



Guardian BUSINESS Stocks indices end week on high note with 2.7bn/- foreigners' shares buying

Geopolitical uncertainty now supports gold demand, prices

Mahenge graphite project gets approval for \$53.9m funding

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Potato varieties guidelines' book launched in Dar Page 3

No more conflicts between Serengeti, nearby villages Page 4

Reserve attracts more visitors after engaging bodaboda Page 6

EU, partners rolling out 250m/- energy innovations contest

Through this challenge we aim to unlock the potential of Tanzanian innovators and drive transformative change in our energy landscape

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

KEY development partners working with the Energy ministry have launched a 250m/- energy efficiency innovation challenge.

Collinse Rwaga, a senior ministerial official, representative from the ministry of Energy, said at the launching ceremony that the innovation contest was aimed at solving the critical need for energy efficiency.

"Through this challenge we aim to unlock the potential of Tanzanian innovators and drive transformative change in our energy landscape," he said of this initiative where the government in collaboration with the European Union (EU), the Embassy of Ireland and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has rolled out an invitation for usable, low cost designs.

This initiative, themed "igniting sustainable energy practices for a greener future" is expected to help strengthen energy efficiency outcomes by fostering creativity and innovation.

Aligned with the energy efficiency action plan, the challenge is intended to harness creativity in solving energy efficiency bottlenecks by stimulating the development of ingenious solutions that mitigate unsustainable energy consumption and support environmental stewardship.

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MPs urge imports of CNG-run vehicles

By Guardian Reporter

THE Energy and Minerals standing committee of the National Assembly has urged the vehicle importers both for government and private use to switch to importation of compressed natural gas (CNG) enabled vehicles to discouraging reliance on petrol and diesel fuels.

Dr David Mathayo, the committee chairman, delivered this advice during a visit to CNG filling stations in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, urging the government to waive importation taxes on CNG system installation equipment so that vehicle owners find it easier to convert their vehicles' fuel systems.

He said that the government needs to invest in setting up sufficient CNG filling stations as they are scarce at present while the demand is growing.

The Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and other relevant agencies need to increase the number of CNG filling stations, he said, pointing out that currently converting the system fetches 1.8m/- to 2m/- per vehicle.

If taxes on essential equipment are waived, it is obvious that many people will be motivated to convert the fuel systems of their vehicles, he said, insisting that the government needs to encourage car importers to import vehicles already installed with the gas fuel systems.

The government expects to work with the private sector to increase warehouses for vehicle energy system conversion

Lauding the government for introducing the use of CNG in its vehicles, he said the fuel cost with CNG is far below petrol and diesel costs, as a CNG fuelled vehicle goes a long distance in comparison to routine fuels.

Judith Kapinga, the deputy minister, said that TPDC is working on building more CNG filling stations on top of the five available at present, as 15 stations are in construction already.

The government expects to work with the private sector to increase warehouses for vehicle energy system conversion, she said, whereupon TPDC executive director Mussa Makame said TPDC was purchasing CNG filling mobile units to be distributed in various places.

The 15 stations are slated for Dar es Salaam region, chiefly to address /congestion in existing stations, he affirmed.

Tanzanian specialist doctors and their counterparts from Sudan pictured yesterday performing corrective eye surgery at a five-day camp at Muhimbili-Mloganzila Hospital in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam Region. The camp has been organised by Global Medicare. Story on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole.

Minister bans US fortified foods aid

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has directed Tanzanian and international organisations seeking to provide relief food to schools and other needy segments of society to procure the grains locally.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe issued this instruction at a departmental meeting involving senior ministerial officials and stakeholders held at the weekend in Dar es Salaam, ostensibly to set out the ministry's priorities and successes during the three years achieved in the past three years of the sixth phase presidency.

The minister showed displeasure with reports circu-

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TAHA hails tax relief, avocado market thrust

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) has lauded policy initiatives during the three years of the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan especially for providing tax relief on sorting, grading and packing technology for fruits and vegetables.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, the TAHA chief executive officer, told a press conference here at the weekend that the government took up commendable initiatives in providing generous and strategic support to the horticulture sub-sector.

This has effectively propelled the packing capacity by over tenfold, thereby bolstering productivity and ensuring the preservation of produce at an unpre-

cedented rate, she stated.

"The combined impact of these initiatives not only augments storage capabilities but also lays a robust foundation for the sustained growth of the horticultural industry, positioning it as a key player in driving economic development and ensuring food security," the business leader declared.

The government exempted customs and value added tax

(VAT) on imported agricultural implements and technologies applied in the sector, ranging from tractors to irrigation equipment and spare parts, she said.

Equally VAT exempted are agricultural inputs like seeds, seedlings, cuttings, fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, fungicides,

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CONGRATULATIONS!

3 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Board of Directors and Staff of **Bharya Engineering and Contracting Company Limited** are hereby honored to congratulate Her Excellency, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan on her completion of Three successful years of Presidential leadership and achievements. We wish to thank Hon. Mama for opening doors to new business ventures in the United Republic of Tanzania and for creating a friendly business environment for all businesses!

WE WISH HER AND OUR COUNTRY THE BEST IN THE YEARS TO COME!

RAMADAN KAREEM!

TAHA hails tax relief, avocado market thrust

FROM PAGE 1

plant growth regulators and biological agents, she elaborated.

"Packaging materials for agricultural seeds were granted one-year zero duty remission, curtailing the 25 per cent duty imposed earlier, for raw materials in manufacturing corrugated boxes for exporting horticultural products," she stated, noting that packaging materials for export products also exempted from import duty.

The government has encouraged partnerships between government agencies, research institutions and private enterprises, permitting significant investments in research and development within the horticulture industry.

This would enable farmers to acquire high-yield, disease-resistant crops and elevate overall productivity in the sector, she emphasised, hailing what she said was a paradigm shift towards environmentally friendly farming techniques.

This includes organic farming and water-conservation initiatives to ensure the longevity of horticulture produce and position the country as a global leader in responsible agriculture, she asserted.

The government has invested in efforts to empower smallholder farmers through targeted financial support, training programmes and access to modern agricultural technologies in a bid to increase their yields and participate in the larger economic landscape, she said.

The export of avocado alone soared to unprecedented heights during the period with Tanzania emerging as one of the best performers in avocado exports across the globe, the CEO noted.

President Samia's state visits opened the new markets for the 'green golden' export crop namely to China, India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), South Africa and of late, the Nordic countries.

"With a strategic and forward-thinking approach, the president's diplomatic virtues have propelled avocado exports to new heights, ushering in a wave of prosperity for growers, exporters and the broader horticulture community," she added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents a Trailblazer 2024 leadership award to Azania Bank Limited's managing director, Esther Mang'anya, at Kizimkazi in Zanzibar at the weekend. The event was sponsored by the Tanzania Women in Finance Association in marking International Women's Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EU, partners roll out 250m/- energy innovations contest

FROM PAGE 1

Johnson Masaki, a UNIDO official, said innovators are invited to apply for one of the ten grants worth 25m/- to further develop and implement ground breaking innovations" said

The grants are targeted at providing financial backing

and encouragement to individuals demonstrating the potential to shape more energy-efficient equipment that can make a difference for the future, he said.

The 20 chosen finalists will be put to a one-week boot camp for coaching from energy experts to refine their project ideas, then engage with mentors

for the duration of the project, he elaborated.

Massimiliano Pedretti, EU delegation programme manager, noted that EU is committed to supporting Tanzania's journey towards enhanced energy efficiency.

"The innovation challenge presents a remarkable opportunity

to harness the potential of youth and women-led organizations, among others" he said, affirming that the delegation anticipates witnessing ingenuity and creativity in contributing to sustainable energy solutions.

Aaron Cunningham, project manager at UNDP, said in his remarks that launching the con-

test was a crucial step towards achieving a sustainable energy future.

"By empowering local innovators to develop cutting-edge energy-efficient technologies we can drive positive change and create lasting impact in local communities," he added.



Tanzanian delegation led by Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (2nd-L) holds talks in Dodoma city at the weekend with a Burundi one led by Burundi Infrastructure and Settlement minister Dieudonne Dukundane (2nd-R). The focus was on how the Standard Gauge Railway project being implemented in Tanzania will cover Burundi, thus linking the two countries. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister bans US fortified foods aid

FROM PAGE 1

lating on social media that fortified rice, pinto beans and sunflower seed oil from the United States were being distributed as relief food to schools in Dodoma and Mara regions.

The reports noted that beyond providing nutritious meals, students at the over 300 participating schools, will also start school gardens applying rainwater harvesting techniques.

Officials said that as a fully replicable model, this programme reflects the US government's commitment to fostering health, education and opportunity for children across the globe.

The donation has been provided under as unified feeding initiative backed by the US Department of Agriculture working with food security and children nutrition support non-governmental organ-

isations.

The minister said that importers should not have brought the food aid as the country has enough rice and beans, hinting that the ministry has instructed the relevant NGO "to tell the Americans that we have sufficient food, so the funds which they pay the US farmers should be given to Tanzanian farmers."

"Let us purchase the maize, beans and rice from our local farmers and if there are additional nutritional foods needed, this should be followed up in the country," he stated.

He praised notable success in agriculture during the sixth phase government, noting that budget allocations stood at 290bn/- and increased to 750bn/- and later 970bn/- in the respective budget years.

"But in the next fiscal year budget, is to grow

into more than 1trn/- from the current 970.7bn/-.

This will increase crop production and reduce unnecessary importation costs," he said. He said the government injected 6bn/- and later 40bn/- to the Tanzania Fertilizer Co. (TFC) to revive its operations, with its working capital rising to 116bn/-, thus counting among ten leading companies in distributing fertilizers countrywide.

Last year, the government launched a seven-year project to drill 67,000 water boreholes to support small-scale farmers in rural areas, involving installation of a 5000 litre water tank to facilitate farming throughout the year.

Upwards of 70 per cent of the population relies on the agriculture sector, accounting for an estimated 28 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), the minister added.

Tax agency faces probe over pregnancy, HIV tests for recruits

By Wycliffe Muga, Nairobi

KENYAN MPs are investigating the recent recruitment of tax revenue workers after it emerged that some applicants were rejected after doing HIV and pregnancy tests.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) said it had disqualified 133 job applicants after they did the tests last year.

They were set to undergo paramilitary training to prepare them for their roles as tax collection enforcers.

Kenyan law prohibits discrimination in hiring based on health status.

The news that recruits had been subjected to medical tests visibly shocked and

angered MPs when it was revealed in a parliamentary session on Thursday.

"There is no doubt that gross violation of rights has been committed in the recruitment," said Mandera West MP Adan Haji, who chairs the National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity committee.

"Just accept that you have grossly violated over 20 Articles of the constitution and the relevant laws on human rights," he told senior KRA officials.

The tests were defended by KRA commissioner for domestic taxes Rispah Simiyu, who said the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), which conducted paramilitary training on the 1,406 revenue service assistants (RSAs)

"always subject recruits to HIV/Aids and pregnancy tests".

"The RSA has a dimension of paramilitary training, which requires physical fitness and protection of life during training," Ms Simiyu said. "This approach was purely anchored on health and safety for this group of persons to help maintain training readiness and reduce risk to potential recruits."

KRA commissioner-general Humphrey Wattanga told the committee that the 133 results were confidential and denied discriminating against people based on their HIV/Aids status.

The MPs, however, demanded to know why the job hunters were rejected given

that the law prohibits discrimination in recruitment based on health status.

The legislators dismissed the explanation by revenue officials, saying that not all paramilitary training requires HIV tests. They also questioned the role of the military in the recruitment.

The MPs vowed to open a full-scale inquiry.

"This matter needs time, but before that, KRA should explain why we should not force them to hire the 133 with immediate effect," said Kasipul MP Ong'ondo Were.

Teso North MP Oku Kaunya called for "an in-depth probe into the operations of KRA so that our resolutions and proposals will

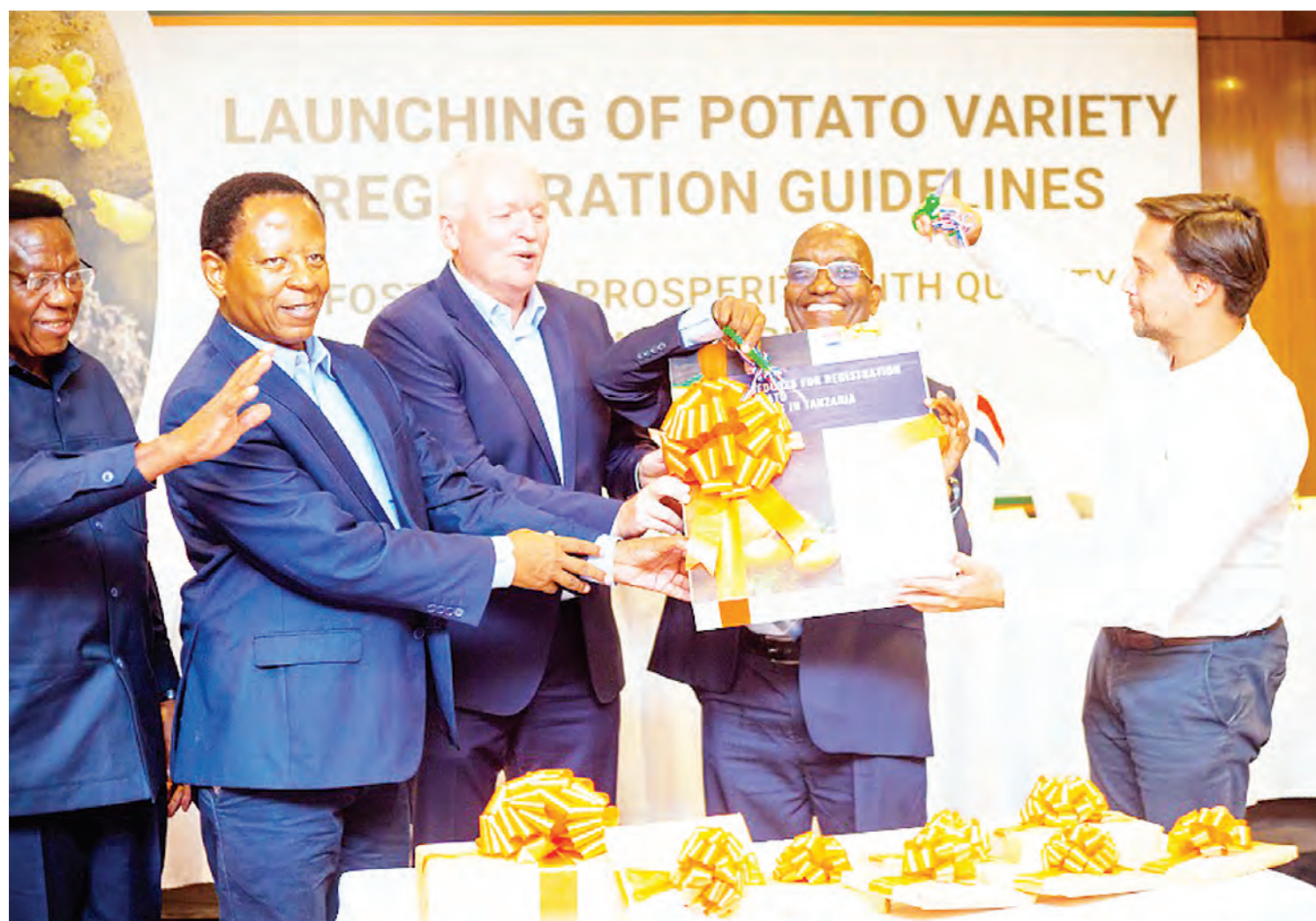
serve as an example to other organisations".

This comes barely two weeks after the High Court nullified the recruitment of all 1,406 revenue workers on the grounds that it was skewed in favour of two communities.

The court ruled that recruitment was unconstitutional since it picked the majority of recruits from the president's and deputy president's ethnic groups.

The KRA's explanation that there was a higher number of applications from the two communities was not supported by statistics, the court ruled.

The recruitment is part of the government's efforts to increase revenue collection and weed out tax evaders.



Bart Pauwels (R), agricultural counsellor with the Netherlands Embassy in Tanzania, cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to mark the launch of potato variety registration guidelines. With him (from 2nd-R): Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) director general Dr Patrick Ngwediagi, The Netherlands Ambassador to Tanzania, Wiebe de Boer (C), Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) CEO Geoffrey Kirenga (2nd-L) and Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA) executive director Bob Shuma (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Serengeti ends conflict with seven surrounding villages

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Mugumu

RESIDENTS of seven villages bordering the Serengeti National Park have lauded the efforts that led to the resolution of conflicts pitting them against the management of the protected area.

Going to the negotiation table was the best decision, it was stated here during a public meeting at the weekend which resolved the long-running misunderstanding regarding the boundaries between the park and the village land.

"We are all satisfied with the location of the new boundaries and beacons," said the Chairperson of Tamkeli Village Waitara Waitara on behalf of his colleagues. "In reconciliation it is a win-win situation, unlike taking matters to court where one wins and the other loses but all suffer time wastage and unnecessary costs," he said.

Waitara however pointed out that the village is facing challenges of poor road infrastructure and related problems especially when it rains and water scarcity during drought.

The villagers appealed to the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and development partners to consider supporting their development initiatives, including helping them to execute proper land use plans for their respective precincts.

During the period of conflicts and arguments, the villagers did not have time to address other important issues such as drafting the area's land use plan.

With the proposed new land-use plan, the residents prioritize special allocation for grazing land so that their livestock do no longer stray into the protected areas.

"For instance, our village being the new one, most of its grazing areas have been taken by the mother village," Gwikonko Village Executive Officer Mang'era Gesero said.

They called on TANAPA to assist them in drilling boreholes because some villagers walk up to 10 kilometers in search of water.

Stray elephants destroying crops was another major challenge facing the villagers on which they asked TANAPA to install an electric fence along the new boundary. "We do not compensated when elephants destroy our crops or injure us," said Leticia Edward, a resident of Tamkeli Village.

A total of 42 households that were to be evicted on grounds of encroaching on the national park will now living peacefully, Mbilikili Village Executive Officer Yohana Makuru said.

Makuru said the German Development Bank (KfW) supported the village with 360 households by constructing a dispensary and invited the village leaders to devise proposals for other development projects of their choice.

"It is all in the past now. We are happy that the Serengeti ecosystem and the surrounding game reserves are stabilizing," Dr Vincent Mashinji, Serengeti District Commissioner, said.

Potato guidelines book billed to increase production

By Guardian Reporter

THE government and Embassy of the Netherlands have launched potato varieties registration guidelines book billed to enhance food security.

Speaking recently during the launch of the book in Dar es Salaam, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Tanzania Wiebe de Boer told the audience that it was a significant step towards enhancing potato production in the country.

"This is a journey that has been shaped by a decade-long partner-

ship between Tanzania and the Netherlands over the past 10 years and has attracted Dutch potato breeders to register their potato varieties in Tanzania," he said.

He said that it also attracted vital investment in potato varieties value chain thanks to the immense potential of potato as a staple that can endure food security, generate income to farmers and create employment opportunities.

Boer said efficiency and productivity in potato farming require the use of quality seeds alongside sound agronomic practices that

fuel the growth of the agriculture sector.

He said in the Netherlands, there were over 250 potato varieties cultivated for various uses, including boiling, French fries, crisps, baking, seed production and starch processing.

Dr Patrick Ngwediagi, Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) director general said the guidelines book would help farmers, local and foreign investors who are interested in investing in potato production.

"The launch of this guidelines

book is indeed an important milestone because the book will help farmers to be well informed about the policies and laws that govern agriculture sector as well as high-light challenges and opportunities available in the country," he said.

Dr Ngwediagi explained that the book would help farmers and innovators step-by-step to register their seeds in the country and produce quality seeds to enhance the growth of the agriculture sector.

Bart Pauwels, regional agricultural Counsellor at the Netherlands Embassy, said the embassy will

continue collaborating with the government, nongovernmental organisations and the private sector to promote potato production.

"Good agricultural practices are an engine for the growth of the agriculture sector. The Netherlands Embassy will continue supporting potato production by improving the agricultural practices in ways such as introducing new technology and technical know-how," he explained.

For 10 years now, Tanzania and the Netherlands have been collaborating in potato production.

Through this collaboration, 16 potato varieties are registered and out of the varieties, 12 are Dutch varieties that result in high yields, are drought and pest resistant.

The move is expected to attract more potato breeding, production and processing. To further support the sector, the embassy facilitates TOSCI to produce step-by-step guidance on procedures to follow if an investor wants to register potato varieties for commercial purposes. The guidelines have been endorsed by TOSCI for use in Tanzania.



3

YEARS

IN OFFICE



Her Excellency **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

CONGRATULATIONS

Work well done


The Board, Management and Staff of Carbon Tanzania congratulate the President of The United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency, **Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan** on her three-year successful completion of Presidential leadership.



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Head Office
CT Limited
PO Box 425, Arusha, Tanzania
Email: info@carbontanzania.com, www.carbontanzania.com, +255 768 372 897

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PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK


NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received application for Licence under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant: -

| S/N | NAME OF APPLICANT | TYPE OF LICENCE | SHAREHOLDERS /NATIONALITY | SHARES % |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. | Kuda Tanzania Limited | National Application Services | 1. Kuda Technologies Limited-British 2. Babatunde Ogundeyi- British | 99 1 |

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers this application.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P. O Box 474 | 14414 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 2412009
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz



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Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mawasiliano Towers, 20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O Box 474, 14414 DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.
Phone: +255 22 2199760-9 / +255 22 2412011-2 / +255 784558270-1 Fax: +255 22 2412009-10
Email: barua@tcra.go.tz, dg@tcra.go.tz, Website: www.tcra.go.tz



Arusha Women in Media chairperson Jamillah Omar (R) and Off We Go Safari director Genevieve Mollel cut cake at the launch of Arusha Region's women journalists association on Saturday. Others are Arusha Press Club chairman Claud Gwandu (2nd-L) and CRDB Bank's Arusha branch manager, Amulikiwa Massawe. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Mloganzila stages corrective eye surgery camp

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWELVE people have undergone corrective eye surgery at camp organized by the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH)-Mloganzila in collaboration with the Global Medicare—a medical tourism company.

The camp was conducted by eye specialists Nabila Elias and Safwat El Badri from Sudan in collaboration with Tanzanian specialists from Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital, Tumbi Hospital in Kibaha, Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma, Regional Referral Hospital Ligula Mtwara and the Lindi-based St. Benedict Hospital.

This was said at the weekend by Dr Eric Muhumba, acting deputy executive director at MNH-Mloganzila when speaking to journalists about the just-ended five-day medical camp at the facility.

Dr Muhumba said they decided to involve Tanzanian doctors for knowledge sharing in the performance of corrective surgery which is not available in the country as patients have been traveling to get the service abroad.

He said that the specialized camp involved people with swelling outside the eye, squint in adults, injuries resulting from accidents or long-term eye scars and other patients who shed tears for a long time due to blockage of tear ducts.

According to him, the surgery was carried out successfully and there were no challenges and the patients continued with their lives as usual.

Dr Stephane Nyamsanya, eye specialist at the Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital, thanked MNH-Mloganzila for inviting them to participate in one of its kind eye surgery.

"There are things we have witnessed that we were aware of as well as many others we were not aware of; so, we have gained knowledge and going forward we will treat such patients here in the country," he said.

Dr Catherine Makunja, eye specialist at MNH-Mloganzila said that the hospital has been providing treatments that previously were not available in the country.

She said that the move has helped to reduce the burden of patients going abroad to seek specialized services, adding that among services are weight loss services with special balloons, weight loss surgery and kidney transplant.

Albert Kilalah, spokesperson of Global Medicare said the camp came following huge investment in medical equipment purchased by the government.

"In the past we used to send patients like this abroad but now expert doctors from abroad come to treat our patients here because the availability of equipment," he said.

Colleges challenged to be innovative to meet needs of labour market

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has challenged colleges and universities to set strategies to strengthen their performance in innovation and creativity to match the needs of the labour market.

Dr Hashil Abdallah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when speaking at the College of Business

Education's stakeholders' workshop to discuss CBE's 50-year vision which is to be executed until 2074.

He said CBE and other colleges should provide education that meets the needs of the local and international labour markets by having graduates with enough expertise to be accepted by employers wherever they go.

He said the business education is an important link in promoting

trade in the country and developing the economy, adding that colleges should provide quality education as it is the basis of economic and social development.

He praised the college for continuing to make reforms that are in line with time and technology in the field of business and its efforts to build academic and technical capacity for both academic staff and the students.

"The 50-year vision of the CBE

which has been prepared with competence and with the participation of various stakeholders, is an important step in ensuring that this college remains strong in providing quality education and supporting business growth," he said.

He said it is the government's hope that if the vision is implemented effectively, it will help CBE itself and bring about major changes in the business sector and society in general.

He said the college should be ready to face the challenges that may arise in educational institutions so that it has the ability to quickly meet the needs of the labour market.

Prof Edda Lwoga, CBE rector, said that in all its campuses in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Mwanza and Dodoma region CBE has a total of 19,000 students and that they have been striving to provide education in a more practical way.

She said that in implementing its

vision of 50 years, they have started to make reforms to provide education in practice where they succeeded in establishing apprenticeship programmes whereby students study while working.

"I would like to inform you that we have already obtained accreditation of apprenticeship programmes and this year we will start with banking, finance and metrology courses where students will be half at school and half at work," she said.

Fighting Hunger Worldwide



World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) No. TZA24EOI003 : Pre-Qualification of Suppliers for supply of efficient firewood cookstoves, Provision of carbon project registration and management services in Tanzania

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP Tanzania procures various goods and services for its operations.

WFP hereby invites qualified and competent suppliers duly registered in Tanzania with the relevant authorities and have legal authorization to provide such goods and services to express their interest not later than **22 March 2024** by emailing to Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org. Subject: **EOI- TZA24EOI003: Pre-Qualification of suppliers for Supply of efficient firewood cookstoves, Provision of carbon project registration and management services in Tanzania.**

WFP shall send to all applicants who express their interest an Expression of interest letter that details the i) purpose of the EOI; ii) how to prepare and submit your EOI and iii) the EOI Form. In order to participate in the prequalification exercise, interested applicants must complete and return to the email address: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org all duly completed forms and supporting documents by **27 March 2024, 10hours East Africa time.**

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation should be sent via e-mail to: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org

Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

"WFP encourages that suppliers are inclusive of persons with disabilities. A disability-inclusive supplier is a supplier which makes a dedicated, consistent, and measurable effort to implement disability-inclusive practices. Suppliers can show that they are disability-inclusive through a variety of means such as, for instance, having an organizational policy on disability inclusion, recruiting and hiring people with disabilities, offering reasonable accommodation to candidates and personnel with disabilities, providing accessible premises, or ensuring that their supply chains are disability-inclusive."

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY FEES FOR REGISTRATION.

WFP Tanzania

Delegates to discuss Kiswahili status at an EA communication conference

By Francis Kajubi

THE School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) is set to host a regional media practitioners' conference that among others, is expected to campaign for Kiswahili as leading African language.

The 14th East African Communication Association (EACA) conference to be held from 28th to 30th August this year in Dar es Salaam is co-organized by SJMC and EACA.

Dr Egbert Mkojo, SJMC Lecturer who is EACA conference coordinator told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the conference themed 'Africa and the global dialogue on media and communication' will see linguists, senior journalists, media owners and researchers present research papers on 12 different sub-theme topics.

According to him, media professionals from around the world had started submitting their abstracts and some of them have declared interest in campaigning for Kiswahili Africans' shared language.

"The conference is expected to bring together over 300 academicians and media professionals from around the world and participants will present research papers on the dilemma and future of investigative journalism in Africa," he said.

Dr Mkojo asserted that the conference will see media professionals lead a dialogue on media and information literacy in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Africa and the world at large.

"The other sub-themes to be involved in the dialogue are media innovations and sustainability in the digital era, gender issues and child safety by proposing ways of controlling harmful content on online platforms," he said.

Dr Mkojo said SJMC is well prepared to capitalize on the conference by promoting tourism destinations near Dar es Salaam such as the Bagamoyo antiquities, the Saadani National Park and historical sites in Lindi and Mtwara regions.

"There will also be dialogues on the future of journalism in the

Global South, media discourse, representation and identity, public relations and marketing," he said.

Dr Mona Mwakalinga, Dean of SJMC said that individual professionals and media institutions from the United States of America, China, England, German, Norway and Sweden have already submitted their abstracts.

She said that abstracts will be received until the end of May. EACA was established in 2022 with Kenya being the first East African country to host it. It was established in 2011 by a group of journalism, media and communication scholars working in East Africa.

Tanzania hosted the conference for the first time in 2013 at the St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) in Mwanza and this is the second time.

"For young journalists, researchers and media owners, the conference serves as the golden opportunity for networking, knowledge exchange, professional development, visibility and recognition," she said.



National Environment Council Management director general Dr Immaculate Semesi (kneeling on a mat) pictured moments after planting a sapling in Coast Region's Pugu Kazimzumbwi natural forest during a 'greening' drive meant to honour late celebrated African environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Wangari Maathai (1940-2011) of Kenya. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole



The European Union's Ambassador to Tanzania, Christine Grau (L), pictured in Dodoma city recently viewing clean cooking technologies supplied through the EU-funded Cook Fund programme. This was at a Women's Clean Cooking Conference hosted by the Energy ministry. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

768m/- is spent on repairs, equipment for HIV care clinic

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke, Ushetu

THE Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) has handed over Bulungwa HIV Care and Treatment Clinic to Ushetu District Council in Shinyanga Region after completion of its rehabilitation.

The refurbishment and the equipment handed to the facility cost a total of 768m/-. The handover was held in Bulungwa Ward at the weekend.

It is part a THPS's five-year (2021-2026) project dubbed 'Afya Hatua' funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the US Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC).

George Anatory, acting THPS executive director said the organization is committed to continue supporting the government's efforts in ensuring that it provides improved environment for HIV care and treatment to increase the number of people receiving services at the center.

"The aim is to improve HIV prevention, care and treatment services and save lives in Ushetu District and the country as a whole," he said.

He underscored the importance of proper use and maintenance of the facility to ensure effective provision of HIV care and treatment services while promoting clients' adherence to antiretroviral treatment.

Anatory said the project managed to suppress viral loads to 12,600 people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Ushetu District which is 99 percent of suppression rate.

"The aim of the project is to identify PLHIV and to ensure that they are enrolled into care and treatment units so as to achieve the three World Health Organisation (WHO)'s 95-95-95 targets whereby 95 percent of PLHIV should be diagnosed, 95 percent of those diagnosed should be receiving antiretroviral therapy

and 95 percent of all those receiving antiretroviral therapy should achieve viral load suppression," he said.

The handover ceremony was officiated by Ushetu District Executive Director Hadija Kabojela who expressed her gratitude for the generous support provided by the US government through THPS to save lives of people in district, pledging to maintain the necessary cooperation with CDC and THPS.

"As of February 29 this year, Ushetu District Council had a total of 12,140 people enrolled in 20 care and treatment clinics for PLHIV including 4753 men, 7387 women and 559 children under the age of 15," he said.

Dr Daniel Magesa, CDCs Clinical Services Branch Chief called for increased collaboration and partnership for HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment to help strengthen delivery of quality services.

"CDC supports regional health management team to implement the comprehensive HIV and Tuberculosis prevention, care and treatment and screening of cervical cancer. Recently, we also started supporting integration of hypertension management within HIV care and treatment services," he said.

He said the 2022-2023 Tanzania HIV Impact Survey showed that the young people lead when it comes to new infection hence the new interventions like HIV self-testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis to help reach young people and reduce the rate of new infections among the group.

The Afya Hatua project is implemented from October 2021 to September 2026 in four regions namely Kigoma, Coast, Shinyanga, and Tanga.

The project aims to provide high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services, including voluntary male circumcision in Kigoma and Shinyanga, and the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) Programme in Shinyanga.

Formalise your businesses for ease of expansion, women told

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) has been urged to put in place effective strategies to ensure that all businesses run by women are formalized.

Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investments) made the call at the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the 4th Tanzania Women Industrial Awards 2024 ceremony for women who did well in business that was organized by TWCC and sponsored by Trade Mark Africa.

Prof Mkumbo said women can do great things if they are motivated to formalize their business which makes it easier for them to grow their business.

Minister Mkumbo said various studies show that women are better traders and investors compared to men.

"These studies have shown that

you are more successful in business than men because you do enough preparation before starting a business. Most of us men get stuck because we rush and that's why we get stuck early unlike you," he said.

He said the direction of the economic policies for the 6th phase government is to have a fast growing economy, reduce poverty and bring prosperity and better life to all citizens.

He said other studies have shown that women are better borrowers than men and can manage their finances without being shaken like it is with most men.

Prof Mkumbo said other studies show that in developing countries like Tanzania, women are the ones who lead in selling products on international markets compared to men. "Even those who lead in importing products from Guangzhou China are women. So, you can see how strong women are and there is no reason for you to

feel inferior," he said.

TWCC Chairperson Mercy Sila said that the chamber has branches all over the country to make it easy for women to get services whenever they feel that they are stuck.

She said that in the past, many women used to complain about lack of markets but due to good business environment, now there are many markets for Tanzanian products locally and internationally.

"Sincerely, I thank the government for creating a good environment for us businesswomen; now we believe in ourselves and have the courage to do great things and many of you here are directors of your own companies," she said.

Sila said that TWCC has been providing important information to its members, including markets and products that are needed and that many women have already entered the East African market and other parts of Africa.

DRC reinstates death penalty after more than 20 years

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of Congo has lifted a more than two-decade-old moratorium on death penalty as authorities struggle to curb violence and militant attacks in the country, according to a justice ministry statement released at the weekend.

The statement, dated earlier last week, said the ban from 2003 allowed offenders accused of treason and espionage to get away without proper punishment.

Eastern Congo has been riddled by conflict for decades, linked to more than 120 armed groups fighting for land and power and in some cases, protecting their communities.

The government said the violence in the east has plagued the country with recurrent conflict and resulted in a surge of attacks that have spread terror among communities.

In recent years, the M23 rebel group – the most dominant in the region with alleged links to neighboring Rwanda – has continued to attack villages, forcing many to flee to Goma, the region's largest

city. M23 has laid siege to several communities with about half of North Kivu province under its control.

The violence in the province has worsened in recent weeks as security forces battle the rebels. Residents have said the group's fighter mostly launch attacks with bombs out of hills overlooking remote towns.

In its statement, the justice ministry said capital punishment will be reserved for offenders involved in criminal conspiracies, armed gangs, insurrection – and also those who commit treason and war crimes. It will also be applied to the military, including those who rebel or desert and join enemy ranks.

Rights groups have condemned the decision, calling it a step back for the country.

"This initiative is against the constitution," said Jean-Claude Katende, president of the African Association for Human Rights. "We don't think that capital punishment and the execution of this sentence are appropriate measures to restore order."

TANZANIA ZAMBIA RAILWAY AUTHORITY TANZANIA COST AND PROFIT CENTRE



SQ020096

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) is a Statutory Institution owned by the two Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia on a 50/50 share holding basis, with its registered Head Office being in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Authority has two Regional Administrative Centres, one in Mpika, Zambia and the other in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Applicants are invited from suitably qualified Tanzanians to fill the vacant position of

(A) Job Title : Assistant Accountant
Salary Scale : TSG 6
Reporting to : Head Finance
Location : Regional Office – Dsm (1) and Kongolo Quarry – Mbeya (1)
Number of Post : Two (2)

JOB PURPOSE

To supervise the processing and compilation of various documents relating to payments and carry out accounting work to maintain records.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Preparation of Bank Reconciliation at the end of each month i.e. reconcile both Revenue and Expenditure.
2. To journalize the reconciliation and also ensure that the ledger balance agrees with the cash book balance.
3. To maintain creditors sub – ledger and reconcile same with the General ledger and extract a schedule for creditors at the end of each month.
4. To maintain Prepayments sub – ledger and reconcile same with the General ledger and extract a schedule for creditors at the end of each month.
5. Any other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

1. Form IV/VI Academic Certificate
2. NATEC/ATEC or Diploma in Accounting from recognized Institution.
3. Not more than 45 years of age.
4. Not less than two (2) years of relevant work experience

(B) Job Title : Accounts Clerk
Salary Scale : TSG 3
Reporting to : Head Finance
Location : Regional Office (2), Revenue – Dsm (1) and Mbeya Workshop (1).
Number of Posts : Four (4)

JOB PURPOSE

To provide a clerical service in cash office to facilitate accounting for all earnings from freight and passenger traffic.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Classifies and batches remittance notes, cash receipts, etc. from station to facilitate registering same and accounting for revenue earned from individual station by category or revenue centre.
2. Obtains documents on cash remittances from stations on daily basis compiles lists of money sent to Revenue section, etc to facilitate reconciliation of current accounts debits and credits.
3. Records and maintains an accurate and up to date information regarding stations which have submitted on delayed ones in order to ensure all documents arrive by due dates to facilitate compilation of remittance.
4. Assists superior in checking current accounts with stations for accuracy, corrects errors thereof to ensure error free records.
5. Maintains an accurate record of all documents pertaining to remittances to facilitate information retrieval and reference.
6. Assists in opening cash bags and counting of cash remittances.
7. Any other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

1. Form IV Academic Certificate
2. CABS/Certificate of Accounting from recognized Institution.
3. Not more than 45 years of age.
4. Not less than two (2) years of relevant work experience

MODE OF APPLICATION

Only candidates who meet the specified requirements need to apply to the address indicated below, enclosing their detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of educational certificates, names and address of three traceable reference.

Regional General Manager (T)
Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority
Junction of Nelson Mandela & Julius Nyerere Road
P. O. BOX 40160

DAR ES SALAAM

Closing date for receiving application letters is 30/03/2024. Only short-listed candidates will be communicated.

Reserve attracts more visitors after engaging bodabodas in promo

By Guardian Correspondent, Lushoto

MAGAMBA Nature Forest Reserve in Lushoto District, Tanga Region, has seen a resurgence of more than 4,600 local tourists last year, causing an increase in revenue.

The increase is equal to 800 tourists for 2023, compared to 3800 tourists who visited in 2022.

Speaking yesterday with local motorcycle riders, known as bodaboda, Chief Conservator Christoganus Vyokuta said unlike other nature reserves with historical attractions, Magamba Nature Reserve has an old office building, a German tunnel, and a stone with a special historical significance.

Its management has opted to use bodaboda riders to draw in more tourists after utilising them to advertise the attraction with a polite text message that states, 'Ask me about Magamba.'

Owing to this incentive, the reserve's management met with 50 bodaboda riders and reached a deal to advance the reserve's strategy to attract more tourists.



Exim Bank Tanzania CEO Jaffari Matundu makes remarks at iftar the bank hosted in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

| TANDAHIMBA COMMUNITY BANK PLC | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | | | | |
| Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014 | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2023 | | | | |
| (Amounts in Thousands Shillings) | | | | |
| | Current Qtr 31/12/2023 | Previous Qtr 30/09/2023 | Current Year Cumulative 31/12/2023 | Previous Year Cumulative 31/12/2022 |
| A. ASSETS | | | | |
| 1. Cash | 263,191 | 8,101 | - | - |
| 2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania | - | - | - | - |
| 3. Investment in Government Securities | - | - | - | - |
| 4. Balances with Other Banks and financial institutions | 1,566,968 | 752,683 | - | - |
| 5. Cheques and items for clearing | - | - | - | - |
| 6. Interbranch float items | - | - | - | - |
| 7. Bills negotiated | - | - | - | - |
| 8. Customers Liabilities on acceptances | - | - | - | - |
| 9. Interbank Loans Receivables | - | - | - | - |
| 10. Investment in other securities | - | - | - | - |
| 11. Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Probable Losses) | 2,854,476 | 3,030,268 | - | - |
| 12. Other Assets | 352,194 | 178,712 | - | - |
| 13. Equity Investments | - | - | - | - |
| 14. Underwriting accounts | - | - | - | - |
| 15. Property, Plant and Equipment | 155,440 | 156,990 | - | - |
| 16. TOTAL ASSETS | 5,192,269 | 4,126,754 | | |
| B. LIABILITIES | | | | |
| 17. Deposits from other banks and financial institutions | - | - | - | - |
| 18. Customer deposits | 1,711,275 | 871,986 | - | - |
| 19. Cash letters of credit | - | - | - | - |
| 20. Special deposits | - | - | - | - |
| 21. Payment orders / transfers payable | - | - | - | - |
| 22. Bankers' cheques and drafts issued | - | - | - | - |
| 23. Accrued taxes and expenses payable | 131,665 | 63,010 | - | - |
| 24. Acceptances outstanding | - | - | - | - |
| 25. Interbranch float items | - | - | - | - |
| 26. Unearned income and other deferred charges | 91,143 | 104,180 | - | - |
| 27. Other Liabilities | 50,542 | 30,342 | - | - |
| 28. Borrowings | 871,147 | 797,813 | - | - |
| 29. TOTAL LIABILITIES | 2,855,772 | 1,867,331 | | |
| 30. NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES) | 2,336,497 | 2,259,423 | | |
| C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS | | | | |
| 31. Paid up share capital | 4,483,228 | 4,483,228 | - | - |
| 32. Capital Reserves | - | - | - | - |
| 33. Retained earnings | (2,327,779) | (2,348,098) | - | - |
| 34. Profit/(Loss) account | 65,901 | -1,172 | - | - |
| 35. Other Capital Accounts | 115,147 | 135,465 | - | - |
| 36. Minority Interest | - | - | - | - |
| 37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS | 2,336,497 | 2,259,423 | | |
| 38. Contingent Liabilities | - | - | - | - |
| 39. Non performing loans & advances | 80,748 | 56,259 | - | - |
| 40. Allowances for probable losses | 51,555 | 35,116 | - | - |
| 41. Other non performing assets | - | - | - | - |
| D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS | | | | |
| (i) Shareholders Funds to Total assets | 45.0% | 54.8% | - | - |
| (ii) Non performing loans to Total gross loans | 2.77% | 1.83% | - | - |
| (iii) Gross Loans and advances to Total deposits | 169.8% | 351.5% | - | - |
| (iv) Loans and Advances to Total assets | 55.0% | 73.4% | - | - |
| (v) Earnings Assets to Total Assets | 65.2% | 91.7% | - | - |
| (vi) Deposits Growth | 96.3% | -18.1% | - | - |
| (vii) Assets growth | 25.8% | 7.5% | - | - |

| CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023 | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| (Amounts in Thousands Shillings) | | | | |
| | Current Qtr 31/12/2023 | Comparative Qtr 31/12/2022 | Current Year Cumulative 31/12/2023 | Previous Year Cumulative 31/12/2022 |
| 1. Interest Income | 170,775 | 109,232 | 555,251 | 522,070 |
| 2. Interest expense | (30,381) | (22,606) | (84,719) | (67,878) |
| 3. Net interest Income | 140,394 | 86,627 | 470,532 | 454,192 |
| 4. Bad debts written off | - | - | - | - |
| 5. Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances | (12,390) | (9,964) | 31,959 | (83,147) |
| 6. Non-Interest Income | 166,116 | 107,175 | 259,088 | 253,128 |
| 6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gain / (Loss) | - | - | - | - |
| 6.2 Fees and Commissions | 166,116 | 107,175 | 259,088 | 253,128 |
| 6.3 Dividend Income | - | - | - | - |
| 6.4 Other Operating Income | - | - | - | - |
| 7. Non-Interest Expense | (188,803) | (183,812) | (667,436) | (661,178) |
| 7.1 Salaries and Benefits | (82,022) | (60,228) | (212,928) | (242,966) |
| 7.2 Fees and Commissions | - | - | - | - |
| 7.3 Other Operating Expenses | (136,781) | (123,584) | (454,508) | (418,183) |
| 8. Operating Income/(Loss) | 105,317 | (85,074) | 94,145 | (17,005) |
| 9. Income tax provision | (28,243) | 20,691 | (28,243) | (3,807) |
| 10. Net Income (Loss) After Income Tax | 77,074 | (65,283) | 65,901 | (20,813) |
| 11. Other Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - |
| 12. Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year | 77,074 | (65,283) | 65,901 | (20,813) |
| 13. Number of Employees | 15 | 16 | 15 | 16 |
| 14. Basic Earnings Per Share | 17 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| 15. Number of Branches | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: | | | | |
| (i) Return on Average Total Assets | 8.1% | -0.9% | 1.8% | -0.5% |
| (ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds | 13.3% | -1.3% | 2.9% | -0.9% |
| (iii) Return Interest Expense to Gross Income | 61.6% | 94.8% | 35.5% | 90.9% |
| (iv) Return (Loss) to Average Earning Assets | 15.8% | 11.7% | 12.8% | 16.3% |

| STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Share capital | Share Premium | Retained Earnings | Regulatory Reserves | General Provision Reserves | Others | Total |
| Current Year - 31/12/2023 | | | | | | | |
| Balance as at the beginning of the year | 4,483,228 | - | (2,339,556) | 173 | - | 153,306 | 2,297,151 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | 65,901 | - | - | - | 65,901 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transactions with owners | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dividend paid | - | - | (639) | 639 | - | - | - |
| Regulatory Reserve | - | - | (12,417) | - | - | (38,972) | (65,555) |
| General Provision Reserve | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Others | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balance as at the end of the current period | 4,483,228 | - | (2,281,877) | 812 | - | 114,333 | 2,336,497 |
| Previous Year - 31st December 2022 | | | | | | | |
| Balance as at the beginning of the year | 4,483,228 | - | (2,392,758) | 74,225 | - | 87,458 | 2,252,113 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | (20,813) | - | - | - | (20,813) |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transactions with owners | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dividend paid | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Regulatory Reserve | - | - | 74,052 | (74,052) | - | - | - |
| General Provision Reserve | - | - | - | - | - | 65,850 | 65,850 |
| Others | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balance as at the end of the previous period | 4,483,228 | - | (2,339,556) | 173 | - | 153,306 | 2,297,150 |

Call for research, formalisation of creative industry

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

CULTURE and creative industry stakeholders have called for the need to conduct research to come up with cultural statistical data stating who does what and where to expand economic activities for artists and ease revenue collection by the government.

Peter Simon, an official from the ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports made the call in Bagamoyo at the weekend during a working session organized by UNESCO to review an open roadmap for the implementation of its 2005 convention in the digital environment in Tanzania.

He called upon the public to take art as a major sector that can contribute to the national economy rather than being there for mere entertainment.

The call comes in the wake of a worrying trend with statistics indicating growth in the cultural and innovative sectors at 19.0 percent as of 2021 as per the 2022 statistics amid a meagre contribution of 0.4 percent to the national coffers.

Lack of a formalized system is reported to have seen most artists masquerade with cash in their bags amid no banking transaction, a situation that makes it hard for the revenue authorities to monitor their income and expenditure with artists failing to secure bank loans to buy working tools.

Kelvin Stanslaus an official from the Arts Council in Tanzania called upon the need to create a formalized payment system for the cultural and innovative sectors for the latter to pay taxes and thus contribute to the national GDP.

"The reason for the country failing to benefit from revenue accrued in the cultural sector is because most artists are not formal. The government earns its income through taxes but unfortunately, most of them have no bank accounts. There is no specific code for artistic work and thus most incomes are scattered around," he said.

In an immediate rejoinder, Robert Mwampembwa said the last research on the sector was conducted by the government between 2007 and 2010 where the economic contribution of the copyright-based industry was reported to be 4.7 percent, adding that at the time the sector was faring better than mining.

According to Mwampembwa, at the time it was found that more than 100 goods were not included in the sector, saying its contribution is huge but is yet to be explored.

The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions is a binding international legal instrument adopted in 2005 by the UNESCO General Conference and Tanzania is among member states that have ratified it.

The main objective of the convention is to support sustainable systems of governance for culture and achieve a balanced flow of cultural goods and services to increase mobility of artists and cultural professionals.

Other goals are to integrate culture in sustainable development frameworks as well as to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The session brought together ministry officials in the respective sectors as well as stakeholders from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

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

| STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023 | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| (Amounts in Thousands Shillings) | | | | |
| | Current Quarter 31/12/2023 | Previous Quarter 30/09/2023 | Current Year Cumulative 31/12/2023 | Previous Year Cumulative 31/12/2022 |
| I: Cash flow from operating activities: | | | | |
| Net Income (Loss) | 105,317 | 47,146 | 94,145 | (17,005) |
| Adjustment for: | | | | |
| - Impairment / Amortization | 24,136 | (15,845) | 40,795 | 150,544 |
| - Net change in Loans and Advances | 222,842 | (293,061) | (473,430) | 271,848 |
| - Gain / Loss on Sale of Assets | - | - | - | - |
| - Net change in Deposits | 835,811 | (189,383) | 533,652 | (79,175) |
| - Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities | - | - | - | - |
| - Net change in Other Liabilities | 79,629 | 147,522 | 273,692 | (118,869) |
| - Net change in Other Assets | (173,482) | (50,755) | (151,468) | 161,084 |
| - Tax paid | (3,750) | - | (25,750) | 40,880 |
| - Others (specify) | 8,505 | (26,129) | (28,802) | (288,802) |
| Net cash provided (used) by operating activities | 1,071,008 | 173,277 | 1,071,008 | 120,304 |
| II: Cash flow from investing activities: | | | | |
| Receipts from Issuance of Long Term Debt | - | - | - | - |
| Purchase of Fixed Assets | (8,821) | - | (8,821) | (636) |
| Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets | - | - | - | - |
| Purchase of Non - Dealing Securities | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds from Sale Non - Dealing Securities | - | - | - | - |
| Others (Intangible) | - | - | - | (8,231) |
| Net cash provided (used) by investing activities | (8,821) | - | (8,821) | (8,867) |
| III: Cash flow from financing activities: | | | | |
| Repayment of Long-term Debt | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital | - | - | - | - |
| Payment of Cash Dividends | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds from borrowings and subordinated debt | 2,188 | 297,813 | 800,000 | - |
| Others (Grant received and return) | - | - | - | - |
| Net Cash Provided (used) by Financing activities | 2,188 | 297,813 | 800,000 | - |
| IV: Cash and Cash Equivalents: | | | | |
| Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents | 1,069,375 | (82,692) | 940,917 | 111,437 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter / Year | 760,784 | 843,476 | 889,242 | 777,805 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter / Year | 1,830,159 | 760,784 | 1,830,159 | 889,242 |

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

The above extracts are from the financial statements of the bank for the year ended 31st December, 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with international financial reporting standards and companies Act, CAP 212 Act No. 12 of 2002.

The financial statements were audited by Auditax International certified public Accountants(T) and received clean audit report.

Date: 12/03/2024

Yahya J. Kiyabo
General Manager

Date: 12/03/2024

Julius J. Sawaya
Head of Finance and administration

Date: 12/03/2024

Abyeo Leonard
Internal Auditor

We the undersigned directors attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2016 and they present a true and fair view.

Date: 12/03/2024

Mohamed N. Mwingu
Board Chairman

Date: 12/03/2024

Mariam S. Mwanjalina
Board Member

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF CHARGES AND FEES

| Sl. No. | BANK CHARGES 2023 | Description | Previous Rates 2023 | | New Rates 2023 | |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | Exclude | VAT Inclusive | Exclude | VAT Inclusive |
| 1 | Account Maintenance Fee | Per Month | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| 2 | Overdraft Fee | Per Month | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 3 | Stop Payment | Per Month | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 4 | Branch Transfer | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 5 | Branch Closing | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 6 | Branch Opening | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 7 | Branch Relocation | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 8 | Branch Renovation | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 9 | Branch Upgrade | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 10 | Branch Expansion | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 11 | Branch Closure | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 12 | Branch Relocation | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 13 | Branch Renovation | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 14 | Branch Upgrade | Per Month | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 15 | Branch Expansion | Per Month</ | | | | |

Two projects worth 10bn/- billed to check water shortage in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

WATER Supply and Sanitation Authority in Mbeya Region (Mbeya WSSA) has allocated 10bn/- for the implementation of two projects meant to end water woes in Mbeya city and Mbalizi township.

Barnabas Konga, acting managing director of Mbeya-WSSA said this recently when addressing journalists who visited various sources of water managed by the authority.

Konga mentioned the water projects under implementation as Mwasekwa water project which is estimated to supply water to 40,000 households in three wards and Ilunga water project which is expected to serve 100,000 households in Mbalizi township and some areas in Mbeya city.

He said the Mwasekwa project costs 5.2bn/- while Ilunga project costs 4.8bn/- and that both projects are expected to address the problem of water shortage in a one-year period.

"The demand for water in the city of Mbeya and Mbalizi township is 90 million cubic litres per day. The short-term projects are implemented to achieve the desired target as the current supply is 66.5 million cubic litres. We have taken this step as we wait for the Kiwira river project," he said.

Konga said the challenge faced by the authority is caused by worn-out water pipes whose damaged state causes loss of water, illegal con-

nection of water services by some people and road construction activities that disrupt supply.

Deogratius Leonidas, infrastructure development manager at Mbeya-WSSA said the project has reached 70 percent and that some users have already been connected.

Leonidas said the authority has completed the construction of the source and water sanitation area and that the remainder is the construction of a water storage tank which is expected to be complete before June this year.

He said that water is currently being supplied from the source heading directly to users, a step that has helped to reduce the problem of water facing the public in the targeted areas.

"Areas where Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) used to supply water are the ones that are currently benefiting from the project and the arrangement is quite different from ours. For them, people are served by community water points but for us we advocate people to have their homes connected," he said.

Leonidas said awareness was continually created to the public in the respective areas to encourage people to be connected to the service, adding that until that time 100 requests were submitted.

Uswege Mwaipopo, Ilunga project manager, said the project has reached by 98 percent and that only a few areas remain.

He said the remaining areas include the water treatment area.



Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Mohamed Besta (L) and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation representative Liu Zenglong pictured in Kahama yesterday exchanging documents on an agreement for the construction of a 73-km road to link Kahama and Kakola at a cost of 101.2bn/- . Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

NEMC, TFS plant 300 trees in memory of Wangari Maathai

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) have planted more than 300 trees within Pugu/Kazimzumbwi Nature Forest Reserve in honour and memory of the late Kenyan environmentalist and human rights activist Prof Wangari Maathai.

The ceremony to launch the planting was held at the weekend in the forest where various envoys representing their countries in Tanzania

participated along with environmental activists.

NEMC director general Dr Immaculate Semesi said the society should be motivated to see the importance of planting trees as part of taking care of the environment and dealing with climate change that cause various disasters.

She said that the event was important to celebrate the life of Prof Maathai because she did a great job of planting trees and encouraging environmental care to the extent that she was awarded the Nobel Prize.

Semesi said that trees are an important ingredient that makes the world continues to thrive as they help to filter air, bring rain, and support access to food and businesses.

"Mama Maathai was an environmental heroine and the best role model for Africa and the whole world recognized as a leader in environmental protection. So, we should continue to honour her with actions like what are doing today," she said.

"We at NEMC have our slogan that 'environment is life' and one of the things that bring life are trees. So, we

have no other choice but to ensure that we plant trees in abundance and all the time.

Kenyan High Commissioner to Tanzania Isaac Njenga said everyone should see that they have a debt and a big responsibility to ensure that they take care of the environment for the benefit of the present and future generations.

He said the environment that we are proud of today is a result of work done by pioneers who dedicated themselves to planting trees and taking care of them such as Prof Maathai.

"One of the things that Wangari Maathai encouraged was the care for the environment for future generations and she used to stress that we have a responsibility as the current generation to plant tree and take care of the environment," he said and added.

Carolyn Mavunde, deputy conservation commissioner at TFS said the Pugu/Kazimzumbwi forest has 8,965 hectares with 80 species of birds and 14 species of small animals as well as plants that are in danger of extinction.

She said that the trees planted in the forest are those that are resistant to drought, naming some as Migunga and Kangangi which grow along rivers.

Prof Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. In 2004 she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She died on September 25, 2011 in Nairobi at the age of 71 years.



ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION



IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER NOTIFICATION IN RELATION TO THE ACQUISITION OF 100% SHARES OF RELIANCE RESORT AND SPA LIMITED (TARGET FIRM), BY GERMANIA HOLDINGS LTD AND PREMIER TOURISM INVESTMENT FZE (ACQUIRING FIRM) PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION

(Made under Section 5(1), 49 and 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and Regulation 48 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2019)

The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) is an independent government institution established under the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act, No.5 of 2018 to promote and protect fair and effective Competition in trade and to protect consumers from misleading market conduct.

The same Act gives a mandate to the ZFCC to review, investigate and prohibit any proposed Merger and Acquisition which is contrary to the requirement of sections 49 and 50 of the Zanzibar Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018 and regulation 32 of the Fair Competitions Regulations 2019.

Pursuant to Section 50 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No.5 of 2018 read together with Regulation 32 of the Fair Competition Regulation 2018, ZFCC has received merger notifications to the effect that **Germania Holdings Ltd and Premier Tourism Investment FZE** (Acquiring firms) intends to acquire 100% shares of Reliance Resort and Spa Limited (Target Firm).

Germania Holdings Ltd (as an Applicant) is a Limited company with registration number 159506 under the seal of the Jebel Ali Free Zone

Authority, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. **Premier Tourism Investment FZE (as an Applicant):** is incorporated under the free zone laws in Emirate Fujairah, Fujairah. with registration number S.No.1714. United Arab Emirates.

Reliance Resort & Spa Limited (Target Firm) is a company incorporated under the laws of Zanzibar with a certificate of incorporation number Z000054295. The registered office of the body corporate at Michamvi, South Region-Unguja. P.O. Box 1627.Zanzibar.

The Acquiring Firm and Target Firm are collectively referred to as the "Merging Parties"

Based on the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) entered between Germania Holdings Ltd and Premier Tourism Investment FZE and Reliance Resort and Spa Limited on 2nd October 2023, The Acquiring Firm intends to acquire 100% shares of the Target.

MOHAMMED SIJAMINI MOHAMMED,
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION
ZANZIBAR

The Guardian

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

EAC federation quest decided in 1996 is back after 28 years

THE legacy of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in this first term in office is taking shape in the aftermath of a meeting in Zanzibar at midweek where she hosted her counterparts from Kenya and Uganda.

We have it on good authority that the consultations were aimed at finding ways towards further East African economic and political integration.

It might not be the kind of news which political observers at the local level were waiting for, on account of the track record in that direction for Tanzania.

Not surprisingly, the meeting was held in the relative exclusivity of the Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar, without much of the hefty protocol and presence of large numbers of people, media previews, etc.

Noticeably, the three leaders were reported to have agreed on the need to hasten public hearings on the structure and areas to be considered in a draft constitution for East African political federation. The implication here was that the issue isn't whether there should be a federation but how fast to ensure the longstanding dream came true.

That will likely come as news to a section of the public and especially news analysts and all sorts of political observers as, at a certain point years ago, the answer to that question was a resounding NO. Yet they never questioned the principle of regional integration nor indeed fully excluded political integration. Some watchers will say Tanzania's psychological position on the matter has usually hovered from indifference to relative hostility. This is even as the country ranks as an early adherent to pan-Africanism, and to an extent an early exponent of wider African unity.

The reason for this implicit ambiguity in the manner in which aspiration to federation is also an implied unification of key elements of sovereignty, chiefly, citizenship, ability to settle and purchases of property. Owing to the dominant philosophy here since the 1960s, Tanzanian intellectuals and analysts are divided on the idea of intense East African integration.

While the matter was not put across in a collective press conference or communiqué, the three leaders acknowledged in social media posts what had taken place, including their commitment to its content. The current version of the quest for federation started in 1996 as initial structures of East African cooperation were put up.

Then President Benjamin Mkapa had visited Kenya and Uganda in his first months in office and, as President William Ruto recalled at Tunguu, it was a 28th anniversary when the three leaders met this March 14. That is why one can expect some form of test of faith in how the various layers of political loyalty in Tanzania will react to the president's initiative.

At the time that the EAC secretariat and the treaty of the regional bloc's establishment were completed in 1999, it was three years into the 15-year waiting period and consultation for federation, as decided at the March 1996 summit.

When this period was being expected in 2011, in the hope that by 2012 the federation would be up and running, Tanzania in 2007 made an opinion survey.

It obtained a resounding 'NO', the key argument being that we were not yet ready - and had better wait. But with arguments about the relative strength of the respective countries' economic muscle hardly applying now, it would not be too optimistic expecting smoother sailing this time around.

Commonwealth ministers' pledges can help build democratic attitudes

REFLECTIONS are still being heard on the recent Commonwealth law ministers' conference that Zanzibar hosted recently.

The event emerged with expressions of clear commitments to addressing the people's legal help needs by removing barriers commonly hindering access to justice.

Just how far there are stumbling blocks to justice can be figured out in an affirmation by conference organisers that some 2.5 billion people in Commonwealth member states stand to benefit from this effort.

However, it is doubtless no easy task figuring out if this refers to all adults in those countries, a half of them, or the total population.

The four-day deliberations were in a sense an extension of the work by United Nations agencies and the collectivity of human rights activism in these countries and around the world. Conference watchers said discussions covered inputs from various stakeholders listed as people with disabilities, civil society representatives and legal innovators.

That shows how activism is generating a series of instruments to bring to fruition not just legislative changes but also improvements in judicial conduct, or in what is expected when a legal query hits a victim group member.

While seeking improved access to justice for people with disabilities may sound familiar, obtaining a model law on virtual assets was not exactly what we hear on a routine basis.

Figuring out a new action plan to combat online violence against women was admittedly familiar, which doesn't mean though that there is nothing new to map out in

how the matter is handled socially and in the course of actual judicial dispensation.

Details of that sort can make a difference between liberty for benefit of doubt or lack of proof to long years in jail for indifference or connivance at case derailing. And at times this may help a guilty party to go free while victims grieve.

There are aspects where Commonwealth cooperation and networking, even without explicit funding, helps generate synergies about codes of law and judicial norms on their application - for instance, when participants proposed eliminating gender-discriminatory legislation. Evidently, this differs - often sharply, from one country to another, largely depending on the strength of customs and traditions in each setting but while many such settings give way in one sphere or another.

One citadel of tradition is Saudi Arabia, where women can now drive, but a sort of revolutionary movement took power in a South Asian enclave that shut girls' schools.

This has posed problems as to how United Nations and other humanitarian agencies can work with authorities in countries opposed to the employment of women, etc.

Left to themselves, many countries can't get out of tradition - in which case, international gatherings and networking stand as enzymes to help break down obdurate proteins of tradition when some people are shunned by the global community. Many countries have experienced such moments when battling their demons of change and resistance to change - or even public interest drives.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Empowering women in Indian business: Salient trends, challenges, opportunities

By Charu Malhotra

IN recent years, India has witnessed a significant shift in its business landscape, with women playing an increasingly prominent role in entrepreneurship and corporate leadership.

This rise of women in Indian businesses is not merely a trend but a transformative phenomenon that is reshaping industries, driving innovation and fostering economic growth.

Let's explore the trends, challenges and new opportunities with the growing presence of women in the business and entrepreneurial world & corporate leadership roles in India.

The rise of women leaders and their contribution to the business world is very evident today. As societal norms evolve and opportunities for women expand, an increasing number of women are venturing into entrepreneurship, chiefly driven by a desire for autonomy, financial independence and the pursuit of their heartfelt passions.

Currently, India boasts 13.5 to 15.7 million businesses owned by women, providing direct jobs for 22 to 27 million individuals.

With appropriate initiatives, this number could potentially rise to 31.5 million by 2030, thereby increasing direct employment by approximately 50 to 60 million.

These women entrepreneurs are breaking stereotypes, challenging traditional gender roles and carving out their own paths in diverse industries, from technol-

ogy and e-commerce to healthcare and steel.

Moreover, in India, women entrepreneurs are starting businesses at a faster rate than their male counterparts. According to a recent study, as women make more calculated decisions in comparison to men, there has also been a rise in the number of women occupying leadership positions in corporate India.

Women are breaking barriers and shattering glass ceilings, assuming roles as CEOs, board members and industry influencers.

This pattern signifies a growing recognition of women's leadership, showcasing their vital contributions to organisational success, economic growth, job creation, innovation and social impact within the country's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

However, even though things are looking brighter, Indian women in the corporate landscape still face numerous challenges.

Gender bias and discrimination continue to hinder women-owned businesses from accessing funding, new markets and growth opportunities.

In India, only 6 per cent of funding goes to companies founded or co-founded by women. Cultural norms and societal expectations often place disproportionate burdens on women, making it difficult for them to balance business responsibilities with

familial and societal obligations.

Moreover, female entrepreneurs frequently encounter barriers such as limited access to women-centric networks, mentorship and support services.

Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from policymakers, industry leaders and society in general to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for women entrepreneurs to succeed.

Despite hurdles, though, the ascent of women in the business realm is presenting numerous opportunities for economic empowerment, social progress and inclusive growth.

By empowering women entrepreneurs and business leaders, India can unlock untapped potential, drive innovation and stimulate job creation across different sectors.

Investing in women-led businesses has proven to yield significant returns, both economically and socially. Women business leaders bring unique perspectives, fresh skills and original insights to the table, leading to more diverse and inclusive decision-making processes.

Additionally, supporting women-led companies can have a multiplier effect, as women are more likely to reinvest their earnings in their families and communities, thereby driving socio-economic development at large.

Furthermore, there is a growing recognition of the business case for

gender diversity and inclusion. Companies that prioritise gender equality tend to outperform their peers, demonstrating higher levels of innovation, employee satisfaction and financial performance.

By fostering a culture of inclusivity and diversity, businesses can unlock the full potential of their workforce and create a more resilient and competitive economy.

The rise of women in the Indian business sector represents a significant milestone in the country's journey towards economic development and social progress.

By harnessing the talent, creativity and leadership potential of women, India can unlock new avenues for growth, innovation and prosperity.

However, policymakers need to enact reforms to address systemic barriers and promote gender equality in the workplace. Businesses must adopt inclusive practices and gender diversities.

As we continue on this journey, it is important to harness the power of women's entrepreneurship and leadership to create a more prosperous, equitable and inclusive India.

** A MediaNewsAU dispatch. Charu Malhotra is Chief Brand Officer & Group Head Marketing at India's APL Apollo Tubes Ltd, the largest producer of structural steel tubes in India.*

Are 'laws' and 'human rights' interchangeable?

By Dr Anna Henga

I was engaged in a recent conversation with the managing editor of a leading Tanzanian English language newspaper revolving around the role or responsibilities of the organisation I lead, that is, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

In the course of the exchange, I was in particular asked why we bear that name and whether "rights" and "laws" are not interchangeable or synonymous terms. I promptly clarified that the two are distinct concepts. But this exchange prompted me to delve deeper into the nuances of these terms. Two pillars stand tall in the intricate tapestry of societal order and individual freedoms: "law" and "human rights". While often used interchangeably, they embody distinct concepts with profound implications for governance and justice.

For now, let's embark on a journey to unravel the complexities of law and human rights, shedding light on their unique roles and significance.

The backbone of law

Look at - or consider - the law as the rulebook governing our society. It comprises many regulations, statutes and legal precedents crafted by governments to maintain order, resolve

disputes, and ensure justice.

These laws are deeply rooted in historical, cultural, and political contexts, serving as the framework for our collective behaviour and interactions.

From criminal law, which punishes wrongdoing, to civil law, which governs contractual disputes, the legal system is the cornerstone of social cohesion and stability. The system provides guidelines for conduct, delineates rights and responsibilities, and offers mechanisms for redress when these rules are breached.

The law refers to a system of rules, regulations and principles established by governmental institutions to govern behaviour within a society. These rules are enforced through social institutions to regulate behaviour, ensure justice, resolve disputes, and maintain order. Laws can be enacted through various means, including legislation, judicial decisions and customary practices, with historical, cultural, and political contexts often influencing them.

Primary functions of laws

Regulation of Behaviour: Laws



establish standards of conduct that individuals and organisations are expected to follow. They define what actions are permissible, prohibited or required within society.

Administration of Justice: Laws provide a framework for resolving disputes and enforcing rights. They establish mechanisms, such as courts and legal procedures, for adjudicating conflicts and administering justice.

Protection of Rights and Responsibilities: Laws delineate the rights and responsibilities of individuals and entities within society. They safeguard fundamental liberties, such as freedom of speech and due process, and outline the duties and obligations accompanying these rights.

Promotion of Order and Stability: Laws contribute to social cohesion and stability by providing predictability and consistency in governance. They establish mechanisms for maintaining public order, ensuring compliance with legal norms, and preventing and addressing conflicts.

Facilitation of Governance: Laws serve as instruments of governance, enabling governments to regulate public affairs, manage resources, and address collective challenges.

They provide the legal framework for functioning governmental institutions and exercising governmental

authority. Overall, laws play a crucial role in shaping the structure and dynamics of societies, influencing individual behaviour, regulating interpersonal relationships, and defining the parameters of governance and justice.

The Canvas of Human Rights

In contrast, human rights paint a broader canvas transcending national borders and legal frameworks to encompass fundamental liberties inherent in and applicable to all individuals under their humanity.

These rights, which are enshrined in international treaties and declarations, include the right to life, liberty, equality and dignity.

Human rights embody the universal aspirations for fairness, justice and respect for human dignity. They serve as a moral compass, guiding societies towards greater inclusivity and equity, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity or creed.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, is a testament to the global commitment to the upholding of these principles.

** Dr Anna Henga (pictured) is the Executive Director of the Dar es Salaam-based Legal and Human Rights Centre.*

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ARTISANAL and small-scale gold miners have for year been using mercury in processing the minerals despite the various health risks it poses to human beings.

The government is striving to reduce and finally eliminate its use to minimize health, environmental and socio-economic risks among artisanal and small-scale gold miners.

The National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) has come up with the Environmental Health Pollution Management Project (EHPMP) that aims to provide small gold miners with an alternative mercury technology.

The council has so far reached 1.3 million gold miners in various regions whereas they have been provided with education on alternative gold processing technology as well as the safe use of mercury.

Eng Betrina Igulu, Coordinator of the project at NEMC told The Guardian that the project which ends in 2025 has in just one year resulted in a number of recorded successes.

Eng Igulu noted that controlling and elimination measures undertaken by the government are in line with the Minamata Convention on Mercury whereas as one of the signatories, Tanzania ratified the international treaty on October 5th 2020 with the intention of protecting human health and the environment. It first signed the convention in October, 2013. More than 130 countries have so far signed the protocol.

In regard to the Minamata Convention, the government established a number of policies including the Minerals Policy of Tanzania (2009), the National Environmental Policy (1997) and the National Health Policy (2007). The government also came up with a number of laws on environment, minerals and chemicals.

"Tanzania introduced a five years National Action Plan (NAP) for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (2020–2025) as part of efforts to reduce the use of mercury among small scale miners, increase public awareness on the impact of mercury, promote adaptation of mercury control and capture technologies as well as introduction of mining technologies that do not require mercury use," Eng Igulu said, adding the project's implementation period was extended to 2025 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 which affected its timely execution.

"Most of small-scale miners use mercury in gold processing; we are now coming up with alternative technology that is environmental friendly. We have three technologies for gold processing which are mercury-free. These include the concentration and smelting methods as well

NEMC supports artisanal miners with mercury-free gold smelting technology



as the use of cyanide chemicals—currently used by many miners," she added, noting they have also supported local manufacturers to ensure the technologies are available in great quantity.

Eng Igulu said they have so far provided education on alternative gold processing technologies to small scale gold miners in Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga, Mara, Singida, Songwe and Mbeya regions. She said a few of them were taken to the NEMC centre for further training on the new technologies so that they could pass over the knowledge to fellow miners.

"We have a centre at the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) where we offer training on the use of cyanide and

other technologies. We are grateful that the use of mercury decreases day by day as hundreds of miners is opting for alternative gold smelting processes," said the project coordinator.

The government has not banned the use of mercury, but it discourages its use in gold process to protect the health of people as well as the environment, she said, adding they have also succeeded to introduce national guidelines on the use of mercury.

The Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) is responsible for registering mercury importers.

Mercury use in the country stands at between 13.2 and 214.4 tonnes per year, mostly by artisanal miners who

account to about 1.2 million people. Between 10 and 20 percent of all the gold produced in Tanzania are from small scale miners of whom 30 percent are women.

She added: "Small-scale miners should stop using mercury that is imported illegally as most of it has already been used in countries they came from. Mercury is informally imported into the country through Sirari, Namanga, Kagera and Tunduma borders."

NEMC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has developed a public health strategy for prevention and control of mercury exposure in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The strategy is intended to improve the health sector's coordination mechanism in mitigating health effects of exposure to mercury.

"Under the strategy, we also support those affected with mercury to get proper treatment at clinics. Individuals who have seriously affected are subjected to intensive tests and referred to a major hospital," she told The Guardian, highlighting that they have also managed to procure modern equipment for testing mercury at NEMC, GCLA, Government Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) and Mining Commission.

She said with new testing devices, results are available in an hour. Previously, one could wait for 24 hours to get test results.

An estimated 7.2 million people (13 percent) of the country's population depend indirectly on small-scale mining activities.

Statistics from the Tanzania Mining Commission (TMC) shows that between 25 and 33 percent of small gold miners in the country have been affected by mercury

Geita Region leads in the use of mercury whereby it uses some 4,489 kilograms per year. It is followed by Mbeya (1,854kg), Katavi (1,234kg), Shinyanga (1,456kg) Tabora (1,112kg), Singida (1,048kg), Kwanza (1,696kg), Kagera (1,840kg), Mara (886kg), Iringa (870kg) and Kigoma (899kg).

Pre-primary education crucial for children's education journey

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast

THE government has since 1995 being committed in establishing the crucial classes that set foundation for children's education journey.

Over the years, a commended 46 percent surge in enrolment of childhood education was recorded following the declaration of fee-free and compulsory pre-primary education.

Despite a promising increase in enrolment, which at face value seems like a positive outcome, the country's pre-primary education system still grapples with glaring deficiencies as highlighted in the 2022 Pre-primary Enrolment Report.

The struggle unfolds against the backdrop of overburdened pre-primary teachers, some of whom are forced to instruct nearly six times the government-set standard number of pupils in crowded classrooms.

The report shows that in 2022, one teacher taught 142 students, a ration that exceeds the recommended teacher to child ratio of 1:25. The existing shortage of qualified teachers compounds the issue, elevating the teacher-to-student ratio to a staggering 162 students per class.

As Tanzania copes with the dual challenges of access to quality in pre-primary education in some areas, a rallying cry emerges for systemic reforms to ensure the promise of education is not just a numbers game but a catalyst for a brighter future.

The 2022 Pre-primary Enrolment Report indicates that Tanzania had 1,543,843 pupils enrolled, with an overall enrolment rate of 34 percent, significantly lower than the 82 percent in developed countries.

Since education is among the five nurturing care framework components for children in their early years, it is among the priorities of the National Multisectoral Programme (NM-ECDP) 2021/2022 to 2025/2026. Under the program, the government and stakeholders work together to accelerate improvement of quality children's services in all aspects including health, nutrition, security, safety and responsive caregiving.

Among the leading champions of NM-ECDP are Children in Crossfire (CiC) Tanzania, Tanzania Early Childhood Network (TECDEN) and the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC).

These organisations work to accelerate early childhood development gains by enhancing the multisectoral approach in nurturing young children and promoting equal access to early childhood development services to ensure quality education reaches all boys and girls under 8 years as stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-4).

Recently, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Prof James Mdoe commended the collaboration among various stakeholders with the government leading the way to improved education services in the country.

Prof Mdoe said the government is determined to monitor, evaluate and update policies and directives that support provision of quality education which include the recently released Improved PPE Curriculum and syllabus 2023—the document that responds to the ever-changing world.

Craig Ferla is the CiC Country Director; she said the organisation is dedicated to improve education not only in rural Tanzania but also in high-density and low income



areas in Dar es Salaam.

In Dodoma CiC started implementing the project in 2020 in Kongwa and Chamwino districts as a pilot whereas district and ward education officers, school quality assurance officers, together with Head Teachers and pre-primary teachers underwent special training to enhance their classroom experience.

They were trained on classroom transformation, development of learning and teaching materials, community of learners as well as involving parents and communities in pre-primary education delivery.

A 2024 study by the University of Dodoma shows improvement in performance of children suggesting for the project to be implemented in remaining districts—Bahi, Mpwawa, Chemba, Dodoma City Council, Kondo District Council and Kondo Town Council.

The challenge of access and quality in pre-primary education is answered by 'Watoto Wetu Tunu Yetu' project which is implemented by Children in Crossfire.

The 2022 National Economic Outlook Report revealed that in government schools, pre-primary teachers are compelled to teach students nearly six times the government-set standard, now through 'Watoto Wetu Tunu Yetu' project, strategies to manage large class sizes are being taught to teachers so that no child is left behind, said Davis Gisuka, early childhood education expert from Children in Cross-

fire.

Muhanyu Nkoronko, an Education Researcher, emphasize the importance of investing in early childhood education, stating that it builds a student's capacity to handle subsequent levels of education, a notion supported by notable global organisation such as UNICEF and the World Bank.

He underscored the need for the government to invest in qualified teachers and teaching resources to ensure proper early education, highlighting the impact on a child's educational development and ability to handle higher-level subjects.

Education Commissioner at the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Dr Lyabwene Mutahabwa, said the focus on quality early education is not only an academic precursor but a vital phase for building discipline, social skills and creativity.

Dr Mutahabwa said the foundational period is crucial for a child's development and provides parents with a safe space for children, allowing time for personal well-being and work commitments.

"The early years of life, from birth to 8 years, are critical for development, and the quality of learning experiences during this period significantly influences future schooling and life in general," he said.

International commitments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Sustainable Development Goal 4, underline the importance of equal access to quality early childhood development and pre-primary education.

Tanzania, as a signatory to the frameworks, has implemented policies and guidelines reflecting the principle of equal rights to education.

However, challenges persist, particularly in marginalized, remote, and rural areas where children face various barriers to accessing quality early learning opportunities compared to their urban counterparts.

While the enrolment rate increased by 11.0 percent in 2022, challenges remain, with a significant portion of the 5-year-old population still out of the pre-primary education cycle.

The overall Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) was 83.87 percent, indicating that there is room for improvement in absorbing all 5-year-old children into pre-primary education.

Tanzania is at the crossroads of pre-primary education challenges, where the resounding call for systemic reforms has been felt and a collaborative effort for change is underway.

While acknowledging the government's commitment, it is undeniably clear that a concerted and strategic effort is imperative to transform access to education from a mere numerical triumph into a gateway for unparalleled learning experiences during the formative early years of a child's development.

There is always room for improvement through learning best practices from others, while maintaining the unique cultural values.

Tanzania stands on the brink of transformative possibilities, recognizing that addressing pre-primary education challenges necessitates a holistic approach.

Surviving the white gold rush: Life in South America's 'lithium triangle'

By Alberto Mazzieri

TEÓFILA Cayo Calcina, 56, stands among her rows of quinoa plants, pointing towards the horizon. "The lithium plant is 50km in that direction. We are worried that the mining could leave us with not enough water to survive," she says, clearly disheartened.

Calcina lives with her husband in one of the houses overlooking the central square of the tiny village of Calcha K, an hour's walk from her quinoa fields, where she grows quinoa real, a variety which is native to the Uyuni region of Bolivia and is considered a "super food" in Western countries such as the US and Europe.

The village is home to 400 people who speak Quechua, an ancient Inca language but still very widely spoken in South America. This community, where most people's livelihoods are tied to farming quinoa and herding llamas, lives on the edge of the Uyuni salt flat in the Potosí region, part of the Bolivian Andes.

The Salar of Uyuni forms the world's largest salt flat, stretching for nearly 10,500sq km (more than 4,050 square miles) - slightly larger than the size of Lebanon - and attracting tourists from all over the world who come to marvel at its unique landscape.

In recent years, salt flats such as this one have also begun to draw intense interest from "green" industries around the world because the lightest metals on Earth are mined from lithium-rich brines, typically found in salt flats.

Last year, geologists discovered a vast deposit of two million tonnes of lithium in the district of Potosí, leading to a re-evaluation of the previously estimated resources of the metal on Bolivian soil.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) now estimates that Bolivia has about 23 million tonnes (more than 20 billion kg) of lithium - some two million tonnes more than previously thought.

The mineral is a key ingredient for the production of electric car batteries, which countries around the world are rushing to produce in the race to switch away from fossil fuels. Bolivia's President, Luis Arce, has announced that he plans for the country to be able to export batteries by the end of 2026.

The new lithium find has propelled Bolivia to number one in the world for lithium deposits, followed by Argentina with 22 million tonnes and Chile with 11 million tonnes.

This is the so-called "Lithium Triangle" where the rush for "white gold" is very much under way.

Threatening water resources

Almost immediately, it seemed, the first industrial lithium processing plant had been inaugurated nearby by Bolivian Lithium Deposits (YLB) in December last year. YLB is Bolivia's state-owned mining company founded in 2017 and responsible for the industrialisation of lithium in the country, a process that is still very much in its early stages of development.

The standard method of extracting lithium involves pumping brine into ponds on the salt flats and processing the lithium salts which crystallise once the water has evaporated. The process requires vast amounts of water.

Furthermore, the chemicals required to process lithium are toxic. "The release of such chemicals through leeching, spills or air emissions can harm communities, ecosystems and food production," a recent report from the international environment activism group, Friends of the Earth, states. "Moreover, lithium extraction inevitably harms the soil and also causes air contamination."

Bolivia has secured deals with Chinese consortium CBC and Russian group Uranium One to use a new method - direct lithium extraction (DLE) technology - in the Uyuni salt flat and the Laguna Pastos Grandes, a crater lake in the same Altiplano plateau area as the Uyuni flat and where lithium has also been found. This new method, YLB says, will use less water, but has yet to be implemented.

The locals are hesitant to be drawn in by such assurances, however. In November 2023, members of Villa Mar, a town in the Bolivian Andes close to the border with Chile, staged a protest when Uranium One Group arrived to deposit machinery and containers at the Laguna Pastos Grandes.

Back in Calcha K, like most others in the area, the Calcina family has been raising llamas and growing quinoa real, considered the gold standard of this variety of grain, for generations. Its seeds are larger, more



Teófila Cayo Calcina, a quinoa farmer in the Potosí region of Bolivia, points in the direction of the new lithium plant which is approximately 50km from her crop.

expensive and considered a fashionable "super food" by many in the Global North.

"I have been working in this field since I was a child," says Calcina, who owns six hectares of land, roughly the same size as 14 football fields, and is a member of the cooperative of quinoa real producers. "My parents and grandparents sowed this land before me; my children moved away but they come back in the summer to help with the harvest." Her husband also works on the farm and takes care of the llamas.

Already concerned about the effects of climate change, the prospect of incoming industrialisation is adding to her woes.

"We are seeing less rain, and changes in the weather," she says. "We are worried about the climate crisis but also the water usage of lithium extraction. My husband is scared because he heard that they are having problems in Chile and we do not know if we are going to have enough water for the quinoa and the llamas."

Last year, her cousin, Mercedes Calcina, 60, who lives in the neighbouring village of Santiago de Chuvica and is also a member of the quinoa farmers' cooperative, lost her entire harvest. Mercedes says: "There was no harvest of quinoa in my field last year because of the droughts. The rains are already changing due to climate change, now we are worried for lithium extraction."

"I fear we are going to disappear"

The rush for "white gold" in the Argentinian region of Jujuy is also ramping up after Governor Gerardo Morales approved a reform easing restrictions on mining industries and clamping down on the right to protest.

Lithium mining here takes place in the Salinas Grandes and the Laguna Guayatayoc, where the Ojos del Salar - groundwater pools found in the middle of the salt flat - are considered sacred to the Indigenous communities of San Miguel de Colorado, Pozo Colorado and Santuario de Tres Pozos. They are among the 33 communities in Salinas Grandes and Laguna Guayatayoc.

Last June, hundreds of protesters from these communities blocked a highway from the salt plains in protest against lithium mining in the region which they claim has been made easier via new reforms passed by Governor Morales.

They were brutally put down by the army and the police and 96 people were injured, according to local authorities.

Carlos and Hipólito Guzman are two brothers who live near the town of Susques, in the wider regional Susques area, where there is a great deal of disagreement among residents about the lithium mining in the Salar of Olaroz-Cauchari.

The brothers, who live 40km from the lithium mining site,

are part of Colectivo Apacheta, a union of animal herders which has been protesting against lithium extraction in the salt flats of Olaroz-Cauchari, northern Argentina, for many years. But they have come into conflict with other residents who are in favour of the mining because of the jobs it brings.

Hipólito says he was hospitalised following a beating by local people in 2012 because of his views. His brother, Carlos, says: "Today we see the consequences (of the mining) since there's no more water. It has changed a lot in the last five years. Lithium production pollutes our land and water. The world must know that we don't agree with this."

Political unrest in the region has kept investors away in past decades but as the global demand for renewable energy sources surges, mining and industrialisation here are on the rise as well. Over in Chile's Atacama desert, on the other side of the South American Lithium Triangle, the metal has been extracted since the mid-1980s.

The flamingo population has dropped by 10 percent since lithium mining began in 1983, according to a scientific research paper published in 2022 in the Royal Society journal, which determined the cause to be the decline in water reserves.

Cristina, a local tour guide, is showing tourists a collection of small crustaceans which are eaten by flamingos in the Laguna Chaxa natural reserve in the Salar of Atacama, which is cared for by the community of Toconao in northern Chile. She says she fears for the flamingos here if more demands are placed on water resources. The laguna is just 30km from a lithium plant operated by SQM (Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile SA), the world's second largest lithium producer.

Bastian Galvez, head of operations at the SQM lithium mining plant there, says that the plant currently uses about 120 litres (32 gallons) of water per second, but has the capacity to double this if production increases.

People from the local Indigenous communities here also came out to block the roads leading to the salt plain in the Atacama desert where the mineral is mined. They were protesting about another new deal which is set to be signed in March this year between the government and SQM, giving the group the rights to mine lithium here until 2060.

The group's former president is Chile's "Lithium King", Julio Ponce Lerou - the former son-in-law of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet. Lerou remains a major investor in the group with a 17 percent share.

The protesters only stepped down after Chile's current left-wing president, Gabriel Boric, promised to visit. He still hasn't come, though.

Karen Luza, 50, lives in Sequitor, a district of San Pedro de Atacama, one of Chile's most popular tourist destinations and home to 18 Indigenous communities. She has the role of "water supervisor" in her Indigenous community, which means she oversees the local irrigation system, which still operates according to the ancestral system of canals used to bring water into desert areas. Her activist work includes monitoring the fluctuation of the water resources of an area used for irrigation.

Her activism has earned hostility from some locals who are in favour of the mining, however. Two of her horses were killed in an attack, for which no one has been brought to justice, a few years ago.

But Luza says she will continue to campaign against the mining operations. The water data she has collected show that the flow rate of the waters in the nearby San Pedro River has decreased from 1,200 litres per second to 350 litres per second since 2008.

The data is alarming for the locals - mostly farmers and shepherds - who rely on this river to provide water for their herds and traditional crops like wheat, maize and alfalfa.

"We are in the most arid desert of the world and I fear we are going to disappear along with our Indigenous culture," Luza says.

The irony that the production of environmentally friendly cars is at the root of all this is not lost on her.

"Electromobility is promising so much change but this is not the truth. We won't have electric cars here."

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

TPSC dreaming of days as a centre of excellence

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Public Service College (TPSC) has made great improvements that made its graduates competitive and ably contribute to the country's economic development.

Dr Ernest Mabonesho, its acting rector and CEO, said in an interview recently that the college is a public entity aimed at providing comprehensive training for civil servants to meet the changing needs of the public services. The move, he said that it resulted from the public service reforms, and the need for an autonomous financially sustainable public service college.

He says the college carries out its duties in three main areas which are long and short term training, professional advice, applied research and facilitating the use of technology in education for public servants.

He says that the college is mandated to provide training in three areas—short-term courses, which are carried out in five steps—induction training programme, “this training is given to new employees in the public service to enable them to understand the structure of the government as it works, to know the rules, laws and procedures in the public service, and to build patriotism and nationalism.”

According to Dr Mabonesho, the training entity also provides orientation and refresher training in the public service.

“These kinds of training are given to employees who have served in the Public Service for a certain period of time and aim to remind employees of new things emerging in the government and to be aware of various changes/improvements in operational systems made at different times,” he says.

TPSC also provide proficiency/meritocracy training, which is for civil servants in various cadres who expect to rise in grades in a certain period

of their service in accordance with the existing procedures.

Dr Mabonesho says: “Basically, our college has been given the authority to coordinate and conduct Public Service Examinations aimed at developing the skills, expertise and knowledge of public servants in providing quality services and enabling them to rise in ranks/grades in their cadres.”

He cites other training as “training on essentials in public service management, which is given to civil servants who have reached the level of direct participation in the decision-making of the relevant Institution/Organization”.

It is for public employees who with their experience can hold managerial positions, Dr Mabonesho says, noting that the college also offer training for new potential leaders known as leadership development for emerging leaders.

“These kinds of trainings are provided to employees who are expected to be leaders in institutions or public associations starting from the level of assistant directors, managers, heads of departments and other low-level leaders.”

The rector also stated that the college offer retirement planning training programme—this training is provided to employees who are expected to retire in the public service in accordance with the law. They aim to prepare prospective retirees psychologically, economically and healthily once they are out of public service

The college also offers long-term training aimed at the skills required in public service at the level of degree, diploma and post-diploma for public servants and awarding appropriate awards.

Other courses offered by the college include record keeping, document and information management and accounting.

Other courses include human resources, public administration, procurement and supply and local government administration.



TPSC's acting rector and CEO, Dr Ernest Mabonesho

Dr Mabonesho further states that the college is currently offering training at the Bachelor's level starting in September, 2017 in the fields of Accounting and Document and Information Management in the Dar es Salaam branch.

He welcomed public servants and the general public to join the college and undergo several courses ranging from certificate to degree level. TPSC operates in six campuses—Dar es Sa-

laam, Tabora, Mtwara, Tanga, Singida and Mbeya.

On Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Dr Mabonesho says the college has focused on IT to reduce the various costs of conducting its training, noting that online training reduces costs and simplifies the provision of training for public servants in this country.

“The college has a global learning

section under the directorate of training for public servants. This department deals with conducting discussions, meetings and training through ICT,” he says

He explains that facilitating the use of technology in training for public servants is one the cost-effective training in the modern world.

The college also connects students with international experts using communication systems.

The college conducts online training to help the government reduce costs, have a friendly environment for learning, provide the opportunity to avoid overlap between training and duties, reduce trips outside the workplace and avoid being away from family, he says.

The college is responsible for promoting the government policies and supporting the use of ICT among the practitioners. It also conducts research aimed at identifying the real management needs of the Public Service with the aim of promoting professionalism and efficiency of work for public servants. It also provides consultancy services in various areas within the public service.

“We've been cooperating with various entities including Institute of Public Administration (IPA).”

The college was officially established on August 17, 2000 under the Government Agencies Act Chapter 245 through Government announcement (Establishment Order) no. 473 dated 15/12/2000 which is a merger of two colleges, the Civil Service Training Center established in 1963 and Tabora Secretarial College established in 1972.

China's Belt and Road Initiative paves way for common prosperity in Central Africa

By Arison Tamfu, Yaoundé

CENTRAL African leaders met at the weekend in Bangui, Central African Republic, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), a regional bloc, in hopes of highlighting past achievements and defining a roadmap for strengthening regional integration, while focusing on economic challenges and growth opportunities.

When CEMAC was created in 1994, its members – Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo and Chad – aimed to enhance economic development through regional integration. Saturday's event also offered the leaders an opportunity to consider how regional integration and development can be achieved under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Since its launch in 2013, the BRI has been welcomed by all CEMAC countries as a model for cooperation with China in infrastructure development and socioeconomic transformation, said Elvis Ngolle Ngolle, international relations expert and former cabinet member of the Cameroonian government.

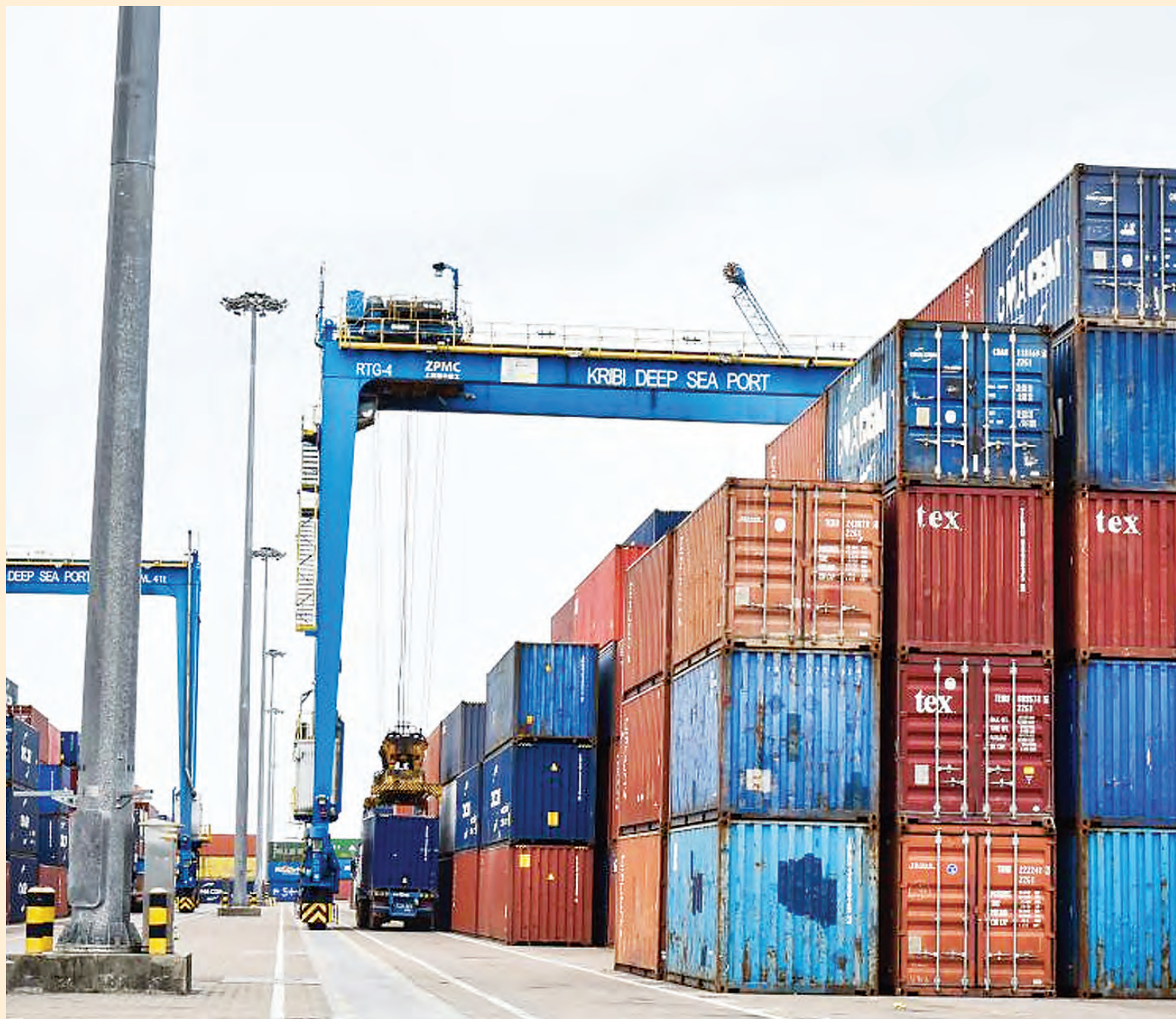
“Once you arrive in the CEMAC sub-region, you will see plenty of Chinese company investment projects,” said Ngolle.

Thanks in large part to Chinese investments and expertise, CEMAC states have been blessed with the construction of some major mega-infrastructure projects in the transport sector.

A good example is the Kribi Deep Sea Port, built by China Harbor Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) in Cameroon's southern town of Kribi. While the new seaport, which is strategically positioned in the center of the Gulf of Guinea, has stimulated the country's economy, it has become a regional hub for the African Atlantic coast.

“With the coming of the Kribi port, Cameroon has once again placed herself as the port entry to the sub-region. This (the port) has added more value to certain industrial projects in Chad, the Central African Republic and Congo,” said Alain Patrick Mpila Ayissi, manager of the Land Development and Environment Department of the Port Authority of Kribi.

Currently, CHEC is busy constructing the Kribi Deep Seaport



Kribi Deep Sea Port in Kribi, Cameroon

Phase II. After the completion of the project, it is expected to become a large container transit port and comprehensive hub port in Central and West Africa.

As part of the project, CHEC also constructed the Kribi-Lolabe highway that will cater to the requirements of the port transportation and logistics and make a contribution to local prosperity just like the road linking Cameroon to Congo.

The Cameroon-Congo road, constructed by contractors including Sinohydro, a Chinese civil engineering construction company, stretches 1,600 km from Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon, to Brazzaville, the Congolese capital. It has

been nicknamed the “road of regional integration” by authorities.

James Essomba, who has been selling merchandise in the border town of Ntam, Cameroon's East Region, said that the new road is a game changer.

“At first, it was difficult to get goods from Congo. Now, both countries that have long traded with others outside the sub-region are trading with each other. We have seen a remarkable increase in trade and profit,” said the 65-year-old Laurence Wandji, 41, is a primary school teacher in Bafoussam, Cameroon's third-largest city. A big water tower stands just a few meters from Wandji's home. The tower

er was contracted to the Chinese construction company CGCOC Group. In 2014, CGCOC Group arrived and set out to construct a water treatment plant and related facilities that could produce 10,000 cubic meters of water daily in the city. It was part of a project to provide water to nine cities in Cameroon.

Currently, residents can enjoy a round-the-clock water supply thanks to the project. “We can now take good showers even in dry season thanks to China,” said Wandji. “We can easily manage our daily activities which require water. Children no longer trek long distances to fetch water.”

Every weekend, mammoth crowds gather at Limbe Omnisport Stadium and Bafoussam Omnisport Stadium in Cameroon to watch local league matches. Constructed by China Machinery Engineering Corporation, the stadiums have become a veritable unifier for young people in the sub-region.

“Those stadiums hosted very important matches when Cameroon hosted the Africa Cup of Nations and Under-17 Central African football tournament. They build links among youth from countries through football. They are extremely useful and we are grateful to China,” said James Ndukong, a football analyst.

Critics, however, allege that China's BRI projects in the CEMAC zone are a “debt trap.” Analysts insist China's investment is giving a much-needed boost to the economies of the countries otherwise largely ignored by Western investors. “Unlike other countries, China is working to help Africa restore infrastructures that are essential for economic recovery. The projects also provide massive job opportunities for local residents,” said Ngolle, the international relations expert and former cabinet member of the Cameroonian government.

Reacting to “debt trap” allegations, Cameroon's Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute said that Cameroon is a sovereign country conscious of its responsibilities and choices.

“We are not going to listen to all kinds of snide remarks by people who think they know better. We have a country we have to develop and that is our responsibility,” said Ngute while visiting the construction site of a China-funded water plant in Yaounde, the Cameroonian capital.

Xu Huajiang, general manager of China Harbor Central Africa Division which designed and constructed some major projects in Cameroon including the Kribi Deep Seaport and Kribi-Lolabe Highway, said that globalization and regionalization have become a general trend of development and should be embraced by African countries.

“It is necessary to strengthen the ‘hard connectivity’ of infrastructure and ‘soft connectivity’ of system rules and promote the four-in-one interconnection of land, sea, sky, and network,” Xu said.

Beekeeping offering opportunity to Zimbabwean farming communities

By Farai Shawn Matiashe

HONEYBEES quickly react with a sharp and loud buzz sound as beekeeper Tanyaradzwa Kanangira opens one of the wooden horizontal Kenyan top bar hives near a stream in a thick forest in Chimanimani, 412 kilometres from Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

The 26-year-old puffs some smoke, a safety measure, as he holds and inspects a honeycomb built from hexagons by the honey bees.

Many people in this part of the country rely on many forms of agriculture, from agroforestry and horticulture to crop production.

Nonetheless, with increasing floods and droughts as a result of climate change, both rainfed and irrigation agriculture have become somewhat unreliable, forcing farmers to diversify into other forms of farming like apiculture to sustain their livelihoods.

Kanangira is part of the 11 young people in Chimanimani, Manicaland Province, who have been supported by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with training in beekeeping as well as market linkages since June 2023.

"Factors to consider when establishing an apiary include the type of forage, such as flowers and herbs, warm climatic conditions, and water availability," says Kanangira, wearing a white sting-proof bee suit.

Silence Dziwira, another beekeeper, says the use of chemicals by farmers is restricted in areas surrounding an apiary.

"We are planting bushy trees within the apiary and other different speeches. This helps in keeping the ground intact, preventing land degradation," Dziwira, a mother of one, whose first harvest was late in 2023 and supplies the local market, tells IPS.

In this day and age, farmers use modern-day hives like the Kenyan top bar hive used in Chimanimani, made out of sustainable materials.

An agroecology case study from the Alliance for Food Sovereignty Africa shows that there are more than 50,000 beekeepers in Zimbabwe today.

Patrice Talla, FAO representative in Zimbabwe, says they are supporting the beekeepers with capacity building on beekeeping, including hive making, honey harvesting and processing, and business management.

"Since 2021, FAO, under the Green Jobs project, has trained and equipped 300 youth in selected communities to increase employment amongst rural youths, enhance food security, reduce poverty, and support environmental



A beekeeper holds a honeycomb in Chimanimani, Zimbabwe. Photo: IPS

sustainability," he tells IPS. To date, 319 beehives have been built to set up apiaries in different areas, according to Talla. So far, out of 48 hives belonging to Kanangira

and team, 13 have been colonised with *Apis mellifera* honey bees, the size of a paper clip.

Admire Munjuwanjuwa, a beekeeping expert based in Mutare, says beekeeping helps preserve forests.

"Beekeeping reduces deforestation because people cannot cut trees where there are bees; by so doing, trees will work as carbon sinks and reduce climate change," he says.

Robert Mutisi, another beekeeping expert, says apiaries protect the forests that act as bee habitats as well as sources of nectar.

"Beekeeping encourages farmers to plant trees and not cut trees indiscriminately. Beekeeping can act as a fire protection tool to guard against forest and vegetation destruction," he says.

Kanangira says they have planted 3500 gum trees covering more than 2 hectares.

Three out of every four leading food crops for human consumption and more than a third of agricultural land worldwide depend in part on pollinators, according to the FAO.

Talla says bees are a barometer of the health of natural ecosystems and pollinators in forests.

"They play a major role in maintaining biodiversity, including wild, horticultural, and agricultural crops," he says.

People consume honey as food, spreading it on bread and as a sweetener in tea.

Other byproducts of bees include beeswax, propolis, and pollen.

Traditionally, the beekeeping industry has been male-dominated but there has been growing interest in

the sector by women building and running their apiaries across the country.

In Chimanimani, out of Kanangira's team of 11 people, seven are women, showing that they are changing the narrative.

These beekeepers get monthly stipends from FAO. "Earning a living from beekeeping makes me happy. As a woman, I did not think that I could venture into such a project as beekeeping," says Dziwira, a mother of two.

"This initiative has made me realise my full potential as a woman and that I can successfully run a big project."

Talla says revenue generated from the initiative will be saved and used to pay wages beyond the two-year support.

FAO's beekeeping project, Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), is currently being implemented in three countries, including Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste.

In Zimbabwe, the project is running in six districts, targeting young people.

Kanangira, who uses the money from beekeeping to look after his siblings, is planning to supply honey to markets in Harare.

"We plan to sell in large quantities to companies in Harare. To add value, we want to have a processing plant where we make things like toothpaste and floor polish using products from honeybees," he says.

IPS

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 83 -

1. as flippers
18. move rhythmically to music
20. a deep yellow colour
22. related by blood
23. Beryllium symbol
24. an alloy of copper and tin for making bells, with a higher tin content than in bronze

DOWN:
1. Largest port in Kenya
2. be shut forcefully and loudly
3. a discussion group
4. leave out or exclude
5. usual
6. cease work in order to relax
8. Drum in Kiswahili
11. largest country in North America
12. strike out with the foot
14. a Polynesian garland of flowers

- ACROSS:
1. Capital city of Russia
7. a common flatfish of the plaice family
9. what is meant by a word
10. an agricultural tool similar to pickaxe
13. e-mail 15. a fish-eating aquatic mammal with a streamlined body and feet developed

DEER

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

CASES BOOM BASE
DEER RUB REEDS
DUBIETY BLOOD RYES
EIRE OMNIBUS
OWNERS RESITE

Yesterday's solution

UGANDA USES PONE J
KENYAN SCAB ONEROUS
REAR BAR REPOLUTE
A SKER N
ISSA SUNDAY CRATE I
N L SAAG I LIABLE I
EIRA RIELES N ICI L
BANDAEU N ICI L
VOID D UNTO E AEA

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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| 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 HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 11:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 11:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 12:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 12:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 12:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 12:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 12:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 12:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 14:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 14:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 14:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 14:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 14:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 14:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 14:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 14:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 15:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 15:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 15:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 15:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 15:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 15:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 16:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 16:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 16:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 16:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 16:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 17:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 17:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 17:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 17:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 17:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 17:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 17:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 17:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 18:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 18:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 18:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 18:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 18:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 18:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 19:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 19:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 19:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 19:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 19:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 19:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 20:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 20:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 20:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 20:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 20:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 20:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 20:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 20:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 21:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 21:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 21:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 21:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 21:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 21:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 21:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 21:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 22:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 22:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 22:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 22:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 22:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 22:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 22:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 22:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 23:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 23:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 23:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 23:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 23:33 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 23:40 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 23:45 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 01:00 - 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BUSINESS

Geopolitical uncertainty now supports gold demand, prices

By Guardian Correspondent

Amid economic uncertainties and rising inflation, total gold demand, including over-the-counter (OTC) demand, reached a new record of 4 899 t in 2023, thereby supporting the highest yearly average gold price of \$1 940.54/oz, according to the World Gold Council's (WGC's) most recent 'Gold Demand Trends Report'.

The gold price, which hit an all-time high in almost every currency globally except the Swiss franc and was driven by increasing demand, particularly from central banks and OTC investors, has benefited gold mining companies globally, explains WGC chief market strategist John Reade.

However, yearly gold demand, excluding OTC demand, fell to 4 448 t in 2023, a 5 percent decrease from a notably strong 2022.

Nonetheless, the central bank buying streak from 2022 continued at a "blistering rate", with demand having reached 1 037 t last year, making it the second-highest on record, down just 45 t on the previous year.

Hence, the WGC says it expects another year of strong buying, adding that central bank buying - above the longer-term average - is likely to provide solid price support.

Minerals Council South Africa economist André Lourens says the surge in demand from central banks over the past two years can be linked to economic uncertainties, heightened inflation and geopolitical tensions.

Meanwhile, the WGC report notes that yearly jewellery demand held steady at 2 093 t, despite the high gold price environment, while yearly bar and coin investment declined mildly by 3% year-on-year as divergent trends in key Western and Eastern markets offset one another.

The gold volume used in electronics in 2023 also fell below 300 t.

Moving forward, Reade says the performance of the gold price will depend on the direction of US interest rates and the strength or weakness of the US dollar against major currencies, noting that US interest rates are likely to be lower this year and in 2025.

"We are convinced, as is the consensus of economic opinion, that interest rates will fall in the US in 2024 and 2025. Declining interest rates are usually associated with higher US oil prices and, if the US dollar weakens, that will also help gold."

With global geopolitical tensions becoming more unstable, such as the war in Ukraine, the conflict in the Middle East and potential tensions in the South China Sea, investors are drawn to safe-haven assets, particularly gold, which SA Bullion co-CEO Clint O'Brien describes as "immutable".

Lourens adds that global geopolitical tensions heighten uncertainty, thereby impacting on growth and prosperity in the market, causing investors to "price in" the increased risk and/or cost of doing business associated with unpredictability.

Concerns over a country's involvement in wars translates into long-term investment being postponed in regions such as the Middle East while resources are diverted to short-term mitigation mechanisms.

"Risk is high, so money flows to less risky business ventures. In these 'high-risk' areas, money flows to militaries and aid, and, to hedge against these uncertainties, investors and central banks opt to buy assets that are reliable, predictable and universally valued. Hence, an increased demand for asset classes like gold," says Lourens.

Additionally, disruptions in trade and logistics, as a result of the conflict in the Red Sea, have resulted in higher input costs and heightened inflation, which Lourens says could coincide with higher global levels of inflation, as was the case in 2022.

He adds that increased input costs and inflation erode the value of cash-like assets, thereby driving investment in gold. Global conflict also creates subdued growth and wealth outcomes, which affect consumers who could, for example, demand less jewellery.

"The net outcome here is less certain and it is too early for us to speculate on the economic impact of tensions in the Red Sea. Suffice to say the gold price will act as a signal that reflects the underlying global economic and political conditions."

Consequently, central banks may recalibrate their gold acquisition strategies accordingly.

"We are confident the risk in the geopolitical sphere has not been priced in. This means volatility and surprises lie ahead. There is going to be more divergence in price movements within the commodity complex than we've seen in the past," adds Rand Merchant Bank co-head for resources sector solutions Julian Grieve.

Stocks indices end week on high note with 2.7bn/- foreigners' shares buying

By Guardian Reporter

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) indices closed last week in green, after gaining of share prices among three local firms, with foreign investors making a comeback through buying shares valued 2.7bn/-, which was twice of the purchase amount recorded since the start of the current quarter.

The DSE market report shows Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed at 4,400.98 points on Friday, an increase of 10.27 points, while the all share index (DSE) gained by 3.26 points after closing at 1,770.77 points.

Three counters which caused the gain of the indices include CRDB Bank, which its share price closed at 530/- an increase of 1.92 percent, self-listed DSE, which closed at 1,860/- through appreciation of 1.09 percent and NICO, which its share price went up by 1.72 percent after closing at 590/-.

The market reports show foreign investors bought shares valued



2.75bn/-, pushing the value of their participation on buying activity to 3.99bn/-, which was equivalent to more than the value of shares they bought during the first quarter of last year.

Analysts expect slow gaining of foreign investors on buying activity as some were returning specifically on active counters, while exiting from counters which their shares have remained stagnant for a long time.

However, the shares bought by foreign investors

on Friday last week were also sold by their fellow foreigners.

Foreign investors have so far recorded a net outflow of 20.5bn/-, after selling shares valued 24.55bn/- since the start of the current quarter, which is 47.49 percent of total shares sold.

Top mover during last week was CRDB Bank counter, which transacted 7.9 million shares sold through both block trade pre-arranged market board and normal board, at a price between 510/-

and 540/- per share in 356 deals.

Second top mover was TBL counter, which recorded the transaction of 263,000 shares traded through block trade pre-arranged market boards, at a discounted price of 5,500/- per share in 11 deals.

The market report shows, NICO counter was third top mover, after recorded the transaction of 135,799 shares, traded at a price of between 570/- and 630/- per share in 51 deals, followed by Tanzania Port-

land Cement Company (TPCC), which transacted 60,625 shares traded at a price between 4,260/- and 4,320/- per share in 20 deals.

Other active counters during the week were Tanga Cement Company Limited (TCCL), TCCIA Investment Company (TICL), Swissport Tanzania (Swis), NMB Bank, DCB Bank, Vodacom, Precision Air (PAL), DSE, Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC) and TATEPA.

A total turnover recorded during the week amounted to 6.5bn/- following the transaction of 8.7 million shares traded in 594 deals.

Since the start of this quarter, a total turnover of 51.7bn/- has so far been recorded, which is far above 20.3bn/- recorded during the whole first quarter of last year and more than a third of the value recorded during the fourth quarter of last year.

Local investors have continued to dominate the market activity as they account for 92.28 percent of total value of shares bought and 52.51 percent of total value of shares sold.

Mahenge graphite project gets approval for \$53.9m funding



Mahenge graphite project

The definitive feasibility study for the project considers a four-stage construction schedule to deliver up to 340,000 t/y of 98.5 percent graphite concentrate for 26 years of 98.5 percent LOI premium graphite flake concentrate with the ability to produce ultra-purity flake of 99 percent LOI.

Black Rock Mining Ltd has an 84 percent interest in the world-class Mahenge Graphite Project (Mahenge) which hosts a multi-generational graphite resource and is one of the largest JORC-compliant flake graphite resources globally.

The government of Tanzania owns 16 percent stake of the project through free carried interest shareholding. A Joint Venture company, Faru Graphite Corporation (Faru) was established to develop the project.

The Mahenge Project is spread across 324 square kilometres of exploration tenements in Ulanga district, approximately 250 km north of the border with Mozambique.

As of 2019, Tanzania's estimated graphite reserves stand at 18 million tonnes ranking 5th in the world after Turkey, China, Brazil, and Mozambique.

In September last year, Black Rock Mining signed a memorandum of understanding with its strategic partner Posco International, pertaining to graphite supply from Module 2 of the Mahenge project.

Under the non-binding agreement, POSCO will purchase fine graphite from the planned production of the Mahenge Module 2 project.

By Guardian Correspondent

Tanzanian graphite developer Black Rock Mining has successfully secured the necessary debt facilities required to advance its Mahenge project, with a new senior term loan from South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) completing the financing package crucial to get the mine into production.

The IDC has approved a senior term loan of \$53.9-million for the project. Together with the previously announced \$59.6-million from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Black Rock now has all the key approvals for the targeted term loan for the project.

The IDC is a state-owned institution that provides financial support to promote economic growth and development in South Africa. It funds viable businesses to enhance industrial capacity and contribute to the economic growth of South Africa and the African continent.

The loan terms remain subject to documentation, but the loan tenor is expected to be seven years and the interest rate will

be based on the secured overnight financing rate, or SOFR, plus a margin, Australia Stock Exchange (ASX)-listed Black Rock states.

Ultimately, funding for the project to reach production will require both debt and equity. Black Rock previously signed a memorandum of understanding with its strategic alliance partner, Posco, for a potential cornerstone equity position in Black Rock of up to \$40-million. Final approvals for this investment are expected shortly, the company notes.

"Black Rock will now seek to document full form facility agreements and confirm the final structure of the Mahenge project debt package. Such facilities are expected to contain terms and conditions usual for facilities of this type, but there is no guarantee of the conditions potential lenders may seek to impose, or that facility agreements will ultimately be entered into," Black Rock said in an announcement issued on Friday by John de Vries Chief Executive Officer, Black Rock Mining.

Black Rock aims to have Module 1 at Mahenge in production in 2026.



Dr. Saada Mkuya Salum (R), minister of State in the Zanzibar President's office (Finance and Planning), presents an award to the Head of Branch Operations of Absa Bank Tanzania, Mwilongo Irene Msungu (C), in recognition of the bank's contribution as the main sponsor at the launch of the Tanzania Women in Finance Association (TAWIFA), during an event held in Kizimkazi, Zanzibar recently. Left is Absa Zanzibar Branch manager, Rabia Aboud. This is one of Absa Bank's initiatives to empower women economically. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Foundation for climate-resilient investments

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has said it will ensure the supervision of investment policies, regulations, guidelines, and laws in the country to make them resilient and attractive to many investors, in order to address unemployment challenges.

TPSF Executive Officer, Raphael Maganga said this during the second China-US Entrepreneurs Exchange Party held in Dar es Salaam last week and attended by businessmen and investors from China, the United States, and Tanzania, as well as diplomatic corps members. The exchange party was or-

ganized by the ShaanXi Chamber of Tanzania and Palm Village.

Maganga emphasized that the investment environment needs to be conducive and secure to attracting many investors, which will also help to solve the issue of unemployment among the youths.

He stated, "We ensure that the investment environment and the private sector are sustained. There are policies, laws, and regulations that we find oppressive, which we present to the government for removal or improvement. Because if the private sector thrives, investment will increase and solve the challenge of unemployment for our youth."

Maganga further noted that the private sector is the larg-

est taxpayer and employer, so it's crucial to have favorable conditions to attract investors, thereby promoting employment and reducing poverty.

He added that approximately 85 percent of graduates do not have formal employment, highlighting the TPSF's responsibility to ensure both investment and the private sector thrives.

He mentioned that investment in the country has increased rapidly, especially during the three years of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's administration, with the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) receiving many investors and businessmen from various countries, especially China, every week.

He added that within these

three years, many projects have been registered, indicating that investors are attracted to Tanzania's environment, so TPSF has the responsibility to ensure that the business environment is improved.

The Director of Investment Promotion at TIC, John Mnali, stated that the meeting is crucial to Tanzania as it provides an opportunity to bring together the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Tanzania and the China Business Chamber of Tanzania with the aim of exploring and promoting various investment opportunities.

"As you are aware, these two countries have made significant investments in the country, so TIC is increasing

efforts to meet with more businessmen and investors from America and China so that we can promote our opportunities for investment," said Mnali.

Godfrey Mchangila, the Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), highlighted the significance of the event, aiming to bring together businessmen and investors from China, the US, and Tanzania, with an agreement to hold such meetings more frequently.

He noted that this was their second participation in the meeting, which helps their members exchange business information and supports various economic efforts undertaken by the government.

China Chamber of Com-

merce in Tanzania chairman, Zhu JinFeng said that Tanzania is endowed with abundant resources and favorable policies, offering numerous investment opportunities therefore presents a golden opportunity for all foreign investors from China and the United States.

"However, the strength of one individual is limited. To achieve better development, cooperation among us is indispensable. There's a famous Chinese saying, 'Many hands make light work,' emphasizing the importance of collective effort for greater success. This, indeed, is the essence of this communication conference," said JinFeng.

Burak Buyuksarac, the founder and CEO of BMS Group of companies and one

of the organizers commented despite separate business agendas the event symbolizes not only the strength of the individual business communities but also the immense potential that lies in the collaboration of the three great nations namely China, US and Tanzania.

"Tanzania is a land of opportunity and growth, serves as the perfect backdrop of our gathering. As we seek to expand our businesses and explore new markets, the importance of collaboration between Chinese and US companies cannot be overstated. By joining forces, we can leverage our unique strengths, share valuable insights and create synergies that will lead mutual business goals and profits," said Buyuksarac.

Business college urged to strengthen tech innovations

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has asked College of Business Education (CBE) to strengthen technological innovation and creativity to match the needs of the labor market.

The call was made over the weekend by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr. Hashil Abdallah, during the discussion on the college's 50-year Development Vision to be implemented from 2024 to 2074.

He said CBE and other colleges should provide education that will meet the needs of the local and foreign markets by having graduates with enough expertise to be accepted by employers.

He said the business sector is an important tool for developing the economy, noting that the college should provide quality education on the basis of economic and social development.

He underscored the reforms undertaken by the college aimed at building academic and technical capacity for the students. "The 50-year vision

which has been prepared with great competence and the participation of various stakeholders, is an important step in ensuring that the institution remains strong in providing quality education and supporting business growth," he said.

He hopes that if the vision is implemented effectively, it will help the college to bring about major changes in the business sector and society in general.

He said the college should be ready to face challenges that may arise.

Professor Edda Lwoga, CBE rector said that a total of 19,000 students have been enrolled in all the college's campuses located in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Mwanza and Dodoma.

She said that in implementing the vision, they have started to make reforms to provide practical education by establishing the apprenticeship programs.

"We have already obtained the accreditation of apprenticeship programs whereby this year, we will start with banking, finance and metrology courses, where students will spend



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr Hashil Abdallah

their studies in class and workplaces," said Professor Lwoga.

She said that for the metrology course, they will collaborate with Weigh Measurement Agency (WMA), where students will be in the classroom for a while and as well as performing practical work at the agency.

She said that CBE has also started an incubation program for students who have dreams of starting their own businesses.

"We introduced this program two years back and many students have already registered their businesses and companies, while still studying and in keeping with the

changes in technology, we have started an online sessions," she said.

Professor Lwoga said that the college has started to offering online Master's degrees and that they will add an international business and procurement & supply course.

"We have seen a very great response because

our students, wherever they are, will register online and will only have to come here to the college for their test and final exams," she said.

She said their 50-year blueprint represents the vision of the students and all stakeholders who participated in formulating it.

Africa to play 'huge role' in US critical mineral strategies

MARIKANA

The United States is looking to Africa to help loosen a Chinese stranglehold on battery metals and reduce Russia's influence over the market for other minerals, US Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said on Thursday.

Coronavirus pandemic fallout and Moscow's war in Ukraine have sent Western governments scrambling to reduce their reliance on Chinese supply chains and disentangle their economies from Russia.

But as Washington plots a course for its energy transition it is lagging behind China, which has spent the past decade securing access to minerals needed for the production of products like electric vehicle batteries and solar panels.

"We don't want to be overly reliant on any one country or any one company for global supply chains for critical minerals," Adeyemo told Reuters during a visit to a platinum mine in Marikana, South Africa, owned by Sibanye-Stillwater.

While the US government has launched a raft of measures to incentivise increased production of strategic and critical minerals at home, notably under the Inflation Reduction Act, Adeyemo acknowledged that overseas resources were also vital.

"Africa is going to play a huge role," he said. "A lot of critical minerals are located here."

Chinese assets in Africa already include massive copper and cobalt projects in Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia as well as lithium in Zimbabwe, where companies are assisted by heavy Chinese state investment in accompanying infrastructure.

Adeyemo said the United States was working with G7 allies to close that infrastructure gap.

The US International Development Finance Corporation is, meanwhile, aiming to de-risk private investment in Africa. And the deputy secretary said Washington was incentivising US manufacturing to boost demand for those minerals and create favourable market conditions for miners.

But he added that the White House also stood ready to ensure a level playing field.

"We are talking to our European allies ... about some of the actions we can take using trade tools to make sure that a country like China can't flood the market with things like electric vehicles and solar panels," he said.

Regarding Russia, Adeyemo said countries like South Africa also had a role to play.

In the wake of Moscow's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the US government slapped sanctions on a number of Russian miners and mineral exports. But it left Russian platinum group metals (PGM) largely untouched.

The United States is a major consumer of palladium, a PGM used in catalytic converters, with 32% of its imports of the metal coming from Russia between 2019 and 2022, according to the US Geological Survey.



Sibanye-Stillwater CEO Neal Froneman and US Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo on a mine tour in Marikana

Bank engages its Zanzibar customers through iftar



The Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Zubeir Ali Maulid addresses guests during an iftar event organized by NBC Bank for its customers in Zanzibar over the weekend. The event was attended by government officials, religious leaders, political parties' leaders, customers, agents, and bank employees. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

IN a heart-warming display of solidarity and unity during the holy month of Ramadhan, the National Bank of Commerce (NBC)

organized a special iftar event for its Muslim customers in Zanzibar.

Held in Isles, the event was attended by esteemed guests such as the Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Zubeir

Ali Maulid, alongside senior leaders of the Zanzibar, Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, MPs and bank customers.

"Other businesses should look to NBC Bank as a model for how busi-

nesses can effectively engage with their customers and respect their cultural and religious values," said Speaker Maulid, commending NBC Bank for its exemplary cooperation with its stakeholders.

He emphasized the importance of cultivating relationships that honour and upholds the religious values and beliefs of the bank's diverse customer base.

According to Speaker Zubeir, by hosting such thoughtful events that resonate with the cultural and religious fabric of its customers, NBC Bank reaffirms its commitment to not only providing top-notch financial services but also to fostering a sense of belonging and shared values among its clientele.

The event further provided an ideal platform for acknowledging the mutual respect and understanding that form the bedrock of NBC's interactions with its customers.

NBC's Head of Islamic Banking and Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), Raymond Urassa highlighted the pivotal role of strong relationships between the bank, the government, and customers.

"At NBC Bank, we prioritize understanding the

unique needs and preferences of our valued customers. The iftar events serve as a testament to NBC's unwavering dedication to building meaningful relationships and fostering a harmonious bond with our diverse customer base in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland," said Urassa.

He highlighted the bank's unique offering, "La Riba," tailored specifically to NBC's Muslim customers in adherence to Islamic principles governing financial transactions without interest.

During the iftar event, guests engaged in enriching discussions and reflections, fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

As a token of appreciation for the enduring trust and loyalty of its customers, NBC Bank presented special gifts to all attendees. The gifts symbolized the bank's commitment to nurturing strong relationships and showed gratitude for the continued support of its clientele.

WORLD

Trump predicts end of US democracy if he loses 2024 polls

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump said on Saturday if he does not win November's presidential election it will mean the likely end of American democracy.

The Republican presidential candidate, speaking to supporters in Ohio, made the claim after repeating his baseless assertion that his 2020 election defeat to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of election fraud.

During an outdoor speech that was whipped by strong winds and punctuated by some profane language, Trump predicted that if he does not win the Nov 5 general election, American democracy will come to an end.

"If we don't win this election, I don't think you're going to have another election in this country," Trump said.

Trump, who is under criminal indict-

ment in Georgia for trying to overturn the result of the 2020 election there, this week won enough delegates to mathematically clinch the Republican nomination.

A general election rematch with Biden is likely to be extremely close. A Reuters/Ipsos poll last week found the two candidates in a statistical tie with registered voters.

Trump opened his remarks in Dayton with a tribute to his supporters who are currently in jail for rioting at the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, as they sought to block certification of Biden's 2020 election win.

Trump saluted and called them "patriots" and "hostages".

The former Republican president has been using increasingly dystopian rhetoric in his campaign speeches about the state of the country.



Republican presidential candidate and former president Donald Trump speaks at a Buckeye Values PAC rally on Saturday 2024, in Vandalia, Ohio. AP

In the middle of a section in his speech about placing tariffs on imported cars, and foreign competition for the US auto industry, Trump declared: "If I don't get elected, it's going to be a bloodbath for the whole country."

Asked what he meant, his campaign pointed to a post on the social media platform X by a New York Times journalist, which said Trump's "bloodbath" comment came amid a discussion about the US auto industry and the economy.

Asked for a response to Trump's "bloodbath" comment, Biden campaign spokesperson James Singer condemned Trump's "extremism", "his thirst for revenge", and his "threats of political violence".

Trump also appealed to Blacks and Hispanics, voters who will play a key role in deciding November's election. Trump has been narrowing the gap with Biden in opinion polls with non-white voters, who formed a core part of Biden's winning coalition when he defeated Trump in 2020.

Trump cited a central campaign theme, that too many illegal immigrants have crossed the US-Mexico border since Biden took office, in his appeal to minority voters.

"No-one has been hurt by Joe Biden's migrant invasion more than our great African American and Hispanic communities," Trump said. He claimed without citing any evidence that illegal immigrants were taking their jobs.

Agencies

This is a different India today, says Jaishankar

NEW DELHI

WEIGHING in on the changing global perceptions of India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the world now sees the country as one that is able to "seek its own solutions".

He said the country stood up for its consumer interests, energy choices and national security, stressing that "this is a different India today".

Speaking at the ET Awards 2023 where he was honoured as the 'Reformer of the Year', Jaishankar (pictured) said, "Today when the world thinks of India, the world actually sees a country which is able to seek its own solutions, speak its own mind, which will stand up, which stood up for our consumer interests when it came to its energy choices, which stood up for its national security when it came to deploying on our northern frontiers and in staying with the Quad. So this is a different India today, and I cannot tell you how proud I am to represent it abroad."

Jaishankar noted that India, in the past few years, has left a deeper imprint on world consciousness. He said the world saw how India has tackled challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic and shipped vaccines and other life-saving drugs to 100 nations around the world under 'Vaccine Maitri' even as it was dealing with a public health emergency in its own backyard.

Highlighting India's global outreach, Jaishankar said, "In the last few years, there's no question we have left a deeper imprint in the world consciousness. When they think of India today, if one is talking in terms of challenges, they see how we handled Covid, how we became through Vaccine Maitri a provider of vaccines to 100 countries across the world. They note how we take care of our citizens abroad. It could be 'Operation Ganga' or 'Kaveri' or 'Ajay'. It could be the 'Vande Bharat' mission during Covid. They see today the achievements of our businesses in projects abroad, in terms of exports which have gone up. They note, of course, the enormous progress that India itself is making."

Speaking at the event, the External Affairs Minister touched on the burgeoning Indian economy, saying, "They (the world) see today that despite the tremendous global headwinds, this is an economy that is growing at 8 per cent. The fifth-largest economy was 11th (even) a decade ago. It will be (the) third hopefully very soon."

Jaishankar said that the world, even after coming out of the pandemic, continues to face different challenges like the conflict in Ukraine, the conflict in Gaza and maritime concerns in the Red Sea.

"There are other issues, some on our borders, some beyond. So the world is not without its challenges," he said.

Stressing that the world was "full of opportunities," Jaishankar said, "We are used to thinking of a global marketplace. There is a global workplace which is happening. There is a global tech place which is taking place. There are new opportunities to board the manufacturing bus, which we may have missed in the earlier years. But to do all that, we need leadership, we need vision, we need a collective commitment of a nation. And if we get all those right, I'm very sure that those who come after me will be able to represent the nation abroad with even more effectiveness and an even greater sense of pride than I've had."

ANI

South Sudan closes schools as heatwave intensifies

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan on Saturday announced an indefinite closure of all schools as a result of heatwaves over the past few days with very high temperatures both during the day and night.

Yolanda Awel Deng, minister for Health, said most parts of South Sudan are experiencing a heatwave expected to last at least two weeks with temperatures ranging between 41 degrees and 45 degrees Celsius.

"The government has decided to take the following measures, one, close down all schools with effect from March 18, two, during the closure of the schools, parents are advised to stop their children from playing outdoors for prolonged periods and they should also monitor children, especially the young ones, for signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke," Awel told reporters in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

She said heatwaves can acutely impact large populations for short periods, often trigger public health emergencies, and result in excess mortality and cascading socioeconomic impacts like loss of work capacity and labor productivity and can also cause loss of health service delivery capacity, where power shortages which often accompany heatwaves disrupt health facilities.

Xinhua

West did everything over year to disrupt Russian presidential election – diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW'S Western opponents actively tried over the past year to disrupt the Russian presidential election, Russia's Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told TASS on Saturday.

"Our opponents stirred up not just a week or a month ago. It seems to me that over the past year they did everything to either disrupt the presidential election or prevent it from being held or distort the conception of the elections in different ways," the diplomat said.

The West has organized misinformation campaigns and influence in the cyber sphere: from spreading the corresponding content to blocking the apps of Russian organizations on digital platforms, which is also "a very serious element of influence," she pointed out.

The West also used paid opposition that turned out to be "agents of influence and simply hirelings," the diplomat explained.

"That is, all methods were used," she pointed out. "But nothing helps it [the West]," she stressed.

The unity of Russian citizens amidst the country's



presidential election causes the West's fury, Zakharova said.

"The country has consolidated and is a single whole. Moreover, this is unity in the face of the threat that is evident and unity,

what is especially important, for solving the tasks that we face," the diplomat said.

"This causes savage fury, hatred and aggression and they are already foaming, you know, com-

ing out with some green pus. Let them choke on it," she said.

The Federation Council, the upper house of Russia's parliament, officially designated March 17, 2024 as the day of the presidential election. The Central Election Commission (CEC) then announced that voting would take place over three days on March 15-17.

Four candidates are vying for the top office, namely New People party nominee Vladislav Davankov; self-nominated candidate and incumbent President Vladimir Putin; Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) nominee Leonid Slutsky; and Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) nominee Nikolay Kharitonov.

Agencies

I cannot in good conscience endorse Trump - US ex Vice Prez Pence

WASHINGTON

FORMER Vice President Mike Pence made a surprising declaration on Friday (local time), stating that he "cannot in good conscience," endorse presumptive GOP nominee Donald Trump, CNN reported.

This statement marks a significant departure from his previous alignment with his former running mate and the president he served alongside.

"Donald Trump is pursuing and articulating an agenda that is at odds with the conservative agenda that we governed on during our four years. That's why I cannot in good conscience endorse Donald Trump in this campaign," Pence said on Fox News.

Pence articulated his stance during

an appearance on Fox News, expressing concern over the disparity between Trump's current agenda and the conservative principles they upheld during their four years in office.

Although Pence refrained from endorsing any candidate in the 2024 Republican primary following the end of his own presidential bid in October, he had previously committed to supporting the eventual GOP nominee. Trump had urged Pence to endorse him after the former vice president withdrew from the race, emphasising



his role in elevating Pence to the vice presidency.

"I chose him, made him vice president. But ... people in politics can be very disloyal," Trump had said.

While Pence expressed pride in the accomplishments of the Trump-Pence administration, he highlighted areas where he believes Trump has deviated from conservative principles. He cited Trump's positions on abortion, the national debt, and the recent reversal on TikTok as examples of this departure.

"During my presidential campaign, I made it clear there were profound differences between me and President Trump on a range of issues. And not just our difference on my constitutional duties that I exercised January 6th," Pence said on "The Story with

Martha MacCallum'.

"As I have watched his candidacy unfold, I've seen him walking away from our commitment to confronting the national debt. I've seen him starting to shy away from a commitment to the sanctity of human life. And this last week, his reversal on getting tough on China and supporting our administration's efforts to force a sale of ByteDance's TikTok," he added, as reported by CNN.

Addressing his own voting intentions in the 2024 general election, Pence opted to keep his choice private, stating, "I'll keep my vote to myself." He affirmed that he would not support President Joe Biden and indicated a reluctance to endorse a third-party candidate.

ANI

ON China's railway network that spans over 150,000 kilometers, numerous railway workers and police officers stand guard at their posts, dedicating themselves to safeguarding smooth and comfortable travel for all. Recently, five of them from the frontlines shared their unforgettable stories of growth alongside the railways.

In Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province, high-speed rails stretch towards almost all directions. The Zhengzhou Railway Station sees the arrival and departure of a train every 1.6 minutes. As an on-duty station officer at the Operating Workshop of the Zhengzhou Station of China Railway Zhengzhou Group Co., Ltd., Jiang Tao processes a new "route" every 36.36 seconds.

Guardians of rails: Powering safe journeys for all

"On Jan. 31, Zhengzhou was hit by a heavy snow," Jiang recalled. "Each of us on-duty station officers was in a race against time - getting trains safely into the station, and then dispatching them as quickly as possible to send passengers back home without delay."

During the Spring Festival holiday, Hainan experienced a convergence of tourists, students returning home, and people on family visits, which led to a significant increase in passenger volumes entering, exiting via the Qiongzhou Strait and traveling around the island.

Wang Xiaobing, a signal worker of the Haikou Compre-

hensive Maintenance Workshop of the Haikou Comprehensive Maintenance Section of China Railway Guangzhou Group Co., Ltd., said that equipment maintenance personnel had to perform inspections and repairs at midnight during the Spring Festival holiday to ensure safe operations.

"Although passengers may not see how we work, we still must meticulously maintain the signaling equipment to guarantee their safe journeys," said Wang.

He said with the world's first island-looping high-speed rail line constructed in Hainan, it is possible for people to visit all the attractions on the island in

just one day.

"The loop line plays a vital role in the construction of the Hainan Free Trade Port and in accelerating Hainan's development into an international tourism consumption center," Wang noted, adding that guests from various countries also frequently travel on the loop line during the annual Boao Forum for Asia.

In the eyes of Sonam Wangdrak, a driver instructor of the No. 1 Operating Workshop of the Golmud Locomotive Maintenance Section of China Railway Qinghai-Xizang Group Co., Ltd., the railway network has been growing fast on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau in

recent years, which has not only facilitated residents along the routes but also reduced the costs of transportation. A range of specialty products, including highland yak meat, yogurt, and ethnic handicrafts, can now be transported by rail from the plateau to the rest of the world.

"The area around the Lhasa Railway Station has developed rapidly. The trains running across the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau are tangibly changing the local residents' mobility, way of production and way of life," Sonam Wangdrak said.

Zhu Shaoming is a third-grade sergeant at the Hui-lai Railway Police Station of

the Huizhou Branch of the Guangzhou Railway Public Security Bureau, whose job is to ensure railway safety and security. Since the Hangzhou-Shenzhen Railway opened in 2013, his jurisdiction has maintained a "zero occurrence" of incidents that endangered train operations or threatened the lives and property of passengers.

Moreover, Zhu has long been devoted to philanthropic causes. He has established a charity team that regularly helps local seniors that live alone, people with disabilities, and orphans. They also routinely donate school supplies, sports equipment,

books, and school uniforms to schools in remote mountainous areas. Additionally, Zhu helps local farmers sell unsold fruits, contributing to rural revitalization.

Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region boasts diverse landscapes and picturesque scenery, making it a popular tourist destination. To ensure visitors from afar feel welcome, Mierban Aiyiti, chief conductor of the Hotan No. 1 Fleet of the Korla Passenger Section of China Railway Urumqi Group Co., Ltd., has led her team to offer a themed service that uses text and images to introduce the scenery and folk customs along the route to passengers. On her train, Xinjiang specialties like hand-pulled noodles and Xinjiang chicken stew are provided. **People's Daily**

China rejects ill-founded U.S. petition against its shipbuilders

BEIJING

THE latest petition from five U.S. labor unions requesting the Biden Administration to review China's so-called subsidies for its shipbuilders has prompted a backlash from China, calling the move ill-founded and hazardous.

Under a so-called section 301 case, the unions urged the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to take measures, including the imposition of port fees on Chinese-built ships that dock at U.S. ports, despite there being no such precedent, and the creation of a fund with contributions from the aforementioned fees to help the domestic industry and its workers compete.

ILL-FOUNDED ACCUSATIONS

Chinese legal and industrial experts view the petition as a choreographed move aimed at seeking "remedies" for an industry on the decline, in total disregard of the real causes of the decline, including the evolving global comparative advantages and the lack of skilled U.S. workers.

Employment of marine engineers and naval architects is projected to show "little or no change" from 2022 to 2032 in the United States, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics.

However, such jobs are expanding in countries including the Republic of Korea and China. Sun Lei, senior partner with Dentons, said that the current global share of the U.S. shipbuilding industry has declined drastically, but no causal link can be established between the decline and China's industrial policies or subsidies.

After looking into this petition, Sun said that the goal of the U.S. domestic industry may not be to

impose tariffs or other taxation measures on China's shipping services or ships, but to urge the U.S. government to increase policy and subsidy support for its domestic shipping and shipbuilding industries.

"I understand there is a need on the U.S. side to adjust its supply chain, but I think the Americans know clearly that it's unrealistic to bring the whole supply chain back," he said. "The problems concerning supply chains need to be solved with all relevant countries, such as the Republic of Korea (another shipbuilding giant)."

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) on Thursday voiced resolute opposition to the move, saying this unilateral trade protectionism in the shipbuilding sector ignores World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Noting that the U.S. side blames China for its own industrial development problems in the absence of any factual basis, the MOC said that the accusations against China are "totally untenable."

MOC Spokesperson He Yadong told reporters that China pays close attention to this matter and will take all necessary measures to firmly defend its legitimate rights and interests.

Loud objections were also voiced on social media platforms, with some comments on China's Weibo describing the unions' demand of a port fee on Chinese-built ships that dock at U.S. ports as like robbery.

One comment on X stated, "The United States don't get to be No. 1 forever & always & it's not necessarily bad for you to not be." Some have indicated politics at play in an election year in the United States, while others expressed deep worries over the move's potentially hazardous im-



This aerial photo taken on Jan. 1, 2024 shows the large cruise ship Adora Magic City at the Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal in east China's Shanghai. Xinhua

pact on global trade.

Liu Cungen, professor with Shanghai Jiaotong University, attributed the rapid growth of China's shipbuilding industry to the country's technological progress and complete industrial chain.

Cui Fan, professor with the School of International Trade and Economics at the Beijing-based University of International Business and Economics, said that the growth of China's shipbuilding sector was the natural result of China's comparative advantages formed along with the development of global industries over the past decades.

"The production cycle of the shipbuilding industry is long, and it takes a long time for ship businesses to recover costs. In this case, all shipbuilding countries have used export credit measures to a certain extent, which are also allowed by the WTO," Cui was quoted as saying by Yicai, a Shanghai-based business and financial media outlet.

CONCERNS OF HAZARDOUS IMPACT

In an era of increasing uncertainties, experts say, the world's major shipbuilding countries should strengthen solidarity and maintain healthy competition among shipbuilding enterprises, instead of trying to hold back others' development.

If the measures are introduced, future orders for new

ships will be hit, while freight forwarders will also be greatly affected, experts warn.

In October 2023, a shipbuilding leaders' summit in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province, brought together representatives from Japan, Europe, China, the Republic of Korea and the United States.

The meeting issued a statement asserting that, faced with multiple challenges and opportunities, all parties believed that the world's major shipbuilding countries should strengthen unity and deepen the sustainable development of the world's shipbuilding industry.

It also called for maintaining fair and healthy competition among shipbuilding enterprises.

Sun Lei said that from the supply side, companies in the upstream of the supply chain are closely related to the shipping industry.

"From the demand side, for those export companies that rely on Chinese-made ships for international trade, trade remedy measures may lead to an increase in transportation costs and affect the competitiveness of products in the international market, especially the U.S. market."

In the view of experts, the shipbuilding industry needs more cooperation from major shipbuilding countries to cope with challenges such as economic uncertainties, environmental regulations, technical rules and maritime safety.

Issue of Crimea's affiliation resolved forever, says Russia's top diplomat

MOSCOW

CRIMEA and Sevastopol are integral parts of Russia and the issue of their affiliation is closed forever, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a video address on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the peninsula's reunification with Russia on Saturday.

"The issue of the affiliation of Crimea and Sevastopol is closed. The peninsula is an integral part of Russia," the top diplomat stressed.

Crimea has clear-cut prospects of its further development and Russia has resolved many problems inherited from Ukraine, Lavrov pointed out.

"Over the past years, many problems inherited from Ukraine have been resolved. With clear-cut prospects of their further development, Crimean residents can look into the future with confidence and optimism," he added.

"Ten years ago, on March 16, 2014, Crimean residents determined their future independently and consciously, having reunited with Russia. I congratulate the peninsula's residents on the decade of the historic reunification with Russia. I wish them health, well-being, prosperity and all the best," Russia's top diplomat said.



Chinese democracy turns 'good advice' into 'concrete measures'

WANG Yongcheng is a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) and vice chairman of the China Disabled Persons' Federation. As a person with visual impairment, he suggested that large-print textbooks be published for low-vision students enrolled in regular schools during the "two sessions" last year.

His suggestions were later handled and responded to by relevant agencies while a law on the building of a barrier-free environment was drafted. As a result, provisions related to his suggestion were incorporated into the third draft of the law.

To make the replies to his suggestion more accessible, the NPC produced a Braille version of the replies for the first time. "For us with visual impairments, such democracy is really tangible," Wang said. During this year's "two sessions," he feels more confident in fulfilling his duties.

The "two sessions" is not only an important platform for participation in the deliberation and administration of state affairs, but also an important opportunity to address livelihood and practical issues.

To evaluate the quality of Chinese democracy through the "two sessions," one must look at both the content and quality of the suggestions and proposals, as well as how these suggestions and proposals are handled and implemented.

Only by promptly responding to, swiftly acting on, and effectively addressing the suggestions and proposals, and turning "good advice" into "concrete measures," can the country truly deliver a sense of fulfillment to the people.

The continuous improvement of systems, such as a mechanism for coordinating the handling of sug-



Wang Yongcheng, a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress, uses a computer for persons with visual impairments. (People's Daily Online/Lin Xiaoli)

gestions, a whole-process communication mechanism, a mechanism for supervising key suggestions, a mechanism for tracking the handling of suggestions, and a work mechanism for handling suggestions when the NPC is not in session, has enabled high-quality proposals and suggestions to be better translated into practical measures, providing strong support for reform and development.

This also exemplifies the value of "doing everything for the people" and highlights the unique advantages of whole-process people's democracy.

In February 2022, a digital working platform designed to assist China's lawmakers in better performing their duties was officially launched, enabling the full cycle of online processing of the suggestions put forward by deputies to the NPC.

After the "two sessions" of 2023 concluded, over 8,000 chat groups were established on WeChat to facilitate the handling of suggestions. By embracing digital technologies and establishing online connections, geographical and time constraints have been overcome, allowing more brilliant ideas to be transformed into practical solutions for addressing problems.

Integrating mental health education into the daily teaching at schools, safeguarding the "right to disconnect" of employees... At this year's "two sessions," these down-to-earth suggestions concerning people's wellbeing are highly anticipated.

It is believed that through the platform of the "two sessions," China will make greater strides in delivering tangible benefits to the people by effectively addressing their practical needs and concerns.

People's Daily



The second plenary meeting of the second session of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held on March 7, 2024. Members of the 14th CPPCC National Committee pose for a picture in front of the Great Hall of the People, Beijing. (Wei Qingcheng / People's Daily Online)

Niger revokes military accord with US, spokesperson says

NIAMEY

NIGER'S ruling junta has revoked with immediate effect a military accord that allows military personnel and civilian staff from the US Department of Defense on its soil, junta spokesperson Colonel Amadou Abdramane said on Saturday.

The decision follows a visit by US officials this week which was led by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Molly Phee and included General Michael Langley, commander of the US Africa Command.

Abdramane (pictured), speaking on television in the West African nation, said the US delegation did not follow diplomatic protocol, and that Niger was not informed about the composition of the delegation, the date of its arrival or the agenda.

He added that the discussions were around the current military transition in Niger, military cooperation between the two countries and Niger's choice of partners in the fight against militants linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State.

"Niger regrets the intention of the American delegation to deny the sovereign Nigerien people the right to choose their partners and types of partnerships capable of truly helping them fight against terrorism," Abdramane said.

"Also, the government of Niger forcefully denounces the condescending attitude accompanied by the threat of retaliation from the head of the American delegation towards the Nigerien government and people," he added.

There were about 1,100 US troops in Niger as of last year, where the US military operates out of two bases, including a drone base known as Air Base 201, built near Agadez in central Niger at a cost of more than \$100 million.

Since 2018 the base has been used to target Islamic State militants and Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen, an al Qaeda affiliate, in the Sahel region.

Abdramane said the status and presence of US troops in Niger was illegal and violated constitutional and democratic rules because, according to the spokesperson, it was unilaterally imposed on the African nation in 2012.

He said Niger was not aware of the number of US civilian and military personnel on its soil or the amount of equipment deployed and, according to the agreement, the US military had no obligation to respond to any request for help against militants.

"In light of all the above, the government of Niger, revokes with immediate effect the agreement concerning the status of United States military personnel and civilian employees of the American Department of Defense on the territory of the Republic of Niger," Abdramane said. **Agencies**



Downpour cost national women's cricket squad in All-Africa Games



Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar (R) holds silverware with senior national women's cricket team's skipper, Neema Justine, in Dar es Salaam recently. The senior national women's cricket team triumphed in this year's edition of the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) Women's T20 Invitational Tournament which was played in Lagos. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar has revealed the country has the best female cricketers and attributed the early elimination of the national women's cricket team from the ongoing All-Africa Games in Ghana to heavy rains.

Sreekumar issued his statement concerning the match pitting Tanzania against Nigeria which ended prematurely due to heavy rains in Ghana.

It was adjudged no result and the teams shared a point apiece- Nigeria, therefore, gained from the results given it later had a better net run rate which had the West African country's squad making it to the semi-finals.

The third meeting between the two sides could not be concluded due to rain.

Tanzania won the toss, chose to bat first, and managed to amass 58 runs for the loss of three wickets in 10 overs.

The Nigerians did not bat in the game given downpour halted the tie. "Our must-win tie was washed out due to rains," Sreekumar said in his brief response.

He, however, said he expects the team to perform well in future tournaments, adding he always expects the best.

After the match against Nigeria, Tanzania lost to South Africa by eight wickets. Tanzania started batting, ending with 66-10 in 18.3 overs, setting up a modest 67 target for South Africa.

In response, one of tournament favourites, South Africa, easily mounted the chase losing two wickets in 10.2 overs.

Zimbabwe clinched the women's cricket tournament in the 13th African Games, clinching the gold medal after a riveting Super Over victory against South Africa in the final held at the Achimota Senior Secondary School's ground in Accra last Wednesday.

Both men's and women's tournaments were held in Twenty20 International format. This was the first time that cricket was played in the All-Africa Games.

Tanzania is represented by 75 athletes in All-Africa Games. The athletes come from sporting disciplines of cycling, athletics, swimming, boxing, cricket, judo, and soccer- which sees the national U-20 women's squad 'Tanzanite Queens', battle it out in women's soccer.

However, the country's athletes are struggling, given so far only one boxer has won a medal. Some commentators have urged the government and sports stakeholders to go back to the drawing board, especially focusing on backing grassroots programs.

They also say there is moreover need to look at what is being done to develop athletes so that when they go to such tournaments, they should be well exposed and prepared.

They further pointed out there is a great need to improve the capacity of local coaches by providing them with the necessary tools for them to drill athletes properly.

NCBA Bank, Breakfast Golf Community celebrate remarkable legacies of Mfuruki, Nyirabu

By Getrude Mbago

THE NCBA Bank in collaboration with the Breakfast Golf Community yesterday commemorated the exceptional contributions of Ali Mfuruki and Professor Mohabe Nyirabu, through a Memorial Golf Tournament which took place at the Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam.

Gift Shoko, the Regional Director at NCBA, emphasized the importance of honouring the legacies of Ali Mfuruki and Professor Mohabe Nyirabu as leaders who were committed to lifting others.

"Mfuruki and Professor Nyirabu were not only esteemed members of the Breakfast Golf Community but also pillars of our society. Their passion for golf was matched only by their commitment to uplifting others and making a positive impact in our community. At NCBA Bank, we are privileged to commemorate their remarkable legacies through this Memorial Tournament," he said.

The two leaders were revered members of the Breakfast Group and among the initial founding members. Both were avid golfers who made time for the sport despite their busy schedules and responsibilities.

Mfuruki, a prominent figure in the business and publishing world, was known for his leadership and mentorship. He served as a member and chairman of various organization boards worldwide and co-authored a book on Tanzania's Industrialization.

He moreover co-founded and led the CEO Roundtable, shaping private sector policy in Tanzania. His commitment to truth and



NCBA Bank Tanzania Managing Director and CEO, Claver Serumaga, takes a shot to signal the opening of a Memorial Golf Tournament in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Organised collaboratively with the Breakfast Golf Community, the event aimed to honour contributions made by the late Ali Mfuruki and Professor Mohabe Nyirabu. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

family values earned him equal respect from all walks of life.

Nyirabu, an esteemed educator, impacted countless minds through his classes at the University of Dar es Salaam. As a professor of political science and public administration, he shared his insights on improving political parties and electoral processes.

Despite his academic

pursuits, Nyirabu enjoyed light moments on the golf course, indulging in his favourite game.

Both Mfuruki and Nyirabu served as chairmen of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, playing significant roles in the development of one of Tanzania's oldest golf clubs. They also provided valuable advice and funding for projects at the TPDF

Lugalo Golf Club.

Claver Serumaga, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NCBA Tanzania, reflected on the duo's profound impact.

Serumaga noted: "Mfuruki and Professor Nyirabu touched the lives of countless individuals through their leadership, mentorship, and dedication to excellence. Their legacy lives on in the hearts and

minds of all those they inspired. It is a testament to their influence that so many people have come together to honor their memory through this tournament."

The Memorial Golf Tournament served as a poignant tribute to these extraordinary individuals, celebrating their legacy and the profound impact they had on the community. Participants, including prominent figures,

"Golf was just one aspect of Mfuruki and Professor Nyirabu's brilliance. They brought challenging perspectives to our group, keeping us level-headed and pushing us to improve," Gilman Kasiga- Chairman of the Tanzania Golf Union- revealed.

Kasiga noted: "Their guidance and mentorship were invaluable, and their absence is deeply felt."

The tournament, marked by spirited competition and heartfelt remembrance, provided a platform for participants to reflect on the enduring impact of Mfuruki and Nyirabu.

Stories and anecdotes shared throughout the day underscored the profound influence of these individuals on the Breakfast Golf Community and beyond.

The bank extended its gratitude to the Breakfast Golf Community for their partnership and dedication to organizing the memorable event.

The success of the Memorial Golf Tournament underscores the importance of honouring legacies and celebrating the values of leadership, mentorship, and community.

Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival launched in Bariadi

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival has been officially launched in Bariadi, Simiyu.

The event was graced by Simiyu Regional Commissioner, Yahaya Nawanda, who was represented by the Itilima District Commissioner Anna Gidarya.

Various dignitaries including government officials and stakeholders in culture and tourism from the Lake Zone and neighbouring regions were in attendance.

In his speech, which was read by Gidarya, the RC commended Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Company for conceptualizing the Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival and choosing Simiyu as its venue.

He further emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting culture, highlighting it as a heritage passed down from ancestors, which deserves the utmost attention and development.

He noted that the fes-

tival would significantly contribute to showcasing the cultural richness of Simiyu through various activities, thereby increasing its recognition both domestically and internationally.

"I have been informed that today marks only the launch, giving us a taste of what is expected to happen in July 2024 when a three-day festival will take place and attract over 7,000 participants, including exhibitors," he said.

The official stated this is a significant step and an opportunity for participants to engage in business and learn various aspects during the festival.

He further highlighted that the cultural tourism sector would greatly benefit as visitors would have the chance to explore various attractions, including cultural sites within the region.

The regional commissioner urged early preparations for the grand festival to attract participants from both within and outside the country as he also con-

gratulated the organizers for supporting the government's efforts in promoting the country's culture as a major tourist attraction nationally and internationally.

"I call upon various stakeholders, including individuals, organizations, institutions, and companies, to sponsor this significant festival in the Lake Zone and the country as a whole to ensure its success and the growth of our culture and tourism," he emphasized.

He assured continued government support to the organizers to ensure the festival becomes an annual event, driving both cultural and economic development.

The Managing Director of Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours, Christina Emmanuel, said this is the first time for the company, which is a key stakeholder in cultural and tourism activities, to organize the festival which she believes will be a huge attraction to Simiyu residents and neighbouring regions.

"This will be a three-



Itilima District Commissioner Anna Gidarya (Front row, C) is pictured officially launching the Lake Zone Cultural and Tourism Festival, organized by Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours, in Bariadi, Simiyu recently. Others are the Kilimanjaro One Travel and Tours Managing Director Christina Emmanuel (Front row R), the company's director Mohamed Hatibu (Front row, 2nd R), the youth development officer Zena Mchujuko (Front row, 2nd L), and the National Arts Council official Gabriel Awe (Front row, L). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

day festival that will take place on July 5-6 and climax on July 7, 2024. Among other things we expect various exhibitors in cultural and tourism issues and will attract more than 7,000 participants within those three days," she said.

She further noted that the festival will be coloured by different entertainments, including dances by the rivals Wagika and Wagulu sides.

She called on business people, organizations, and private and public institutions to come

up and support the initiative to complement government efforts in promoting culture and tourism.

A representative from the National Arts Council (BASATA), Gabriel Awe, praised the organizers for their efforts in advancing culture and

tourism in the country. He urged other stakeholders to fully support the festival.

"This is a unique and significant festival that we, as Tanzanians, should be proud of as it contributes to the development of our culture and tourism," he re-

marked. "It is therefore essential for stakeholders to rally behind and ensure it becomes an even bigger and more attractive event, drawing people from foreign nations to appreciate the value of our culture and tourism," Awe concluded.

Harry Kane breaks Bundesliga record but hands England an injury scare

By Mike McGrath

ENGLAND captain Harry Kane is a doubt for the upcoming international friendlies against Brazil and Belgium after sustaining an ankle injury while playing for Bayern Munich on Saturday.

"He twisted his ankle in the goal net," Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said. "He's cooled it with ice. We don't have a [final] diagnosis yet. We have to wait and see and hope that it remains a scare."

Bayern's 5-2 win over Darmstadt in the Bundesliga lifted them to 60 points in second place, with Bayer Leverkusen, who are on 67, travelling to Freiburg on Sunday.

Kane crashed into the post late in the game as he tried to reach the ball when it rebounded off the crossbar from Jamal Musiala's effort. He appeared to be in pain and received brief treatment on the field before going off.

Earlier, Kane had scored his 31st league goal to set the record for goals in a debut Bundesliga season. He also eclipsed his previous best mark of 30 league goals in a campaign achieved with Tottenham in the Premier League in 2018 and again last season before his move to Germany in a deal worth in excess of £86 million.

"Proud to break a Bundesliga record but more importantly another good win," Kane wrote on X. Bayern sporting director Christoph Freund said the club was in "close contact" with England and that Kane "will not take any risks" when the Three Lions face Brazil at Wembley Stadium on March 23 and Belgium at the same venue three days later.

Darmstadt struck first, with Tim Skarke polishing off a quick break in the 28th minute.

Bayern did not have to wait long for an equaliser as teenager Aleksandar Pavlovic, fresh from being picked for the Germany squad for friendly matches this month, dribbled past three players, charged into the box and found Kane, who passed to Musiala to finish the move.

Kane put Bayern 2-1 up in first-half stoppage time but the gloss was partly taken off the achievement when he limped off injured.

The former Tottenham striker will return to north London with Bayern later this month in the Champions League after his side were drawn against Arsenal in the quarter-finals.

THE TELEGRAPH

Suarez comes off bench for brace as Miami beat DC without Messi

WASHINGTON

LUIS Suarez came off the bench and scored twice as Inter Miami, without the injured Lionel Messi, won 3-1 at D.C. United in Major League Soccer on Saturday.

Suarez continued his prolific start to life in MLS with his sixth goal in seven games in all competitions for the South Florida club.

Miami had failed to win their last seven games without Messi, a run dating to September, but despite that record, coach Gerardo Martino left Suarez and Jordi Alba on the bench.

Jared Stroud put for D.C. United ahead, latching onto a Mateusz Kilch pass and firing a first-time shot past Drake Callender.

The lead lasted only for 10 minutes, however, with Leonardo Campana leading the Miami attacking in place of Suarez, seeing a header saved by Alex Bono but then, after D.C. failed to clear, turning in after the ball was scooped to him by Federico Redondo.

Busquets delivered a superb cross-field pass to set Robert Taylor in down the left but his low drive clipped the outside of the post on the stroke of half-time.

Uruguayan Suarez was brought on in the 62nd minute and the 37-year-old was to settle the contest.

Just 10 minutes after coming on Suarez finished off a fine move, turning in a low cross from Campana at the back post.

Then Diego Gomez, Miami's powerful Paraguayan midfielder, won the ball in the center of the field and broke forward, finding Suarez, whose route to goal was initially blocked.

But Suarez was able to find space for a chip that Bono clawed at but was unable to stop crossing the line.

D.C. United had Pedro Santos sent off after he brought down substitute Shanyder Borgelin in the final minute.

Martino said Suarez's performance had gone perfectly according to his plan.

"We had talked about him having half an hour and he defined the game," said the Argentine coach. "One of the coach's tasks, with these players, is to convince them when to stop, when to allow themselves a break and not risk injury."

"I try to get them to make a contribution not only when they play 90 minutes but less, and boy, did he do that today."

AFP

Bernardo Silva makes Man City tick to all but end Newcastle's season

By Rob Smyth

THEY build statues of their legends at Manchester City. Vincent Kompany, Sergio Aguero and David Silva made in galvanised steel are visited by fans on Etihad matchdays and surely Bernardo Silva will be joining them when he eventually leaves the club where his trophy-haul is 15 and counting.

Perhaps it is him being linked with moves away for the last two summers that alters the perception of Bernardo. Paris St-Germain have wanted him, Saudi Arabian clubs would love him and he has never made a secret of his wish to end his career in his native Portugal.

There is, however, no doubt over his standing at City. His list of trophies include five Premier League titles, two FA Cups, four League Cups and a Champions League. He could add another three to those this season. His two deflected goals against Newcastle meant City were into their sixth successive FA Cup semi-final, which no team has done before.

In the short term, with Kevin De Bruyne injured, it is down to Bernardo to make City tick, which he did against Eddie Howe's team. Last summer he eventually signed a



Manchester City's Bernardo Silva scores their second goal against Newcastle. Agencies

new contract but his future looked uncertain at the time. This season interest has not gone away but he is playing a key part in the Treble defence.

"Everybody loves him and we want him," said Guardiola. "It is important he stays with us. Kevin will be back soon, but when you see the schedule - Arsenal, Aston Villa, Crystal Palace, Real Madrid - it's really tough, and we need everyone. I said many times how important Bernardo is."

Guardiola quickly shuts down talk of the Treble when it is brought up, yet retaining the three trophies of last season is a genuine prospect. He

certainly cannot be accused of being a manager who neglects the FA Cup. While others concentrate on the Premier League, Guardiola has reached the semi-finals with regularity during his time in English football. During his eight seasons here, he has been there on seven occasions.

"Always we expect the best for the team," said Guardiola. "We won the Treble, five titles, and to be in contention means a lot. To [be in contention] win four Premier Leagues in a row - this club has something special. It's incredible. Of course we want to win all

the FA Cups, for the quality of the opponents and the schedule we have, to arrive against these teams is so difficult, but we are there."

Newcastle, by contrast, will have to wait to add to their last cup triumph in 1969 when they won the Fairs Cup. The 55 years of hurt goes on and this season is in danger of petering out after the excitement of Champions League fixtures. Now they have to put a run of games together and hope Uefa's coefficient rules allow them to qualify for a tournament next season.

"I don't think we can feel sorry for ourselves," said New-

castle manager Howe. "This season could have ended very differently. The big moments have gone against us, but we have to come back."

"It is a good time to have the international break and then focus on the 10 games we have left. There is a huge amount to play for. People say our season is over, but that is nonsense."

Howe's focus was on defence at the Etihad and who could blame him after their last five trips to City's ground saw an aggregate score of 15-0 in favour of the hosts? Howe had five black-and-white shirts across his back line like a barcode, although one defender was always following the moves of Phil Foden in the No 10 position.

Unfortunately for Howe, Foden was only one of several angles of attack at City's disposal. Foden running into one dead-end only saw Jeremy Doku use space elsewhere. And when the deadlock was broken it was from the left boot of Bernardo.

Fed by Rodri, there were nine players in the penalty area when Bernardo took aim, but they had all backed off the Portugal winger. There was a wicked deflection off Dan Burn to loop over Martin Dubravka but Newcastle had not helped themselves.

THE TELEGRAPH

Ange Postecoglou dreams big but Tottenham now must face reality after Fulham thumping

By Darragh Leen

IN recent weeks, Ange Postecoglou has been unwilling to engage with the idea that Tottenham Hotspur are simply in a battle for Champions League places. Instead, he has dreamed a little bigger. "I don't see the sense in trying to aim for something other than No 1," he said earlier this month.

Spurs fans, no doubt, will understand that argument. But there is a problem here, which is that the thought of Spurs being in the title race is no longer based on reality. It may not be a truth that Postecoglou wishes to confront, but it is the truth nonetheless that his players are indeed locked in a tussle for the Champions League places, rather than anything more.

On that front, with Aston Villa and Manchester United watching closely, this was a deeply damaging night. Spurs were not just beaten by Fulham, but thumped. Three goals in less than 20 minutes brought a much-deserved victory for Marco Silva's aggressive and imaginative side, who were led by the excellent Rodrigo Muniz.

Spurs lost the physical and tactical battle, and failed to score in a league game for the first time this season.

In the aftermath, Postecoglou did not back down from his assertions that he is not personally concerned by the scrap for Champions League qualification. "I don't see fourth as the prize," he said. "Fourth is not my end goal. I don't want to finish fourth if we haven't grown as a



Postecoglou must ponder how a team that thrashed Aston Villa 4-0 can be beaten 3-0 by Fulham the following week. Agencies

team. If nobody believes me, that's fine.

"Fourth would be great if I feel like we are creating something that is going to bring us success next year. But fourth is not our goal. It is not my goal. If we finish fifth and if I think we've got a team to challenge next year then I won't be disappointed."

The Spurs supporters, executives and players might not necessarily agree, as there is a reason why the Champions League is regarded as the promised land. Naturally, the money it brings in would help to accelerate Postecoglou's squad-building efforts.

For much of this season, Spurs have played like a Champions League team-in-waiting. But not on this trip to Fulham, where they were undone by the excellence

of Muniz and a team that knew where to find the weak points of their opponents.

Muniz has been a Fulham player since August 2021 but, until these last few games, he has never looked capable of lead-

ing the line. Last season he went on loan to Middlesbrough in the Championship and scored just two goals.

The careers of strikers can change in an instant, though, and Muniz is suddenly an entirely

different threat. In his last seven games, he has scored seven times. No player in the Premier League can match his tally since the start of February. His tireless running was one of many, many issues for Spurs on the night.

"What a performance, again," said Silva. "He never gave up, even in moments when he was not even involved in the squad. When the chance came, he stepped in. He deserves all the credit."

The remarkable form of Muniz has not been good news for Armando Broja, who joined Fulham on loan from Chelsea in January but has barely featured since. The deal for Broja is thought to include a clause which requires Fulham to pay £4 million if he did not play 60 per cent of their matches. This clause will now be triggered.

Clearly, this is not a move that has gone to plan, although Fulham will rightly argue that Muniz has earned the right to spearhead Silva's attack. The 22-year-old

caused all sorts of problems for the Spurs defence, where new signing Radu Dragusin was making his first start since his £25 million switch from Genoa, and raced behind them to score Fulham's first.

Throughout the game, Fulham continually found space behind the Spurs full-backs. It was from this position that Antonee Robinson found Muniz, and from which Timothy Castagne assisted Sasa Lukic for the second goal. The third came as Calvin Bassey's shot hit the post and trickled across the six-yard box. Muniz, so sharp, got there first.

For Spurs there were chances created, but none converted as Brennan Johnson and Timo Werner both fired wide. Last week, they won 4-0 at Aston Villa. This week, they were thrashed. Whether you see this as a race for top four or otherwise, such fluctuations in form are not conducive to a team hitting its targets.

THE TELEGRAPH

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Yanga's central defender Dickson Job

Taifa Stars coach open to call Job in upcoming selections

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's national football team's interim head coach Hemed Suleiman is open to recalling central defender Dickson Job in future selections after solving differences that arose between the coach and the player in the AFCON finals in Ivory Coast.

Job addressed to the coach that he was not willing to play out of position - after he was instructed to feature as a right-back when Taifa Stars faced DRC Congo in a decisive AFCON tie. The youthful center-back insisted he wanted to play in his preferred position.

The Yanga defender did not feature in the continental tournament as his only chance was the match pitting Taifa Stars against DRC. Suleiman took the center-back out of the matchday squad.

According to Suleiman, he opted out of selecting Job for the upcoming Taifa Stars' FIFA series match against Bulgaria and Mongolia scheduled for this month but the Yanga central defender is still a national team player.

During the period, Tanzania will play two friendly matches against Bulgaria on March 22 before hosting Mongolia on March 25.

Suleiman noted: "I cannot disclose everything that happened, I am protecting the player because he is still a national team player, we talked about the issue and it is already solved, but he is out of the 23-man squad this month."

The tactician insisted: "Per my national team's needs he fits at the right-back position, not at central defense where I have many options in that area. He stated that he did not want to play at right back then I opted to call the present players."

"Job is a good player and has a bright future ahead, but Mwamnyeto, Hamad and now Kennedy Juma fit in the central defensive area, there are more central defenders for the squad, but as I previously said, he is still a national team player," he said.

Hamad and Mwamnyeto have so far turned out to be the preferred central defensive pairing in Taifa Stars' three duels played this year, height has so far favoured the two defenders against Job.

Job lastly featured for Taifa Stars in the World Cup qualification match against Niger which ended with the Tanzania team cruising to a 1-0 victory.

The central defender played 90 minutes and later was substituted in the first minute of added-on time for Maurice Abraham.

Ahead of the international break, The full squad was made public by Suleiman in Dar es Salaam last week.

Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula (Simba SC), Aboutwalib Mshery (Yanga) and Kwesi Kawawa (Syrianska FC, Sweden).

Defenders: Bakari Mwamnyeto (Yanga), Ibrahim Bacca (Yanga), Lusajo Mwaikenda (Azam FC), Haji Mnoga (Aldershot Town, England), Mohamed Hussein (Simba SC), Novatus Dismas (Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukraine), Kennedy Juma (Simba SC) and Miano Danilo (Villena CF, Spain).

Midfielders: Feisal Salum (Azam FC), Mudathir Yahya (Yanga), Maurice Michael (RFK Novi Sad, Serbia), Himid Mao (Talaia El Gaish SC, Egypt), Yahya Zaydi (Azam FC) and Tarryn Allarakhia (Wealdstone, England).

Strikers: Clement Mzize (Yanga), Simon Msuva (Al-najmah FC, Saudi Arabia), Kibu Denis (Simba), Abdulhamis Suleiman (Azam FC), Ben Starkie (Ilkeston Town, England) and Charles M'mombwa (Macarthur FC, Australia).

Ken Gold FC in control of NBC Premier League promotion battle



Some footballers making Ken Gold FC pose for a group photo when they took part in a recent training in Mbeya to prepare for this season's Championship League fixtures.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MBEYA's Ken Gold FC maintained their five-point lead at the top of this season's NBC Championship League with a 1-0 home victory over Mwanza's Copco FC on Saturday.

Emmanuel Muka's acrobatic finish in the 40th-minute strike extended the unbeaten league run for Ken Gold FC to 13 games.

The winning line is in sight for Jumanne Chale's men, who have just twice in 25 league games and have managed to hang on to the top spot since December when they retook the lead from TMA in round 12 of fixtures.

The Mbeya-based side now needs to win three of their remaining five games to seal an automatic promotion to the NBC Premier League for the first time in their history.

They will have a home advantage in three games

against Pamba FC, Fountain Gate Academy FC, and Polisi Tanzania.

On Friday, Pamba FC also managed to hold on to their second spot with a comprehensive 3-0 home victory over Mbeya City FC at Nyamagana Stadium.

With five games to play, Pamba FC is on 54 points but a tough run of games including away fixtures against Ken Gold FC, Mbuni FC, and Polisi Tanzania.

Biashara United - a club that had an indifferent start to the season is third on the log.

The Musoma side has

quietly climbed the ladder and found themselves in contention for an automatic promotion spot two years after they were relegated.

Biashara United had the chance to move within a point of Pamba FC with a win against struggling Ruvu Shooting at their Karume Stadium fortress on Sunday afternoon.

Completing the NBC Championship League top four is Mbeya Kwanza FC with the same number of points as Biashara United (50).

At the end of every NBC

Championship League campaign, the top two teams are promoted automatically.

From there, the teams finishing third and fourth in the league compete in a promotional/relegation play-off competition with two sides from the Premier League.

The battle for survival at the bottom of the log is also another musical chair.

Together with Ruvu Shooting who are at the bottom, Pan Africans, Copco FC, Transit Camp FC, Green Warriors, and Stand United are all still involved

in a fight for survival.

The bottom two teams get relegated from the Championship League to the First League at the end of every season.

Sides that finish between 14 and 11 places go into relegation playoffs.

The promotion and relegation play-offs were introduced to the Premier League and Championship League in 2018/19 following the expansion of the top tier to 20 clubs.

The league was later reduced to 16 teams but the playoffs were kept with few alterations made.

Dar netballers ready for Netball World Youth Cup Africa Qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Netball Association (Chaneta) says the national U-21 netball team is ready for the U-21 Netball World Youth Cup Africa qualifiers scheduled for March 17-23 at Rembrandt Hall, University of Pretoria in South Africa.

Devotha Marwa, Chaneta president, said in an interview from South Africa the tournament - which got underway yesterday and will climax on Saturday - will identify four teams that will represent the continent in the 20-team Netball World Youth Cup to be played in Gibraltar.

She said Chaneta is optimistic that the national U-21 netballers will do well in the tournament which will see Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, and the host South Africa seek qualification for the Netball World Youth Cup.

As we went to press, the Tanzania team was preparing to face South Africa in the opening match of the tournament and yesterday's other fixtures saw Zambia confront Kenya, Malawi face Namibia and South Africa lock horns with Zambia.

Tanzania will today play two games - the first of which will pit the side against Namibia and - in the second tie - the former will face Zambia.

In today's other games, Zambia will lock horns with Zimbabwe and the lat-



Netball players battle it out in a recent competition that was played in Arusha.

ter will thereafter face South Africa.

Tomorrow, Tanzania will play against Malawi, South Africa will host Kenya, Kenya will thereafter play against Malawi and Zimbabwe will take on Namibia.

Tanzania will on Wednesday be in action against Zimbabwe, Zambia will take on Kenya and South Africa will host Malawi.

On Thursday, the Tanzania team will have a rest, whereas matches slated for the day will see South Africa confront Namibia, Zambia will face Malawi and Namibia will lock horns

with Kenya.

A day later, Tanzania will lock horns with Kenya, followed by a tie pitting Namibia versus Zambia, and later Malawi will play against Zambia.

Games which will be used to identify the fifth and sixth-placed teams will be played on Saturday morning.

There will later on the same day be a playoff for fourth and third positions and, in the evening, the finals will take place.

"We are ready for the tournament and am optimistic of good results, of course, it won't be that easy but we

are ready for the tournament," Devotha said.

The team, which is coached by Haleluya Kavalambi, has 12 players. The players include Jessica Leonard, Catherine Bunzari, Lilian Mwambisi, Fausta Chakawe, Scola Ramadhani, and Heldegard Marwa.

Roda Simbeye, Mecklina Mwita, Zuhura Ramadhani, Happy Kongoka, Rehema Mwita, and Elizabeth Ambumbu complete the squad.

Hafsa Ali is the team manager, David Zacharia is the team doctor and Devotha is the leader of delegation.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

