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Repair bridge that links two regions

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Govt eyes rise in soya seed yields

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Japan ready to assist in vast infrastructure improvement

Due to population growth it is vital to update technologies used in the construction of infrastructure so that what is built matches with current needs

By Guardian Reporter

EXPERTS at the Ministry of Works are working on an infrastructure master plan to match current economic and social needs, namely to ease transport in line with population increase countrywide.

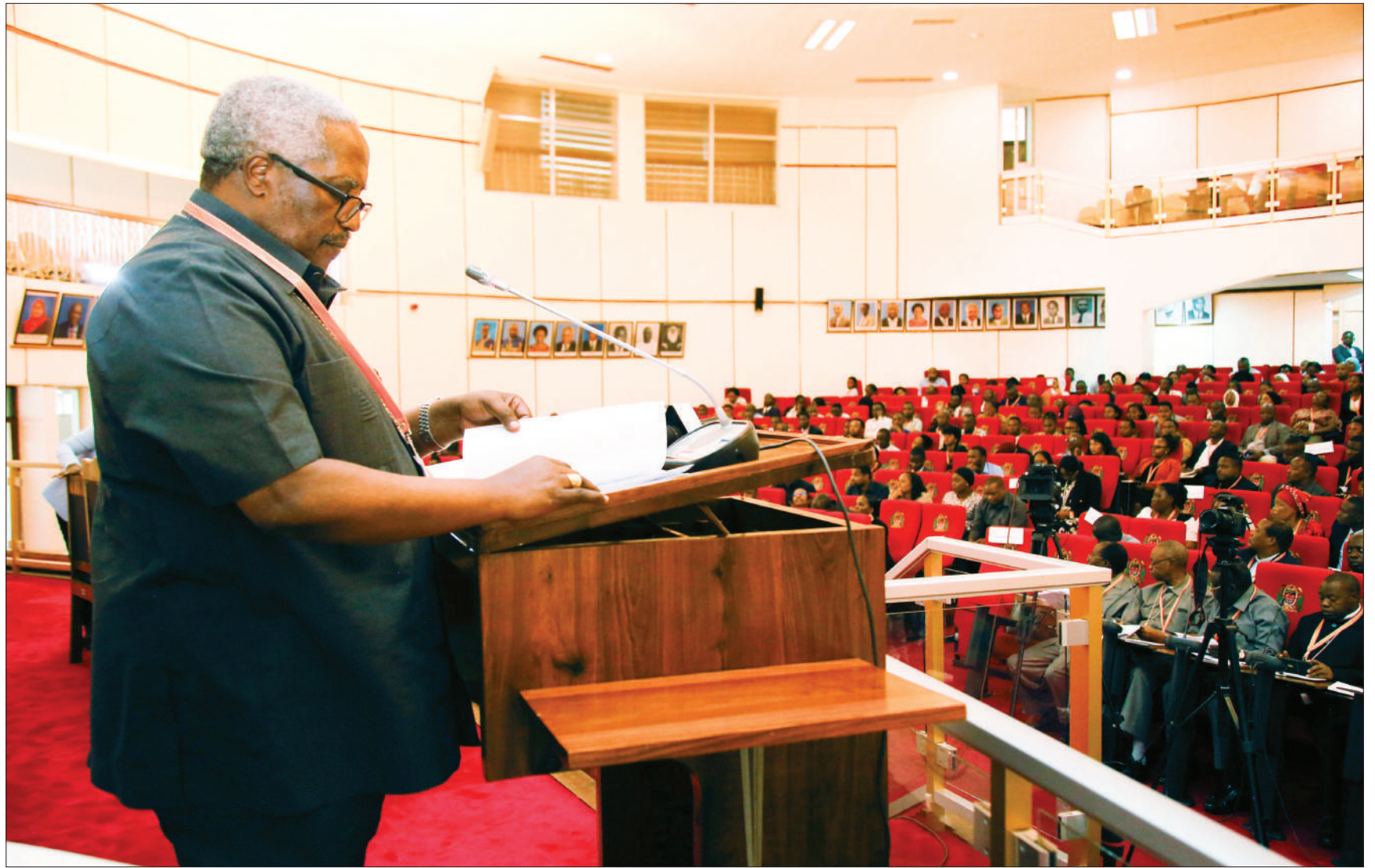
Innocent Bashungwa, the minister, made this observation when he met Konosuke Kokuba, the Japanese minister for Lands, Infrastructure, Transport

and Tourism who is a leading a delegation of experts in the field.

He said that the road infrastructure goes together with other infrastructure including railway, hence the need for liaison with the transport ministry to prepare a master plan to uplift the sector.

Gesturing at Tanroads, he asked the management to organise a collaborative platform with consulting experts

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Tanzania Episcopal Conference Social Services Commission chairman Bishop Juda Thadeus Ruwa'ichi pictured in Dodoma city yesterday presenting the church's views before the Parliamentary Administration, Constitution and Law Standing Committee. The committee is collecting the opinions of a cross-section of stakeholders on a pending amendment bill relating to the election of the President, Members of Parliament and councillors. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

SPORTS



AMROUCHE SLAMS TAIFA STARS PLAYERS OVER PERFORMANCE

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AFCON 2023: SQUADS FOR TOURNAMENT INCLUDING GHANA, NIGERIA AND EGYPT - 2

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PM sees graft over Ruwasa idling of well-drilling plant

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed anger over failure by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (Ruwasa) and the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Luwasa) in Lindi Region to use a new

water well drilling vehicle.

Visiting Ruwasa offices in Lindi municipality, he saw the water drilling plant being parked, with officials saying it was purchased in June last year, at which he demanded why officials had failed to fulfil their responsibilities and thus causing delays in using the vital equip-

ment.

He directed the Water minister Jumaa Aweso to step in by visiting the place to make an inspection of the gaps experienced in the municipality and agency offices, to determine the reason for the delay.

He demanded that the minister deliver a detailed report on why the drilling vehicle hasn't worked since it was purchased, noting that President Samia Suluhu Hassan handed water well drilling vehicles in June last year.

The intention was to facilitate drilling of wells in various areas and instead the plant has been

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured in Lindi municipality yesterday viewing motorbikes reportedly abandoned at the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Authority premises in Lindi municipality. The bikes are said to have been bought in 2021 to expedite service delivery to water user communities. Photo: PMO

MPs tour digital land services unit

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of the Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism standing committee of the National Assembly have toured the integrated land information system (LIS) centre, a programme conducted by a team of experts in Arusha to ease land conflicts and facilitate access to services.

Jerry Silaa, the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements minister, made this affirmation at a reception for committee members in Arusha yesterday, noting that the LIS system is expected to be put to use in Arusha, Dodoma, Mwanza, Mbeya and Tanga regions.

What is noticeable about the system is

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Third-quarter growth inches to 5.3 pc - NBS

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ECONOMIC growth in the third quarter of last year, from July-September 2023 edged up to 5.3 percent from 5.2 percent recorded in the same quarter a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has indicated.

It said in a statement yesterday that in the country's quarterly gross domestic product (QGD), economic activities that significantly contributed to this growth include agriculture at 14.2 percent growth, finance and insurance

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Japan ready to assist in vast infrastructure improvement

FROM PAGE 1

from Japan as they are in a position to help on how to put the plan to realisation.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has issued specific instructions for an enabling environment where local contractors can participate in mega projects, thus the ministry has initiated a procurement programme that it could not have pushed earlier.

In the discussion, the minister hailed the Japanese government for the support directed the sector since independence, noting that Tanzania was ready to work with Japanese companies.

The visit of the Japanese minister was timely as the government was working to restructure the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electron-

ics Services Agency (TEMESA), a major stakeholder in the maintenance of Japanese model vehicles extensively used in government departments, thus requiring technical assistance.

The visiting minister said that Japan was keen on strengthening relations between the two countries in the construction of quality infrastructure in ongoing projects and others slated for implementation.

Due to population growth it is vital to update technologies used in the construction of infrastructure so that what is built matches with current needs.

The meeting brought together experts from TANROADS, and Electrical TEMESA, the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) and the Japan-Africa Infrastructure Development Association (JAIDA).

PM sees graft over Ruwasa idling of well-drilling plant

FROM PAGE 1

left idle, he remarked, angered by officials who he said sit idly in offices.

What they are doing isn't good enough as they are all witnesses of the great efforts that the government is conducting to work on challenges of water supply everywhere.

"It is over six months now since the vehicle was purchased," he remarked, noting that other regions are using them and have already drilled a number of water wells. But Lindi hasn't drilled even one, the premier intoned.

He similarly queried why motorcycles purchased by Ruwasa in 2021 for the water users association weren't distributed to the various areas, affirming that leaving the motorcycle parked for over two years for not having been registered can't be tolerated.

"People's funds are being lost and you are here happy," he said, gesturing at regional and water agency officials.

Kennedy Mbangwa, a procurement officer at Ruwasa-Lindi said the agency has been working on getting permits for using the motorcycles from Ruwasa head offices without success.

Dissatisfied with this explanations, the premier instructed the regional office of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to investigate the matter.

He was equally uncomfortable with the unkempt environment at Ruwasa offices, remarking that the scenery does not match that of public offices, directing the management to work on the matter.

At the same time, the premier directed the Water ministry to evaluate the performance of the Drilling and Dam Construction Agency (DDCA) operated by Ruwasa to see if there is need for the agency to maintain its autonomous status.

Muhibu Lubasa, the Ruwasa regional manager, said the region is well prepared to start drilling water wells in various parts starting next month using the plant brought by the president.



It is over six months now since the vehicle was purchased, he remarked, noting that other regions are using them and have already drilled a number of water wells

Third-quarter growth inches to 5.3 pc - NBS

FROM PAGE 1

(13.0), as well as mining and quarrying at 10.4 per cent growth.

Areas of less rapid growth were transport and storage (9.1 per cent), construction (7.6) and manufacturing at 7.3 per cent, the statement affirmed, in the quarterly update showing the performance trend for all economic activities.

Quarterly updates facilitate policy interventions on the basis of timely reports on recent short-term economic developments, the bureau explained, noting that an update on the World Economic Outlook (WEO) for October 2023 showed that global growth forecast stood at 3.0 percent for 2023, unchanged from the WEO forecast back in July 2023.

Global economic growth increase was explained from improvement in the production and distribution of products, and further decrease in transportation costs, it said.

In addition, global inflation was projected to slow to 6.8 percent overall for 2023, from 8.7 percent average for 2023, it said, elaborating that the slight decrease in growth stemmed from a tighter monetary stance across central banks in major economies, aided by lower international commodity prices.

The WEO October 2023 report affirmed that economic growth among Sub-Saharan Africa countries would slow to 3.3 percent overall for 2023, from 3.5 percent projected in the WEO July 2023 report.

During the reference period, South Africa's economy was projected to grow at 0.9 percent, inching up from 0.3 percent earlier projected, while Nigeria's economy would see a decrease to 2.9 percent in 2023, from 3.5 percent

rate of growth set in the July 2023 forecast.

During the third quarter (July - September) 2023, South Africa's growth decreased to negative 0.2 percent from 1.8 percent for third quarter 2022.

Namibia's economy grew by 7.2 percent compared to 5.4 percent for third quarter 2022. Botswana's economy grew by 0.9 percent compared to 3.7 percent for the same quarter in 2022.

That means Tanzania's growth was faster by most regional comparisons, with exception of Rwanda, which released a report on its economic performance for the third quarter 2023.

During the period, Rwanda's economy grew by 7.5 percent, a decline from 10.0 percent registered for the third quarter in 2022, the statement noted.

It explained that the share of broad economic activities to GDP in the third quarter of 2023i had tertiary activities, mainly services, accounting for 42.5 percent followed by primary production activities at 32.7 percent and secondary activities, chiefly trading, accounting for 24.8 percent.



Global economic growth increase was explained from improvement in the production and distribution of products, and further decrease in transportation costs



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi exchanges greetings with the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Tanzania, Wiebe de Boer, at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

MPs tour digital land services unit

FROM PAGE 1

that it is expected to facilitate access to services relating to queries on land, where individuals may lodge complaints of demands through digital platforms and expect to obtain results within a short period, he said

When the task of improving the system is completed all information on land system improvements will be relayed through digital platforms, which will reduce congestion in land offices

across the country, he said.

Flateny Hassan, the digital systems director at the ministry, said the improvement exercise stemmed from the need to rectify noticeable shortfalls needing harmonisation, to involve the whole land sector being available in a common system.

"The work is being done by experts in Arusha and has since reached 85-percent," he said, noting that by June 2024 all the targeted first regions

will be reached.

The changes enables land officers to administer land issues from their offices while clients access land query resolutions through a mobile application, with the Lands ministry working to ensure that "land services are available in a better system for proper management and improvement," he stated.

In 2022, the World Bank approved new financing to strengthen national land administration and enhance ten-

ure security for at least two million people, namely occupancy title holders, users and their families.

The \$150m land tenure improvement project (LTIP) based in the ministry targets 14 regions, comprising 40 districts, where it seeks to facilitate the issuance of one million certificates of right of occupancy (CROs), 500,000 certificates of customary right of occupancy (CCROs) and one million residential licenses (RLs), he added.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko (R) unveils plaque in Zanzibar yesterday to launch a Zanzibar Water Authority building. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NAIROBI

KENYA Airways has been ranked as Africa's second most efficient airline in a global on-time performance review of airlines and airports.

The latest On-Time Performance Review report by aviation analytics company Cirium, reveals that the airline attained an impressive 71.86% on-time arrival rate out of 41,905 completed flights in 2023. Kenya Airways was overall ranked 10th in the Middle East & Africa region.

South Africa's Safair took top spot in Africa while Oman Air was the overall winner in the Middle East & Africa re-

Kenya Airways ranked Africa's second most efficient airline

gion.

An on-time flight is defined as a flight that arrives within 15 minutes of the scheduled gate arrival. For an airport, it is defined as departing within 15 minutes of its scheduled departure.

Cirium On-Time Performance program monitors global airline operational performance using informa-

tion, derived from an extensive array of sources including airlines, airports, and civil aviation authorities, offers a neutral, third-party perspective.

The program studies over 30 million flights a year.

The coveted position of the most on-time Global airline went to Avianca Airlines, based in Bogota, Columbia. Delta

Air Lines emerged winner in North America, with Iberia Express leading in Europe, Copa in Latin America, ANA in Asia Pacific, and Oman Air in the Middle East and Africa.

Safair triumphed as the leading low-cost carrier. US Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport emerged as the top global airport performer in 2023.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) has an audience with United Methodist Church head bishop Dr Mande Muyombo at the legislative body's sub-office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Parliament

Serengeti women come with resources of their own in construction of house for village medic

By Marc Nkwame in Serengeti

IN one of the most historical moments, a team of women in Bokore Village of Mugumu, in Serengeti District have pooled in their own resources to construct a house for the doctor who will be attending at the newly built dispensary.

The Bokore Dispensary, set to start operating in April 2024, is among the projects being executed by the Trustees of the Tanzania National Parks through the Serengeti Ecosystem Development and Conservation Project (SEDCP).

"Villagers had written to the Tanzania National Parks requesting a dispensary because the residents used to trek long-distances seeking medical services especially mother and child care support," explained Robert Samuel Masobeji the TANAPA Conservation Officer II in charge of the Community Outreach Department.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funds the dispensary and other SEDCP projects through the German Development Bank (KfW)

But as the medical facility is nearing completion, women in Bokore Village realized that the Medical-in-Charge who will be serving at the soon to be inaugurated Dispensary will need a place to stay, so they decided to contribute money towards the construction of the residential quarters.

"We held a meeting under that tree and decided to start pooling in resources for the project," explained the Secretary of the Women Group, Robina Daniel Thomas, adding that in addition to raising funds they are also participating in the construction work.

Mwinoki Ramsa Magambo is one of the members of the Bokore Women Group responsible for the construc-

tion of the doctor's house who reveals there are 135 of them undertaking the project in appreciation of TANAPA's assistance.

"We used to trek long distances seeking medical services at Nyinchoka another village located more than ten kilometers from here," said Mwinoki.

She explained that many expectant mothers used to suffer the consequences.

"Some of us were forced to deliver our babies while on the way to hospital" recalls Mwinoki, pointing out that it was the reason why they have to show gratitude through building a doctor's house.

The Chairperson of Bokore Village Council, Juma Wambura said the facility is among the many projects that the local villages surrounding the Serengeti National Park benefit from conservation and tourism in the precinct.

"The dispensary will serve more than 1800 villagers of Bokore as well as residents of neighboring areas," said Wambura.



Villagers had written to the Tanzania National Parks requesting a dispensary because the residents used to trek long-distances seeking medical services especially mother and child care support

By Guardian Correspondent, Ludewa

'Coal, iron ore project to end importation of iron materials'

THE completion of the \$3b billion Mchuchuma/Liganga coal and iron ore project will end importation of key iron materials including iron steel bars, an official has said.

Project Manager from the National Development Corporation (NDC) Dr Witness Ishuza expressed the sentiments after a tour of the project by the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

She said they expect to have an iron ore processing plant to manufacture iron products and materials within the country.

"We expect that after completion will produce one million tons of iron which will be used to manufacture

steel bars, flat bars and others; therefore, we will not import such products," she said.

She told residents of the area to invest in various projects including livestock keeping for milk production to serve those who will be working at the plant.

Minister Dr Pindi said she was confident that the area was full of iron ore deposits saying this was the best time for people in the area to benefit.

She said the tour was aimed at

properly and legally looking at projects which involve natural resources and how they can benefit the general population.

The government signed a \$3 billion deal with China's Sichuan Hongda Co. Ltd Tanzania in September 2011 to mine coal and generate power in Mchuchuma and iron ore in Liganga, but the projects have never materialized due to the government's failure to reach an agreement with investors.

In 2022, the government issued a

15bn/- compensation to residents of the area who will pave the project where as they are now being sensitized to move out of the area for implementation of the project.

A joint venture between the Chinese company and NDC led to the establishment of the Tanzania China International Mineral Resources Limited (TCIMRL). According to the joint venture the government owns 20 per cent through NDC while SHG owns 80- per cent.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Mwinyi: Revolution has given us room for economic opportunities

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said that the 1964 revolution opened more rooms for various economic development opportunities for the isles including education.

Dr Mwinyi made the sentiments in Fuoni in the Zanzibar Urban West Region as part of marking 60 years of Zanzibar Revolution

He said the Zanzibar government has continued with various strategies of ensuring that education is a must for everyone to facilitate training of experts who will be essential in development.

He said the strategies have taken consideration into education, strengthening of infrastructure but mainly to improve education by establishing the teachers' commission and use of technology.

"We have started already, whereby in education we'll build 25 class-

rooms in Pemba and Unguja, we expect others to join the fray whereby a number classes will be constructed," he said.

He also said that children with school going age must be enrolled in school, complete their basic education and continue their studies at other levels and eventually succeed in joining university education so that the country can have its own professionals and make greater progress.

Dr. Mwinyi said that doing to commemorate the revolution and doing justice to the government which has made great efforts to ensure that it strengthens education services throughout the country.

Khamis Abdallah Said, permanent secretary, Zanzibar ministry of Edu-

cation and Vocation Training said that the construction of the Fuoni Primary School resulted from challenges faced by the children of the area due to the lack of classrooms that cause overcrowding of students.

With an average of 80 students per class, the school is run in a two-stream style.

He said the construction of the new school is being built with funds from the government of Zanzibar where a total of 7.826bn/- have been used until its completion.

"This school was built by the Turkish company ROK Development BV and managed by the Zanzibar Budding Agency (ZBA) where the construction officially began in May 2023 and ended in December 2023.



Abdallah Mitawi (in tie), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office (Union), makes remarks in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after construction engineer Lt Col Atupele Mwamfupe (R) had briefed a delegation led by the DPS on progress in the construction of one of the buildings in the national capital's Mtumba suburb meant for use by the VPO. Photo: VPO

OFFICE OF THE TREASURY REGISTRAR



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER IN PUBLIC AND STATUTORY CORPORATIONS

1. Background information

The Office of the Treasury Registrar (OTR) was established by the Treasury Registrar (Powers and Functions) Act, CAP 370, with custodian, supervisory and advisory role over all public investments and other properties of Public and Statutory Corporations (PSCs). OTR is also responsible for private investments where the government owns shares in trust for the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. The OTR's mission is to ensure effective and sustainable contribution of PSCs to national development by focusing on operational excellence commercial viability and optimal service delivery. In achieving this, the Office is undergoing deepened reforms that also involves PSCs boards of directors restructuring and realignment.

The board is an apex body that plays a crucial role in guiding the strategic direction and governance of these institutions. Therefore, recruiting a right mix of board members is vital for any result-oriented organization. It is on this basis that OTR is developing an up-to-date detailed database of such ideal board members.

OTR is seeking capable and qualified candidates to apply for board positions in PSCs working on the following sectors,

- Oil and Gas
- Mining and Mineral Exploration
- Energy and Utilities
- Financial Institutions
- Tourism and Hospitality

2. Required minimum qualification and experience

- Interested candidates must possess the following;
- Relevant academic background in the sector applied
 - Having worked in senior decision-making position(s)
 - Previous board experience is an added advantage in diverse sectors
 - Conversant with strategic direction of the upcoming Tanzania vision 2050

OTR will conduct a transparent and fair selection process in compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements governing the respective PSCs. The prospective directors are both for public corporations where the government has 51% ownership or more, as well as for the minority interest.

3. How to apply

- Interested applicants should send their CVs and accompanying motivation letter via email to recruitment@tro.go.tz addressing the Treasury Registrar.
- Closing date for receiving applications is 31st January, 2024.
- Qualified candidates' profiles will be deposited in a database upon successful interview process and favorable vetting results from responsible government authorities.

Issued by,
Treasury Registrar
08th January, 2024.

DPM urges managers to execute projects on time

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DEPUTY Prime Minister and minister for Energy Dr Dotto Biteko has called upon project managers to execute those projects timely so that the targeted people benefit as intended.

Dr Biteko made the call yesterday here when launching new offices for the Zanzibar Water Agency (ZAWA) located at Mueembe Madaema Street in the Isles.

He said the launch of the project will help people in the area to access safe water and address challenges facing them on a daily basis.

"It is necessary to serve people, water is a necessity and precious liquid which is important in human life," he said.

Speaking on the project, ZAWA Director General Dr Salha Kassim said the construction of the project was

worth \$92.8 million under the administration of the agency.

He also said that the project is divided into three parts, including the water tanks project in Mkorogo and the Masingini Scheme project, including the training office.

Minister of Water, Energy and Minerals Shaibu Hassan Kaduara, said Zanzibar has taken a big step towards supply of clean water and electricity services in many areas of Unguja and Pemba.

He also said that they expect to build 25 huge water projects in Ukusini Unguja Region and asked the citizens continue to take care of the new infrastructure so that they last long.

"It is necessary to serve people, water is a necessity and precious liquid which is important in human life"



Dr Faustine Ndugulile (4th-L), legislator for Dar es Salaam's Kigamboni constituency, presents a school bag yesterday to one of 400 orphans from nine centres based in the city. It was assistance from Lalji Foundation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Repair key bridge linking Songwe, Rukwa regions, TANROADS urged

By Guardian Reporter, Songwe

DEPUTY Minister for Works, Eng Godfrey Kasekenya has directed the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to immediately repair a bridge connecting Songwe and Rukwa regions which has been destroyed by the ongoing rains.

He said that the bridge through Rukwa River has been destroyed thus affecting communications between the two regions.

Kasekenya made the directives yesterday when he inspected the bridge saying that the executives need to work hard to repair the bridge and restore communications in the areas.

"This bridge is very important in stimulating economic growth; its destruction has halted and affected various social and economic activities here, so we should supervise to ensure that it is repaired on time," he said.

He also urged citizens to continue protecting roads infrastructure in order to last long and benefit more generations which also include avoiding working in water sources.

The deputy minister also wanted TANROADS and the Road Fund to ensure that they conduct regular visits in various roads and bridges especially during the rainy seasons where many areas are affected by floods.

...that the bridge through Rukwa River has been destroyed thus affecting communications between the two regions

TANROADS manager for Rukwa region, Eng Mgeni Mwanga said that already a team of experts from various parts are at the area and were working day and night to restore communications of the bridge.

Nyakia Ally, Sumbawanga district commissioner in Rukwa region said that the ongoing heavy rains have brought a lot of effects in various parts destroying farms, houses, roads and bridges.

He thanked TANROADS and the whole team for commencing the repair work at the bridge connecting the two regions.

"We thank the sixth phase government for the continued efforts to bring development to people as well as ensuring that it responds on time whenever challenges occur, the ongoing rehabilitations at the damaged bridge will bring relief to the residents," he said.

Uganda denies report about Nigeria rejecting its degrees

KAMPALA

THE National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) denies allegations that Uganda may face Nigeria's rejection of its degree certificates over authenticity concerns.

Prof Mary Okwakol, NCHE's executive director, clarified that there have been no complaints from Nigeria about the legitimacy of Ugandan academic papers. NCHE investigates complaints related to higher learning institutions and takes appropriate action.

Contrary to reports, Nigeria has not suspended accreditation for Ugandan degrees. Prof Okwakol urged anyone with evidence of fake degrees to provide information for necessary action.

Educationist Rose Stella Akongo cautioned against obtaining degrees in under two months, urging vigilance against substandard courses. The

Ministry of Education refrained from commenting until formal communication is received.

Last year, a Ugandan student faced challenges in a UK university due to an allegedly expired undergraduate course. NCHE directed universities to submit programs for review, with 2,395 out of 4,369 accredited degree programs in the final stages.

Makerere University investigated fake degree awards, urging employers to verify degrees. Kyambogo University's Vice Chancellor, Prof Eli Katunguka, pledged to revoke degrees obtained fraudulently. Some Ugandans were reported using genuine academic documents that did not belong to them.

Last week, Nigeria announced an expansion of its suspension of degrees accreditation, encompassing additional countries such as Kenya and Uganda.

This decision follows the recent

suspension of accreditation for degrees obtained from institutions in Benin and Togo.

Nigeria's Education Minister Tahir Mamman stated: "We are not going to stop at just Benin and Togo. We are going to extend the dragnet to countries like Uganda, Kenya, even Niger here where such institutions have been set up."

This move is a response to the revelation of fraudulent qualifications from foreign degree mills, as exposed by the Daily Nigerian newspaper. In an undercover investigation, reporter Umar Audu detailed how he acquired a degree for a four-year program from a Benin university in under two months.

Expressing his firm stance, Mamman asserted, "I have no sympathy for those with fake certificates from foreign countries. They are not victims but part of the criminal chain that should be arrested."

South Africa to reopen inquiry into probe deaths of apartheid

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa will reopen an inquiry into the murder of four anti-apartheid activists which became one of the era's most notorious crimes but remains unsolved nearly four decades on.

Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said in a statement dated January 5 that it was "in the interests of justice to fi-

nally bring closure to the families of the deceased who have been waiting decades for the truth about who killed their loved ones". Lamola added the move was needed for "confidence in the justice system to be restored".

Two inquests were held - in 1987 and 1993 - but "produced more questions than answers".

The so-called Cradock Four were abducted and murdered while return-

ing home to the southern town of Cradock in June 1985 after a meeting.

The bodies of the four - Matthew Goniwe, Sparrow Mkonto, Fort Calata and Sicelo Mhlauli - were discovered days later, badly burnt and with multiple stab wounds.

The security forces under the apartheid regime were suspected of being behind the killings. But no one has been brought to justice.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/TANZANIA HESHIMU BAHARI ACTIVITY SCOPE OF WORK

Position: Chief of Party

Background: The USAID/Tanzania Heshimu Bahari (Respect the Ocean) Activity is a five-year project that aims to improve the ecological resilience and productivity of Tanzania's high marine biodiversity areas. Tanzania's coral reefs are among the world's fifty most climate-resilient reefs based on biological and oceanographic characteristics, and Tanzania's marine and coastal ecosystems support a diverse range of coral reefs, seagrasses, open-ocean pelagic habitats, and mangroves. Not only do the ecosystems support species such as dugongs, sea turtles, and sharks and rays, but they also support a variety of livelihoods such as artisan fishing, aquaculture, and marine/coastal-related tourism activities. Overfishing, poorly planned infrastructure projects, and climate change all threaten not only these ecosystems and their fauna and flora, but also livelihoods and food security. These obstacles, together with the lack of a functional marine management area (MMA) framework, underdeveloped governance systems, insufficient funding, and an unincorporated private sector, severely limit effective management and measurable impact in marine biodiversity conservation.

To help address these challenges, Heshimu Bahari aims to establish an enabling environment and science-driven framework for sustainable MMA and wild-caught fishery co-management by government, communities, and the private sector. The Activity has four integrated objectives:

1. Strengthening the enabling framework for a network of MMAs and Fishery Replenishment Zones (FRZs) to support biodiversity conservation, climate resilient communities, and sustainable wild-caught fisheries.
2. Community co-management of MMAs/wild-caught fisheries and climate resilience strengthened.
3. Private sector investment in MMAs and wild-caught fisheries expanded.
4. Integration of relevant science to MMA and fisheries policy and management improved.

Position Description: The Chief of Party will oversee technical implementation, contract management, communications, and personnel management in compliance with USAID regulations and Tanzanian law. Specifically, the Chief of Party will provide overall strategic vision and leadership in the design and implementation of all technical interventions and serve as the primary point of contact with USAID/Tanzania on day-to-day contract implementation. The Chief of Party will ensure program activities are carried out in a timely manner, and within the budgetary and programmatic framework. The Chief of Party holds ultimate responsibility for the quality and timeliness of Heshimu Bahari's reporting and communication efforts, data quality, and clarity of deliverables.

The Chief of Party must operate effectively, build partnerships with relevant institutions and structures, work in a collaborative manner, and reinforce performance monitoring and accountability for staff and partners, building trust, transparency, and rapport among partners. The Chief of Party must be a strong and frequent communicator, able to effectively communicate through oral and written communication with USAID, Chemonics-Washington, government counterparts, civil society, and private sector stakeholders. The Chief of Party shall motivate staff to perform effectively to achieve the Activity's objectives and provide mentorship to empower staff to grow professionally. The Chief of Party will travel within Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar as necessary to ensure effective management and oversight of the Activity.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide overall vision, leadership, management, and technical direction for the Activity to ensure that relevant, productive, and complementary interventions are implemented effectively.
- Maintain quality control over all project operations and performance targets, ensuring that deliverables outlined in the Activity contract are completed in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- Serve as the face of the Activity, developing and maintaining rapport with USAID, government counterparts, civil society, and the private sector.
- Lead work planning, performance management, MEL, communications, contractual and budgetary aspects of Activity, and timely preparation of the annual work plan.
- Maintain open communication with USAID, project office staff, and Chemonics' headquarters.
- Supervise personnel, subcontractors, and select grantees across objectives and multiple offices, and facilitate linkages between technical and operational teams.
- When required, modify strategies, approaches, and interventions based on evidence derived from MEL/CLA processes

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management or related field; Marine Conservation or Fisheries Management preferred, or Bachelor's degree in related field plus equivalent years of experience required;
- At least 12 years of senior-level management experience in the design, implementation, and management of natural resource management activities of similar size, complexity, and setting;
- Leadership skills and experience in building and maintaining productive working relationships with a wide network of institutional stakeholders, including host governments at all levels, which may have divergent interests;
- Demonstrated ability to build teams and foster collaboration to achieve activity goals, meet activity milestones, and produce quality results;
- Demonstrated experience in institutional strengthening;
- Experience working in Tanzania preferred;
- Exceptional English written and verbal communication skills; and
- Fluency in Kiswahili preferred, but not required.

Period of Performance and Reporting: On/about February or March 2024 through the life of project. The position will be based in Dar Es Salaam, reporting to Chemonics International's Heshimu Bahari Project Management Unit's Director.

Application Instructions: Applications must be submitted by February 01, 2024 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Early applications encouraged. No telephone inquiries, please.

Please apply here. Link:

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Ikungi district commissioner Thomas Apson (R) has a word yesterday with residents of Mwankhalaja village in Mgungira ward, where rains have demolished 22 houses. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Southern highlands regions face shortage of maize seeds

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

SOUTHERN highlands regions are facing acute shortage of maize seeds, a situation which is affecting farmers who are currently working hard to ensure that their farms are planted.

A random survey conducted by this paper in various parts of Mbeya city found a number of farmers passing in shops searching for maize seeds without success.

Julius Mapunda, a farmer from Songea, Ruvuma Region said that due to shortage of seeds in the region he was forced to travel miles away to Makambako then Mbeya searching for the seeds.

"I have walked in various shops in Songea, there is no maize seeds, it was when I decided to take bus to Makambako in Njombe region but I also got nothing, I took another bus to Mbeya but I have also missed the seeds," Mapunda lamented, asking the government to intervene and provide immediate answer for the problem.

Rukia Mwaibanza, a maize farmer in Mbozi district, Songwe Region said that farmers are now under pressure because the planting season is ending and seeds are not found in shops.

"I have gone to Tunduma, Vwawa ana Mlwo areas, there are no seeds,

my last hope was for Mbeya city but when I arrived here I was surprised because the input shops have no maize seeds," she explained.

Speaking on the situation, Elias Torio, the director of Pannar Seeds Company in Southern Highlands admitted that many shops are now facing the challenge in this period.

According to him, the seeds shortage has been contributed by the conducive farming environment which has been put by the government thus attracting more people in the agriculture sector higher than the estimation of seeds importation.

He however said that another consignment of seeds is set to arrive in the country soon and this will completely address the shortage.

"I have gone to Tunduma, Vwawa ana Mlwo areas, there are no seeds, my last hope was for Mbeya city but when I arrived here I was surprised because the input shops have no maize seeds"

Lushoto District water project: Govt demands execution completion

By Guardian Correspondent, Lushoto

THE Deputy Minister for Water Maryprisca Mahundi has given seven-day ultimatum to the Rural Water Supply Agency (RUWASA) in Lushoto District, Tanga Region, to complete the laying of water pipes for the 2.8 kilometers project in the area.

He said the aim of the directives was to ensure that people of Ubiri and Ngulwi ward get water services timely.

Malindi was speaking when speaking to various leaders after inspecting the construction of water projects at Magamba, Irente, Yoghoi and Ngulwi in Lushoto district.

The minister also directed the contractor responsible for the project to speed up the construction process so that the project is completed on time.

He said the government was ensuring that project is completed on time so that 30,835 residents of Magamba, Kwesimu, Bara, Jegestal, kambi namba nne, Chakechake, Kitivo, Maguzoni, Sinza, Lushoto Mjini, Mabwawani, Kipembe get the precious liquid timely.

Member of Parliament for Lushoto Shaban Shekilindi hailed the government for implementing the water project in the area saying this will help people in the area to get the precious liquid.

The legislator said contractors implementing the projects to finalise on time so that the residents can get the services timely.

"... the aim of the directives was to ensure that people of Ubiri and Ngulwi ward get water services timely"

Zambia's cholera deaths near 200 as government heightens surveillance

By Jerry Owili

THE number of cholera deaths in Zambia rose to 195 over the weekend as the government upped health surveillance measures to curb further spread of the virulent disease.

Some 5,071 cases have been confirmed in the southern African country.

Speaking at a press briefing over the weekend, Health Minister Sylvia Masebo noted that about eighty percent of recorded deaths are attributed to patients reporting to health facilities at a late stage.

Masebo urged the public to promptly report any suspected cases to their nearest health facilities to prevent further fatalities.

Cholera is transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water, and can cause severe acute watery diarrhoea. Severe forms of the disease can kill within hours if left untreated.

The Zambian health minister said the government was collaborating with various stakeholders, including military wings, to address the cholera outbreak comprehensively.

Zambia has experienced multiple cholera outbreaks since January 2023, affecting 20 districts.

The latest outbreak, first reported in October, has persisted despite various mitigation efforts by health authorities.

In light of the outbreak, the government postponed the opening of schools by three weeks.

KCB BANK Tariff Guide

SERVICE	TZS	USD/EURO	KES	GBP
STATEMENTS				
Monthly Statement	free	free	free	free
Duplicated Statements per page (excluding community account)	2,000 per page/Free via email	1.30pp	78pp	0.70pp
Interim Statement per page (excluding community account)	2,000 per page/Free via email	1.30pp	78pp	0.70pp
Balance Enquiry	1,500	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
ATM VISA DEBIT CARD				
ATM Card Issuance (for the first time)	7,500.00	5	n/a	n/a
ATM withdrawal from KCB ATMs (per transaction)	1,000.00	equivalent	n/a	n/a
ATM withdrawal from Non-KCB ATMs (Tanzania)	2500	1.3	n/a	n/a
ATM withdrawal from Non-KCB ATMs (International)	6500 per each 400,000 limit	3.3	n/a	n/a
ATM mini statements	free	free	n/a	n/a
Daily Limit	2,000,000.00	equivalent	50000	equivalent
POS and E-commerce daily limit	5,000,000.00	2,500	n/a	n/a
Minimum withdrawals	5000	equivalent	n/a	n/a
ATM Card Replacement (lost/ destroyed cards)	7,500.00	5	n/a	n/a
Blocking/unblocking ATM cards	free	free	n/a	n/a
Card Renewal	7,500.00	5	n/a	n/a
Quarter maintenance fee	1,000	1	n/a	n/a
Camera viewing	30,000	equivalent	n/a	n/a
STANDING ORDER				
within KCB	2500	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Outward to other banks	5000	3	n/a	n/a
Setup/Amend Standing Order	8,000.00	7	500	4
Unpaid Standing Order (penalty)	10000	10	500	10
CHEQUES				
Unpaid Cheque (insufficient funds) - Outward	15000	13	n/a	n/a
Unpaid Cheque (insufficient) - Inward	65000	52	n/a	n/a
Unpaid Cheques - technical	15000	15	n/a	n/a
USD unpaid cheque	52	52	n/a	n/a
Counter Leaves	13000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Bankers Cheque	30,000.00	30	n/a	13
Stop payment per set up	25000	25	1300	13
New cheque book retail	600 per leaf	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
TT'S INTERNATIONAL				
Outward	55USD(equivalent) over the counter /45 USD(equivalent) for IB	55USD over the counter /45 USD for IB	equivalent	equivalent
Inward TT (excluding community accounts)	13USD (TZS equivalent)	13USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
Recall of funds/Cancellation of TT	10USD (TZS equivalent)	10USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
Intercompany transfers (KCB to KCB Regional Transfers)	40USD (TZS equivalent)	40USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
Amendment of TT (Customer induced)	10USD (TZS equivalent)	10USD (Euro equivalent)	equivalent	equivalent
TRANSFERS LOCAL				
KCB to KCB	3,000 over the counter /1,500 on IB	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
EFT (KCB Tanzania to any local bank)	3500 over the counter /1,500 on IB	3	n/a	n/a
TISS/local TT (excluding community account)	10000	13	n/a	n/a
East African Payments (EAPS)	10000	n/a	870	n/a
MINIMUM A/C OPENING BALANCE				
Current Account-Compa - ny(SME&CORPORATE)	100000	100	5000	13
Current-Personal	50000	100	5000	65
Mapato Account	10000	10	500	10
KCB Junior Account	10000	10	500	10
KCB Student Account	10000	10	500	10
KCB Simba Savers	50000	50	n/a	n/a
A/C CLOSURE				
Closing account	Free	39	2200	26
OTHER SERVICES				
Search of old documents	20,000	13	900	10.5
Forex Cash Deposits (smaller denominations below US \$ 50)	n/a	8% for denominations that are less than USD 50	n/a	8% for denominations that are less than USD 50
Dormant Account Activation	free	free	free	free
ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE FEES				
Counter Withdrawals (excluding Simba TZS, Cub & Community)	<10million 2500 - 10million 0.1% max 20000	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
Ledger Fees - Current Accounts (excluding community and salary)	personal current account 10,000, business 20,000, corporate account 30,000	personal current 10USD/Business 16USD/Corporate 20USD	700	personal current 10GBP/Business 16GBP/Corporate 20GBP
Ledger Fees - Savings Accounts (Exclude Simba, Cub, Salary & Student Accounts)	Mapato 1,500	7	176	7
THIRD PARTY ENCASHMENT				
Withdrawal fee to be paid by the beneficiary	6500/13USD	13	13	7
Annual setup fee (SME's and Corporate) to be paid in by the account holder	50,000	50	4400	33
SALARY PROCESSING				
Salary processing	4,000 over the counter / 3,000 IB	equivalent	130	equivalent
CERTIFICATE OF BALANCE				
Balance of Account (Flat fee per certificate)	39000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Auditors Confirmation (flat per certificate)	30000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
Reference Letters	30000	equivalent	equivalent	equivalent
TRADE FINANCE				
IMPORT LETTER OF CREDIT				
LC ISSUANCE/extension/increase amount	130 USD		1.3% Per Quarter	
Normal Amendment	20 USD			
Release Commission/LC document processing	0.30% minimum 100 maximum 200			
RETIREMENT	260 USD			
EXPORT LETTER OF CREDIT				
ADVISING	200 USD			
NEGOTIATION	0.60% min 200 max 300			
DISCOUNTING	0.80%			
AVAILIZATION	0.80%			
DOCUMENTS FOR COLLECTION				
Documents HANDLING FEE	150 USD			
COURIER	150 USD			
GUARANTEE				
Issuance fee	1.30%			
AMENDMENT/Reduce of amount	130 USD			
DISCREPANCY	55 USD			
EXAMINATION				
OTHERS				
SWIFT	50 USD			
Tracer	50 USD			
COURIER	150 USD			
MOBILE BANKING CHARGES				
Balance enquiry	free			
Mini statement	300			
Invite Friend	free			
Cheque book	300			
Stop cheque	300			
Stop card	300			
Change Pin	free			
Full statement	500			
BILL PAYMENTS				
TANESCO(LUKU)			1.1% of the transacted amount	
DAWASCO	1300			
DSTV	Free			
STARTIMES	Free			
ZUKU	Free			
SMILE	Free			
UJURU	Free			
AZAM	Free			
SASAFEL	Free			
SEND MONEY TO E-WALLET				
Mpesa				
Airtel Money	1000 to 100000 - 1000, 100001 to 200000 - 1500, 200001 to 400000 - 2000, 400001 to 600000 - 3000, 600001 to 800000 - 5500, 800001 to 1000000 - 7000, 1000001 to 2000000 - 10000, 2000001 to 3000000 - 15000.			
Tigo Pesa				
Eazzy Pesa				
FUNDS TRANSFER				
Own accounts	Free			
KCB accounts	1000			
IB TRANSACTION CHARGES				
M Pesa	5000-50000-1000, 50,001 to 100,000 - 1500, 100,001 to 200,000-2,500,200,001 to 400,000 - 3,000, 400,001 to 600,000 -3,500, 600,001 to 800,000 - 4,000, 800,001 to 1,000,000 - 5,000, 1,000,001 to 1,500,000 - 7,500,1,500,001 to 2,000,000-10,000, 2,000,001 to 2,500,000 - 12,500, 2,500,001 to 5,000,000 - 15,000.			
Airtel Money				
Tigo Pesa				
INTERCOMPANY TRANSACTION CHARGES				
Inter-company cash withdrawals charges	0 up to 60 USD charge 4 USD			
	60.01 up to 250 USD charge 7.50 USD			
	250.01 up to 1,250 USD charge 13 USD			
	1,250.01 up to 6,250 USD charge 26 USD			
	Above 6,250 USD charge 1.20% of daily cumulative withdrawals			
Inter-company cash deposit charges	0 up to 250 USD charge 3USD			
	Between 250.01-1250 USD charge 7USD			
	Between 1250.01- 6250 USD charge 13 USD			
	Above 6250 USD charge 0.60% of daily cumulative deposits			
Intercompany standing orders across all companies	Intercompany standing order 13 USD			
LOANS				
Processing/arrangement/appraisal fees				
Asset finance	2.40%			
Business loans	2.40%			
Overdrafts:	2.40%			
	2.40%			
	2.40%			
Penalty on unpaid loan instalment:				
Early repayment:	10% above approved rate			
Valuation fees:	NA			
Legal fees:	As per service provider rates			
Loan insurance fees:	1%			
Interest rates:	+ or - Base Lending Rate			
Personal loans:	19%			
Business loans:	+ or - Base Lending Rate			
*Base Lending Rate				
	19% for TZS and 9% for USD			
**All rates are subject to negotiation based on the product				
NB:				
1. All staff account will be charged when transacting over the counter and charges excluded on all digital platform				
2. Community account will be charged on salary processing over the counter and charges excluded on internet banking				

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Orphans in Dar receive essential school supplies

By Getrude Mbago

A TOTAL of 400 orphans and vulnerable children in nine centres in Dar es Salaam have been supported with essential school supplies such as uniforms, bags and shoes, thanks to a non-governmental organisation-Lalji Foundation for extending the assistance.

Speaking during the hand-over event in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, Kigamboni legislator, Dr Faustine Ndugulile who was the chief guest commended the foundation for extending a hand of support to the needy groups.

Dr Ndugulile urged parents to spend quality time with their children providing all the needed support for them to grow well academically and physically.

He also asked the whole society to support children living in difficult environments, including orphans, for them also to grow well and reach their potential. "A child has the right to be protected from all forms of harm. The public has a responsibility to prioritize child care, which also includes supporting orphanage centres that have been providing good care to homeless children," Ndugulile said.

He said that for a nation to achieve several of these development goals, having a strong workforce with mental and psycho-social wellbeing is a matter of paramount importance and this can be achieved if all children are well raised and protected.

According to him, parents should stop being too busy in other economic activities as material things cannot substitute for their love and affection

to children.

Dr Ndugulile noted that children are the greatest assets and future leaders who should be nurtured well to be able to play meaningful roles in future.

The foundation's director, Imtiaz Lalji, said that each child will have a pair of school uniform, a bag, shoes and socks.

He said this came after the organization visited various orphanages and found that many of them are facing a number of challenges with children lacking basic needs for school.

"At Lalji Foundation, we hold a deep commitment to providing love, care, and a brighter future for orphaned children. We understand the unique challenges and vulnerabilities these children face, and it is our unwavering mission to offer them a nurturing environment, educational opportunities, and a chance to thrive," he said.

He said that every child deserves the chance to dream and achieve their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

"By supporting orphans, we are not only changing individual lives but also contributing to a more compassionate and inclusive world," he said.

He added that the organization's unwavering commitment is to create a world where no one is left behind, where communities flourish, and where hope and prosperity are accessible to all.

Dar es Salaam regional Sheikh Walid Alhad Omari thanked Lalji Foundation for the continued efforts to bring changes in the societies by helping groups that are in need.



Jenista Mhagama (3rd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Transport deputy minister David Kihenzile (L) and Iringa regional commissioner Halima Dendego attend talks with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania secretary general Robert Kitundu at the weekend shortly before the consecration of Mufindi Diocese Bishop Dr Anthony Kipangula. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

59bn/- to compensate Bunda residents to pave way for Serengeti National Park

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE government is set to spend 59bn/- to compensate the residents in Nyatwali ward in Bunda District; Mara Region will vacate the area for the ecological development of the Serengeti National Park.

Regional Commissioner (RC) Said Mtanda informed the residents at a public rally held in the ward during the weekend.

The RC wanted the residents to be patient and continue engaging in their daily production activities while the government is working on the matter

and that no one will be evacuated to the area without being compensated.

"The evaluation exercise has been completed and sent to the Chief Government Valuer where more than 59bn/- is needed to pay compensation to 4,111 citizens who were valued and filled in form number 69 which is a special form to accept the estimation," Mtanda said.

He wanted the residents to remove fear and continue engaging in their daily income generating activities as the relocation exercise will not be conducted suddenly.

"Those who are in farms may

continue with their activities, we cannot come here and slash the crops, this exercise will consider all the rights and information will be provided prior to the vacation," he said.

Mtanda urged the residents to not listen to false rumors spread by people that the government will not compensate them, assuring them that all their rights will be considered.

He said that the government is making an effort so that every citizen of Nyatwali gets their due rights, and that during this period when it is preparing for compensation, citizens

should continue with their activities as well as sending pupils to school.

Earlier, Bunda Urban legislator, Robert Maboto asked the regional commissioner and district leaders to seek a way of meeting President Samia Suluhu Hassan to explain her ongoing situation in the ward as residents have been waiting for the compensations for a long time.

He said that there has been a controversy regarding compensation of the residents in the ward, and that the best way is for the regional leaders to seek the support from the President.

Boosting agriculture, food system resilience is critical for reducing poverty in CAR: WB report

BANGUI

REVIVING agriculture is critical to fostering economic growth and tackling widespread extreme poverty in the Central African Republic (CAR), says the World Bank's first Poverty Assessment report for the country.

With 70% of the country's working-age population dependent on farming, fixing agriculture offers the most direct way to improve livelihoods and feed people, says the report, released today.

Plagued by decades of conflict, political instability and low growth, CAR has one of the world's highest rates of poverty - almost 7 out of 10 people are extremely poor (65.7% are living on less than \$2.15 per day) and more than half are unable to afford enough food, even if they devote all their consumption to it, the report finds.

Among the population of more than six million people, many suffer from extreme non-monetary deprivations - almost nine out of 10 people have no access to electricity; secondary school enrolment is a meagre 16%; and only 2.5% of the country's roads are paved. "The urgency of stimulating economic growth and lifting Central Africans out of poverty cannot be stressed enough. Revitalizing agriculture, with broader support measures to provide social safety nets for the most vulnerable, develop human capital, and stimulate private sector development will be essential," said Ousmane Diagna, World Bank Vice President for Western and Central Africa.

The report provides new data to help better target development and social policies and programs to reach the most vulnerable. It identifies a roadmap to take on poverty with a focus on strengthening agriculture as a critical step towards generating economic growth and reducing food insecurity. Rainfed agriculture is prevalent throughout the country, with cassava, maize, rice, sorghum, and millet comprising the main staple crops. These activities are also potentially vulnerable to climate-related shocks.

However, agricultural productivity is low, constrained by lack of access to key inputs (such as fertilizers, irrigation, and equipment) and markets (lack of paved roads and limited trade). This underscores the importance of investing in infrastructure to improve farmers' access to markets for enhancing agricultural productivity and bolstering livelihoods.

The report suggests urgent and long-term initiatives to foster and sustain pro-poor growth and lift CAR's people out of poverty. These include strengthening:

Safety nets: Social safety nets can

help address the immediate need to lift Central Africans out of particularly extreme forms of deprivation and protect them from shocks. Currently, just 1% of Central Africans live in a household receiving government cash transfers and 14.3% live in a household receiving support in the form of food. As a result, Central Africans have adopted coping strategies - including reducing their food consumption - which could weaken investments in physical and human capital.

Human capital: Policies to build human capital, by investing in education, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene, can help trigger durable poverty-reduction. Developing human capital and basic infrastructure could reduce monetary poverty. Unfortunately, many Central Africans live prohibitively far away from schools, especially in remote and rural areas and especially at the secondary level; this is associated with lower school enrolment and higher poverty.

Infrastructure and trade: About 1 in 10 Central Africans need to walk more than one hour to reach a primary, secondary, or tertiary road. Upgrading infrastructure, especially electricity and roads, and macroeconomic reforms to boost trade and private investment can improve the foundations of poverty reduction.

Peace and security: Promoting peace and security is also critical, and all poverty-reducing policies must be formulated with sensitivity to displacement and CAR's conflict-affected environment.

"Maintaining the momentum on data collection could help design, implement, monitor, and evaluate the specific policies needed to improve the quality of life of the people of the Central African Republic," said Luis Felipe López-Calva, World Bank Global Director for the Poverty and Equity Global Practice.

The poverty assessment uses unparalleled microdata to generate practical policies to lift Central Africans out of poverty. The report draws primarily on the 2021 Survey of Harmonized Data on Households Living Conditions (EHCVM in French), the first household survey suitable for poverty measurement conducted in CAR in more than a decade. The EHCVM, implemented in partnership with the Central African Institute of Statistics, Economic and Social Studies (ICAES in French) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), collected data on a wide range of socioeconomic indicators including from CAR's internally displaced population.



Tanzania Teachers Union president Leah Ulaya (R) and secretary general Japhet Maganga (L) are seen walking together, discussing matters related to the union's views on envisaged amendments to the country's electoral laws before the Parliamentary Administration, Constitution and Laws Standing Committee. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DERNA, Libya

THE results of the judicial inquiry into the Derna disaster in Libya show that the dams that gave way last September were fragile.

Libya's Attorney General Al-Siddiq Al-Sour on Sunday said at least 25 experts were "unanimous in their assessment that negligence led to the disaster".

The results published last week said that the disaster could have been avoided if the recommendations made since 2003 to maintain these dams and build a third had been applied.

Derna flooding disaster could have been avoided, experts conclude

Massive flooding devastated much of the northeastern Libyan city on September 10 and 11, leaving 4,540 people dead, according to official figures.

The torrent of water washed away neighborhoods and damaged critical sewage and water infrastructure that has yet to be repaired according to the UN which also said at the time most of

the deaths could have been "avoided".

More than 30,000 people were displaced in Derna, and nearly a million people were affected by the floods according to the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Media reports stated that between September 9 and 10, some residents, mostly from the coastal areas, evacuated, but early on September 10,

Derna's Security Directorate, affiliated with the eastern government, ordered a full curfew from 7 a.m. until 8 a.m. the next morning, with instructions for only bakeries, pharmacies, gas stations, and medical centers to remain open. At 1:12 a.m., the Water Resources Ministry reassured residents under curfew that all dams in Derna had been inspected and were in good condition.

Flash floods damage 22 houses in Ikungi

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TWENTY-two houses in Mwanthalaja village of Mgunira ward in Ikungi District, Singida Region have been destroyed by floods following heavy rain pounded the area.

Ikungi District Commissioner, Thomas Apson said that the rains have caused harm to the residents but assured that the government was with them to provide immediate support to the victims.

In his visit to the village at the weekend, the DC said a number of villagers have no place to stay as their houses have been swept away.

He said that the government has provided the victims with tarpaulins which they will use to make temporary living tents.

"The government is here to ensure that we provide the essential and immediate support, so people should not worry but rather continue taking precautionary measures to avoid more impacts," he said.

He however wanted residents near rice farms to vacate and those planning to construct houses to stop their plans as these are the flood-prone areas.

Residents at the area asked the government and stakeholders to extend support to rescue them.

John Hamneta, one of the villagers said the floods have a number of homeless people who are currently starving as the available aids are insufficient.

He advised the government to immediately work on restoring the various social infrastructure services which had been destroyed by floods.

"Heavy downpour that smashed most areas of Mwanthalaja village caused a number of destructions, many people are homeless, they have no food, these floods have brought huge pain to our people, so as the government and stakeholders, we have to think on the measures to rescue these people," he said.

Anita John said children are not going to schools as they don't have uniforms and other essential needs.

"We are appealing for stakeholders to come and help us at least we get food and shelter and for our children to go to school," she said.

Last year, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) predicted heavy rains in 15 regions across the country potentially causing floods and disrupting economic activities as it warned residents to take precautions.

In a statement issued yesterday, TMA specifically mentioned regions of Dodoma, Singida, Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa, and southern Morogoro as likely to experience significant rainfall.

Other areas which were also on the alert for downpours were Kyela, Geita, Katavi, Kigoma, Tabora, Mwanza, Rukwa, and Shinyanga.

The TMA's severe weather forecast emphasised the potential impact, urging residents to prepare and take necessary precautions.

In August last year, TMA announced that most parts of the country were set to receive above normal to normal rains during the vuli season which is expected to be influenced by EL-Nino conditions.



The govt is here to ensure that we provide the essential and immediate support, so people should not worry but rather continue taking precautionary measures to avoid more impacts



This is one of the buildings being put up at the site of what is meant as a pre-primary school at Kamguruki village in Musoma Rural constituency, as found at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Agriculture ministry envisages annual rise in soya seed yields

THE Ministry of Agriculture is foreseeing a sharp annual increase in soya seed production because Tanzania is now using irrigated farms to produce the badly needed seed.

Gerald Mweli, ministry's Permanent Secretary told a soya stakeholders' meeting here that irrigation machinery have been installed in selected farms that are producing the seed and research on the crop continues in research institutes. Tanzania has entered a new age in the production of the seed, he said.

He did not give the number of farms or the budgetary increase to research centres, but said the new technology and the irrigation approach promises Tanzania an increase in annual production of the seed and an

increase in the number of growers.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Director of Implements and Value Addition, Eng. Anna Mwangamilo, the PS said soya has increasing significance and a broadening local and foreign market. "We shall be producing the seed more than once a year and we shall increase the annual budget of research centres in order to get best varieties of the seed," he said.

The meeting was jointly organised by the ministry and Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT). SAGCOT's

Programme Manager Tanzania Sustainable Soybean Initiative (TSSI), Abdallah Msambachi, said the idea behind the current production thrust is to produce competitive soya on the market and create jobs using the crop.

Soya is significantly grown in Ruvuma, Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa and Morogoro Region other regions with the potential and characteristics of soybean production are Tanga, Mtwara, Lindi, Kagera Mara, Kigoma, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara.

Tumaini Lupola, Iringa Farmers'

Cooperative Union (IFCU) general manager said although the soya business climate is friendly, production still remains low for a number of snags that have to be sorted out, including agriculture financing. On the average, he said, a farmer is supposed to harvest 1.5 tonnes of sipack variety in an acre, "but our farmer is currently harvesting 500 kilograms."

The meeting drew participants from the private sector, financial institutions and varied non-state actors in the soya industry.

Africa's hunger crisis: A call to action for investment in productivity enhancement

By Grace Ashiru

THE United Nations has issued a grave forecast, indicating that the hunger crisis in Africa is set to intensify dramatically next year, with an estimated 50 million Africans likely to face hunger. This alarming situation will bring the total number of hungry individuals on the continent to over 300 million, marking the largest single-year increase in this group.

Margot Vandervelden, the World Food Programme's acting regional director for Western Africa, has highlighted a dire scenario where inadequate funding will lead to even moderately hungry people missing meals and settling for less nutritious options. She warns this could lead to a vicious cycle of hunger and malnutrition. The World Food Programme attributes this impending crisis to soaring food prices, the impacts of climate change, and ongoing regional conflicts.

The Sahel region in Africa faces ongoing conflicts that have forced millions to flee their homes. The World Food Programme (WFP) reports a critical lack of funding to address these issues. Consequently, access to nutritious food is limited, disproportionately impacting women and children.

The area has seen a rise in armed insurgent groups, leading to the collapse of counterterrorism measures. This failure has created a space for terrorist organizations to flourish. The Council on Foreign Relations highlighted earlier this year that violent extremist organizations exacerbate the humanitarian crisis by attacking aid workers and exploiting the instability to recruit and control local populations across the Sahel. In countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Sudan, agricultural productivity is severely threatened due to the ongoing turmoil.

The Sahel region faces challenges beyond local disputes. The Russian invasion of Ukraine significantly impacted global wheat supplies, leading to the termination of the crucial Black Sea grain deal. This disruption caused the loss of vital grain shipments to Africa. Notably, in the

first half of 2023, the UN had sourced approximately 80% of its grain from Ukraine, distributing it to areas in dire need. The collapse of this deal resulted in skyrocketing food prices, making basic food items unaffordable for many. Most affected regions are still struggling to find ways to recover.

Additionally, climate change poses a growing threat to Africa. The continent is disproportionately affected by the consequences of worldwide emissions, especially in terms of food production. Despite this, there seems to be a lack of urgency in addressing Africa's vulnerability to this crisis. A food systems specialist, Florian Kroll, expressed disappointment in the COP28 declaration, stating it "dismally fails Africa."

At the summit, leaders from Africa and the Middle East introduced a \$10 billion project to fund technological advancements in agriculture and farming. This initiative is intended to assist millions suffering from climate-related food insecurity.

While some leaders in Africa have praised the initiative, various experts contend that the expansion of traditional agriculture could exacerbate environmental harm and raise Africa's greenhouse gas emissions. "Africa will be more impacted by climate change than other continents," noted Kroll from the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies. Pursuing more sustainable food systems holds promise, but he warns, "Without a complete overhaul of the food production system, the impact will be minimal."

Yet, the challenge isn't limited to agricultural productivity. Many regions are also experiencing an industrial dry spell. This year, due to harsh macroeconomic conditions, several companies, including international corporations, have downsized or ceased operations. This situation has a complex effect on both inflation and unemployment rates.

The core issue for Africa isn't hunger, but rather productivity. Hunger is merely a symptom of this larger problem. Therefore, there is a significant opportunity for businesses willing to invest in enhancing African productivity.



Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdalla, cuts the ribbon yesterday to launch Mkoani Port on Pemba Island following major repairs at the facility. Photo: Correspondent Suleiman Rashid Omar

African farmers soon to be insured to the tune of \$1bn

By Inès Magoum

MORE than 40 million farmers in Africa could soon benefit from financing to manage the risks to their crops from climatic phenomena such as floods and drought. The African Development Bank (AfDB) recently announced the creation of the \$1 billion African Climate Risk Insurance Facility for Adaptation (ACRIFA). The funds will be allocated to farmers in the form of concessional loans, high-risk capital or grants.

The year 2023 ended with good news for farmers in Africa. They should now benefit from financial support from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to help them manage the risks associated with climate shocks to their production. On 3 December 2023, the financial institution presented its plan to create the \$1 billion African Climate Risk Insurance Facility for Adaptation (ACRIFA), which aims to provide insurance against the severe

consequences of climate change to more than 40 million farmers across the continent.

"We need to support farmers, not abandon them, in the face of increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as drought, floods and pest infestations. At present, over 97% of farmers in Africa have no agricultural insurance. Their only insurance is prayer. When they sow, they pray for rain. When they harvest, they pray that there will be no rains or pests, and when they market their crops, they pray that prices will not collapse", lamented Akinwumi Adesina, President of the AfDB, during the presentation of ACRIFA.

Once in place, the insurance facility portfolio will be distributed to farmers in the form of concessional financing, high-risk capital or grants. The aim is also to strengthen food security in Africa and open up commercial opportunities for the global insurance sector.

Support from the World Food Programme

In Central and West Africa, for example, the number of people without regular access to safe and nutritious food reached 48 million during the lean season from June to August 2023 (the period of the year before the first harvests, when there is a shortage of produce from previous harvests), according to a United Nations report. In addition, "ACRIFA will bring together key players to facilitate large-scale implementation, establish links between stakeholders and enable insurance to reach a greater number of the continent's most vulnerable people", said Beth Dunford, AfDB Vice President for Agriculture and Human and Social Development.

But before we can do that, we need to identify the farmers who are suffering from climate shocks. To support this process, the AfDB is counting on partnerships such as

the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide services to clients and also to collect data. "As soon as you have data, there is transparency, and transparency creates trust. If you can bring that transparency throughout the value chain, then you'll be able to bring trust, better investors and better support to farmers", argued Kate Kallot, CEO of Amini AI, an artificial intelligence startup that is tackling the problem of the dearth of environmental data in Africa.

The challenge will therefore be to obtain reliable data to be able to set the correct amounts to be allocated to each farmer. In addition to stimulating investment and resilience in Africa's agri-food systems, the African Climate Risk Insurance Facility for Adaptation, welcomed at the 28th United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) which ended in Dubai on 12 December, should also strengthen local insurers and promote integration with national and international reinsurers.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Heated up global environment deepening strategic reflections

TANZANIANS and Russian scholars and students of diplomacy have lately conducted an enriching round of discussions at Dar es Salaam's Dr Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations.

The focus was a public lecture by Russian scholar Dr Dimitri Polikanov, a specialist in strategic governance issues.

The visiting scholar focused on the cultural dimension of strategic issues, noting that at times this is not taken into account in how foreign powers handle relations with Africa.

He thus underscored the need for future diplomats being trained at the centre or back in his own country to be keener on what is beneficial to Africa in designing strategies.

Dr Polikanov provided a snapshot of diplomatic work in a world where few things are actually agreed, noting that we are faced with a number of challenges that demand keen attention in critical areas such as agriculture, technology, the arms race and regional conflicts.

Yet, within this range of issues, the key component mostly acknowledged around the world is international law, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and to which all countries signing to UN membership undertake to observe. This ideal value situation isn't without challenges, though.

Where the shoe pinches relates to the scholar's suggestion that there is also a need to be careful with foreign values and cultures, in which case educators in Africa must teach future generations what is theirs and what is alien - a difficult proposition, frankly.

This seeks to draw usable lists of values as well as governance propositions likely to be acceptable to Africa and those not squaring up with that yardstick.

That reminds some of those with six or seven decades under the belt the

sort of idealism African writers started with.

Soon things went sour with the death of President Sylvanus Olympio of Togo on January 13, 1963 in Africa's first violent military coup: President Nyerere, besieged with horror, quipped: 'there is a devil in Africa'.

There are devils or demons anywhere one wishes to go, so it is helpful to see how much our culture provides a yardstick for governance values but, more significantly, to be realistic with how limited that effort would likely be.

Africa can't feed itself a whole 60 years after independence and there are no easy answers as to how to uplift governance in Africa and thereby achieve sustainable, inclusive growth.

The Russian scholar says that African has most of the poorest countries in the world, which may relate to the ease with which technologically and other more advanced nations could penetrate their values into our societies - particularly through globalisation.

Yet, Africa has for long stridently rejected quite a few of values and ideas espoused and propagated by those other countries.

However, instead of striving to save the cultures of African countries from the dictates of invaders, it is might pay greater dividends figuring out how far culture is a factor in Africa's persistent poverty or unending civil strife.

The Russian scholar may have played too defensively in pointing at the internet as a vehicle of foreign cultures where diplomats need to understand the benefits and take advantage of the best practices.

The issue perhaps is whether the internet as such is strong enough a vehicle to engender the sort of values that will take Africa forward quickly enough, with United Nations agencies having projected earlier this decade that by 2030 half of the world's poor will be African children and youths.

Taking up environmental issues is surely a key investment ethic

FINANCIERS investing in Tanzania or contemplating doing so have again been urged to make environmental protection a priority.

The minister overseeing the Union and Environment docket in the Union Vice President's Office made the plea at a recent event relating to the countdown to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the January 12 Zanzibar Revolution.

The appeal was part of the trademark gist of the minister's address on the daunting challenges associated with efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change.

In fact, he was laying the foundation stone for what is being developed into a beach hotel, one of several such projects flourishing in the Isles - where interest in establishing classy hotels while observing environmental regulations and practices is massive.

This is in the knowledge that the whole idea of building five-star hotels will collapse if visitors come only to find degraded beaches or objectionable air outdoors.

The authorities must be standing reminded of the thought expression to the effect that a stitch in time saves nine, as compliance with environmental standards is vital to a sustainable investment strategy.

All this is taking place with the climax of the commemoration of a truly momentous event just around the corner and a point in time when the Union and Zanzibar governments are synchronising their respective development strategies increasingly further for the good of the country and nation.

What is going on, especially with building a suitable investment atmosphere both in the Isles and on the Mainland is indeed a revolution in itself, as Africans continue grasping the sort of revolutions that make countries

richer and happier, as different from the previous era of mere self-expression.

There are also those taking a cue from past revolutionary legacies to make ultra-democratic demands, often making an impression outside but refusing to take appreciate the fact that doing so may precipitate or fuel chaos.

Even if critics do not find President Samia's 4Rs (Reconciliation, Resilience, Reform and Rebuilding) programme as convincing in rectifying this tendency as they may wish it to be, it could positively mobilise many out there.

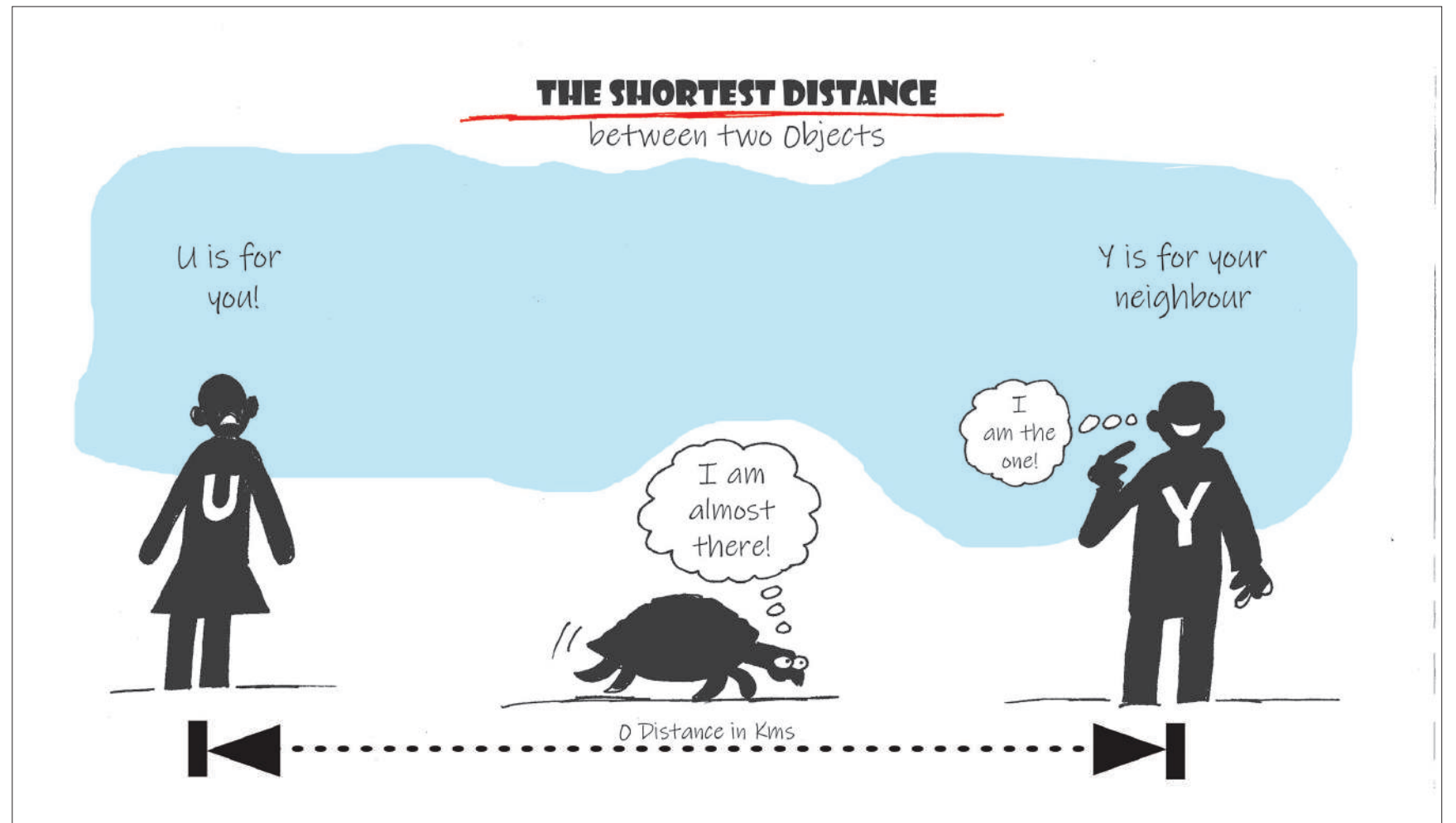
At least in that particular sense, there is no doubt whatsoever that investors both Tanzanian and foreign have a crucial part to play in ensuring that all their initiatives take up environmental protection uppermost.

This is not least because their own customers are presumed to be environment-conscious and expecting that high standards will be followed when they are enticed to come visiting the land of Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Zanzibar and various other world-acclaimed natural and other rare attractions.

As will be recalled, there was hugely interesting discussion during Union government budget debates mid last year on why some tourists tend to visit Tanzania only once while showing little interest in coming back - which limited the numbers expected in any particular season or year.

Without being familiar with research in that direction, it is evident that commodity prices - and thus taxes - would be severely affected. Also likely to be disrupted would the quality of services.

It is in consideration of all these facts and factors that appeals for the authorities concerned to be at the forefront of efforts to promote environmental standards make much more than merely political sense.



By Aurora Martinez

ELECTORAL disinformation has emerged as a significant threat to democratic processes in countries around the world. According to a recent global study by UNESCO, 85 per cent of people worry about online disinformation, especially its impact on elections.

During a recent "ICFJ Dismantling Disinformation: Investigative" master class, Claire Wardle, co-founder and co-director of the Information Futures Lab at Brown University in the US, shared hints for addressing electoral disinformation, with an eye towards major elections upcoming in 2024 in the US, Mexico and India, among other countries.

"What I am telling you today might look very different in three months' time," Wardle cautioned, adding: "It is upon all of us to be part of a community that is constantly updating each other, teaching each other, sharing lessons, sharing examples."

Here is Wardle's topline advice: "Distinguish between types of false content. Understand the distinctions between disinformation, misinformation and malinformation, and how they manifest."

She said that misinformation - when people share information without realising that it is false - is the biggest issue journalists must address, adding that people may share misinformation because the content aligns with their values or supports their worldviews.

Wardle meanwhile noted that malinformation refers to accurate content that is spread with bad intentions: "For instance, a picture of a long line at a polling station may be real, but it could be shared as a strategy to discourage people from coming out and casting their votes."

According to Wardle, disinformation is deliberately false or misleading content intended to deceive people: "Disinformation is not about convincing people to vote one way or the other. It is about sowing chaos and confusion, and it is about strengthening existing divisions. All three types of false content can disrupt or cause harm in communities."

People need to understand that disinformation is a global issue. Rumours and conspiracies travel across borders, explained Wardle.

She said that this can influence scenarios in which the same kind of distrust in voting systems in the US can take root in Australia.

It is also common to see countries trying to interfere in other countries' elections. During the 2016 election cycle in the US, for example, Russian state media spread disinformation in favour of Donald Trump and against Hillary Clinton, the US Senate Intel Committee found.

Diaspora communities that use online platforms to keep in touch with friends and relatives in

Some hints for addressing electoral misinformation and disinformation



their countries of origin may also inadvertently amplify cross-border disinformation campaigns. Myths and rumours can spread rapidly via social media, including messaging apps like WhatsApp.

Analyse disinformation narratives

Wardle has researched how bad actors in a breadth of countries, including the US, Brazil, France and Nigeria, leverage similar misleading narratives and techniques to influence electoral behaviour.

"Be aware that you are going to be impacted by narratives that are circulating in other countries because people are reading or have in hand translated materials from other countries," she said.

For example, disinformation narratives claiming that "elites" are the ones who decide who wins power may help sway public opinion, undermine trust in institutions and influence election outcomes.

"As researchers, journalists or fact checkers, we need to think through narrative lenses, not the individual examples," said Wardle.

She said the repetition of misleading claims drives many conspiracy theories. These narratives connect with people's pre-existing thoughts: "People are trying to do what they think is best to support their worldview."

"Typically, the same people who don't believe that vaccines work, or that the planet is warming to alarming levels owing to human activity, also tend to have less faith in elections. This divides society even further," Wardle noted.

She elaborated: "It is not about the candidates or the process. It is simply about making people more entrenched in their worldview that they are right and the other side is wrong."

Identify agents of disinformation

Wardle further noted: "Societies are more divided than ever along cultural, socio-economic, geographic, ethnic and religious lines. Agents of disinformation - those creating and peddling false content - take advantage of these divisions to undermine democracy."

Agents of disinformation may turn to dark PR agencies to run campaigns for them. It is important to look into who is paying these agencies. "They're not doing it to make money," said Wardle. "They're not doing it to have an impact other than just to make mischief."

She elaborated: "Agents of disinformation may operate from abroad, solely for monetary purposes. Take, for instance, the Macedonian teenagers who created false content ahead of the 2016 US presidential election."

"Troll farms and click farms are also examples of disinformation agents. They don't care about widening divisions or about people losing trust in the system. They are purely doing it to make money."

There are also what Wardle calls "true believers" - people who have plenty of time and genuine interest in sharing information in favour of specific candidates.

And sometimes legitimate information gets mixed in with disinformation and propaganda, Wardle said, adding: "For example, Jair Messias Bolsonaro's WhatsApp campaigns in Brazil leading up to the country's 2018 presidential election spread credible information alongside disinformation."

Bolsonaro served as Brazil's president from 2019, with Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (president from 2003 to 2011) taking over on January 1, 2023 following victory in a second-time election.

Wardle said that, regardless of the medium, the focus of analysis should be on understanding cumulative impact over time: "One piece of content isn't really problematic. Multiple pieces of content that drive home the same narratives - that is effective."

Often, electoral disinformation isn't spread to make people change their minds about who they will vote for, but rather to suppress voter turnout, Wardle said, adding that narratives questioning the validity of electoral systems and the worthiness of candidates are a couple examples of narrative tactics used to do so.

"It is actually very difficult to get people to switch political or partisan allegiance. It is much easier to get them not to vote at all," she said.

Many platforms have cracked down on bots, but journalists still must be aware of automated activity. It is important to understand that automation in itself isn't bad - and many legitimate people and institutions use it. However, when examining information, ask whether the content is designed to disrupt an election instead of focusing solely on whether bots produced it.

Wardle also underlined the need to keep in mind that disinformation doesn't only spread online: "You absolutely have to think about the ways that pamphlets, posters, conversations and speeches are all being used to support disinformation campaigns."

* A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ). 'Dismantling Disinformation' is meanwhile run by ICFJ. The three-year project is meant to empower journalists and journalism students to fight disinformation in the news media.

Transatlantic slavery continued for long after 1867, historian discovers

By Dalya Alberge

HISTORIANS have generally assumed that the transatlantic slave trade ended in 1867, but it actually continued into the following decade, according to new research.

Dr Hannah Durkin, an historian and former Newcastle University lecturer, has unearthed evidence that two slave ships landed in Cuba in 1872. One vessel, flying the Portuguese flag, had 200 captives aged from 10 to 40, and the second is believed to have been a US ship with 630 prisoners packed into its hold.

Durkin said she found references in US newspapers from that year to the landings of these ships. "It shows how recently the slave trade ended. The thefts of people's lives have been written out of history and haven't been recorded."

Other newly discovered evidence includes an 1872 Hansard parliamentary record of a British politician challenging "assurances of the Spanish government that there had been no importation of slaves into Cuba of late years".

Durkin said that, while Spain officially ended its slave trade in 1867, she had come across an account by the explorer Sir Henry Morton Stanley, who had travelled to Benin and visited the slave port of Ouidah in 1873. He wrote of seeing 300 people locked in a barracoon, a slave pen, and noted that two slave ships had recently sailed from that port.

Ouidah was the second-most important slave port in the whole of Africa, behind only Luanda, in Angola, Durkin said. "The region bore the European nickname 'Slave coast' for the vast numbers of people that were forcibly displaced from there between the mid-17th and mid-19th centuries. Almost 2 million people, around one in six of all enslaved people sent to the Americas, are estimated to have been transported from the Bight of Benin."

Although Stanley's account had appeared in the New York Herald at the time, Durkin said it was another overlooked key piece of evidence that she unearthed. There had been rumours



There's a lot of evidence of a system in which the enslavers wanted to produce small enslaved children because that would make them richer.

of later trade but this evidence supported findings by Cuban historians that trafficking continued into the 1870s.

Recently digitised newspapers of the 19th century had been particularly revealing, she said: "Historians haven't easily been able to consult those sources before, which is one reason why I was able to find so much."

The research will feature in her forthcoming book, *Survivors: The Lost Stories of the Last Captives of the Atlantic Slave Trade*. Drawing on previously unseen archival material, it tells the story of the Clo-

tilda, the last US ship of the Atlantic slave trade.

She has identified most of the Clotilda's 110 captives for the first time and tracked down their descendants. One of them had a previously unpublished 1984 interview with the grandson of Amey Greenwood Phillips that her family had kept. She had been a teenager when she was enslaved and put to work on an Alabama plantation.

Durkin said: "Amey's enslaver was a man named Greenwood. According to her grandson Percy Phillip Marino, Amey's enslaver was a 'good man', but he hired out

Amey to unidentified enslavers in another state who beat her. He retrieved Amey when he learned of the abuse, but the scars on her legs never healed."

Others told Durkin of the sexual violence to which their ancestors had been subjected. She found an account of a woman who had been enslaved at the age of 13. The horrors she endured included being made to sleep with African-American and Native American men so that she would have children - who could also be enslaved.

Durkin said: "There's a lot of evidence of a system in which the

enslavers wanted to produce small enslaved children because that would make them richer.

"Whether it's sugar plantations of Cuba or the cotton plantations of the US south, wherever slavery took place, it was a barbaric system that completely dehumanised people."

Durkin's research found that almost all the Clotilda survivors were Yoruba speakers from the same town in present-day southwest Nigeria, challenging previous conclusions that they were from a variety of locations in Benin and Nigeria.

A memorial in Ouidah, Benin where people were held before being transported during the transatlantic slave trade. Photo: Getty Images

China's dominance of global supply of green minerals: A new paradoxical scramble for Africa?

By Baraka Thomas

IN the intricate dance of geopolitics and resource economics, a new paradox is emerging on the global stage, centring around the dominance of China in the supply chain of green (strategic) minerals.

China has firmly established itself as the predominant global player in the refinement of strategic minerals. An impressive 68 percent of the world's nickel undergoes refinement within China's borders, along with 40 percent of copper, 59 percent of lithium, and a staggering 73 percent of cobalt.

Beyond mere refinement, China strategically positions itself in the later stages of the mineral supply chain, notably in the manufacturing of components crucial for battery cells.

In the intricate landscape of battery production, China emerges as a key player, contributing significantly to the creation of battery cell components.

The nation accounts for the majority of the global production of mineral-rich components, boasting 70 percent of cathodes, a pivotal element that can constitute up to half the cost of a manufactured cell. Furthermore, China dominates the

production of other essential components, including 85 percent of anodes, 66 percent of separators, and 62 percent of electrolytes.

Of particular significance is China's stronghold on the cell manufacturing capacity for electric vehicle (EV) batteries. An astonishing 78 percent of the world's cell manufacturing capacity for EV batteries is concentrated within China's borders.

This strategic dominance extends to hosting three-fourths of the world's lithium-ion battery mega factories, positioning China as the epicenter of global battery production.

What distinguishes China's role in the global mineral supply chain is not only its refinement capabilities but also its status as the largest consumer of the minerals it refines.

This unique position solidifies China's influence and control over the entire life cycle of these strategic minerals, from extraction and refinement to their integration into advanced battery technologies. This dominance is not merely economic; it is a strategic advantage that extends into the geopolitical arena.

While China has a clear downstream competitive advantage, it does not dominate the upstream for



critical minerals. Australia and Chile host more than 70 percent of global lithium extraction, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) hosts nearly 70 percent of cobalt extraction.

In the case of nickel extraction, Indonesia is the largest source, with more than 30 percent of the global share. For copper extraction, Chile and Peru, the two largest players, account for more than 40 percent of the global share.

With demand for critical minerals rapidly increasing, Chinese companies are striking new deals for minerals globally to secure raw mineral inputs for refining and battery manufacturing, for instance, China recently purchased a lithium mine in Zimbabwe and other green minerals such as cobalt in Congo.

As the world races towards a sustainable future, the implications for

Africa's wealth of green minerals are profound, raising questions about power dynamics, economic influence, and the intricate web of global politics.

The African dilemma

As the world clamors for green minerals, Africa finds itself at the center of this paradox. The continent is rich in these essential resources, yet the narrative is complex.

The extraction of minerals in Africa is not a new phenomenon, but the green transition amplifies both the promise of economic growth and the risks of exploitation. The question arises: Can Africa harness its green wealth for sustainable development, or will it become ensnared in a new form of resource dependency?

China's Belt and Road Initiative

has extended its influence into Africa, forging strategic partnerships and securing access to critical minerals. The global implications of China's dominance raise concerns about supply chain security and the geopolitical leverage that comes with controlling essential components of the green economy.

Thus, lead to the Paradoxical Scramble. The term "scramble" evokes historical narratives of resource exploitation in Africa. Yet, the new scramble is paradoxical. It is not solely about external powers staking claims; it is also about African nations navigating a delicate balance between economic development and environmental sustainability. It is high time for the African nations to assert control over their resources, negotiate fair partnerships, and avoid the pitfalls of previous resource booms.

The extraction of green minerals in Africa must not only be viewed through an economic lens but also through the prism of environmental and social responsibility and the imperative of ensuring that local communities benefit equitably from the wealth beneath their feet.

To conclude, as the world grapples with the challenges and promises of a green future, the interplay between China's dominance, global geopolitics, and Africa's green minerals unfolds as a complex and nuanced narrative—a paradox that demands thoughtful consideration from policymakers, industry leaders, and citizens alike.

The fate of Africa's green minerals is intricately linked to the evolving dynamics of global resource politics, offering both opportunities and challenges in this new era of sustainable development.

Empowering entrepreneurs will critically boost Africa's space innovation ecosystem



By Davis Cook

FOR five minutes, at 7.34pm and again at 9.11pm on Saturday 7 December 2023, the International Space Station (ISS) rocketed overhead at an altitude of around 402 kilometres above Earth like an errant star. On board were seven astronauts from the United States, Europe, Japan and Russia who will man the craft until March 2024 and relay valuable information back to Earth.

As iconic as the ISS is, it has over 12,000 actively tracked (yet less impressive) objects for company in local space, according to the UN's Outer Space Objects Index. In fact, there were over 183 orbital launches in 2023 including rockets and other systems capable of placing payloads into or beyond Earth's orbit.

Given the amount of space tech orbiting the Earth, it is no wonder the global space economy grew to \$546-billion in 2023 according to The Space Report released annually by The Space Foundation. Of this, the commercial market accounted for some \$427.6-billion, which itself grew by 8% from the previous year. And five years from now, it is anticipated that the space economy will hit the \$800-billion mark, and \$1-trillion not long thereafter.

Even more astonishing is that the private sector constitutes some 78% of the total space economy. Consider that of the 49 rocket launches undertaken in the United States in 2023



One such example is the Africa Earth Observation Challenge which is a pan-African space tech start-up challenge that has worked with over 330 start-ups from 30 African countries since 2016.

(which launched the most rockets by country, followed by China at 25), 44 were performed by SpaceX.

While rocket launches are newsworthy events commanding significant budgets, the rockets themselves are generally considered as the workhorses whose mission it is to transport and deploy satellites into low earth orbit (LEO) and beyond. For their part, satellites carry the payloads – those elements of the spacecraft specifically dedicated to producing mission data and relaying this back to Earth.

These are the obvious, visible parts of the space economy. Yet, space technologies are embedded in a remarkable number of everyday products and services that would not function effectively without them: from parcel tracking or e-hailing to mobile communications and money transfers as well as international flights and weather forecasts.

On a grander scale, these technologies help us understand, plan and mitigate risks associated with climate change, agriculture, natural and built environments as well as communities and population patterns, through the relay of exceptionally detailed information about our planet.

Growth take-off

The European Space Agency explains that the space sector is not only itself a growth sector, but a "vital enabler of growth" in numerous sectors. Chad Anderson, of US-based VC firm Space Capital, calls space-based tech-

nologies such as satellite communications, geospatial intelligence and GPS the "invisible backbone" of the space sector.

It stands to reason then that venture capital flows into the sector reached \$11.6-billion in 2023 across 289 companies according to Space Capital. Space manufacturing attracted the most early-stage funding, followed by small satellite manufacturing, small launch and geospatial intelligence. The US, China, Singapore, France and India dominated space equity investment in 2023.

Africa is mirroring this potential, albeit on a much smaller scale. Most African space ecosystems are in a very nascent stage, with a total market value for 2023 of just under \$20-billion – about 0.5% of the global market.

Despite this currently small global contribution, 13 countries have launched satellites (via foreign launchpads), with Egypt and South Africa already having led the first wave in the late 1990s, followed by Nigeria, Morocco and Algeria in the early 2000s. More recently, a number of countries have launched smaller CubeSats as part of a process to develop the in-country knowledge to participate in the broader market.

Investment challenges

Earlier this year, Stellenbosch-based start-up Dragonfly Aerospace sent their first imaging satellite onboard SpaceX's Transporter-6 rocket, making it the world's first agriculture-focused satellite constellation. The company, established in 2019, pro-

duces compact high-performance satellite imagery and payloads for CubeSats, small satellites, and micro-satellite Earth observation satellites. Dragonfly Aerospace's production facilities aim to produce up to 48 satellites (200 kg) annually.

India, one of South Africa's BRICS partners, is also a young space nation, but it has a robust space start-up ecosystem and good investor appetite. Aviation Week reported that India's space start-ups raised more than \$112-million in 2022; while as of August this year, a total of \$63-million was raised. The country has just two to three per cent of the global space industry, but hopes to grow this to 10% by 2030 through a focus on space manufacturing and satellite launches.

Despite these challenges, these are fertile grounds. Existing investor appetite for Africa's start-up scene has produced viable VC-backed companies from other sectors. A cluster of start-ups have already successfully grown and continue to serve millions of people across the continent and beyond. These include AI-focused InstaDeep, FlutterWave and Onafrique spanning the fintech and agritech-based Aerobotics.

Recently, startups with a deep reliance on space-based technologies raised significant early-stage rounds like Amini in Kenya (providing climate data across Africa) at \$4-million, and Gometro in South Africa (providing positioning and transport services) raising \$9-million.

The number of VCs operating in the

continent has also increased, along with the establishment of large pan-African or regional funds. These include Partech (\$263-million), Norsken VC (\$205-million), Founder's Factory Africa (\$114-million), Goodwell's uMunthu II fund (\$61-million) and Anza Capital (\$50-million).

On top of this, initiatives to build continental capacity aimed specifically at African space-tech start-ups are creating a pipeline of talent and enabling a crucial touchpoint for investors, industry specialists and start-ups.

One such example is the Africa Earth Observation Challenge which is a pan-African space tech start-up challenge that has worked with over 330 start-ups from 30 African countries since 2016.

Partners include five African space agencies, multinational space companies from Planet Labs, Maxar, ESRI and AWS to multi-lateral organisations like RCMRD and Digital Earth Africa. These players are also supported by specialist researchers like The Research Institute for Innovation and Sustainability (RIIS), IP law firms, incubators, accelerators and venture capital funds.

Given the nascent state of our space ecosystem, by definition, we can only create a new industry by empowering entrepreneurs to build that industry. Getting this right requires an awareness of space-based innovation that is already happening here, combined with long-term thinking and deliberate development of the continent's space innovation ecosystem.

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CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Refugees in Nakivale settlement, one of oldest in Africa, revive Uganda's forests

KAMPALA

ON a rocky escarpment on a hill at Nakivale refugee settlement, a group of workers is busy using hand-held tools.

The group - which includes refugee men and women - digs a series of holes, lowers in pine-tree seedlings and then covers them up.

The group has been planting trees in this way in Nakivale for over six years.

It's the brainchild of Burundian refugee Enoch Twagirayesu, who escaped the conflict there in 2003 and settled in Nakivale. He fondly recalls his first time at the settlement and says the area used to be covered with trees.

Today, most of the land lies bare due to the high demand for fuel, construction materials and land for cultivation.

This prompted Twagirayesu and his fellow refugees to act.

Speaking to the Associated Press in his adopted language of Runyankole, Twagirayesu says their effort is born out of concern for a better environment:

"The reason why we started planting trees was because when we came here, the entire area of Nakivale was a forest. After spending 7 years here, the entire forest disappeared. The trees that we used to cut for cooking got depleted and women had resorted to removing tree roots for cooking."

More than 180-thousand refugees now live in the settlement, according to official figures from October 2023.

Cleous Bwambale from the Nsam-



Flood waters are seen in Magoro, a town in eastern Uganda that is surrounded by floodwater and has become inaccessible by road

izi Training Institute for Social Development, one of many NGOs operating in the area, says the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries continues to put pressure on the already worn out settlement.

"To a large extent, refugees have contributed to the degradation of the environment in Nakivale. Why? One: We have increased the influx of refugees from DRC, majority of the

refugees are from DRC and each day and night we receive new arrivals. So when they come there is a need for construction and construction it requires building materials, so even the few trees available they are cut down to construct and decrease."

In the past, Nakivale has also experienced episodes of environmental disasters, such as drought.

Several years ago Lake Nakivale,

the main water source for the entire area, saw its water levels recede according to environmental officer Norbert Tumushabe of the Nsamizi Institute of Social Development:

"Due to human activities, we experienced a heavy drought that took us for four months, close to five months, which reduced the levels of water in the lake which was a very big challenge here. Even the

pumps that were extracting waters faced challenges because water was extending to deeper ends," explains Tumushabe as he stands beside a nursery bed close to the lake.

Tumushabe says efforts by actors such as Twagirayesu have pushed development agencies to act on environmental concerns at the settlement.

A plant nursery was set up to sup-

port the efforts of the refugees to replant the forest:

"So we have refugees that we bring and train on how to grow and germinate seeds from mother bed to their beds, up to the main gardens. So it acts as the knowledge transfer centre in terms of environment," says Tumushabe.

And the efforts are already paying off. Many once bare areas are now teeming with trees, according to locals.

The rains have also increased in the past few years, they say.

"What we can be proud of is that we have planted or established woodlots equivalent to over 350 hectares across the entire settlement and also we have tried to protect the buffer zones which are surrounding the wetlands and the Lake Nakivale within the Nakivale refugee settlement," says Tinkasimire.

Twagirayesu, however, says to meet their dream, there's a lot of work still to be done.

He says they have so far planted over 460,000 trees around Nakivale.

"In five years, we hope to hit the halfway target of our program. The lake is there, but we hope to plant trees in the entire NEMA (National Environment Management Authority) belt within Nakivale, but of course we also have challenges and we have a long way to go. If we can get seeds it would help us but also when it is dry season we can not afford the water tanks. We would appreciate it if there are well wishers like Nsamizi (Training Institute Of Social Development) who can offer us water trucks to water the trees."

S. Africa table grape harvest is on target

By Fred Meintjes

WHILE volumes look set to beat initial forecasts, shipments are behind those seen at the same point of the previous campaign.

The South African Table Grape Industry (Sati) has said that harvesting and packing is running slightly ahead of predictions, but shipments lag far below the levels of the same time last year. Up to week 52 a total of 20.92m cartons (4.5 kg equivalent) were inspected for export, some 6 per cent more than the corresponding period of 2022.

If this trend continues the total South African crop could actually be higher than originally predicted.

The crucial matter is that when one compare shipping figures up to week 52 with the previous, substantially fewer grapes have been shipped this season.

Sati noted that so far, 9.87m cartons were exported up to week 52, 29 per cent lower than the previous campaign.

In its first seasonal update of the year, Sati pointed to continued problems in the port of Cape Town.

"The Cape Town Container Terminal (CTCT) has confirmed that all nine STS cranes are back in service and 21 RTGs available. Two berths are currently operational," it said.

"Both the CTCT and MPT experienced challenges in the last weeks due to equipment breakdowns and strong winds. Productivity at the port remains lower than required for optimal efficiency, with gross crane hours averaging around 12 in the past week.

The fruit industry continues to engage with role players at the highest levels to expedite intervention and mitigate logistical delays," Sati continued.

"Overall, the harvest in the Northern Regions is healthy with a good berry size. Cooler temperatures experienced over the last few days meant that Brix have developed more slowly. Good weather is forecast for the foreseeable future."

The Orange River region should finish harvesting and packing during the next four weeks. In the Olifants River region, the Berg River and the Hex River harvesting is also well underway.



Kenya to make 'boda-boda' motorbike taxis go electric

NAIROBI

MOSES Lugalia has joined Kenya's budding electric vehicle revolution - by exchanging the noisy roar of his petrol motorbike for the gentle hum of an electric one.

The biggest incentive to go electric for the 27-year-old rider of a motorbike taxi - known locally as a "boda-boda" - was the promise of saving money at a time when fuel prices keep rising.

Motorbike taxis are everywhere in Kenya, as in many African countries, because they are cheaper than cars, and can be better for navigating the notorious traffic jams in the capital, Nairobi.

Lugalia has been in the motorbike taxi business for five years, transporting people and goods around Nairobi.

He would spend about 1,000 Kenyan shillings a day - just over \$6 (£5) - on fuel when he used a petrol bike.

Nairobi drivers earn on average about \$10-15 a day, according to the country's Boda-Boda Association.

Since going electric, Lugalia says he spends no more than \$1.42 a day - so his profits are now up and that makes him very happy.

"Because of the cost of petrol, I am able to save a lot more using my electric bike," says Lugalia with a smile.

Instead of filling up with petrol, Lugalia now swaps the bike's electric battery once, sometimes twice, a day at one of the growing number of swap stations in Nairobi. A fully charged battery will allow him to drive for about 80km (50 miles), almost a whole day's work.

"Electric is the future in Kenya," said Lugalia.

The Kenyan government thinks so too. President William Ruto launched a national "e-mobility" programme on 1 September 2023.

Motorbikes and three-wheeled tuk-tuks, or auto rickshaws, are the centrepiece of a move to transport green and reduce air pollution.

The government hopes the prospect of cheaper running costs will create a gearshift in the minds of other drivers of the ubiquitous boda-bodas, most of whom still use petrol or diesel.

Motorbike taxi riders parked in Nairobi, Kenya

There are about three million boda-boda riders in Kenya, according to the transport minister, and the UN estimates some five million people ben-

efit from their incomes.

Taking a boda-boda is a convenient, fast and cheap way to get around.

But many of the motorcycles are old, poorly maintained and big polluters. Although they produce less carbon dioxide than cars, they release more nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons - which affect air quality and the climate.

Nairobi is one of the world's most heavily congested cities. Its population swells from about 4.5 million to more than six million people during rush-hours.

The daily gridlock can be a choking nightmare for commuters - transport accounts for about 40% of Nairobi's air pollution, and globally for about 20% of greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Clean Air Fund.

Other major climate change culprits are deforestation, agriculture, manufacturing, and the open burning of waste.

Africa contributes only 2% to 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but it suffers disproportionately from climate change, according to the UN Environment Programme.

Nevertheless, Kenya's government sees a shift to green transport as vital

to help meet its climate goals. It wants more than 200,000 electric bikes on the road by the end of 2024.

On average e-bikes emit 75% less total greenhouse gases.

So far only about 2,000 boda-boda drivers have switched from petrol to electric.

In many ways, Kenya is an ideal market for electric motorbikes. About 85% of its electricity is renewable, generated by hydro, solar, geothermal, and wind.

Kenya has experienced some devastating droughts in recent years - which affects hydro-power - but there is significant room to grow its geothermal, solar and wind capacity.

A handful of Kenyan start-ups have taken advantage of this and set up shop in the past three years, manufacturing, designing, assembling and selling electric motorcycles.

They are also teaming up with creditors to offer cheap loans, which is the only way boda-boda drivers can afford to buy their own vehicles.

Lugalia sold off his old petrol bike and used some of the proceeds to make a down-payment for an electric bike - and then paid the rest of the \$1,500 in daily instalments over a year.

He now owns the bike outright - but not the battery.

"That wouldn't make economic and business sense," says Steve Juma, the co-founder of electric bike company Ecobodaa, as the battery is the most expensive part of an electric bike.

It would almost double the cost. So sellers retain ownership of the battery and have set up about several hundred battery-swap points in the capital - in shopping malls, petrol stations and fast food outlets.

Lugalia says he has no trouble finding a place where he can swap over batteries. Using an app on his phone, he can open a cabinet, place his spent lithium battery into an empty locker, and take out a fully charged one from another locker.

But if you go beyond the city, it is a different story - and that is a huge disincentive for most boda-boda drivers I spoke to when I was in Nairobi.

"You can't go to a remote area where there is no charging system for the battery," one man said, explaining why he was not yet ready to go green.

While others said they did not want electric bikes because of the perception that they were more expensive to buy than petrol ones. And others say the range of an electric bike - between 60 and 80km - is too limiting.

By Aimable Twahirwa

AN agreement signed between the Rwandan government and the Africa Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation (APTF) gives impetus to Africa's domestic industry with the hope of helping the continent tackle vaccine inequity and fill the critical gap in vaccine manufacturing.

The agreement to operationalize the foundation was signed in Kigali, Rwanda, in late 2023.

What is important, according to stakeholders, is to focus efforts on building a resilient and self-reliant pharmaceutical industry for the continent. This became apparent during COVID-19, when, for example, COVAX, a multilateral mechanism for equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines, helped lower-income economies achieve two-dose coverage of 57 percent, compared to the global average of 67 percent.

Both officials and scientists take delight in pointing out that the benefit of having such an initiative is to close the vaccine equity gap between African countries and the world's developed nations.

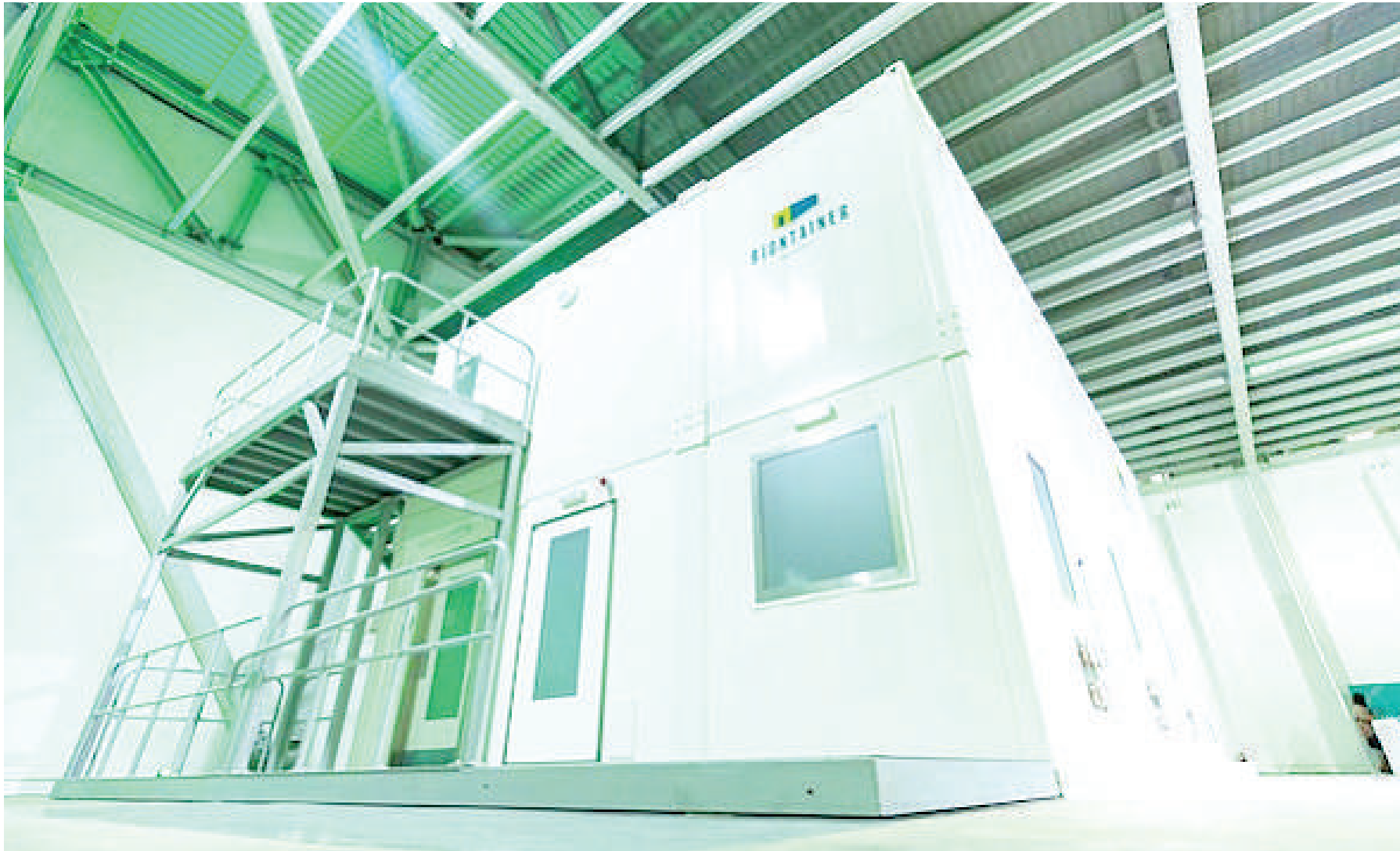
During the implementation phase, the African Development Bank (ADB) has committed to investing up to USD 3 billion over the next decade in the development of pharmaceutical products.

The foundation, which is ready to hit the ground running in January 2024, will dedicate its core mandate to addressing some of the common challenges facing African indigenous pharmaceutical companies, including weak human and institutional capacities and low technical capacity for using and applying new technologies.

"The Foundation has a pledge that Africa will have what it needs to build its own health defense system, which must include a thriving African pharmaceutical industry and a quality healthcare infrastructure, ADB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina said.

These solutions, according to experts, aim to close technical capacity gaps in their use and lack the ability to focus on the production of basic active pharmaceutical ingredients for drugs or antigens for vaccines.

Professor Padmashree Gehl Sampath, Chief Executive Officer of the APTF, told IPS that access to know-how, technologies, and processes for manufacturing pharmaceutical products is clearly needed on the continent



BioNTainers, facilities equipped to manufacture a range of mRNA-based vaccines have been inaugurated in Rwanda in December 2023. Credit: Aimable Twahirwa/IPS

Technology transfer vital in transforming Africa's pharmaceutical industry

to ensure the sustainability of financial investments.

She, however, points out that, with the current move to ensure the sustainability and reliability of the domestic pharmaceutical industry in Africa, it is not enough just to have financial, infrastructural, strategic, and regulatory support.

"There is a need for a clear and coherent focus on technology transfer and knowledge sharing for capacity building and diversification within the pharmaceutical value chain," she said in an exclusive interview.

While technology is described as the main transformative tool that will enable the development of a competitive pharmaceutical industry in Africa, Sampath stresses the need to build policy

capacity to facilitate the sector.

According to her, this can be done by implementing the flexibilities contained in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property and then also enabling local companies to access domestic markets.

In a move to overcome these challenges, the foundation's work received a major boost with a memorandum of understanding signed in December 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda, to partner with the European Investment Bank.

The European Investment Bank will be a partner in the foundation's "regional biosimilars program for the production and innovation of relevant biosimilars in Africa and to facilitate the creation of common active pharmaceutical ingredients

in any chosen specific sub-region of Africa," the organization said in a press release.

According to Sampath, there is a need to remove barriers to domestic innovation in Africa.

"We need to work with our universities and public research institutions to transform them into centers of excellence," she said.

During the implementation phase, the first modular elements of the German company's factory, BioNTech, based on shipping containers, were delivered to the Kigali construction site in March and were then assembled to form the so-called BioNTainers that were inaugurated in December 2023.

The company, which developed the most widely used COVID-19 vaccine in the Western

world with its U.S. partner Pfizer, developed a plan in 2022 to allow African countries to produce its Comirnaty-branded vaccine under the supervision of BioNTech.

BioNTech said the initial vaccine factory could, over the next few years, be part of a wider supply network spanning several African countries, including Senegal and South Africa.

At the time BioNTech announced plans to expand into Africa, the shipment of coronavirus vaccine doses manufactured in the West to the continent had been delayed, which had been the subject of much criticism.

"The African Union has come together to make a firm commitment not to find ourselves in this situation again," Rwandan

President Paul Kagame said at the inauguration ceremony of the plant site located in Masoro, a suburb of Kigali.

The company, which developed the most widely used COVID-19 vaccine in the Western world with its U.S. partner Pfizer, developed a plan in 2022 to allow African countries to produce its Comirnaty-branded vaccine under the supervision of BioNTech.

"What BioNTech's partnership with Africa demonstrates is that vaccine technology can be democratized, but we could not have reached this point without a wider set of partnerships," Kagame said.

Gelsomina Vigliotti, Vice President at the European Investment Bank, said that the bank is committed to working with its partners to strengthen public health and health innovation across Africa.

"Strengthening access to finance is essential to scaling up pharmaceutical investment and innovation across Africa," Vigliotti said.

An important manifestation of Africa's scientific and technological innovation capability, according to experts, is the application of innovations to its pharmaceutical industry development.

The newly-established plant, located in the suburb of Rwanda's capital city, Kigali, is expected to start by producing 50 million vaccines, but production will increase depending on the demand for mRNA-based vaccine candidates to address malaria and tuberculosis.

But researchers and policymakers argue that trust and co-operation are critical for the successful implementation of this innovation.

The latest estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) show that industrial development should be combined with national policy for universal health coverage so that local vaccine production can address local health needs.

Before the inauguration of the BioNTech factory in Rwanda, there were fewer than 10 African manufacturers with vaccine production, which are based in five countries: Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia.

The capability to produce vaccines in Africa, according to the UN agency, requires a fully integrated approach, pulling together some key elements including finance, skills development, regulatory facilities, and technology know-how.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08.15 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00 - 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05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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Dar JIBA business expo to connect locals, diaspora with networking opportunities

By Joseph Mchekadona

JIBA Business Expo 2024 has been set to commence at the end of this month where small, medium and large business owners are invited to use the platform to showcase and market their products to local and foreign buyers.

The expo that will be held for three days at Diamond Jubilee hall in Dar es Salaam is set to be a dynamic convergence of business from diverse sectors as it will serve as a platform for networking, knowledge exchange and business collaboration among others.

Addressing the press yesterday in the city, this year's expo organizers' Team Leader Mustafa Jacksi called upon business owners to start registrations so that they can use the expo for networking, finding business partners and opportunities.

According to Jacksi, on top of being a platform for the business community to showcase their products and services, it will offer them an opportunity to focus on engaging the Diaspora in the growth and development of the country's economy.

Jacksi described the expo

as historic and very important to Tanzania as the country is also at the height of trying to look for new partners that can off-take most of the locally-produced commodities as a way of expanding the export base.

"Our exhibitors are from a diverse range of business, we encourage small medium businesses to take part in the exhibition, it will also be the opportunity and platform for the Diaspora to effectively contribute to the country's political, socioeconomic, and cultural development," he said.

He said this year's expo is likely to host exhibitors from China, India and other countries to exhibit their products and they will also host renowned United Kingdom (UK) based international speaker, growth and business coach Dr Mahmood Mawjee to conduct lectures to exhibitors.

"I am asking all those who are in business to come and exhibit their products and services. We expect 4000 people to visit the exhibition, Tanzania is an attractive market for business due to its large population, strategic location and thriving logistics sector," he said.

Shanghai set to consolidate position on smart factories

SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI is determined to consolidate its leading position in intelligent manufacturing by building 70 new intelligent factories this year, and 200 new intelligent factories and 20 benchmark factories by the end of 2025, official sources said on Jan 4.

Some 70 new intelligent factories covering key industries, including automotive, high-end equipment and electronic information, will be built this year in an effort to achieve systematic optimization and overall enhancement in products' full life-cycles, manufacturing procedures and various supply-chain processes, said Zhang Ying, director of the Shanghai Commission of Economy and Informatization, during a smart factory construction promotion conference in Shanghai on Wednesday.

The East China cosmopolis is the nation's largest integrated solutions provider for intelligent manufacturing systems and one of the core equipment industrial clusters of intelligent manufacturing.

As manufacturing is critical for China's overall development, intelligent manufacturing is vital in enhancing core competitiveness of the

nation's industries. It also plays an important role in accelerating new industrialization, said Chen Jie, vice-mayor of Shanghai.

"Therefore, it is an inevitable choice for megacities like Shanghai to take smart factories as a key area for the digital transformation of the manufacturing sector, and to accelerate the construction of smart factories," Chen said.

In the past few years, Shanghai has consolidated its development of intelligent factories, expanding the ecosystem of intelligent manufacturing. It has also gradually improved the toolbox of innovative development policies.

With equal focus on both quantity and quality, Shanghai's intelligent manufacturing has developed well with all-around achievements to show for it, Zhang said.

"Shanghai has so far built 19 national-level smart factories, 100 municipal-level smart factories and more than 1,000 intelligent manufacturing applications. More than 70 percent of the city's industrial enterprises above the designated size, or with an annual revenue of 20 million yuan (\$2.79 million) or above each, have conducted intelligent factory evaluation," said Zhang.



Kenya's Africa trade surplus hits new high of Sh121billion



Trucks wait in a line on the road to enter Uganda in Malaba.

NAIROBI

KENYA'S exports to Africa exceeded imports by Sh121 billion in nine months through September, hitting record-high levels that signal increased deals on the continent for traders amid President William Ruto's aggressive diplomatic offensive.

Official data shows traders sold goods worth Sh324.79 billion to African countries in the review period, a 20.86 percent jump over Sh268.73 billion in a similar period the year before.

The jump in earnings from exports on the continent came at a time expenditure on imports fell a modest 2.85 percent year-on-year to Sh203.79 billion, the first drop since the Covid-19 shutdowns three years earlier.

This resulted in surplus for Kenya's merchandise trade in Africa more than doubling

after rocketing 105.21 percent to Sh121.01 billion from Sh58.97 billion in a similar period in the prior year, the highest on record based on publicly-available data published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).

Analysis of the KNBS data shows the growth in export earnings was largely driven by higher demand for cement clinkers, lubricants, wheat flour, food preparations and jet fuel from Kenya. The increased purchase for goods from Kenya was largely made by traders from Uganda, DR Congo, Tanzania, Somalia and South Sudan, according to the data.

This came at a time Dr Ruto championed the removal of trade barriers amongst African countries to ease movement of goods, services and labour through integration of regional trading blocs.

The integration is aimed

at creating the world's largest single market of about 1.4 billion people with an estimated economic output of more than \$3 trillion (about Sh474 billion under prevailing conversion rates) under the ambitious African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

"The main hurdle to realising an integrated market under AfCFTA is the weak business environment in many African countries largely due to high interest rates, high tax rates and bureaucratic red tape," Ken Gichinga, chief economist at Mentor Economics, said in a past interview. "Cultural and language barriers also make it tough to appreciate the market opportunities."

Africa's under-developed transport networks have also been blamed for raising cost of goods and services as much as 40 percent, rendering intra-African trade un-

competitive compared with trade with developed continents such as Europe.

The climb in earnings from exports also came at a time the Kenyan shilling weakened against regional currencies by double digits.

For example, the Kenyan currency shed about 15.80 percent against the Ugandan currency in nine months through September 2023, about 10.59 percent of value against the Tanzanian currency and 20.04 percent against the US dollar, according to data published by the Central Bank of Kenya.

Uganda remained the country's largest destination for Kenyan goods, accounting for more than a third (35.33 percent) of exports to Africa.

Goods worth Sh98.77 billion were trucked into the land-locked country, Kenya's largest trading partner, in the nine-month period compared with Sh72.98 billion a

year earlier. The jump in exports to Uganda was largely driven by demand for cement clinkers, according to KNBS.

Exports to Tanzania grew 17.91 percent in the review period to Sh49.47 billion, largely lifted by re-exports of kerosene-type jet fuel. The data further shows that exports to DRC grew by half (51.24 percent) to Sh18.81 billion on increased orders for "wheat flour, food preparations and preparations of organic-surface active agents".

Exports to Somalia grew at the same pace (51.50 percent) to Sh16.78 billion, while earnings from goods to South Sudan swelled 27.55 percent to Sh23 billion, largely driven by sale of lubricants and food preparations to the country ravaged by persistent civil war.

Dr Ruto has been aggressively rallying his counterparts on the continent to adopt payment system which facilitates settlement of intra-African trade deals in national currencies as a first step towards reducing reliance on the US dollar in intra-Africa trade.

"Technology is going to play a big role, making sure that our businesspeople are not unnecessarily encumbered by looking at that currency and this currency to be able to trade. We will try and see whether we can take that out of the equation so that they can concentrate on enhancing trade between our countries," the President said on November 7 last year.

Kenya is the leading candidate to host the Pan-African Payment and settlement system (Papss) whose adoption will be determined by a vote during African Union's Assembly of Heads of State and Government set to be held next month.

EACOP extends support to Hanang mudslide victims



Manyara regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (left) receives the 1,000 bags of cement from EACOP's Catherine Mbatia for award handing over to mudslide victims in Hanang District.

By Francis Kajubi

THE East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has donated 1,000 bags of cement for construction of new residential units for victims of the deadly mudslides that recently struck the Hanang district in Manyara region.

Accepting the aid yesterday, Manyara Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga, said the recent calamity has left

communities in dire need, and the generous humanitarian aid extended by EACOP comes as a beacon of hope within the recovering times.

"I appreciate the swift response by EACOP of support on top of government's efforts to rebuild the town and enable victims recover from the tragedy," said Sendiga.

Sendiga said the calamity has regrettably claimed lives and caused extensive damage

to farmland, leading to the displacement of thousands of individuals.

She commended EACOP for being on the frontline of giving back to the society especially in times when disasters strike.

According to her, the relentless heavy rain in Hanang triggered widespread flooding and landslides, particularly in the steep slopes of Mount Hanang, impacting

areas around the towns of Katesh and Gendabi.

"I want to express our profound gratitude to EACOP for their assistance. The aid received will significantly alleviate the immediate challenges victims are facing, providing comfort and relief to the affected families," added Sendiga.

Catherine Mbatia, Communications Lead EACOP Tanzania Branch, said as one of the districts where the pipeline traverses, EACOP recognizes the responsibility to stand in solidarity with the communities affected by the tragedy.

"The core values of EACOP go beyond our operational commitments, reaching into the very fabric of the communities we serve. Our donation of humanitarian aid is a testament to our dedication and commitment to corporate social responsibility," said Mbatia.

In response to this crisis, she said, EACOP is acting by

donating 1,000 bags of cement to provide essential support to the calamity victims in the district.

She asserted that EACOP believes in the power of collective action and is committed to leveraging its resources to contribute meaningfully to the recovery and rebuilding efforts in the district.

This initiative, Mbatia said, reflects EACOP's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and community support, emphasizing its dedication to the well-being of the regions where it operates.

The company values the importance of being a responsible corporate citizen and acknowledges the interconnectedness of its operations with the communities it serves.

EACOP will work closely with local authorities, relief organizations, and community leaders in distribution of the assistance.

Rwanda, Jordan sign economic, health deals

KIGALI

President Kagame, on Sunday, January 7, received King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of the Kingdom of Jordan, who is on a three-day working visit to Rwanda.

According to the Office of the President, the two held a tête-à-tête discussion followed by bilateral talks together with their respective delegations.

Furthermore, the two counterparts oversaw the signing of various agreements and memoranda of understanding including the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance, an agreement on cooperation in the field of health and medical science.

In addition, they also signed a memorandum of understanding on economic and trade cooperation, and another one in the field of agriculture.

On the second day of his visit, King Abdullah II is expected to visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial at Gisozi, to pay tribute to the over one million victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Jordan and Rwanda have, over the past, cemented ties based on different agreements including the waiving of visa for both citizens, pending the opening of Rwanda's diplomatic mission in Jordan, as announced in 2023.

In 2022, President Kagame visited Jordan where he held talks with King Abdullah II, where they discussed on common and global challenges and ways to enhance cooperation in various fields.

Both countries cooperate in the fight against terrorism through direct communication or under the umbrella of the Aqaba Process.

The areas of cooperation also in-



King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of Jordan (L) meets Rwanda President Paul Kagame.

clude political consultations, higher education, health and medical sciences, defence and security, and air services.

King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of Jordan, arrived in Rwanda on Sunday, January 7, for a three-day working visit and is expected to hold talks aimed at strengthening

bilateral relations between both countries, according to a tweet from the President's office.

Jordan and Rwanda have, over the past, cemented ties based on agreements including the waiving of visa for both citizens, pending the opening of Rwanda's diplomatic mission in Jordan, as announced

in 2023.

In February 2023, Rwanda and Jordan committed to enhancing bilateral ties when Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta received the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ayman Safadi, in Kigali.

That time, they signed three cooperation agreements and MoUs in political consultations, higher education, health and medical sciences, and visa waiver for diplomatic, service, and special passports.

Kagame's last visit to Jordan was in March 2022, where he was hosted by King Abdullah II for a bilateral meeting on discussions enhancing ongoing areas of cooperation in defence and security, especially in fighting terrorism through information and expertise sharing.

In 2015, King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of Jordan launched the Aqaba Process to comprehensively address interconnected counter-terrorism and violent extremist threats through informal discussions around three key themes including: prevention, coordination, and 'filling in the gaps.'

Jordan is a country in Western Asia, which shares borders with other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Israel. It has an area of 89,342 square kilometers while its population is over 11.4 million.

Rwanda and Jordan will soon waive visa requirements for ordinary passports to accelerate bilateral cooperation between both countries, foreign ministers have said.

Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on February 22, received Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Kingdom of Jordan, who is on a three-day working visit.

Following discussions in different existing and prospective areas of cooperation, the two ministers signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of political consultations, education, and visa waiving on diplomatic and service passports.

Biruta revealed that the addi-

tional MoU between the Ministry of Education and King's Academy in Jordan will allow academic exchange in research centres as well as support training in literature.

Political consultations will facilitate both countries to have continued discussions in areas of mutual interests and framework for further cooperation, he said, adding that there are pending agreements in justice, trade and investment, finance, agriculture, and health.

Biruta noted that taking a step further to waive visas on ordinary passports should happen "as soon as possible" to increase trade and investments as well as tourism.

Safadi said, "We are both supportive of waiving visas for regular passports as well which will contribute to increasing two-way traffic in tourism, business, and education. We are going to be working on that very soon."

We will also discuss the possibilities of having direct flights between Jordan and Rwanda because it is important to encourage business-to-business interactions, he added.

The development comes after President Paul Kagame's visit to Jordan in March 2022, where he was hosted by His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein for a bilateral meeting on discussions enhancing ongoing areas of cooperation between Jordan and Rwanda.

Both countries have existing cooperation in defence and security, especially in fighting terrorism through information and expertise sharing.

In 2015, King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein of Jordan launched the Aqaba Process to comprehensively address interconnected counter-terrorism and violent extremist threats through informal discussions around three key themes including: prevention, coordination, and 'filling in the gaps.'

China's manufacturing sector unleashes 2024 full potential



Workers weld spare parts at a ship industrial park in Nantong, Jiangsu province.

JIANGSU

CHINA'S manufacturing sector continues to unleash its growth potential, as many manufacturers rush to fulfill orders and drive innovation as the year kicks off, CCTV News reported on Monday.

High-tech and equipment manufacturers were bustling with business orders during the first week of the new year.

In Pingdingshan, Henan province, a company producing electrical grid equipment and intelligent control devices received several orders before the new year

that were scheduled for delivery by August this year.

In Huaifan, Jiangsu province, a company making hydraulic systems for large machinery has improved production efficiency by cutting production delivery cycle from 45 to 25 days.

The expectations index for business activity in manufacturing has risen for three consecutive months, with a reading of 55.9 percent in December. It shows growing confidence among manufacturing enterprises in market development.

Furthermore, the Purchasing Managers' Index for high-tech manufacturing

and equipment manufacturing in December stood at 50.3 percent and 50.2 percent, respectively, continuing to show expansion.

Besides high-tech and equipment manufacturing, the future industry's development momentum is also robust.

Unitree Robotics, a Hangzhou-based startup company, is conducting a technical seminar, where researchers are discussing methods to incorporate new functionalities into robots.

Thanks to continued research and innovative efforts, the startup has upgraded its robotic products

from initial walking capabilities to advanced self-balancing and load-bearing capabilities.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has outlined plans for comprehensive implementation of high-quality development actions for key industrial chains in the manufacturing industry in 2024.

The plan is expected to move faster in fostering emerging sectors such as new energy, new materials and high-end equipment, further unleashing new growth potential within China's manufacturing industry.

On another development, China's foreign exchange reserves reached a two-year high of \$3.238 trillion as of the end of last year while gold reserves increased for the 14th consecutive month, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

The country's foreign exchange reserves were up by \$66.2 billion, or 2.1 percent, compared with the end of November, SAFE said on Sunday, marking the second consecutive month of increase and hitting the highest level since December 2021, when the country's foreign exchange reserves came in at \$3.25 trillion.

The administration attributed the rally in foreign exchange reserves to a weakening US dollar and rising global financial markets.

CURRENT NEWS

Gabon, World Bank enter public-sector digital finance agreement

LIBREVILLE

GABON and the World Bank inked a \$68.5 million financing agreement this week for the Digital Gabon Project, which aims to accelerate the adoption of digitalised public services and increase the number of people with a unique ID, facilitating inclusive access to public services.

Mays Mouissi, Gabon's minister of economy and participation, and Cheick Kante, World Bank country director for Gabon, signed the deal.

The project aims to improve the legal, regulatory, and technological foundations for data protection, cyber security, and data interchange in the public sec-

tor in order to drive digital transformation.

According to the World Bank, it will also help modernise legal identity (ID) systems, such as digitalising the civil registration system and establishing a unique ID that allows inclusive access to public services.

Gabonese citizens will have better access to public services such as social security, health insurance, public procurement, and human resource management information systems if legal ID systems are improved and made easily available through a one-stop platform, according to the statement.

"The country has made considerable progress in high-speed broadband digi-

tal infrastructure" Kante stated. "Going forward, this operation will support the country's digital transformation, which is critical for increasing opportunities for all Gabonese citizens and residents. It will help citizens and businesses by increasing the accessibility, availability, and quality of government services."

According to the World Bank, the project's goal is to address persistent inequalities in access to public services, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children, undocumented individuals, the elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous groups, displacement-affected populations, and others.



Dr. Aminu Maida, executive vice chairman of the Nigerian Communication Commission.

Nigerian state of Nasarawa scraps some right of way costs

LAGOS

THE Nigerian state of Nasarawa has eliminated Right of Way (RoW) costs for the construction, placement, laying, and maintenance of telecoms network equipment in the state.

The charges were eliminated by the State under the aegis of the State Right of Way Regulation 2023, which

became effective immediately.

The RoW charge is the fee that telecom companies pay to state governments in exchange for deploying optic cable on state roadways.

The law went into force on December 29, 2023, according to Nasarawa State, and the Nasarawa State Urban Development Board has since been told not to col-

lect charges.

The statement by State Governor Abdullahi Sule was hailed by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

"It is a huge step in the right direction in creating a healthy environment for the digital economy to thrive," NCC vice-chairman and CEO Aminu Maida remarked.

"With this audacious en-

actment, the target set by the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, to achieve 75 percent of our fibre optic cable target-set by the National Broadband Plan-by the end of 2027 has gained further mileage."

Jide Awe, a digital development champion, praised the Nasarawa State RoW regulation 2023 as a signifi-

cant step towards nurturing the state's growing digital economy.

"Its success will depend on effective implementation and continued policy efforts to promote responsible and sustainable infrastructure development," he went on to say.

The Katsina state government also eliminated the RoW charges last month.

The NCC is in talks with other states about waiving the fees. Africa's largest nation by population and largest economy by GDP is made up of 36 states.

"We hope other states will toe a similar line in easing these charges," Maida said.

Telecom companies have been paying \$9 per metre to lay fibre connection across the country

Emirates adds vegan dishes for health conscious fliers

DUBAI

AS global interest peaks in Veganuary - an initiative that has highlighted the benefits of a vegan diet for the last decade, Emirates has noted a surge of 40 per cent in customer demand for plant-based meals.

To meet this demand in 2024, Emirates will introduce an array of new vegan dishes onboard and in lounges later this year, adding even more dishes to its 'vegan vault' of more than 300 curated plant-based recipes.

Last year, Emirates had more than 300 vegan recipes in rotation across 140 destinations, up from 180 recipes in 2022 and served more than 450,000 plant-based meals onboard, an increase from 280,000 plant-based meals served in 2022.

Vegan meal consumption has grown 40 per cent year on year in line with passenger volumes, but in some regions, consumption has exceeded passenger volume growth such as, Africa with an additional 4 per cent crease, Southeast Asia with an additional 5 per cent increase, and the Middle East showing a significant additional increase of 34 per cent.

It is interesting to note that the highest increase in consumption of vegan meals occurred in Econo-

my Class and significant increases were noted specifically on Emirates routes to China, Japan and Philippines.

Many Emirates cabin crew are also embracing a plant-based diet, as Emirates introduced vegan meals for cabin crew in 2018.

In Economy class, Emirates customers can enjoy dishes like chickpea crepe stuffed with carrot, peppers, mushroom and tomato concasse, experience a textured pumpkin frittata, tucked into a tofu tikka masala or enjoy a hearty chickpea kale stew with parsley pilaf rice and baby spinach. Scrumptious vegan desserts in Economy include a coconut mousse with mango compote, moist banana cake with chocolate crumble or luscious chocolate pudding with cocoa soil.

In Premium Economy class, customers choosing vegan cuisine will be served nutritiously delicious dishes like jackfruit curry with basmati rice, or a rich squash chestnut stew followed by a light chocolate tofu cheesecake or a smooth and satisfying raspberry parfait with a pop of orange compote.

In Business class, a range of elegant and creatively curated dishes are offered including roasted cauliflower with ancient grains, caramelised pear and lovage pesto or a warming ragout of Asian tofu and shitake mushroom with glass noodles. Customers who have room



for dessert can feast on a tropical coconut pineapple cake or indulge in a chocolate cheesecake accented by a dark chocolate cigar and strawberry compote.

In First class, customers will be treated to exceptionally elevated vegan cuisine like creamy polenta cake with thyme mushroom ragout, sautéed spinach drizzled in a rich root vegetable jus. Dishes offering a burst of sophisticated flavours include aubergine curry with charred rice and turmeric potato, with a

dash of coconut and mint chutney. Decadent desserts feature curated contrasts including the tartness of rhubarb tempered with strawberry charlotte, Chantilly cream and raspberry tuille, or a tempting warm chocolate fondant, dashed with salted caramel sauce and whipped cashew cream.

Later in the year, Emirates will be launching a selection of new vegan main courses, new vegan snacks such as fruit muffins and vegan

pizza, and an array of delectable desserts including chocolate pecan cake, pistachio raspberry and raspberry tonka cake.

Vegan options are available to pre-order onboard and order directly in First Class, as well as in Emirates Lounges. Customers can request vegan meals on all Emirates flights and across all classes of travel up to 24 hours before departure.

Emirates continues to elevate cuisine in the sky, with high quality products sourced from every

corner of the globe. Some of the products used are plant-based proteins from California's Beyond Meat, soybean protein from Singapore and UAE-based Arlene, Qian Ye pressed tofu from Japan, organic dark vegan chocolate from Linnolat in France, vegan margarine from MeisterMarken in Germany, vegan curry paste from Pantai in Thailand, Koita almond milk from Italy, amongst many others.

Emirates also incorporates fresh locally grown kale and lettuce from Bustanica - the world's largest hydroponic vertical farm, a joint venture investment through Emirates Flight Catering. The Bustanica produce is grown without pesticides, herbicides, or chemicals and First and Business Class passengers can enjoy farm fresh leafy greens in some dishes, including lettuces, arugula, mixed salad greens, and spinach.

Emirates has been serving vegan meals since the 1990's. Initially, vegan requirements were focused on specific routes such as Addis Ababa where vegan meals are required during certain times of the year by those practising the Ethiopian Orthodox faith, or across regions where multiple faiths encourage a plant-based diet.

Over recent years however, vegan dishes have been rapidly gaining popularity on US, Australian, some European and Asian routes, with Emirates noting a sizeable increase in interest in vegan dishes over the last decade.

A brand-new gourmet vegan menu was introduced in 2022 to First and Business Class to offer even more choices to Emirates customers following a vegan lifestyle, or simply looking for a healthy and light meal choice while travelling.

Deal struck by firms from US, Tanzania sees Kenya meet annual FDI target

NAIROBI

THE deals Kenya signed with US firm, Moderna, for building a vaccines factory and Taifa Gas of Tanzania for cooking gas refilling plant helped the government to meet the target for foreign direct investments last financial year, authorities say.

The Investment Promotion desk says the deals, together with three others, were pivotal to unlocking slightly more than Sh135.85 billion in flows for the year ended June 2023.

The FDIs that will be fully realised when the projects are completed in subsequent years, overshot the Sh100 billion the government had set.

"This is attributed to signing of MoUs [memorandum of understanding] by Moderna, Taifa Gas, UK Green and Kisumu County, ICRC and AA Jumbo," the department, headed by Principal Secretary Abubakar Hassan, wrote in a budgetary report to guide the expenditure for the next financial year from July 2024.

Kenya finalised an agreement with Moderna in March last year to set up for manu-

facturing of mRNA vaccines in Nairobi to serve Africa, concluding the talks that started under the previous regime of Uhuru Kenyatta in March 2022. The construction of the planned \$500 million (about Sh78.7 billion) vaccines plant, the first of its kind on the continent with a proposed capacity of 500 million doses each year, is yet to start.

Moderna chief executive Stephane Bancel said in March 2023 that the plant will concentrate on making vaccines for unmet needs on the continent such as acute respiratory infections and persistent infectious diseases such as HIV and outbreaks such as Zika and Ebola.

The William Ruto administration also finalised the setting up of a 30,000-metric tonne liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) handling facility by Taifa Gas owned by tycoon Rostam Aziz.

Dr Ruto presided over the ground breaking event for the LPG plant in Mombasa in February 2023, nearly two years after the MoU was reached when President Samia Suluhu's visited Kenya in May 2021.

The actual construction of the plant in Mombasa, whose total cost was estimated at Sh16 billion, started late last month.

The State has further cited the October 2022 deal between Kisumu County and UK investment firm, United Green, for facilitating climate-smart farming around Lake Victoria as a major driver of FDI flows in the review period.

In 2022 the government now said Moderna's Sh57.5 billion vaccine plant will have a crucial role to play in the fight against other diseases beyond the Covid 19 pandemic amid global glut of coronavirus vaccines.

The comments come amid a reported global vaccine oversupply that has crept up across a world once desperate for immunisation against the coronavirus, raising fears of the viability of Covid-19 plants in the pipeline.

But health Cabinet secretary Mutahi Kagwe said vaccine plants in the Kenya pipeline including the Moderna's would also produce other vaccines. Therefore, the Covid-19 vaccines glut would not affect the construction plans.



President William Ruto and Taifa Gas Group chairman Rostam Aziz (R) during the ground-breaking ceremony of the 30,000-tonne liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) handling facility at the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone in Likoni, Mombasa County.



Workers sort fresh green beans for export in a packhouse at Kigali Special Economic Zone in Masoro.

Rwanda closer to reaching USD1 billion agricultural export target

KIGALI

RWANDA is confident it will achieve the target to generate \$1 billion (approx. Rwf1.2 trillion) from agricultural exports in the 2023/2024, considering the performance of the previous financial year, the CEO of the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), Claude Bizimana, told a local outlet.

According to a June 2023 statistics report by NAEB, Rwanda's agricultural export revenues amounted to more than \$857 million (approx. Rwf1 trillion) in the fiscal year 2022-2023, against more than \$640.9 million in 2021-2022, representing an increase of 33.74 per cent.

Rwanda's agricultural exports grew rapidly in the past years, doubling from \$225 million in 2013-2014 to \$516 million in 2017-2018, and were on pace to reach \$1 billion by 2024, as per to NAEB's 2019-2024 strategic plan.

Speaking about the performance in 2022/2023, Bizimana said that in the context of NAEB's target of achieving \$1 billion from agricultural exports in FY 2023/24, the attained performance means that the sector is contributing significantly to the set national targets, and trade balance, and gross domestic product (GDP).

Despite the unpredicted circumstances that might be beyond con-

trol or anticipated scenario, and price volatility, among others "we remain positive to reach \$1 bn agricultural export revenues by FY 2023/24, even beyond following, several ongoing initiatives including but not limited to continuing exploring new markets and engaging more buyers, ongoing trade protocols signing, and other trade engagements (like AfCFTA), and new routing opportunities for RwandAir, and sea maritime approach to uplift more volume of fresh (horticultural) produces in particular, etc".

On the strategies or factors that could enable the country to realise the revenue target, Bizimana cited exploring and developing new markets while strengthening existing ones through trade exhibitions, agreements, and partnerships.

They also include investing in training for farmers for good agricultural practices and adopting modern techniques, and third-party certifications support, which is anticipated to enhance productivity and overall output for export.

Others are continuing activities of supporting stakeholders with transportation, storage facilities, and cold chain logistics anticipated to help preserve the quality of perishable goods and reduce post-harvest losses, ensuring that products reach markets in good condition.

Again, initiating more contacts

and exploring the e-market share like Carrefour (a firm that operates hypermarkets and supermarkets in some parts of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa), adhering to international quality standards and certifications to gain access to global markets, as well as diversification and value addition, are among strategies towards reaching the target.

In the financial year 2022/2023, Rwanda exported slightly over 20,000 tonnes which brought in almost \$116 million. This represents a 53 per cent increase in coffee revenues compared to \$75.5 million earned from more than 15,000 tonnes sold at international markets, indicated the abovementioned report.

Bizimana said the positive market response was rooted in the fact that Brazil as the leading supplier of coffee in the export market had fallen short in its supply at the beginning of the same year's first quarter by 23.

"Increased coffee revenues, was as a result of global and domestic coffee prices which remained high, presenting favourable conditions for Rwanda to maintain its coffee export revenues above set targets," he said, pointing out that the development set a new record of \$5.7 per kilo in 2022/23 when compared to the \$4.9 per kilo average price in 2021/22.

WORLD

Australia bans Nazi salute, public display of terror group symbols

SYDNEY

LAWs banning the Nazi salute and the display or sale of symbols associated with terror groups came into effect in Australia on Monday as the government responds to a rise in antisemitic incidents following the Israel-Gaza war.

The law makes it an offense punishable by up to 12 months in prison to publicly perform the Nazi salute or display the Nazi swastika or the double-sig rune associated with the Schutzstaffel paramilitary group.

The sale and trade of these symbols is similarly prohibited. Attorney General Mark Dreyfus said in a statement the legislation sent a clear message there was no place in Australia for those who glorify the Holocaust or terrorist acts.

"This is the first legislation of its kind and will ensure no one in Australia will be allowed to glorify or profit from acts and symbols that celebrate the Nazis and their evil ideology."

Introduced in June and passed in December, the law has taken on new significance amid a surge in antisemi-



A Nazi swastika is seen graffitied on the front of the Victorian State Parliament in Melbourne, Australia, Oct 1, 2012. AP

tism and Islamophobia following the Oct 7 attack by Hamas, where some 1,200 were killed and 240 taken hostage, according to Israeli officials. Unverified footage showing a small group of men outside the iconic Opera house shouting "gas the Jews" during a pro-Palestinian protest in October triggered outrage around the world and a police investigation. Separately, police arrested three men in October for performing the Nazi salute outside the Jewish Museum of Australia. There were more anti-Jewish incidents in Octo-

ber and November last year than the twelve months prior, according to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

The new law also bans the public display or trade in symbols associated with prohibited terror organisations, such as Islamic state, Hamas or the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

Agencies

Ministry says UK used foreign national to spy on China

CHINA'S national security authority recently uncovered a case involving the United Kingdom's Secret Intelligence Service, commonly known as MI6, using foreign nationals to engage in espionage activities against China, the Ministry of State Security announced yesterday morning.

In a statement, the ministry said that in 2015, MI6 established an "intelligence cooperation relationship" with a foreign national surnamed Huang, who served as the head of a consulting firm overseas.

The statement did not identify Huang's nationality.

Subsequently, MI6 instructed Huang to enter China multiple times. Under its guidance, Huang gathered intelligence related to China and identified prospective individuals for MI6's counter-espionage efforts, according to the ministry.

MI6 also provided professional intelligence training to Huang in various locations, including the UK, and equipped him with specialized spy equipment for intelligence exchange and communication, it said.

Through meticulous investigation, the national security authority promptly discovered evidence of Huang engaging in espionage activities and took criminal compulsory measures against him.

Upon examination, it was determined that Huang provided MI6 with 14 pieces of classified information and three intelligence reports, the statement said.

Throughout the investigation, the national security authority has kept the consulate of Huang's country informed on his case and has arranged consular visits for him, ensuring the protection of his legal rights in accordance with the law, it added.



The headquarters of the British Secret Intelligence Service or MI6, is seen on the bank of the River Thames in London, March, 31, 2011. AP

UK-India to build closer trade, innovation partnership, during minister's visit to TN, Gujarat

NEW DELHI

BRITISH Minister of State, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad who is on a three-day visit to India from yesterday is scheduled to launch two new UK-funded sustainability projects at the ongoing Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet (TNGIM).

Ahmad (pictured) is also slated to visit Ahmedabad and attend Vibrant Gujarat, an innovation-focused summit, the British High Commission said in a statement.

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad is the Minister of State for the Middle East, South Asia, UN and the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict.

While in Chennai, the Minister

will launch a heat mitigation project alongside Tamil Nadu's State Planning Commission. The project will provide recommendations to the government of Tamil Nadu to address extreme heat-related deaths and the loss of vital ecosystems, the British High Commission statement said.

Also, with the Tamil Nadu Department of Environment and Climate Change, the minister will launch an Electronic and Battery Waste Management project, which will develop a plan to reduce battery waste, it said.

As Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are two of India's largest economies, the Minister will use his trip to highlight the strong UK-India trade partnership and explore new opportu-



nities to collaborate, including on clean energy growth, the statement added.

The British minister said, "Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are leading the

way in the development of emerging technologies, and I am delighted to see first-hand British businesses pioneering innovation in the region.

"During my visit, I look forward to further promoting joint innovation projects alongside dynamic Indian businesses - from renewable manufacturing to financial services. These are made possible through the close trade partnership we have between our two countries," he said.

At the flagship investment summit TNGIM in Chennai, Lord Ahmad will deliver a keynote speech on the success of innovative UK-India projects in climate and energy, the statement said.

He will continue to showcase the

sustainable success of British businesses overseas at a great reception and will see first-hand how British businesses are supporting clean growth in India.

At the Biennial Investors' Summit in Vibrant Gujarat, the Minister will celebrate the close ties between the UK and India through business, culture, and the great links between our peoples.

While at Vibrant Gujarat, he will witness the signing of an MoU between the UK's Abertay University and India's Ecole Intuit Lab. The partnership agreement will see teaching, research and innovation expertise shared between the two organisations, the release said.

ANI

Orthodox believers in Russia and other countries celebrate Christmas

MOSCOW

ORTHODOX Christians in Russia and other countries around the world are celebrating Christmas on January 6-7, an event which 2,024 years ago marked the beginning of the new history of mankind.

Christians conclude a four-week fast during which they confess their sins and receive communion. And on Christmas Eve they have special fasting, "until the first star," in memory of how the Magi came first to the birthplace of Christ following the movement of the star in the sky. A candle in front of the altar, which was lit at the end of the Christmas Eve service at about noon on January 6, symbolized the star.

Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia recited Christmas Eve liturgy at the Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow.

"Let us share the radiant Christmas joy with those in need, comfort our neighbors by our loving care, visit the sick and afflicted. Let us console and support people who have lost heart and shield with our prayer all those in turmoil and grief," Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia said. "By its great salvific power love heals all indifference and malice, heals enmity and grievance. It assuages the hard-hearted and makes straight the many things that have gone awry in social relations."

This year, Andrey Rublev's Holy Trinity icon was delivered from the All-Russian art scientific and restoration center named after academician I. E. Grabar to the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

The Russian Orthodox Church reported earlier on its website that "The image of the Holy Trinity was placed in a special icon case and installed near the right choir of the temple."

One of the most famous masterpieces of Russian icon painting, it is believed to be painted by Rublev for the Trinity Monastery (now the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius) at the request of Reverend Nikon of Radonezh (1350-1426), a disciple of St. Sergius of Radonezh and the second abbot of the monastery after him.

The festive Christmas service recalls the great event that marked the beginning of a new era for mankind. At the moment of birth of Godman God's grace touched every person, every family line, and from that time the person has the opportunity to accept the gift.

Russia's main Orthodox cathedral, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, built to commemorate the victory in the Patriotic War of 1812, is dedicated to the biblical birth of Jesus, since on this very day, December 25 of the older Julian calendar, the last soldier of the Napoleon army left Russia. For the first time ever, the Christmas Eve service was held with open Holy Doors to symbolize the openness of God's word for all.

January 7 is also Christmas day for Orthodox Christians in Serbia, Jerusalem, Georgia, and the monastic community of Mount Athos in Greece, one of Orthodox Christianity's holiest sites.

Indian envoy calls on Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, conveys greetings of PM Modi on her election victory

DHAKA

INDIA'S High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma yesterday called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. During the meeting, he conveyed the warm greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India to Sheikh Hasina on her election victory, sources told ANI.

Pranay Verma is the first envoy to meet Hasina and congratulate her over her victory in the elections. He expressed hope that during the new term of the Awami League government, there will be even stronger momentum and growth in the bilateral partnership between India and Bangladesh in support of each other's national development, according to sources.

Indian Envoy Verma stressed that India will continue to support the people of Bangladesh in realising their vision of a stable, progressive and prosperous nation, guided by their longstanding friendship and inspired by their shared sacrifices in the Liberation War.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won the Gopalganj-3 constituency in a landslide victory, her eighth term as a Member of Parliament. Hasina's party secured victory in 223 seats to form the government in the elections conducted on Sunday. She received 249,962 votes, while her nearest rival, Md Atiqur Rahman, got 6,999 votes. Meanwhile, another candidate, Mahabur Mollah, received 425 votes. Sheikh Hasina has won the fifth term, which is also her fourth consecutive term.

On Sunday evening, Sheikh Hasina directed her party leaders, workers and supporters not to hold any victory procession after the announcement of the results. She also instructed them not to get involved in conflict with any candidate and his or her supporters after the announcement, Dhaka Tribune reported citing Awami League Deputy Office Secretary Sayeem Khan.

ANI

THE 20-story-tall Columbus Monument, having witnessed the vicissitude of the times, is unquestionably the most eye-catching structure, when looking at downtown Barcelona from a rooftop near the piers.

Perched atop the towering monument is a statue of Christopher Columbus, whose right arm raises high and points to the sea, as if proclaiming his belief that drove him beyond his peers - beyond the ocean lies land.

It was 530 years ago in 1493 when Columbus, triumphant from his first voyage to the Americas, walked up the curved steps leading to the gates of what was then the royal palace, situated at the corner of what is now Plaza del Rey in Barcelona. There, he informed his sponsors of the findings of his voyage, and Barcelona became the first place to hear his discovery of the New World.

Columbus, an Italian, now "stands" above the Barcelona skyline as one of the city's most striking landmarks. This

Discovering 'new world' in Barcelona

reveals the spirit of exploration and openness to new ideas that characterize Barcelona, known as the "Pearl of the Mediterranean."

The old alleys and passages in Barcelona give an initial impression of the eclectic mix of East and West. There are remnants of ancient Roman walls, old Gothic-style structures standing in the core area, and buildings adorned with mosaic patterns that evoke the city's history with the Arabs. The solemn King Martin's Watchtower recalls the glorious past of Barcelona's rise in the Mediterranean Sea.

Barcelona's most iconic buildings are the works of the "maverick architect" Antoni Gaudi. Born in 1852 into a family of blacksmiths making boilers for generations, Gaudi developed a strong ability to deconstruct space and a unique intuition for sculpture. His childhood leg dis-

ability left him unable to play with other children, so he spent more time alone observing nature, inspiring his later architectural concept that emulates organic forms.

Gaudi keenly observed that nature contains no straight lines and very few perfect circles. Therefore, his buildings shun the two geometric figures, instead featuring undulating shapes, uneven surfaces, twisted door panels, leaning columns, meandering benches, and parapets of varying heights.

In his design, chimneys resemble huddles of helmeted warriors and ancient beasts, while doors and windows resemble mystical masks and gaping mouths. Mushroom-like works, candy-like buildings, rainbow lizards, and walls decorated with splashes of colorful mosaics all create his fantastical, fairy-tale world.

Some of Gaudi's contemporaries regarded his architecture as "madness." Yet today, seven of his works have been designated UNESCO World Heritage sites. Over half of Barcelona's tourist attractions are Gaudi's creations, including Park Guell, La Pedrera, and Casa Batlló. In other words, Gaudi's imaginative architectural works have practically upheld Barcelona's tourism industry.

Gaudi's most "insane" work is undoubtedly the Sagrada Familia. The structure commenced construction in 1882 and still remains unfinished today, but it has already been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Although the Sagrada Familia is surrounded by cranes and scaffolds, all who behold this edifice, into which Gaudi poured 43 years of effort, cannot help but be moved and awed by its imaginative details and intricate crafts-

manship.

Still under construction, it is an undiscovered "new world" inviting imagination and exploration, because its final form remains unknown. This makes the Sagrada Familia one of Barcelona's most thought-provoking marvels.

Barcelona nurtured not only Gaudi but many other brilliant masters, including artistic geniuses like Pablo Picasso.

Next to the whimsical Casa Batlló is the graceful, lace-like Casa Lleó i Morera, and the Neo-Gothic style Casa Amattler. Their contrasting styles earned the street the nickname the "Block of Discord."

But through a lens of innovation and inclusiveness, such beauty of the differences is the harmony that is most in keeping with the form of nature. Meandering Barcelona's vibrant streets,

which embrace diverse inspirations, one may chance upon delightful discoveries of the "new world." This is the allure that draws visitors from afar.

Barcelona has had its share of struggles between the old and the modern, between heritage and innovation. In June 1926, when the city was celebrating the opening of a tram, an elderly ignorant of the novel transport was struck down and soon passed away after being taken to the hospital.

The elderly was Gaudi. He was then immersed in his architectural imagination. This misfortune seems to symbolize the clash between the old and the new. Yet Barcelona's spirit, nurtured through centuries as a port city open to the sea and the world, persevered in embracing both heritage and progress.

In the early 1990s, after decades of effort to win the 1992 Olympics bid, Barcelona's concern was to integrate modern stadiums with the natural Mediterranean landscape. **People's Daily**

China speeds up fostering new drivers in foreign trade

THE recently hosted central economic work conference stressed that it will be imperative to foster new drivers of foreign trade, reinforce the stable performance in foreign trade and foreign investment, and expand trade in intermediate goods, trade in services, digital trade and exports of cross-border e-commerce.

In 2023, China's foreign trade sector has withstood external pressures and continued to demonstrate its resilience.

Recently, the first batch of 50 new energy buses made by Chinese bus manufacturer Higer Bus were shipped from the Taicang port in east China's Jiangsu province, heading to Brazil.

With the support from the local customs, hawthorns grown in Laiwu, east China's Shandong province were exported to Thailand for the first time.

Last year, China faced a complex and challenging external environment, as well as multiple difficulties at home. Precise policy implementation, proactive efforts from businesses, and active market exploration have promoted stability and improved quality in China's imports and exports of goods amid uncertainties.

Since October 2023, China's foreign trade has shown year-on-year growth for two consecutive months. In November, the total imports and exports increased by 1.2 percent compared to the same period in 2022, 0.3 percentage points higher than that in October. These figures fully reflected the good momentum for steady and improving growth of China's foreign trade.

Foreign trade is one of the important driving forces of economic growth. Promoting the sector to stabilize the scale and optimize the structure has a

crucial supportive role in maintaining stable growth and employment, building a new development pattern, and advancing high-quality development.

Currently, the number of foreign trade enterprises in China with import and export records has increased to 597,000, and the import and export value of enterprises that have stayed active since 2020 accounts for nearly 80 percent of the whole.

In the first 11 months of 2023, the imports and exports of general trade, which features longer industrial chains and relatively higher added value, accounted for 64.8 percent of China's total foreign trade, growing 1 percentage point year-on-year. This further reinforced the high-quality development of foreign trade. In the first three quarters of 2023, the combined exports of new energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products rose 41.7 percent year-on-year, with their share in China's total exports up by 1.3 percentage points from a year ago.

The world has entered a new period of turbulence and change. The momentum of world economic growth is sluggish. Destabilizing, uncertain and unpredictable factors are increasing.

Faced with a complex external environment, various regions and departments in China have enhanced the internal driving force with reform and opening up. They coordinated efforts to promote deepened reform and high-level opening up, continuously liberated and developed social productive forces, stimulated and enhanced social vitality, and accelerated the cultivation of new drivers of foreign trade, thus promoting the sustained improvement of foreign trade.

From the perspective of develop-



Ladder trucks manufactured by Qingdao Jiuhua Heavy Industry Machinery Co., Ltd. in east China's Shandong province go through inspection before being exported. [People's Daily Online/Liang Xiaopeng]

ment trend, China's foreign trade in 2023 continued to consolidate the foundation of "stability" and kept the momentum of "progress," expanding the space for economic and trade cooperation.

China's exports of goods have been moving up the value chain. The share of electromechanical product exports in the total has expanded, and the exports of green, low-carbon and smart products have grown rapidly.

While fostering new drivers of foreign trade growth, China has not only focused on leveraging the new advantages of traditional products, but also

continuously expanded new areas of growth such as new energy vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaic products, so as to further utilize its advantages in new arenas.

China has employed digital technologies to improve the efficiency in all links of foreign trade, facilitate the foreign trade sector and unleash the vitality of foreign trade entities. At the same time, it has actively expanded trade in intermediate goods and expedited the growth of service trade.

With the continued strength of domestic policies to stabilize foreign trade and the steady progress of fore-

ign trade reform measures, China's foreign trade will maintain stable growth, with continuous optimization of trade structure and strengthening of internal growth drivers.

Various regions and departments across China will prioritize efforts to accelerate the optimization and upgrading of the foreign trade structure. They will focus on cultivating new drivers of foreign trade growth that are technologically advanced, high value-added, green and low-carbon, to further promote high-quality development of the country's foreign trade sector. **People's Daily**

Russian air defence intercepts 14 MLRS rockets, 6 Neptune missiles in 24 hours

MOSCOW

IN the past 24 hours, Russian air defence systems intercepted 14 HIMARS and Uragan multiple launch rocket munitions, 6 Neptune anti-ship missiles and almost 40 Ukrainian drones, the Russian Defence Ministry reported.

"A total of 14 HIMARS and Uragan multiple launch rocket munitions and 6 Neptune anti-ship missiles were intercepted. In addition, a total of 38 Ukrainian drones were destroyed near settlements of Gorobyovka (Kharkov Region), Spornoye, Peski and Gorlovka (DPR), Belogorovka, Lisichansk, Kremennaya and Makeyevka (LPR), Kharkovo, Orlyanskoye and Pologi (Zaporozhye Region)," the Ministry said.

Overall, since the beginning of the special military operation, the enemy lost: 567 planes, 265 helicopters, 10,526 drones, 447 missile air defense systems, 14,506 tanks and other armored vehicles, 1,201 MLRS launchers, 7,656 field artillery guns and mortars, as well as 17,170 special military automobile vehicles. **Agencies**



A total of 14 HIMARS and Uragan multiple launch rocket munitions and 6 Neptune anti-ship missiles were intercepted

BRICS expansion boosts global economic balance, Global South development - Egyptian expert

CAIRO

THE historic expansion of BRICS to include five new members helps create a more balanced global economy and push for further development of the Global South, an Egyptian economist has told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Diaa Helmy, a member of the Economic Committee of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, said that the BRICS expansion "opens new markets for economic cooperation and trade exchange between the countries of the group, which is in the interest of South-South cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries."

Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the BRICS group welcomed Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members during the bloc's summit in August 2023.

Their membership has taken effect since Jan. 1. With the new members, BRICS would also contribute to counterbalancing the Western hegemony in the global economy, said Helmy, also secretary-general of the Cairo-based Egyptian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

"The BRICS bloc helps create a global economic balance, which would promote international economic justice, and remove barriers to the sustainable development of some countries," said



the Egyptian expert.

Calling BRICS "a moderate and balanced group," Helmy commended its efforts to seek win-win cooperation for a shared future.

"This is the philosophy of BRICS and its founding members," he said, adding that he expected more countries to apply for BRICS membership in the future.

The BRICS expansion, which indicates a growing global awareness of the dominance of a few rich nations in international affairs, has also raised the hope of emerging economies to

reform the global governance system where the Global South is underrepresented, Helmy said. "The U.S. control over international economic decisions leads to the suffering of other countries, especially countries of the Global South," the expert said.

As far as Egypt is concerned, Helmy believed that joining BRICS "opens vast economic horizons" for the most populous Arab country as it is working hard to localize modern technologies and industries as part of its sustainable development goals. "BRICS is a group that seeks

to enhance economic cooperation, open new markets, and exchange trade, technology, and expertise for common development," he noted. Helmy said that the BRICS expansion is also "a win-win solution" for both the new members and the bloc. "BRICS is a strong platform for economic cooperation as well as cultural and social exchanges, and a solid bridge for comprehensive sustainable development across the world," he said, adding that the bloc "will be surely strengthened by the presence of new members."

Xinhua

'PM Modi introduced world to beautiful places in India'

NEW DELHI

AS protests spiralled over derogatory remarks of a Maldivian minister against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi on Sunday said the former, through his recent visit to Lakshadweep, introduced the world to some exotic and virgin locales in India.

Speaking to ANI on Sunday, the Union Minister also called on fellow Indian citizens to choose top tourist destinations in the country -- from Leh-Ladakh in the north to Andaman and Lakshadweep in the south -- over locations abroad.

"I am only looking at PM's visit (to Lakshadweep). (Through his visit to the Union Territory) He introduced the world to the beautiful places in India. If there's the Maldives, then Lakshadweep is also there...it is closer home as well. We also have the Andamans, Himachal and Leh-Ladakh. Indians have big hearts and are also well-regarded for their higher level of thinking. Hence, one needs to view India from a proper perspective to understand the country and what it represents," the Union Minister told ANI.

On the disparaging remarks made by some leaders in the Maldivian dispensation, Lekhi said, "I don't care about that (what the Maldivian leaders said). We have to take pride in our history and steps to make India 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant). I believe that Indians should take more interest in their homeland and consider



travelling to our tourist destinations as opposed to flying overseas."

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and former External Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid, too, reacted to the controversy over the disparaging posts against PM Modi, saying everything could be solved through 'dialogue'.

"We do not take forward the comments of people of foreign countries because it is a question of our national interest. Everything can be solved through dialogue," Khurshid told ANI.

The development comes amid growing outrage over Maldivian Deputy Minister of Youth Empowerment, Mariyam Shiuna's post on X, making a mocking and disrespectful reference to Prime Minister Modi over his recent visit to Lakshadweep, which lies close to Maldives.

The post by Shiuna, which has now been deleted, featured images of PM Modi from his recent visit to the Union Territory. Amid the uproar, the Maldivian government on Sunday sought to distance itself from minister Mariyam Shiuna's derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying her opinion does not reflect the government's views.

The government added that 'appropriate action' will be taken against the minister, who is in the midst of a social media firestorm over her post. **ANI**

US, Japan, South Korea reiterate commitment to trilateral maritime security with international law

WASHINGTON

THE governments of the US, Japan and Korea reiterated their ongoing commitment to trilateral maritime security and law enforcement cooperation in accordance with international law with a focus on support for capacity building in the Indo-Pacific region.

They further emphasised the importance of collaborating to enhance regional economic security, resilience, and development, including taking action to combat climate change and engaging with Indo-Pacific partners on several issues, including information and communications technology, cybersecurity, and emerging technology, including through the AI Safety Summit and the Global AI Forum hosted by South Korea in

2024.

"They reiterated their ongoing commitment to trilateral maritime security and law enforcement cooperation in accordance with international law, with a focus on support for capacity building in the region," according to the statement.

The trilateral United States-Japan-Republic of Korea Indo-Pacific Dialogue was held on January 5 in Washington, DC.

This dialogue is a new chapter in the countries' partnership and an important step forward to strengthen and more closely align the policies globally.

It was led by US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Daniel J. Kritenbrink, Japanese Deputy Minister, Direc-

tor-General Kobe Yasuhiro, and Republic of Korea (ROK) Deputy Minister Chung Byung-won.

Before beginning their planned discussions, the three partners expressed their condolences for those who lost their lives in the recent earthquake in Ishikawa prefecture.

The representatives of the US, Japan, and South Korea discussed each country's Indo-Pacific approach and opportunities for cooperation, with an emphasis on partnership with Southeast Asian and Pacific Island countries.

"They shared their respective assessments on geopolitical trends shaping the Indo-Pacific, highlighting the need for enhanced trilateral cooperation," the statement said.

Moreover, while focusing on the opportunities for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the partners also noted the worrying trends in the region, including the worsening humanitarian, political, and economic crisis in Myanmar.

Recalling the publicly announced positions of the three countries on the recent dangerous behaviour supporting unlawful maritime claims by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea, they strongly reiterated their firm commitment to international law.

Their commitment included "the freedom of navigation and overflight, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and they opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo

by force or coercion anywhere in the waters of the Indo-Pacific."

They further condemned North Korea's continued development of its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programs, growing military cooperation with Russia, and grave human rights violations and abuses.

"They reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as indispensable to security and prosperity in the international community," it said.

Later, they also reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate through regional forums and groupings, including ASEAN, the Friends of the Mekong, the Partners in the Blue Pacific, and the Pacific Islands Forum.

They further noted the unique

opportunity for trilateral cooperation at the United Nations in 2024, while the United States, Japan, and South Korea hold seats on the Security Council.

"They celebrated the success of the US APEC host year in 2023, looked forward to cooperating on the ROK's APEC host year in 2025, and applauded progress made on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity negotiations," according to the statement.

Moreover, they discussed strategies to advance women's economic empowerment and equitable participation in the digital economy and looked forward to the 2024 Women's Economic Empowerment Conference in Washington, DC.

The ministers also noted the

opportunities for further youth engagement with Pacific Island and Southeast Asian countries, supported in tandem by the US, Japan, and South Korea, including the upcoming July 2024 Trilateral Global Leadership Youth Summit in Busan.

Recognizing the increased threat posed by foreign information manipulation, the United States, Japan, and South Korea discussed ways to effectively counter these threats while respecting freedom of expression.

Moreover, the meeting built upon commitments made during the Trilateral Leaders' Summit at Camp David, hosted by President Joseph Biden on August 18 last year.

ANI

TCA now seeking to iron out failings in its administration

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

DESPITE having a low profile on the national sporting radar, local cricket administrators have striven to ensure that the sport burgeons on the domestic scene.

Although their massive efforts have not been entirely successful, there can be no doubting the fact that local cricket has improved during the past decade.

Early last week, media reports revealed that local cricket's governing body the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) is planning to implement a few notable measures that will bolster transparency within the body's various hierarchies of leadership.

While extolling the virtues of the TCA's new measures, the TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar promised that the new changes will reassure all cricket stakeholders that there is accountability in the TCA's operations.

It is thus hoped that once the TCA is in rude health, our various national cricket teams will be enabled to soar to stratospheric heights where performance is concerned.

Speaking of performance, football fans and pundits alike are impatiently awaiting the beginning of the 2023 AFCON finals, which is slated to kick off this Saturday.

Indeed, the 2023 AFCON finals promises to be a riveting event to savor especially when one considers the pantheon of African football greats that fans will be able to feast their eyes on.

And, this time around, the perennially pulsating football spectacle will feature a who's who of African football such as the deadly Senegalese attacker Sadio Mane, the devastatingly prolific Egyptian goal-scorer Mohamed Salah and the entertaining Algerian



Newly elected Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) officials are pictured after the association's election which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. They are (sitting L-R) vice chairman Ashish Nagewadia, Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar, and women's representative Antonia Chuyo. Standing (L-R) are treasurer John Zablon, board member Kanuti Masanja, and the other board member Ali Kombo. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

winger Riyad Mahrez, who possesses bags of skill.

Apart from the aforementioned football icons who are expected to dominate the stage, it is hoped that the championship will serve up a few astounding giant-killing feats, which never fail to raise the excitement levels a few notches higher.

Let us switch our focus now to the Paris Paralympic Games, which are expected to get underway on August 28 this year.

Indeed, one hopes that our country will be able to send a contingent of Paralympic athletes to the quadrennial sporting festival, who will hopefully gladden our hearts with their sterling displays.

One particular group of local Paralympic sportsmen that can jockey for top honors at the Paralympic Games is our wheelchair tennis players, who have garnered some rave reviews for their fabulous outings at international competitions in recent years.

In light of this, it is hoped that our leading wheelchair tennis players can begin readying themselves forthwith for the year's grandest sporting championship as eleventh-hour preparations will only see our sportsmen end up with naught at the immensely esteemed Paralympic Games.

In the big picture, though, it is incumbent upon our local sports administrators to create a conducive environment in which Paralympic

sports can flourish on the local scene.

Understandably, doing this will entail seeking funding for Paralympic sports to thrive as well as ensuring that Paralympic sporting events take place frequently as opposed to irregularly, which is the current status quo.

It should be noted here that all this and more can be achieved only if local sports administrators can display the determination and dedication to radically transform local Paralympic sports.

Taifa Stars' coach confident despite loss to Egypt in friendly

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

TANZANIA's senior national football team, Taifa Stars, suffered a 2-0 defeat to hosts Egypt in an international friendly match played in Cairo on Sunday night.

The two teams used the match to prepare ahead of the 2023 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) which is slated to kick off on January 13, 2024, in Côte d'Ivoire.

In the 32nd minute, Egypt found the breakthrough from a quick move that saw Salah feed ex-Aston Villa winger Mahmoud Trezeguet before the latter calmly finished to give his side the advantage.

Marwan Ateya's thumping strike nearly doubled Egypt's lead as Tanzania's goalkeeper Aishi Manula tipped the ball into the bar before the end of the first half.

After the break, his 73rd-minute penalty hit the crossbar, deflected back off Tanzania goalkeeper Aishi Manula and found the net.

Taifa Stars head coach Adel Amrouche sent a clear message that Tanzania is not just showing up at the AFCON, it is aiming to compete.

After a rigorous training camp in Egypt, Amrouche assured Tanzania's football fans that his team is hungry for victory.

Amrouche insisted: "There are no easy games in this tournament but we're prepared to fight for every point."

With a tough group stage schedule featuring Morocco, Zambia, and DR Congo, the Taifa Stars know they'll have to bring their A-game.

But with Amrouche's unwavering belief and their intense preparation, Tanzania could be a surprise contender in this year's Africa Cup of Nations.

After the match against the Pharaohs, Taifa Stars' skipper Mbwana Samatta said that Egypt is a very good opponent for us in the AFCON tournament.

The forward pointed out: "Egypt is one of the teams that have a good squad in



Tanzania's senior national football team's midfielder, Feisal Salum (L), attempts to block Egypt's midfielder when they met in an international friendly duel that took place in Cairo on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

terms of national teams, but it is a good test for us before our first game at 2023 AFCON against Morocco."

"I hope the coach and the whole technical bench has seen where we were good and what areas they will be able to improve," Samatta noted.

Samatta added: "But I also hope the coach will try to use this friendly game to see the performance we got today and look at the shortcomings of our opponent because this game is a good test for us."

The Tanzanian team arrived in Cote d'Ivoire yesterday and will start the Group

F campaign with a match against 2022 FIFA World Cup semi-finalists Morocco on January 17.

The East African country's team will later take on Zambia on January 21 before coming up against DR Congo in the last Group match on January 24.

Gamondi bemoans grueling Mapinduzi Cup schedule following Yanga's exit

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Miguel Gamondi has emphasized the challenges posed by the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup's matches, asserting their toughness can be compared to the NBC Premier League clashes.

He highlighted the demanding Mapinduzi Cup schedule which has had matches played closely together, expressing concern about the players' ability to rest and recover adequately.

Gamondi stressed the impact of daily matches on players, explaining the difficulties players face without sufficient time for either rest or recovery.

He argued that the tight schedule poses a greater challenge than the Premier League, particularly impacting players' well-being.

Gamondi said: "Life in this competition is not easy due to the tight schedule, coaches and players can understand the difficulty, as it requires playing daily matches- with fans eager for victories."

The Argentinian gaffer pointed out that the constant pressure to perform for the fans makes these matches more challenging than those in the NBC Premier League.

He highlighted the lack of adequate rest for players, affecting their physical condition even in the absence of either major injuries or significant lineup changes.

"Coaches also face challenges in preparing for opponents due to limited time," Gamondi explained.

Despite these challenges, he expressed satisfaction with recent good results posted by the club, alias Yanga, in the demanding matches.

Yanga's 3-1 defeat to Rwanda's APR led to the Tanzanian club's elimination from the competition. The loss resulted in taunts from supporters of long-time rival Simba SC that have claimed Yanga avoided facing their outfit.

Following the last-eight phase win, APR is set to play against defending champion, Zanzibar's Mlandege FC, in the semi-finals scheduled for Wednesday.

Mlandege FC had advanced to the phase after securing a win over fellow Zanzibar outfit- KVZ FC- in a penalty shootout of the last-eight stage tie.

During the match, Yanga took the lead with Jesus Moloko's goal in the 23rd minute, but APR equalized before halftime via Soulei Sanda's goal.

In the second half, Victor Mbaoma scored a penalty for APR, and Sharaf Shaiboub secured a third goal, sealing Yanga's defeat.

Joseph wins Mwera Youth Chess tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

CHESS player Jackson Boniphace Joseph triumphed in the Mwera Youth Chess tournament that was held in Zanzibar recently.

Joseph beat all participants to secure the top prize and was followed by second-placed Judith Boniphace, the winner's sister, and third-placed Ernest Masanja.

The tournament took place in Mwera Maili 6 at St. Mark Primary School, located at the St. Mark Catholic Parish.

Gift of Chess Foundation donated five chess boards while the Parish Priest, Fr. Jean-Claude Malu, provided the hospitality.

The special prize was handed over to Joseph Lazaro who did not participate in the tournament but he was the most active and bright student during a preparation course, which took place late last year.

The winners were presented with various prizes which included T-shirts, mathematical instruments, a torch, a book about chess, a sticker, a counterbook, pens, and pencils.

Mwera Chess Club was started by Konrad Czernichowski- a visiting lecturer at Morogoro's Jordan University College who also teaches at the UMCS in Poland.

The club was formed in 2020 and, since then, Czernichowski has been visiting Zanzibar every year and organizing chess tournaments for kids from the Regeza Mwendu area.

Czernichowski said even though the children have learned chess from scratch, they now can play well.

"The winner of the first tournament was Levocatus. Two years ago and last year the winner was Jackson Boniphace Joseph, who participated also this year," Czernichowski noted.

"The tournament was open for children of all nationalities and religions. The only limit is the age group- below 18 years," he said.



Dar es Salaam's Vijana basketball outfit players put their skills to show during training at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Afcon 2023: Squads for tournament including Ghana, Nigeria and Egypt-2

BBC

THE 34th Africa Cup of Nations gets underway in Ivory Coast on 13 January after being shifted from 2023 to 2024 because of the rainy season in West Africa.

Below is the second list of the squads which have been announced for the tournament, which culminates with the final on 11 February.

The deadline for submitting 27-man squads was on 3 January, but countries can make changes before their opening matches should injuries occur.

MOROCCO

Goalkeepers: Yassine Bou-nou (Al Hilal, Saudi Arabia), Munir Mohamedi (Al Wehda, Saudi Arabia), Mehdi Benabid (AS FAR, Morocco).

Defenders: Achraf Hakimi (Paris St-Germain, France), Noussair Mazraoui (Bayern Munich, Germany), Yahya Attiat Allah (Wydad Casablanca, Morocco), Nayef Aguerd (West Ham, England), Romain Saiss (Al Shabab, Saudi Arabia), Yunis Abdelhamid (Reims, France), Chadi Riad (Real Betis, Spain), Abdel Abqar (Alaves, Spain), Mohamed Chibi (Pyramids, Egypt).

Midfielders: Amir Richardson (Reims, France), Sofyan Amrabat (Manchester United, England), Oussama El Azzouzi (Bologna, Italy), Selim Amallah (Valencia, Spain), Bilal El Khannouss (Genk, Belgium), Azzedine Ounahi (Marseille, France), Ismael Saïbari (PSV, Netherlands), Amine Harit (Marseille, France).

Forwards: Hakim Ziyech (Galatasaray, Turkey), Amine Adli (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany), Abde Ezzalzouli (Real Betis, Spain), Sofiane Boufal (Al Rayyan, Qatar), Tarik Tissoudali (Gent, Belgium), Youssef En-Nesyri (Seville, Spain), Ayoub El Kaabi (Olympiacos, Greece).

MOZAMBIQUE

Goalkeepers: Ernan (UD Songo, Mozambique), Fazito (Ferroviario Nampula, Mozambique), Ivane Urrbal (Associação Black Bulls, Mozambique).

Defenders: Domingos (Costa do Sol, Mozambique), Nanani

(UD Songo, Mozambique), Edmilson Dove (Kaizer Chiefs, South Africa), Bruno Langa (GD Chaves, Portugal), Reinaldo Mandava (Atletico Madrid, Spain), Mexer (Bandirmaspor, Turkey), David Malembana (FC Noah, Armenia), Nene (Associação Black Bulls, Mozambique).

Midfielders: Amadu (UD Songo, Mozambique), Joao Bonde (Ferroviario Beira, Mozambique), Clesio (Honka, Finland), Guima (GD Chaves, Portugal), Shaquille (Ferroviario Maputo, Mozambique), Alfons Amade (KV Oostende, Belgium).

Forwards: Domingues (UD Songo, Mozambique), Geny Catamo (Sporting CP, Portugal), Witi (CD Nacional, Portugal), Gildo (Sporting Covilha, Portugal), Stanley Ratifo (CfR Pforzheim, Germany), Lau King (Sagrada Esperanca, Mozambique).

NAMIBIA

Goalkeepers: Lloyd Kazapua (Chippa United, South Africa), Edward Maova (Pretoria Callies, South Africa), Kamajjanda Ndisiro (African Stars, Namibia).

Defenders: Lubeni Haukongo (Cape Town Spurs, South Africa), Ryan Nyambe (Derby County, England), Ivan Kamberipa (Orapa United, Botswana), Kennedy Amutenya (Gaborone United, Botswana), Ananias Gebhardt (Baroka, South Africa), Riaan Hanamub (Amazulu, South Africa), Aprocus Petrus (Liria Prizren, Serbia), Denzil Haoseb (Khomas Nampol, Namibia), Charles Hambara (African Stars, Namibia).

Midfielders: Marcel Papama (Jwaneng Galaxy, Botswana), Ngero Katua (Unam, Namibia), Prins Tjiueza (Liria Prizren, Serbia), Petrus Shitembi (Kuching City, Malaysia), Uetuuru Kambato (African Stars, Namibia).

Forwards: Peter Shalulile (Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa), Deon Hotto (Orlando Pirates, South Africa), Wendell Rudath (Jwaneng Galaxy, Botswana), Bethuel Muzeu (Black Leopards, South Africa), Joslin Kamatuka (Maritzburg United, South Africa), Absalom Jim-



Tanzania (Taifa Stars) squad. Courtesy of TFF

bondi (Khomas Nampol, Namibia).

NIGERIA

Goalkeepers: Stanley Nwabili (Chippa United, South Africa), Francis Uzoho (Omonia, Cyprus), Leke Ojo (Enyimba, Nigeria).

Defenders: William Troost-Ekong (PAOK, Greece), Bright Osayi-Samuel (Fenerbahce, Turkey), Ola Aina (Nottingham Forest, England), Abdou Diallo (Al Arabi, Qatar), Formose Mendy (Lorient, France), Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Troyes, France), Abdoulaye Seck (Maccabi Haifa, Israel), Fode Ballo-Toure (Fulham, England), Ismail Jakobs (Monaco, France).

Midfielders: Raphael Onyedika (Club Bruges, Belgium), Joe Aribio (Southampton, England), Frank Onyeka (Brentford, England), Alex Iwobi (Fulham, England), Alhassan Yusuf (Royal Antwerp, Belgium).

Forwards: Kelechi Iheanacho (Leicester City, England), Samuel Chukwueze (AC Milan, Italy), Moses Simon (Nantes, France), Ademola Lookman (Atalanta, Italy), Victor Osimhen (Napoli, Italy), Victor Boniface (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany), Ahmed Musa (Sivasspor, Turkey), Umar Sadiq (Real Sociedad, Spain).

SENEGAL

Goalkeepers: Edouard Mendy (Al Ahli, Saudi Arabia), Mory Diaw (Clermont, France), Seny Dieng (Middlesbrough, England).

Defenders: Youssef Sabaly (Real Betis, Spain), Kalidou Koulibaly (Al Hilal, Saudi Arabia), Moussa Niakhate (Nottingham Forest, England), Abdou Diallo (Al Arabi, Qatar), Formose Mendy (Lorient, France), Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Troyes, France), Abdoulaye Seck (Maccabi Haifa, Israel), Fode Ballo-Toure (Fulham, England), Ismail Jakobs (Monaco, France).

Midfielders: Lamine Camara (Metz, France), Pape Matar Sarr (Tottenham, England), Krepin Diatta (Monaco, France), Cheikhou Kouyate (Nottingham Forest, England), Pape Gueye (Marseille, France), Nampalys Mendy (Lens, France), Pathe Ciss (Rayo Vallecano, Spain), Idrissa Gana Gueye (Everton, England).

Forwards: Nicolas Jackson (Chelsea, England), Abdallah Sima (Rangers, Scotland), Boulaye Dia (Salernitana, Italy), Sadio Mane (Al Nassr, Saudi Arabia), Habib Diallo (Al Shabab, Saudi Arabia), Iliman Ndiaye, Ismaila Sarr (both Marseille, France).

SOUTH AFRICA

Goalkeepers: Ronwen Wil-

liams (Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa), Veli Mothwa (Amazulu, South Africa), Ricardo Goss (SuperSport United, South Africa).

Defenders: Nyiko Mobbie (Sekhukhune United, South Africa), Nkosinathi Sibisi (Orlando Pirates, South Africa), Siyanda Xulu (SuperSport United, South Africa), Grant Kekana, Terrence Mashego, Aubrey Modiba, Mthobhi Mvala, Khuliso Mudau (all Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa).

Midfielders: Teboho Mokoe-na, Thapelo Maseko, Thapelo Morena (all Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa), Sphephelo Sithole (Tondela, Portugal), Jayden Adams (Stellenbosch, South Africa), Thabang Monare (Orlando Pirates, South Africa).

Forwards: Zakhele Lepasa, Evidence Makgopa (both Orlando Pirates, South Africa), Themba Zwane (Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa), Oswin Appollis (Polokwane City, South Africa), Mhlahi Mayambela (Aris Limassol, Cyprus), Percy Tau (Al Ahli, Egypt).

TANZANIA

Goalkeepers: Kwesi Kawawa (Karlslunds, Sweden), Beno Kakolanya (Singida Fountain Gate, Tanzania), Aishi Manula (Simba, Tanzania).

Defenders: Bakari Mwamnyeto, Ibrahim Hamad, Dickson

Job (all Young Africans, Tanzania), Haji Mnoga (Aldershot Town, England), Abdi Banda (Richardson Bay, South Africa), Novatus Miroshi (Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukraine), Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam, Tanzania), Mohamed Hussein (Simba, Tanzania), Abdulmalik Zakaria (Namungo, Tanzania), Miano van den Bos (Villena, Spain).

Midfielders: Himid Mao (Tala'ea El Gaiish, Egypt), Feisal Salum (Azam, Tanzania), Morice Abraham (Novi Sad, Serbia), Mzamiri Yassin, Kibu Denis (both Simba, Tanzania), Tarryn Allarakhia (Wealdstone, England), Mudathir Yahya (Young Africans, Tanzania), Sospeter Bajana (Azam, Tanzania), Mo Sagaf (Boreham Wood, England).

Forwards: Cyprian Kachwele (Vancouver, Canada), Ben Starkie (Ilkeston Town, England), Mbwana Samatta (PAOK, Greece), Charles M'Mombwa (Macarthur FC, Australia), Simon Msuva (JS Kabylie, Algeria).

TUNISIA

Goalkeepers: Mouez Hassen (Club Africain, Tunisia), Aymen Dahmen (Al Hazem, Saudi Arabia), Bechir Ben Said (US Monastir, Tunisia).

Defenders: Hamza Jelassi (Etoile du Sahel, Tunisia),

Yassine Meriah (Esperance, Tunisia), Alaa Ghrum (Sfaxien, Tunisia), Ali Maaloul (Al Ahly, Egypt), Yan Valery (Angers, France), Ali Abdi (Caen, France), Montassar Talbi (Lorient, France), Wajdi Kechrida (Atromitos, Greece), Oussama Haddadi (Greuther Furth, Germany).

Midfielders: Mohamed Ali Ben Romdhane (Ferencváros, Hungary), Anis Ben Slimane (Sheffield United, England), Ellyes Skhiri (Eintracht Frankfurt, Germany), Aissa Laidouni (Union Berlin, Germany), Housem Tka (Esperance, Tunisia), Hadj Mahmoud (Lugano, Switzerland), Hamza Rafia (Lecco, Italy).

Forwards: Youssef Msakni (Al Arabi, Qatar), Haythem Jouini (Stade Tunisien, Tunisia), Taha Yassine Khenissi (Kuwait SC, Kuwait), Sayfallah Ltaief (Winterthur, Switzerland), Bassem Srarfi (Club Africain, Tunisia), Naim Sliiti (Al Ahli, Qatar), Elias Achouri (FC Copenhagen, Denmark), Seifeddine Jaziri (Zamalek, Egypt).

ZAMBIA

Goalkeepers: Lawrence Mulelenga (Power Dynamos, Zambia), Francis Mwansa (Green Buffaloes, Zambia), Toaster Nsabata (Zesco United, Zambia).

Defenders: Dominic Chanda (Power Dynamos, Zambia), Benedict Chepeshi (Red Arrows, Zambia), Rodrick Kabwe (Zakho, Iraq), Gift Mphande (Hapoel Rishon LeZion, Israel), Frankie Musonda (Ayr United, Scotland), Tandi Mwape (TP Mazembe, DR Congo), Zephaniah Phiri (Prison Leopards, Zambia), Stoppila Sunzu (Jinan Xingzhou, China).

Midfielders: Emmanuel Banda (HNK Rijeka, Croatia), Rally Bwalya (Sekhukhune United, South Africa), Miguel Chaiwa (Young Boys, Switzerland), Clatous Chama (Simba, Tanzania), Edward Chilufya (Hacken, Sweden), Kings Kangwa (Red Star Belgrade, Serbia), Kelvin Kapumba (Zesco United, Zambia), Golden Mafwenta (MFK Vyskov, Czech Republic), Kelvin Kampamba (Zesco United, Zambia), Fredrick Mulamba (Power Dynamos, Zambia), Lubambo Musonda (Silkeborg, Denmark), Benson Sakala (Mlada Boleslav, Czech Republic).

Forwards: Lameck Banda (Lecco, Italy), Patson Daka (Leicester City, England), Kennedy Musonda (Young Africans, Tanzania), Fashion Sakala (Al Fayha, Saudi Arabia).

Arsenal's latest defeat echoes to a past era of missed chances

By Miguel Delaney

HERE they go again. It is remarkable how almost everything around a club can change and, with a few familiar notes, there are suddenly so many echoes of the past.

Here was the Arsenal attack, taking that one extra pass when they should have shot. Here were the Arsenal fans, agitatedly imploring the manager to buy a striker and sometimes turning to the press box to angrily reiterate the point. There was the big-club opposition showing them how it's done. There was the Arsenal manager defiantly talking a good game and maybe a better one for his team than actually happened.

Was this 2014 again, or even 2008? What next, checking out AFTV? One of Mikel Arteta's lines in his post-game press conference did actually generate as much online traction as one of the more excitable arguments on the fan channel would.

"Merit-wise and performance-wise there is no question that we deserve to win the games but the

results are very different," the manager said after his side's 2-0 FA Cup defeat to Liverpool, a result that made it three losses in a row.

Deserve, however, hasn't got much to do with it. Goals-wise, whatever about merit and performance, Liverpool made that clear. For Arteta's part, it is true that Arsenal created a lot of chances and there was generally a vibrancy about their play... until they got to the box. They then missed opportunities with ways that were almost more inventive than the actual attacking.

The greater issue with that, however, is whether that begins to foster a growing problem; whether the players start to develop a mental block about scoring. People outside the club might consider Arteta's response to that question more

reflective of the situation.

"Probably it has. Especially after today, more than it was against Fulham or West Ham [United] before that." That is precisely why Arteta says they can benefit from the refresh this next two weeks may offer. Arsenal don't have a game until Crystal Palace at home on 20 January.

"That's why I think we need a reset," he said. "This break is good. It comes in a good time."

There does seem something here that goes beyond psychology, though. There is similarly an argument Arsenal performed beyond their level last season.

Bukayo Saka still looks physically exhausted. One attempted finish was strikingly like that against Fulham, where it was almost as if a lethargy afflicted his game. That isn't a surprise given how much even a 22-year-

old has been overused. Arsenal have very abruptly looked thin in attack, with players either too young or too short of that exacting quality. While Saka and Gabriel Martinelli can of course represent the future of their attack, it still feels like all of Eddie Nketiah, Leandro Trossard, Reiss Nelson and Emile Smith Rowe should be little more than back-up options if you are seriously thinking about challenging Manchester City.

Then there's the enigmatic Kai Havertz, or at least enigmatic in the sense it's hard to predict whether he's going to take an exquisite touch or send the ball in a completely unexpected direction. It is almost an achievement for a player whose technique is this good to offer so many baffling moments.

"Baffling" is now the word being used to describe the signing as a whole, especially as Arsenal desperately try to find the money for a finisher.

There was a pointed line from Arteta as regards a January purchase. "One thing is what we need and another is what we can do."

Arsenal have genuine interest in Ivan Toney and would like to do it in this window but they can't get there due to Profit and Sustainability rules with Brentford demanding £100m. That is a non-starter without a big sale.

Which of course raises the issue of the huge outlay on Havertz in the summer. From that perspective, it seems to make even less sense. Except, it's not so much why Havertz was signed but when.

The German would almost be the perfect signing if a team wanted to offer a different dimension [open

itals] after [close] winning a title, when opposition sides have started to figure them out. Now, at this stage of Arsenal's development, he looks like a luxury when they need extreme efficiency.

There's then the other major forward, who was missing on Sunday. The question on Monday is whether Gabriel Jesus is going to be missing for much longer.

"He had some pain in his knee," Arteta said. "We have done a scan that shows something. Hopefully it's not something big. It's the same knee that he

had [before], so we could not take any risks."

So it could be big, came the obvious question? "No, hopefully not."

If it is, though, it may dictate Arsenal's actions - but only to a certain degree. Arteta freely admitted that signing a striker "does not look realistic" at the moment, which is understood to relate to figuring out the finances required to get Toney.

It left Arteta appealing to the faith of fans, when asked about some of the comments in the stadium during the Liverpool defeat.

"What I beg from the supporters is that they are behind the team like they have been in difficult moments. Stick behind the ones that we have. They are incredibly good. If not then they don't do what they've done today and in Anfield. Stick by them. That's exactly what they need. Then they feel important and supported. With their attitude they don't deserve anything different."

That doesn't change the possibility that, even after this break, Arsenal might need something different. Here we go again.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



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By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

Nigerians have qualities to 'thrive' in Premier League, says Adebayor

LONDON

FORMER Arsenal and Manchester City striker Emmanuel Adebayor believes African Footballer of the Year Victor Osimhen possesses all the attributes required to "thrive" in the Premier League.

Nigeria frontman Osimhen, who won the prestigious continental award in December, has become one of the hottest properties on the transfer market. This is ostensibly on the strength of his stellar 2022-23 season when his 26 goals saw him finish as the top goal scorer in Italy's Serie A and helped end a 33-year league title drought for Napoli.

Last month the 25-year-old extended his contract with the club until 2026, but that is unlikely to ward off suitors such as Arsenal and Chelsea who retain significant interest in his services.

"He has the right attitude, mentality, and determination to excel there (in England)," former Togo captain Adebayor told BBC Sport Africa.

"I'm praying for him to move to the Premier League and show what he's capable of."

The Premier League was dominated by African strikers in the mid to late 2000s, with the likes of Adebayor, Didier Drogba, and Yakubu headlining for some of the biggest clubs in the division.

The continent's representation up front has thinned out significantly since then, and although both Mohamed Salah and former Liverpool teammate Sadio Mane sit atop the list of Africa's highest scorers in the Premier League, neither is an out-and-out center-forward in the traditional sense.

Osimhen idolized Ivory Coast striker Drogba growing up and has also made no secret of his desire to play in the Premier League in the future.

While Osimhen's contract extension - along with his involvement at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast - is expected to keep interested parties at bay this month, the end of this season will no doubt see several clubs come in for the Napoli marksman.

Adebayor thinks the time is right for the Nigerian, who he affectionately referred to as his "younger brother", to move to England and take up the mantle of the great African strikers from years gone by.

"The Premier League is the toughest and best (league) in the world," Adebayor said.

"Osimhen has shown and done it already in Italy, I think it is the right time for him to move to England and replace his idol Drogba and do beautiful things.

"He has all it takes to make a name and write a great chapter in England like Drogba."

When Osimhen received his African Footballer of the Year award in Morocco, Adebayor was among the people he name-checked in his acceptance speech.

Adebayor, who himself won the Confederation Of African Football (Caf) accolade in 2008, has shed some light on his mentor relationship with Osimhen and said he was touched by his words.

"I started talking to him one or two years (ago)," the 39-year-old.

"Every time I talk to him, it's about encouragement, and I tell him what to do and what not to do. I didn't even know that he was listening.

"To come on a bigger stage like the Caf awards, the Ballon d'Or of Africa, and mention my name, and thank me for the encouragement... to be honest with you, I got emotional.

"And I'm a guy that doesn't get emotional at all. But there I didn't have a choice.

"It was even more beautiful than when I won it myself. To be honest with you, this is how big it was.

"This will stay with me for life. If he continues in this stride he will win more Caf awards in the future."

Adebayor scored 97 goals in 241 appearances over a decade in the Premier League, which began with the Gunners in 2006 and also included stints at Tottenham Hotspur and Crystal Palace.

Having retired in March last year, he said his era in the English top flight was a "beautiful" time for African players - and some English footballers too.

"I remember very well when I was there we had Didier Drogba in Chelsea, myself in Tottenham or Arsenal, Yakubu was also there before, we then had Samuel Eto'o join us at some point with Chelsea and Everton," he said.

Amrouche slams Taifa Stars players for poor performance



Tanzania's senior national football team winger Tarryn Allarakhia (R) dribbles past Egypt's player as the squads locked horns in a friendly duel that took place at Cairo International Stadium on Sunday and culminated in a 2-0 victory for Egypt. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

TANZANIA concluded the squad's 2023 Africa Cup of Nations preparations with a 2-0 defeat to Egypt in a friendly tie played in Cairo on Sunday night.

The game served as Taifa Stars' solitary warm-up encounter ahead of the tournament's start in Cote d'Ivoire on January 13.

Taifa Stars head coach Adel Amrouche utilized the opportunity to assess his players, fielding Simba SC's goalkeeper Aishi Manula, left-back Mohamed Hussein, and Ben Starkie, both returning after a prolonged absence.

Additionally, Tarryn Allarakhia, Charles M'mombwa, Mohamed Omar, Novatus Dismas, Dennis Kibu, and Haji Mnoga featured in the match after coming from the bench in the second half.

In the first Tanzania sat too deep and ceded possession to Egypt. Taifa Stars managed to contain Egypt until the 33rd minute when Mohamed Salah delivered a precise long pass to Mahmoud Hassan 'Trezeguet', allowing the midfielder to beat the oncoming Manula from close range.

Amrouche made six changes after the break which saw an improved performance from Taifa Stars.

However, with the game more open in the second half, Egypt pressed forward,

resulting in substitute Omar Marmoush being brought down in the penalty area midway through the period.

Salah turned from provider to scorer as he scored from the penalty kick to secure Egypt's second goal of the match.

A livid Amrouche called out his players in a very short postgame media session that

lasted all of about 60 seconds.

The tactician pointed out: "If you have two hundred shillings in your pocket you can't travel to Kigoma. You must be realistic. There are some players, whose deliverance is not what I think (expect). It is the reality and we saw it."

"The name is nothing, we need players who can do

something. I am happy with some players and unhappy with others," he disclosed.

The Belgo-Algerian coach noted: "And you know we don't have lots of time to correct everything. I am happy with the coming back of Tshabalala and also happy for Tarryn, for Charles."

"There are some players who give satisfaction and

there are others who if I can change the list now I will send them home. It is the reality," Amrouche stressed.

Taifa Stars will kick off their Africa Cup of Nations campaign against World Cup semi-finalist on January 17, followed by a clash with Zambia four days later, concluding their group stage against DR Congo on January 24.

Gamondi downplays Yanga's exit from Mapinduzi Cup

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA's head coach Miguel Gamondi has downplayed an early exit from the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup after the club's 3-1 quarterfinal loss to Rwanda's APR FC in Zanzibar on Sunday.

In a game played at New Amaan Complex, Yanga opened the score 23 minutes into the encounter through Jesus Moloko, but Sanda Soulei leveled matters for APR FC during added-on time at the end of the first half.

After the restart, APR FC came out more rejuvenated, dominating proceedings as they got a penalty after four minutes.

Victor Mbaoma stepped up to send Yanga's goalkeeper the wrong way to give APR FC the lead in the 50th minute.

Substitute Sharaf Shiboub doubled the lead in the 79th minute, a goal that was the icing on the cake to help the Rwanda Premier League reigning champion progress to the semi-finals.

The Argentinian coach did not hide his disappointment with the result as his much-changed team was edged out by a spirited APR FC.

He downplayed the tournament by admitting he used it to give playing time to fringe and youth



Yanga's Ducapel Moloko (L) unleashes a strike past APR FC's player to score for his outfit when they took on each other in a 2024 Mapinduzi Cup last-eight match in Zanzibar on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

players. Gamondi said: "Football is like that. We played a very good first half. Maybe we deserved to score one or two more goals."

"Three minutes into the break we made a bad mistake to play the ball in the center and they equalized," he noted.

"In the second half, we did not deserve much because the team was disorganized and the other team could have scored more goals after the second one. It is okay, it is football. Everybody knows we came without fourteen players," the coach revealed.

He pointed out: "We have eight players on national team duties. We have some players like Aucho, Zouzoua, and

even Yao with injuries, Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy' is injured as well while Jonas Mkude had a personal problem today."

"This tournament was to give minutes to players who did not play regularly, especially for the youth. You see today, out of 20, we had 16 players from Tanzania," Gamondi revealed.

The coach noted: "We need to congratulate the other team but, for us, the most important things are the league, the Azam Sports Federation Cup, and the CAF Champions League."

He explained: "We took this tournament as preparation, evaluation. I evaluated these four games, some players we see the level and who needs to continue to improve."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

