journalists at the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

"We want the government to implement recommendations made by the CAG. Concerning the decrease in sources of revenue. The public accounts committee advised TRA to seek new sources of income, however, we call upon the government in general to come up with new sources of income by improving the production infrastructure in the country," he said.

The Opposition committee member added that: "Currently, we are witnessing the fall in trade activities, the closure of some companies, business is hard as some individuals struggle to pay small taxes. You cannot cast the whole burden on TRA alone because the authority is responsible for collecting taxes. How do you get these taxes?" Mwaitenda commented that

the party had made a lot of recommendations on potential sources of income such as deep-sea fishing and imposing taxes for online businesses which he argued would help the government gain more revenue instead of depending on conventional methods for generating revenue.

He also mentioned other proposed recommendations such as the strengthening debt collection from women and youth groups through enactment of guidelines for the collection and issuance of loans whereby a total of 88 bn/- in credit has not been retrieved.

He also pointed out that the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) should conduct an in-depth investigation on all areas highlighted by the CAG which indicate violations of the Public Procurement law and usage of the force account and improvement of Medical Store Department's performance (MSD).

"Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) should make a thorough inspection in all areas listed in the CAG's report which indicate violations in the Public Procurement law and usage of the force account as well as boost the performance of MSD through timely delivery of medical equipment in the councils noting that a total of 8bn/- was paid to the department but the equipment never arrived in the designated council," he noted.

Tanzanians urged to value, protect investors' infrastructure: TIC

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), has called on Tanzanians to value and protect infrastructure and properties belonging to investors, saying they are partners in development.

TIC Director General Gilead

Teri, made the call while receiving gypsum boards donated by KNAUF factory located in Mkuranga, in the Coastal Region of the victims of mudslide in Hanang, Manyara Region.

Teri received the aid worth 10m/- at the TIC headquarters in Dar es Salaam, where he said there is need for Tanzanians to see investors as partners in de-

velopment because despite contributing to increasing employment and taxes to the government, they support economic growth.

"Investment is not only about money and employment, so we need to embrace this tendency of living in harmony with investors because they are our partners in development."

Teri said that the KNAUF fac-

tory which produces construction products from Germany was the first to tell TIC that they want to provide help due to the disaster which happened in Katesh, Hanang District.

He said they have provided gypsum boards with the ability to retain moisture and will help in the construction of health centers and schools that have been affected by

the floods that killed over 89 people.

"The aid is worth 10m/- and the car with the aid has started traveling to Katesh. We ask those who come to invest in the country to help in such disasters and a true friend is the one who helps you during challenges like KNAUF," said Teri.

The director of human resource-

es of KNAUF, Rose Mero, said they had decided to provide the aid as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

"Our aid is aimed at improving the areas of schools and health centres that were damaged by these floods, for us we think it is important to give back to the community whenever such disasters occur," she said.

Debate dev't decisions using PHC 2022, Ndalichako tells political parties' heads

By Correspondent James Kandoya

POLITICAL party's leaders yesterday urged to debate and recommend development decisions using Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2022.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) made the call in Dar es Salaam when opening the meeting aimed to inform political parties' leaders the importance of using PHC 2022 reports.

The event is part of a series of meetings organized by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) with different groups in the country to inform about the importance of using the reports to make critical development decisions.

She said that political party's leaders must ensure that they remind leaders in their respective areas to come up with plans that reflect the number of people in particular areas

as per PHC report.

The minister said PHC 2022 reports were very important to enable the government to achieve its developmental vision 2020/2025 and the new developmental vision 2025/2050.

"The PHC 2022 was the first-ever paperless census in the country, therefore, it is now a time to use the reports to the next level, which means committing more resources while prioritizing health promotion and disease prevention to mention the few," she said.

The ministry boss said already the National Directive for the Implementation of the 2022 Census is in place therefore, it was time for them to fully participate in all stages of the development plan.

Ambassador Mohamed Haji Hamza - Census Commissar for Zanzibar said that the PHC reports are not important for political decisions but also for development plans.

"everyone in the community must think of using PHC 2022 reports in the development plan starting from rural up to urban areas," he said.

Ruth Minja, Principal Statistician at NBS said that a total of 248 reports will have been prepared by June 2024 adding that the aim of the meeting with political leaders is to build their capacity on the importance of using PHC 2022 reports.

Minja said that already NBS has conducted training to religious leaders, and leaders from district councils and regions across the country as well as special groups in the community.

On November 01, last year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched PHC 2022 and the National Directive for the Implementation of the Census that would span from November to October 2032, that when launching the PHC 2022 reports,

"We need development strategies to serve these people", she insisted.



Technicians lay pipes for PSSF Sinza Kijitonyama sanitation project that will serve more than 1,000 residents of Sinza B, Sinza C Mabatini and Mananayama. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole



Jane Goodall Institute
TANZANIA
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. Founded in 2021, the Institute advances the vision and work of her founder Dr. Jane Goodall by continuing the chimpanzee research and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share. Currently the Institute is seeking to recruit a suitably qualified and competent Tanzanian to fill the following vacant position:

Job Position:	Motor Vehicle Driver
Program:	Gombe Stream Research Centre (GSRC)
Duty Station:	Kigoma
Reporting Line:	Administration & Logistics Officer

Job Summary:

This position is responsible for providing driving services and support staff in the assigned office to perform their daily planned activities. The driver will also be responsible for ensuring safety of the vehicle and the tools assigned and observing all current JGI Tanzania policies and procedures for driving motor vehicles. The Driver will be responsible in assisting and identifying any vehicle mechanical fault and services, and reporting any discrepancies noted to the supervisor for immediate action. If necessary, the Driver will be required to carry out light mechanical duties and, with the authorization of the supervisor, assure the appropriateness of any mechanical work done by others.

Key Responsibilities and Duties:

- Main responsibilities will include, but not limited to:
- Drive Institute vehicles and adhere to speed limits as instructed by the road or traffic police and other authorities.
 - Ensure passenger safety and comfort during field trips.
 - Maintain vehicles and other related car accessories to ensure smooth running of the vehicles.
 - Maintain regular inspections on vehicles and report any damages or loss to the supervisor for appropriate actions.
 - Advise supervisor on sources of program vehicle maintenance and repair schedule and appropriate spare parts and accessories.
 - Maintain general cleanliness, ensure security of the vehicles and related parts at all times.
 - Prepare schedules for vehicle repair,

maintenance, and reports to the supervisor for appropriate action.

- Prepare actual requirements for fuel, oils, and any safari requirements in accordance with the nature of vehicle trips and keep proper records for the same.
- Fill in all trip logbooks and maintain trip documentation routinely.

Minimum Job Requirements & Qualifications:

The minimum job requirements and qualifications will include, but not be limited to:

- Form "IV" Certificate of the Secondary School.
- Clean class "D" Driving License.
- Attended a training and certified to drive VIP and/or Automobile.
- Attained Vocational Trainings in Mechanics and/or Automobile.
- Communicates in Swahili and English, both verbal and written.
- Five (5) years working experience as a Driver in an NGO, private Company, or Government Sector whose nature of the job includes driving in remote areas with poor road infrastructure.
- Demonstrates interpersonal skills, self-motivated person, a team player, and Sense of awareness.

Application Procedure:

All applications should be submitted together with the most recent Curriculum Vitae (CV)/resume, copy of relevant academic certificates & transcripts, testimonials, three names of reputable referees, day-time telephone number or e-mail address, and should be send to the following e-mail address: recruitment@janegoodall.or.tz

Only the final shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and provided with the interview feedback.

Deadline: Tuesday, 19th December, 2023 before 5pm in the evening.

JGI Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, national or tribal origin, religious belief, gender, and marital status.

QUALIFIED FEMALE APPLICANTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.



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Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (C) briefs journalists on the 50th anniversary of Institute of Social Work Week in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Community Development Assistant Commissioner Baraka Makona and ISW Rector Dr Joyce Nyoni. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika.

CROSAT sets to promoting better use of improved seeds, pesticides

By Guardian Correspondent Morogoro

CROP Science Association of Tanzania (CROSAT) is set to come up with a new strategy that will help increase better use of improved seeds and the correct use of pesticides among farmers across Tanzania.

The idea is to boost crop production compared to the current situation.

Patrick Ngwediagi, CROSAT secretary, made the call here yesterday when speaking with journalists ahead of this year's association annual general meeting (AGM).

He said that currently, the use of improved seeds and pesticides are still low, which in turn reduces crop production per acreage.

On issues of quality seeds, Ngwediagi said the goal of the association is to enable the majority of farmers to use quality seeds derived from the best types of seeds.

He said that through the general meeting expected to be held in

Dodoma on December 19-20 this year, experts will present the real state of seeds in the country and discuss in detail how to increase the production of quality seeds for self-sufficiency.

"Experts will discuss how to produce quality seeds and the availability of seeds and the systems used to ensure that we get quality seeds and in the end we will come up with a strategy and recommendations to advise the government, the community on all issues that make it possible to get quality seeds," said Ngwediagi.

Regarding the trends in the use of pesticides in the country, Ngwediagi said the meeting will also take care of the best use of pesticides due to the fact that there is no proper use of pesticides and contributing to the harm to the farmers themselves not getting the intended results.

"For example, a farmer can use a pesticide that was intended to be used for another disease, or another insect used for an un-

intended disease, thinking that each pesticide treats the plant and as a result suffer a loss," said Ngwediagi.

He said that the incorrect use of pesticides can cause harm to the health of consumers in this country and can prevent the export of agricultural products from the country because the products received abroad have been tested before entering the market.

CROSAT assistant secretary Dr Yasinta Nzogela speaking about the participation of women, said that in the association women have been motivated to join Academic Institutions such as Universities, Central Colleges and that they continue to motivate local government women.

Dr Nzogela mentioned that other women are from the private sector who own companies in the agricultural sector, who own farms so that they can survive by getting the right education and different positive ideas in developing their agricultural activities.

State to create 350 jobs for social welfare officers in this fiscal year

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE government has promised to increase 350 jobs for social welfare officers in the financial year 2023/2024, in an effort to expand the scope of access to social welfare services.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups unveiled this yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking with journalists on the 50th anniversary of the Institute of Social Work (ISW) and Social Welfare Week.

She said that the celebrations that are going on now aim to advertise social welfare services and deliver them to the public, its peak is December 18, and the official guest of honour will be Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Dr Gwajima said, 50 years ago, the college has done great things including producing many social welfare officers who have been distributed in different areas of the country working within the community.

"But in the financial year 2023/2024, the government has

promised to increase the employment of 350 social welfare officers, to expand the scope of access to social welfare services," she said. In addition, Dr Gwajima criticized the style of some parents and guardians to leave their children to live on the streets without taking steps to remove them from that environment.

"A child leaves home and goes to the street, father and mother do not look for him or report to the police station, but if a cow or chicken goes missing, he is searched for in the whole street, people do not

sleep," she said.

The minister said: "It is sad to see that an animal or a chicken is given more value than their child who goes to the streets and is used and goes through all kinds of violence including sexual, physical and endangering his life."

"A parent, if a child has defeated you, send him/her to social welfare, if he/she escapes, look for him/her, the difficult situation of life should not be a factor to let him/her go to the streets if you think you are reducing the problem, you are increasing it, because there he/she

will learn bad things on the streets and you will not be able to correct him/her," she said.

Baraka Makona, Assistant Commissioner for Community Welfare in the ministry of Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups said that about 2,000 children have been removed from the streets in various areas across Tanzania in the financial year 2022/2023.

He said the move is due to the government creating a special task force that works to remove the children from the streets, and the

work began in August last year.

"In that work, the ministry collaborating with various stakeholders including the Police Force, the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Litra), we have set up social welfare offices in Magafuli Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam and Nyegezi Bus Terminal in Mwanza," said Makona.

He explained that they have set up those offices, since many children have been traveling by bus, and that the social welfare officers in those centers monitor every time the buses enter.

Execution of land use plans will end disputes between farmers and pastoralists, says Tulia

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson has said government strategies to come up with village land use plans will help in reducing land disputes between farmers and pastoralists in various parts of the country.

Dr Tulia who is the President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) made the remarks on Tuesday in Njombe Region when opening the 28th annual general meeting and celebrations to mark the 30th anniversary of the national farmers' organisation (MVIWATA).

"It is our wish that all the disputes between farmers and pastoralists in the country come to an end; it will take some time, but with the set strategies and steps that we have already started to take, we can achieve our target. Plans are to make sure village lands are surveyed as well as preparing land use plans," she said.

She explained that land allocated for agriculture is used for intended purposes while livestock keepers will also be allocated special grazing areas. She said the strategies will be implemented in the 2023/2024 financial year.

Dr Tulia noted that once the plans start to be implemented, MVIWATA members will be among the beneficiaries, thus

reducing land disputes country-wide.

She asked farmers to continue producing food and add value to their agricultural crops to be able to get international markets.

Anthony Mtaka, Njombe Regional Commissioner, urged farmers to make sure they prepare nutritious food for their children for them to be healthy. He said despite producing a lot of food, some parents end up selling all the crops.

"We produce food and fruits including avocados, we should remember setting aside some food for our children. Children need nutritious food and fruits to grow better," he added.

MVIWATA Executive Director, Stephen Ruvuga said that one of the major challenges that the country faces is land grabbing.

"There are a number of conflicts between smallholder farmers and investors as well as those between farmers and pastoralists and government institutions. As the nation, we need to take deliberate measures to resolve these conflicts," said Ruvuga.

A farmer, Sara Kinyuny who participated in the meeting, asked the government to give them the right to occupy enough land to enable them to cultivate commercially.



Dr Rasheed Azeez from Lagos State University of Nigera, presenting a topic on 'effects of emerging technologies on the well-being of procurement and supply chain professionals' during the 14th annual general conference of procurement and supply professionals in Arusha Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Equip students with better digital skills, varsities urged

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Arusha

PUBLIC procurement experts have underscored the need for local varsities to equip their graduates with needed skills on digital procurement and supply chain management.

They were speaking here yesterday during their various presentations at the Procurement and Supply Professionals 14th annual general conference which is taking shape in Arusha Region.

In his presentation, titled "Procurement Strategies for Digital Supply Chain: The Competence Level of Graduates in Tanzania," Dr Charles Raphael, a senior lecturer at Arusha Technical College unveiled that majority of graduates from numerous high learning in-

stitutions are having low understanding and competence pertaining to digital procurement and supply systems.

"According to a special research that I conducted, most of the graduates in public procurement and supply in Tanzania are possessing low awareness level in digital strategies in procurement and supply management," he unveiled.

He added that the study which was conducted at different public entities in Dodoma, Mbeya, Arusha and Dar es Salaam regions established that a huge percentage of the graduates have only been equipped with the hard skills.

"The study, which collected information and data through use of questionnaires and descriptive statistics, noted that apart from

digital skills, most graduates also lack soft skills," he stated.

Detailing over the advantages of embracing digital procurement and supply chain system, Dr Raphael said the system was useful in terms of assuring safety and transparency in the whole process of public procurement. "Digitalisation of the sector means to make procurement smarter, but also reducing the high cost in the procurement process, as well as attaining efficiency while facilitating decision making among the procurement officers," he insisted.

Dr Rasheed Azeez from Lagos State University of Nigera, presented the topic on "Effects of Emerging Technologies on the Well-being of Procurement and Supply Chain Professionals"

In his presentation, Dr Azeez said in order to remain stable in the field, the procurement officers are required to invest most of their time and efforts to adopt the rapid technological advancements continuing in the sector.

"The procurement and supply chain sector is transforming very fast, as we're witnessing the introduction of numerous technologies, including artificial intelligence," he detailed. To remain productive in the sector, he informed that the procurement officer must be someone who is resource-driven with a high spirit of adopting the latest technologies.

"In any office in the public or private sector, as well as NGOs, the department of procurement and supply is playing a vital role

of ensuring the products and services are delivered to the customers at quality and effective cost," he reminded the professionals.

He challenged the local procurement professionals to deter from traditional procurement methods (paper-based works) and adopt the digital system in order to achieve standard in their daily executions.

He added, technological development has multiple benefits as the system helps to automate the whole circle of procurement and supply chain.

"The system improves transparency and operational costs, far above it easing (fast-tracking) the process for the advertisement of supply tenders," he observed, adding that the system is also useful in storage of records and documentation of diverse data.



George Mroso Arusha resident gets an explanation on mobile phone loan from Tigo employees during the ongoing trade exhibition in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

1.7million people to benefit from state-of-the-art cancer care services centre

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A TOTAL of 1.7 million people in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam are set to benefit from the new state of the art cancer care services center that will be opened soon at the Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam.

Speaking during Tanzanian Comprehensive Cancer Project (TCCP) Data dissemination workshop on Tuesday this week in Dar es Salaam, Agha Khan Health Services CEO Si-sawo Konteh said the 250 bn /- centre, whose construction started last year, will serve as key hub for the innovative (TCCP).

He said the project is expected to reduce times and delays patients encounter when seeking for the services at the ocean road cancer institute, a key partner in the project.

Konteh said the new centre will have two radiotherapy units, noting that there are only nine radiotherapy units in the country.

He said the collaboration with the government has enabled them to increase awareness, screening and treat cancer patients in the two regions.

TCCP's Partnership Capacity

Building and Communication Manager, Dr Sarah Maongezi said that about 800,000 residents of Dar es Salaam and Mwanza region were screened in 100 public primary-care health facilities during the period.

Funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the four years evidenced based initiative was launched by the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) in 2020 with the goal of reducing cancer morbidity and mortality in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza region.

It is implemented jointly by AKHS and Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) Tanzania with primary focus of sharing the outcomes of various cancer related research endeavors conducted under Beat Cancer research Initiative.

She said the project targets four goals, including improving and expanding existing oncology infrastructure to provide more comprehensive oncology care through the strengthening of the health systems.

Furthermore, the project has also provided a radiotherapy unit to Bugando medical centre in Mwanza, to build the capacity of

staff of institutions listed to mention the few. She said low awareness among the community has contributed much to relying on cultural practices that put them at risk of getting cervical cancer.

Also, shortage of radiotherapy units is also another challenge hindering the delivery of cancer treatment.

Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Mohamed Mang'una commended TCCP for its high contribution in cancer research area through financing young research to conduct research in different cancer areas that will increase awareness to policy makers and programmers to develop strategies that will contribute to reducing cancer diseases.

TCCP, Manager Quality Assurance and Innovation Edna Selestine said that there has been a tendency for women in the Mwanza region to insert snuff in their vagina believing it boosts their sex drive.

She said that has been a behavior of most women in Lake Zone which puts them at risk of getting cervical cancer adding that increased awareness is very important.

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

RC directs CCM regional and district committees to deve't inspect projects for timely completion

MWANZA Regional Commission Amos Makalla has asked regional and district political committees of the ruling CCM to carry out inspections on various development projects to ensure that they are completed on time.

RC Makalla made the remarks at the region's road board meeting that was discussing development of transport infrastructure in the area, noting that inspection on the projects by the committees is important to make sure public funds are properly used for development of the region and the nation as a whole.

He also directed Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) as well as Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to consult Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) and water authorities when constructing roads.

"When constructing roads, it is a must to

find water and electric connections in the process, therefore it is important to involve other authorities to avoid unnecessary inconveniences," he pointed out.

In another development, the RC has urged people to stop conducting agricultural activities in road reserves, saying that practices contribute to damage of

roads and cause transport nuisance.


He said that people are required to protect transport infrastructure so that they can serve the purpose throughout and help the government not to incur unnecessary expenses for maintenance.

"The government constructs roads at high cost to

solve transport challenges for development of socio-economic activities in that it is important to protect them and not otherwise," he said.

He noted that leaders at street level should ensure that they monitor and open up drainage systems in their areas to allow rain water to pass properly and not cause harm on roads.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL
AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 3 OF 2023

BETWEEN

YAHAYA OMARY MPANDA APPELLANT

AND

VODACOM TANZANIA PLC 1ST RESPONDENT

**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS
REGULATORY AUTHORITY** 2ND RESPONDENT

(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) dated 29th August, 2023 in which the appellant complained that the 1st respondent blocked usage of his SIM Card thus denying the appellant right to communicate. TCRA dismissed the appellant's complaint for lack of merit and failure to prove damages.

The appeal is based on the grounds, among others, that TCRA erred in law and fact in holding that the appellant was blocked from using communication services for not more than 24 hours and that the appellant failed to prove his claims for compensation of TZS 600,000,000. Thus, the appellant prays that the Tribunal quash the decision of TCRA with costs and order the 1st respondent to pay the appellant TZS 200,000,000 for breach of contract and TZS 400,000,000 as general damages.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 14th December, 2023.

REGISTRAR



EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is expanding its network to meet the strategic business needs which focus on sustaining the recorded achievements and remain an airline of choice that meets and exceeds customers' expectations in line of its mission of provision of reliable, safe, and high-quality services. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following positions: -

- 1. POSITION: SALES AND MARKETING OFFICER II -TLO (9 POSTS)**

1.1: MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS:

 - Must have Bachelor Degree in any field.
 - Must have one of the following certificate: Air Transport Management, Air Ticketing, or equivalent qualifications from any recognized Aviation institution.
 - Possession certificate of IATA or UFTAA will be added advantage.
 - Must be computer literate.

1.2: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

 - Supervise and ensure efficient and effective check in and boarding of passengers in compliance with carriers' policy/ procedures and customer expectations.
 - Supervise baggage handling and prepare weekly baggage handling report. Liaise with the GHA to ensure lost baggage is communicated, traced and delivered to affected passengers.
 - Ensure customers are well handled at all times and especially during flight irregularities and are provided with required assistance.
 - Ensure conformity with all regulatory requirements, organization standards and local procedure as well as requirements of customer airlines.
 - Effective communication internally and externally to enable effective planning control and reporting
 - Ensure a safe and secure working environment in compliance with relevant legislative/ industry requirements.
 - Audit, review and report on service delivery to monitor compliance on SLAs availed to GHA.
 - Administrative processes to ensure integrity and accuracy manual and computerized data processing.
 - Strict control of excess baggage collection and remittance.
 - Record all flight movements as per company requirement.
 - Any other duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.
- 2. POSITION: GROUND SERVICE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II-(1 POST)**

2.1: DIRECT ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

 - Must be a holder of Form IV Certificate
 - Must have Class "E" or "F" or "G" current Driving License and Professional Ground Support Equipment Level I or its equivalent qualification from recognized institutions.
 - Must hold an Airport driving permit from a recognized airport.
 - Any experience in Ramp operation would be considered an advantage.

2.2: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

 - Operate equipment as per company/ airline procedure.
 - Repair and service tow tractors, baggage carts, buses, trucks and service vans
 - Provide on-site GSE support when required
 - Maintains heavy equipment that includes hydraulic, pneumatic and electrical machinery
 - Inspects ground support vehicles and equipment to determine whether repairs are needed.
 - Troubleshoots issues or problems with vehicles and machinery as necessary to make repairs
 - Schedules periodic maintenance for ground support vehicles and equipment
 - Maintains a clean and safe repair shop
 - Tracks inventory of parts and tools needed for repairs and maintenance
 - Maintains repair log for vehicles and equipment
 - Provide training to GSE operators as required by ATCL operational requirements
 - Report any incident or damage immediately as per company procedure.
 - Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.
- 3 POSITION: AVIATION SECURITY ASSISTANT II (2 POSTS)**

3.1: MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE

 - Must be a holder of an Advanced Secondary School Certificate or a Diploma preferably in Law plus training/certification on military/militia or its equivalent qualifications from recognized institution.
 - Must have Aviation Security Screener Training
 - Training in Cargo and Mail Security, Airport Security or Security Quality Control will be an added advantage.

3.2: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

 - Ensure proper access control of staff, authorized persons and vehicles to aircrafts
 - Conduct aircraft security searches and checks as appropriate
 - Ensure that security personnel from outsourced security service providers are appropriately deployed and supervised to ensure for security of aircrafts, passengers, baggage, cargo and mail.
 - Ensure Revenue Integrity.
 - Report and record all incidents in the OB for management follow up
 - Brief and debrief outsourced security on security matters to ensure they understand and implement the instructions.
 - Ensure safe and secure handling and carriage of firearms in compliance with company security program
 - Prepare daily shift security operations report to ensure that there is proper follow up and action on any issues arising in course of duty.
 - Ensure safe custody and accountability of Lost and Found property until reclaimed by the rightful owner or otherwise disposed of according to company policy.
 - Act as duty shift in-charge
 - Perform any other official duty as may be assigned by your Supervisor
- 4 POSITION: PROCUREMENT OFFICER II (2 POSTS)**

4.1: MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS:

 - Must be holder of Bachelor Degree in one of the following fields; Procurement and Supplies Management, Material Management, Logistics Management or equivalent qualifications from a recognized institution.
 - Must be registered by PSPTB as Graduate Procurement and Supplies Professional.

4.2: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

 - To prepare bid documents and Tender advertisements
 - To prepare contract documents or purchases orders to approved bidders
 - To seek approval to purchase the identified requirements
 - To participate in preparation of Annual Procurement Plan (APP)
 - To participate in preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual procurement reports
 - To receive, verifying, and submitting Invoice of delivered goods or completed service for payment
 - Participate in preparation for stock taking
 - Liaise with suppliers for timely delivery of the goods
 - To maintain store records
 - To receive and Issue goods to user department, processing stores requisitions, order expedition, inventory and stock replenishment
 - To perform any other related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.
- 5 POSITION: PROCUREMENT ASSISTANT II-(6 POSTS)**

5.1: MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATION

 - Holder of Certificate in one of the following fields: Procurement and Supplies Management, Material Management, Logistics Management or equivalent qualifications from a recognized institution.
 - Must be registered by PSPTB as Procurement and Supplies Technician or Procurement and Supplies Full Technician.

5.2: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

 - Carry out a range of maintenance support, distribution, warehousing, and storage tasks, distributing and/or delivering materials, data entry, inventory control, retrieving parts, tools, or units, and stocking.
 - Responsible for ensuring that the cycle count program is accurately implemented, distribute and convey paperwork, materials, and parts to and from the storage or work site to designated areas
 - To replenish inventories to appropriate levels
 - Accurate Data entering for all parts into the area, as well as material movement transactions (transfers, issues, returns and cycle counts).
 - Ensure proper marking of raw material and shelf life sensitive parts/materials according to company procedures.
 - Execute the requirements of the reference manual (including the proper use of forms) and Quality Control Manual. Handle tagging and quarantine procedures.
 - Deal with the processes and policies for repair stations and customs.
 - Prepare, review, and submit the monthly activities as required by the Line Manager.
 - Report incidents/accident occurrences following company procedures.
 - Adhere to the company safety, health, and environmental policy.
 - Perform any other duties to be assigned by the supervisor
- 6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**
 - Ten (10) years contract with attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Salary Structure and Incentive Scheme.
 - Candidates should be willing to work up country apart from Dar es Salaam if required to.
- 7. MODE OF APPLICATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS:**

Interested applicants must submit a duly signed letter for consideration of the application attached with the following:

 - A curriculum vitae (CV),
 - Certified copies of all certificates (including secondary school, birth certificates), other relevant certificates, Applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) or National Examination Council-NECTA)
 - Two recent passport size photographs
 - Name and address of at least two reputable referees;
 - Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone number.
- 8. CLOSING DATES:**

Applicants should reach the undersigned within 14 days from the first date of this announcement.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO,
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,
P.O. Box 543,
DAR ES SALAAM.
Date: 14th December, 2023.**

ATCL is an equal opportunity employer. Women are encouraged to apply. Misrepresentation of qualifications or any other information on application shall warrant legal consequences.

THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023

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

'Freedom and Development' being clarified in pursuit of Vision 2050

STAKEHOLDERS in various capacities and involvement in socioeconomic decision making are beginning to find their feet in what they think are the pillars of Vision 2050 now in the course of being drawn up. For observers familiar with policy debate, there is tension between values and technique, where the majority are likely to wish that technique bends to value, or differently, technique is put to the service of values. The kernel of the issue is that there are policy values that are easy to reconcile with economic technique or expectations, but not all such values.

When a country fails to modernize, and there are some cases of countries that are independent for upwards of 200 years and are intensely poor, it is a problem not of technique which is easy to learn or to apply, but values. The choice of pillars of policy action constrains the direction of capital and labour, eroding or uplifting expectations of this or that group of stakeholders, the effects of which cannot be foretold or projected at the start. That is what is called 'harvesting what you sow.'

Contributions to designing the country's development vision that were aired during Independence Day events in the capital had all the hallmarks of privileging freedom as the key to development. This is close to traditional ideas on the issue for instance in the third of Mwalimu Nyerere's collection of key speeches and essays, 'Freedom and Development', published around 1973, where as in earlier collections, a country's pursuit of freedom is the cardinal element. It seeks to avoid policy dictates from other parts of the world that militate against national values.

For one thing, policy discussions have never really sought to lay bare the ins and outs of earlier policy outlooks, or the failures and tangible successes therein. As a result, plenty of expectations are tied to values whose policy implications are in the least debatable, or likely to stall the dynamism of economic activity as constraints for instance to the flow of capital, expertise and creation of new financial assets. There is a tendency for stakeholders to lean on the government while seeking to safeguard prerogatives rooted in inefficient parts of economy uniting large groups.

Thus it wasn't surprising that it was clarion calls for patriotism and good governance which more or less dominated a stakeholders' conference in the capital, whereas from a technical point of view the biggest need is reforms. The reason is that patriotism often is little more than mistrust of others, arising from decades of anti-colonial ideology at odds with globalisation. Good governance on the other hand is behaviour trait of satisfied civil servants; we don't have so many.

This could be the lynchpin of the vision debate, where stakeholders hurriedly cluster around a specific principle that has been held high for most of time the country has been independent. Yet our most ardent expectations for the next 25 years or thereabouts are anchored in actions of others which presuppose that we uphold globalisation, for them to reallocate capital that they can invest in their own countries or other countries, to bring it here. If they start hearing loud appeals for patriotism, which is softer than nationalism, they will think of flying out elsewhere.

Disentangling parties in land disputes could take too much government time

NEWS of the perplexing reactions of local residents during a visit to a Singida Rural ward by Land, Housing and Human Settlements deputy minister Geoffrey Pinda, was at once salutary and despairing. It was salutary because the cabinet official made a vivid impression upon Kisaki B ward residents, in the evidence that their counsellor reportedly admitted to have come close to tears in hearing those remarks. That shows brilliance as a leader, but he was talking of taking acute note of what the people feel on the issue, and thus using this data to arrive at an answer.

Were it really as simple as most of us wish to believe, the deputy minister would not have had to go there in the first place, and in the wake of going there, he could not arrive at a solution on the spot, for the simple reason that it would be risky. And that is precisely the reason such conflict creep up to the ministers' desks, for no one can arrive at a solution and put his foot down. Even a court will be ignored for what is being talked about is collective interest of groups with ethnic solidarity.

This aspect constitutes an Achilles' heel of current land legislation which by and large presumes that people will obey decisions of land tribunals at the district level in particular. The legislation would 'ipso facto' imagine that when such matters have been cleared in tribunals or courts, appeals to the minister will be few and the decision rendered will be final. Experience shows that only disputes between persons, individuals are resolved in court, while groups don't accept such rulings/

While individuals are compelled to respect the decisions of tribunals or courts because they are susceptible to constraint by law enforcers, groups aren't in that frame of mind. Collective groups are a source of law via custom, which is final to their collective obedience. It applies in a contiguous area they live for centuries.

It is this sense of loyalty to their cause, that is, they are right so long as they are talking about is their own territory not just as a community of citizens but as an ethnic group with inalienable rights over certain stretches of territory. For the law to work, that is, tribunals render decisions and they are observed, it will be vital to have groups of land users whose claim to the land emanate from the state, as buyers or allocated users of land, not from custom. The reason is that customs creates its own cadre of law, which cannot be bent to other laws, save by violence.

What the government has often done especially in the past half-decade is to uphold customary claims to land use, that is, by traditional occupants of land against other claimants, be they investors as in the Singida issue, or conservation agencies. The trouble with the policy setting is that traditional users of land are increasing and thus need more land, while commercial users are offered land by public agencies, where traditional users less than 20kms away believe the land belongs to them. It is in a sense a recipe for conflicts, unless village land is gradually converted into personal titles to land by paying excise duty, being able to sell to the best bidder.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

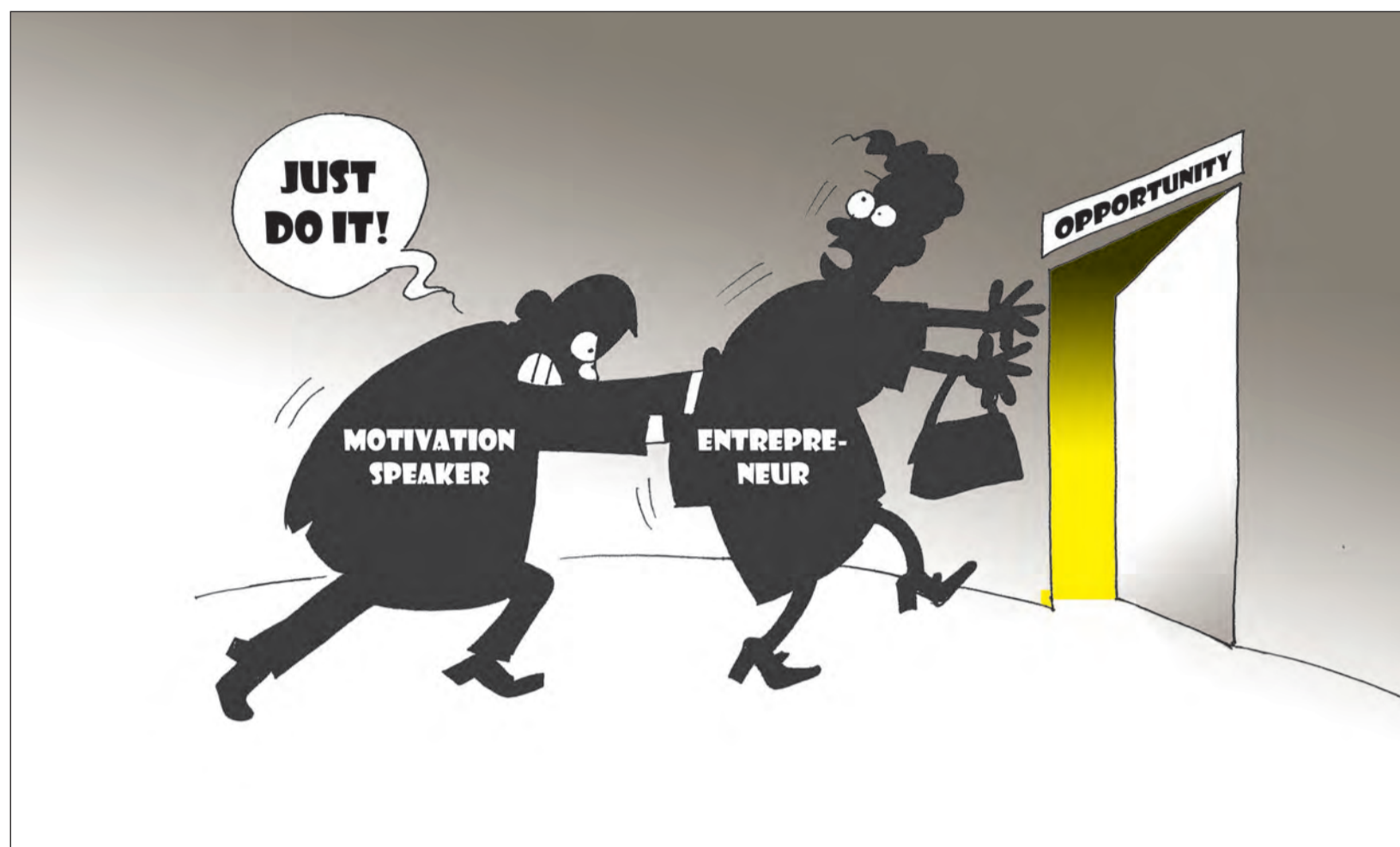
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Tanzania mandatory health insurance policy: What does it mean for maternal care

By Dr. Heri Marwa

A RECENT TDHS report indicated that Tanzania has made a huge step in reducing deaths related to pregnancy (maternal mortality), from an estimated more than 578 deaths per every 100,000 livebirth (estimated at more than 10,000 deaths annually) to 108 death per 100,000 livebirth (estimated at 2,000 deaths annually).

The reduction of maternal deaths is highly attributed to investment that has been made in health care in the areas of infrastructure (building new health facilities close to people, availability of medical equipment, increasing the number of health facilities providing emergency obstetric services, etc.), availability of medicines and medical supplies and human resource to mention the few.

Our health policy currently states that maternal care services should be provided for 'free', meaning the government offers a 100 per cent subsidy, and there is no contribution from a woman at the point of care.

The government supports this policy through supply-side financing, that is, providing all required supplies to health facilities in the expectation that when pregnant women visit the facilities, they will find the supplies to be used to attend them. Unfortunately, this is not a practice in some cases.

Stories of women or family members being asked to bring their supplies during antenatal care visits or maternal delivery or to contribute money to buy medicines or supplies are not uncommon in the community. The story of a mother who lost a child during delivery in Handeni is the most recent one of this kind.

In a move that is supposed to look like adding icing on the cake to celebrate the reduction in maternal care, the President has signed a mandatory health insurance act. This policy will require every Tanzanian to have health insurance.

Health insurance is essential to achieving universal health coverage (UHC). If translated well, the policy means all pregnant women can access quality maternal care services whenever needed. We must ask ourselves, is our new health insurance policy designed to protect our mothers and sisters when pregnant?

When she was presenting the mandatory health insurance bill this November, in her speech, the Hon. Minister mentioned that the government is going to stop providing 100% subsidy (misamaha) for special groups, including pregnant women. In the speech, she also clarified that the government would provide premium subsidies for poor households who cannot afford to pay the insurance premiums.

The speech indicates the government plans to shift from financing maternal care through current in-use supply-side to an insurance-based, demand-side fi-

ancing model. Instead of waiting until someone is pregnant and you provide 'free' care, the plan is to provide health insurance cards to poor households so that when a woman from these households needs maternal care, they can access it through provided health insurance.

The proposed model can only work well if we achieve 100 per cent coverage health insurance (meaning those who can afford to pay all of them pay for health insurance cards, and the government provides subsidised cards for poor households).

Unfortunately, experience from other sub-Saharan countries shows this is impossible during the early years of establishing mandatory insurance.

Experience from other countries with large informal sectors that have established mandatory health insurance is that there is always a group referred to as "the missing middle." The missing middle is 40% to 60% of the population, customarily left uncovered in mandatory health insurance.

The "missing middle" happens from informal sector groups who are neither categorised as poor (therefore not receive subsidized cards) nor able to pay the premium. Among this group, there will be pregnant women who are more likely to be affected if this mandatory health insurance policy does not have a specific eye to ensure they are not left behind. This poses a risk to drive back our efforts to reduce maternal deaths in the country.

A graph by Robert Yates

As we are celebrating UHC day, we should come up with a way to ensure pregnant women are not left behind with our new mandatory health insurance law.

There is a short-term and a long-term solution to serve our mothers and sisters. The short-term solution that can last 5 to 10 years is introducing a pre-financed subsidy for pregnant women.

In principle, it's the same money currently used to subsidize maternal care through the supply-side model, shifted towards the demand-side financing model. With the later model, through a National health insurance scheme (say NHIF), a maternal care package will be defined (say 8 ANC visits, delivery, 3 PNC visits, and emergency OPD), and every pregnant woman on her first visit to the clinic will be registered and provided with benefits card (similar to insurance card).

Whenever she goes for services during her pregnancy (private or government facility), she will receive the services for 'free', and the health facility claims reimbursement for services they have provided from the insurance scheme that provided the card. In the end, the insurance scheme will be reimbursed by the government.

A known example of this model is Ghana. Through NHIS, all pregnant women in Ghana are ensured access to care services. A long-term and sustainable solution is to charge different insurance premiums for

different population groups based on their pre-determined income level. This is a long-term solution, as proper social-economic mapping takes a long time and will need several re-adjustments to ensure everyone fits in the right group.

With this method, different groups of the population will receive different premium subsidies from the government to allow everyone to afford insurance premiums.

The impoverished households will get a 100 per cent premium subsidy. Others will receive an 80 per cent or 60 per cent subsidy, which goes down until it reaches those without subsidy.

That way, we will fit all pregnant women into insurance coverage. Rwanda is a known example of this approach, with a well-established UBUDEHE system to categorize the population.

As we commemorate Universal Health Coverage Day, it is critical to ensure we are taking the right direction as we are introducing a mandatory health insurance policy in the country so that we do not jeopardize the ten year s of success we have recorded in reducing maternal deaths.

Dr. Heri Marwa is health financing specialist. Writer of this article is a country director of PharmAccess. A Dutch NGO operates in Tanzania. The contents in this article are his personal view and not the view of the organisation.



By Ronak Gopaldas and Menzi Ndlovu

African nations require financial prudence to offset severe economic impacts of Israel-Hamas conflict

AMID the devastating loss of life, African policymakers and investors are grappling with the economic and political implications of the Israel-Hamas war on their domestic economies. The fallout could significantly disrupt economies still reeling from Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

This could cause ruptures in the fragile geopolitical patchwork and birth new security challenges. Most African sovereigns have limited buffers to absorb further external shocks and will need to manage any contagion carefully.

As with any geopolitical strife, global risk aversion rose when the war began. The flight to safety by investors saw the dollar strengthen and gold prices spike in line with traditional behaviours, which initially drove up risk premia.

However, in recent weeks, fears of regional and global contagion have tapered. Instead, investor attention has turned to whether the US economy might finally be slowing and whether a Fed pivot is imminent. By implication, the weaker dollar has boosted global risk appetite, with a less bearish outlook for emerging markets. This has signalled a slight reprieve for African policymakers, blindsided by the food and fuel inflationary pressures that followed the Ukraine war.

However, a significant escalation or involvement of other players, such as Iran and Lebanon, could change the outlook. For starters, currencies, bonds and stock markets would be hard hit as risk aversion again sees capital revert to safe havens and away from emerging markets.

Given the boom-bust nature of many African economies, which rely heavily on commodities, any wild swings in these prices would have a pronounced effect on the balance of payment and fiscal positions. Global energy flows, particularly developments relating to the Strait of Hormuz, will be of concern, given its centrality to global energy supply and its emergence as a strategic target.

In this context, the World Bank warned on 30 October that the Israel-Hamas conflict could trigger a global economic 'shock' – including oil prices rising to \$150 a barrel and millions going hungry.

"Policymakers will need to be vigilant," says World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill. "If the conflict were to escalate, the global economy would face a dual energy shock for the first time in decades – not just from the war in Ukraine but also the Middle East."

Higher-for-longer energy prices would also raise global inflationary pressures, leading to tighter monetary policy and a more pessimistic financial market reaction.

Weathering the storms

For African sovereigns, there'd be clear winners and losers. Gold producers such as SA, Ghana and Tanzania would benefit as major price rises boost their forex earnings. However, high oil prices will have a detrimental knock-on effect on oil-importing African economies such as Kenya and Mozambique, with many already struggling to cover their external bills due to currency depreciation and depleted forex reserves. Overlaid with a series of bond redemptions and elections across the continent next year, such developments would add to a long list of concerns.

Just as important as the economic fallout are the geopolitical ramifications of an escalation in Gaza. Africa has already been forced to navigate a geopolitical Catch-22 induced by the Ukraine conflict. Countries must choose between an ally in the anti-colonial struggle in Russia and key benefactors from the West while straddling the mor-



An Israeli self-propelled Howitzer artillery gun fires towards the Gaza Strip from a position close to the border on 23 November 2023 in Southern Israel. (Photo: Christopher Furlong / Getty Images)

al dilemmas of aligning with either. Then there's the contestation around non-alignment itself. Missteps could elicit significant backlash, as seen by international responses to SA's debacle involving Operation Mosi, Lady R and the US Ambassador.

Read more in Daily Maverick: 'Aggressive push' to expel US ambassador from SA as government data shows no weapons exports to Russia

The Gaza conflict – and subsequent divergences between East and West – adds another layer of complexity to the current geopolitical minefield. Again, African states are in an apparent no-win situation. Hard alignment with Israel risks alienating the East; sympathising with Hamas risks alienating the West; non-alignment is deemed amoral and appeases nobody.

Hypocrisy threat

Meanwhile, there's an unspoken requirement for Africa's position on Gaza to be consistent with its stance on Ukraine, lest countries be labelled hypocritical. During a meeting between SA and Ukraine's foreign ministers, Naledi Pandor was pushed on SA's seemingly incongruent stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict. Questions were raised as to how the country could be silent on one aggressor, Russia, but outspoken on another, Israel.

Similarly, Ethiopia and Egypt are in the middle of the 'realpolitik' minefield. Both must service interests with a BRICS bloc that boasts Iran and numerous allies to the Palestinian cause while maintaining solid relations with the West and Israel.

Egypt has been the one North African

exception to maintain full diplomatic relations with Israel since the 1970s, rendering it a strategic conduit between the Arab world and Israel. Under Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Benjamin Netanyahu, Egypt-Israeli relations have solidified. Ethiopia, meanwhile, plays host to one of Africa's oldest Jewish communities – laying the foundation for firm ties between Ethiopia and Israel.

The regional rapprochement facilitated by the Abraham Accords and its economic benefits are equally worth noting. Public pressure is building in Morocco to renounce its ascent to the Accords.

Tunisia, which was in talks to sign the Accords before the conflict, is deliberating a draft bill to criminalise the normalisation of relations with Israel. Both countries formalising a U-turn on relations with Israel

could trigger a domino effect across the Middle East and North Africa, especially as local populations remain largely averse to rapprochement with Tel Aviv.

The conflict is also testing fragile political and security dynamics. Kenyan President William Ruto came under fire when he condemned Hamas's incursion and expressed solidarity with Israel in October. He retracted weeks later, emphasising instead that Kenya "stands for a two-nation solution" and that "Palestine should be a free state". Although in an apparent signal of neutrality, Ruto authorised the deployment of 1,500 Kenyan farmers to Israel.

Social tensions have risen in countries with a large mix of Muslim, Christian and Jewish populations, such as Nigeria. Africa's most populous country has seen successive pro-Palestine protests, some deadly. Dynamics in Gaza may also raise terrorism risks across numerous regions, as groups use the conflict to justify attacks, shift public sentiment and drive recruitment into insurgent groups.

Long War Journal editor Caleb Weiss says al-Shabaab has "routinely attempted to place itself within the same context as the Israel-Palestine conflict ... by tapping into the anger and vitriol that the conflict invariably produces". So it was no surprise when Kenya's counter-terrorism police warned on 11 October that "Al-Shabaab may conduct attacks in solidarity with Hamas to remain relevant". A similar risk extends across the Sahel, where al-Qaeda- and Islamic State-aligned groups could exploit the Gaza conflict for their ends.

Overall, the war exacerbates the challenge of resolving Africa's polycrisis. Given the interplay of economic, political and security risks and rewards, African states cannot win from the prevailing dynamics. What they can do, though, is minimise losses by ensuring they're better positioned for fiscal, monetary and balance of payments risks and avoiding self-sabotage in the delicate geopolitical balance.

This calls for prudence in economic administration and tactfulness in political positioning.

DM

NAIROBI

THE Nairobi Railway Museum, nestled in Nairobi's bustling downtown, remains a popular destination for both locals and tourists eager to delve into Kenya's rich history.

Housing an array of archived literature, locomotive prototypes and aging railway tracks, the museum serves as a vivid storyteller of Kenya's evolution from a colonial outpost to an independent nation, relentlessly on the move.

Sevily Mwailemi, a 58-year-old locomotive driver with over three decades of experience, emphasized the pivotal role of Kenya's history tied to its railway infrastructure.

The first meter gauge railway snaking from Kenya's port city of Mombasa to the hinterlands, ending at the Ugandan border, was constructed by the British colonialists from 1896 to around 1901.

Dubbed the "Iron Snake," the railway facilitated the transportation of raw materials, solidifying British colonial economic interests.

After Kenya gained independence in 1963, the meter gauge railway persisted in its role of cargo and passenger transportation. And diesel-powered locomotives replaced steam engines.

However, Mwailemi said the lingering colonial legacy was associated with the old railway despite its contribution to Kenya's development.

Having honed his skills along this historic line for over three decades, he transitioned in 2021 to the Chinese-funded Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), which he said has significantly contributed to the nation's economy. "The SGR I can say is the largest project since independence.

It handles most imports into Kenya and its neighbors. It is one of the largest contributors to our country's economy," Mwailemi said. Launched in 2017, the 472-kilometer Mombasa-Nairobi SGR drastically reduced travel time and emerged as the preferred choice for commuters, playing a pivotal role in stimulating commerce and empowering smaller towns along its corridor.

Mwailemi said that the SGR passenger service, dubbed Madaraka Express, is a symbol of pride for Kenyans. "Madaraka simply means independence and self-governance," said Mwailemi, adding that he is gradually learning new technologies associated with the modern commuter train service.

The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR, often referred to as a fruit of China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is also a flagship project of Kenya's Vision 2030 long-term development blueprint.

It is a critical component of the northern corridor

Kenya's railway evolution fuels nation's renewal



Sevily Mwailemi, a locomotive driver with over three decades of experience, touches a locomotive prototype at the Nairobi Railway Museum in Nairobi, Kenya, on Nov. 27, 2023. Xinhua

of the East African Railway Network and has a phase 2A which runs from Nairobi to Rift Valley town of Naivasha, covering 120 kilometers. The SGR has operated seamlessly for over 2,300 days, ferrying millions of passengers and tons of goods, contributing significantly to Kenya's socio-

economic growth.

Dennis Munene, executive director of the China-Africa Center based in Nairobi, highlighted the contrast between the extractive nature of the old railway and the developmental impact of the SGR.

"The old Kenya-Uganda railway was

more of an extractive railway where colonial masters used to get raw materials from the hinterland to the Indian Ocean for shipping to their countries," Munene said, noting that the SGR, a collaborative effort between China and Kenya, fosters regional integration and inclusive devel-

opment.

As Kenya prepares to celebrate its 60th independence anniversary, Munene emphasized the continued significance of railway development in steering a prosperous and inclusive future for the nation.

The most underrated man in African politics could soon be re-elected in the DRC

By Phillip van Niekerk

PEOPLE called him a buffoon and doubted that his presidency of the Democratic Republic of the Congo would amount to much as it was illegitimate and left the country in the clutches of the Kabila clan.

Félix Tshisekedi was so overwhelmed by the surprising turn of events that propelled him to the country's highest office that he fainted at his inauguration on 24 January 2019.

But the political neophyte managed to marginalise or co-opt many political leaders who thought they were smarter than him – and is now poised to win a second term as president on 20 December, according to most analysts.

"Fatshi", as he is affectionately known to many Congolese, owes his political life to his late father, Étienne Tshisekedi, the courageous long-time opponent of the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

Tshisekedi Snr spent long periods in jail and several shorter spells as prime minister before his death in 2017. Félix Tshisekedi spent most of his formative years in Belgium, "a son of Matonge", the African district of Brussels, before returning to the DRC.

Tshisekedi Snr left for his son an organised political base in the form of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), a party that was popular in Kinshasa and among the Baluba people in Kasai – Tshisekedi Snr had been their champion against Mobutu.

The people who voted for the younger Tshisekedi in 2018 did so because he was his father's son.

The Catholic Church mobilised 40,000 poll observers and on their count the businessman Martin Fayulu won the election in a landslide, with Tshisekedi and Kabila's surrogate Emmanuel Shadary coming in a distant second and third.

The political fix

It is remarkable that after his father probably won the heavily rigged 2011 election against President Joseph Kabila, but was denied, Félix Tshisekedi was handed the presidency on a plate after the 2018 elections, with the connivance of the same Kabila.

A political fix was endorsed by African nations and the US. Kabila was removed from the presidency in favour of Tshisekedi while remaining in control of the government through his People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy's supermajority in the national assembly.

But Tshisekedi gradually built up his own political base and expanded his coalition. In July 2020 he struck, pulling most of the MPs into a new "sacred heart" coalition. At last he got to pick his own prime minister and Cabinet.

"Kabila thought Fatshi was an idiot, but it is he, Kabila, who was manipulated by the man he thought he was manipulating," was the verdict of one veteran Congo watcher.

Tshisekedi, who had seemed too trusting of the many opportunists in his inner circle, now politically disposed, one by one, of those who had grown too big for their boots.

Vital Kamerhe, his Cabinet director who helped engineer Tshisekedi's rise to the presidency, was fired, arrested for embezzlement, sentenced to 20 years in prison, then retried and acquitted before returning as deputy prime minister of the economy.

Few would contest that Tshisekedi has fared far better and survived longer than was believed possible five



Democratic Republic of the Congo President Félix Tshisekedi. (Photo: Michele Tantussi / Getty Images)

years ago.

"Overall, given what he has had to contend with, he's done extremely well," J Peter Pham, the former US special envoy to the Great Lakes, told Daily Maverick. "DRC today is much better off than under Kabila. Things are better than they were in 2018."

Navigating geopolitics

Tshisekedi has adroitly navigated the geopolitics that come with running the country that is the world's top battery-grade cobalt producer and has globally significant reserves of copper, gold, lithium and much else.

He took on China, whose resource for infrastructure agreement with Kabila was trumpeted as the deal of the century when it was signed 15 years ago. A careful audit revealed that less than a third of the promised investment in infrastructure had materialised.

Jules Alingete Key, the head of the Congolese General Inspectorate of Finances, described the accord as "unacceptable economic colonisation".

Tshisekedi travelled to China in May, meeting President Xi Jinping to reset relations and settle a dispute over unpaid billions of dollars by China Molybdenum, China's largest cobalt producer in the DRC.

The DRC says that in future it will be taking its share of production from its joint venture partners such as Glencore and the Chinese companies in raw materials. This will enable the country to be directly involved in trading and supplying critical minerals to world markets.

The DRC, meanwhile, became the lynchpin of the US's most ambitious infrastructure project in Africa, the Lobito Corridor, which is designed to transport critical minerals from the DRC and Zambia to the world via Angola.

In July, Sakima, the DRC state-owned company for tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold, signed a \$1.9-billion deal with the United Arab Emirates to develop four industrial mines in the east of the country.

No one's patsy

In foreign affairs, as in domestic ones, Tshisekedi has been out to prove he is no one's patsy.

He famously scolded Emmanuel Macron for lecturing him at a press conference in March this year. Wagging his finger at the French president, Tshisekedi said that France and the West should abandon their imperious attitude towards Africa.

"Look at us differently by respecting us, by considering us as true partners and not always with a paternalistic look with the idea of always knowing what is necessary for us."

He has invited in about 1,000 mercenaries from a group known as Association Ralf run by the Romanian former French Foreign Legion member Horatiu Potra.

They are based in the North Kivu city of Goma. The fact that the men speak Russian has prompted suspicions that they are linked with Wagner or Russian military intelligence.

Sadly, Tshisekedi has been unable to end the conflict in North Kivu and the southern edge of Province Orientale, which has

displaced about a million people.

About 100 armed groups are operating in eastern DRC, mostly engaged in looting and raping. These include the Allied Democratic Forces, a Uganda-based "Islamist" guerrilla organisation which regularly crosses the border to pillage, loot and kill people in Congolese villages, leading Tshisekedi to declare a State of Siege in the region.

After the M23 guerrilla movement was revived and relaunched in 2021 Tshisekedi broke with his lean and hungry neighbour Paul Kagame, claiming that Kagame had stabbed him in the back.

At present there appears to be a slight lull in the fighting in the east.

Favoured to win

Days before the election there are still doubts whether the Independent National Electoral Commission will be able to pull it off logistically, which means it could yet be postponed for a few weeks.

As the incumbent, Tshisekedi is favoured to win, but this is also thanks to the two powerful veterans on his team – the political fixer Vital Kamerhe and Jean-Pierre Bemba, who is now minister of defence.

Bemba, who spent 10 years in jail in The Hague on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity before they were thrown out on appeal, enjoys wide support in the north and among former Mobutoists.

Tshisekedi's advantage is widened by the failure of the opposition to unite around a single candidate.

The DRC has a "first past the post" system, under which the president could win with as little as 40% of the vote.

Fayulu is running again but is short of money. Denis Mukwege, the gynaecologist, and winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for his campaign against sexual violence in the DRC, is a big name in international media, but a no-hoper in the election.

The one challenger who could produce a surprise upset is Moïse Katumbi, the former governor of Katanga and favourite of the business elite, who has large financial means at his disposal and a strong political base in the country's industrial heartland.

Katumbi is the son of a Jewish Greek father who fled the Italian fascists in 1938 and a Bembe mother whose nationality has been the target of a smear campaign implying that Katumbi is Zambian by birth.

Underdog to top dog

Félix Tshisekedi, the underdog who is now the top dog, has surprised time and again by triumphing over his rivals. But now he is coming up against his most formidable opponent – himself.

There are fears that the psychological wounds of illegitimacy from the last election mean that he will not be content with a mundane first-past-the-post win, and that he might seek to conjure up a more emphatic victory by stuffing the ballot boxes.

Given how brittle the DRC remains, this is the kind of action that could trigger conflict. Kagame, for one, now a sworn enemy of Tshisekedi, will be watching to see if the elections end in chaos before making his next move.

Assuming Tshisekedi comes through unscathed, what will his second term look like without the same intensity of struggle, intrigue and political wrestling that marked his first five years?

The DRC is still 179th out of 189 countries on the UN Human Development Index and 166th out of 180 countries in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index.

Will his administration focus on fighting corruption and development in the DRC, giving life on the ground to social reforms such as free education and maternity care that exist on paper but have yet to be realised?

Or will he be the man who, as Africa Report has noted, has begun using authoritarian rhetoric, with someone describing him as a "wolf in sheep's clothing"?

The DRC – and the rest of the world – will soon find out. **DM**

Rwanda dedicated to transforming mining sector for economic growth, community prosperity

KIGALI

RWANDA, despite having abundant mineral deposits, currently mines less than half of its resources. However, the country is determined to enhance its extractives sector by embracing advanced technology to expand mining activities.

Donat Nsengumuremyi, the manager of Mining Extraction and Inspection Division at Rwanda Mines, Gas and Petroleum Board, shared in-

sights into their transformative process. "We have initiated a shift from small-scale to semi-mechanized mining.

Our aim is to enhance recovery both during extraction and processing stages." Nsengumuremyi stressed the need for modern equipment and efficient processes, saying "Encouraging companies to adopt modern technology or utilize methods like controlled explosions enables proper extraction while minimizing waste. Implementing modern pro-

cessing techniques enhances the recovery of essential minerals."

Official data reveals that Rwanda presently taps into only 30 to 40 percent of its mineral potential. To entice investors, the government has implemented various incentives, including a favorable fiscal regime aimed at increasing profitability within the mining sector, which, in turn, positively impacts other industries.

"We provide technical support to mining operations by

offering training to miners and operators, ensuring they possess the necessary skills and understanding. Moreover, we prioritize providing efficient and prompt services to mining operators, creating a conducive and secure environment for conducting business," Nsengumuremyi added.

This strategy has resulted in the attraction of around 150 mining companies and cooperatives, primarily located in southern and western Rwanda. According to the manager, the

government places utmost importance on the safety of workers and environmental protection.

"Employing modern mining equipment and techniques, we prioritize the safety of workers and the surrounding community," Nsengumuremyi said, adding that "We conduct comprehensive impact assessments before commencing any mining project.

Our aim is to design mitigation measures ensuring operations align with environmental

and safety standards."

Rwanda's mineral export revenues have surged from 71 million U.S. dollars in 2010 to over 772 million dollars in 2022. The government's objective is to achieve annual mineral export revenues of 1.5 billion dollars by 2024. By prioritizing safety, embracing technological advancements and committing to community development, Rwanda's mining sector aims for sustainable growth while benefiting its citizens.

Nsengumuremyi highlighted

the government's commitment to improving the livelihoods of mining communities. "Our future orientation in professionalizing mining operations includes social corporate responsibility provisions within mineral agreements," he said.

"We collaboratively identify key activities that contribute to community welfare through discussions with local leaders. Regular monitoring ensures the fulfillment of these commitments," he added.

Xinhua

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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 KIPIMA JOTO 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



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Rosatom tips nuclear to end Africa energy poverty

DUBAI

ROSATOM State Corporation has presented a full range of technological solutions to achieve climate goals and ensure a low-carbon future.

The Russian firm held the Small Modular Reactors Day (SMR Day) on the sidelines of the COP28 Climate Conference.

For the first time, the SMR Day was held with the support of Rosatom at EXPO-2020.

"We are convinced that nuclear energy will inevitably become the foundation of the low-carbon balance we all strive for," noted Alexey Likhachev, Director General of Rosatom, in a video address guests and participants of the SMR Day.

He said low-capacity nuclear power generation, as one of the reliable technological solutions, will occupy a worthy place in the future of nuclear energy.

"I am confident that Rosatom's proposals in the field of small modular reactors will become an effective and environmentally friendly choice for those countries that, for various reasons, have not consid-

ered nuclear generation before."

Given specific characteristics and diversity of Africa, the existence of remote and isolated areas, SMR-based solutions, including floating and land-based plants with a capacity of up to 300 MW seem suitable for the continent.

SMRs have the same competitive advantages as traditional large nuclear solutions: minimal CO2 emissions, predictable electricity prices, suitability for any weather conditions, and multi-purpose use.

"Energy poverty is reality in Africa as a whole. In South Africa it is even worse because of the load shedding that we are experiencing and advanced level of stages that we are looking at," Rob Shongwe, CEO of Sadock Austral Energy in South Africa, said.

The event opened with a colourful multimedia show demonstrating the importance of preserving harmony between humans and nature in Yakutia, where Rosatom has started the implementation of a unique low-capacity nuclear power plant project.

The power plant, designed to boost the region's development, is



Energy panelists discussing issues to do with nuclear importance as well as climate change impact. Many believe nuclear solution is the real deal.

being constructed with careful consideration for the fragile Arctic ecosystem.

The commissioning of the land-based SMR in Yakutia is planned for 2028. In addition to the presented project, Rosatom's portfolio also includes the world's only floating nuclear power plant (FNPP), the "Akademik Lomonosov."

Since its commercial operation began at the end of 2019, the FNPP has generated over 700 million kilowatt-hours of electricity for Pevek, the northernmost city in Russia. Work is underway on the next-generation floating power unit technology based on the RITM-

200 reactors.

It is planned that by 2029, they will start supplying power for the development of the Baimskaya ore zone in Chukotka. Rosatom is also implementing the "Shelf-M" microreactors project with a capacity of up to 10 MW. The first plant based on this technology is expected to be operational by 2030.

There are more than 70 small modular reactor projects in the world in the design stage.

Kirill Komarov, First Deputy Director General for Development and International Business of Rosatom, believes Rosatom is the only technology company that has moved from

words to action.

"We are confident that the experience gained in the coming years will allow us to offer our partners around the world the best solutions in the field of SMRs," Komarov said.

Robert Sogbadji, Director of Renewable and Nuclear Energy at Ghana's Ministry of Energy, believes SMRs are timely in terms of expansion and visage in the nuclear technology, especially in the period of energy transition.

"For the newcomer countries and developing countries, building SMRs is a good option. They bring energy security and drive away energy poverty," he said.

African ministers commit support for youth-led energy transition

By Jonathan Nda-Isaiah

AFRICAN government leaders have pledged strong support for youth leadership in charting a sustainable future for the continent at the United Nations (UN) Climate Summit in Dubai recently.

The statements of endorsement came at the launch of a new project by the Green Energy Mission Africa (GEMA), a non-profit aimed at spurring Africa's youth into an active role in the clean energy

transition.

The YouthVoltAfrica initiative revealed at COP28 will provide young Africans with knowledge, skills and opportunities to help address energy poverty while driving renewable energy ambitions.

Nigeria's Minister of Youth and Development, Jamila Bio Ibrahim, emphasised the landmark significance of greater youth inclusion in the climate agenda.

"The launch of the YouthVoltAfrica project marks a

significant milestone in our commitment to empowering African youth.

"The involvement of youth in the transition agenda is paramount," she added.

The National Climate Change Council (NCCC) Director-General, Dr Salisu Dahiru, also aligned Nigeria's goals with the imperative for youth to lead sustainability planning.

"Addressing climate change requires innovative efforts.

"The YouthVoltAfrica project aligns seamlessly with our goals at the National Climate Change Council, empowering the youth to be active contributors to sustainable development.

"This initiative not only tackles energy poverty but also underscores the importance of youth leadership in shaping a resilient and low-carbon future for Africa. We stand committed to supporting initiatives that drive positive change and environmen-

tal stewardship.

"The launch of the YouthVoltAfrica project coincides with UNFCCC COP28, a globally recognized platform for discussing climate change challenges and solutions.

"By aligning with this prestigious event, Green Energy Mission Africa seeks to harness the collaborative efforts and expertise of global stakeholders to foster partnerships and drive substantial progress in advancing the energy transition agenda in

Africa," he told the delegates.

Founder and CEO of Green Energy Mission Africa, Abubakar Shuaibu, remarked: "The launch of the YouthVoltAfrica project is a beacon of hope and empowerment for the youth of Africa.

"It is a testament to the transformative potential that lies within our young minds. This project is not just about addressing energy poverty; it is about igniting a spark of innovation, resilience, and

leadership in our youth.

"By providing them with knowledge, skills, and opportunities, we are laying the foundation for a sustainable Africa, where the next generation plays a pivotal role in shaping a greener and more prosperous future.

"Together, let us embark on this journey of change, where the energy transition becomes a catalyst for empowerment and sustainable development."

UNICEF, FAO, WFP lament food insecurity in west, central Africa

By Elijah Samson

A REGIONAL food security analysis by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) have said food insecurity and malnutrition reached new highs in West and Central Africa as funding to address acute needs dwindles.

The report released yesterday in Dakar said despite considerable efforts by governments and partners, food insecurity continues to worsen in West and Central Africa with the number of hungry people set to reach a staggering 49.5 million people between June and August 2024 - a four percent increase compared to 2023.

It said the trend is particularly worrying in coastal countries, where the number of women, men, and children facing acute hunger (IPC/CH phases 3 or higher) is expected to reach 6.2 million during the June-August 2024 hunger gap - a 16 percent increase on last year.

"The November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé analysis projects cereal and tuber production throughout the region to be slightly above both last year's levels and the 5-year average due to improved rains in 2023.

"Acute hunger in West and Central Africa is mainly driven by conflict - which has forcibly displaced millions of people from their homes and farms, the impact of the climate crisis, and high food and fuel prices.

"The prices of main foods remain well above the five-year average, particularly rice, corn, millet, sorghum, cassava and vegetable oil, despite seasonal declines in the prices of local commodities compared to last year," the report said.

WFP's acting regional director for Western Africa said: "Acute hunger remains at record levels in the region, yet funding needed to respond is not keeping pace; this is forcing WFP to scale back lifesaving assistance for those most affected in their hour of greatest need.

"Insufficient funding means the moderately hungry will be forced to skip meals and consume less nutritious food, putting them at risk of falling back into crisis or emergency phases, perpetuating the cycle of hunger and malnutrition. We need to break this cycle by tackling the root causes of hunger and by building the resilience of families in West Africa."

Also, UNICEF regional director for West and Central Africa, Felicité Tchibindat, said, "Children in West and Central Africa have a right to nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable diets.

"We invest to prevent child malnutrition happening in the first place, but we also need funding to keep supporting government services for the early detection, treatment, and care of malnourished children to help them survive, recover, and go on to live healthy and productive lives with dignity."

The report said: "The nutritional situation remains



worrying, particularly in the Sahel, where emergency levels of child wasting were reached and surpassed in several countries this year, notably in parts of Mali, north-west Nigeria and Burkina Faso. This was due to fragile food systems which do not deliver the specific nutritional needs of women and children; limited access to basic social services; and poor care and hygiene practices.

"More than 2 out of 3 households in West and Central Africa cannot afford healthy diets. And 8 out of 10 children aged 6-23 months do not consume the minimum number of food groups they need for optimal growth and development. In the year up to the end of October 2023, 1.9 million children under five years were admitted

for treatment of severe wasting across nine Sahel countries, representing a 20 percent increase as compared to the same period in 2022."

More so, FAO sub-regional coordinator for West Africa and the Sahel, Dr Robert Guei said, "With the persistence of food and nutritional insecurity, we must act urgently to save millions of lives by advocating for the acceleration of resource mobilization to finance national response plans and facilitate access to areas facing insecurity or difficult to access, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria."

The report said: "The cost of a daily nutritious diet in central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) is 110 percent higher than

the daily minimum wage in the region, and more and more households rely on local markets to provide their food, even in rural areas, according to the 2023 Food Security and Nutrition report. For comparison, the cost of a healthy diet in Africa is as high as in the USA, despite the latter's GDP being more than 35 times that in the Africa region."

To address the spiralling food insecurity and malnutrition, FAO, UNICEF and WFP call on national government and financial partners to prioritize programmes that strengthen climate resilient food systems and livelihoods and invest in social protection systems, and improve natural resource management, including water, as an accelerator of resilience and develop-

ment.

Participants in the Cadre Harmonisé Food Security Analysis also recommended timely development and implementation of emergency programmes that address immediate food and nutritional needs of populations experiencing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity and malnutrition (IPC/CH phases 3 to 5). This will not only save lives, but also prevent the risk of malnutrition among children in areas most affected by insecurity and economic crises including in Burkina Faso, Chad, DRC, Mali, Nigeria and Niger.

COP28: Deal to 'transition away' from fossil fuels agreed

DUBAI

IT was an extraordinary COP Summit in a year characterized by record-breaking temperatures combined with El Niño, producing a climatic carnage in Africa—deaths from fatal floods in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Libya, where floods wiped out a quarter of a city.

Deadly cyclones in Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe; a severe drought in Kenya, Niger, Somalia, Ethiopia, Mauritania, and Djibouti; and a months-long winter heatwave in southern African countries—the need for COP28 to deliver the highest ambition on all items.

In the end, a deal that will secure the transition away from fossil fuels was accepted.

The United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, welcomed the deal.

“To those who opposed a clear reference to a phase-out of fossil fuels in the COP28 text, I want to say that a fossil fuel phase-out is inevitable, whether they like it or not. Let’s hope it doesn’t come too late.”

COP28 president Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber said, “Let me sound a word of caution. Any agreement is only as good as its implementation. We are what we do, not what we say. We must turn this agreement into tangible action. If we unite, we can have a profound effect on all of our futures. Inclusivity kept us going in the difficult days. Everyone has been heard, from indigenous peoples or youth to global south.”

The final stretch of COP28 was dedicated to the most contentious item: fossil fuel, to phase out or cut back. More than 100 countries have pledged to phase out fossil fuels that contribute to global warming.

Fossil fuels—coal, oil, and gas—account for over 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions, pushing Africa’s poor and vulnerable to the brink of survival. The Paris Agreement’s global goal of keeping global warming to no more than 1.5°C served as the COP28’s compass. To cut greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible by 2050, emissions must decrease by 45 percent by 2030 and reach net zero.

“While this is the first time in the history of COPs that a goal to reduce fossil fuels formed part of the final deal, it is not ambitious enough and will not get us to net zero. We will need a bigger global adaptation fund and a larger Loss and Damage Fund,” Amos Kagwa, a Ugandan-based



Climate Action Network International action at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai. The issue of fossil fuels was contentious until the end. Photo by COP28 / Christopher Pike

climate activist, told IPS.

Kagwa says the planet could reach global average temperatures of up to 3°C, “and there will be even more severe losses and damages from climate-related disasters. Africa’s climate-adaptive capacities will also be seriously compromised. Today, high-polluting rich countries are reluctant to pay for loss and damage and to provide sufficient funds for the least polluting poor countries to adapt to climate change.”

Thus far, 130 countries have agreed to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030. A total of 2,456 fossil fuel industry lobbyists participated at COP28, up from 636 last year, according to the Big Polluters Out coalition.

Africa emits an estimated 3.8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but only two percent of the proportion of renewable energy investment went to the continent in 2023.

Mary Robinson, Chair of The Elders and former President of Ireland, commented:

“The Cop28 agreement, while signalling the need to bring about

the end of the fossil fuel era, falls short by failing to commit to a full fossil fuel phase out. If 1.5C is our ‘North Star’, and science is our compass, we must swiftly phase out all fossil fuels to chart a course towards a liveable future. World leaders must continue to urgently pull together and find ways forward to tackle this existential threat. Every day of delay condemns millions to an uninhabitable world.”

Bavon Christopher, ActionAid Tanzania Country Director, spoke of the landmark delivery of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP28: “On the first day at COP28, we were very pleased with the pledges and thought the money would keep coming. We have USD 700 of the USD 400 billion per year needed to pay for losses and damages. The pledges are far from enough—not even enough for one African country. For instance, a few days ago, floods and landslides killed 60 people in Tanzania, injured more than 100, and destroyed at least 100 homes, not to mention livelihoods.”

Experts such as Kagwa say the COP28 Global Goal on Adaptation did not build on the previous goal, stressing that it is weak and unlikely to deliver adaptive capacities and resilience and to reduce vulnerability to climate change in developing countries battered by climate-induced disasters.

“The Global Goal on Adaptation’s weakness is the glaring lack of mention of existing finance gaps. Current financing for adaptation does not match the needs on the ground. Even if we double the adaptation financing outlined in COP26, the needs on the ground will still be five to 10 times greater than the COP28 adaptation financing package. That is how wide the adaptation financing gap is,” he emphasizes.

Christopher wades into a conversation that has dominated climate talks among developing nations—climate financing and debt: “An estimated 85 percent of countries in the global South are in debt distress and are unlikely to spend funds on climate solutions

due to competing needs. To repay the debts, they are likely to invest in extracting fossil fuels, further exacerbating the climate crisis. Africa should be given grants, not loans or debt swaps. On loss and damage, we expect no bureaucracy, as is often the case with multilateral financial institutions; funds for climate damages should flow to affected countries smoothly and with speed.”

Fadhel Kaboub, a Tunisian economist based in Nairobi and a senior advisor with Power Shift Africa and also the President of the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity, says “climate finance requires a minimum of USD 2.4 trillion of transformative grant-based investment and transfer of technology for climate adaptation and mitigation by 2030. We are nowhere near that target at the end of COP28. The historical polluters of the Global North owe a climate debt to the nations of the Global South, who are most affected by climate change. The Global North is in default and is refusing to pay its debt.”

Kaboub, also an Associate Professor of Economics at Denison University, says, “If you owe me USD 100, you are supposed to pay me. Instead, you give me a USD 10 loan with conditionalities to control how I use my money. You give me another USD 10 in exchange for having control over my forests and carbon markets. You invest another USD 10 in green electricity that I must export to you on favorable terms. You outsource another USD 10 worth of low-value-added manufacturing to produce cheap consumer goods for you. None of this should count as climate finance. It is a climate debt default greenwashed with neocolonial debt traps.”

Azerbaijan, a nation that receives 60 percent of its government budget from oil and gas and 90 percent of its export revenue, will host the following COP Summit. Oil and gas also supply 98 percent of Azerbaijan’s primary energy and at least 90 percent of the country’s electricity and are largely responsible for improved living standards over the last three decades. It will be the third time in a row that an oil and gas producer will be hosting a COP Summit.

IPS UN Bureau Report



COP28 president Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber during the final plenary.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 45 -

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 13, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45.

13. the owner and manager of a shop 15. aimed at peace 16. request 19. unacceptable thing 20. nail plate 21. bovine spongiform encephalopathy 22. a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley, rye, and grasses 23. a small cup-shaped oil lamp made of baked clay 24. Increase

Word fit puzzle grid with clues: 1. Gaborone is her mother city 2. a nursemaid in the Far East 3. a word in Kiswahili 4. person's mouth wide open 5. sanitary towel 7. one that starches 10. physical exercise intended to improve the efficiency of the cardiovascular system in absorbing and transporting oxygen 11. apnea 12. Polynesian garland of flowers 14. tiny 17. Okay in Kiswahili 18. things with similar characteristics

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.

ROSE ENDURED NORWAY EAR OMEN MEDICAL YEAR QUEEN MER THANA QUESTER HAO WRIT ENDEARS

Yesterday's solution

Grid for yesterday's crossword solution with words: DARK, MODERN, DRAMA, OBEYER, ON LUSAKA, MELLEERA, MADHARA, EATS LID, ANA WLDGER, M HOUSE, T MINOR, MORSE, SHEEN, MOTET.

ACROSS: 1. a long curved fruit which grows in clusters and has soft pulpy flesh and yellow skin when ripe 6. a step in dancing 8. the last letter of the Greek Alphabet 9. Tanzania National Park 11. cooked in a specified manner

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Schedule for Monday through Sunday with various programs and times.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One. Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, followed by the Radio One logo.



Thursday 14 December 2023

Finance minister stresses on affordable loans, equip agriculture sector players

By Francis Kajubi

FINANCE Minister Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba has asked financial institutions to prioritize financing borrowers in the agriculture sector with low-interest rate loans so that they are empowered to realize the sector's economic potential.

Dr Nchemba made the call yesterday in Arusha city when he graced the opening of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank's (TADB) Northern Zone Office, a step ahead towards expanding the bank's financial services in the agriculture value chain.

The bank's decision further targets increasing financial inclusion and availability of preferential loans for farmers, livestock keepers and fishers in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Manyara regions.

The minister used the event to commend TADB for its reasonable investments in the development of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors and for expanding financial inclusion in the country.

"Financing players in these sectors is one of the government's priorities. Government recognizes the vast importance of these sectors as they are a backbone in the growth of the country's GDP," said Dr. Nchemba.

According to him, reasonable financing of the players in these sectors contributes much to improving living standards of individuals, strengthening food security, and jobs creation.

"The government through TADB shall continue pumping funds to ensure timely and affordable availability of agricultural inputs and to support markets for agricultural

produce both locally and internationally," he said.

He noted that the TADB's Northern zone office will strengthen financial services in the target regions and ease the availability of loans to farmers, livestock keepers and fisheries, whilst improving overall business growth in the agriculture value chains in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tanga regions.

"In the current financial year the government shall extend TADB and Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) additional working capital worth 235.9bn/- for boosting availability of loans to private sector projects targeted at production and value addition," said Nchemba.

He advised the bank's staff and management to offer customer-friendly loan conditions and to provide adequate financial education and arrange project visits to support

efficient delivery of services to farmers, fishers and livestock keepers.

TADB's Managing Director Frank Nyabundege said that until November 2023, the bank's loan portfolio had grown to 600.7bn/- of which 18.18bn/- was allocated for Tanga region farmers, 7.9bn/- to Arusha, 3.2bn/- to Kilimanjaro and 3.1bn/- was issued to Manyara farmers.

He said the government has so far added up TADB's working capital with 268bn/- and through other strategic capital injection projects aimed at increasing availability of low interest loans to the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors.

TADB now boasts seven zonal offices; namely the Lake Zone office in Mwanza serving the Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga, Geita and Simiyu regions.

Southern Highlands Zone office in Mbeya serving Songwe, Iringa, Njombe and Rukwa; Eastern Zone



Finance minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

office in Dar es Salaam serving Coast and Morogoro; Western Zone office in Tabora serving Katavi and Kigoma regions.

Central zone office in Dodoma also serving the Singida region, Southern zone office in Mtwara serving Linda and Ruvuma regions and now the Northern Zone Office.

"We have also acquired an of-

ice in Zanzibar awaiting approval from the Central Bank before we can expand financial services to Zanzibar," he said.

TADB was established in 2015 with two main goals of facilitating food self-sufficient and security in the country; and support agriculture transformation from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

World Bank to support more social protections in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

WORLD Bank has expressed its commitment to support social protection in the country through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) to foster social and economic development to vulnerable populations.

Speaking to reporters in a sidelined of the Tentative Field visit programme to Bagamoyo District Council at Kongo Village on Tuesday, World Bank East Africa, Practice Manager and Social Protection Robert Chase said that WB has dished out nearly \$1 Billion in the last ten years to Tanzania through TASAF.

"I am very excited to be here seeing the World Bank continuing financing vulnerable people by giving them cash, empowering them with necessary training skills that enables households to graduate out of both food and basic- needs poverty," he said.

He said that the crisis, among other factors, have negatively affected many developing countries, including Tanzania, such as Floods, thus the need to provide support through food security and climate change programmes.

Chase pointed out that the implementation programs undertaken by TASAF in Bagamoyo by encouraging providing cash transfer through electronic (Mobile transaction) and bank accounts wiped out any cheating of ghost beneficiaries.

Majid Mhina, Bagamoyo District Council acting executive director said that the official visit of the World Bank regional officials to them it's a clear testimony that the district is doing excellent in the implementation of TASAF programs in the fight against poverty alleviation in the country.

He added that the majority of the household in the district of Bagamoyo now can afford three meals per day, clothes and taking the children to the primary school levels and the school enrolment has increased drastically.

Mhina said the new payment

system has wiped out the possibility of some dishonest people to forge any document because all necessary that any person needs to follow is to have a National Identification card as one of the criteria.

Sammatta Jalala, TASAF's productive social safeness coordinator in Bagamoyo District said that Kongo is among 26 villages in Bagamoyo district council benefiting with TASAF and it's among the villages in the 70-percent village, with a total of 137 beneficiary households.

He said that the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) has continued to be paid through e payment which involve mobile wallets, bank and cash mode which is a friendlier, faster and easy way.

"As for the financial year ended June 2023, six payment windows have been conducted whereby an amount of 36m/- grants has been paid to Household beneficiaries in Kongo village," he said.

He said through Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) in kongo several implementation programs has been observed such as increased school and clinic enrolment and attendance of children, to date the program has helped 81 children to attend school with scholastic materials as well as 17 clinics services.

The program provides cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households with the condition that the transfers are used on health and education services along with opportunities to earn additional income through public works and livelihoods.

Jalala explained further that PSSN programme has contributed to the economic growth of the country in many spheres.

He said the aim of PSSN is to empower poor households to increase income and have access to social services such as food, education and health among others.

Speaking about achievements of the programme in the district, Aisha Shaban Mfaume said there has been timely cash transfer to beneficiary households all round.



Kahama District Forest Conservator and Beekeeping Officer Martha Machibya (2nd L) presents beehives to Mwendakulima Bee keepers group secretary Rehema Juma during the handing over beekeeping project supported by Barrick Buzwagi held at Mwendakulima ward yesterday. Left is Barrick Community Relations Manager Stanley Joseph. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Buzwagi mine hands over modern beekeeping project in Kahama DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

BARICK-Bizwagi Gold Mine has handed over modern beekeeping materials and honey harvesting equipment to the Mwendakulima Beekeeping Group in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region as part of efforts to empower residents as the mine prepares for closure.

Stanley Joseph, the mine community relations manager said that the funding of the beekeeping group

started in 2010 where until now more than 300m/- has been used in the use of modern equipment to facilitate better beekeeping and to buy 6 acres of forest for and sufficient area to run the project.

Joseph said that in this phase of financing in the further improvement of the project, they have added 50 modern tanks, a Bajaj to help carry loads as well as 17 modern honey processing machines.

Kahama District Forest Conservator and Beekeeping Officer, Martha

Machibya commended Barrick Buzwagi for continuing to empower the people living in the areas around the mine despite not doing any production activities.

Machibya urged the members of the group to make good use of the resources to bring about development and not to create conflict because they will not see the benefit of the group.

He also asked the citizens to protect the environment and respect the areas that have been set aside as

reserves by the government because they help each other, giving an example to the group of the union of Mwendakulima beekeepers.

Group secretary, Rehema Juma, hailed Barrick Buzwagi Gold Mine and promised that they will use the project to bring about a big economic revolution because they know the opportunities available through beekeeping, despite harvesting honey; there is also a large market in the world for bee venom.

Farmers call on govt to promote indigenous seeds

By Polycarp Machira, Kondoa

SOME farmers in Kondoa and Chemba Districts has appealed to the government to formalize and promote indigenous seeds, in the wake of growing concerns over some improved seed varieties.

The small scale farmers from five villages in every district argued that the traditional seeds are safe and reliable for food availability;

termining failure by the government to have them in its policies discriminatory.

Indigenous seeds are not owned by international corporations but are biological resources that have existed within local farming communities for decades.

Studies show that about 90 percent of the seeds planted in many African countries, Tanzania inclusive come from the informal seed systems and that 80 per cent of smallholder

farmers who feed population depend on these systems, where they share and exchange indigenous seeds.

Speaking during a stakeholders meeting held in Kondoa to discuss the state of traditional seeds in the two districts, the farmers said they also have no market for crops produced through indigenous seeds.

The event dubbed annual reflection meeting, was organized by Inades - Formation Tanzania and brought

together farmers, government officials, local authority leaders and several organizations representatives.

With the theme, "Preserving Local Seeds for Food" the participants shared on the challenges facing the traditional seeds and the need for the government to support the move help preserve the seeds and help increase production indigenous foods.

"During the planting season, most don't have the money to buy seeds, so we

save seeds for ourselves," said Ahmad Gingi a farmer from Chemba.

He added that that traditional system is under threat by non-committed efforts to support indigenous seeds and promotion of traditional crops production.

Elizabeth Peter, a farmer from Kondoa on her part observed that villagers who consume mainly foods from the indigenous seeds are healthy compared to their urban-living counterparts.

NBC Bank in campaign to bring joy for customers during festive season

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) launched holiday promotional campaign, titled: "Tabasamu Tukupe Mashavu," which aims to bring joy and rewards to its valued customers during this festive season.

With the campaign, the lender is encouraging its customers to spread the joy of transactions and payments to their friends, family, and loved ones.

The campaign launch event took place at the bank's headquarter in Dar es Salaam yesterday and attended by employees of the bank led by Elibariki Masuke, NBC's Director of Retail and the bank's partners in the campaign including Samsung, Auto Xpress, AG Energies, Samaki Samaki, ABC Emperio and PUMA Energies.

"The campaign captures the essence of the holiday season, where 'Tabasamu' symbolizes the joy of transactions and payments, while 'Mashavu' reflects the rewarding experiences that await our customers. The campaign is designed to inspire our customers to share the



NBC's director of retail banking Elibariki Masuke, (C), along with representatives from the bank's partners including Samsung, Auto Xpress, AG Energies, Samaki Samaki and ABC Emperio launch a joint end-of-year holiday campaign known as "Tabasamu Tukupe Mashavu". The campaign launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday offers an opportunity for the bank's customers to enjoy various holiday gifts with their beloved ones, including cash, shopping vouchers, and discounts on social services and electronic purchases.

happiness of transactions with their friends, family, and loved ones during this festive period, with the reassurance that NBC is there to support them by offering compelling rewards," said Elibariki Masuke, NBC's director of retail banking.

According to Masuke, throughout the one-month campaign, the customers stand to enjoy enticing benefits such as cashback and discounts at the bank's partners, in addition to the thrilling chance to win spectacular prizes, including a Smart TV Samsung,

Samsung Galaxy Z-Flip 4, and Gift Vouchers of up to 500,000/-.

Participation in the campaign is simple and rewarding, according to the director. The bank's customers can seize the opportunity to win fabulous prizes by using their NBC VISA Debit Cards

across a wide array of channels.

"The more they use their cards, the greater their chances of winning. Key transaction channels include NBC ATM Machines, NBC Wakalas, merchant partners, shopping malls, stores, gas stations, pubs, restaurants,

Airbnb, traveling, hotels, and various online payments such as Netflix, Amazon, and online subscriptions."

"We want to turn every transaction into a celebration this holiday season with NBC's 'Tabasamu Tukupe Mashavu' campaign. Using your NBC VISA Debit Card opens doors to a world of rewards. Whether you're shopping, dining, filling up at gas stations, or enjoying a relaxing stay at an Airbnb or hotel, every swipe brings you closer to exciting prizes like cashback, partner discounts, and the chance to win amazing gifts," he said.

He further used the platform to remind the bank's customers to use NBC Kiganjani and Wakala services to pay utility bills and transfer funds to their loved ones during this holiday season. "With easy and accessible services, NBC ensures that our customers can enjoy a stress-free and rewarding banking experience," he insisted.

Partners of the campaign including Samsung, Auto Xpress, AG Energies, Samaki Samaki, and ABC Emperio emphasized their commitment to offer discounts on their products as part of their participation in the campaign.

"The goal is to provide convenience for both our customers, and NBC bank customers to enjoy end-of-year celebrations with their loved ones." Said Mgope Kiwanga, Samsung Tanzania's Head of Mobile Business.

Bank dollar deposits up Sh528bn as shilling falls

NAIROBI

The value of dollar deposits in commercial banks increased by Sh528.56 billion in the first 10 months of the year majorly on the continued slump of the shilling against the dollar, rewarding customers with double-digit capital gains on their hard currency stock.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data shows dollar deposits rose by 57 percent from Sh921.05 billion at the end of last year to hit Sh1.449 trillion at the close of October, marking one of the fastest jumps in 10 months since 2011.

The rise in the dollar holdings came in the period the shilling shed 22 percent of its value against the dollar to close October exchanging at 150.56 units to the dollar. The slump has continued, taking the year-to-date devaluation to 24.3 percent.

The weakening of the shilling in the first 10 months of the year means that a customer who was holding a dollar equivalent of Sh1 million saw their money close Oc-



The central bank of Kenya in Nairobi.

tober at Sh1.22 million or an appreciation of Sh220,000 even before factoring even interest paid by banks on such deposits. While part of the jump in value is due to a growth in the actual stock of dollars, the depreciation of the shilling against hard currencies had the biggest contribution in growing the stock at a faster pace.

Dollar depositors had in the first six months of the year seen their holdings rise by just 12 percent to \$8.67 billion from \$7.78 billion on increased savings.

However, when the weak shilling is factored in, their

holdings swelled by 29 percent to close June at an equivalent of Sh1.185 trillion, showing that the devaluation of the currency has contributed more to the increased stock of dollar holdings compared with additional savings and interest.

The rise in dollar deposits has come in an environment where various businesses, especially those involved in the importation of raw materials and finished goods, have had challenges accessing dollars. The market exchange rate has also been misaligned with that of the CBK.

The shilling has mainly suf-

fered from a stronger dollar as the US Federal Reserve hikes interest rates to fight inflation. The rate hikes have had the impact of sparking dollar outflows to safe havens, mostly in the developed economies, increasing demand for the greenback and depressing the value of the local currency.

While a weak shilling has given returns to those holding dollars and helped exporters earn more, it has meant increased costs of servicing foreign currency-denominated loans and made imports much more expensive.

"The public sector external debt service costs have risen, thereby offsetting some of the gains made towards the government's strong fiscal consolidation," said CBK in the recent monetary policy committee statement.

The Treasury data shows the proportion of Kenya's external debt denominated in US dollar was at 67.2 percent at the start of July while 21.3 percent, 3.9 percent, 5.1 percent and 2.3 percent were in euro, yen, yuan and sterling pound, respectively.

The CBK last week increased the base lending rate from 10.5 percent to 12.5 percent—the highest level in 11 years—citing the need to fight inflation and also save the shilling from further slide against the dollar.

Of the overall inflation of 6.8 percent in November, CBK said the exchange rate depreciation contributed about three percentage points, pointing to the second-round effects manifesting in the form of higher import prices.

The State is worried that continuing weakening of the shilling and the rising interest rates amid sustained spending pressures could wreck its plan of achieving a 5.4 percent budget deficit in the current financial year and trim this to 4.4 percent of GDP in 2024/25 and further to 3.6 percent in 2026/27.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data shows that the shilling has shed on average three cents to the dollar since the beginning of December, compared to an average loss of 12 cents a day in November, and 13 cents in October, offering some hope that the local currency is beginning to get some stability.

Bolt rolls out new trip safety checking feature in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE online transport company Bolt will now have the ability to automatically engage with riders and drivers in-app when a vehicle remains still for too long to confirm everything is okay.

The feature will provide drivers and riders with the option to directly call emergency services, share the trip, record the audio or request Bolt Assistance with one touch via the in-app notification.

Bolt plans to roll out even more Trip Safety Monitoring features including route deviation and delayed ride completion. This is all part of Bolt's ongoing investment in upgrades to safety features on its platform, enabling Bolt to provide more support for drivers and riders, and helping to identify and deter improper driver and passenger behaviour.

In addition to this, features that help ensure the safety of Bolt trips for drivers and riders include in-app Safety Toolkit features like trip sharing for real-time location sharing with friends and family, and the Emergency Assist button to help riders quickly and discreetly alert emergency services or private security partners if they ever feel uncomfortable during a ride.

Takura Malaba, Regional Manager, East and Southern Africa said: "At Bolt, safety is our top priority and we regularly invest in new products and features to continue to improve the safety ecosystem of the Bolt app, offering drivers and riders a high quality ride-hailing experience. Rolling out new Trip Safety Monitoring features is the latest upgrade to our ongoing efforts to make it as easy as possible for drivers and riders to seek support if they ever need it during a Bolt trip, and identify anything out of the ordinary in order to help prevent unlikely safety cases from happening in the first place."

The rollout of Bolt's new Trip Safety Monitoring features is part of a longer-term upgrade of stationary vehicle monitoring, supporting Bolt's dedicated safety team's ongoing efforts to identify anything out of the ordinary once a trip starts.

Kenyan investors called to collect Uganda-based Umeme dividends

NAIROBI

Tens of Kenyan investors have been listed in a notice by Ugandan electricity company Umeme as having failed to collect their dividends running into millions of shillings from the company.

Umeme, which is cross-listed on the Nairobi and Uganda securities exchanges, has cumulatively paid out a total of Sh14.62 billion (US\$359.8 billion) in dividends since 2018, making it one of the top dividend-paying firms in regional exchanges.

The company listed 585 shareholders who have pending dividend collections but did not disclose the share of these uncollected payouts.

"The shareholders or their nominated beneficiaries, are requested to contact our Share Registrar, Custody & Registrar Services (Uganda) Limited, to



Umeme Customers making electricity payments at the Kampala Umeme branch.

update their payment records," said the company in its notice.

Kenyan individual and institutional investors have increasingly eyed opportunities in the Uganda market, looking for returns from firms such as Umeme and listed telcos, which have a stable dividend policy.

Umeme has been cross-listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) since December 2012, becoming the first

to break the trend where only Kenyan firms were cross-listing in other East African markets. It has since then been joined by Rwandan lender Bank of Kigali, which joined the NSE in November 2018.

Uganda, unlike Kenya, does not have a centralised agency where unclaimed financial assets such as dividends can be deposited for reunification with their rightful owners and

beneficiaries.

The country's laws allow for banks to deposit unclaimed balances with the Bank of Uganda, but there is no such provision for dividends, although its government is mulling the creation of an unclaimed assets authority.

This leaves to respective companies to trace and raise owners of dividends, who then have to lodge claims with the share registrars of such firms.

In Kenya, the Unclaimed Financial Assets Authority has received remittances worth Sh53.4 billion from institutions to date, paying 27,107 claimants Sh1.93 billion. The majority of the funds are held in stocks, while other sizable amounts are in the hands of insurers, banks, pension schemes, law firms, mobile phone money wallets and Saccos, among others.

Dividends and shares are

among the more common unclaimed assets due to owners failing to disclose their next of kin or beneficiary details when purchasing the units.

Issuance of wrong mailing addresses has also contributed to the buildup of unclaimed dividends.

A baseline survey commissioned in 2018 estimated that Sh241 billion in unclaimed financial assets was still unreported to Ufaa by public agencies and private firms.

The report further showed that approximately 477,112 public and private entities hold these assets in their books.

In August Uganda's electricity firm Umeme declared an interim dividend in the half year to June equivalent to Sh1.5 billion or Sh0.92 per share as the company accelerated debt payments ahead of the conclusion of its concession in March 2025.

UK commits £7.4m as funding to AfDB's Africa disaster risk financing programme

By Special Correspondent

THE United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has announced nearly \$10 million in additional funding to the African Development Bank's programme assisting African countries to strengthen resilience and enhance their response to climate shocks.

The financial commitment of £7.4 million (\$9.63 million) for the Multi-Donor Trust Fund of the Africa Disaster Risk Financing (ADRFi) programme will bolster sovereign drought insurance protection, with a particular focus on Somalia, over the next three years.

The announcement comes after officials from the UK and the Bank met on the sidelines of the

COP28 UN climate summit in Dubai.

"Somalia faces one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, with the devastating effects of climate change hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. Extreme weather can be catastrophic - and it's vital that Somali communities are protected and prepared," said UK Minister of State for International Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell.

Highlighting the pressing humanitarian crisis in Somalia as an example of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the world's most vulnerable populations, Mitchell added: "This long-term approach will help Somalia to better plan and prepare for the risk of drought, part of the commitment by the UK and its partners to build climate resilience



Gerard Howe, United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Head of Climate, Adaptation, Nature and Resilience Department, and Dr. Beth Dunford, AfDB Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development at COP28 in Dubai.

across the continent."

The funding will be used to secure sovereign insurance against severe drought through the African Risk Capacity Group, a partner of the African Development Bank. This mechanism will facilitate swift pay-outs to Somalia's government to support vulnerable communities in the event of

severe drought.

This contribution supplements a broader commitment from the UK that encompasses nearly £20 million (\$25.3 million) in new disaster risk financing commitments to reinforce early warning systems and address climate-related crises.

ADRFi helps African countries build capacity

to respond to climate change-related weather extremes such as cyclones, flooding and drought.

Contributions from the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States, Canada, and most recently Norway through the ADRFi Multi-Donor Trust Fund have subsidized participating coun-

tries' insurance premium payments, in addition to Bank resources mobilized through the African Development Fund and its Transition Support Facility.

"The Bank is thrilled to expand our cooperation with the Government of the UK to provide solutions to Africa's climate change challenges, as well as to meet the Bank's priority to improve the quality of life for the people of Africa," said Dr. Beth Dunford, the Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development.

The African Risk Capacity Group will collaborate with Somalia's government to develop budgeted contingency plans, a pre-requisite for participation in the African Risk Capacity climate risk insurance pool. This represents a continuation of ADRFi's initial one-year

of assistance to Somalia.

Last year, the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative ranked Somalia as the world's second most vulnerable country to climate change impacts. Since 1990, the country has experienced more than 30 major climate-related events, including 12 droughts and 19 floods. The drought from 2020 to 2022 is estimated to have led to the loss of at least seven million livestock in the Horn of Africa - pastoralist families rely upon livestock for sustenance and livelihoods - with at least three million livestock lost in Somalia alone.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated 7.8 million people were affected by severe drought in Somalia at its peak in October 2022.

"The Government of

the Federal Republic of Somalia appreciates the Government of the United Kingdom committing more financing to fund insurance premiums, and for being committed to support the Government of Somalia in putting up a sovereign risk capacity to respond to past and future droughts," said Mohamud Mo'allim, Commissioner of the Somali Disaster Management Agency.

Under the ADRFi programme, the Bank has invested more than \$100 million and supported 15 African countries to access sovereign insurance and financial protection against climate hazards.

It has provided financial protection against severe droughts and tropical cyclones to more than five million people, bolstering resilience in vulnerable communities.

Rwanda needs \$400m to meet water demand by 2050

KIGALI

Rwanda will need at least \$400 million (nearly Rwf500 billion) every year to meet water demand by 2050, according to the Water and Sanitation Cooperation (WASAC).

Currently, up to 82 per cent of Rwandan households have access to drinking water, with the government targeting 100 per cent in 2024.

Rwanda's 13 million people will have passed 23 million in 2052 and to meet their water needs, the government needs to plan and execute projects every year, said Prof Omar Munyaneza, WASAC's CEO.

"A study has shown us that for us to meet the water demand in 2050, we need to invest at least \$400 million every year," Munyaneza said.

"Currently, the government budget cannot fund all projects that we have that is why we have to look for other sources of funds from partners," he

said.

On December 1, the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved up to \$274 million (over Rwf340 billion) for Rwanda's water access and sanitation projects, which will help speed up the government target, Munyaneza said.

"Our water and sanitation master plan showed us the projects needed to be implemented every year until 2050," Munyaneza said, adding the projects to be executed in 2035 and 2040 have already been laid out. The funds will also be used to address issues of leakages and pipe damages. Currently, 40 per cent of all water production is lost to leakages, he said.

"The good news," Munyaneza said, "is that the new AfDB funding includes expropriation funds, which will fasten the projects."

He said the funds will be used in projects in 10 districts with water issues, including Nyaruguru, Huye, Gisagara, Gatsibo, Kayanza, Ngoma and Gi-



burg.

The AfDB-funded projects are expected to provide 2.3 million people with access to safe water supply and improved sanitation by 2029.

The money will also be used to finance upgrading works at Nzove Water Treatment Plant and repair undersized supply pipes to meet the water demand in the City of Kigali. As of June 2022, Kigali City consumed 117,000 cubic metres of water per day.

According to the 2022 population census, more than 97 per cent of households in Kigali had access to improved drinking water.

In Northern Province the rate is about 85 per cent, followed by Eastern Province (81 per cent),

Southern Province (78 per cent) and then Western Province (75 per cent).

Last week it was declared that water access and sanitation for Rwandans are expected to be improved following the approval of \$274.2 million (more than Rwf340 billion) by the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, it has emerged.

The development was announced by AfDB Country Manager in Rwanda, Aissa Toure Sarr on December 1.

"Delighted to announce AfDB Group approval of Rwanda Transformative and Sustainable Water and Sanitation Program. 2.3M people will access safe water supply and improved sanitation by

2029. Total envelope of phase 1 is USD 274.2M," she posted on X.

As of August 2022, 82.3 per cent of Rwanda's more than 3.3 million households (with over 13.2 million people) had access to improved drinking water.

With the AfDB support, Rwanda appears to be on course to achieving the objective, according to the bank.

The programme aims at improving the quality of life and socio-economic development of the people and country by ensuring the equitable provision of adequate, reliable, and sustainable water and sanitation services for targeted cities to promote economic growth and transformation.

Rwanda leads Africa in visa openness-report

KIGALI

Rwanda has emerged as the leading champion of visa openness in Africa for 2023, showcasing an increasingly liberal visa regime established over the past eight years, according to the latest Africa Visa Openness Report 2023 released on December 12.

The report contains this year's findings of the Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI), a joint initiative of the African Development Bank and the African Union (AU) Commission.

AVOI measures the extent to which African countries are open to visitors from other African countries. It analyses each country's visa requirements to show which nations on the continent most facilitate travel to their territory.

As per the report, in 2016, Rwanda allowed the



Passengers do check-ups before boarding a plane at Kigali International Airport.

citizens of nearly 90 per cent of African countries to obtain a visa on arrival; with citizens of the remaining countries being able to enter the country without a visa.

"This has eased the burden of travel for the citizens of 35 African countries who had hitherto been required to obtain a visa on arrival. It has also given effect to the country's commitment to the African Union's Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment: Rwanda is one of only four countries that have signed and ratified it," the report reads in part.

In the report, the President of African Development Bank Group, Akinwumi

Adesina, was quoted as saying "trade is not done in a vacuum. It's people that trade. Apart from the fact that you need connectivity, you also need freedom for people to move from one place to the other."

As of 2018, Rwanda's policy was largely based on the visa-on-arrival principle, without requiring prior application.

According to the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, the country's latest Visa Regime (of March 2020), waived visa requirements, including fees, for all Africans - in 55 countries making up the continent.

On November 2, 2023, during the

23rd World Travel and Tourism Council Global Summit that took place in Kigali, President Paul Kagame referred to that development saying, "any African can get on a plane to Rwanda whenever they wish and will not pay a thing to enter our country."

Indeed, Africa is making strides in its visa openness policies, boding well for cross border travel, ease of movement and trade in 2024 and beyond, the report pointed out.

It revealed that much progress was made since the seventh edition of the report that was published in December 2022. It indicated that visa openness achieved its highest score ever in 2023, surpassing levels last seen prior to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the first report was published in 2016,

36 countries have improved their score on the index, 42 countries extend visa-free entry to citizens from at least five other African countries, 33 countries do so to citizens of at least 10 countries, while four countries - up from three last year - eliminated all visa requirements for African travellers. They are Rwanda, Benin, The Gambia, and Seychelles.

All key overall matrices have shown improvements in 2023. In 28 per cent of all intra-Africa travel scenarios, African citizens do not require a visa (an improvement from 27 per cent in 2022 and 20 per cent in 2016). A visa is still required in 46 per cent of travel scenarios on the continent - down from 47 per cent in 2022 and 55 per cent in 2016, the report revealed.

M-Pesa agents to disburse social protection payouts

NAIROBI

Beneficiaries of the government's social protection fund for the elderly, orphans and disabled will now receive their payments from M-Pesa agent shops as the State moves to cushion them from the logistical expenses incurred on bank withdrawals.

During the fete to mark this year's Jamhuri Day, President William Ruto announced that the government has partnered with Safaricom to offer the service without charges.

"This programme has had challenges, with the beneficiaries travelling long distances and spending considerable portions of their stipends on logistics. Working with Safaricom, we have structured a new delivery mechanism for all our stipend-earning beneficiaries to receive their stipends from M-Pesa agents in their localities," said Dr Ruto.

The head of State disclosed that orphans and persons with disabilities will begin using the service this month, while the elderly will have to wait until next January as the players move to integrate the processes.

"I commend Safaricom for demonstrating corporate patriotism and providing this service free of charge," he said.

The President further disclosed that the government had allocated an additional Sh2 billion for newly enrolled beneficiaries of the cash transfer programme who are undergoing verification. He said their stipends will be disbursed from next March.

The fund, which was launched in 2015 by former President Uhuru Kenyatta, sees beneficiaries take home Sh2,000 a month as a cushion from hunger and poverty.

Data published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in the Demographic Health Survey in July revealed that 18.9 per cent of households rely on the programme or other social assistance initiatives for survival, highlighting the pronounced burden on taxpayers, friends and relatives.

According to the report, senior citizens who bank on social programmes for survival are only four per cent of the population.

The survey findings noted that 19.7 per cent of rural households survive on assistance compared to 12.6 per cent in urban settings.

The data came at a time the country is grappling with tough economic hardships coupled with a high unemployment rate that stood at 13.9 per cent in December last year.

At the time, 2.97 million Kenyans were jobless, which was a 2.94 per cent rise from 2.89 million three months earlier.

WORLD

Sunak sees off revolt to win vote on Rwanda migrant plan

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak avoided defeat in parliament on Tuesday on an emergency bill to revive his plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, seeing off a revolt by dozens of his lawmakers that laid bare his party's deep divisions.

Sunak, who has pinned his reputation on the strategy, in the end comfortably won the first vote on the legislation in the House of Commons after a day of last ditch negotiations and fears that some of his Conservative lawmakers would help defeat the bill because it was not tough enough.

"The British people should decide who gets to come to this country - not criminal gangs or foreign courts," Sunak said on X after the result. "That's what this bill delivers."

Last month, the UK Supreme Court ruled Sunak's policy of deporting to Rwanda those arriving illegally in small boats on England's southern coast would breach British and international human rights laws and agreements.

In response, Sunak agreed a new treaty with the East African nation and brought forward emergency legislation designed to override legal obstacles that would stop deportations.

In power for 13 years and trailing the opposition Labour Party by around 20 points with an election expected next year, Sunak's Conservatives have fractured along multiple lines and lost much of their discipline ahead of the first parliamentary vote on that bill.

Moderate Conservatives say they will

not support the draft law if it means Britain breaching its human rights obligations, and right-wing politicians say it does not go far enough to stop migrants from making legal challenges to prevent their deportation.

All 350 Conservative lawmakers had been ordered by those in charge of party management to back it, but almost 40 were not recorded as having voted. The bill passed by 313 votes to 269.

"We have decided collectively that we cannot support the bill tonight because of its many omissions," Mark Francois, speaking on behalf of some right-wing Conservative lawmakers, said ahead of the vote.

That group said they would abstain rather than support Sunak, and Francois warned of further rebellions at later stages of the parliamentary process unless the bill was changed to ensure European judges could not block deportation flights as they did in June last year.

"Let's pick this up again in January. We will table amendments and we will take it from there," Francois said.

In a sign of the tensions around the vote, Britain's climate change minister Graham Stuart was called back from the COP28 summit in Dubai to vote in parliament, despite critical negotiations still going on. He left parliament minutes after the vote clutching a bag and was expected to return to Dubai.

Earlier, Sunak was forced to indicate to would-be rebels during a breakfast meeting in Downing Street that he would listen to proposed changes in an attempt to encourage them to back



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak gives an update on the plan to "stop the boats" and illegal migration during a press conference in the Downing Street Briefing Room in London on Dec 7, 2023. (PHOTO / AP)

down from a revolt that would have killed the bill.

Further challenges

Defeat would have been catastrophic for Sunak, severely weakening his authority and raising serious questions about his leadership.

But as well as further attempts from his party's right-wing to toughen the bill, there is likely to be strong opposition in the House of Lords, the unelected upper chamber, to any suggestion of Britain breaching its international obligations.

Governments around the world are also closely watching the outcome as they too grapple with rising migration levels. French lawmakers rejected their immigration bill last night, in a blow to President Emmanuel Macron.

Sunak is Britain's fifth Conservative prime minister in seven years after the vote to leave the European Union polarized politics, leading to repeated bouts of instability.

The Conservatives have repeatedly failed to meet targets to reduce immigration, which has soared even after Brexit stripped EU citizens of the right of free movement, with legal net immigration reaching 745,000 last year.

About 29,000 asylum seekers have arrived this year via boats - down around one-third compared with last year - but the sight of inflatable dinghies crossing the Channel remains a highly visible symbol of the government's failure to control Britain's borders - a key promise of Brexit campaigners.

As a result, Sunak has made "stopping the boats" one of five key pledges.

"We will now work to ensure that this bill gets on to the statute book so that we can get flights off to Rwanda and stop the boats," Sunak's spokesperson said after Tuesday's vote.

Critics say the attitude towards migrants is immoral, and hours before the vote a refugee charity reported that an asylum seeker had died on a barge off the south coast which houses migrants waiting for a decision on their applications.

Keir Starmer, the opposition Labour leader, has promised his party would revoke the policy if he gets into power.

Britain has already paid 240 million pounds (\$300 million) to Rwanda even though no one has yet been sent there. Even if the program gets off the ground, Rwanda would have the capacity to settle only hundreds of migrants from Britain at a time.

Agencies

Xi: China, Vietnam need to guard against external forces

HANOI

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping said yesterday that China is ready to work with Vietnam to deepen strategic communication and promote the China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance to reach substantial achievements so as to benefit both peoples.

Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when he met with Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong on Wednesday, the second day of his state visit to the country.

He said China is willing to enhance communication and coordination with Vietnam to find a long-term solution to maritime issues that is acceptable to both sides, and promote all parties to reach a substantive and effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea at an early date.

He stressed that China and Vietnam should join hands to build a China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance.

To achieve that, the two sides should strengthen political guidance, enhance solidarity and cooperation, deepen mutually beneficial

cooperation, step up guidance on public opinion and properly manage differences, said the Chinese leader.

Noting that the Vietnam-China ties have never been so comprehensive, profound and friendly as they are today, Vo Van Thuong said developing relations with China has always been the top priority and strategic choice of the party and government of Vietnam.

Vietnam-China ties are solid as rock, immune to estrangement and disruption by external forces, he said, on a two-day state visit, his first visit to the Southeast Asian country in six years.

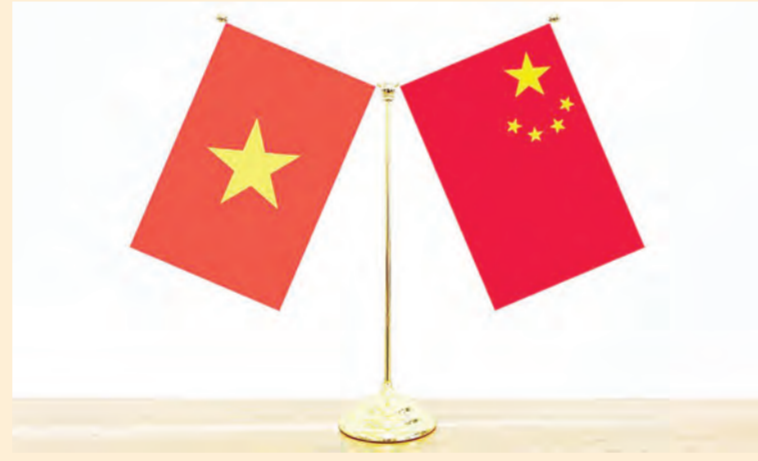
The Chinese leader laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi.

Meeting with PM

While meeting Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh, the Chinese leader said China and Vietnam should sail together on the same ship of socialism.

Both sides should be alert to and oppose any attempts to mess up Asia-Pacific, strengthen coordination and cooperation in international affairs and jointly maintain a favorable external environment, said Xi.

He said that Nguyen Phu Trong,



general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and he jointly announced building a China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, opening a new chapter in bilateral ties.

The Chinese president said he believes it will bring greater benefits to the two peoples and make positive contributions to peace, stability and development of the region and the world.

For his part, Pham Minh Chinh said Vietnam-China relations have withstood the test of time and history and will not be affected by any interference provoked by external forces.

Meeting with National Assembly chairman

China and Vietnam, under new circumstances, should move forward on the path of friendship and cooperation for the strategic and long-term perspective of the relationship, President Xi said while meeting the chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, Vuong Dinh Hue.

The two countries should ensure sound steering of the bilateral relationship, advance practical cooperation and properly managing problems and differences, he said.

The announcement to build the China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance sends a positive mes-

sage of solidarity, friendship and common development between China and Vietnam as two socialist countries, according to the Chinese leader.

He pointed out that in recent years, the National People's Congress of China and National Assembly of Vietnam have maintained good interactions and steadily enhanced exchanges and cooperation at various levels.

It is hoped that the two legislatures will further deepen exchanges and cooperation, draw upon each other's useful experience in legislation and supervision, do more to forge closer bonds between the two peoples, and contribute to improving the modernized governance systems and capabilities respectively and to cementing the popular foundation for building a China-Vietnam community with a shared future, Xi added.

For his part, Hue said that Xi and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong agreed on the new characterization of the elevated relationship between the two parties and two countries - jointly building a Vietnam-China community with a shared future that carries strategic significance.

Xinhua

No one bothered asking American public if they want to give aid to Kiev - Russian diplomat

MOSCOW



THE US authorities have never asked their own citizens whether they wanted to provide military aid to Ukraine, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Sputnik radio.

"A large part of [American] society wanted neither to support [the policy of pumping aid to Ukraine] nor to somehow identify with the cause, associate themselves with it or take part in it.

They were literally forced into it all, even though [some of them] resisted it to the last," the diplomat said, commenting on Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's latest visit to the US. "No one asked them about it, not when it all began or in the course [of unfolding developments in Ukraine]; no one bothered to ask them any questions or conduct any vote [on the issue]," she added.

According to Zakharova (pictured), US President Joe Biden simply informed the American people of what his administration planned to do as a fait accompli.

"This is the same Democratic [Party] team that initiated this entire story that began with the Maidan [protests and street violence in Kiev] back in 2013-2014. Its members are the same; it's Biden and [Under Secretary of State Victoria] Nuland again," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman noted.

"They started it all back then but had to take a four-year break when [Donald] Trump came [to power]; however, after they got him out of the White House, they went back to the same concept, but in a more frenzied manner," Zakharova said.

"No one has asked the [American] people over these years. When Biden ran for president [in 2020], they didn't say anything indicating that they were going to make [such a mess]," the diplomat pointed out.

Zakharova also commented on US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's statement that about 90% of the US funds ostensibly allocated for military aid to Ukraine had in fact been invested in the US defense industry.

"So this was your plan to revive the US economy? Then why didn't you say it straight away? What did you need the Kiev regime for if the initial plan was to ensure investment in the US economy?" the diplomat asked rhetorically.

Zelensky is currently on a trip to Washington. He visited the US Congress on Tuesday to meet with a bipartisan group of senators and House Speaker Mike Johnson (Republican, Louisiana). He also held talks with Biden.

Most countries agreeing what India was saying on Artificial Intelligence regulation, says Rajeev Chandrasekhar

NEW DELHI

UNION Minister of State for Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar yesterday said most countries are now coming out and saying what India has always been saying on regulating Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies.

India's stance has been that the internet and every other emerging technology should be deployed in a "safe and trusted" manner.

The Union minister today met Viscount Camrose, UK's Minister of AI and Intellectual Property and Hiroshi Yoshida, Japan's Vice Minister of Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

After the meeting, Minister Rajeev said they spoke about what governments are looking, how governments of like-minded countries are looking at regulating AI, what are the issues of safety and trust that governments are looking at, and what are the governments' role in enabling the growth of AI.

"So think it was a very interesting conversation. And what India has been saying for now several months and years about making sure that the Internet and indeed every emerging technology is deployed in a safe and trusted manner is a thought that most countries are now coming around to and agreeing with," Rajeev Chandrasekhar told reporters.

Meanwhile, Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence summit, running from December 12 to 14, is being hosted here in the national capital, where influential minds from various sectors have gathered to discuss and collaborative the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI).

Since its inception in June 2020, India has made significant contributions to this Summit by actively engaging in various initiatives to foster the development, deployment, and adoption of open, safe, secure, and accountable AI.

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence is an international initiative established to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence in a manner that respects human rights and the shared democratic values of its members.

ANI

China advances RMB internationalisation

THE Chinese currency Renminbi (RMB), or the yuan, has been increasingly used as international currency in recent years, gaining popularity as a payment, investment, and reserve currency in the global market.

As China's economy recovers and its financial market further opens up, the yuan's investment and hedging functions have strengthened.

Panda bonds, or yuan-denominated debts sold by foreign issuers in China, have been well-received.

According to the 2023 Yuan Internationalization Report released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC), China's central bank, 58 panda bonds were issued from January to August 2023, totaling 106 billion yuan (\$14.79 billion). This represents a year-on-year increase of 58.2 percent, surpassing the total

number and amount of issuances from the previous year.

The macro-prudential management bureau of the PBOC announced on November 9 that various channels for mutual stock market access, such as the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, mutual recognition of funds, Bond Connect, the Shanghai-London Stock Connect, and the Cross-Border Wealth Management Connect, have been opened and optimized.

The policy framework for supervising qualified investors has been consistently enhanced and it has become easier for foreign entities to issue panda bonds. Additionally, Chinese stocks and bonds

have been incorporated into major international indices. These developments have collectively contributed to an enhanced investment and financing environment for the yuan.

As of the end of September 2023, a total of 1,110 foreign institutions had entered the Chinese bond market, holding 3.3 trillion yuan in Chinese bonds, an increase of nearly 200 percent compared to five years ago. Domestic RMB financial assets held by overseas entities, including stocks and bonds, had reached 9.3 trillion yuan.

As foreign institutions continue to expand their presence in the domestic bond market, offshore yuan trading has also witnessed a surge in activity.

In late October, two yuan clearing banks were inaugurated, including one in Islamabad, Pakistan, which marked the official launch of yuan clearing services in the country. Additionally, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Vientiane Branch in Laos held a ceremony to commence yuan clearing services. This development increased the number of yuan clearing banks established by China in Southeast Asia to five.

"The yuan is assuming a growing significance in the global economy and financial markets," stated Jameel Ahmad, governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. The establishment of a yuan clearing bank will help reduce costs for local banking systems and support

Pakistani businesses in exploring new markets, thereby contributing to the long-term development of the Pakistani economy and banking system, Ahmad added.

Since 2022, China has established yuan clearing banks in Laos, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Brazil. It has continuously enhanced the overseas yuan clearing network, resulting in smoother cross-border transactions for trade and investment. Presently, the PBOC has authorized 31 yuan clearing banks in 29 countries and regions, encompassing significant international financial centers globally.

"Since last year, the connectivity and cooperation between domestic and foreign financial markets have strengthened, resulting in a

broader selection of offshore yuan products and enhanced facilitation and liberalization of cross-border investments," stated a representative from the PBOC.

According to a survey by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the yuan's market share in global foreign exchange transactions has surged from 4.3 percent to 7 percent in the past three years. This has resulted in a rise in its ranking from the eighth place to the fifth.

This growth has made the yuan the currency with the fastest-growing market share, as offshore entities increasingly adopt it for foreign exchange and risk management purposes.

Multiple sectors have shown optimism regarding the future prospects of the yuan's internationalization.

Argentina has announced its plan to use the equivalent value of yuan under the China-Argentina currency swap agreement to repay its external debt and interest owed to the International Monetary Fund. This decision comes after Argentina's previous use of the yuan to repay matured external debt at the end of June.

In July 2023, the Bolivian government announced that the state-owned bank Banco Unión has started trading operations involving the yuan. Marcelo Montenegro, Bolivian Minister of Economy and Public Finance, stated that the yuan trading operations have gotten off to a good start in the country. Montenegro highlighted the potential for increased utilization of the yuan within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

People's Daily

UNGA adopts resolution seeking immediate ceasefire in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN General Assembly on Tuesday afternoon adopted a resolution demanding an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza.

Member states voted down two amendments making specific reference to "extremist group Hamas," with 153 supporting the draft resolution, 10 against and 23 countries abstaining.

The resolution demands an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire," the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, and "ensuring humanitarian access."

The adopted resolution underscores protecting civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations, expresses grave concern over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population, and emphasizes that the Palestinian and Israeli civilian populations must be protected in accord-

ance with international humanitarian law.

It reiterates the demand that all parties comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, "notably with regard to the protection of civilians."

The resolution also decides to adjourn the tenth Emergency Special Session temporarily and to authorize the president of the General Assembly at its most recent session to resume its meeting upon request from member states.

Tuesday's session is a continuation of the tenth Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly that last met on Oct 26 amid the present crisis in Gaza, during which it adopted a resolution on the crisis, calling for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities."

The UN General Assembly has 193 member states. A two-thirds majority is required for adoption of a reso-



A Palestinian child wounded in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip is brought to a hospital in Rafah on Tuesday. AP

lution.

In his statement delivered at the special session, General Assembly President Dennis Francis underscored the urgency to bring to an end the suffering of

innocent civilians.

He reiterated the demand for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

"We have one singular priority - only one - to save lives," he

stressed. "Stop this violence now."

Francis said the world is witnessing an "unprecedented collapse" of a humanitarian system "in real time." The UN must bring an immediate end to the suffering of civilians.

Xinhua

India at UNGA votes in favour of resolution demanding immediate ceasefire in Gaza

NEW YORK

THE United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution 'Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations' demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza. India voted in favour of the ceasefire resolution in the UNGA's emergency session on the Middle East on Tuesday (local time).

As many as 153 nations, including India, voted in favour of the resolution, while 10, including US, Israel and Austria, voted against and 23 countries, including Argentina, Ukraine and Germany abstained from voting.

The resolution demands an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire," the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and well as "ensuring humanitarian access." It further demands that all parties comply with their obliga-

tions under international law, including humanitarian law, with regard to protection of civilians.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, said that a terrorist attack occurred in Israel on October 7. She noted that there is an enormous humanitarian crisis and a large-scale loss of human lives.

"India has voted in favour of the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly. The situation that this August body has been deliberating upon has many dimensions. There is the terrorist attack in Israel on 7 October and the concern for the hostages taken at that time. There is an enormous humanitarian crisis and a large-scale loss of civilian lives, especially of women and children. There is the issue of observing international humanitarian law in all circumstances. And there is the endeavour to find a peaceful and lasting two-state solution to the longstanding

Palestine question," Kamboj said.

She said that India welcomes the unity of international community in finding a common ground to address the multiple challenges faced by the region at the present time.

Ruchira Kamboj said, "Our challenge, in this extraordinarily difficult time, is to strike the right balance. The gravity and complexity of what the international community faces are underlined by the secretary general invoking Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations. We, therefore, welcome the fact that the international community unity has been able to find a common ground to address the multiple challenges facing the region right now."

Meanwhile, United States-led amendment to the draft resolution was not passed at the UN General Assembly. As many as 84 nations voted in favour of the amendment; 62 voted against while

25 voted abstained.

Furthermore, Austria-led amendment to the draft resolution on the Gaza crisis failed to pass at the UN General Assembly. 89 nations have voted in favour of the amendment, 61 voted against the amendment and 20 abstained from voting. Israel's Permanent Representative, Gilad Erdan, said that the UN General Assembly finds itself "about to vote on another hypocritical resolution."

He said, "Not only does this resolution fail to condemn Hamas for crimes against humanity, it does not mention Hamas at all. This will only prolong the death and destruction in the region, that is precisely what a ceasefire means."

Erdan said that Hamas' only intention is to destroy Israel and the group has announced that it will repeat its atrocities again and again until Israel ceases to exist. He called for the need to hold Hamas accountable and added that a ceasefire

means only one thing which is the "survival of Hamas."

He asked, "So why would anyone want to aid Hamas in continuing their rule of terror and actualizing their satanic agenda?" He further said, "We all know that the so call humanitarian ceasefire in this resolution has nothing to do with humanity. Israel is already taking every measure to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza." Munir Akram, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, said it was a matter of "deep regret, that some friends of Israel have introduced amendments to once again condemn only one side but exonerate the other."

He said, "This is a war against the Palestinian people." He added, "Israel's goal is to erase not only a people but the entire idea of Palestine. It's campaign is a carbon copy of the massive campaigns of racial slaughter by other settler colonial regimes in history." ANI

Stake on 'sanction blitzkrieg' against Russian economy failed, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

IT is difficult for ill-wishers of Russia to comprehend that the stake on the sanction blitzkrieg against the Russian economy failed completely, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

The power landscape in the global economy is changing quickly not in favor of the West, the top Russian diplomat said.

"The total GDP of BRICS countries - these figures have been recently cited by the [Russian] President, exceeded by the purchasing power parity the like indicator of the Group of Seven as early as two years ago, and the gap will grow further with admission of new members to the Association from January 1.

Contrary to sanctions, Russia climbed to the fifth position globally in terms of the same indicator as of the end of the last year, having outpaced Germany.

According to all estimates of this year, growth rates of our economy will be more than three percent and the economy of mentioned Germany will contract," the minister indicated.

"It is not easy for ill-wishers of us to comprehend that the stake on the sanction blitzkrieg against the Russian economy failed completely.

Therefore, those waging a hybrid war against us do not recognize their mistakes, attempt to use new illegitimate instruments to exhaust Russia, as they say, nurturing a dream of removing our country as an independent geopolitical figure," Lavrov said.



China, EU to provide greater stability for world, stronger impetus for development

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Dec. 7 met with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen who were in China for the 24th China-EU Summit.

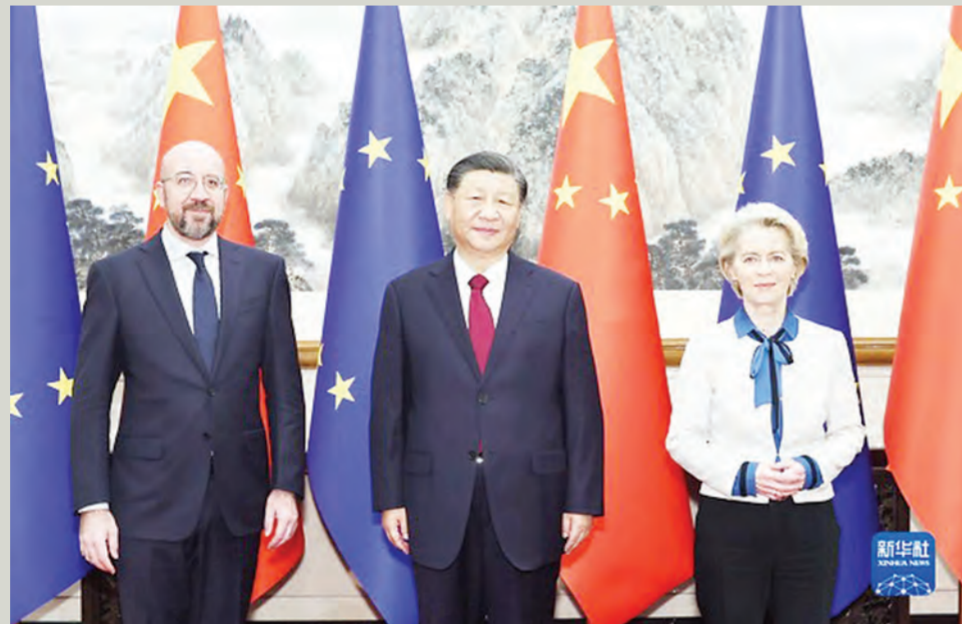
The two sides had in-depth exchanges of views on strategic issues critical to the direction of China-EU relations and global issues of mutual interest to draw a blueprint for, identify the focus of and inject impetus to China-EU relations. Both sides sent out a positive message of China and the EU working together for further progress in our relations.

The bilateral relationship between China and the EU has shown a good momentum of recovery and steady progress under the strategic guidance of leaders from both sides.

The two sides have hosted a series of high-level dialogues and reached important consensus on cooperation, which showcased the resilience and vitality of China-EU relations, as well as the strategic significance and global influence of China-EU cooperation.

China and the EU have released a positive signal to strengthen communication, engage in dialogue and cooperation, and constructively handle differences, achieving fruitful results. This has injected stability and positive energy into the turbulent international situation.

There is no fundamental strategic disagreement or conflict between China and Europe. China will keep its Europe policy stable in the long run, continue to see Europe as an independent force in a multi-polar world, and stay committed to a China-Europe relationship that is not targeted at, subjugated to,



President Xi Jinping (C) meets European Council President Charles Michel (L) and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

or controlled by any third party.

China has released three policy papers on the EU, all of which take mutual respect as the primary principle in developing China-EU relations. The two sides have developed a pattern of all-round, multi-level and wide-ranging cooperation since they established a comprehensive strategic partnership 20 years ago.

Taking stock of history, as long as China and the EU navigate the trend of the world, uphold the apt description of their relationship as a comprehensive strategic partnership, view each other from a strategic perspective, fully leverage the guiding role of the China-EU Summit and the five high-level dialogues, strengthen strategic communication, and increase understanding and properly handle differences through constructive dialogue, they will be able to ensure a stable, sound and long-term China-EU relationship.

China and the EU are partners, not rivals and their common interests far exceed differences. Xi stressed that the two sides need to develop a right perception of each other, promote mutual understanding and trust, honor commitments, do the right thing and be wholehearted in developing China-EU relations. They should not view each other as rivals just because their systems are different, reduce cooperation because competition exists, or engage in confrontation because there are disagreements.

There is a high degree of complementarity between the Chinese and EU economies. The two sides should leverage their complemen-

tary strengths in terms of market, capital and technology to upgrade traditional industries and foster emerging ones, explore new modes of cooperation, foster new areas of growth, and jointly improve industrial and supply chains. The two sides should do more to increase the breadth and depth of cooperation and tighten the bond of shared interests.

Recently, China has decided to apply unilateral visa-free policy on a trial basis to travelers holding ordinary passports from countries including France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. This has been generally welcomed by relevant countries in Europe.

In the future, China and the EU should also bolster people-to-people exchanges and facilitate personnel interflows.

Xi underscored that Chinese modernization and European integration are strategic choices that China and Europe have made respectively with the future in mind.

The two sides should respect and support each other, and leverage the complementarity of their development strategies for common progress. China will continue to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, including by creating synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative with the EU's Global Gateway to help developing countries grow faster.

At present, the China-Europe Railway Express service reaches 217 cities across 25 European nations, driving economic development and improving people's livelihoods in countries and regions along the routes. This has promoted win-win cooperation between Asia

and Europe.

According to the latest statistics, the total volume of goods transported by the service in the first 11 months of this year already exceeded the total volume recorded in the whole of 2022.

As China pursues high-quality development and high-standard opening up, it sees the EU as a key partner for economic and trade cooperation, a preferred partner for scientific and technological cooperation, and a trustworthy partner for industrial and supply chain cooperation. China is ready to work with the EU for mutual benefit and common development.

Michel and von der Leyen noted that the EU highly values its ties with China, and does not want to decouple from China. It seeks a long-term, stable, predictable and sustainable relationship with China, and hopes that the EU-China Summit will help reenergize EU-China relations.

China-EU relations bear on the prosperity of Asia and Europe, as well as the stability of the international landscape. It should be well safeguarded and developed by both sides.

Xi pointed out that China and the EU are two major forces advancing multipolarity, two major markets in support of globalization, and two major civilizations championing diversity. Amid the increasingly turbulent international situation, the China-EU relationship has strategic significance and implications for global peace, stability and prosperity.

The EU side also believes that the EU and China have shared responsibilities and interests in keeping the world peaceful and stable.

People's Daily

Kenya to abolish visa requirement for all foreign visitors beginning January

NAIROBI

FOREIGN visitors to Kenya will not be required to have a visa beginning January 2024, President William Ruto announced Tuesday during the celebration of Jamhuri Day, or Independence Day, held in Nairobi, the capital.

Ruto (pictured) said all foreign nationals will enter the county without a visa from January next year, a move that is expected to boost tourism.

"Beginning January 2024, Kenya will be a visa-free country. It shall no longer be necessary for any person from any corner of the globe to carry the burden of applying for a visa to come to Kenya," Ruto said. The Kenyan leader said that to implement the visa-free policy, the government has adopted a digital platform to ensure that all travelers to the country are identified in advance through an electronic platform.

An electronic travel authorization will be granted to foreign nationals visiting Kenya, Ruto said, adding that a visa-free regime aligns with his administration's quest to boost the growth of tourism and borderless commerce.

Kenya had earlier waived visa requirements for citizens from Indonesia, Senegal, and Congo, anchored on bilateral agreements to enhance the movement of



tourists, investors, and skilled personnel.

President Ruto has advocated for the abolition of visas for Africans visiting Kenya to realize the continent's integration agenda since taking over power in September 2022.

Kenya joins Rwanda which in November announced visa-free travel for all Africans. During his speech at the 60th independence anniversary celebration, Ruto said his administration was committed to renewing key sectors of the economy, including manufacturing, agriculture, health, and financial services in line with the people-centered growth model.

In addition, Ruto said Kenya intends to remain a transport and logistics hub to benefit optimally from the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Xinhua

India, Burundi hold 2nd round of Foreign Office Consultations

BUJUMBURA

THE second Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Burundi were held in Bujumbura on Tuesday, informed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The Indian side was led by Puneet R Kundal, Additional Secretary (East and Southern Africa), and the Burundian side was led by Ambassador Ernest Niyokindi, Director General of Bilateral Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burundi.

During the FOC, both delegations reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relationships, covering political exchanges, development partnerships, trade and economic matters, consular issues, and cooperation in areas such as agriculture, education, health,

digital technology, and renewable energy, among others, MEA said in a press release.

Both sides agreed to intensify and diversify cooperation in various areas to further strengthen this relationship. Discussions were also held on multilateral issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the UN, the release added.

Both sides agreed to continue their engagement at official and political levels and have meetings of joint institutional mechanisms to keep the partnership vibrant and mutually beneficial, it also said.

It was agreed to hold the next round of consultations at mutually convenient dates in New Delhi, according to the MEA.

ANI

East African youth soccer tourney attracts 342 international squads

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE East African Youth Soccer tourney has broken its own record of attracting many teams to participate in a single event.

Kenya is topping the bill by fielding a total of 186 youth football teams, while the host Tanzania have managed to float 134 soccer teams for the Arusha-held annual Chipkizi Cup.

Zimbabwe has also upped its squads by bringing a total of eight teams to Arusha. The football and swimming event will run from December 11 to 17.

A total of 342 soccer teams have jetted into Tanzania, breaking and surpassing last year's record of 302 teams.

The squads have brought along more than 5,000 players that are already in Arusha for the week-long event.

Alfred Itaeli, speaking on behalf of the organizers, said through the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) they will also be recruiting future sportsmen and women to play for national teams.

Itaeli added that the teams also bring along more than 6,000 supporters, for the 14th season of the annual East African Youth Soccer tournament, popularly known as the Chipkizi Cup.

There are talent-recruiting scouts from as far as the United States, the Netherlands, Macedonia, Kenya, Uganda and Spain.

Apart from swimming, which is being held for the first time this year, the soccer tourney features several football competition categories, including Under-7, Under-9, Under-11, Under-13, Under-15, under-17 and Under-20, for both boys and girls.

Participating countries include Kenya, Uganda, Japan, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Rwanda, Cameroon, Somalia, DR Congo, South Africa, Zanzibar and the host Tanzania.

"Each year the Chipkizi Cup brings something new on the table," said Maalim Atai the technical director of JKU Football Club of Zanzibar, adding that the East African Youth Soccer event has been useful in grooming the Isles teams.

Many teams are looking forward to being under the binoculars of the talent recruiting agents, scouts and soccer teams from the United States, United Kingdom, Spain, Macedonia, Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, Kenya and Malawi.

The MLS and Chicago Fire from the US and the Outreach Ministry of Malawi are some of the soccer entities that will be pitching camp in Tanzania for the Arusha-held event this month.

The 2023 Chipkizi Cup, which runs for the 14th year now, will be staged at various venues in Arusha, including the Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) grounds, the Aga-Khan Sports Center, the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium and the United World Colleges (UWC)

City archrivals change places in CAF derbies, even as confidence is dented

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

WHEN current NBC Premier League champions Young Africans SC obtained a draw at Medeama FC in Kumasi, their more ardent fans were short of words on what occurred until their next street rivals, Simba SC, played their match late the following day. It went to their disfavor as the side lost by a lone goal at the very last minute, with hardly time remaining for play to be resumed and the ball reaching either goalpost. It was fairly comfortable for Jangwani but said nothing.

The reason was that despite the draw on that day, their equivalent trip to North Africa a week or so earlier had been even more excruciating in its final results. The late strike in the Marrakech encounter was close in form to that in Algiers a while earlier, the difference being that it was the third rather than the only goal as it was in the Marrakech end-point disappointment.

So by comparison the Msimbazi Street side had done a better job in North Africa than their rivals, and they know that the draw they obtained at Medeama was similar to the draw with ASEC Mimosas at the Benjamin Mkapa earlier. They couldn't hide it as they lost heavily in Algiers.

That in sum summarized the rather puzzled look of the fans of the top city sides at the start

of the week, each side having its prizes and downsides, with a slight impression that Simba has a more plausible chance of progressing than its rivals.

The pundits weren't saying as much, grouping the sides in one basket and affirming simply that they still have a chance to progress, though in either case the local big hitter look third or fourth, not second, save by a miracle. Those they are used to take for granted have made plenty of progress, which is becoming evident.

Yet this apparent miscarriage in the hopes of the city rivals in the top-tier continental tournament has been a blessing in disguise in a sense. The more painful aspect in losing, by a big or small margin, was the internal loss of face that either club faces, tending to complicate the still unstable sands of their respective bases of support, and admittedly more so at Msimbazi Street, since that awful derby event.

The two sides face equal or comparable odds, making it a matter of coaching ingenuity and unpredictable form on the part of players, to get ahead.

What also seems to be the case is that other sides on this side of the Sahara have improved at our expense, especially with Medeama defeating CR Belouizdad at home 2-1 while neither Dar side has defeated a visiting opponent at home so far.

There is still a window of opportunity due to the end-of-

year closure and restarting the tournament much later, to provide time for teams to reexamine their capacities and take up signings where necessary, such that the later picture could be different from that is being noticed as the holiday season approaches. Both sides need to lift up their charges but just who needs what sort of improvement or signing is unclear.

Listening to pundits, there is a sharp feeling that the well-adapted strategy of depending on sharp attacking midfielders at Yanga has worked well for the local Premier League but is clearly unsuitable or ineffective in the continental tourney.

The side lacks a complete goal-getter in the likeness of former superstar Fiston Mayele, such that wisdom that earlier held currency that anyone could score is now being doubted. Those available like Kennedy Musonda don't seem to fit the bill.

There is in that regard a growing 'hit list' being imagined by the pundits, the key reason being that it is no longer possible to have a side that is competitive at the Premier League level, for which both sides have reason to be satisfied. This glum satisfaction notwithstanding, neither side can rate its continental campaign nearly as success or confident in likely achievement, and neither is ready to say 'We just wanted to reach the group stage, all else is irrelevant.'

That is indeed where the

Jangwani Street side laid their vision and succeeded just due to the chaos in the Sudan as a well-dotted El Mirreikh as of old could more or less have altered things.

It means that the local competition, which is the key push in the energies of the club fan base and the leadership, is being displaced for the continental contention. Even as the two sides don't appear to be exactly disposed to reach the quarter-finals this season, things could still change for the better if they thrust themselves in the market with one or two big signings for either side and assuming that their rivals in the respective groups don't find the strength to improve their sides just as fast.

At any rate, the other sides will have less reason to go all out in search of players as they have better outcomes in contention with the city rivals here. None of them has suffered defeat from either Simba or Yanga as the end-of-year interruption comes along, in which case our two sides have the greater reason to look for one or two players of notable ranking to fill in current gaps.

It will be a departure from the somewhat clever and somewhat unconvincing strategy used at preseason chiefly at Jangwani Street, not to pursue the local championship but to make a showing at the CAF Champions League. Reality dawns fast - after last year's second-tier heroics.

Dabodabo gift winners leave for Dubai tour

By Guardian Correspondent

FIFTEEN winners who won a trip to Dubai in the 'Magift Dabodabo' campaign run by the Tigo company left the country yesterday for a five-day visiting tour.

Speaking at the Julius Nyerere International Airport, Tigo's Head of Services and Products, Ndevonaeli Eliakimu, said that on the trip the winners are eight people who have chosen their loved ones to accompany them to Dubai and make them total of 16 people.

"But those who will leave are 15 people, one has failed

to travel. This is the real meaning of gift dabodabo, the winner will have the chance to choose one of his loved ones to be given the same gift as the winner," said Eliakimu.

In addition, he said the winners in Dubai will have the opportunity to visit various places of interest.

He also said other winners have won a trip to Zanzibar for five days and will visit various tourist attractions on the islands.

Eliakimu asked people to enjoy the opportunity of the campaign during this holiday season to be able to win.

On his part, one of the

winners of the trip, Victor Munisi, a resident of Dar es Salaam, thanked the company for providing such opportunities to its customers.

"This is a very unique opportunity. I will never forget having this opportunity to visit Dubai to see various attractions and to set a record for one of the countries or places I visited. I am very grateful to Tigo for this opportunity," said Munisi.

In addition, he asked other people to believe what is being announced about the campaign where anyone can win by doing Tigo Pesa transactions or buying various packages.



Magift Dabodabo campaign spokesperson, Haji Manara (C), in a group picture with the winners of a trip to Dubai yesterday at Julius Nyerere International Airport. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Tanzanian student excels at MultiChoice Talent Factory East Africa Academy

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a historic accomplishment, Juif Joseph, a Tanzanian student, emerged as a standout talent among the 20 graduates from the MultiChoice Talent Factory East Africa Academy, earning an exclusive eight-week fully paid internship at the New York Film Academy.

The MultiChoice Talent Factory East Africa Academy, renowned for cultivating emerging talent in the realms of film and television, celebrated the graduation of 20 exceptional students on December 7 in Nairobi, each demonstrating outstanding skills and unwavering dedication to the craft.

Among them, Joseph from Tanzania not only received high accolades during the graduation ceremony but also clinched

a unique opportunity for professional growth with the internship at the New York Film Academy.

The academy's rigorous 12-month program, spanning from January to December 2023, is meticulously designed to equip aspiring filmmakers with the essential skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the dynamic world of film and television.

Joseph distinguished himself not only through academic excellence but also through his exceptional creativity, passion, discipline, and commitment to pushing boundaries in the industry.

Joseph, along with four other Tanzanian graduates, has elevated the nation's representation at the MultiChoice Talent Factory East

Africa Academy, making him a standout representative of Tanzanian talent.

In total, the academy saw the graduation of 20 students, with seven from Kenya, five from Tanzania, four from Uganda, and four from Ethiopia.

Expressing her thoughts during the graduation ceremony, MTF East Africa Academy Director Victoria Goro stated: "Since its inception, MultiChoice has been deeply committed to its African roots. The company recognizes the vast potential that Africa has to offer the world in terms of its creative industries, and this graduation is proof of this bold commitment."

"We're greatly inspired by the achievements of the Class of 2023 and are thankful for the various partnerships and stakeholders that

made this success possible. To date, the MTF shared-value initiative is responsible for enriching the lives of young African creative since 2018, and MultiChoice is looking forward to sustaining this opportunity for more creative in the future."

Joseph's success not only reflects his individual accomplishments but also highlights the MultiChoice Talent Factory's commitment to nurturing and propelling African talent onto the global stage.

As Joseph embarks on his internship at the New York Film Academy, the industry eagerly anticipates the impact he will undoubtedly make, further solidifying the MultiChoice Talent Factory's role in shaping the future of African filmmaking.



From left: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, Government of Kenya Cabinet Secretary responsible for Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts Hon. Ababu Namwamba, MultiChoice Talent Factory graduate Juif Joseph, Kenya Academy Director Victoria Goro and Kenya Film Commission CEO Timothy Owase. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Turkish football plunges into crisis after referee attack

ANKARA

TURKEY'S football plunged into all-out crisis Tuesday following an on the pitch attack on a referee by a club president who was mentioned as a possible candidate for mayor of Ankara.

The top-flight Super Lig indefinitely suspended matches and a court placed MKA Ankaragucu club president Faruk Koca and two others in pre-trial detention for "injuring and threatening a public official".

Images of Monday night's incident showed Koca rushing onto the pitch with a group of men and throwing a punch at referee Halil Umur Meler after he had blown the final whistle.

Koca appeared to be incensed at Meler for sending off one of his players and then awarding a stoppage-time goal that allowed visiting Caykur Rizespor to leave the capital with a 1-1 draw.

Meler fell to the ground and was kicked several times in the ensuing melee.

The 37-year-old match official was shown standing minutes later with a black eye that had swelled up the left part of his face.

He released a statement after being rushed to hospital saying Koca had threatened his life.

"Faruk Koca punched me under my left eye and I fell to the ground. While I was on the ground, they kicked my face and other parts of my body many times," Meler said in a statement.

"Faruk Koca told me and my fellow referees: 'I will finish you'. Addressing me in particular, he said: 'I will kill you'."

Koca resigned as club president late on Tuesday but insisted that his team was cheated by the referee.

"No matter how great an injustice or how wrong (the officiating) was, nothing can legitimise or explain the violence that I perpetrated," Koca said in a club statement.

"I apologise to the Turkish refereeing community, the sports public and our nation," Koca added.

The incident pushed all other events off the front pages of the main newspapers in a nation where football passions run deep -- and are often politically linked.

The Turkish Football Federation condemned "this vile attack" and suspended all matches until further notice.

It also prompted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan -- a one-time football player whose love for the game has helped improve the fortunes of top Turkish clubs -- to issue a late-night appeal Monday for calm.

"Sports means peace and brotherhood. Sport is incompatible with violence," he said in a social media statement.

The Turkish interior ministry later released a video showing Erdogan placing a call to Meler in his hospital bed.

"We are so deeply sorry and we wish you a speedy recovery," Erdogan told the injured referee in the clip.

"I told all our friends, my interior minister, my justice minister and all the other relevant friends to do what is necessary," Erdogan said.

Turkish football is known for its passion and occasional bursts of violence.

A Turkish court briefly arrested 19 people involved in a brawl that broke out during a second-division match in November of last year.

Second-division Bursaspor played seven matches earlier this year in an empty stadium following another incident during which fans chanted anti-Kurdish slogans.

Turkish clubs are followed by legions of fans who often align themselves with various social causes and become a part of the country's political life.

Football supporters played an integral part in 2013 youth-driven protests that formed the first serious challenge to Erdogan's socially conservative government.

The Ankara club leadership and its president are linked closely to Erdogan's ruling AKP party.

Koca told one reporter this year that he could consider running for mayor as the AKP candidate in a closely-watched municipal election scheduled for March 31.

"If I am entrusted with the task of being the metropolitan municipality mayor, I will do what is necessary," Koca said.

Both Ankara and Istanbul are headed by popular opposition politicians who came to power in 2019.

Ankaragucu are in 11th place in the Super Lig after Monday's draw.

Rizespor are four points above them in eighth place.

AFP

Man U slide out of Champions League

LONDON

MANCHESTER United crashed out of the Champions League on Tuesday and failed to even secure the consolation of a Europa League spot as Bayern Munich won 1-0 at Old Trafford.

United were toothless as Harry Kane and his Bayern teammates only needed one penetrating move to create Kingsley Coman's winning goal.

They finished bottom of Group A as FC Copenhagen took the second qualifying spot behind Bayern following their 1-0 win over Galatasaray in front of a delirious Danish crowd.

The defeat is sure to heap more pressure on United manager Erik ten Hag, but the damage to his side was done earlier in the season when they failed to win three of their four games against Copenhagen and Galatasaray.

"We didn't lose the campaign today. We had some



Bruno Fernandes and Manchester United limped out of the Champions League group stage with a loss to Bayern Munich on Tuesday. Agencies

good performances and also we made mistakes and individual errors from players," Ten Hag said.

"Today the performance was good, we didn't deserve to lose but we lost the game. The players gave everything."

Kane meanwhile said he believes Bayern can make a strong run as they seek a seventh European crown in his first season in Germany.

"We have the ability to go far

in this competition," the England captain said.

"We have to keep improving. I feel we have another level we can achieve. That is the ambition, to go and win the Champions League."

- Danish joy -

In contrast to the gloom in Manchester, there was joy in the Danish capital as FC Copenhagen qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League for just the second time in

their history.

Lukas Lerager's 58th minute goal was enough to see off Galatasaray as the Danish side overcame the odds in a group few pundits had expected them to progress from.

"I think it is an extraordinary achievement that a Danish team can advance. The group was so strong and full of so many world stars," Copenhagen coach Jacob Neestrup said.

Reigning Italian champions Napoli secured their place in the knockout phase by beating Sporting Braga 2-0 at home, with newly crowned African Player of the Year Victor Osimhen completing the job after Serdar Saatci's own goal.

Napoli finished second behind Group C winners Real Madrid, who had already won the group even before they beat Union Berlin 3-2 in the German capital.

Kevin Volland put Union ahead, but Joselu scored twice for Real and although Alex Kral equalised, Dani Ce-

ballos notched the winner for the 14-time European champions in the 89th minute.

Last year's beaten finalists Inter Milan finished second after a goalless draw with Group D winners Real Sociedad.

In the early matches, a much-changed Arsenal were held 1-1 at Dutch league leaders PSV Eindhoven but still top Group B.

Eddie Nketiah fired a low shot into the corner to put Arsenal ahead, but Yorbe Vertessen curled in an equaliser.

Sevilla finished bottom of that group after Lens scored a late winner in a 2-1 victory in northern France.

It means the Spanish side won't even have the chance to add to their seven Europa League titles, with Lens grabbing third place in the group and a Europa League place.

Benfica also secured a late ticket to the Europa League after they beat Salzburg 3-1 in Austria to clinch third place in Group D.

AFP

Man United was rotting long before Champions League exit

By Henry Bushnell

MANCHESTER United limped out of the Champions League on Tuesday but crumbled long ago, long before this latest crisis spiraled into stunned silence at Old Trafford.

It crumbled not in Copenhagen or Istanbul, nor against Bournemouth last weekend, with Old Trafford's stands emptying and boos pouring. They poured after a 3-0 defeat, United's 11th of this still-young season. They poured down on a scorned head coach and his inadequate players. They poured because beatdowns by Bournemouth and early Champions League exits don't befit England's most storied soccer club.

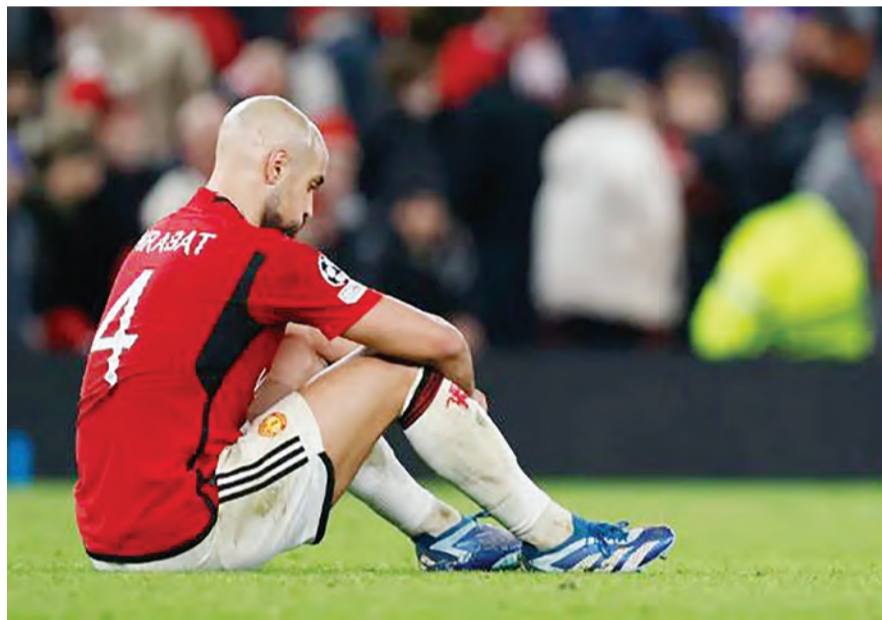
But they also poured because none of this is novel or surprising. United has been crumbling for more than a decade now.

It is rotting, and Tuesday's 1-0 loss to Bayern Munich, which left United at the bottom of its Champions League group, was merely the latest reminder.

Its remains are a mediocre team cobbled together by clueless executives, hampered by injuries and elevated only by the mystique and prestige of a once-great institution. They have managed just one convincing win all season. Their goal differential and underlying metrics suggest they belong in the Premier League's bottom half.

Their history makes each successive failure an alarming headline. Battered by Brighton. Collapse in Copenhagen. Beaten by Crystal Palace at home. But letdowns are no longer the exception; they're the rule. Palace, Copenhagen, Brighton and Bournemouth -- like Norwich, Sunderland, Burnley, Bournemouth, Sheffield United, West Brom and Cardiff City in seasons past -- are all part of the same damning pattern.

It's a pattern recently compounded by off-field controversies. United's shameful mishandling



Manchester United has sat in a malaise for years now. Agencies

of Mason Greenwood, a young forward charged with attempted rape and assault, cast a pall over the club this summer. With the charges dropped after key witness withdrawals,

United executives reportedly planned to reintegrate Greenwood, only to backtrack amid internal and external backlash. They have, though, supported Antony, another young winger accused by multiple women of assault.

Meanwhile, yet another young winger, Jadon Sancho, has been exiled for refusing to apologize to manager Erik Ten Hag for his insufficient effort in training. Questions surrounding the Sancho saga -- and about the 23-year-old's future -- swirl to this day.

Now there are reports of more disillusioned players. United responded to those reports by banning journalists from news conferences last week. Problems are accumulating, the sale of the club is still pending, and Ten Hag's seat is increasingly hot.

But no one man is responsible for the intense malaise that envelopes Old Trafford. The pattern -- and the problems -- all stem from the same roots. United's reviled American owners, the Glazers, have allowed the club to decay and descend into cyclical dysfunction.

The dysfunction has yielded 10 grumpy years without a genuine Premier League title chal-

lenged football director, United promoted John Murtough, originally a David Moyes appointment, from within. And two-and-a-half years later, it seems that not much has changed.

United has reportedly invested in data, but investing financially and investing institutionally are very different matters. Data is information -- it must be used -- and at United, it seemingly hasn't been. Recent signings haven't been celebrated by the analytics community; they've apparently been Ten Hag's picks. And they haven't been good ones.

United has spent around \$500 million over the past 18 months, enough to completely transform any squad. But it spent more than half the sum on three premier signings: Antony, a flashy winger with viral highlights but unremarkable numbers in the notoriously open Dutch league; Casemiro, a then-30-year-old who's already declining; and Rasmus Hojlund, a 20-year-old whose primary qualification was 9 goals in 32 appearances during one Italian Serie A season at Atalanta (and, perhaps, a last name that accentuated comparisons to a fellow left-footed Scandinavian striker, Erling Haaland).

Hojlund might yet turn into a superstar. But Antony, with an appalling 0.07 assists per 90 minutes, clearly isn't one. Mason Mount, signed for around \$70 million this summer, isn't one. Lisandro Martinez could be, but he's injured.

But for now, there is just another disappointment to digest, a 12th loss in their past 23 games, a new low for the 20-time English champions. Bayern and Man United were incomparable on Tuesday. Liverpool, another rival that has soared into a different stratosphere, is up next this weekend. Ten Hag might or might not survive a 13th blow. But whether or not he does, the dysfunction will continue.

Yahoo!sports

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Manchester United slide out of Champions League

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Yanga Princess keen to strengthen striking area ahead season opener

By Guardian Correspondent

YANGA Princess head coach Charles Haalubono has opened up on the need to beef up the striking department ahead of the 2023/24 Tanzania Women's Premier League season.

The club will begin their league campaign with an away trip to Dodoma-based Baobab Queens on Thursday next week.

A difficult start to the season for Yanga Princess sees them face both Simba Queens and Fountain Gate inside the opening five games.

The trip to face Fountain Gate Princess will take place on January 10 just after the derby game with Simba Queens.

Yanga Princess under highly-rated Zambian coach Charles Haalubono will have another tough assignment in round six when they face defending champions JKT Queens on January 22.

The first heavyweight clashes of the season come in just the third round of fixtures as Simba Queens host Yanga Princess on January 3.

Haalubono's side finished third in the Community Shield following a penalty shootout victory over Fountain Gate on Tuesday.

Having seen his side fail to score any goal in the two games in Community Shield, coach Haalubono has said they are looking to reinforce the attacking area.

"We aimed to play in the final but the two games have opened my eyes. I have seen everyone, all those who have played, the level which they are. It gives me a clear picture of how we are going to start the season.

"We have to find strikers. Now it is the process of finding strikers, players who are hungry in front of the goal then we are going to have a good performance. We are able to defend, build out from the back, we are playing good football but the final third is lacking. We need at least three good finishers then we will say we will do better," he said.

Yanga Princess have struggled to replace Aisha Masaka who moved to Swedish side BK Hacken after her exploits in the Tanzania Women's Premier League.

Masaka was the top scorer in the 2020/2021 season in the Tanzanian Women's League with 35 goals in 20 matches.

In August, Yanga Princess also lost another dependable striker in Clara Luvanga.

The 18-year-old Tanzanian striker transferred to DUX Logroño in Spain and has joined the Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr FC.

Yanga's temporary transfer ban lifted by FIFA



Gael Bigirimana (Agencies)

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans can now sign new players after the temporary transfer ban on the club was lifted yesterday by the world football governing body, Fifa.

The club had been placed under an international transfer embargo due to an outstanding payment related to the release of Burundian international Gael Bigirimana in January 2022.

Bigirimana joined Young Africans as a free agent at the start of last season but was

deemed surplus to requirements six months later. He was let go in January to free foreign space in the team.

The former Newcastle United midfielder claimed

contract termination payments which had been left outstanding and raised the concern with Fifa.

After Bigirimana won his case at Fifa, Young Africans

were supposed to have paid him within 45 days since the decision was issued, but they did not adhere to the judgement.

The club was banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amount was paid.

The dispute has now been settled between the parties and the ban has been lifted.

Yesterday, TFF confirmed Young Africans can now sign and register new players.

"Initially, the player (Bigirimana) filed a case to Fifa against his former club [Young Africans] who did not pay him after the termination of his contract.

"He won the case and Yanga was required to pay him within 45 days after the verdict, but they did not, hence Fifa imposed a transfer ban on them.

"Following the fulfillment of his payment, TFF has also lifted the domestic transfer ban it imposed on Yanga," reads a statement by TFF.

The decision was also communicated to the club through correspondence

from a letter by Julien Deux, Fifa's head of judicial bodies. "We take note from the mentioned correspondence that the Creditor (Gael Bigirimana) has received the amounts due by the respondent, the club Young Africans SC, in accordance with the decision passed by Fifa. As a consequence, we inform you that the present proceedings are closed and hence, the registration ban imposed has been lifted," Julien Deux, head of Judicial Bodies (Adjudicatory) at Fifa, wrote in an email to the club and TFF.

Now that the ban is lifted, the NBC Premier League defending champions can prepare in full swing for the transfer window.

The 2023/24 mini-transfer window opens tomorrow and will end on January 15.

This development aligns with recent bans imposed on other Tanzanian teams, including Singida Fountain Gate who failed to pay Nicholas Gyan leading to a player registration ban and Tabora United who have had multiple bans.

Federation Cup now takes centre stage

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Federation Cup Round of 64 for the 2023/24 season will get underway today after draws were held last week.

On the menu today is an intriguing set of fixtures involving the topflight sides and minnows of Tanzanian football.

The giants were drawn apart with NBC Premier League sides clubs facing regional and non-league sides.

There will be a total of five fixtures, including four that pitting NBC Premier League sides against lower-tier teams. However, the big teams will

enjoy home advantage.

In the Capital City, Dodoma Jiji will welcome non-league side Magereza at Jamhuri Stadium. Last season Dodoma Jiji were eliminated at the quarter stage.

In Mbeya, Ifehu take on the Mt-wara-based side Rospa.

Ifehu, who have gone through two coaches this season, were knocked out of the Federation Cup quarter-final by Simba last season.

Simiyu side Kurugenzi, who play in the third-tier league, face JKT Tanzania at Chamazi Stadium while Greenland of Kagera will be entertained by Coastal Union at Mkwakwani Sta-

dium.

Rhino Rangers and Cosmopolitan will meet in an all-Championship affair at Uhuru Stadium.

Tomorrow will witness three games including the Singida Fountain Gate tie against Arusha City at Black Rhino Academy.

The tournament is played on a straight knock-out basis from the Round of 64, Round of 32, Round of 16 before the quarter-finals, and semi-finals take place leading to the final.

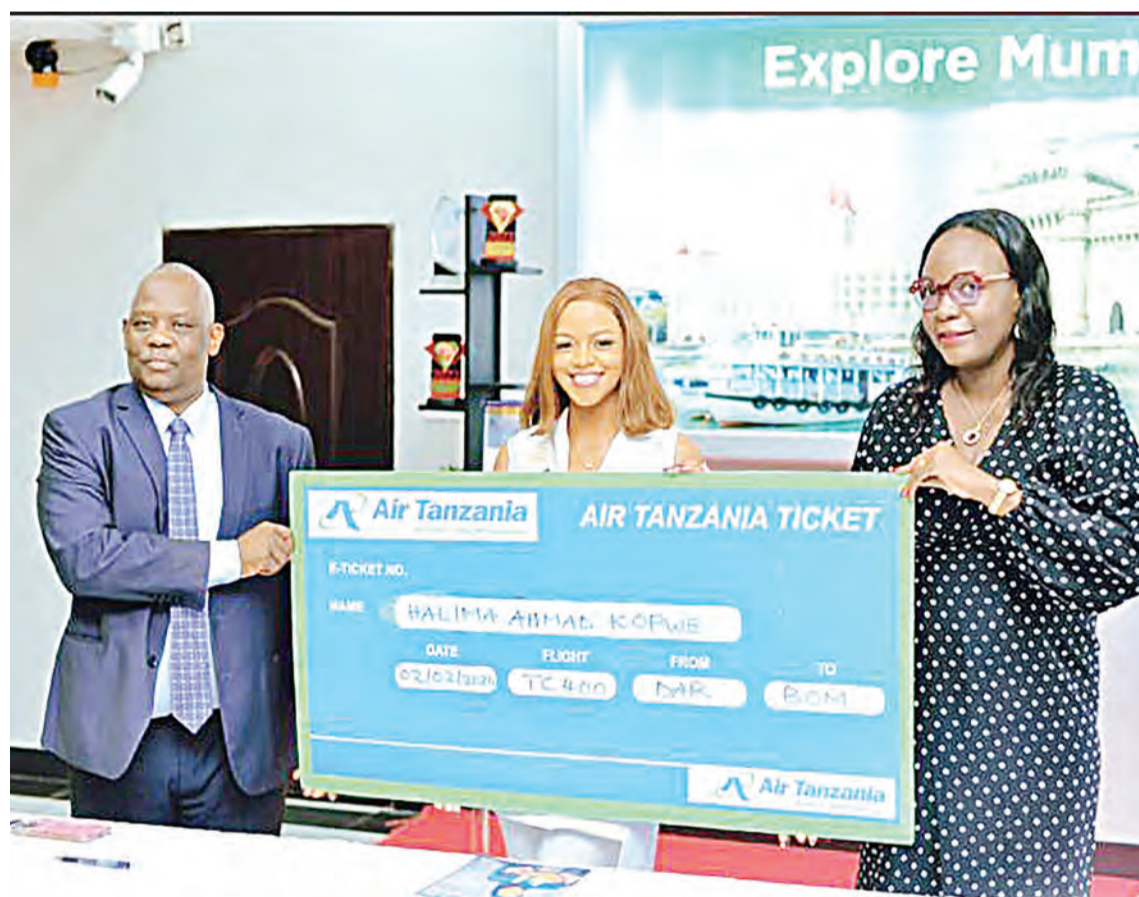
Winners from the round of 64 will take on each other in the round of 32 in January, 2024.

The round of 16 will take place in March while the quarterfinals are set for April.

The semi-finals will be played in May, followed by the final in June, 2024.

In addition to a trophy, medals for players and the technical bench and Tsh 50m prize money, the winner of the Federation Cup earns a ticket to represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup next season.

Young Africans are the defending Champions of the Federation Cup after a hard-fought 1-0 victory against Azam on Monday, June 12, 2023.



Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) has offered a business class return ticket to Miss World Tanzania Halima Kopwe (C) to participate in the Miss World Competition in India. The event was held on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam. Others are ATCL Managing Director Eng. Ladislaus Matindi (L) and The Look Company Limited Managing Director Basila Mwanukuzi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Coach Benchikha elated with midfield trio adjustments

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Abelhak Benchikha is elated with the latest improvements made by his midfield trio after bringing in structural balance in defense and attack since he took over at the club last month.

The Msimbazi Street side midfield is formed by Congolese ace Fabrice Ngoma, Malian combative midfielder Sadio Kanoute and Tanzanian Mzamiru Yassin in whom the Algerian gaffer said they have played a huge role in their squad.

Benchikha said he is confident with other players serving other positions but at the moment he has seen improvement in his midfielders and with time other areas will improve including the striking force.

"I am pleased with my midfield trio with the roles they play on the pitch. Playing on the centre area of the pitch is not easy, but with their ability to intercept the ball, defend and progress it forward I am more than pleased with their efforts.

"We still have challenges in our attacking line and that is because our strikers don't score enough goals, and we are working on the problem. We have to be decisive in decision making and that is the most important thing. Players should be in the right positions

in order to score enough goals.

Coach Benchikha said they need to win and have a good performance on both ends against Kagera Sugar to have a good game against Wydad Casablanca next week on Tuesday.

"We need to win on Friday to have the best desire and ultimate confidence for us to go against Wydad on Tuesday and win because winning is our only option to put ourselves in a better position and qualify for the quarter-finals.

"Our fans should come in big numbers to support us against Wydad Casablanca because it is a final match to us, it is our first final...we have to win, if we do not win, we stay with two points which cannot help us to qualify," Benchikha said.

Ngoma and Yassin played in the first game of the CAF Champions League against ASEC Mimosas with Kanoute coming off the bench and later Ngoma and Kanoute played two games against Jwaneng Galaxy and Wydad Casablanca as Yassin came off the bench.

Meanwhile, as it stands in Group B, ASEC Mimosas are on the top spot with seven points followed by Jwaneng Galaxy with four points while in third place are Wydad Casablanca with three points and Simba at the base with two points.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

